

A 100 Year History

The making of a rugby club

Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club



Written by
Arthur Ball and Rick Hannay
with assistance from Brian Stapleton



*At the Annual General Meeting of United Pirates
on 16 October 1974 it was moved by Alastair Simpson
“that the position of a club historian be looked into for the recording of club history.”
The motion was carried but never implemented.*

*In 2014 we dedicate this record of
the club’s history to the late Alastair Simpson.*



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At the end of the 1979 season, outstanding half-back Tom Gourlay (centre) retired having played for Pirates RFC and United Pirates since 1963.



Introduction

Recording the history of our club was expected to be a reasonably short task with a few key dates and events of interest to be documented in a more formal manner than had been done to date. Upon commencing the exercise it was soon realised that our history goes back a long way; certainly well beyond the memory of even our most senior members. It was recognised that the founders of the club had largely been forgotten over time as have many milestones, events, characters and dedicated officers. Suffice to say, recording our history has been an extensive undertaking.

In any such project, accuracy is the key requirement and has most definitely been the greatest challenge. The level of research was much greater and more time consuming than expected and only with the assistance of a number of Te Puke folk who have co-operated in retrieving historical information have we been able to produce this historical record.

We have pleasure in acknowledging on page 224, those who have contributed and assisted.

An unexpected consequence of recording the club's past is that we identified that our history is considerably more complex and richer than was presumed.

There has been a commonly held view that the beginning of Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club (hereafter Te Puke Sports) was in 1964 when the two rival town clubs, United Old Boys Rugby Football Club and Pirates RFC amalgamated to form the United Pirates Rugby Football Club. This assumption is understandable but incorrect.

Our club is directly linked to five predecessor clubs each of which connect us to our past to form the history of Te Puke Sports. These clubs were United, Te Puke High School Old Boys, United Old Boys, Pirates RFC and United Pirates. Each was a founding club that preceded the formation of Te Puke Sports. It is necessary to understand how each of these clubs evolved and when, why and how they came together over the decades to establish the club we have today.



On commencing the task of recording the club's history, it quickly became obvious that only by understanding the participation of all Te Puke rugby clubs over time can the evolution of our club be accurately placed in context. There have been many significant events over the years that moulded Te Puke rugby and which consequently impacted our club in a wide variety of ways.

Many changes and developments evolved through the years and some of these events have scant reference points and rely on conjecture, logic or assumption. That has been the frustrating part of this exercise. On the other hand, unravelling many past and potentially lost milestones has been very rewarding and has enabled important club history to be preserved.

Our objective has been to focus on the key events that led to the creation of Te Puke Sports. It has been a pleasure to record some club history that would otherwise have been lost forever. Sadly we have encountered many gaps that indicate just how quickly time passes and how rapidly interesting and important events and dates are forgotten.

Supporting newspaper articles, photographs and other records that are not included in this publication have been retained and will be placed in safe keeping for future reference with Te Puke archives held at the Te Puke Library. These records include over 1500 pages of documents extracted from the Tauranga Public Library Records which support most of the facts contained herein.

It must be emphasised that the history of our club is inter-woven with many other local clubs. Unless there is a basic understanding of the interaction between the local clubs over the years it is difficult to follow the pathway that led to where we are today. Therefore, the inclusion of information about other clubs in the area is both deliberate, and we hope, assists in some way with the preservation of that club's history.

Excluding the original Te Puke Football Club, likely established in 1894, the list opposite summarises the Te Puke rugby clubs that have come, gone or still remain over time. Some of these clubs appear to have no written history or obtainable records at all. In other cases their creation is often puzzling and time has lost the connection that we need in order to understand the basic rationale for either their formation or dissolution. Several clubs or teams disbanded before they gained any foothold whilst others were never more than junior teams and never participated in the local Te Puke Union or Sub-Union senior club competition.



Those clubs (below) with related dates are those recorded in the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union 75th Jubilee brochure 1907 - 1982. (Closer scrutiny suggests that several of the date statistics are not accurate, although most are). A number of clubs came into existence in the period 1921 - 1940. In some cases it has been too difficult to obtain accurate background information and we have focussed mainly on those clubs that fielded senior teams over a meaningful period of time.

Note that the clubs that had a direct bearing on the creation of Te Puke Sports are high-lighted in bold print. The 1937 Old Boys Club is excluded as we could find no clear linkage that supports any connection with our club today.



United	1910 - 1949	Papamoa	1924 - 1955
Paengaroa	1905 - 1954	Pongakawa	1925 - 1931
Maketu	1913 - 1953	Pukehina	1937 - 1955
Rangiuru	1913	Old Boys	1937
Railway	1914 - 1922	Rotoehu	1940 - 1956
Papaka	1915	Wairakei	1949
Rangataua	1920	High School Old Boys	1948
Senior Cadets	1921 - 1922	United Old Boys	1950 - 1964
Rovers	1921 - 1940	Pirates	1953 - 1964
Atuaroa	1921	Eastern Districts	1962
Huimai	1923 - 1970	United Pirates	1965 - 1993
Gold Reefs (Mines)	1923	Te Paamu	1980
Wanderers	1922 - 1923		



Recording the history of our club and associated events has been complicated by a number of issues including:

- Difficulty in obtaining early records.
- Conflicting dates and club names as recorded in the newspapers of the day.
- Newspaper reporters' interpretation of club and player names, especially incorrect spelling of Maori names. As an example, many early newspaper reports referred to the Rangataua Club as the Rangatawa Club.
- Clubs that emerged and clubs that recessed without any written or identifiable records.
- Interruption of club rugby caused by two World Wars, the world-wide influenza pandemic of 1918 and the Great Depression during the late 1920's and early 1930's.

So, how, where and when did our club get started



Te Puke Football Team 1905

Back: J.N. Diprose, Charlie Hall, Bill Ryan, Fred Washer, Frank Henwood, Dick Williams, Jack Williams, Walter Martin, Innes Vercoe
Middle: Fred Collins, Jim McEwen, Johnie McCauley, Ernice Smith, Frank Kerr, Jack Kerr, Stav McEwen
Front: Harry Brady, Alan Ryburn, George Henry



The Early Years

In order to fully understand how our club originated, it is essential to go back to very early times in Te Puke when rugby was in its infancy from an organisational point of view, but at the same time, was very much the cornerstone of town and district sporting and social activity. These were the years from approximately 1880 through to 1910.

It is interesting to note that the roots of Te Puke Sports may potentially stretch back as far as 1894 when Te Puke rugby was based on a 'town' team which played against a limited number of clubs including Kari Kari, (that area between Wairakei and Hairini, Tauranga) Tauranga Football Club, and Rangiwaea.

Naturally enough, this town team was called Te Puke or The Te Puke Club or the Te Puke Football Club. For the purposes of this record we will refer to the Te Puke Football Club. This was the most common name used at that time.

During these years and for many thereafter, rugby was always described as 'football'; the actual term 'rugby' was seldom used.

As an aside, the first rugby team to emerge in Tauranga was the Tauranga Football Club which from Bay of Plenty Times reports was formed in April 1880 following the official establishment of that club at a meeting at the Tauranga Hotel.

Whilst there are limited accessible records, it is more than likely that social rugby was first played between local teams with Maketu being a very active rugby centre. Comments attributed to Ta Tapsell, an old identity of Maketu, provide some insight. Apparently, his father spoke of football being played as far back as the mid 1800's when the only habitation in this part of the Bay of Plenty was centred either at Maketu or Tauranga. Records handed down speak of one very early game played by Maori of the sub-tribes of Rangitaiki, Piako and Whakatane against a similar combination from the Tauranga area. This match was played on the ground on which the Maketu school is now sited. A certain Major Fox was the organiser of the match which started normally, but before the players could really get warmed up a fight started and players and spectators alike joined in with such purpose that the game ceased.





At about this time in history there was also a game which somewhat resembled rugby called 'held-ball'. In this game a player had to hold on to a ball while his team mates endeavoured to push him and the ball over the opponents goal-line. As the holder of the ball was something in the nature of a human sacrifice, the game eventually lost favour for want of heroes to carry the ball.

Sometime later, local Maori of the Te Arawa tribe challenged the Mataatua tribe of Tauranga in a match played at Maketu around 1880. Score unknown, although in a return match at Tauranga the home side won that game.

Ta Tapsell recalled early names associated with rugby and singled out Captain Kaikora, Morehu, Horne and Tapsell followed later by the Warbrick bothers.

Time has weathered memories of Maketu's early rugby history, the same being the case with the early period of Te Puke rugby. Indeed, little is now known of the Te Puke Football Club but one interesting comment that has survived the decades originated from the late Mr Innes Vercoe, a rugby icon of his time. His roles included that of Chairman of the Te Puke East Rugby Union, Vice President of the Tauranga Football Club, referee and Patron of the Paengaroa Club. He was heard to say that he played for the Te Puke Football Club against Waihi in 1896.

It could be argued that the Te Puke Football Club was the platform that led to the creation of our club. Early records show that membership of this club was predominantly Maori players. This fact leads to the conclusion that the Te Puke Football Club was probably the first formally established club in the district although, as noted above, Maketu was the original bastion of very early rugby in the district.

The last shots of the New Zealand Land Wars were fired on 14 February 1872. The first game of rugby was played in New Zealand on 14 May 1870. In the early days of New Zealand rugby, the game was played by young men who had attended English Public Schools. A few of the early Europeans to live in Maketu were educated at these Public Schools. Consequently, rugby formed a very significant part of life in the Maketu community.

The Rangiora Club's 1993 Centennial publication, notes that from 1890 to 1905 "*rugby was introduced to the Maori at the same time he was told to lay down his fighting weapons.*"



Therefore the rugby ball became his taiaha, his mere, his musket as it were”.

It was stated by the late Frank Latimer, a noted Te Puke identity in his editorial in the Rangioru Club’s centennial publication, that most rugby games were of a social nature and played spasmodically. He commented that “one could well dwell on the mode of transport in those days... in all probability the popular way was on horseback, by buggy or by the only alternative which was Shanks’s pony” (walking). Frank went on to say that the railway line to Te Puke was opened in 1913 and until then the above modes of transport were the only options.

To demonstrate the social nature of rugby during this early period, it can be noted from the Bay of Plenty Times articles of March and November 1889 that rugby was very central to all aspects of community and social life at that time.

Bay of Plenty Times
28 March 1889

Enthusiast writes. —The Te Puke Football Club opened their season on Saturday, 16th inst. Very few whites turned up, only nine. but fortunately about 20 Maoris rolled up, otherwise no game would have resulted. It is a great pity that the young fellows of Te Puke take so little interest in this noble game. There is not the slightest reason why the Te Puke Club should not be the first club in the North Island as there is plenty of good material, but laziness seems to overcome the interest that should be shown. However in future it is to be hoped the young fellows of the block will exert themselves and endeavour to compete with at least the surrounding clubs.



Mr Innes Vercoe



Bay of Plenty Times

7 November 1889

FOOTBALL.

The return football match between the Rangiwaea and Motiti football clubs was played at Motiti on Friday, 1st November. The weather was all that could be desired. The game commenced at 3 p.m. In the first spell the scores stood at two points to Motiti, and Rangiwaea nil. In the second spell Rangiwaea scored one point. When time was called the scores were, Motiti, 2 points; Rangiwaea, 1.

After the match was played the Rangiwaea Club were entertained to a grand dinner or feast by the Motiti Club.

The following is the bill of fare provided, viz.—Boiled hapuku, boiled baked and curried pork, boiled and curried poultry, boiled, baked, and copper Maori kumaras; jam tarts, jam rolls, plum cakes, boiled plum pudding, pan-cakes, lemon cakes, oranges, and bread and tea. No spirituous liquors were used.

After dinner a presentation was made by J. McMillan, captain of the Rangiwaea Club, to the Motiti Club of a very pretty, peculiarly made whistle. He made a few remarks while making the presentation. He hoped that the love and affection evinced between the two clubs would continue. Various speeches were made by the captains, and by the relations of the players. Many songs in European and Maori were sung in first class style, also showing the advance of the younger Maoris in true European modes of amusement.

The day of departure being Monday, farewell was taken of the Ngaiterangi by the residents of Motiti by hakas in grand war-like style. It was a grand sight to see, some 150 natives dressed in war costume. After many speeches by the natives the visitors departed for their homes in three large whale boats, a favourable gale carrying them to their destination.

The make-up of the Te Puke Football Club changed around years 1905 - 1906 which probably coincided with the first appearance of a senior Rangiuuru football team participating in the Te Puke competition. Records show that a Rangiuuru junior team played a social game against a Maketu representative team at Maketu in the first week of November 1897 but there are no records of a senior team prior to 1906. Of more than passing interest were several newspaper references to the Waitangi Club. Perhaps this club was the fore-runner of the Rangiuuru Club but this is difficult to substantiate.

Should there have been a relationship between the Waitangi Club and Rangiuuru, there could be reason to suggest that the Rangiuuru Club might have been in existence longer than stated above.





The Te Puke Football Club went out of existence in 1909. The demise of the Te Puke Football Club must surely have coincided with the expansion of the Rangioru Club or more specifically the emergence of a Rangioru senior team in 1906. The Te Puke Football Club continued in existence from 1906 to 1909. What is clear is that the Te Puke Football Club was never mentioned in any published report after 1910.

That was the year that the United Football Club of Te Puke was formally established.



The following are facts and features that set the scene as far as Te Puke rugby was concerned in the lead up to 1910.

 At the turn of the century a field was located on and behind land that was known as the Farmers Auctioneering Co. (FAC). This large concrete building exists today on Jocelyn Street opposite the entry to Commerce Lane. As no railway existed prior to 1913 the area was primarily paddocks. The playing paddock moved over time and was variously described using the names of the owners of the Te Puke Hotel including Kenealy's, Montgomery's and Martins. Later the term Jamieson's paddock referred to this area and the fields became centred on that area known as Jubilee Park which includes Jamieson Oval.

 Prior to, and some time after 1900, the Te Puke Football Club was playing under the Tauranga County Rugby Union, understood to have been formed in **1899**. Between April and May 1899 the number of teams consolidated as can be noted from the following two newspaper articles. This Union was affiliated with the Auckland Rugby Union.



Bay of Plenty Times
10 April 1899

Upon the proposition of Mr J. Jordan, it was resolved unanimously that a Football Union be now formed, to be called the 'Tauranga County Union,' and that the following Clubs, viz., Katikati, Te Puke, Rangiwaia, Karikari, Maketu and Matata be asked to join. The Secretary was requested to write to the various Clubs to that effect.

Te Puke Hotel Jellicoe Street in 1908



Inset: Publican Adolphus Montgomery, a very strong supporter of the United Club and Te Puke rugby.

Bay of Plenty Times
3 May 1899

TAURANGA COUNTY FOOTBALL UNION.

A meeting was held at the Secretary's office on Saturday last, 29th April, at 4 p.m. and the following delegates were present, viz., Messrs J. Jordan. Wi Hape and Innis Vercoe. Mr J. Jordan was voted to the chair.

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of fixing the dates for the Union matches, and any other business that might be deemed necessary.

The Secretary here stated that the following clubs have notified him of their intention of joining the Union, viz., Tauranga, Te Puke and Karikari.

The following dates for the cup matches were then fixed by the meeting:—

1ST ROUND.

1. Te Puke v. Karikari, to be played at Karikari, Saturday, May 20th.
2. Tauranga v. Karikari, to be played at Tauranga, Thursday, May 25th.
3. Tauranga v. Te Puke, to be played at Tauranga, Thursday, June 1st.



🏉 On 17 July 1899 the Tauranga Football Club defeated the Te Puke Football Club 20 - 15. It was reported that Wi Hape captained the team 'like a general' and often shouted out Maori war cries to lift his men. Records indicate that Wi Hape was clearly an outstanding rugby player during this period. History records that he made a real impact on local rugby as a player, referee and administrator.

In a game against the Tauranga Football Club in 1899 he wrote the first chapter of Te Puke rugby folklore by marching the Te Puke Football club team off the field following the awarding of a try to Tauranga. Wi Hape claimed 'the try' did not meet his interpretation of the rules of the game. In spite of a handy lead the Te Puke team forfeited the game on principle.

🏉 In order to capture the flavour of local rugby at the close of the 19th century, the following article printed in the Bay of Plenty Times 31 July 1899 makes interesting reading. As can be noted from this report, games at this time had an important social element to them and transport between Tauranga and Waitangi was almost certainly by coastal vessel. Clearly, crowd control was taken rather seriously.

Bay of Plenty Times

31 July 1899

RANGIWAEA V. TE PUKE.

On Wednesday, the 26th inst, the Rangiwaea footballers arrived at Waitangi settlement, near Te Puke, on the banks of the majestic Kaituna river, to play off the second round for the Tauranga County Union Cup, with the Te Puke Club.

On the evening, they were welcomed by the local team with all the hospitality that could be bestowed on them and were shown all the principal sights of the neighbourhood, some of them being complete strangers to the district.

The boundary lines were guarded by eight rangers with stockwhips and the goal lines by two more and by this means the

whole field of play was cleared for ten yards outside the lines. Mr Brady and Te Naera acted as Line Umpires and Mr R. Speight as Referee.

When the Referee sounded his whistle to commence the whole field was cleared and the two teams marched on amid great cheering from the spectators.

Rangiwaea won the toss and chose to play with the wind, the weather being everything that could be wished by footballers.

The visitors, though defeated on the field of play, were delighted with the manner in which they were entertained by the local Club.



On 3 August **1900** the Te Puke Football Club defeated the Tauranga Football Club 13 - 3 on Mr Henwoods' paddock in Te Puke. The game was followed that evening with a dance at Donovan's Hall.

In **1901** the Paengaroa, Te Puke, Tauranga and Matata Clubs began playing in a competition; the Paengaroa Club having been established in the same year. These teams generally travelled to games by horseback with the exception of Tauranga. When required to play at Matata, they travelled by sea into Matata on the coastal cargo vessel SS Fingal.

A Pongakawa Club was established in **1902**.

The first meeting to seriously discuss rugby in Te Puke was held at the Paengaroa boarding house in 1902. This meeting was called by Mr Ernie Butcher and Mr Innes Vercoe. The boarding house was located on the corner of Hall and Wilson Roads and was also the coach-station. In 1902 this establishment was owned by a Mr Essen. The meeting resulted in the formation of six teams including one from Manoeka. A Te Puke district competition was established for the first time.

In **1903** the Te Puke Football Club continued playing under the Tauranga County Rugby Union.

1904/1905 the Te Puke Football Club and Paengaroa teams broke away from the Tauranga County Rugby Union and with Maketu teams formed the Maketu Union. Presumably in response, the Tauranga Union then created clubs based on boundaries being: the Kari Kari Club between Wairakei and Hairini, the Matakana Club between Te Puna and Bethlehem and the City Club between Hairini and Bethlehem. The Maketu Union fielded a rep team in 1905 and played Tauranga - result unknown.

Bay of Plenty Times

April 1905

The Te Puke Football Club had their first meeting on Saturday night, when upwards of fifty members were enrolled. It was decided to write to the Paengaroa Club to ask their co-operation with the object of forming a Union. The following officers

and Committee were elected:—Mr Herries, M.H.R., Patron. Mr King, President, Messrs McEwen, Dudson, Gavin Wallace, T. Ken-saly, D. Walsh, C. Tutill, H. Kerr, R. Seddon, T. Waldrom, W. Gray, G. Wallace, H. N. Evered, R. Brown, T. N. Diprose,

were unanimously elected Vice Presidents. Committee:—Messrs R. Burns, G. Henry, A. Wintle, E. Butcher, E. Smith. Union delegates:—E. Butcher, R. Burns and the Secretary. Treasurer:—Mr Smith. Secretary:—Mr Armstrong.



By **1906** the East Te Puke Union had replaced the Maketu Union with four teams participating; Te Puke Football Club, Maketu, Rangioru and Paengaroa. In spite of some views to the contrary, 1906 is the first season that Rangioru fielded a senior team in a Te Puke competition.

The East Te Puke Union was a 'one-off' and with an increasing number of players, the number of teams went to five during 1907/08 when the Te Puke Rugby Union was formed and the Papamoa Club came into existence and was included in the competition. Clubs fielding teams in **1907** were: Te Puke - maroon, Rangioru - yellow, Maketu - red & black, Paengaroa - blue & white, Papamoa - green. Rangioru won the first ever Te Puke competition in 1907.

The **1908** Club Competition was played between the above five teams under the Te Puke Rugby Union. Junior teams began to appear with the Te Puke Football Club, Rangioru, Paengaroa and Maketu fielding teams. Often Paengaroa and Maketu combined junior teams.

The Te Puke Football Club continued as the 'town' team through to **1909** when it was amalgamated with Papamoa to form the United Football Club which played alongside Rangioru, Paengaroa, Maketu and Tia. The Tia Football Club was based at Makahae Marae, Te Kahika.

Bay of Plenty Times
22 June 1906

Letter to the Editor

Sir,—I happened to be at Maketu on Saturday last and witnessed the football match between the Paengaroa and the Maketu clubs. The ground was not fit to play on—pigs must have been kept there for some time previously. Occasionally the ball could not be found—as it disappeared in the holes made by the porkers, besides the fern and grass was knee deep—truly a most wonderful place on which to play rugby. A follower of football who might have seen the game would not wish to see such another.

Bay of Plenty Times
1 June 1908

SATURDAY'S FIXTURES.

On Saturday next the following matches will be played:—Rangioru v. Maketu, at Te Puke; Paengaroa v. Papamoa, at Paengaroa; Te Puke a bye.

Te Puke juniors will meet Paengaroa-Maketu (combined) at Te Puke at 1.30 p.m.



Te Puke Rugby Club - approximately 1909 - 1910

This photograph does not name all players in the team and has deteriorated over time. Many of the players listed below in the 1907 - 1908 team to play Maketu, are probably in this photograph.

Te Puke (maroon).—Back, E. Kerr; threequarters, Kohara, W. Martin, S. McEwen; five-eighths J. McEwen (captain); half, T. Henry; wings, C. Hall, H. Brady; forwards, C. McGuire, F. Henwood, C. Miller, J. Scholes, J. Kerr, W. Ryan, Bam-bury.

Maketu. (red and black).—Back, We-tene; threequarters, W. Tapsell, Schofield, Rau; five-eighths, Kihar-oa, Tapsell, Marimari; half, Matiu; wings, P. Tapsell, Riritahi; for-wards, Rini, Pukai, C. Pinker (cap-tain), Kouma Tapsell, Rotohiko, Raiona King.



The United Football Club - The years 1910 - 1949

The United Football Club of Te Puke was formerly established on Wednesday 25 May 1910 at a meeting that was held at Mr Adolphus Montgomery's Hotel. The United Football Club had few stronger supporters than Publican Adolphus Montgomery.

There is no doubt that this event led to the creation of Te Puke Sports. United was literally the 'uniting' of Te Puke and Papamoa footballers into one club. The Papamoa Club, established in 1907 was recessed in 1909 along with the Te Puke Football Club when players from both areas formed the United Football Club.

On this basis, our club history as at 2014, spans a period of 103 years. The United Club's original colours were narrow amber and black hoops. This was changed to black and white hoops in 1919 and remained the club's playing colours until 1949.



The United Football Club 1910 - 1919



The United Football Club 1919 - 1949

Please note that this is an indication of club colours and stripe pattern only, it does not represent the style of jersey of the era.



Bay of Plenty Times May 1910

MEETING OF UNITED CLUB.

A meeting of those interested in football in the Papamoa and Te Puke districts was held in Mr Montgomery's hotel last Saturday. Mr A. Ryburn presided, and nearly forty players were in attendance.

It was decided to form a Club, to be called the United Club, and to affiliate with the Te Puke Rugby Union.

It was resolved that the Club's colours should be amber and black.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr W. A. Bennett; vice-presidents, Messrs A. Montgomery, O. H. Selbie, J. F. Wintle, D. J. McEwen, T. N. Diprose, R. Bradford, S. Serjeant, D. Wilson, O. J. Hodge, J. Brown, E. Evans, and W. Henry; committee, Messrs W. Ansell, H. Douglas, J. Henry, A. Ryburn, J. Douglas, J. Bennett, and M. Ryburn; captain, Mr W. Ansell; vice captain,

Mr H. Douglas; secretary, Mr J. Henry; selection committee, Messrs W. Ansell, H. Douglas, and J. Henry; delegates to the Union, Messrs A. Ryburn and W. Ansell.

It was decided to hold football and gymnastic practice every Wednesday night in the Public Hall, and field practice on Saturdays.

The membership fee was fixed at 2s 6d, sixteen subscriptions being received before the close of the meeting.

United Football Club, Te Puke



Winners of Imperial Cup, 1911

Standing: K.J. Henry (Hon Sec), H. Douglas, J. Douglas, W. Marshall, D. Kaiuama, D. Barrow, J. McEwen, A. Montgomery (Hon Sec. R.U.)
Kneeling: W. Bennett, J. Snodgrass, E. Montgomery, (Capt), W.A. Bennett (Pres. U.C.), E. Langley, F. Stewart.
Sitting: S. McEwen, H. Barlow, J. Bennett, J. Wright, W. Riddell, S. Montgomery (Mascotte)

John J (Jack) Douglas 3rd from left (standing) was killed in action at Chunuk Bair, Gallipoli, Turkey, aged 27 and was the first member of our club to lose his life at war.

John G (Jack) Snodgrass 2nd from left (kneeling) was killed in action on 10 December 1917 in the battle of Passchendaele Belgium.



Through The Years 1910 - 1949

Records are hard to obtain in the period leading up World War One from 1910. We know that during the War years many players in the district had enlisted in the Services and club rugby was either weak or clubs went in and out of active participation for much of the War period. Additionally, in the period surrounding and following 1918 a world-wide influenza pandemic swept the world killing more than 50 million people including 8,000 New Zealanders. The impact on club rugby was dramatic.

1909 - 10 was a period in which club rugby started to evolve as not only did the United Football Club come into existence but the Star Club of Tauranga was formed in April 1909. One of the first games played by United was against the Star Club which sported navy blue jerseys with a white star on the left chest. On 8 July 1910 Star beat United 6 points to 3 at a game played at Tauranga.



Bay of Plenty Times

2 September 1910

FOOTBALL.

Last Saturday the Rangioru team were defeated by United (Te Puke) by 5 points to nil. This is the first time that Rangioru has been defeated for three years. Mr A. Montgomery referred.

On Saturday next Maketu and United will play at Maketu. If Maketu should win or make a draw of the game, they will take the district championship honours. Mr L. Kerr will act as referee.

Captain William Atherton Bennett (1892-1971) was the Inaugural President of the United Football Club of Te Puke - 1910. He was commonly referred to by Te Puke residents as "The Major". Lieutenant of the Te Puke Division of the Tauranga Mounted Rifles, he rose to Captain in 1903 and Major in 1904. He also served in the Boer War. He was the first secretary of the Bay of Plenty Co-operative Dairy Association formed in 1902; a member of numerous local bodies including the Te Puke Town Board and a Life Member of the Tauranga and Te Puke Agricultural and Pastoral Assoc. William moved the motion that established the Tauranga Electric Power Board. He was a Guarantor for the 11,000 volt line between Gate Pa and Te Puke.



Te Puke became a Sub-Union in **1911** when the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union was formed on Easter Saturday 15 April and became affiliated to the New Zealand Rugby Union. The Sub-Unions were: Rotorua, Opotiki, Whakatane, Te Puke, Tauranga and Taupo. Te Puke's colours were established as red and black hoops.

In 1911 the local competition consisted of United, Maketu, Paengaroa and Pongakawa. The absence of Rangiuuru can not be explained.

The local clubs in **1913** included United, Rangiuuru, Maketu and Paengaroa. Pongakawa apparently withdrew from participation. Records show that a Railway team played from time to time however not in the form of a registered club participating in the local competition. United formed its first junior team and played a Rangiuuru junior team.

At a Sub-Union meeting in May, a discussion took place on the matter of spectators passing unseemly remarks calculated to incite players to rough play. It was decided to give offenders one warning only, to be followed by expulsion from the ground for continuance of such conduct.

By **1914** there were four active teams with the first appearance of the Railway Football Club as a registered competition participant. To be eligible for the Railway team the strict criteria was that a player had to either 'live or work' on the railway. The railway was being constructed by the Public Works Department later known as the Ministry of Works and they also operated a quarry at Manoeka near Te Puke.

The teams this season were United, Rangiuuru, Railway and Maketu. United and Rangiuuru again fielded junior grades. During the season Maketu lodged a complaint with the Te Puke Sub-Union and in a quote from the Sub-Union's minutes it is recorded that *"our players are very dissatisfied at having to travel so far to play in Te Puke"*.

This was the first year of World War One hostilities and Paengaroa did not field a team. Although War was not declared until 5 August 1914, some local boys, mostly members of the Te Puke Mounted Rifles and some local Maori enlisted early and were sent straight off to camp. This was sufficient to prevent club rugby activity, therefore a competition was not contemplated for the season.

In June **1915** an application was received by the Te Puke Sub-Union from the Papaka Club to play in the Te Puke competition. This club stemmed from the temporarily recessed Rangataua Club and as a consequence of there being no club rugby in Tauranga with players having left



for War duties. Papaka is the Maori name for the sea crab and represents what is called Rangataua Bay which is the foreshore area around Matapihi extending into the inner Tauranga harbour. The Papaka remains the emblem on the Rangataua jersey and blazer today. During 1915, Mr Toi McLeod who was the Papaka delegate to the Te Puke Sub-Union passed away. Mr McLeod was a retired player of note and a highly respected rugby personality of his time. The McLeod family remain residents of Papamoa today.

In June, at a meeting of the Te Puke Sub-Union it was noted that the Tauranga Sub-Union had closed down for the season. This led to Papaka's application being successful, although a subsequent newspaper report suggested that there was some disquiet within the Tauranga Sub-Union as to the decision. Another newspaper article noted that the inclusion of Papaka and Railway allowed a meaningful competition to be played.

World War One eclipsed all rugby matters. Neither Maketu nor Paengaroa fielded teams. Club rugby weakened and the competition consisted of United, Rangiuuru, Railway and Papaka.

Te Puke Times
20 July 1915

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR NEXT SATURDAY

It has been decided that the fixtures for next Saturday, 24th inst., will be Railway v. Papaka, No. 1 Ground, and Rangiuuru v. United, No. 2 Ground.

Te Puke Times
15 August 1916

The football match on Saturday last resulted in the United team defeating Rangiuuru by six points to nil. Rough play and obscene language were the outstanding features of the game.

Through **1916** as World War One continued to rage, only United and Rangiuuru were in existence as participating teams. A weakened Rangataua Club (replacing their temporary stand-in Papaka) again nominated a team and requested the Te Puke Sub-Union to allow them to play in the Te Puke competition.



The request was granted on the basis of 'no objection' from the Tauranga Rugby Sub-Union. Unfortunately Rangataua remained weak during the season and defaulted on at least one occasion. The article, on the previous page, published on 15 August **1916** in the Te Puke Times provides an interesting insight as to the state of the game during 1916.

1917 - War totally disrupted rugby with no records of club rugby being played.

1918 - War combined with the influenza pandemic stopped all club rugby.

At some point during World War One the Te Puke Sub-Union went into recess and in **1919** was re-formed with affiliated clubs that year being:

United, Paengaroa, Rangioru, Gold Reefs (Mines), Rangataua and Railway.

Gold Reefs, commonly called Mines, was a team formed by Miners at Muir's Reef on No 4 Road. A field was developed at the Mine site and was used regularly for competition rugby.

Te Puke Times
3 June 1919

FOOTBALL.

A meeting of the management Committee was held in Mr Alexander's Office on Wednesday night.

There was a good attendance and Mr Montgomery presided.

The following fixtures were drawn up for the 21st inst: United to play Gold Reefs at Te Puke; Railway Football Club to play Rangataua Club at Paengaroa.

The following colours were registered:

United, Black and White.
Rangioru, Black.
Rangataua, Red and Black.
Gold Reefs, Yellow and Black.
Paengaroa, Maroon.

Railway, left open to choose, Mr Montgomery and Mr Van Asch were appointed as delegates to the Bay of Plenty Union.

It was also decided to build a changing shed. Mr E. Butcher kindly donated the timber.

Te Puke Times
4 July 1919

FOOTBALL.

The following will represent United F. C. in their match against Railway on Saturday:—Duncan, Snodgrass, Austin, Lid-dicoat, Donovan, McGeehan, Boucher, Healey, Petherbridge, Chase, Bannatyne, Vercoe, Bird, Cuff, Morton, Joyce, Keleher.

Players are requested to be on the ground at 1.15 sharp.

1920 was the first year of concerted rugby following the War. Clubs back in competitive action in the Te Puke Sub-Union were United, Rangioru, Maketu and Rangataua. At the commencement of the year, an application was made for affiliation by the Senior Cadets Club. Records revealed that Senior Cadets was in fact a junior team whose origin stemmed from recent war activity.



These were Te Puke based trainee army cadets from the 39th Company under the control of the Defence Office, Tauranga. Tauranga Senior Cadets Rugby Club was attached to the 38th Company in the same manner.

Some undesirable activity was noted in the Te Puke Times.

Te Puke Times

August 1920

A number of unpleasant rumours are current in regard to betting transactions in which, it is stated, some of the local footballers are concerned. It is to be sincerely hoped, in the interest of clean sport, and for the sake of the good old Rugby game, that there is nothing in the allegations.

Te Puke Times

1920

FIXTURES FOR SATURDAY

United v. Paengaroa
Rangioru v. Rangatawa
Railway v. Gold Reefs

The following will represent United in their match against Paengaroa on Saturday next:— Grant, Snodgrass, King, Austin, Liddicott, Petherbridge, Morton,

Bannatyne, Vercoe, Chase, Keleher, Bird, Cuff, Joyce, Brady, Healey, McGeehan, Jordan, and Gardiner.

Particulars as to travelling to Paengaroa may be obtained from Mr Young, secretary. All players must be prepared to leave Te Puke at 1.30 p.m.

1921 saw a surge in development of rugby with the formation of a strong club called Rovers. Senior and junior teams were fielded and a powerful club came into existence. Their club colours were maroon. It should be noted that Paengaroa was not playing at senior level in 1920 or 1921 and Maketu did not appear in 1921 which maybe explains why Rovers emerged. Additionally, the former Paengaroa Club colours were maroon which perhaps sheds more light on the possible origins of the Rovers Club. Names would suggest that the club consisted of players drawn mainly from Maketu, the Eastern Districts area and Papamoa. Rovers continued as a club into the 1940's. Remarkably, following considerable research, very little is really known as to the exact reason why the Rovers Football Club was formed and in spite of extensive efforts during 2013 no-one interviewed could recall the club or any detail surrounding its origin.

Te Puke Times

21 April 1921

TEAMS FOR TOMORROW

The following team will represent the Rovers seniors in their match against Rangioru on No. 1 Ground to-morrow:—Hira, Wini, A. Jamieson, McEwen, Pinker, Ru Rogers, Snodgrass, Bishoprick, Nua, Ronald, Kouma, P. Tapsell, Sergeant, Harnden, L. Riddell, Bird, Robinson, Stewart.

The following team will represent the United Seniors against Aturoa:—Morton, May, Courtenay, Davy, Tidey, Jack, Duncan, D. Vercoe, Gardner, Ralfe, Boucher, Torrens, Steedman, Rogers, Donovan, W. Vercoe, Mosty.

The junior match will be played between the following fifteens:—

Rovers

Kerr, Springhall, Wickliffe, Lorrigan, R. Jamieson, Birt, Bennett, Dunlop, White, Riddell, A. Watkins, Mitchell (2), H. Watkins, Rangi.

United

Woods, Burstall, Mollgaard, James, McCauley, Firth, Palmer, Hickey, Pinker, Ball, Ansell, Mitchell, McGrovy, Wilding, Gresham.



1921 also saw the emergence of the Atuaroa senior team. Newspaper reports during the season wavered between calling this team Atuaroa and Manoeka however at the April meeting of the Te Puke Sub-Union the official registrations for the senior team competition for the 1921 season were: United, Atuaroa, Rovers and Rangiuuru. As can be noted in the Te Puke Times article on the previous page the word Atuaroa was frequently incorrectly spelt. Senior Cadets again appeared as a junior team.

The 1921 senior club competition included:

United - black and white hoops, Rangiuuru - yellow and black hoops

Rovers - Maroon, Atuaroa - green and black hoops

1922 was an interesting season with the formation of yet another team and the unexplained disappearance of the Atuaroa team. The new team was Wanderers, a junior team making its first ever appearance. Again, in spite of considerable research, little has been discovered about this team and the reason for its establishment. However, a solitary press report during 1922 called a junior team to play a Rovers 2nd XV the 'Paengaroa Wanderers'. Thus, it must be assumed that Wanderers was indeed a Paengaroa junior team playing under the banner 'Wanderers'. Many of the names below are familiar....

Te Puke Times

1922

The other junior match was a far closer and more interesting contest. It was played between the Paengaroa Wanderers and Rover second fifteen, the latter winning by eight points to nil.

The following team will represent the Rover seniors in their match against Railway on Saturday:—Hira Tapsell, Donovan, Wini Tapsell, Coates, Harawera, Gardiner, Snodgrass, Bishoprick,

Sergeant, Tiwha, Peter Tapsell, Rohipi, Riddell, Farrell, McEwen. Emergencies: W. Rogers, J. Grant.

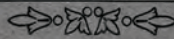
The following team will represent the Wanderers against Railway on No 2 Ground at 1.30 p.m on Saturday next:—Harvey, Buchanan, Ball, Wilkins, Pinker, Drabble, Wickcliffe, Stewart (2) Singleton, Tanner, Dwyer, Judd, Ford.

The following players have been chosen to represent the United Club against Railway in the opening Cup fixture on Saturday:—May, Raine, Courtney, Morton, Vercoe, Bennett, Davy, Dixon, Boucher, J. Bennett, Torrens, Brown, Rogers, Duncan, Stewart, Montgomery. A practice will be held in the supper room of the Alliance Hall on Thursday evening at 7.30, and as many players as possible are requested to be present.

At this stage of Te Puke's rugby history, United and Rangiuuru were the most dominantly established clubs in the senior and junior grades.



TE PUKE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB, 1922



BACK ROW : J. Geraghty, H. P. Duncan, A. V. Hicks, A. Robinson, *W. Dickson, E. Morton, P. Flynn.
MIDDLE ROW : C. W. Montgomery, D. Vercoe, W. Bennett, C. N. Boucher, W. H. Davy, J. Courtney,
FRONT ROW : S. L. E. Torrens, G. W. D. Rogers, E. P. May, J. Bennett.

The senior competition in 1922 consisted of the following teams:

United, Rovers, Rangioru and Railway.

1923 was a year that saw further changes to the senior club competition with another club named Huimai participating for the season and then disappearing for the next two years. They fielded a senior and junior team.

The senior competition of 1923 consisted of:

United, Rovers, Mines, Rangioru and Huimai - (blue jerseys)



Paengaroa Wanderers continued in the junior competition but notable in 1923 was the absence of the senior Railway team.

Trouble was surfacing in Te Puke rugby and it was recorded during this year that club rugby suffered from a variety of ailments including games disbanded because of bad-language, exceedingly rough play, unruly spectator behaviour and sideline betting. This trouble apparently continued through much of the 1920's and was evident through to the great depression of 1929. (The flax mills and gold mine had closed and the collapse of the freezing works at Whakatane placed many under financial pressure.)

According to the below report the Wanderers team may have held an interesting social during 1923.

Te Puke Times

1923

FOOTBALL.

The following are the fixtures for Saturday next :-

Senior.

Rangiuru v. Rover, J. Meharry

Juniors

United v. Wanderers, No. 1
Ground, J. Henry.

Huimai v. Rangiuru, No. 2
Ground.

The team to represent the Wanderers in their match with United on Saturday next will be selected from the following :-
Hunt, Stewart (2), Cameron, Dwyer, Lee, Costello, Crawford, Ford, Aro (2), Toko, W. Albert, E. Ball, B. Wilkins, Adam, M. Drabble, J. Judd.

Te Puke Times

1923

(To the Editor).

Sir. - On behalf of the Wanderers' Football Club I wish to deny all false reports regarding our dance, held in Paengaroa Hall on 24th September, the same being absolutely untrue and unfounded. Will the person or persons spreading such reports please discontinue to save further trouble and unnecessary ill-feeling - I am, etc.,

M. R. STEWART,
Secretary for Wanderers F.C.

In **1924** Wanderers fielded their first senior team and Papamoa entered the junior competition; perhaps the first sighting of a Papamoa team since 1908.

The senior competition included:

United, Rangiuru, Rovers and Wanderers.

1925 saw the return of the Pongakawa Football Club after an absence of almost 14 years. Pongakawa was re-formed following a meeting at the Te Puke Flaxmilling Company premises at Paengaroa. Mr Stan Heather chaired the meeting and W.M. Gelling was elected President with Mr G. Mends Secretary-Treasurer. They established a senior team that joined United, Rangiuru and Rovers. Their club jersey was black, with black socks with white tops.



The Te Puke Sub-Union observed that it was pleasing that teams were turning out in their club colours instead of jerseys of a 'nondescript character'.

In April of 1925 a club called Suburbs was established and registered to play in the senior competition. However, within weeks this club was dissolved and requested permission from the Sub-Union to have its name changed to Rovers. It has not been possible to determine why Suburbs was registered. The relationship between Suburbs and Rovers remains a mystery.

Four senior teams competed being: United, Rangiuuru, Pongakawa, Suburbs/Rovers. Four junior teams participated being: United, Papamoa, Rovers and Rangiuuru.

1926 saw the expansion of the Pongakawa Football Club to include a junior team.

Te Puke Times

1926

The following team will represent the Pongakawa Seniors against Rangiuuru on Saturday :—
Sutherland, Pollard, Morgan, Ball, Isaac Tunui, McKenzie, H. Tapsell, Anderson (3), Wickliffe, Hoko, Mends, Bonne, Rawiri, and Cooper.

The Pongakawa Juniors to play United are as follows :—
Vercos (2), Maikiti (2), Conway, Kelly, Taylor, Clayton, Kidd, McLervon, Adamson, Robertson, Langman, Drabble, Horne, Ball, Fraser, Brown, Gibbons, Te Wao, and Pinker.

Interestingly, during 1926 the United junior team withdrew from the competition mid season as a result of insufficient numbers caused by the temporary formation of a High School Old Boys junior team. Records indicate that this team was established for a short period of time only.

The Te Puke Sub-Union then decided to attach the Papamoa junior team to the United Club to allow United seniors to draw players from a junior team. This in no way interrupted Papamoa continuing to play as a junior team along with competitor junior teams Pongakawa, Rovers and Rangiuuru.



The senior competition in 1926 was: United, Rangioru, Pongakawa and Rovers.

A Te Puke Referees Association was formed.

1927 was, to say the least, a confusing season. To highlight how unexpected change occurred in club rugby during the 1920's, the following two newspaper articles clearly demonstrate the manner in which history at times can be mystifying. It can be seen from the article (below left) that at least temporarily, Pongakawa and Maketu teams combined (under Pongakawa) and that quite separately a Pongakawa Flaxmill team was established and entered the competition. This team was called Pirates or Flaxmill Pirates. To create further confusion, during the season, the Wanderers senior team re-appeared but within a very short period was disbanded with their players being allocated by the Sub-Union to existing senior teams.

There seems to be no explanation as to why the apparently strong Rovers Club failed to field a team.

Junior teams included the return of Huimai as well as United, Pongakawa and Rangioru. The Hancock Challenge Cup was allocated to the junior grade in an effort by the Te Puke Sub-Union to encourage junior rugby.

Te Puke Times
10 April 1927

The following clubs have signified their intention of playing in the local Rugby Union competitions this season:—United, Pongakawa, and Maketu (combined), Pirates (Pongakawa flaxmill), and Rangioru. The junior teams will be as follows: Papanoa, United, Rangioru and Pongakawa.

Te Puke Times
6 May 1927

In the senior competitions there will be four competing teams and the draw for tomorrow is as follows:—Rangioru v Flaxmill; United v Pongakawa. Four teams will also take part in the junior contests but two only will play on Saturday—Huímai meeting Pongakawa. The advent of the football season will undoubtedly be hailed with satisfaction by all for it certainly tends to enliven Saturday afternoons throughout the winter months and provides the public with a little genuine amusement at a moderate price.



The senior competition in 1927 was: United, Rangioru, Pongakawa, Flaxmill Pirates and Wanderers (disbanded) during the season.

If 1927 was confusing, then **1928** was perplexing. A combined Te Puke and Tauranga club competition was established with United, Pongakawa and Rangioru competing against Tauranga teams Rangataua, Cadet Old Boys and Ranginui. The Ranginui football team was based in and around the Judea area. The only explanation given for this change in format was a comment in the Te Puke Times that the competition was to be a series of matches between clubs affiliated to the Te Puke and Tauranga Sub-Unions. As will be noted, this was very much a 'one-off' arrangement and it was not until much later that Te Puke and Tauranga decided to play in a combined competition. United, Huimai and Pongakawa fielded junior teams. Papamoa juniors did not appear.

1929 was a very poor year for Te Puke club rugby. The competition involving Tauranga teams, for whatever reason, did not continue. Furthermore, only three senior teams participated in the reinstated Te Puke competition. They were, United, Pongakawa and Rangioru. Rovers were again absent.

Huimai continued with their junior team playing United and Pongakawa.

It would seem that club rugby was completely overshadowed in favour of representative games against Tauranga, Opotiki, Rotorua, Taneatua and Whakatane. These matches appeared to be the focus of the season.

In **1930** there continued to be a strong emphasis on representative and provincial rugby to the detriment of a club competition. Newspaper reports on club rugby activity were scant and higher level games stole the limelight. Regardless, club rugby strengthened with the re-establishment of the Papamoa Football Club. Papamoa first fielded a senior team in 1907 and continued through to 1909 when it amalgamated with the depleted Te Puke Football Club to form the United Club. However, Papamoa did field a junior team in the 1924, 1925 and 1926 seasons. Having formally re-established, they immediately produced a strong senior team with numerous victories recorded in their first season. Their club colours were blue and gold.



Te Puke Times

1930

NEW CLUB FORMED

A well attended meeting was held in the Security Buildings on Tuesday night to consider the formation of a new football club. After a deal of discussion it was decided to form the Papamoa Football Club and the following officials were appointed: Patron, Mr C. L. Luke; President, M. J. Collins; Vice-Presidents, Messrs A. B. Morton, C. McNaughton, Price, E. Downes and D. Morgan.

Delegates to Rugby Union—Senior, D. Morgan and C. Donovan; Junior—E. Palmer. Committee—Messrs D. Morgan, Price, Palmer, Donovan, E. Morton, Isaac Tunui. Secretary P. Donovan.

Blue and Gold were the colours decided on for the club.

Promises of support were received from a number of players and others interested.

The Papamoa Football Club had an important influence on Te Puke rugby. Their players, over time, became assimilated back into the United Club, or later, the Old Boys or Pirates Clubs. Their eventual return to Te Puke rugby reflected the strong ties that existed between the Papamoa and Te Puke communities.

A photograph of the 1931 Papamoa senior team is located between pages 223 & 224.

Four clubs participated in the Te Puke senior competition:

Seniors: United, Rangioru, Pongakawa and Papamoa

Juniors: United and Rangioru.

United defeated Rangioru to win the competition.

Senior teams fielded in **1931** were: United, Pongakawa, Rangioru, Papamoa, Maketu and Huimai. During the latter part of the season both Pongakawa and Rangioru withdrew their teams and the competition reduced to a contest between United, Papamoa, Maketu and Huimai (still in blue jerseys). Papamoa won the senior competition.

In **1932** clubs fielding senior teams were United, Papamoa, Maketu and Huimai. Pongakawa and Rangioru again withdrew from the competition. A meaningful junior competition included United, Rangioru, Huimai and 'Stars'. Closer examination revealed that this team was in no way connected to the Star



Football Club of Tauranga but was a team predominantly made up of Papamoa and Te Puke players.

There was a rejuvenation of support for club rugby in **1933**. This was reflected in more detailed newspaper reports of club games and larger attendances at matches. The senior competition involved United, Rangioru Huimai and Papamoa. During the season Huimai struggled with numbers and eventually withdrew from the competition. To emphasise the strength of the Papamoa Club, having won the 1931 senior competition, they also won the 1933 competition.

By 1933 Rangioru's colours had changed from yellow and black to red and black hoops.

In the junior grade United, Rangioru and Huimai participated along with 'Stars'.

Te Puke Times

May 1933

The draw for Saturday is as follows:—

Seniors—Papamoa v Rangioru No 1 ground, referee Mr S. Heather; United v Huimai, No 2 ground referee, Mr C. Walker.

Juniors—Stars v Rangioru, No 1 ground, referee Mr J. Cooney; United v Huimai, No 2 ground, referee Mr E. Morton.

The United team to play against Huimai will be selected from the following players:— Williams,

Farmer, Shearer, Haslam, Arthur, Dunlop, Rolfe, Webber, Hayward, W. Tanner, Barker, Joyce, Serjoant, Robertson, Blackwell, Radfearn and Wilkins.

The Papamoa seniors will be selected from:—Taylor, D. Robertson, McKenzie, Chapman, Kirk, Potaka, Palmer, Dolovan, Whiteside, W. Pile, King, McNaughton, Wickliffe, Jensen, Jeffries, Fox and Scott.

In **1934** the Te Puke Sub-Union called for four senior teams to enter the competition. Consequently, at a well attended meeting held at Mr O. Webber's bach at Pongakawa, chaired by Mr D.S.B. (Stan) Heather, the Pongakawa Club was reformed and a senior and junior team established.



The following were elected office holders, Patron: Innes Vercoe, President: Charlie Ball, Secretary: Roy McKenzie. It was decided that the club's colours would be black jerseys and black socks with a white top. An initial practice was organised and held at the Pongakawa fibre paddock. Stan Heather went on to be Dominion President of the New Zealand Rugby Union.

Four senior and four junior teams contested the 1934 competition. They were: United, Papamoa, Pongakawa and Rangioru.

Te Puke Times
4 May 1934

Football

The following is the draw for Saturday's matches:—

Seniors.—Rangioru v. United, No. 1 Ground, Mr S. Heather; Papamoa v. Pongakawa, No. 2 Ground, Mr Walker.

Juniors.—Rangioru v. United, No. 1 Ground, Mr P. Wihapi; Papamoa v. Pongakawa, No. 2 Ground, Mr Morton.

Te Puke Times
1935

A team will be chosen from the following players to represent the combined Papamoa-United Club against Rangioru on Saturday:— Taylor, Webber, Kingi, Porter, Palmer, Lipsey, Spratt, Pile, Mc Cauley, Joyce, Tanner, Jensen, Bryant, Kelly, Dunlop, Campbell, Ingle, Johnston, McCullough and Fagan. The above game will be played on No. 2 ground Mr E. Morton will officiate as referee.

1935 saw a return to the 1928 concept of a combined Te Puke, Tauranga competition. A meeting of the two Sub-Unions was held at Tauranga in April to discuss "the best means of reviving interest in football during the coming season". It was agreed that the only method of doing this was to limit the senior teams in each town to three and for alternate matches to be played in the two townships. This would only necessitate each team travelling three times per ten weeks. Each Sub-Union was requested to mutually agree on and nominate three teams. Maketu delegates however stated that they were unable to enter into the competition unless arrangements were made to transport their players from Maketu and that one match be played at Maketu. The Chairman of the meeting stated that the financial position absolutely debarred the Sub-Union from incurring any expenses as suggested by Maketu.



As the condition imposed by Maketu was impossible, it left United, Rangioru and Papamoa as the Te Puke clubs.

Te Puke clubs: United, Rangioru, Papamoa

Tauranga clubs: Matakana, Rangataua, Te Puna

However, in May 1935 the Te Puke Times announced that notice had been given that the Papamoa and United Clubs had amalgamated. The three teams to be included in the combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition would therefore be Papamoa/United, Maketu and Rangioru. It is clear that the amalgamation of Papamoa and United was a Te Puke Sub-Union promoted initiative to provide Maketu with an opportunity to participate.

In **1936** it seems that everything that was initiated in 1935 was reversed. The joint Tauranga - Te Puke competition ceased, the 'amalgamation' between United and Papamoa was abandoned and a new club, Pukehina, was formed following the Te Puke Sub-Union receiving an affiliation application. With the affiliation of the Pukehina Club, initially five senior teams made up the Te Puke competition being United, Papamoa, Pukehina, Maketu and Huimai. Rangioru failed to field a team. Huimai withdrew prior to the commencement of the competition owing to a number of their players accepting work on Government created afforestation schemes that provided employment at a time when work was scarce.

A Paengaroa junior team was formed with Innes Vercoe as Patron, Mr W. Steele President and Roy McKenzie as Vice President and Club Captain. The jersey colour was black.

Papamoa won the senior competition on points by way of an 8 all draw with United.

At the commencement of the **1937** season a vote was taken by the Sub-Union on a proposal to amalgamate the Te Puke Sub-Union with the Tauranga Sub-Union. The motion failed on a show of hands.

Another important event occurred in March 1937 with the establishment of a new football club with Mr J.T. Eccleton Esq. as Patron and Mr George Sweetman Esq. as President. Mr Eric Capon featured in several key roles including Club Captain and Coach. This club was named Old Boys Rugby Club and referred to as 'Old Boys'. The club was established as a junior club playing matches against United, Paengaroa, Rangioru and Papamoa. The jersey colour was maroon.



Senior teams participating in 1937 were United, Maketu, Pukehina, Paengaroa and Papamoa.

In **1938** United, Maketu, Paengaroa and Papamoa formed the senior competition with the junior grade consisting of Paengaroa, Rangiuuru, Old Boys and Papamoa. Pukehina appears to have exited the senior competition and a Rotoehu (seemingly spelled Roto-ehu during this period) team was declined affiliation as the team did not have sufficient numbers.

Of special interest was the fact that United did not field a junior team for the first time since 1913 excluding war years. Clearly, United's failure to field a junior team was a consequence of High School players affiliating with the Old Boys junior team.

Te Puke Times
1938

POSITION OF TEAMS

		JUNIORS					
Team	P	Pts.	Pts.	W	L	D	Chp. Pts.
		for	ast.				
Rangiuuru	5	61	3	4	0	0	10
Old Boys	5	59	10	4	1	0	8
Paengaroa	5	31	29	1	3	0	2
Papamoa	5	11	120	0	5	0	0
		SENIORS					
Paengaroa	5	74	11	5	0	0	10
Maketu	5	41	52	2	3	0	4
Papamoa	5	37	54	2	3	0	4
United	5	31	65	1	4	0	2

Te Puke Times
1939

Old Boys End of Season Function - The Start of World War Two

Mr W. Morton, referred to the European conflict, and said that the team spirit and the will to win which was so evident among the football clubs, would be of great material assistance to those whose duty called them to the defence of their country and ideals. Without being pessimistic, he said, this might be the last gathering at which the company could all be present, and those who were called upon to play their part would do so with the same zeal as they had done on the football field.

1939 heralded the outbreak of World War Two. Rugby was not immediately impacted with senior teams consisting of United, Rangiuuru (back after an absence in 1938), Papamoa, Paengaroa and a new participant, Rotoehu.

The junior grade included Rangiuuru, Papamoa, Paengaroa, Maketu and Old Boys who had changed colours to maroon and white hoops. Mr A.R. Valder superseded Geo. Sweetman Esq. as President of the Old Boys Club.

Mr A.E. (Archie) Spratt was elected President of the Sub-Union and commenced a seven year reign in that position.



Old Boys Rugby Club Junior Team - 1940



Back Row: Bob Shepherd, Dick Phillips, Lindsey Carthew, Jim Higgins, Roland Earp, Graham Gemming, Ashly Jones, Eric Capon (Coach)
Middle Row: Robbie Brownlee, Noel Petch, Noel Valder (Captain) Jack Saunders, Bert Mansel
Fron Row: Phillip Shepherd, Jack Gemming, Malcolm Gunton, Norman Freeman

By **1940** World War Two was starting to seriously affect rugby across the country. Te Puke club rugby virtually collapsed with only a resurrected Rovers senior team (Rovers last fielded a senior team in 1926) playing a competition with Paengaroa and Rotoehu.

Rovers defaulted during the season and in June the team was disbanded by the Sub-Union with their players being allocated to Rotoehu and Paengaroa. Once Rovers recessed only Paengaroa and Rotoehu remained playing.

In 1940 significant numbers of players had enlisted for War duty or were called-up (balloted) for Territorial Army training. United and Rangioru would have been most affected initially as, in the



main, their players would not have been involved in essential industries and thus would have been expected to be available for War duties. Regardless of this, large numbers of young men from the wider Te Puke district were to serve in the New Zealand armed forces.

Te Puke Times

May 1940

TE PUKE RUGBY UNION.
TE PUKE RUGBY UNION
JUBILEE PARK

SATURDAY JUNE 1ST
ALL MATCHES AT JUBILEE PARK

HELP THE PATRIOTIC FUNDS.
All profit from Rugby this year will be
Donated to some Patriotic Fund.

E. R. BARTRAM, Secretary.

Juniors :

OLD BOYS v. RANGIURU
at 12.45 p.m.
H. Potaka, Referee.

PAENGAROA v. PAPAMOIA
at 1.45 p.m.
E. Morton, Referee

Seniors :

ROVERS v. ROTO-EHU
at 2.45 p.m.
C. Donovan, Referee.

In April **1941** the Te Puke Sub-Union decided at their Annual General Meeting “*that because Te Puke had sent a large proportion of players overseas to War, and still more were to follow, they would disband until such time as the football clubs can field teams*”.

Mrsrs E.J. Joyce and E.R. Bartram were appointed Trustees for all Sub-Union affairs during the period of War.

In **1942** no rugby was played in Te Puke. Huimai juniors however joined a Tauranga junior competition.

1943 witnessed the resurgence, albeit temporarily, of rugby activity. A well attended open meeting in May convened by Mr J.P. (Parley) Ryan held at the Borough Council Chambers decided to ask the Sub-Union to come out of recess and “*get on with the good old game.*” Mr Ryan commented that “*it would have to take place sometime so why not now?*”

Mr A.E. Spratt, then President of the Bay of Plenty Union and President of the Te Puke Sub-Union and the Paengaroa Club, stated that “*rugby had commenced going into recess in 1939 and it remained to be seen if there were sufficient teams to make it worthwhile reforming the Sub-Union*”.



The outcome of the meeting was that four junior and three 3rd grade teams were established and at another meeting in early July, it was agreed to re-form the Te Puke Sub-Union. To get things underway Mr Spratt offered goal-posts which Mr N.B. (Norrie) Williams offered to transport at no cost if someone else would volunteer to cut Mr Spratt's trees down.

After three seasons of recess, junior grade rugby recommenced. The secretary of the United Club, Mr J. Cosgrove immediately advertised a club practice for the Saturday following the open meeting. The draw for the first round of junior games was; United v Rangioru (won by United 14 - 0) and Paengaroa v Huimai (won by Huimai 10 - 6). Old Boys juniors did not appear as the club disintegrated during the initial War years and did not reform.

The greatest challenge of 1943 was the availability of rugby kit and equipment. Only Huimai possessed playing gear having played the previous season.

1944 saw a further resurgence of local rugby. At a meeting of the United Club it was decided that a senior team would be fielded along with a junior and 3rd grade team. The meeting raised concern about the availability of gear and equipment which was in very scarce supply and noted that *"if anything, the availability of gear is worse than last year but it's always surprising what odds and ends of equipment can ultimately be found."* The lack of playing gear was a serious one with at least one game during the season being cancelled as a result. This was a junior game between Rangioru and Paengaroa on 6 May which was conceded by Rangioru as they had *"inadequate strip for the boys."*

A Te Puke Times report noted *"that the sport was being maintained under 'War conditions' and to keep it going in the right spirit a great many things will have to be considered which in normal times would not warrant discussion."* The report noted that the United Club (President now Mr Parley Ryan) is most fortunate to have secured three footballs. The Te Puke Times further noted that in their first senior game of the season against Maketu, United won 4 - 3.

Seniors - United, Rangioru, Huimai, Maketu

Juniors - United, Rangioru, Paengaroa, Huimai



Te Puke Times

5 May 1944

Teams For Saturday

United Thirds—L. Croot, D. Earp, Lippett, R. Forrester, J. Forrester, D. Searle, M. Hutton, A. Rees, N. Meikle, D. Cosgrove, A. Ryan, D. Watts, E. Keys, J. McCracken, R. Evans, O. Petch, N. Blows. (To be at the Post Office at 12.35 to-morrow).

United Juniors—N. Petch, J. Boyd, R. Harding, J. Newman, J. Fletcher, J. Farquhar, R. Petch, S. Smith, W. Taylor, M. Blythe, I. Norris, G. Wills, J.

Storey, J. Pevreal, F. Gemming, P. Farrelly, K. Baker. (All players and intending players not mentioned to be in attendance at 12.30 p.m.).

United Seniors—L. Hope, Hudson Owen, F. Twigg, P. Webber, F. Wilkinson, I. Farquhar, T. Rolleston, H. Kensington, T. McCauley, L. J. Barker, G. Whiteside, J. Horne, R. Bridge, R. Hope, Tawa, Hoko, A. McCauley and N. Palmer. (All intending players to be on ground at 2.15 p.m. sharp).

Rugby's recovery was however short-lived with War duties continuing to take precedence. The Sub-Union moved in May **1945** to cancel rugby at senior level; the reality being that a senior competition was never likely to take place. Emphasis was placed on 3rd grade and junior games with the Te Puke High School accepted into the 3rd grade competition.

Juniors: United, Rangiuuru, Pukehina, Paengaroa, Maketu.

In **1946**, the first post War year, rugby bounced back with several teams in every grade. The season saw the further emergence of High School participation with school teams in both the junior and 3rd grade competitions. This situation led to the President of the United Club, Mr N.B. (Norrie) Williams to make the following comment at the club's annual meeting...

"Incidentally, it is worth recording that all clubs gave High School the first call on players in the 3rd and junior grades and this means that High School is building a team that will be a credit to the district in inter-school games. Footballers all realise that the gesture has made it more difficult to raise club teams but it is good to know the effort is proving worthwhile."



Norrie Williams' comments were, within a relatively short period of time, to become particularly relevant to the United Club.

A feature of the season was the joining of Pukehina and Paengaroa under the 'Combined' banner to form a strong team which won the senior competition.

The Te Puke Times dated 24 May announced that the Te Puke Borough Council had decided that the new football and sports ground on Jubilee Park is to be called Jamieson Oval in memory of the late Mr Andrew (Andy) Jamieson who for many years was actively involved with the development of sport in Te Puke. Andy was killed in Greece in 1941. He resided on the corner of Commerce Lane and King Street which was later to become the United Pirates Rugby Football Club clubrooms.

Seniors: United, Combined (Pukehina & Paengaroa) Huimai, Maketu, Rangioru

Juniors: United, High School, Paengaroa, Pukehina

1947 was to prove very significant for the United Club as a consequence of the formation of a new junior club. The Te Puke High School 1st XV had completed a very successful 1946 season. The players wanted to remain together in junior grade club rugby. Several were in the eighteen to nineteen age bracket and with popular Te Puke High School teacher and High School rugby coach Dudley Nisbet, they decided to form a club to be called Te Puke High School Old Boys (TPHSOB). The rugby fraternity referred to the club as 'Old-Boys'. This junior club was formed at a meeting held at the old Council Chambers which was located near the original Te Puke Times office. The meeting was chaired by Mr Phil Basham with Norm Freeman present as a spokesman for the United Club. Attending was long-term club member Ray Burt. Ray remembers the well attended meeting called to form the club and noted that the team was based primarily on High School and ex High School players and effectively cut off the supply of new blood to the United Club. He recalls Norm Freeman attending what he described as a cordial meeting as a representative and protagonist for United. Norm proposed that the new club amalgamate with United to form United High School Old Boys. This was not accepted and a remit proposing the merging of Old Boys with United was defeated. Another Old Boys player in attendance at the same meeting was Jack Mark of Te Matai Road. Jack observed that Dudley Nisbet was the driving force behind the establishment of Old Boys and that those present were keen that the ex High School team be the backbone of the new club. Ray Burt and Jack Mark were inaugural Old Boys team members.



By the commencement of the 1947 season it had become clear that most in the depleted United juniors team intended to join with Old Boys and at the 28 March Annual General Meeting of United it was acknowledged that *“either Old Boys could have a team or United could have a team, but not both.”* It was becoming clear that Old Boys was a threat to the viability of the United junior grade but seemingly, little acrimony appears to have surfaced. Jack Mark noted that Te Puke was then a small community and people got on well.

At United’s Annual General Meeting it was noted that the club *“desired to remain as a self-contained entity rather than join up with any other club.”* However, in reality, United juniors were unable to maintain a competitive team during the season.

Te Puke Times

1947

UNITED JUNIORS DEFEATED

Last year the United juniors were hard put to it to maintain a team, but this season they have suffered a much greater set back with the formation of an Old Boys team which has taken many of the prospects they had in fighting through last season. United juniors once again fielded a team very short in number and were beaten by the Paengaroa juniors by 12 points to nil.

HIGH STANDARD OF PLAY

MANY NEW PLAYERS IN ACTION

The 1947 Rugby season opened in Te Puke on Saturday with the promise of good club football in its second post-war year. Jamieson Oval, called No. 1 ground, was used for football for the first time and proved to be a magnificent ground. The onlookers elected to remain on the crest of the hill between the two grounds and there was a fair amount of movement as they endeavoured to watch two games in progress.

It is evident from records that a steady integration of United players and administrators into the Old Boys Club was taking place. The club colours were red and black hoops.

Separately in 1947 at the Annual General Meeting of the Pukehina Club held at the Pukehina Hall on Wednesday 28 March 1947, President Mr Jack Pattie opened the meeting by mentioning that *“at the beginning of 1946 we realised that we would not be able to field a senior team so we combined with*



Paengaroa. The team won the senior competition and for the coming season (1947) I feel it would be a fatal mistake to pull away from Paengaroa. One strong team would improve the standard of football". (abridged)

Mr Pattie succeeded in retaining support for the Combined team for the coming season.

The teams in the 1947 competition were:

Seniors: United, Combined (Pukehina & Paengaroa) Maketu, Rangioru

Juniors: United, Old Boys, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Maketu, Rangioru

The senior competition was won by Combined.

By the **1948** season the High School 3rd grade and the Old Boys junior teams had impacted the United Club to the extent that neither grade was able to be fielded. This was a significant and serious situation for United with the comments by Norrie Williams at their Annual General Meeting in 1946 proving valid and insightful.

United first fielded a junior team in 1913 and excluding the War years, every year until 1948 when Old Boys made it impossible to do so.

In 1948 a team called Wairakei was formed at a meeting held at McDowell's Hall with the elected President being Mr W. Clarke and Vice President Mr M. Kingi. Other prominent names mentioned were Maxwell, Burnett and McMeekin. This development was at about the same time that Huimai supporters met at Kahika and indicated that their club would 'co-operate' with Rangioru this season. The two developments were no doubt linked.

Contrary to all indications, the Combined team was discontinued and Pukehina and Paengaroa again became competitors. Pukehina won the senior Championship Cup with 88 points for and 14 against. Their line was crossed only twice and their one defeat came at the hands of Paengaroa. Old Boys juniors won seven of their eight games with Pukehina runners-up.

The 1948 teams were:

Seniors: United, Pukehina, Paengaroa, Rangioru

Juniors: Old Boys, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Rangioru



TE PUKE HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB, 1949



Back Row: D. H. Nisbet (Coach), R. Taylor, W. Bird, J. Cosgrove, B. Roderick, J. Ronald, J. Butler, O. Hansen, A. Ryan.

Middle Row: M. Murray, B. Dickson, R. Burt, G. Stichbury, D. Dunlop (Captain), R. Burt, J. Mark, N. Conn.

Front Row: D. Dunlop, E. Robertson, D. Hunter, V. Munro.

At the **1949** Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys Club, the President Mr Dudley Nisbet noted in his presentation that *"we have survived two seasons as a junior club. Our second year was the better of the two and now I consider that we are fairly launched and strong enough to grow successfully for many years"*.

The newspaper articles of the time reported a gradual assimilation of United players into Old Boys. This merging included administrators such as United stalwart Norm Freeman who, amongst many others, had joined the new club. Consequently, United weakened and as in the previous season, fielded a senior team only.

Seniors: United, Pukehina, Paengaroa, Rangiuru, Wairakei

Juniors: Old Boys, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Rangiuru, Maketu



The senior competition was again won by Pukehina and the juniors by Old Boys. These were the best of times for the Pukehina Club, their senior team being very dominant.

In the period 1910 - 1949 the following United players were selected to play for the Bay of Plenty province **whilst playing** for the club. Old Boys had not fielded a senior team within this period.



1912	John Graham (Jack) Bennett	1930 - 1931	Harold Archibald Dare
1912	John James Douglas	1933 - 1934	W.E. (Bully) Joyce
1919	William Stuart Mc Ewen	1934 - 1937	M.P.H. Davies
1919 - 1920	Robert Petherbridge	1935	Keith Dunlop
1920	Samuel Lewis Edwin (Lew) Torrens	1935	J.N. Pile (United-Papamoa team)
1922	Charles Henry William Montgomery	1939	W.S. Nicholson
1922	James (Jim) Courtney	1944	Rowley Thomas Hope
1922 - 1926	Charles Noel Vercoe (Noel) Boucher	1944 - 1947	T. (Tony) Jacobs
1926	Mathew (Matt) Cameron	1947	Norman Douglas (Norm) Barrow
1929 - 1934	George Farmer	1947	Tony Te Awa Jacobs-Haimona
1930	E.O. (Occy) Webber	1948	Maurice Earl Denize
1930	John Henry Bennett		



The Te Puke High School Old Boys Football Club 1947 - 1958



The Years 1950 through 1964

At the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys Club in March **1950** it was considered that the club should field a senior team that season. It was stated *"that last season United carried on with a depleted team and it seemed that the majority of the United players were now prepared to play for Old Boys"*. Several members of the United Club were present at the meeting and they were of the opinion that United and Old Boys could not each field senior teams and the view was put forward that the two clubs should combine with a transfer of United's assets including a good bank balance and jerseys. Presumably the name suggested for a combined club would have been either United or more probably, United Old Boys.

On being put to the vote *"that Old Boys retain its present name and there should not be any combining"* the motion was carried.

Te Puke Times
24 March 1950

Old Boys to Field Senior Rugby Team This Season **NO COMBINING WITH UNITED DECIDED UPON AT ANNUAL MEETING**

The opinion that the time had arrived when the High School Old Boys Football Club should field a senior team in the local rugby competition was expressed by members at the annual meeting of the club recently.

In moving that the club field a senior team, Mr R. Taylor said that there were a number of last season's juniors who would have to play senior this year, and he felt that sufficient players could be found to form a good, strong side. In the discussion which followed, various opinions were expressed, and it appeared from this that the town could only field one good senior team.

Last season United had carried on with a depleted team, and it seemed that the majority of the United players were prepared to play for the Old Boys if they entered a team in the senior grade this season. With these players, and the younger members of last season's junior team, it appeared that a good team could be fielded.

Several members of the United Club were present at the meeting. They were of the opinion that United and Old Boys could not each field a team this season and the view was put forward that the two clubs should combine. The United Club possessed a

good balance at the bank, and had a complete set of jerseys, and if the clubs could combine under a suitable name these assets could be transferred.

However this raised a controversial question, and on being put to a vote for Old Boys retain its name as at present and that there should not be any combining it was carried.

It was agreed that the club field a senior team under the name of High School Old Boys.



As a consequence, for the first time in almost 40 years (excluding War years) the United Football Club of Te Puke failed to field any team. Whilst Rangioru was the oldest club in the district, United had arguably been the strongest club and most consistent rugby force by way of grade strength and on-field participation over the previous four decades.

There followed a period during which United members and players merged into the Old Boys Club as can be noted in the 1950 Annual General Meeting election of officers.

Te Puke Times

1950

KEEN INTEREST IN OLD BOYS CLUB

MR NISBET RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT

Keen interest was taken in the affairs of the High School Old Boys Football Club when the annual meeting was held on Wednesday night, there being an attendance of over 40, mostly players.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted Patron, Mr F. Cook; president, Mr D. Nisbet; vice-presidents, D. Veitch, L. Roberts, H. Anderson, H. Burt, E. Hansen, I. Crowley, R. Dunlop, A. Brown, H. Munro; hon. secretary, M. Barker; management committee, Messrs K. Freeman, J. Cosgrove, D. Dunlop and R. Burt; club captain, D. Searle; selector and coach (junior) D. Nisbet, (senior) in abeyance; delegates to Te Puke Rugby Union, Messrs R. Dunlop and E. Hansen.

The demise of United, even if facilitated in an outwardly co-operative spirit between the two clubs, was a very significant milestone for Te Puke rugby. Following the integration of United into Old Boys, stalwarts of the United Club continued to maintain a strong desire to retain the name United even though the club was effectively in recess and not actively fielding teams. Later events will demonstrate how ardent their resolve to keep the name United actually was.

Fed by High School recruits, newcomers and strengthened by its growing status as 'the town team' combined with the assimilation of players from United, the Old Boys Club continued to grow and in 1950 fielded a senior team of sufficient strength to win the senior competition by defeating Rangioru in the final. This win halted a four year run of championship wins by Combined (2) and Pukehina (2). Pukehina was runner-up ahead of Rangioru based on points.

Seniors: Old Boys, Rangioru, Paengaroa, Maketu, Papamoa

Juniors: Old Boys, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Maketu



1951 saw a similar competition, the only exception being the inclusion of a Forestry junior team. The senior competition was dominated by a powerful Paengaroa team led by Doug Hughes. They won the competition by defeating Rangiuuru.

This was the Paengaroa clubs 50th anniversary and in addition to winning the competition they won the Pile Cup which was awarded to the Premier club in the Bay of Plenty. Old Boys won the junior championship.

Seniors: Old Boys, Paengaroa, Rangiuuru, Maketu, Papamoa

Juniors: Old Boys, Maketu, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Forestry

During **1952** Old Boys continued to consolidate as a strong club. Dudley Nisbet stood down as President after five years and was succeeded by Mr P.A.L. (Phil) Basham.

Old Boys player Peter Young was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident in July. The Peter Young Memorial trophy is today presented annually to the Colts most improved player with sound club spirit.



Peter Young

Rangiuuru failed to field teams in any grade. Pukehina continued to demonstrate their strength as a club and won the senior competition with some outstanding wins by solid margins. They were only beaten once, by Maketu 8 - 12.

Seniors: Old Boys, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Maketu, Papamoa

Juniors: Old Boys, Maketu, Paengaroa, Pukehina

The most discussed topic in **1953** was the apparent drop-off in club and team strength. At a Sub-Union meeting in March the Paengaroa President suggested a zoning system whereby two teams would be registered on the eastern side of the Kaituna river and two on the western side. An alternative suggestion made by Old Boys President Phil Basham was to limit the senior competition to four teams with the proviso that each club field teams in all grades. He noted that there were more teams than players. His suggestion was adopted and implemented, but with limited success. Within a short period, the newspaper article on the following page appeared.

The season staggered on with Paengaroa seniors failing to make an appearance and the Maketu senior team defaulting by late July.



In spite of the 'four club' strategy, clubs struggled to field teams through most grades and games were often played with insufficient numbers. Defaults were common. The club season was described at a Sub-Union meeting as being "somewhat lifeless, with a few exceptions".

Te Puke Times

27 March 1953

PAENGAROA CLUB CONSIDERS PLANS

The Paengaroa Football Club held a special meeting on Tuesday night for the purpose of rallying their forces and ascertaining how they would stand for the coming season. It appeared that the club could field a strong junior team

but was rather doubtful how many seniors would be available.

Two seasons ago the Paengaroa Club celebrated its 50th year and it was deplorable that it should be faced with the likelihood of going out of existence.

As a result of the meeting it was decided to put forward a suggestion at the annual meeting of the Rugby Union on March 31, and in the meantime they would do some further scouting.

According to the Te Puke Times, the lack of players did not detract from some good games during the season with Sub-Union President Roy McKenzie blaming a series of circumstances for weakening the club season. He noted that the Sub-Union had agreed to postpone games on Race Day 20 June with 27 June being a Ranfurly Shield elimination weekend. Games were postponed on 4 July on account of continual rain and the following weekend, 11 July, the Bay of Plenty v Waikato Ranfurly Shield game totally disrupted club fixtures. Mr McKenzie stated that "it was impossible to get football re-started in Te Puke and from a really good start we had a very poor finish." Rangiora again failed to field any team and from newspaper reports it would seem that several of their players had joined other clubs, in particular Papamoa and Pukehina.

Pukehina again won the senior competition. Old Boys won the junior competition.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pukehina, Papamoa, Maketu (incomplete season)

Juniors: Old Boys, Maketu, Paengaroa, Pukehina, Papamoa

Only two clubs fielded senior teams at the commencement of the **1954** season. They were Old Boys and Pukehina the latter having changed club colours to maroon. Junior teams were clearly short of players with Papamoa juniors playing a game against Maketu with only ten players.

The Te Puke Times noted that in some ways the 1954 rugby season opened on a pessimistic note, this being due to some clubs being unable to field teams in certain grades. Pukehina and Old Boys were the only competitive clubs.



Pukehina President Jack Pattie was a little more forthright in stating that *“Paengaroa should not have promised to field a team when there was little chance of the promise being fulfilled.”*

Therefore, 1954 was a season in which defaults were common with attempts made to have Maketu and Paengaroa combine. All reports suggest that although at times this was endeavoured, no solid accommodation was reached between these two clubs. Therefore the season limped on with all the problems of the previous season. Paengaroa consistently fielded a weak senior side which suffered heavy defeats throughout the season.

Papamoa withdrew from the senior competition and their players were allocated to existing clubs. Pukehina won the senior competition by defeating Old Boys 9 - 5.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pukehina, Papamoa (withdrew during season). Maketu and Paengaroa may have attempted combined games.

Juniors: Old Boys, Pukehina Maketu, Paengaroa, Papamoa

To date, the two most critical events in the history of Te Puke Sports had been the creation of the United Club in 1910 and the eventual assimilation of United into Te Puke High School Old Boys in 1950. However, in **1955** another development of significance occurred with the creation of the Te Puke Pirates Rugby Football Club. The club colour was scarlet with a prominent skull & cross-bone insignia on the left chest. All club gear from flags to blazers was dominated by the club's monogram. When asked by the Sub-Union if their jersey colour would clash with Pukehina, Pirates new management responded by saying that *“the colour would be distinctive and that in any case, mud would turn all colours black.”*

Te Puke Times
22 April 1955

**Pirates Team To Play In First
Competition Game April 1955**

All senior Pirates senior players are asked to be changed and ready at 1.45 p.m. to play Old Boys. The team is: W. Austin, N. Conn, R. McKenzie, G. Sutton, M. Tapsell, K. Treloar, K. Barnett, M. Grafas, R. Riddell, M. Chaytor, P. Hefferman, J. Taylor, B. Green, M. Woodward and G. Jones. Reserves: J. Pittar, J. Burgess and T. Wilkins.



The club elected Roy McKenzie as its Patron, Pat Hannay as President and Wally Godinagh as Vice President.

A junior team named Pukehina-Pirates was established between the two clubs with only partial success.

Prior to his passing in 2012, and for the purposes of this record, Kevin Treloar documented events surrounding the creation of the Pirates Club. He played in the Paengaroa senior team that went into recess in 1954 and participated in the establishment of the Pirates Club as a foundation senior player. Below is his unedited summary.



Paengaroa Senior Rugby Team 1945 - 1951

Probably one of the most successful Club Teams in Te Puke history, winning the knock-out competition and the Club Championships and the Pile Cup as the Top Club Team in the Bay of Plenty.

Roy McKenzie who played for the Bay of Plenty and was a North Island Representative and also the President of Te Puke and Bay of Plenty. Eric Pinker, President of Te Puke and Bay of Plenty and later President of the New Zealand Rugby Union. Doug Hughes started playing rugby at 25 and represented Bay of Plenty and was an All Black trialist.

Unfortunately at the end of the 1951 season most of the players retired leaving about 4-5 players to carry on trying to field a team, as a last resort we'd raid the public bar at the Te Puke Hotel to make up the numbers. This was a hopeless situation so we called a meeting and from memory, Ward Austin, John Taylor, Bob McKenzie, Kevin Treloar, Ollie Hansen and Ron Spratt decided to canvas Te Puke, Maketu and Paengaroa to form another rugby club.

With promising numbers we decided to call the club Pirates with the Easter Buccaneer Tournament being an attraction. The first tournament was in Tokoroa and we were runner up to Rotorua.



We needed senior administrators and approached two well known stock agents, Pat Hannay and Wally Godinagh who accepted.

The rest is history...



Buster Hodges, Ward Austin, Don Nicholas, Trevor Ross, Bill Knudsen, Kevin Treloar, Dick Falwasser, George McLaughlin, Barry Green, Huka Kameta, Michael Tapsell, Bob McKenzie, Noel Conn, Johnny Tapsell, Mohi Potaka
Absent: Ollie Hansen, Ron Spratt

The establishment of the Pirates Club meant that for the first time two clubs became located in the Te Puke township. The Rovers Club may have previously been town based however even this remains somewhat unclear. Membership of the Pirates team consisted mainly of the remnants of the 1954 Paengaroa side with an added mixture of Te Puke, Maketu and Forestry players.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Pukehina, Rangioru

Juniors: Old Boys, Pukehina-Pirates, Rangioru, Maketu



Rangiuru, last seen in club rugby in 1951 returned with a team in each grade. Pukehina won the senior competition by defeating Pirates in the Te Puke final.

Upon his retirement as Sub-Union President following the 1955 season, Mr Roy McKenzie heaped praise on the Pukehina Club saying *"the club always turns out on time and plays good, hard, clean football."* He congratulated the new Pirates RFC on winning the Donovan Cup and described the junior competition as the worst he had ever seen in Te Puke as Old Boys was the only complete team throughout the season.

Mr Eric Pinker was elected Chairman following Mr McKenzie's retirement.

Despite the reported weakness of club rugby in previous seasons, the **1956** season commenced with three strong clubs at senior level along with five junior teams including a High School team. Two teams contested the 3rd grade division including a Maketu team that arrived to play unannounced and without a coach or manager.

Well after the commencement of the senior competition a Forestry team was established and joined the second round of games. This provided a four team competition. Prior to Forestry entering a team, games were often played against Edgecumbe and Kawerau to ensure that regular rugby was available.

Old Boys won the senior championship by way of a finals win over Pirates as well as winning the Te Puke knock-out competition. Rangiuru won the junior and Maketu the 3rd grade competition. Pirates competed in the inaugural Buccaneer tournament at Tokoroa during Easter.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Pukehina, Forestry (part competition)

Juniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Pukehina, Rangiuru, Te Puke High School

Te Puke Times

17 July 1956

**OLD BOYS WIN
SENIOR RUGBY
CHAMPIONSHIP**

**PIRATES HELD ADVANTAGE FOR
MOST OF GAME**

Old Boys won the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union's 1956 championship honours on Saturday with a hard-fought win over Pirates, who fought until the finish and gave one of their best displays of the season. In the other senior match Pukehina had little difficulty in accounting for Forestry.



TE PUKE HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS RUGBY TEAM

WINNERS OF THE SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND KNOCK-OUT TROPHIES, 1956



Photo by Paul Bouchier

BACK ROW (left to right): P. Tomlinson, B. Jenson, R. Eea, A. Ross, T. Ross (Capt.), J. Butler, R. Wade, A. Simpson, G. McLaughlan, J. Kinder (Vice-Capt.)

SECOND ROW (left to right): P. Dickson, F. Higginson (Coach), N. Freeman (Manager), A. J. Collins (Patron), P. Basham (President), N. Crane (Secretary), J. Kelly

FRONT ROW (left to right): J. McGregor, R. Taylor, K. McAllister, D. Basham, G. Wade, T. McCausland, P. Grey

The **1957** season brought with it some intriguing developments. The greatest issue leading into the season was the topic of the acceptance of only two senior teams to play in a Tauranga competition under the administrative control of the Tauranga Sub-Union. Most club delegates to the Te Puke Sub-Union supported the concept. Because Tauranga stipulated that only two Te Puke teams were to participate, some spirited discussion took place as to which two teams. At a meeting of the Te Puke Sub-Union on Wednesday 3 April the following question was posed: "Which two teams?"



It was stated that Old Boys can be classed as a very sound club and Pirates are an off-shoot of a 50 year old club, namely Paengaroa.” Upon being put to a vote, Old Boys and Pirates were successful in being elected to play in the Tauranga competition. The vote was not unanimous with the Rangioru Club pleading their cause vociferously but without success.

Further controversy emerged when all the male staff of the Te Puke High School attended the same meeting to lend support to the Principal Mr A.L. Litt who said that *“it was universally accepted that post-primary schools had first call on school boys and that school teams were more important to the good of rugby than clubs as it was from schools that future footballers would be found.”* He continued by saying that the boys had been told at school what was expected of them and it had been made clear that lads not loyal to the school teams could not be considered for inter-school representative honours as it would not be fair to the regular school players. The reaction to Mr Litt’s comments was mixed and the immediate effect was the forced withdrawal of the Maketu 3rd grade team.

Surprises continued when the Pukehina Club advised the Sub-Union that it intended to field a junior team only and Rangioru informed that a number of its former players intended to return to the club for the season and that they would have a senior grade. Mr Pat Hiini lobbied strongly to have Rangioru included in the Tauranga senior competition and put out a challenge to both Old Boys and Pirates to play an elimination round of matches to decide which were the best two teams for inclusion. However, led by the Sub-Union Chairman and supported by Messrs Freeman, Hannay and Godinagh, the Rangioru Club’s proposition was rejected with both Old Boys and Pirates stating that their clubs would be glad to accommodate any Rangioru players as members. Thus, Old Boys and Pirates commenced as participants in the Tauranga competition, their first games being against Tauranga Old Boys and Mt Maunganui respectively. Under the circumstances, Rangioru did not field a senior team.

Features of the season were the outstanding form of the Rangioru junior team, the presence of a number of ex-Pukehina seniors in the Pirates team and the elevation of Pirates to Division 1 for the 2nd round of the competition. Old Boys defeated Pirates in the local knock-out competition.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Cadets, Tauranga Old Boys, Mt Maunganui, Rangataua, Rangataua East, Judea, Te Puna

Juniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Pukehina, Rangioru, Tauranga Old Boys



The event of most interest in **1958** was the celebration of the Te Puke Sub-Union's Golden Jubilee which marked 50 years of Te Puke rugby history which commenced upon the formation of the Te Puke Rugby Union in 1908. The celebrations were an enormous success with 350 players, ex players and officials attending. At the celebration dinner at the War Memorial Hall key speakers included one of the oldest rugby identities Mr Ta Tapsell of Maketu. He singled out Monty (Adolphus) Montgomery as the person who kept rugby strong in the very early days and commented "that's why we're here tonight". Other keynote speakers at the dinner included Jack Bennett, Parly Ryan, Noel Boucher, Ernie Butcher, Harold Dare, Roly Taylor, Sub-Union President Eric Pinker, W.E. Hookey, Stan Heather newly appointed President of the New Zealand Rugby Union and E.H. Raymond, Mayor of Te Puke.

Te Puke Times
15 April 1958

GAMES OF 50 YEARS

Te Puke Rugby Celebrates Golden Jubilee

Some old sage said that memory "tempers prosperity, mitigates adversity, controls youth and delights old age." So it was on Saturday when 350 men gathered in Te Puke to celebrate the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union's Golden Jubilee.

Old games and old affections rushed back, vivid and thrilling. Veterans became schoolboys again and the young men were enriched by the chastening but encouraging tales that were told.

The success of the celebrations were obvious to even the most casual observer. It seemed that some men must surely be overcome with pleasure and excitement as they met friend after friend and 50-year-old memories look shape in grasped hands and laughing eyes.

Some were encountered at the park, most at that valuable interlude for the old-timers in McDowell's Hall after the game. But even at the dinner familiar faces were being sighted as old cronies got together.

The dinner was the climax of the jubilee as the 350 players and officials took their places at six long banks of tables—the old-timers in a place of honour at the head and with the distinguished company at the official table, of the newly-appointed president of the N.Z. Rugby Union, Mr Stan Heather, performing his first official engagement; Mr Neville Pickering, M.P. for St. Albans; Mr Gerald Lee, president of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union, and representatives of many sub-unions in the area.

The company was greeted by Mr Eric Pinker, president of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union. Mr Pinker extended a special

welcome to Mr Heather, a past player and prominent referee here in the past and a popular official in the Waikato and on the New Zealand union. He congratulated Mr Heather on his appointment and said Te Puke was proud to be associated with him.

A civic welcome was extended to the visitors by the Mayor, Mr E. H. Raymond.

Mr Raymond said he was proud to represent the Te Puke Borough Council on such an important occasion. He congratulated the union on its record over the past 50 years and Mr Heather on his appointment. "The appointment is just; you have earned it," he said.

The occasion would be marked by a lot of reminiscing. He hoped that the occasion would add another to their store of memories.

Arrangements for the dinner included entertainment by first-class artists from Hamilton and Eric Struckett, of the Mount. If any barriers remained, they stood no chance against these engaging clowns.

Shortly after midnight the 350 men linked hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne," some of them perhaps realising for the first time the significance of the song. It was followed by three really hearty cheers and one for the ref!

Te Puke Times
April 1958

RUGBY FOOTBALL



JUBILEE REUNION
JUBILEE REUNION
JUBILEE REUNION
JUBILEE REUNION

Jamieson Oval, Te Puke

SATURDAY, APRIL 12
SATURDAY, APRIL 12
SATURDAY, APRIL 12

TAI MITCHELL SHIELD HOLDERS
versus
DISTRICT BOYS

PATTIE'S "BELLES"
versus
NISBET'S "RINGERS"

BILL GRAY'S MAORI ALL BLACKS
BILL GRAY'S MAORI ALL BLACKS
BILL GRAY'S MAORI ALL BLACKS

versus
TE PUKE REPRESENTATIVES
TE PUKE REPRESENTATIVES
TE PUKE REPRESENTATIVES

Main game at 2 p.m.

Referee: Mr GEO. NEPIA

Buffet at 4.15 for Old Timers

DINNER AT 7 P.M.

Admission:

Adults 3/-, Children 1/-, Cars free



Club rugby commenced with Old Boys and Pirates along with all junior teams back in the Tauranga competition. Rangiuru again fielded a junior team only.

Mr Stan Webb emerged as the second recognised champion of Te Puke schoolboy rugby following Selwyn Taylor.

At the Old Boys Annual General Meeting 25 March the President of Old Boys paid tribute to club member Norm Freeman as recorded in the article below left.

Te Puke Times
25 March 1958

Mr Basham paid a tribute to Mr Norm Freeman, "your hardest club worker, the sturdiest member of the rugby union and a tower of strength in all rugby matters." Sometimes perhaps others did not see eye to eye with all that he did but it had to be stated that frequently too much was left to him to do. "Under these conditions we can all get 'livery'" said Mr Basham.

Te Puke Times
4 June 1958

Pirates to Stop In A-Grade

Pirates seniors played a promotion-relegation game at the Mount on Saturday, when they met Matakana, top team in the B-grade competition. Playing strongly and built up with Pukehina players who have not had a game for a while, Pirates won by 16 points to 14.

It is reported that John Pattie "went like a bomb" and was a great factor in the team's success.

Pirates seniors had a very erratic season with one default. They were relegated to Division B however won their relegation match and returned to Division A by beating Matakana.

The Paengaroa Club which went into recess in 1954 was reformed. Roy McKenzie was elected Patron.

Seniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Cadets, Tauranga Old Boys, Mt Maunganui, Rangataua, Rangataua East, Matakana, Judea, Te Puna

Juniors: Old Boys, Pirates, Rangiuru, Tauranga College, Cadets, Tauranga Old Boys, Rangataua



Te Puke Times
 May 1958

Paengaroa Football Club Revived

Interest in Fifth and Sixth Grade Teams

A decision to reform the Paengaroa Rugby Football Club was made at a well-attended meeting last Thursday. The meeting was presided over by Mr E. C. Pinker, president of the club when it went into recess in 1954.

Those present were unanimous in their opinion that now was the time to reform the club with lower grade teams, and it was decided to enter teams in the fifth and sixth grade competitions.

The management committee is to be asked to approve of the club colours as red and white hooped jerseys, white shorts and red and white hooped socks.



The Pirates RFC 1955 - 1964

The **1959** season opened with a change to the name of the Te Puke High School Old Boys Club. The club was re-named **United Old Boys Rugby Football Club**, the name United being reinstated following an absence of eight years. The change was likely driven by the need to differentiate from Tauranga Old Boys and undoubtedly promoted strongly by the ex-United Club members who by 1959 were prominent in the administration of the Old Boys Club. The wheel had turned and stalwarts from the United Club which recessed in 1950 held sway and the name United was revived. Once the club's name was changed it was thereafter commonly referred to as United. To add to the name change, within two seasons the club colours reverted from black and red hoops to black and white hoops; the United Club's colours from 1919 onward.

United established clubrooms at the railway end on the eastern-most corner of Jamieson Oval. Prior to this, and before changing rooms were established at Jamieson Oval, the club, (including Old Boys) utilised Arthur Beckett's joinery business on the corner of Jocelyn and Queen Street as a



changing-room. Players were required to walk across the main street to play on Jamieson Oval.

Pirates changed their club colours from scarlet to black jerseys, black shorts and black socks with white tops.

At the March Annual General Meeting of the Pirates RFC it was stated that it was with great regret that club members learned of the passing of Bryan Collier in a vehicle accident. He was a past captain of the junior team and a very popular member of the club both on and off the field. The Bryan Collier trophy is today a key club memorial trophy presented for Most Improved Junior Colts Player.

The Pukehina Club was brought out of recess by an enthusiastic group from the district. It was decided to form a 4th grade team and if possible a 5th and 6th grade. A full 'social' calendar was planned for the season. They confirmed their club colours as maroon jerseys, white shorts and maroon socks.

Rangiuru returned as a fully participating club, their senior team having been accepted into the Tauranga competition.

All Te Puke clubs competed strongly and results suggest that Te Puke rugby had stepped up considerably in competitiveness.

Seniors: United, Pirates, Rangiuru, Cadets, Tauranga Old Boys, Mt Maunganui, Rangataua, Rangataua East, Matakana, Te Puna

Juniors: United, Pirates, Rangiuru, Cadets A, Cadets B, Tauranga Old Boys, Rangataua, Rangataua East, Te Puna

1960 commenced with an expansion of lower-grade teams with most clubs having teams between 8th and 5th grades. The number of younger rugby players had considerably increased.

The debate as to participation in the Tauranga competition continued with much intensity during the preseason period with Rangiuru's delegate Frank Latimer to the fore. At the March Sub-Union meeting he tabled a motion which stated that:

"Teams in the Te Puke competition should not play in the Tauranga competition."



Buccaneer Tournament Rotorua 1958

Combined photograph of Te Puke, Rotorua, Tokoroa, Gisborne and Kaitiara Pirates Clubs.

Te Puke Pirates Vice President Wally Godinagh and President Pat Hannay, second and third from left in the front row.

Te Puke players are located uppermost left hand corner at back spreading towards centre.



Pirates Buccaneer Team 1961 - Gisborne

Standing: Unkown, K. Williams, A. Benner, T. Ngawhika, B. Ririnui, D. Bennett, B. Vercoe, G. Sigley, R. Hiha
Sitting: G. Ross, T. Potene, R. Kemp, T. Tibble, C. Nelson, H. Anderson, R. Lockie



Te Puke Pirates Buccaneer Team 1967 - Tournament Winners Gisborne

Standing: P. McLoughlin (Coach), K. Dinsdale, G. Sigley, R. Wood, C. McNaughton, V. Wills, D. Wills, B. Donovan, L. Reid, L. Browne (Manager)
Sitting: R. Shearer, B. Young, R. Baker, R. Skiffington, W. TapSELL (Captain), B. Hingston, B. Lynch, R. Hoani



United Old Boys 1963 - Winners of the Pile Cup

United celebrate winning the Pile Cup for BOP club rugby supremacy. The celebration was held at the Papamoa Hall.

Back: Jim Allen, Laurie Woodworth, Vern Wills, Bruce Morton, Roger Guy, Fred Underwood, David Simpson, David Basham, Bruce Wills, Hallam Jones
Front: Keith McKay, Max Miller, Norm Adlam, Andy Pettit, Kevin O'Connell, John Smith, Brian Donovan, Alastair Simpson

Absent: Doug Thomas, Graeme Weld, Don Wills, Coach: Hugh Kensington



Pirates RFC JMB Teams - Late 1950's



United Old Boys JMB Teams - 1961



He reinforced his motion with six points which were pitched toward promoting the Rangiora Club but nevertheless were considered valid and reasonable by most delegates. Events however overtook the situation when, at the Tauranga Sub-Union meeting on 23 March, it was decided that Te Puke teams would not be playing in their competition unless the Te Puke Sub-Union was to amalgamate with Tauranga.

This option was not acceptable to Te Puke and any likelihood of a combined competition was quickly dashed. The Te Puke Sub-Union President Mr Eric Pinker commented that *“Tauranga football will now likely suffer from boredom”*.

Pirates' new clubrooms were opened at the railway end of Jamieson Oval on the opposite corner to United. The occasion was celebrated with a speech by their Patron Roy McKenzie with newly selected All Black Eric Anderson as special guest. Anderson was an ex Old Boys player currently playing for Rotorua Old Boys. His father Hugh Anderson was a Vice President of the Old Boys Club. Eric had recently been selected for the 1960 All Black tour of South Africa.

A three team senior and junior Te Puke competition commenced with United, Pirates and Rangiora participating.

1961 emerged as a season of significant change. The partially active Pukehina and Paengaroa clubs entered amalgamation discussions made all the more interesting with the Paengaroa Domain Board developing another playing field at Paengaroa. After both organisations had held meetings and following considerable debate it was concluded that both long-standing clubs would dissolve. On Tuesday 4 April the Eastern Districts Rugby Club was inaugurated at a meeting in the Paengaroa hall. The new club announced its intention to enter teams in the lower grades. An objective was to enter a junior team. Mr D.N. Cook was elected President with J. Pattie Jnr as Vice-President. The club colour chosen was red and white hoops. This step to amalgamate meant the dissolution of two of the oldest clubs in the district.

Mr S.H. (Stan) Webb was elected President of the Sub-Union on the occasion of the retirement of Eric Pinker who went on to higher representative levels including Chairman of the Bay of Plenty and New Zealand Rugby Unions.



Tauranga again decided that their Sub-Union would not play a competition with Te Puke unless there was an amalgamation of the two Sub-Unions. They passed a remit to this extent which was responded to by Stan Webb who stated *“we are not going to Tauranga in our weakness but in the interest of better football both for Tauranga and ourselves. We will just have to find other ways of raising the standard now”*.

UNITED OLD BOYS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

SENIORS 1961

WINNERS OF SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP AND SENIOR KNOCKOUT



Back Row: R. Ussher, K. McKay, L. Woodworth, B. Wells, P. Thompson, G. Morris.

Middle Row: G. Weld, W. Stoupe, D. Thomas, V. Wills, M. Stewart, K. Guy.

Front Row: K. O'Connell, M. Miller, A. J. Collins (Patron), A. Pettitt (Capt.), H. Kensington (Coach), J. Allan, B. Donovan.



Pat Hannay retired as President of the Pirates Club having held that post for the first six years of the club's history. Mr W.J. (Bill) Ross was elected President.

The season again included United, Pirates and Rangioru with each having a junior grade and lower grades. Eastern Districts and High School also fielded junior teams. United won both the senior and junior championships and the senior knock-out competition.

Seniors: United, Pirates, Rangioru

Juniors: United, Pirates, Rangioru, Eastern Districts (Te Puke High School 1st round only)

1962 was the season that brought forth the 'Rotorua Question'. The Sub-Union's distrust of Tauranga was obvious and Te Puke was in no mood to progress discussions with them. Therefore, to provide a better competition platform an approach was made to the Rotorua Union. Their reaction was described as being 'sympathetic and helpful'. Preliminary discussions surrounded the inclusion of seniors, juniors and 3rd grade teams.

Initially the Te Puke Sub-Union suggested a series of elimination games to decide which teams would join the Rotorua competition however United reacted against this by stating: *"The United Club had been the premier team last season and for many seasons prior and it was poor thinking to submit the club to shock treatment at an early stage of the season. It was not a question of not wanting to play elimination games but the fact was that the Sub-Union should have taken into account that United was a soundly administered and long-standing club which in the past had fought through difficult times never failing to field a team"*.

In March an agreement was reached with Rotorua and a new competition format was structured. Bill Ross, President of the Pirates RFC was the key negotiator with Rotorua and insisted on all three Te Puke clubs participating. He commented that it had given him a great deal of pleasure to experience the enthusiasm of Rotorua and that *"it was good to know that we (Te Puke) are wanted somewhere!"* Te Puke remained participants in the Rotorua competition through to 1967.

Norm Freeman was elected President of the Sub-Union following the retirement of Stan Webb.



The senior and junior competitions consisted of the following teams.

Te Puke Times

12 June 1962

SENIOR POINTS TABLE

Waikite	....	....	....	14
Rototiti	....	....	....	14
St. Michael's	....	....	....	12
Whaka	....	....	....	12
Old Boys	....	....	....	12
Pirates (Rotorua)	....	....	....	9
United Old Boys	....	....	....	8
Rangiora	....	....	....	5
Te Puke Pirates	....	....	....	4
Kahukura	....	....	....	0

JUNIORS

Waikite	....	....	....	15
Whaka	....	....	....	14
St. Michael's	....	....	....	14
Pirates	....	....	....	10
Old Boys	....	....	....	10
United Old Boys	....	....	....	10
Te Puke Pirates	....	....	....	7
Eastern Districts	....	....	....	6
Rototiti	....	....	....	2
Mamaku	....	....	....	2



United Old Boys Football Club 1959 - 1964

The **1963** season commenced with Phil Basham, President of the Old Boys Club for seven years and the United Club for four years being elected the first Life Member of the United Club. He consequently has the honour of being the first ever Life Member of any foundation club of Te Puke Sports. At the same Annual General Meeting Phil Basham stepped down as President and Alastair Simpson was elected to the position.

On 5 April 1963 Philip Arthur Leslie Basham passed away following a period of ill-health. He left behind him an unsurpassed legacy of service to the Old Boys and United Clubs and was President from 1952 - 62. Mrs R.E. Basham donated a cup in honour of her late husband to be awarded for club sportsmanship and team spirit.

The first recipient of the cup was Bruce Wills of the United Old Boys senior team.

Both United and Pirates at their respective Annual General Meetings supported the continuation of participation in the Rotorua competition. Frank Dowse was elected President of the Pirates RFC.



Waikite won the senior competition. United finished in the top six and won the Te Puke Championship. They won the Pile Cup but lost this trophy to the next challenger. United juniors finished third in their competition winning both the Te Puke Championship and the Te Puke knock-out competition.

Pirates senior lock forward Bob Hood was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident. The Bob Hood shield is competed for annually in the married v singles end of season match.

In **1964** three senior Te Puke sides entered the competition being United, Pirates and Rangioru with Pirates, United, Eastern Districts and High School fielding junior teams. Te Puke again played in the Rotorua competition. The Ngongotaha Club was established in Rotorua bringing the number of teams in the senior grade to eleven. Waikite won the senior competition with United sharing second position with Rotorua Old Boys.

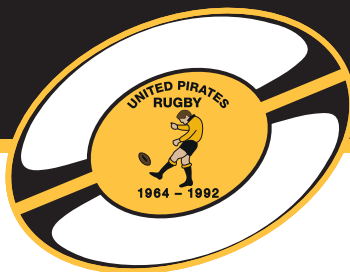
1964 was to be the last season in which United and Pirates existed as individual clubs. It was the year in which the United Pirates RFC was established through the amalgamation of the Te Puke Pirates Rugby Football Club and United Old Boys Rugby Football Club. This was a defining point in the history of our club and effectively consolidated decades of development, initiative and perseverance together under a single town based club. The very fibre of United Pirates was woven from its founding clubs into a new entity which could be described as a manifestation of it's seed club, the United Club of Te Puke formed in 1910.

In the period **1950 - 1964** inclusive, the following Old Boys, United Old Boys or Pirates players were selected to play for the Bay of Plenty province **whilst playing** for one of the foundation clubs.

Jim Butler	1954
T.H. (Trevor) Ross	1954 - 1956
R. R. (Roly) Taylor	1955
P.D. (David) Basham	1955 - 1956
T.H. (Tui) Tibble	1956
Blair Manners	1958 - 1960
J. D. (Jim) Allan	1960
G.R. (Graeme) Morris	1961
A.P. (Arthur) Jennings	1962 - 1963
B.R. (Brian) Donovan	1963
Q.T. (Quentin) Tapsell	1964



Pirates RFC prize giving, from left: Ernie Mollier, Bryan Collier, guest All Black Bill Gray, Bob Hood & Buster Hodges. Two of these Pirates players were fatally injured in vehicle accidents. Bryan Collier in 1959 and Bob Hood in 1963.



United Pirates Rugby Football Club - The years 1964 - 1992

The pathway to amalgamation was not always a smooth one and on occasions only the perseverance of key members of both clubs brought about what the Te Puke Times rugby editor called "a vitally necessary step if the game is to flourish".

In the lead-up to amalgamation, talks had been held both formally and informally through 1963 and into 1964. Each club held two Special General Meetings and in spite of these, a virtual stalemate resulted. Regardless, senior personnel from both clubs were convinced that amalgamation was in the best interest of each club. They began private negotiations following the formal meetings and their determination and vision was ultimately rewarded when agreement in principle was reached late in August 1964.

Te Puke Times

14 August 1964

UNITED OLD BOYS' RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

will be held in the Clubhouse,
Jamieson Oval, on

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
at 8 p.m.

All Club members are specially
urged to attend.

PIRATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

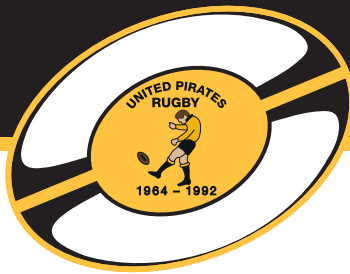
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Pirates Rugby Football Club
will be held in the Clubrooms on

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26
at 8 p.m.

As matters of importance to the
Club will be discussed, ALL mem-
bers are urged to attend.

R. BAKER, Hon. Sec.



Te Puke Times
August 1964

United, Pirates Rugby Sides To Amalgamate

A long round of discussion, negotiation and meetings came to an end on Wednesday night when Pirates and United Rugby clubs decided at separate meetings that there should be an amalgamation of the two bodies.

This will take effect from October. The name will then become United-Pirates.

Each club will nominate six members for an executive and indications are that the officers will be supplied in even numbers for the first season to give the new body time to settle down.

Although a little cumbersome, the

new name was almost essential as both the present clubs have commitments. Pirates is due to hold the Buccaneer trophy contest at Easter with other Pirate clubs coming from various parts of the North Island and United has its annual Old Boys quadrangular tournament.

It appears these will continue with players coming from both teams which will put new strength into each competition.

The whole question of two teams for Te Puke is one which has been vexing the Rugby sub-union for some time and special meetings have been held but without result.

When the second special meeting this year ended in a virtual stalemate. Pirates and United officials began private negotiations which have met with success.

Te Puke Times
4 September 1964

AMALGAMATION

The decision of United and Pirates Rugby Clubs should enhance football prospects here next season. It was a vitally necessary step if the game was to flourish.

This season, for a variety of reasons, was not quite such a good one in the representative field, but there was success in the club arena where United took second place in the championship and Rangiora took off the B grade title.

The reduction to two clubs next year should enable a straightening out of gradings.

Out of sheer necessity this year, teams were playing juniors in the top grade. This should not be the case next year.

There should be sufficient seniors to have a full side and some extras who will make the regulars fight to hold their places in the team.

The same should certainly apply in the junior grade.

Stemming down from the juniors there may well be enough players to be able to field a regular third grade team which will provide a vitally necessary stepping stone from the sixth grade. The hurdle is too great at present and, because of this, a number of boys are being lost to Rugby.



Te Puke Times
14 August 1964

Rugby Clubs Amalgamate

A far-reaching step for the future of Rugby in Te Puke was taken on Thursday night with the amalgamation of United Old Boys and Pirates clubs.

This brought to a close months of negotiation between the two clubs. The new club will be known as the United-Pirates Rugby Football Club.

Mr N. McLeod, who took the chair prior to the election of officers, said: "This is a great occasion in club Rugby in Te Puke. United Old Boys and Pirates have been scrapping one another in friendly rivalry on and off the field for years and have now reached the stage of the amalgamation of the two clubs."

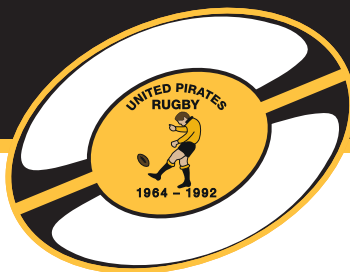
The election of officers resulted Patron, Mr A. J. Collins, president, Mr A. Simpson, vice-president, Mr F. Dowse, secretary, Mr N. Crane, treasurer, Mr B. Robertson, committee, Messrs R. Baker, N. McLeod, N. Spratt, D. Bennett, B. Angland, R. Woods, J. Kinder, L. Woodworth, D. Wills, D. Basham, P. Dickson and S. Langdon.



President of the new combined club,
Mr Alastair Simpson.

Although the name United Pirates was considered a little cumbersome, it was necessary as both clubs had commitments to existing tournaments being the Pirates Buccaneer competition and the annual Old Boys Quadrangular competition.

The new club elected United's President Alastair Simpson as its inaugural President, Frank Dowse Pirates President as Vice-President with long-standing United Secretary Norm Crane elected to that position. B. Robertson (Pirates) was appointed Treasurer. Mr A.J. Collins was elected Patron extending his tenure in that position to a minimum of 12 years having been Patron of United from 1944 - 49 and United Old Boys from 1959 - 64. These are known dates of his tenure and do not take into account the unclear legal status of the original United Club once recessed.



The full and original version of the Inaugural Minutes of United Pirates held on 1 October 1964 is located on page 2 of the Appendix.

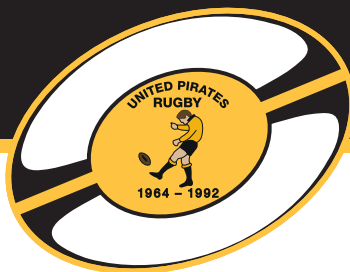
By 14 October a sub-committee including Danny Bennett, Don Wills, David Basham and Rex Woods had recommended the sale of the Pirates' clubrooms. The building was sold by tender for £450.00.

Continued participation in the Pirates Buccaneer Cup Easter Tournament was confirmed and this annual event was keenly anticipated. The tournament was both a contest of North Island, Tokoroa to Kaitaia, Pirates clubs' supremacy and a test of social stamina. An unofficial sub-committee was dedicated to organising annual travel and accommodation.



Pirates Buccaneer Tournament 1964 - Winners of the Black and White Shield

Back: L. Browne (Manager), T. Tibble, G. Sigley, C. McNaughton, B. Gear, E. Bragg, J. McGregor, F. Dowse (President)
Middle: N. Adlam, D. Kameta, R. Wood (Captain), W. Weatley, M. Lally
Front: R. Skiffington, H. Petersen, P. Ngaki, T. Gourlay, R. Kemp



In a press release late 1964, President Alastair Simpson noted that for the following season...

We are fielding 15 Rugby teams from seniors down to 10th Grade and also United-Pirates basketball and indoor basketball teams. Our senior and junior teams are competing in the Rotorua competition and with strong squads in both grades, we expect a good season.

Our senior team includes I. Hughes, a Tauranga rep. centre and member of the 1964 Bay of Plenty squad; J. Kaka, a 1964 Bay of Plenty junior rep. five-eighth; Rex Wood, an ex-Counties prop and member of the 1964 Bay of Plenty squad; B. Wills, Bay of Plenty Colts prop in 1964; N. Adlam, a Bay of Plenty five-eighth triallist and ex-N.Z. Services' player, and T. Tibble, an ex-Bay of Plenty fullback. We also have four other members who played for the Te Puke reps. in 1964.

The first senior game played as a United Pirates team was on Saturday 3 October against an open 3rd grade team from the Waitemata Club. The game was won by United Pirates 21 - 12.

Te Puke Times

14 August 1964

Final Rugby Match For The Season

The new United-Pirates Rugby club will be playing in the final game of the season on No. 2 ground at Jamieson Oval on Saturday.

The match will be played against the Waitemata open third grade team which won their competition this season in Auckland, losing only two games.

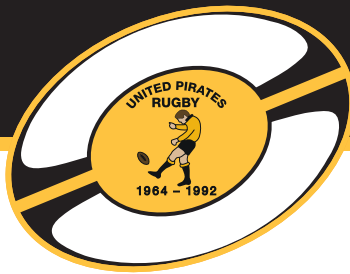
The combined team is: Fullback, T. Tibble; wings, G. Henderson and J. McLoughlin, centre H. Adlam,

five-eighths, Q. Tapsell, M. Miller; halfback T. Goulay; No. 8 R. Woods; side row M. Lally, D. Bennett; locks, F. Underwood and C. McNaughton. Front row, B. Wills, G. Sigley and G. Morris.

Reserves who will all be given a game are: N. Higgins, C. Broomhall, M. Stewart, C. Potter, M. Anderson, B. Robertson, K. Reynolds, K. McKay and B. Macklow.

In **1965** a committee meeting was held on 13 January. The key topic on the agenda was club colours. Three options were proposed: blue and black hoops, green and white hoops, or gold.

After much discussion, a show of hands was taken and gold jerseys were accepted with shorts to be



black and socks to be black with gold tops. For the first season it was decided to use up existing jerseys of both previous clubs. The seniors played in United's colours, black and white hoops; the juniors in Pirates black.

The playing season commenced with United Pirates being host to the Annual Easter Pirates Buccaneer Tournament. This was a major undertaking with teams from Rotorua, Gisborne, Tokoroa, Taihape and Kaitaia participating. Fittingly, the new Te Puke club won the Buccaneer Trophy.

Te Puke Times
April 1965

Teams Will Come From Kaitaia To Taihapi For Rugby Tournament

Easter weekend will mark the tenth anniversary of the first of the now-annual Pirates Rugby tournament and about 100 players will be in Te Puke from six North Island towns.



The teams will represent the host town, Te Puke, plus Gisborne, Kaitaia, Taihapi, Rotorua and the holder of the Buccaneer Cup, the principal award, for the past few years, Tokoroa.

The football at the tournament is usually to a very high standard with representative players abounding in the various teams which all play in the senior competitions of their home areas.

The competition began as an idea by Bob Wallace, formerly of the Tokoroa Pirates and now with Rotorua and the first series was held at Gisborne.

In 1956 it went to Kaitaia, in 1957 to Tokoroa and then on to Rotorua. Shortly afterwards Te Puke had two years in but then found it could not meet its commitments and pulled out for a while but later

rejoined and has never since missed a year.

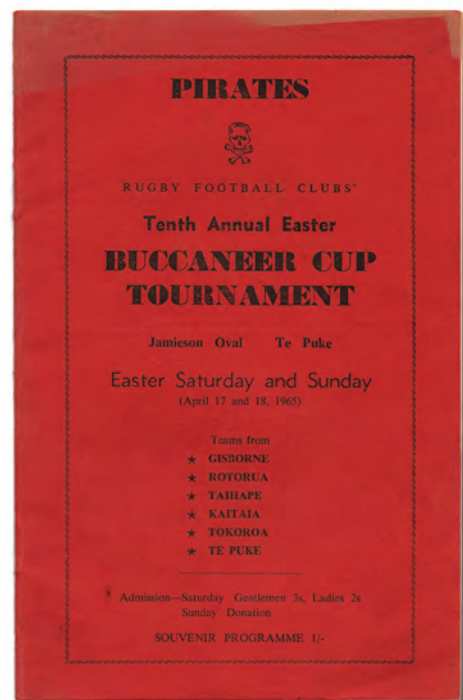
This year Te Puke's side should be one of the strongest ever because it will have the benefit of last year's United players as well following the amalgamation. This will make it something close to a Te Puke representative side.

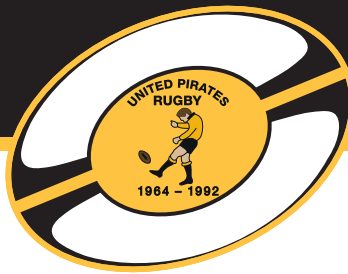
There are a number of trophies covering not only football but other activities as well. The Buccaneer Trophy goes to the top team in the A division, the Simpson Cup to the winner of the B division while the Black and White Trophy appears to be the wooden spoon—at least it is wooden.

Awards also go to winners of a relay between teams and for snooker.

It is usually a sporting occasion for the town which holds it and Te Puke will be no exception.

*Buccaneer Cup
Tournament
Souvenir Programme*
April 1965





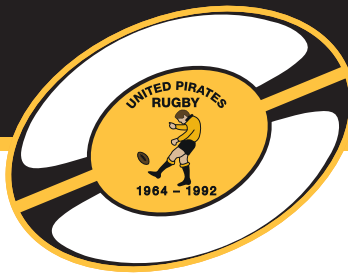
Te Puke Times
April 1965



United-Pirates, of Te Puke, emerged as the top team at the weekend Pirates' Rugby tournament here. It defeated Tokoroa 22-17 in the final. The team is shown in this Don McLeod photo (left to right): Len Brown, Ian Hughes, Tommy Gourlay, Colin McNaughton, Earl Bragg, Danny Bennett, Tui Tibble, David Hirst, Rex Wood (captain), Vern Wills, Norm Adlam, Keith McKay, Rex Brown, Duda Kameta, Mike Lally, John Kaka, Bruce Wills, Graeme Sigley and coach Jim Allan. Absent: Don Wills.

The season progressed with the club entering the Rotorua competition as a new participant. The senior team performed strongly and developed into a very respectable unit with several notable wins. Ngongotaha took out the competition with United Pirates in third position.

A concerning aspect of the season was the manoeuvring by the Rotorua Sub-Union to have the two Te Puke senior teams, United Pirates and Rangiuuru excluded from participating in the top 6 play-offs for the championship. Te Puke Sub-Union President Norm Freeman made Te Puke's discontent clear and fought strenuously against the concept. In effect, the Rotorua decision meant that the Te Puke teams could not contest for the 2nd round championship trophy and could only win the



senior subsidiary round or B grade competition. This meant that the Premier Division could only be won by a Rotorua team. Rangiuru won the Senior Subsidiary Trophy. The team went on to challenge for the Pile Cup but was beaten 17 - 6 by Tauranga Cadets.

Rotorua Daily Post
1965

Time For Te Puke Sub-union To Go Into Recess ?

"The changes made by the Rotorua Rugby Sub-Union in its senior championship system add further to the argument, that it is time Te Puke sub-union went into recess and amalgamated completely with Rotorua," writes a critic in the Daily Post, Rotorua.

Briefly, the championship will now be decided by the six top Rotorua teams, who will start equal on a points basis after the first round.

The two Te Puke teams, United-Pirates and Rangiuru, which play in the competition, will join with the two bottom Rotorua teams in a subsidiary competition.

Rugby President Concerned At Rotorua Decision

He was concerned at the decision that Te Puke teams could not contest the top six play-off for the championship, the president of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union, Mr N. K. Freeman, told the Rotorua sub-union on Monday night.

He said the new system where the Te Puke sides went into the second round subsidiary competition, regardless of where they stood in the table, gave them nothing to aim for.

"We are quite perturbed that the two Te Puke teams will play in a subsidiary competition," he said. "The aim of our clubs has always been to make the top six although knowing they could not win the championship."

He asked for re-consideration of the decision.

Te Puke Times
1965

RUGBY SCOREBOARD

Points Table in July

Rugby results from the weekend were:

SENIOR

U-P 17, Ngongotaha 12
Whaka 45, Rangiuru 0
Old Boys 14, Waikite 9
St. Michael's 9, Pirates 3
Rotoiti 33, Kahukura 13.

The unofficial points tally to date is: Old Boys 8, St. Michael's 8, Waikite 6, United-Pirates 4, Whaka 4, Rangiuru 2, Pirates 2, Ngongotaha 2, Rotoiti 2, Kahukura 0.

JUNIOR

Ngongotaha 13, P-P 12
E. Districts 21, Whaka 11
Waikite 19, Old Boys 3
Kahukura 51, Rotoiti 0
St. Michael's 49, Pirates 3.

THIRD GRADE

T.P. High School 27, St. Michael's 3

FOURTHS

T.P.H.S. 17, R.B.H.S. 0
W. Heights H.S. 39, United-Pirates 0.



In its first playing season the club won all but one contestable trophy and at the end of the season the silver cupboard at United Pirates displayed the Hancock, McEwen and Drabble Cups and the James Collins Shield for winning the junior championship.

Te Puke Times

April 1965

All Except One Trophy To United - Pirates

The Montgomery Trophy for sportsmanship, improved play and other points has been won this year by United-Pirates lock and number eight, Colin McNaughton. This and other trophies will be presented to the winning Rugby teams and players at a social following the match between Manurewa and United Pirates tomorrow.

McNaughton has played a valuable role, particularly in lineout work, for both his club and the subunion representative team this season.

The Donovan Cup, for dress, behaviour punctuality and other points has been won by Eastern Districts junior side this year. It totalled 92.1 points.

All the senior and junior teams' trophies have been won by United-Pirates. These are the Hancock Cup for the senior championship, McEwen Cup for the senior knockout, James Collins Shield for the junior championship and the Drabble Cup for the junior knockout.

For several years following the clubs formation, the senior team's performance fluctuated considerably. Often in the top 6 of the Rotorua competition, the team at times lingered in the B grade Division. Invariably they beat top teams and often fell to lesser teams. They regularly won the Te Puke Championship and knock-out competitions but failed to win in any wider competition for several years.

The winner of the Te Puke Championship competition was decided based on highest points achieved in the first round of the Rotorua competition. The knock-out competition being a three way contest of Te Puke senior teams.



The Rotorua competition for most of the ensuing years consisted of the following teams.

Seniors

- United Pirates
- Rotoiti
- Rangiuru
- Rotorua Old Boys
- St Michaels
- Waikite A and B
- Whaka A and B
- Ngongotaha
- Rotorua Pirates
- Kahakura

Juniors

- United Pirates
- Eastern Districts
- Rangiuru
- Rotorua Old Boys
- St Michaels
- Waikite
- Whaka
- Ngongotaha
- Kahakura
- Rotoiti
- Rotorua High School

(regularly played in the junior competition)



The United Pirates Football Club 1964 - 1992

The United clubrooms on Jamieson Oval were utilised for the 1965 season prior to their sale and removal. However, throughout 1965 the committee had their sights set on establishing new clubrooms with Jamieson Oval being their preferred location. A formal request to the Borough Council was unsuccessful on the basis *“that the facilities could be provided for in a grandstand building”*. Such an option was not the club’s objective.

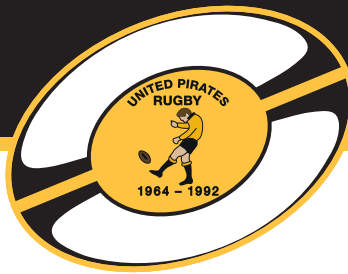
Te Puke Times

1965

Clubroom Refused

No further private buildings will be allowed on the Jamieson Oval unless the facilities are provided for in a grandstand building. This was re-affirmed by the Te Puke Borough Council on Monday night when it received a request from the United-Pirates Rugby Football Club for permission to build new clubrooms on the Oval.

The Minute Books and other records of both United Old Boys and Pirates RFC were deposited for safe keeping at the National Bank.



1966 Tokoroa won the Buccaneer Cup at Tokoroa. Both senior and junior teams won the local championship and knock-out competitions and both finished in the top 6 of the Rotorua competition. The senior team won games against strong opponents and lost games that they were expected to win.

At the 1966 Annual General Meeting, Alastair Simpson noted that work had been done on the building initiative but to date, little had been achieved despite the approach to the Borough Council for a plot of land on Jamieson Oval.

The '100 Club'

The first recorded fund raising initiative commenced with the introduction of the '100 Club', a weekly raffle of participants with a monster draw at season's end. The '100 Club' ran for a period of 16 years, profits going back to club development.

Te Puke Times

1966

Club Seek's Land From Council

The committee had been working on a building programme but to date very little had been accomplished. In the near future an approach would be made through the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union to the borough council for a plot of land on the Jamieson Oval, the president, Mr A. Simpson, told the annual meeting of the United-Pirates Rugby Club on Thursday night.

Summing up the first year of few teething troubles, it had been the club's operations since amalgamation, he said that apart from a very successful period both on and off the field.

Te Puke Times

22 July 1966

A DIVISION

	Played	Wins	Losses	Drawn	For	Against	Points
Whaka A	12	11	1	0	319	85	22
Waikite A	12	10	2	0	221	62	20
Ngongotaha	12	9	2	1	281	111	19
Old Boys	12	9	3	0	236	71	18
St. Michael's	12	8	4	0	164	91	16
United Pirates	12	6	6	0	201	155	12

RUGBY POINTS TABLE

The top six teams in the Rotorua Rugby Sub-Union's Senior competition who started play in the championship proper last Saturday week take points earned in the 1st round forward to the current competition, while the six teams now in the "B" Division started a new competition. The points position is as follows:

B DIVISION

	Played	Wins	Losses	Drawn	For	Against	Points
Rotoiti	1	1	0	0	16	6	2
Whaka B	1	1	0	0	15	9	2
Rangioru	1	1	0	0	19	15	2
Pirates	1	0	1	0	15	19	0
Kahukura	1	0	1	0	9	15	0
Waikite B	1	0	1	0	6	16	0



1967 United Pirates won the Easter Buccaneer tournament played at Gisborne.

They won the Ingham Cup which was awarded for winning the 1st round of the Rotorua Premier B grade competition.

1967 proved a significant year for rival Te Puke club Eastern Districts, their junior team having won the Rotorua and Te Puke Championship and the McIntosh Shield.

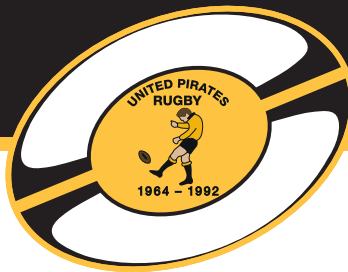
By 1967 the Borough Council's final decision to decline the club's request to purchase a site on Jamieson Oval had provided sufficient motivation to seek a home base outside the ground. At a Special General Meeting of all members on 2 August, club President Alastair Simpson outlined the committee's decision to recommend the purchase of the Jamieson home and section on the corner of Commerce Lane and King Street for the sum of \$8,600.00 to provide new and improved facilities for the members. Secretary Norm Crane detailed the financial arrangements of the purchase being \$4,000.00 from club funds, \$3,000.00 from the National Bank on 1st mortgage and \$1,600.00 on 2nd mortgage through the club's solicitors.

The King Street property was purchased and consisted of a large wooden house on 4/5's of an acre. The United clubrooms at Jamieson Oval were sold.

In the background, the Simpson family, primarily through Mr Simpson Senior, provided financial assistance which enabled the purchase to be concluded. This gesture allowed the club to establish headquarters and move into a new era. The Simpsons preferred not to have their financial support placed on record and generally avoided publicity surrounding the matter.

At the following committee meeting on 9 August it was decided to carry out structural alterations to the house to allow for a main room of 800 sq ft. A working bee was called for 15 August and the Jamieson home commenced to be turned into a large open space clubroom. Comment was made that Andy Jamieson would have fully approved. The official opening of the clubrooms was held on 23 September 1967, with the Mayor Mr E.H. Raymond performing the ceremony.

Throughout the period from amalgamation to 1967 the club benefited from exceptionally strong, positive and stable management. The one-time competitor clubs had totally left behind their previous rivalry and in a very short space of time melded into a strong and successful club. This led



Alastair Simpson at the 1967 Annual General Meeting to pay tribute to “the band of loyal workers with which the club is blessed”. He stated that the club was financially sound and teams had acquitted themselves well and were a credit to the club.

Te Puke Times
September 1967

Purchase Of Clubrooms Was Highlight Of Season For U.P.

“Once again the club had a very full year, both on and off the field” said Mr A. Simpson, president of United Pirates Rugby Football Club in presenting his annual report to the annual meeting on Monday night.

Senior and junior teams, plus a full quota of J.M.B. teams had been fielded. The senior side started the season with a rattle, winning the Buccaneer Cup, at the annual Pirates tournament, at Gisborne, unfortunately this form was not maintained and the side was relegated to the B grade competition in Rotorua.

The junior team was runner-up in its competition, and J.M.B. teams held their own in the various grades.

Mr Simpson congratulated all players who had made representative teams, particularly Warwick Tapsell and Peter Kensington, who had played in the Bay of Plenty senior and junior teams.

Socially the season had been successful with the cabaret at Papamoa being an unqualified success.

The highlight of the season, said Mr Simpson had been the purchase of a property in King Street, as clubrooms. This had come about after much negotiation, and Norm Crane, the club secre-

tary, deserved special thanks for the untold hours he had spent on the project.

The official opening of the new premises was held in conjunction with the married versus single game, with the Mayor, Mr E. H. Raymond performing the ceremony.

The Junior Management Board (JMB) section of the club was, by 1967, developing rapidly.

Te Puke Times
16 June 1967

J.M.B. RUGBY

Junior Management Board rugby is on the “up and up” with interest mounting weekly. Last Saturday could have been the best day yet this season with Jamieson Oval the scene of great activity—boys everywhere, parents and coaches urging them on, and glorious weather.

Off to a shaky start this season,

Junior Management Board rugby now has its worries behind it.

The brain-child of the late Stan Webb some ten years ago, it has been the nursery of some gifted players; and many a lad has had cause to thank those men through the years who have spent so much time on their rugby coaching.

It has been a labour of love and the end results must be pleasing to these dedicated folk.

With San Webb in the early years were Mick Barker, Noel McLeod, Frank Dowse, the late Frank Wakeford, Leith Pattie and Sam Langdon to mention but a few.



UNITED PIRATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB (INC.)
1968 SEASON — SENIORS



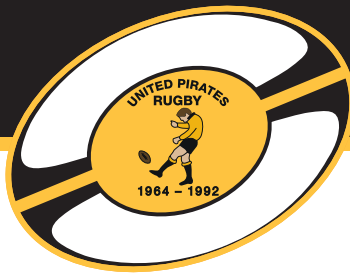
Back row: L. Woodworth, R. Wood, C. McNaughton, P. Taylor (Captain), B. Mitchell, M. Toy, V. Willis, D. Willis, M. Paton, H. Aspin.

Middle row: R. Macklow, I. Thornton, B. Willis, G. Sigley, B. Donovan.

Front row: T. Tibble (Vice-captain), J. Blythe, R. Baker, R. Skiffington, T. Gourlay.

At the commencement of the **1968** season the topic of which competition to participate in again arose. This time the debate was intense and vigorous. In October 1967 the club had decided after much discussion to formalise a motion presented by Brian Donovan and Peter McLoughlin *“that the club requests the Sub-Union to open negotiations with the Tauranga Sub-Union with the view to have all Te Puke teams playing in their competition”*.

Alastair Simpson took the club’s pro-Tauranga position to a Sub-Union meeting attended by Rotorua Sub-Union President Matt Wilson. Forthright discussion ensued with Eastern Districts’ Reg Donald strongly favouring continuation with Rotorua and Leith Pattie asking the question *“can Eastern Districts remain affiliated with Rotorua?”* Rangioru’s Frank Latimer declared that *“we will go where our players tell us to go”*.



When a remit was put to the meeting by Alastair Simpson "that Te Puke Sub-Union join with Tauranga" the switch to Tauranga was carried by 70 votes to 51.

Eric Pinker noted early in the meeting that Te Puke must be the only place in New Zealand where such an outmoded system of voting on Union procedure is accepted; floor voting having the ability to over-ride the executive's position.

Te Puke Times
15 March 1968

SPORTING SIDELIGHTS . .

The writing is on the wall for the archaic voting procedure permissible at Te Puke Rugby Sub-union annual meetings.

And certainly not before time. Rumour has it, indeed, that the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union views with alarm certain clauses in various sub-union's constitutions and plans a "round-robin" conference with a view to bringing them all into line.

The big question exercising the minds of players, officials and supporters for several weeks now and

finally resolved (quite lawfully in conformity with Te Puke's constitution) was where to play this season Rotorua or Tauranga.

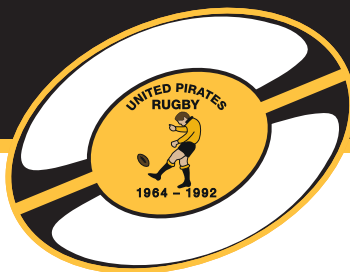
Now that the decision has been made, it is good to learn that all clubs, no matter what was said at the annual meeting, are now solidly behind the decision.

The Buccaneer tournament was played at Rotorua with the Cup being won by Tokoroa.

The senior team, now playing in the combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition, failed to reach any great heights finishing in sixth position behind Mt Maunganui, Old Boys, Rangataua, Cadets and Katikati. Alastair Simpson described 1968 as 'satisfactory' for the senior team which perhaps flattered the clubs on-field performance.

The David Simpson Cup was donated by brothers David and Alastair Simpson on the occasion of David's move to Australia. David had played for United and Mt Maunganui. The trophy is contested annually by both clubs.

Committee member Noel McLeod was elected President of the Te Puke Sub-Union.



1969 The season got underway with the Buccaneer tournament at Kaitaia which was won by United Pirates. The Te Puke Times rugby correspondent noted that the team played by far the most constructive football and won their matches in convincing style.

Te Puke Times
1969

United Pirates Win Buccaneer Tourney

Playing by far the most constructive football of the six teams competing in the tournament, United Pirates of Te Puke won both their matches in convincing style to emerge winners of the Buccaneer Cup at Kaitaia over Easter weekend.

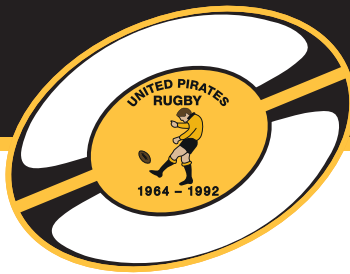
So outstanding was their form that eight of the side have been selected for the Buccaneer representatives to play South Waikato, the holders of the Peace Cup, at Tokoroa later in the season, viz:

Backs: Tommy Gourlay (half) David Farquhar (first five), Bruce McLeod (centre); and forwards: Phil Taylor, Ian McNaughton, Howard Aspin, Bruce Wills and Graham Sigley.

Club games commenced with Te Puke being part of a combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition.

The senior team continued the strong form shown at Kaitaia. By mid May the team was unbeaten and by late May were joint leaders along with Cadets and Katikati; each team having won five of their seven games. As the season progressed critical losses to Old Boys, Katikati and the 'up-and-coming' Greerton side saw the team finish sixth on the ladder which perhaps underrated the many excellent wins that were achieved over more highly rated sides. The team won the Te Puke Championship.

Cadets won the combined competition. Eastern Districts fielded its first senior team and won the Te Puke knock-out final against United Pirates who had previously won the Te Puke Championship.



UNITED PIRATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB (INC.)

1969 Senior Team, winners of the Te Puke Championship — the Buccaneer Cup,
the David Simpson Trophy



BACK ROW: J. BLYTHE, R. WOODS, D. FARQUHAR, B. McLEOD, I. THORNTON, M. PATON, R. BAKER.

MIDDLE ROW: B. WILLS, I. McNAUGHTON, V. WILLS, P. TAYLOR (CAPTAIN), B. MACKLOW, H. ASPIN, I. GIBSON (MANAGER).

FRONT ROW: T. GOURLAY (VICE CAPTAIN), T. TIBBLE, G. SIGLEY, N. JAMIESON, W. SKIFFINGTON, V. WOODS.

ABSENT: B. DONOVAN, N. MORE, P. KENSINGTON, B. MITCHELL.

Te Puke Times
1969

Senior Rugby Points Table

	P	W	L	D	For	Ag.	Pts.
CADETS	18	14	3	1	329	164	29
GREERTON	18	10	5	3	225	130	23
RANGATAUA	18	10	5	3	374	174	23
TE PUNA	18	9	7	2	257	240	20
KATIKATI	18	10	8	0	220	278	20
UNITED PIRATES	18	9	7	2	225	163	20
OLD BOYS	18	10	8	0	254	163	20
MOUNT	18	7	11	0	223	210	14
EASTERN DISTRICTS	18	4	14	0	174	347	8
RANGIURU	18	1	16	1	118	440	3

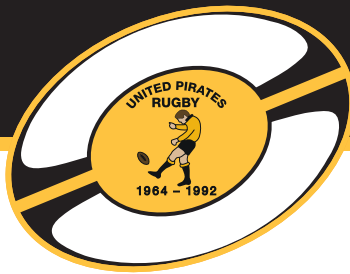
United Pirates Elects Officers For 1969 Season

Officers elected were:

Patron, Mr A. J. Collins; president, Mr A. Simpson; vice-president, Mr P. McLoughlin; secretary, Mr M. Paton; treasurer, Mr D. Farquhar; club captain, Mr L. Woodworth; custodian, Mr B. Donovan.

Committee: Messrs J. McNearney, P. Dickson, Jim Bennett, P. Taylor, B. McLeod, F. Dowse, Jamie Bennett, D. Thomas, H. Aspin.

Senior coach: Mr I. Gibson; junior coach: Mr M. Barker; third grade, Mr I. Scown; team managers, senior, Mr L. Woodworth; junior, Mr M. Smith.



On 18 May long term club administrator and committee member of the original Pirates Football Club Mr Noel McLeod passed away whilst in his second term as President of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union. Noel was involved in pre-amalgamation negotiations and chaired the inaugural meeting of the United Pirates Rugby Football Club. At the commencement of the club committee meeting of 21 May, a minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect.

Old Boys, United Old Boys and United Pirates player and administrator Roly Taylor was elected unopposed as President of the Sub-Union replacing Noel McLeod.

During June, United Pirates Patron Mr A.J. Collins was awarded Life Membership of the Te Puke Sub-Union. In accepting the award he quipped: *"if football were a religion I would be a saint"*.

1970 The Buccaneer tournament played at Taihape was won and retained by United Pirates.

The senior team won the local championship and Te Puke knock-out tournament but again failed to perform above mid-stream in the combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition. Rangataua A won the competition in the final against Greerton.

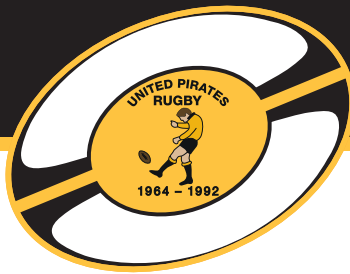
Following on-going committee discussions on the cost of repairs and improvements to the existing clubrooms, Howard Joyce was requested to present plans for new premises.

On 14 October the committee resolved that *'the present mortgage to Mr Simpson Snr. be repaid and endeavours made immediately to raise sufficient finance to commence a building programme'*.

The hosting of the 1971 Buccaneer tournament was a factor in motivating members to improve the club facilities.

The project commenced with Howard Joyce preparing plans for a 2000 square foot building. On 18 November a Special Committee Meeting approved the submitted cost of approximately \$10,000.

At a Special General Meeting on 8 December members ratified the committees decision. Howard Joyce had managed to reduce the development to cost \$9,000.00 through negotiation with suppliers and commitment and support of club members involved in the building trade.



UNITED PIRATES RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB (Inc.)

1970 SENIOR TEAM, WINNERS OF BUCCANEER TOURNAMENT AT TAIHAPE



BACK ROW: B. DONOVAN, S. HAMILTON, D. GARDINER, B. MACKLOW, I. McNAUGHTON, H. ASPIN, B. WILLS, D. FARQUHAR, J. WOOLSTON, J. McNBIRNEY.

MIDDLE ROW: J. BLYTHE, G. SPRATT, V. WOODS, R. WOOD, T. GOURLAY, R. BAKER, M. FARQUHAR, G. SIGLEY.

FRONT ROW: N. JAMIESON, J. BENNETT, B. McLEOD, A. GORDON, T. TIBBLE, J. NIVETT.

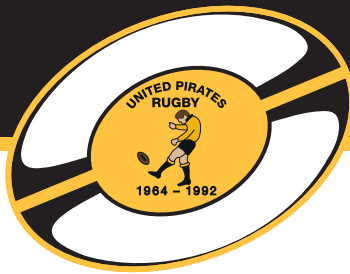
Bay of Plenty Times
13 June 1970

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Greerton	11	9	1	1	204	66	19
Cadets	11	9	2	0	251	55	18
Rangataua	11	8	2	1	149	91	17
Old Boys	11	7	4	0	140	108	14
Te Puna	11	6	4	1	133	109	13
United Pirates	11	4	7	0	96	149	8
Mount	11	4	7	0	102	154	8
Rangioru	11	3	7	1	122	270	7
Katikati	11	2	9	0	126	159	4
Eastern Districts	11	1	10	0	62	224	2

United Pirates RFC Tie





1971 The Buccaneer tournament returned to Te Puke. United Pirates had won the trophy four times in the fifteen year history of the Cup. (1965, 1967, 1969, 1970.)

United Pirates retained the Cup by defeating Tokoroa 3 - 0 in the final.

A highlight of the Easter weekend event was the occasion of the first ever floodlit rugby match in the Bay of Plenty, played on Jamieson Oval between United Pirates and Taihape Pirates resulting in a win for United Pirates 8 - 3. Prominent Te Puke Times sports reporter Ted Sutherland noted that in spite of cold wintry conditions and a drizzle heavy enough to make the ball difficult to hold, both teams turned on a first rate display with sure handling, fast clever running, solid driving and splendid tackling.

The new clubrooms were hastily completed for the tournament due to the effort of a group of members involved in the building trade. The club now owned a modern, spacious and functional facility on its King Street site.

The senior team did not retain the form shown at the Buccaneer tournament. The Bay of Plenty Times rugby correspondent put it this way. *"Pirates are a capable combination. They have enjoyed a couple of wins and are getting better."*



Howard Joyce

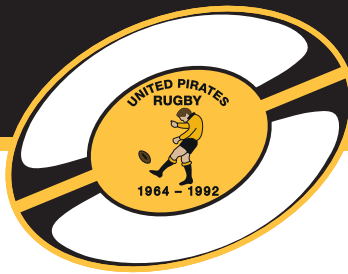
New clubrooms were constructed as a result of the dedication of Howard and his team of builders.

Bay of Plenty Times

May 1971

HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	L	D	For	Agst	Pts
Greerton	6	5	1	0	136	43	10
Old Boys	6	5	1	0	113	49	10
Mount	6	5	1	0	102	39	10
Cadets	6	4	2	0	104	59	8
Katikati	6	3	2	1	85	42	7
East. Districts	6	3	2	1	75	65	7
Rangataua A	6	3	3	0	84	54	6
Te Puna	6	3	3	0	47	50	6
Rangataua B	6	2	4	0	59	128	4
U. Pirates	6	1	5	0	49	86	2
Rangiuru	6	1	5	0	32	110	2
Judea	6	0	6	0	20	171	0



Alastair Simpson noted that, although the senior team had not maintained the promise shown in early games, welding young players into the team was positive for the future.

Greerton won the combined Tauranga - Te Puke Senior A competition.

1972 was an inauspicious playing season. The Buccaneer Cup played at Tokoroa was lost by 9 - 7 in a finals defeat to the host team in April.

The senior team was relegated out of Division 1 by late June and remained in Division 2 for the balance of the season. They finished poorly on the Division 2 table as noted below.

Bay of Plenty Times
24 July 1972

HOW THEY STAND

	FIRST DIVISION						SECOND DIVISION								
	Played	Won	Last	Drawn	For	Against	Pts	Played	Won	Last	Drawn	For	Against	Pts	
Old Boys	5	5	0	0	71	42	10	Rangiuru	5	3	2	0	94	58	6
Greerton	5	4	1	0	71	29	8	Cadets	5	3	2	0	75	62	6
Rangataua A	5	2	2	1	64	49	5	Judea	5	3	2	0	64	59	6
Mount	5	2	2	1	78	71	5	Rangataua B	5	2	2	1	40	70	5
Te Puna	5	1	4	0	70	93	2	Katikati	5	2	3	0	84	89	4
East. Districts	5	0	5	0	38	106	0	United Pirates	5	1	3	1	88	87	3

The senior team was described by The Bay of Plenty Times rugby correspondent as 'uninspired'.

The juniors had a good season finishing second in their competition.

Bay of Plenty Times
1972

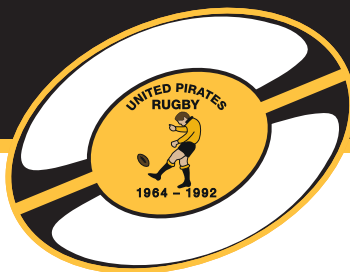
Cover defence, in fact, has been one of the strong features of United Pirates' play: for, with a pack of young, tireless forwards and several backs who tackle hard and low, they have proved in most games, one of the hardest teams to score against.

One of United Pirates' weaknesses appears to be the in-

ability to break through from orthodox passing movements and many of their points have come from opportunist tries and hard driving in the forwards; where promoted juniors: Arthur Ball (No. 8), Charlie Stapleton (lock) and Bruce McDonald (prop) have added zip and drive to a pack which has always been one of United Pirates'

strong points. Lindsay Fraser, too, has been a great acquisition to the side with his experience at North Island University level.

Tommy Gourlay, behind the scrum, must be one of the most consistent players in the competition and never plays a bad game, being particularly dangerous near the line.



In **1973** United Pirates won the Buccaneer Cup by beating Tokoroa in the final at Gisborne.

The senior team displayed some of the form so much expected of them finishing unbeaten with a 16 - 8 victory over Judea to win the Senior Reserve competition.

The team recorded seven wins from seven matches amassing 153 points with 24 against. They won the Te Puke Championship defeating Rangiuuru 14 - 10.

Te Puke Times

23 July 1973

Champions finish with a flourish

United Pirates completed an unbeaten run on Saturday, beating Judea 16-8 on its home ground at Te Puke and winning the senior reserve rugby championship.

Pirates recorded seven wins from seven matches this season, amassing 153 points with only 24 against.

Runner-up in the reserve championship was Rangataua, three points behind

Pirates. Rangataua recorded a 13-10 win over Cadets at the Domain No. 3 ground on Saturday, to give it five wins, a loss and a draw for the championship round.

Judea and Rangiuuru tied for third place with eight points each. Rangiuuru inflicted a crushing 34 - 4 win over bottom - placed Mount on the Domain No. 2 ground on Saturday.

The other match, played between Arataki and Tauranga Old Boys on the Domain No. 3 ground, resulted in a 4-4 draw.

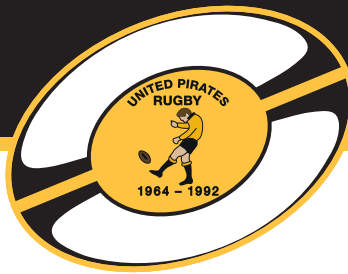
Final reserve championship points: United Pirates 14, Rangataua 11, Judea 8, Rangiuuru 8, Cadets 6, Arataki 4, Tauranga Old Boys 3, Mount 2.

● Senior reports Page 16.

Greerton won the 1973 combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition with a decisive win over Old Boys by 13 - 3.

The junior team did not continue their promise of 1972 and struggled for numbers throughout the season.

At the completion of the 1973 season Alastair Simpson retired as President of the club and at the Annual General Meeting on 18 October 1973, Brian Stapleton was elected President. Alastair Simpson had served the club as President (United O.B.'s and United Pirates) from 1963 - 1973; a reign of



eleven years in the position. During this period United Pirates was formed through the amalgamation of two competitor clubs into a single strong body which quickly established its own identity. Clubrooms were purchased and new clubrooms were built. Membership became stronger by way of greater supporter, player and grade depth. During Alastair's presidency, committee membership was stable and visionary. JMB grades developed and expanded. The success of the first decade of United Pirates history must largely be credited to Alastair Simpson's confident and inclusive style of leadership.

The **1974** season was a milestone year for the club.

The season commenced with the successful defence of the Buccaneer Cup in a final against Kaitaia played at the new international stadium in Rotorua on Easter Sunday.

Te Puke Times

17 April 1974

United Pirates Retain Buccaneer Cup

Superior fitness won the day for United Pirates in the Buccaneer Cup final against a solid, mobile Kaitaia side on the new international rugby stadium at Rotorua on

Easter Sunday.

The game was staged as a curtain-raiser to the annual Wasps/Harlequins match and was lively entertainment from start to finish.

United Pirates 25 (Tries by N. More (2), M. Roberts, B. McLeod; three conversions and a penalty by P. Kensington). Kaitaia 19.

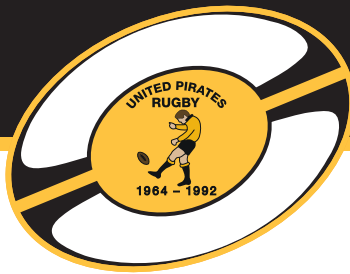
Having re-gained top 6 competition status, the senior team under coach Doug Gardner and team trainer Graeme Ward found form and by June had recorded some impressive wins. By August the team led the competition.

Bay of Plenty Times

10 August 1974

How they stand

	TOP SIX						Pts	BOTTOM SIX						Pts	
	P	W	L	D	F	A		P	W	L	D	F	A		
United Pirates	6	5	1	—	111	62	10	Mount Maunganui	6	6	—	—	106	31	12
Rangataua	6	4	2	—	119	71	8	Tauranga Old Boys	6	5	1	—	80	63	10
Greerton	6	4	2	—	96	64	8	Te Puna	6	3	2	1	98	53	7
Otumoetai Cadets	6	3	3	—	101	99	6	Judea	6	2	4	—	78	83	4
Katikati	6	1	4	1	60	118	3	Eastern Districts	6	1	4	1	61	113	3
Rangiora	6	0	5	1	44	117	1	Arapaki	6	0	6	—	34	114	0



In front of a large crowd at the final at the Tauranga Domain United Pirates defeated Greerton and in doing so became the first ever Te Puke team to win the combined Tauranga - Te Puke competition.



SILENCE

"An eerie silence fell over the ground as he ran in to kick; and as the ball sailed high and true he leapt into the air with his arms out-stretched. Few thought Pirates would win, yet it made history by becoming the first Te Puke team to win the combined title."

from an article in the Te Puke Times

Daily Mirror

23 September 1974

PIRATES GREAT

By Rhys Mathias

UNITED-PIRATES have a habit of leaving things very late these days.

Last week they trailed Rangataua until the last second before pulling off a memorable draw that let them into a championship playoff with Greerton yesterday.

Then in the final itself they again left it to the last minute to snatch victory from what looked like certain defeat.

With time showing on the clock Greerton were penalised almost in front of their posts and last week's hero Peter Kensington stepped up to take the kick.

He never looked like missing and for the first and last time Pirates took the lead.

They didn't even have to defend this lead as the referee blew for full time only seconds after.

First

Thus Pirates became the first Te Puke club to win the Tauranga championship, despite the critics who pointed to the classy Greerton backline and the three wins this season the team had had over the Te Puke boys.

But history and prediction proved wrong — just.

For a time in both halves it seemed that Pirates' unspectacular though solid play would not be enough to hold Greerton.

Pirates looked sunk, 9-19 down but while they may not be the fanciest team to play in the Tauranga competition they are the strongest and most united.

Instead of packing up and accepting the inevitable forces were marshalled, the forwards recharged and the backs steadied.

Backs who had been kicking away useful possession with pointless punts into Jaspers' arms suddenly found the gap and the forwards, moving as a man, drove upfield.

Noel More at centre was having a fine game and several times found the gap to set up a charge.

From a Pirates drive and a scrum just off the line Tom Gourlay, playing a steady game at halfback, went over and Kensington kicked the conversion.

Only four points were needed but time and effort were running out for Pirates.

Another Kensington penalty cut Greerton's lead to one point but even at this stage Pirates did not look to have enough to win.

Then, in a last desperate, almost disorganised thrust, Ian MacNaughton and Dave Watson took the ball down to the Greerton line only to be stopped by the defence.

From the maul Greerton made its only big mistake of the day. A couple of forwards got offside.

The referees arm went up, Kensington kicked, touch judges' flags were raised and the championship fell into Pirates' laps.

It would be unkind if I didn't give all praise to Pirates for the way they kept on coming back and for the dedication and teamwork they showed.

But, just like last week, they should have lost.

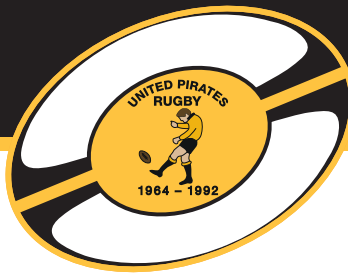
Rangataua had them beaten with running rugby, but for the errors. Greerton had them beaten with a combination of running and driving rugby, but for the errors.

So it just goes to prove that a team which does the basics well, eliminates errors and kicks the goals will win.

If every team in the competition had all this they would still be missing Pirates' marvellous unity and teamwork.



The kick that won the first championship for the club.



1974 United Pirates Senior A - Winners Combined Tauranga - Te Puke Senior Competition and Buccaneer Tournament

Back: G. Ward (Assistant Coach), B. Wills, R. Ross, D. Watson, R. Burgess, A. Ball, A. Buckley, B. McDonald, A. Verkuynen, B. Norman, R. Brownlee
 Middle: P. Kensington, W. Wilson, N. More (Captain), D. Gardner (Coach), B. Stapleton (President), S. Weatherley (Manager), I. McNaughton (Vice-Captain), G. Florence, D. Roper

Front: B. McLeod, G. Burke, T. Gourlay, D. Farquhar, W. Mercer, M. Roberts, G. Farquhar, G. Robati, R. Baker

Absent: L Wilce, R. Hyland

The Bay of Plenty Times commented that 1974 will forever be remembered in the history of the United Pirates Club as the year of the Kensington kick. Kensington had, during the season, kicked goals with accuracy to propel United Pirates to numerous wins.

\$30 for the Duke's boot

The championship winning left boot of Peter ("Duke") Kensington seems destined to become a treasure of the United Pirates Rugby Club in Te Puke. On Sunday, "the Duke" calmly slammed home a full-time penalty for the championship - winning points against Greerton in the play-off.

During some fairly riotous celebrations at Pirates' clubrooms on Sunday evening, it was decided to "auction" Kensington's boot.

The well worn piece of leather fetched \$30, and although plans for its future have not been finalised, it is fairly certain that it will be incorporated into some form of trophy.

In spite of the auction the 'Boot' was retained as a club trophy for the player with the most points for the season.

HONOURED BY JMB

Fifteen years of dedicated service to schoolboy rugby in Te Puke was recognised this week when the Te Puke Junior Management Board unanimously conferred a life membership on Mr P. (Frank) Dowse.

Mr Dowse, who was a foundation member of the board, retired earlier this year for business and personal reasons.

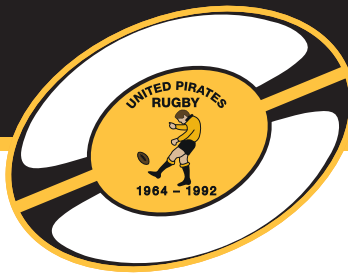
He had served as JMB secretary in Te Puke before becoming president from 1962 to 1965.

He was elected also as president of the former Pirates Rugby Club and withdrew from the JMB for four years, while involved in combining the Pirates and United Old Boys clubs to form the present United Pirates club.



Frank Dowse received the first Life Membership of the Junior Management Board of the Te Puke Sub-Union.

A trip to Fiji was undertaken at the end of the season following months of fund raising.

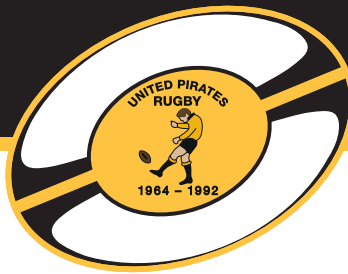


1975 The Buccaneer Cup was left behind in Kaitaia in a finals loss to the host side 24 - 4.

The senior team did not maintain the form of the previous season winning ten of their nineteen games with eight losses and a draw. Rangataua won the Tauranga - Te Puke combined competition beating Otumoetai Cadets 24 - 13 in front of a crowd of 4000.



The new clubrooms with improved facilities and extensions were officially opened with Patron A.J. Collins cutting the ribbon. The clubrooms were considered to be modern and functional. Three hundred attended the opening with all involved with the construction being acknowledged by the President Brian Stapleton.



At the October Annual General Meeting the issue of lack of adequate training grounds was raised with the suggestion that the Borough Council should perhaps assist. Litt Park and the Lally subdivision were both raised as options.

The committee discussed extensions to the clubrooms and the potential removal of the original clubrooms. (Jamieson home)

United, Old Boys, United O.B. and United Pirates club veteran Norm Freeman joined his father-in-law A.J. Collins as the only other Life Member of the Te Puke Sub-Union when he was presented with this honour by the Patron of the Sub-Union Mr Eric Pinker.

Te Puke Times
October 1975

Rugby Honours Norm Freeman

Mr Norman Freeman, on Tuesday night joined his father-in-law, Mr Jim Collins, as the only other life member of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union when he was presented with his life membership badge by the patron, Mr Eric Pinker, former Bay of

Plenty and New Zealand Rugby Union president, at the annual meeting of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union. "No man," said Mr Pinker, "more justly deserves this honour and I congratulate you on your grand work for rugby both in Te Puke and also right

throughout the Bay of Plenty over the last quarter of a century.

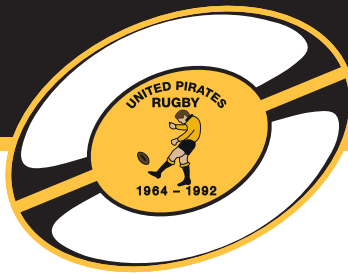
"Norman has never been found wanting," he said, "and truly his shop in Jellicoe Street was 'rugby headquarters' in the Bay"



Long-standing Sports Editor Ted Sutherland passed away. Ted was respected throughout the sporting community, particularly by the rugby and cricket fraternity.

This was a period of consolidation for the club as well as a time when social activity thrived, membership expanded and travel ventures were embarked upon. JAB teams travelled to Australia and the club hosted an Australian JAB side.

Improvements were made to club facilities with a small committee established to undertake alterations and additions.



President Brian Stapleton emphasised that the club's future strength relied on JAB and junior teams coming through the grades. He established a culture that encouraged development of these grades and ensured that this sector was provided the level of support required to flourish.

1976 The Buccaneer tournament was won by Kaitaia beating United Pirates in the final.

The senior team hit form immediately the 1976 season commenced. Wins were achieved over most of the top placed teams. By July they led the combined competition. However as the season entered August, Mt Maunganui hit form, opened an unassailable lead and won the competition by defeating Greerton 16 - 0 in the final.

Bay of Plenty Times

9 August 1976

Old Boys sinks Pirates' hopes in championship

By Peter Reilly

It looks like the 1976 rugby season will be remembered as a year of "might have beens" for the enthusiastic players of United Pirates.

Arguably the best balanced

side in the competition and clearly top of the points ladder after the first top six round, Pirates' championship hopes were more or less kissed goodbye when a dedicated Tauranga Old Boys combination scored a deserved 9-0 victory in the early game on No. One Domain.

But when the dust has settled, when the echoes of the "we wuz robbed" laments have faded away, when the final post mortem of the season is being held there might just be room for consideration of the plaintive comment passed by a reflective Pirates' supporter as the

players left the field. To wit: "When will they ever learn." What the black-blazered gentleman was obviously referring to was the Pirates' penchant for back-chatting the referee.

Bay of Plenty Times

9 August 1976

Points Table

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mount Maunganui	6	—	2	84	85	12
United Pirates	4	1	3	90	62	9
Tga Old Boys	4	—	4	82	69	8
Rangataua	3	1	4	99	115	7
Otumoetai Cadets	3	1	4	59	77	7
Greerton	2	1	5	82	89	5

Te Puke Times

29 September 1976

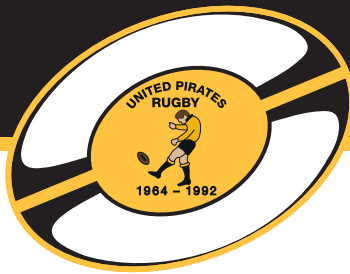
U.P. Trophies Presented

The United Pirates Rugby club held a very successful dinner-cabaret and presentation of trophies in the Paengaroa Hall recently.

Club awards were presented to the following players: Montgomery Cup (most improved Senior A player) Lon Wheeler; Te Puke Police Cup (a new award for the most improved Senior Reserve player) Craig Dickson; D.

White Cup (most improved under-21 player) Colin Jones.

Brian Collier Memorial Cup (most improved under-19 player) Bruce Gordon; Peter Young Memorial Cup (best club spirit under-19) Paul Maguire; Boot Trophy (highest points scorer in club) John Cameron (under-19 team); Phil Basham Memorial Cup (best all-round club spirit) Dave Roper.



Doug Gardner retired as senior coach at the end of the season having taken the senior team to a Championship victory and generally to a higher level of achievement under his coaching style. The senior team remained in the top 6.

At a meeting on 23 March, with increased team numbers and a critical shortage of training grounds, the Stapleton family offered to lease the club an area of their family property located on the corner of Atuaroa Avenue and No 3 Road for training purposes. The committee held an on-site meeting on what was formally a grazing paddock and a decision was immediately made to accept the offer and install lighting. In reality, the club only ever paid for electricity usage; lease costs were never requested by the family.

In his 1976 Annual Report President Brian Stapleton stated that the highlight of the year was the inclusion of a senior reserve and an under 21 team. The club now had four senior teams and twelve JAB teams. The President noted the lack of adequate training facilities despite the availability of temporary grounds.

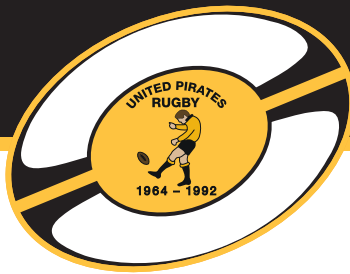
Roy McKenzie, Patron of the original Pirates Club, was presented with Life Membership of the Te Puke Sub-Union.

In **1977** United Pirates hosted the Buccaneer tournament and won the Cup. This was to be the last year the club participated in the annual tournament. On 17 July a Special Meeting unanimously agreed that the club withdraw from the tournament. The underlying reason was clear; times had changed and availability of players was waning. By 1977 the tournament had run for 22 years with Pirates having competed in the first tournament held at Tokoroa and the club being represented at 17 of the tournaments since its inception.

The season commenced with a senior team tour of the South Island, they were defeated in both games. 48 club members formed a tour party and flew to the South Island for the All Blacks v Lions test match.

The senior team ended in third position in the Championship round of the Tauranga - Te Puke competition.

The first edition of the Lace and Leather newsletter was produced. This became the clubs' official newsletter for many years.



United Pirates Committee Members - 1977

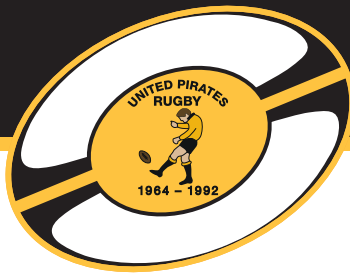
Back: Tony Fuggle, Peter McLeod, Murray Roberts, Ron Burgess, Charles Stapleton, Sam Langdon, Len Croot
Front: Bruce McLeod, Frank Dowse, Doug Gardner, Brian Stapleton, Phil Howarth, Barry Tutt

In **1978** the senior team had a difficult season but maintained a position in the top 6 of the competition. The Missoula 'All-Maggots' RFC from Montana, USA, visited. 19 JAB players and 21 supporters from the Burraneer Club from NSW, Australia, visited. The following year, 1979, the 14th and 16th grade JAB teams travelled to NSW to play against their Burraneer counterparts.

The original Jamieson house clubroom at King Street was demolished.

At the November Annual General Meeting Brian Stapleton stood down as President. He was fittingly described as a President who provided a motivational, inclusive style of leadership with expansive ideas that encouraged participation of all members whilst, like his predecessor, taking the club to new levels.

Frank Dowse retired from the committee having been involved in numerous committee positions

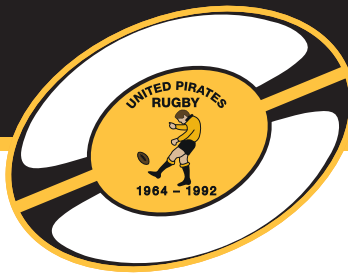


including Vice President, Sub-Union delegate and JAB management since the amalgamation. Bruce McLeod was elected President. At the meeting a discussion took place about the future of the club and it was agreed that it was necessary to look seriously at a plan for major development and inclusion of summer sports activities. It was suggested that the incoming committee should investigate purchasing land near the King Street clubrooms for development into training grounds.

In **1979** the senior team, following a shaky start, won five games in succession. Their performance improved as the season progressed and they held steadfastly to the top 6 position for much of the season winning the Te Puke Championship. Rangataua won the combined championship.



Following extensive deliberation, a group of committee members presented a proposal that recommended the sale of the King Street clubrooms and purchase of land on No 3 Road. On 11



July, a steering committee was established to spearhead the initiative. A Special General Meeting was held on 30 August at which the committee sought approval to progress the purchase of the Stapleton land currently used for training. The motion however was amended and a delay of one month was agreed for further deliberation at which time another Special General Meeting was to be held.

Following encouraging meetings with the Borough Council the committee became determined to pursue their strategy and at a subsequent committee meeting went as far as discussing plans for new clubrooms.

Residents with properties surrounding the proposed area to be purchased on No. 3 Road were canvassed with all agreeing to support the proposal.

At the Special General Meeting on 27 September it was moved that *"the committee of United Pirates negotiate the purchase of the land from the Stapletons for \$150,000 subject to Te Puke Borough Council planning approval to the proposal to erect clubrooms on the land and upon such favourable terms to the club as the committee thinks fit"*. The motion was carried on a show of hands 30 - 12.

The highlight of the rugby season was the tour of a mixed grade senior squad and 16 supporters to participate in a Pan-Am sponsored world rugby tournament in Honolulu. The trip was the culmination of eleven months of fund raising which resulted in \$25,000 being raised to finance the trip.

Bay Sun
1979

Pirates put rugby first in Hawaiian tourney

Despite a jaunt halfway round the world to a tropical paradise — for most their first excursion outside the country — it was very much rugby first for the United Pirates rugby side at the international tournament in Hawaii recently.

The Te Puke side returned in glory from the tournament in which they finished runners-up to Tokanui of Southland, losing the final by a kick-off after scores were tied 4-4 at fulltime.



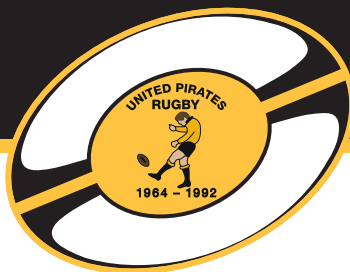
United Pirates star fullback John Cameron kicks ahead, supported behind (from left) by Graham Yates, Gordon Iodds and Lon Wheeler.

Coach Charlie Stapleton said he made sure it was rugby first and foremost on the two week tour.

"The boys trained very hard with one thing in mind — to win the tournament," he said on his return this week.

More than 1000 players played over 200 matches in six days in this first Pan-Am sponsored event, which attracted teams from New Zealand, Australia, Pacific Islands, Hawaii, the United States, Germany and Canada.

"It was a tremendous tournament, very well organised in all respects," said Mr Stapleton.



1979 United Pirates Hawaii Touring Team

Back: Ross Hunter, Ross Brownlee, Gordon Dodds, Lon Wheeler, Bruce McDonald, Ray Ross, Dave Watson, John Cameron, Gary Hinton, Kevin Goodall, Kevin Forbes, Warren Young, Steve Nelmes

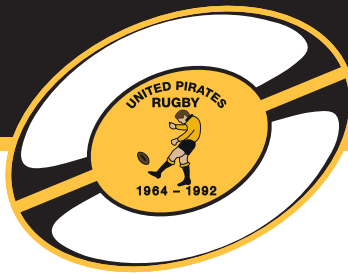
Front: Peter Dolman, Ian Oakley, Richard Scown, Adrian Verkuylen (Captain), Graeme Yates, Bruce Nicol, Kevin Oldeman, Barry Campbell

The **1980** season commenced at Easter with the club hosting two Ponsonby senior teams. Although both United Pirates teams were beaten the games were played in a festive spirit which provided good entertainment for the large crowd of supporters.

The club season started with the senior team performing strongly holding a top two or three position for much of the first round. They slipped in the championship round with an unexpected loss to Judea and were heavily defeated by Rangataua early in July. They ended the season in fourth position, with the final being won by Rangataua against Tauranga Old Boys.

On 3 July the Te Puke Borough Council formally approved the club's application to establish grounds and clubrooms on Atuaroa Avenue. The land purchase initiative involved the club's Honorary Solicitor Rob Paterson, with extensive input by committee members Warner Bowyer, Richard Dawe and John Lewis. Under Bruce McLeod as President, they became key participants in the process of negotiation for the purchase of the land and the subsequent sale of sections that funded the project.

President Bruce McLeod proclaimed: *"well, we have made it! But this is just the start as it will need a wholehearted club effort to see these facilities become a reality. We have had to cut the size of the grounds down to enable 25 sections rather than 10 as suggested in our original proposal. Our first priority is to develop the grounds for training purposes to be used as soon as possible. After that is completed changing facilities will be developed. The clubrooms will not be immediately shifted."* (abridged)



In purchasing the Stapleton land the club had committed to the purchase of 11.5 acres of land which would require the subdivision of 25 sections, 6.1 acres of playing fields and sufficient space for a gymnasium which would later be adapted to accommodate clubrooms.

A large machinery auction was held at Collins Lane to generate funds for club development. Approximately \$4000.00 was raised.

The clubs first Life Members A.J. Collins and Len Browne were elected.

At the 1980 Annual General Meeting in December the club voted in favour of the Springbok tour of 1981 proceeding.



United Pirates auctioneers Ross Nichol and Colin Fairweather at work.

In **1981** Randwick RFC senior team and a Wentworthville JAB team, both from Sydney were hosted preseason.

The senior team again started in unspectacular fashion slipping to fifth on the ladder and seemingly heading for an average season. However they won critical games against Eastern Districts and Rangataua to gain a position in the top 6 for the 2nd round. The Bay of Plenty Times in late June noted that *"Pirates have been up and down this season without ever reaching any great heights but a four try win over Rangataua gave a mighty boost to confidence....."*

In another key match in early July they toppled Rangiora 13 - 6 to be assured of a slot in the Championship round.

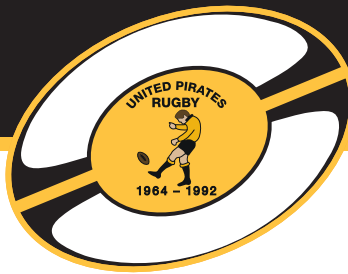
Bay of Plenty Times

1981

POINTS, SCORERS							
	Tries	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Rangataua. . .	(28)	8	—	1	220	99	16
Cadets	(29)	7	—	2	210	66	14
Mount	(14)	7	—	2	150	92	14
Rangiora	(22)	5	1	3	154	85	11
Pirates	(16)	5	1	3	121	86	11
Old Boys	(14)	5	—	4	87	120	10
Greerton	(4)	5	—	4	94	131	10
Judea	(15)	4	—	5	114	130	8
Districts	(8)	3	1	5	82	111	7
Te Puna	(8)	2	1	6	72	105	5
Katikati	(10)	+1	—	8	90	194	2
Arataki	(4)	—	—	9	55	230	0

CHAS Stapleton's United Pirates is the team, along with Greerton, to have emerged late from the pack to challenge a top six place.

With only six points from their first six games followed by a draw with Te Puna, Pirates only became a real contender with their 21-9 defeat of Rangataua two games back.



Bay of Plenty Times

1981

Big day for Te Puke rugby clubs

Saturday was a big day for Te Puke rugby, and follows an excellent month for the sport.

Following the sub-union winning the Peace Cup and successfully defending it against Hamilton last week, Te Puke teams won both Tauranga-Te Puke club

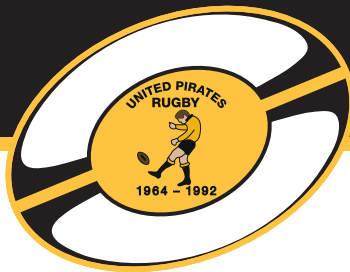
grand finals on Saturday.

United Pirates dashed any hopes Rangataua had for a record three championship wins in a row when the Te Puke side edged them out 12-11 in the Grand Final at Tauranga Domain.



Left to right: Bruno McDonald, Ross Brownlee, Dave Watson, John Cameron, Ross Mackie, Gordon Dodds, Laurie Johnson, Kevin Olderman, Neville Tristram, Ian McNaughton (Captain), Richard Scown, Morris Griffin, Errol Watts, Alan DeVries, Kevin Goodall

Under Coach Charlie Stapleton, the team won the 1981 Tauranga - Te Puke Championship. This was the club's second only championship win. They finished no lower than fourth position in the preceding two seasons.



Te Puke Times

1981

Champion Pirates prevent hat-trick from Rangataua

THE kicking of Morris Griffin and John Cameron and the urgency and industry of their loose forwards led to United Pirates' 12-11 defeat of Rangataua to take the 1981 Tauranga-Te Puke club rugby championship.

Rangataua were one sideline conversion attempt away from winning a hat-trick of championships.

Down 12-7 with a minute or two of the game remaining at the Domain on Saturday, Rangataua sought desperately for a grandstand finish.

Jimmy Kamizona finally slipped his man, Ross Mackie who had stuck to him like glue.

And big wing Toko Ririnui, as he showed only a few minutes earlier, only needs half a chance. For the second time in the match he took it to power into the corner for a try.

One minute showed on the clock as Terry Meredith approached the conversion, the ball placed less than a step in from the touchline.

Meredith missed — and Pirates were overjoyed.

They should have been because they deserved the win on the day, albeit by four penalties by Griffin against a team which scored two tries.

Unlucky

Pirates were unlucky only in one respect: that the events of the weekend and of a funny old season rather conspired to take some of the gloss off winning the championship.

Administrators from Bay of Plenty down are going to have to take a long, long look at club rugby in the future.

It should be returned to a status below only Bay of Plenty senior representation. It has to be done. If not, club rugby will suffer.

Pirates suffered during the past weekend because

the club championship grand final was overshadowed by representative and international play. More is the pity.

As much as any other team in the competition, Pirates deserved the title. They were not outstanding, but nor were any other of the six teams which qualified for the major championship.

Twice winners

Rangataua might argue that as winners of the first round and the second, their rightful place was on top.

But twice during the season Pirates beat Rangataua, losing narrowly only on the day on which their team suffered a tragedy with the death of regular member Gary Hinton.

The concept of a grand final was set up with promotion of the sport in mind — something that is too often given little consideration — and has proved, when it was not overshadowed by something bigger, to be a big success.

Rangataua might be a shade unlucky not to have gained a hat-trick. Such chances are rare. But titles are for going around.

Anyway, Rangataua looked anything but the fired-up team of former years in Saturday's game, few of the players putting in the effort of their player-coach Bruce Matuschka.

Griffin knocked Rangataua back with his four immaculate penalty kicks, all of respectable distance, from five attempts.

The first two came in the last seven minutes before halftime and the third shortly after halftime for a 9-3 lead.

Equally, or perhaps even more so, influential on the game were the incredibly long punts to the wide spaces behind Rangataua's backs by centre Cameron.

He seemed to be able to judge the bounce into touch at the end of the ball's bobbling to perfection.

Cameron, a Bay of Plenty squad member, played a key role in the game for he also tackled strongly in midfield — keeping an eye on Kamizona while also stopping Roger Tuanau — and was quick to make the most of any counter-attack.

The real basis of the win came from Pirates forwards. They had a vitality which, with the exception of Matuschka and John Mariu, was strangely absent from their opposites.

This and greater fitness allowed them to pour in at rucks while, at times, Rangataua straggled.

Most effective of all was the wrapping-up tackles and bustling by loose men Ian McNaughton, Errol Watts and Alan De Vries around the sides of scrums, rucks and mauls where Rangataua can be so dangerous.

These three had outstanding games, well supported by their locks Dave Watson and Laurie Johnston.

Hooker Kevin Goodall and other backs like second-five Mackie and wing Richard Seown had good games, too.

Pirates' major weakness was the uncertainty among the backs when they had Rangataua at their mercy in the first half. What do we do now? they might have asked.

Matuschka won more lineouts than any other player and throughout Meredith was cool on defence with his kicks when under pressure.

Yet there were few moments in an overall even game when they really troubled Pirates.

However wing Ririnui scored his two tries, almost with ridiculous ease.

Both came in the final quarter, both significantly at moments when Rangataua were steamed up.

Almost but not quite for Rangataua.

Pirates might now look back at a mixed season. They lost their first few games when people said that the goalkicking of Griffin

would win them.

Only when they caught Rangataua on the hop for a 21-9 win did entry into the top six become probable.

Once there, though, they promised to be the most likely of an even bunch to be Rangataua's challenger; but again they lost their first two championship games.

Griffin came good at the end, though, and that's where it counted.

Scorers:
UNITED PIRATES 12 (M. Griffin, 4 penalties),
RANGATAUA 11 (T. Ririnui, 2 tries; T. Meredith, penalty).



The senior B side finished third in their competition which was won by Rangioru with a 24 - 10 defeat of Judea.

Bruce McLeod noted in his address to the 23 November Annual General Meeting *“that surely any club’s greatest wish is to win a senior championship - but to culminate a championship win with the development of training fields is just reward for a club that is thinking of its future players”*.

In his Annual General Meeting report Bruce McLeod noted that *“twelve months ago our biggest worry was selling 25 sections to finance land purchase. I am pleased to be able to tell members that 23 sections have been sold with two retained”*.

He later commented in the club’s newsletter that *“we have come a long way - we should be proud of the advances since 1964 - we now boast two full size fields with room for building and our present clubrooms in King Street are freehold”*.

At the Annual General Meeting members stood in silence to honour the passing of club Patron and Life Member A.J. Collins. Jim Collins had been the clubs figurehead connecting United Pirates to its origins through his service as Patron of the original United Club and United Old Boys. He had served as Patron of these clubs since 1944 and was accorded Life Membership in 1980.



A cricket team was formed with John Burt being the driving force.

Len Browne succeeded A.J. Collins as Patron. Ian Bartie was elected President. Frank Dowse was elected the third Life Member of the club.

Popular senior team tight forward and all-round club participant Gary Hinton, nicknamed ‘Tonnage’, was tragically killed in a car accident near Te Puke. His obituary was recorded in the Lace and Leather Magazine.



Obituary

Gary Hinton - 1981

There has been no greater loss to the United Pirates team and club, than Gary Hinton

Before joining UP for the 1979 season, Gary had started his rugby career in Te Awamutu, where he was born in 1955.

He is remembered as a true friend to all who knew him. Some will remember him for his assistance on Saturday mornings, refereeing the bare footed young ones; others for the happy atmosphere he created around the clubrooms; for others, it will be for his competitive attitude to the game he dearly loved.

For as long as the Pirates gather, whether to celebrate a win or commiserate a loss, 'Tonnage' will always be remembered.

Thanks, Tonnage for what you were and for being one of us.

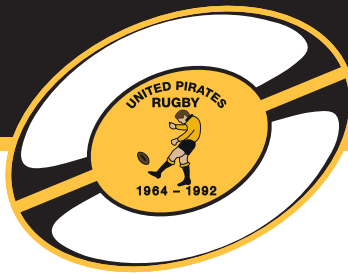


A **1982** preseason game was played against Te Awamutu Old Boys at Te Awamutu for the Gary Hinton Memorial Trophy presented by Gary's parents Mr and Mrs Rex Hinton of Te Awamutu.

The Bay of Plenty Times reported in April "Having broken the pain barrier, so to speak, of scoring a distinctive Tauranga - Te Puke club rugby championship last year, United Pirates can be excused a degree of confidence that a repeat success is in store".

By seasons end the senior team finished runner-up in the combined Tauranga - Te Puke Championship, with the senior reserve team winning their competition.

The name of the club was formally changed at a Special General Meeting held 16 June 1982. The name became United Pirates Rugby Sports Club Inc.



By mid 1982 the building costs had risen to \$115,000 and lighting towers had been deferred although the playing fields had been levelled and sown. Working bees became the club's main activity after sporting commitments and remained so through much of the 1980's. Amongst a wide variety of activity, fund raising included orchard work, Calcutta's, a Christmas gala and a gymnasium Floor Appeal. On 10 May, title for 2.5884 hectares of land on Atuaroa Avenue was passed from the Stapleton family to the United Pirates Rugby Football Club Inc.

A women's committee became part of club administration.

The JAB section of the club continued to expand. JAB 8th, 9th and 10th grade teams travelled to play their corresponding teams at the Waitemata Club.



UNITED PIRATES 9th GRADE, 1982
Winners Tauranga-Te Puke 9th Grade Championship
Winners Wales Bank 7-a-side Competition
Played 21 Won 21 Points for 585 Against 27



W. Potley Photo

COMPETITION	
v.	Won
KATIKATI	31-0
RANGIURU	23-4
RANGATAUA	26-0
OTU. COLL.	12-0
OTU. CADETS	23-4
TAURANGA O.B.	28-0
ARATAKI	38-0
EASTERN DIST.	22-0
TE PUNA	17-4
TGA. COLL.	7-0
GREERTON	8-7
JUDEA	Default
MOUNT	47-0
NON COMPETITION	
v.	Won
ARATAKI	28-0
OTU. CADETS	52-4
MOUNT	19-4
ARATAKI	39-0
KATIKATI	40-0
WAITEMATA	38-0
WAITEMATA	38-0
SUBURBS	51-0

1982 REPRESENTATIVE	
TE PUKE	
TAI MITCHELL	
D. NUNN (Capt.)	
A. DOWLING	
S. EARNIE	
R. MORRISON	
TAURANGA - TE PUKE U-13	
P. FAIRWEATHER (Capt.)	
R. GIBBS	
S. WILSON	
B.O.P. PRIMARY SCHOOLS	
S. EARNIE	
WESTERN BAY	
D. ABRAHAMS	

Back Row: G. BURGESS, D. ABRAHAMS, A. DOWLING, S. WILSON, W. JEFFREY, S. GOODWIN, D. SIMPSON
 Middle Row: C. FAIRWEATHER (Coach), R. MORRISON, J. MCGREGOR, D. NUNN, S. EARNIE, R. NEAL (President JMC).
 Front Row: R. GIBBS, P. MOSCRIP, P. FAIRWEATHER, B. WI (Capt.), H. HUIZER, G. FURZE, J. TERRY

Absent: Z. GRAY



United Pirates Senior A 1978



United Pirates Senior A 1983



United Pirates Senior A 1988



United Pirates Senior A 1989



United Pirates JAB mid 1980's



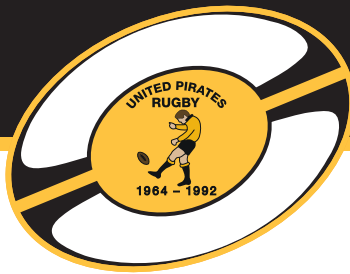
United Pirates 8th Grade 1983



United Pirates 8th Grade 1984



United Pirates 7th Grade 1984



The **1983** rugby season commenced with a preseason game against Te Awamutu Old Boys for the Gary Hinton Memorial Trophy. This was one of the first games to be played on the new field at Atuaroa Avenue. The trophy was won by United Pirates.

Again, on paper United Pirates were considered favourites to win the competition. At the completion of the 1st round they finished equal first in Section 2 with Old Boys. By July they were in second place behind Old Boys in the championship, with Old Boys running out clear winners with nearly twice as many competition points as their nearest rivals. United Pirates finished second equal with Katikati and Cadets.

A senior team and supporters travelled to Hawaii where the team won the Pan-Am World Invitation knock-out tournament having been runners-up in 1979.

Bay of Plenty Times

2 November 1983

Pirates grab Hawaii spoils

VICTORY was especially sweet for six members of the United Pirates team, from Te Puke, which won the main championship at the Pan Am world invitation tournament in Honolulu last week.

The six—John Cameron, Richard Scown, Dave Watson, Mick Goodall, Rob Bailey and captain Errol Watts—had all been members of the United Pirates team which was beaten by the Invercargill club, Tokanui, in the 1979 final.

This time, though, United Pirates made no mistake. It was the underdog in the final, mainly because its opponents, Avalon, from Wellington, had won all its previous five games, and all

impressively.

United Pirates had to work hard for its two section wins and it was beaten, 6-3 by Brigham Young University, of Hawaii, in its third game.

The final turned out to be a very good game, probably the best of the whole tournament, in fact. This was due largely to the fact that it had two competent New Zealand teams, playing a similar type of Rugby, pitted against one another.

United Pirates led 15-6 at halftime, Grafas pushing the side clear with three penalties in the second quarter.

Richard Scown and Ian McNaughton scored United Pirates tries and Peter Skel-

ton got Avalon's only try, the Wellington team's other points coming from two

penalties and a conversion by fullback, Ray Mil-denhall.



Pirates capture trophy

A handsome wooden trophy, in the form of a rugby ball, has now joined the United Pirates Rugby Sports Club's mementoes of important wins.

Members of the club brought the trophy home when they returned last week from a victorious tour to Hawaii, where they won first place in the Pam International Hawaiian Harlequins Tournament.

Team captain Errol

Watts says: "It's good to be home. It's great to bring home first place instead of just runner-up."

The Pirates managed second place in the tournament the last time they took part, in 1979. Costs prevented them attending the next biennial tournament, which was held in 1981.

Highlights

Highlights of the two and a half week tour for Errol included the final prizegiving, which was held in the open air and

attended by 2000-3000 people.

As it was a knock-out tournament the Pirates had to play to win in every game.

They played in the "Serious" division of the tournament, as did 12 of the 47 teams taking part. That meant playing six games in seven days—in an average 90° heat.

Supporters

"I don't think we could have done it without our supporters." Errol

says. Those supporters did things like get up at 6am to cook breakfast for the team, and carry luggage.

Ian McNaughton was the team's coach, and Errol says: "It takes a special sort of coach to be able to handle a tournament like this with its pressures."

Photo above: Trophy being accepted by Ian Bartie, Mike Knapton, Errol Watts and Ian McNaughton



A Golden Oldies grade was formed.

At a Special General Meeting 17 January 1983 it was unanimously agreed that the King Street clubrooms be sold.

Hockey player and coach Phyl Donaldson became the club's first female Club Captain.

In spite of all the financial constraints and frustrations the 1983 player membership doubled with new and amalgamated sports codes. Two ladies and a men's hockey teams were fielded.

The season was dominated by the need to service debt. President Ian Bartie advised members that the season would, of necessity, be one of consolidation. He observed that new grounds would be used for the first time, that new changing sheds would be completed and a carpark levelled. He expressed frustration at the partially finished gymnasium and advised that the brakes would need to go on in order to maintain financial control especially given that the King Street premises had not been sold. Two buffer sections retained from sale would be marketed to assist with finances.

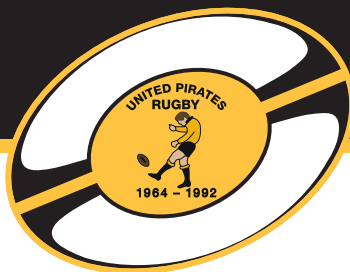
At a meeting of committee members held 14 November at the partially completed gymnasium, a wide ranging debate took place on the merits of moving the club headquarters to the gymnasium building for the 1984 season. This meeting was motivated by the near to complete gymnasium floor which had proved a major undertaking. The floor was constructed to international competition standard with a concrete base, rubber mountings under the joists with an extra thick wood layer.

A figure of \$17,000 was needed to develop a lounge area and a further \$25,000 to have the gymnasium usable for the coming season.

A game against the Wildcats rugby team from the University of Tucson, Arizona was won by United Pirates. This visit established an enduring relationship between the two clubs.

Ian McNaughton retired from senior A rugby having played his first senior game for the club in 1969. His 15 playing years included Championship wins in 1974 and 1981. He captained the 1981 team.

United Pirates member and JAB administrator Gordon Schultz was elected President of the Te Puke Sub-Union.



The **1984** preseason match for the Gary Hinton Memorial Trophy was played against Te Awamutu Old Boys at Te Awamutu.

The Tauranga - Te Puke competition began in two sections with United Pirates expected to be a championship contender winning their opening match against Eastern Districts 7 - 3 and showing good form as the competition progressed. The team qualified for the play-off round along with Rangiora and Eastern Districts however finished in fourth position; Tauranga Old Boys winning the competition with a 13 - 6 finals victory over Katikati.

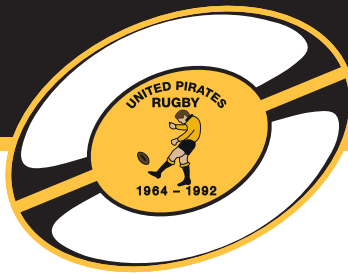
Badminton, basketball, indoor netball and volleyball were added to the clubs' sporting activities. Senior grade netball expanded rapidly.



1984 United Pirates Netball Team - Winners Te Puke Netball Assn. Sportsmanship Cup

Back: Susan Wood, Elaine Stewart, Sandra Reekie, Marie Walker

Front: Ann Brouwers, Heather Spencer, Paulette Anderson, Denise McLeod, Pam Potter



Upgrading of the gymnasium continued.

The men's hockey team won their senior reserve competition gaining promotion to the Premier grade.

The JAB section of the club hosted Waitemata JAB.

Te Puke Times
26 September 1984

UNITED PIRATES RUGBY SPORTS CLUB



WAITEMATA VISIT

United Pirates club members are invited to attend a welcome to Waitemata Visitors Party at the King Street Clubrooms this

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, at 8pm

\$5 double — Ladies a plate

RUTH NEAL
J.A.B. SECRETARY
UNITED PIRATES
26

Seven buses bring visitors

On Saturday, September 29, the town will be invaded . . . by seven busloads of children from the Waitemata Rugby Club!

The visit of 220 youngsters and 80 adults is eagerly awaited by the United Pirates JAB (junior advisory board) organisers who issued the invitation.

In all, 15 teams of players aged from six to under-15 years, will participate in games with Te Puke teams.

Organisers anticipate that other Te Puke clubs will be asked to enter teams in the matches.

It is the first time Waitemata has visited, although United Pirates teams have visited the Auckland club several times during the last four years.

Housing the young visitors is quite a task. While the parents' accommodation has been arranged, billets will be required for the boys.

At the Annual General Meeting held 25 November members stood in silence in memory of Alastair Simpson who had passed away in June after a period of illness. Retiring President Ian Bartie stated that "it is with regret that the club records the passing of our foundation President and great stalwart of United Pirates".

There were accolades aplenty for Ian Bartie from the floor at the meeting for his contribution during a very challenging period of transition. Ian stamped his mark on the club and was described as a



practical, hard-working President who led by example. Through a steadfast and unwavering commitment, Ian with his various committee members, club volunteers and sponsors had pioneered the development of the new headquarters over a three year period.

Ken Love was elected President for the 1985 season.

The **1985** Tauranga - Te Puke Championship round preceded the newly introduced Inter-City competition. Commencing in early April, twelve teams competing in a single division. The championship was won by Mt Maunganui. United Pirates were mid-table for most of the season and finished in fourth place.

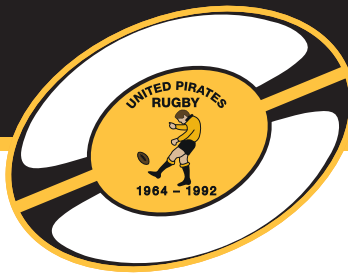
The Inter-City competition was based on a competition between teams from Tauranga, Te Puke and Rotorua clubs.

United Pirates finished mid-table in Section 2 being unable to register a win against a Rotorua club. The Inter-City final was won by Whaka beating Rotorua Pirates 30 - 16.



1985 United Pirates Senior A - Winners Te Puke knock-out, Kerry Jensen Memorial Trophy

Back: T. Burt, G. Allen, L. Johnson, J. Cameron, J. Lewis, R. Scown, R. Underwood
Middle: D. Bayliss (Assistant Manager), A. Cameron, W. Taylor, P. Fox, S. Thompson, A. Hutchings, J. Fly, C. Wood, M. Wood (Manager)
Front: K. Love (President), C. Hingston, K. Tibble, A. Peat, T. Vanstone, M. Smith, G. Dodds (Coach)
Absent: A. Sutherland (Captain), D. Watson, R. Fowler, G. McMillan, R. Spittle



United Pirates won the Te Puke knock-out competition.

In a newsletter, Ken Love noted *“that after three years of purchasing land, selling sections, developing grounds and a cricket wicket, and building a magnificent sports complex the club had not achieved its goals without considerable indebtedness”*. He called on members to collectively help achieve financial stability through participation.

“The alternative would be to sell King Street but we should only do this at the opportune time”.

The year was dominated by the need to balance income with the need to develop the gymnasium and playing fields. Construction of the gymnasium and clubrooms continued under the direction and supervision of Roly Taylor and Butch Matheson. Lights were purchased for the grounds.

The Atuaroa Avenue development consisted of two rugby fields, a cricket wicket and a functional gymnasium without parallel in the district. Outdoor sports affiliated to the club included rugby, netball, cricket and both men’s and women’s hockey teams. Two netball teams UP 1 and UP 2 participated. The gymnasium was utilised by weight trainers, indoor basketball, volleyball, badminton, indoor bowls, gymnastics, jazzercise and fitness groups plus rugby teams for wet weather training. The club’s membership exceeded 400 in all sports and grades.

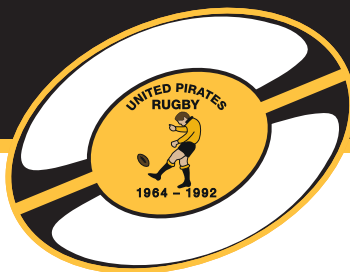
A \$25,000 sports grant was received from the Department of Internal Affairs for development of the gymnasium. This was followed by the long anticipated sale of the King Street clubrooms.

The King Street clubrooms having been sold, a transition of headquarters from King Street to Atuaroa Avenue commenced. The original King Street clubrooms were demolished.

At the Annual General Meeting Michael Bayliss was elected President.

The **1986** Tauranga - Te Puke competition was again played prior to the Inter-City competition with United Pirates finishing mid table. Katikati won the championship beating United Pirates in the final round to confirm top position.

United Pirates again struggled in the Inter-City competition losing all seven games in Section 1. Whaka retained the championship beating Waikite 10 - 6 in the final.



FINAL POINTS AND SCORERS

Section one:	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts	Section Two:	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
WAIKITE	5	—	2	140	80	10	WAIKAI	6	—	1	229	103	12
Rototi!	1	1	2	92	99	9	Ngongotaha	5	—	2	152	48	10
Mount	4	1	2	134	94	9	Arataki!	4	—	3	113	178	8
Tga Old Boys	4	—	3	123	123	8	Rangataua	4	—	3	102	127	8
Rot Pirates	4	—	3	81	88	8	Cadets	3	—	4	125	111	6
Katiki!	3	—	4	100	128	6	Rangluru	3	—	4	103	124	6
E Suburbs	3	—	4	89	87	6	Kahukura	2	—	5	93	192	4
Uni Pirates	—	—	7	65	125	0	Rot Old Boys	1	—	6	109	143	2

The order above is the final finishing order in the Wrightson Intercity division one.



1986 United Pirates Senior A - Winners Kerry Jensen Memorial Trophy, Simpson Memorial Trophy, Te Puke Challenge Cup

Back: C. Hingston, G. Allen, L. Johnson, A. Armstrong, J. Lewis, E. Watts

Centre: A. Verkuylen (Assistant Coach), B. Gordon, R. Fowler, G. James, W. Taylor, I. Brouwers, G. Dodds (Coach)

Front: M. Wood (Manager), K. Tibble, A. Sutherland (Vice-Captain), A. Peat (Captain), T. Vanstone, G. Priest

Absent: J. Fly, G. McMillin, P. Urwin, M. Smith, J. Cameron, K. Mosley

The Gordon Junior Rugby Club under 15 team from NSW, Australia visited.



Paul Fairweather became the club's first player to be chosen for a national side whilst playing for the club.

Paul was selected for and captained the New Zealand Under 17 side which defeated Australia.

The Bay of Plenty times rugby correspondent noted that it was some accomplishment for Fairweather to be appointed Captain of such a fine New Zealand side and he has a promising future.



With limited capital, the committee maintained a strict control on expenditure and decided to restrict much of the development of the clubrooms, pathways and landscaping. The car-park remained unusable and other work was unable to be completed.

Unsolicited practical and financial assistance was received from Murray Salt Contractors. Murray and Heather Salt became the principal sponsors of the club. Their significant contribution to the development of club facilities included improvements to playing fields, embankments, car-park and other project work. Their sponsorship contributions enabled the club to progress through this difficult development period. Their support of the club whilst developing the Atuaroa Avenue was significant in the club achieving its freehold position of today. Few clubs have had the good fortune to have sponsorship on the scale provided by Murray Salt Contractors. Murray and Heather continue their support today.

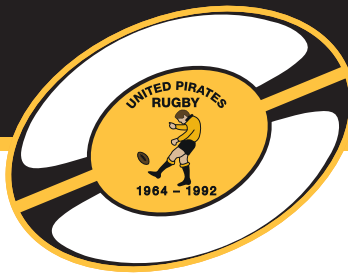
The gymnasium was utilised for a prize giving ceremony for the first time.

Part way through the season Ross Underwood was elected President on the occasion of Michael Bayliss's move from the district. In his report to the 1986 Annual General Meeting, Ross issued members three specific challenges:

Non-playing members need to be involved in the administration of the club.

Atuaroa Avenue must be sealed.

The gymnasium must be better utilised.



Rick Hannay was elected President at the Annual General Meeting for the 1987 year.

In **1987**, for the first time, the Inter-City competition was played at the beginning of the season with United Pirates competing in Section 1. The team performed poorly winning only two of ten games, finishing near the bottom of their section. For the third year the final was an all Rotorua affair; Ngongotaha beating Rotorua Pirates 19 - 10 after being down 10 - 0 at half time.

Bay of Plenty Times
6 July 1987

Ngongotaha win intercity final

ROTORUA — For the third time in as many attempts Rotorua Pirates were denied ultimate victory in the Lion Brown Intercity club rugby championship here on Saturday.

And for winners two finals to Whaka — it 11 games of the series
Ngongotaha — Pirates was the icing on the cake undefeated
having lost the previous in that they completed the

Bay of Plenty Times
1987

ON a day of close finishes the four semifinalists in the Tauranga-Te Puke club rugby championship were finally decided on Saturday.

POINTS, SCORES

BAY ENGINEERS CHAMPIONSHIP

Mount Maunganui and Otumoetai Cadets had already cemented their places, but it was a three-horse race between Tauranga Old Boys, United Pirates and Eastern Districts to fill the last two berths.

In the end it was Old Boys and Pirates who made up the numbers, both winning their games on Saturday

	W	D	L	Tris	For	Ag	Pts
Mt Maunganui	10	—	1	(35)	200	65	40
Ota. Cadets	9	—	1	(30)	204	119	35
United Pirates	7	—	4	(18)	120	95	20
Old Boys	7	—	4	(37)	200	100	20
East. Districts	6	1	4	(17)	160	100	20
Te Pone	5	1	5	(17)	120	100	20
Kaitiaki	5	1	5	(37)	104	120	20
Ranglers	3	1	6	(20)	170	170	10
Arncliffe	4	—	7	(24)	160	160	10
Kangaroo	4	—	7	(20)	120	200	10
Greaves	3	1	6	(14)	110	100	10
Jules	—	—	11	(6)	60	220	0

The team finished third in the Tauranga - Te Puke Championship round and qualified for the semi-finals where they were beaten by Mt Maunganui 13 - 0. The Mount went on to beat Cadets in the final 9 - 6.

The clubs connection with the Arizona Wildcats rugby team from the University of Arizona was continued with the second visit by the Tucson based club.

The new committee heeded Ross Underwood's challenges and for the next three years pursued a programme to improve facilities by refurbishing internally, increasing the usage of the gymnasium and enhancing the external areas of the clubrooms. Negotiations with the Borough Council resulted in Atuaroa Avenue being sealed and a car-park developed.



1987 United Pirates Senior A - Winners Te Puke knock-out competition

Back: S. McLeod, B. Grafas, J. Cameron, B. Van der Maas, G. Allen, R. Torlesse, L. Johnson, W. Taylor
 Centre: R. Hannay (President), J. Burrige (Club Captain), R. Fowler, J. Lewis, R. Scown, C. Hingston, M. Wood (Assistant Manager), I. Hannay (Manager)
 Front: S. Thompson, K. Oldeman, P. Priest, L. Crawshaw, A. Peat (Captain), G. James, J. Pieters, H. Sowman (Coach)
 Absent: P. Williams, R. Brown, A. Sutherland, M. Smith, R. Mackie

The **1988** season kicked off in April with the senior team playing Petone. The game was won by the visitors 38 - 13.

Following a poor start, the senior team recorded its first win against a Rotorua side in the Inter-City competition beating Rotorua Pirates 26 - 9. Good form eluded the team as the competition progressed and at the completion of the 1st round were in fifth position in Section 2 and in the same position in the Tauranga - Te Puke Championship.

POINTS TABLE

Final points, Section one:—						Final points, Section two:—					
W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
10	—	—	325	63	40	10	—	—	307	103	40
8	—	2	191	76	33	8	—	2	216	139	33
8	—	2	219	130	33	7	—	3	216	161	29
7	—	3	244	115	30	6	—	4	180	121	25
6	—	4	299	190	27	5	—	5	189	163	23
5	—	5	228	175	20	5	—	5	169	178	21
4	1	5	208	185	19	5	—	5	125	187	21
3	—	7	157	176	14	3	1	6	187	182	17
1	2	7	135	309	9	3	—	7	89	151	14
1	1	8	62	329	6	2	1	7	117	289	12
—	—	10	34	454	0	—	—	10	80	221	2



TAURANGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

	W	D	L	For	Ag	Pts
Mount Maunganui	5	—	—	177	39	20
Rangataua	4	—	1	115	49	17
Rangioru	4	—	1	116	56	16
Otumoetai Cadets	3	—	2	110	48	14
United Pirates	3	—	2	91	64	13
Tauranga Old Boys	3	—	2	104	66	12
Katikati	2	1	2	91	83	11
Greerton	2	1	2	58	127	10
Arataki	2	—	3	67	98	9
Te Puna	1	—	4	81	78	5
Eastern Districts	—	—	5	43	116	0
Judea	—	—	5	12	241	0

Scoring details for 1988

UNITED PIRATES:
 P21, W10, L11, For 403, Ag 291 (Av. score 19-14).
 For: 53t, 28c, 36p, 9d. Against: 32t, 17c, 41p, 4d.
 Points: Gibbs 168, Cameron 45, C. Hingston 40, Dowling 26, Peat 16, Rollerston 15, Fairweather 12, Lewis 12, James 12, J. Hingston 8, Hepenstall 8, Taylor 8, Priest 8, Oldeman 7, Chadwick 6, Jefferies 4, Ward 4, van der Maas 4.

For the balance of the season the team showed little form and Ngongotaha defeated Mt Maunganui 33 - 16 in extra time to win the Inter-City final for the second year. Cadets won the Tauranga - Te Puke Championship with an 18 - 6 win over Rangioru.

United Pirates won the subsidiary section of the Tauranga - Te Puke competition for the Hardy Rosebowl with a finals win against Greerton 23 - 10. They also won the Te Puke Championship.

Inter-club

Championship final
 OTUMOETA I CADETS 18 (B. Meyer, L. Heatherley tries; Heatherley 2 conversions, 2 penalties), RANGIORU 6 (M. Wihapi 2 penalties).

Hardy Rosebowl
 UNITED PIRATES 23 (D. Rolleston, A. Peat 2, C. Jefferies tries; R. Gibbs penalty, 2 conversions) GREERTON 10 (A. Robertson try, C. Smale 2 penalties).

Flavell Cup
 TE PUNA 21 (D. Tangitu, S. Ritai, J. Kuku tries; Tangitu penalty, 2 conversions) ARATAKI 19 (P. Bale, S. Yamo

In subsidiary senior finals United Pirates scored four tries to one in beating Greerton 23-10

Yamo tries; D. Bidois conversion, 1 penalties).

Senior Reserves
 Pheian Cup: Tauranga Old Boys 20 Te Puna 4.

Warner Memorial Trophy: Rangataua 28 Arataki 6.

Under 21s
 Ike Tangifu Cup: Old Boys 33 Judea 1.

Under 18s
 Tauranga-Te Puke Cup: Rangataua 38 Katikati 13.

Sixth Grade: Rangioru 13 Greerton 9.
 Tenth grade: Cadets 4 Old Boys 0.

and Te Puna outscored Arataki three tries to two for their 23-19 win.

UNITED PIRATES:
 P21, W10, L11, For 403, Ag 291 (AV. score 19-14).
 For: 53t, 28c, 36p, 9d. Against: 32t, 17c, 41p, 4d.

Points: Gibbs 168, Cameron 45, C. Hingston 40, Dowling 26, Peat 16, Rollerston 15, Fairweather 12, Lewis 12, James 12, J. Hingston 8, Hepenstall 8, Taylor 8, Priest 8, Oldeman 7, Chadwick 6, Jefferies 4, Ward 4, van der Maas 4.

INDIVIDUAL SCORING
 Points:—
 Ross Pacey (Mount) 230
 Rodney Gibbs (Pirates) 168
 Dean Jennings (Old Boys) 161
 Danny Murray (Katikati) 151
 Maihi Wihapi (Rangioru) 144

The year was again one of continued improvement with the clubrooms now an acceptable entertainment area. A series of successful fund raising initiatives enabled carpets, wall furnishings and other amenities to be purchased which provided members with comfortable club facilities. The exterior of the club was landscaped.

Social and player membership expanded markedly. By 1988 the club had established three netball teams, UP Gold (A Grade), UP Black (Reserve 1) & UP Blue (Reserve 2), two men's hockey teams, four senior rugby teams and almost 170 JAB players.



On 3 February, Kiwifruit Industries Limited presented the club with a sponsorship proposal which included a change to the clubs monogram. Following some debate the new logo in slightly altered form was agreed. A proviso stipulated by the committee was that there be no change to the club's name.



UNITED PIRATES

A rugby committee was formed in response to the emergence of the professional era in rugby and the impact of professionalism on the club. The committee was managed by ex senior players Doug Rollerson, Iain Hannay and Gordon Dodds.

A Jubilee committee, chaired by Ian Bartie, was formed to prepare for the 1989 25th Jubilee celebrations.

At the Annual General Meeting, club Treasurer Heather Salt reported a fifty percent increase in club earnings.

1989 preseason games were played against Hamilton Old Boys with the senior side winning 29 - 16 and the reserves losing 10 - 9.

The Inter-City competition began with United Pirates in Division 2. They won their 1st round match against St. Michaels 42 - 4, remained unbeaten and went on to win the 1st round Division 2 trophy, with a convincing 21 - 0 defeat of Waikite.

The 2nd round saw a continuation of good form including a 33 - 6 win over Mt Maunganui which was described as the game of the year. The team lost the final Section 2 game against Ngongotaha 21 - 3, who went on to win the Inter-City final for the third year in succession defeating Mt Maunganui 23 - 10.

Good form continued into the Tauranga - Te Puke Championship, however they lost their last three matches which eliminated any chance of a Top 4 position to play-off for the championship.

The Grand Final was won by Tauranga Sports defeating Mt Maunganui 18 - 9.

United Pirates won the Senior Division 2 final with an 18 - 6 win over Rangioru.



Bay of Plenty Times
26 June 1989

Conditions foil Pirates' final bid

By Peter Relly

ROTORUA — United Pirates' bid for a first-time place in the intercity, interclub championship final came unstuck on a wind and rainswept, boggy Rugby Park pitch on Saturday.

Coming into this crunch division one, section two

match the Te Puke side had developed an unbeaten sequence of games in both intercity and Tauranga-Te Puke competitions.

But there could be no arguing the merit of two-time intercity champions, Ngongotaha's, 21-3 win on Saturday.

Bay of Plenty Times
15 July 1989

After Saturday it would seem that United Pirates will be the greatest threat to Tauranga.

Pirates ran in eight tries in beating Arataki 46-6 at Grenada Reserve with winger Colin Hingston collecting a notable hat-trick, fullback John Cameron and midfielder Shane Dowling two tries each.

Te Puke Times
September 1989

Inter-club

GRAND FINAL

TAURANGA SPORTS 18 (J. Hayes try, D. Jennings conversion and 4 penalties) MOUNT MAUNGANUI 9 (C. Smale 2 penalties, T. Brown dropped goal). HT, 9-9.

Senior Division Two: UNITED PIRATES 18 (G. James, C. Hingston tries; R. Gibbs 2 conversions, 2 penalties) RANGIURU 6 (M. Wihapi try and conversion). HT, UP 12-6.

Senior Division Three: GREERTON 6 (W. Taylor try, C. Berquist conversion) JUDEA 0.

SENIOR RESERVES

Division One: RANGIURU 17 (J. Kingi, A. Walker tries; Kingi 3 penalties) TAURANGA SPORTS 14 (P.

Trainor, M. Thomas tries; D. Bird 2 penalties). HT, Rangiu 7-6.

Division Two: GREERTON 15 (M. Sharrock try, M. Jamieson conversion, dropped goal, 3 penalties) UNITED PIRATES 9 (M. Priest try, conversion, penalty). HT 3-3.

UNDER 21s

RANGATAUA 15 (C. Hika 2, R. Brown tries; S. TeKani penalty) GREERTON 12 (J. Boyle, J. Robertson tries; J. Heyworth 2 conversions). HT Rga 12-6.

UNDER 18s

GREERTON 16 (D. Mossop try, A. Spee 4 penalties) RANGATAUA 9 (P. Falkner 3 penalties). HT, Rga 6-3.

The senior division two final gave United Pirates their 18th win from 21 games and at least one trophy to show for an excellent season before they take off in a couple of weeks' time on their trip to Canada and the west coast of North America.

Fittingly, in beating Rangiu 18-6, the Pirates tries went to eager-beaver winger Colin Hingston and skipper Graeme James with first five Rodney

Gibbs adding 10 points from four successful goal kicks.

This year marked the 25th Anniversary of the United Pirates Rugby Sports Club. The occasion was celebrated with a full Easter weekend programme of events and a feature game against Petone. Life Members Len Browne and Frank Dowse 'cut the ribbon' which officially opened the new stadium and grounds. The opening address was delivered by Brian Stapleton with the guest of honour being Alison Simpson, wife of the late Alastair Simpson.



*United Pirates 25th Jubilee
March 1989*



*Te Puke Times
March 1989*

This weekend Te Puke's United Pirates Rugby Sports Club celebrates its 25th Jubilee. Celebrations range from rugby matches, serious and social, to a formal dine and dance on Saturday night and the official opening of the grounds and clubrooms.

On the occasion of the 25th Jubilee celebrations, Life Members Frank Dowse and Len Browne were invited to pick their all time great United Pirates XV and reserves.

FRANK DOWSE'S TEAM

Tui Tibble (FB)
 Neil Patterson (W) John Cameron (W)
 Kerry Hanna (C)
 Ali Sutherland (2nd)
 Norm Adlam (1st)
 Tom Gourlay (Half)
 Arthur Ball (No. 8)
 Phil Taylor (F) Graeme James (F)
 Howard Aspin (L) Colin McNaughton (L)
 Rex Wood (P) Bruce McDonald (P)
 Ian Mc Naughton (H)

Reserves: Ali Sutherland, Wren Bartrum, Noel More, Gordon Dodds, Graeme Johnston, Howard Aspin, Warren Taylor, Lyndsay Frazer

LEN BROWNE'S TEAM

John Cameron (FB)
 Paul Carter (W) Neil Paterson (W)
 Ian Hughes (C)
 Kerry Hanna (2nd)
 Norm Adlam (1st)
 Tom Gourlay (Half)
 Arthur Ball (No. 8)
 Graeme James (F) Phil Taylor (F)
 Gary Hinton (L) Dave Watson (L)
 Bruce McDonald (P) Rex Wood (P)
 Ian Mc Naughton (H)

Reserves: Max Toy, Wren Bartrum, Gordon Dodds, Dave Watson, Adrian Verkuylen, Lyndsay Frazer



The season was completed with a successful trip to Canada and the West Coast of North America. The team won all matches convincingly including games against the Arizona Wildcats in Tucson Arizona, The Sea-Hawkes in San Francisco, Old Aztecs RFC, San Diego and the Vancouver Rowing Club.



1990 was the first year of the Baywide competition with United Pirates competing in Division 2 in the 1st round. The team recorded an unexpected win against highly regarded Kahukura in April and repeated this in defeating leaders Kawerau in May.

During May, the Bay of Plenty Times rugby correspondent wrote *"whatever the outcome of Division 2, the Rodney Gibbs led United Pirates is clearly the best of the twelve teams in this section of the Baywide competition"*.

The team won the Division, winning ten of their eleven games and qualifying for the Bay of Plenty Club Championship round. They found the going more difficult in the championship round winning only two of their six matches with Waikite upsetting Ngongotaha 17 - 11 in the first Baywide final.

John Cameron accepted a secondment to Tucson Arizona to coach the Arizona Wildcats side returning to play in the 1990 Tauranga - Te Puke combined competition.

By late August United Pirates led Section A of the Tauranga - Te Puke Competition. The team maintained its top ranking and progressed to the final.



Bay of Plenty Times

1990

Forward guns Pirates' key to final win

By Peter Rellly

FOR Sunday's senior Tauranga-Te Puke club rugby final at the Tauranga Domain the Te Puke United Pirates fifteen will tackle defending champions, Tauranga Sports, as very much the underdog team.

This is a situation apparently readily enough accepted by Pirates coach, Brett Wilson, and one confirmed by events of the current season and by the record book relating to the last 15 or 20 years.

Not since the 1981 season have Pirates played a championship final, a winning one at that — beating Rangataua 12-11 with the Pirates players holding their breath as Rangataua first five Terry Meredith, in just about the last act of the game, failed a sideline conversion attempt of winger Toko Ririnui's second try of the day.

Even getting into the final that year was a touch and go affair for Pirates. In the last qualifying game a Ross Mackie try was the only points of a tensely fought game against Otumoetai Cadets.

Mount and Pirates both finished the top six rounds with three wins and two losses, but Pirates edged out Mount on a points for and against reckoning, 40-34 compared to Mount's 56-52.

Cadets won the championship in the years 1977,78; 1982 and 1988. Last year Tauranga Sports were born of an amalgamation of Cadets and Tauranga Old Boys, which latter club had posted successive wins in 1983-84 so it can be seen that, with Mount (1976, 1985 and 1987) and Katikati (1986) also claiming top honours through the period there has been only one title go Te Puke's way over the last 15 years.



COLIN HINGSTON.....determined winger who has been one of Pirate's main scoring prospects in recent seasons.



The first Championship win since 1981 and the third in the club's history was achieved.

Bay of Plenty Times

1990

Pirates 1990 champions

By Kevin Savage
A HAPPY coach Brett Wilson gave credit for United Pirates' upset 17-6 win over Tauranga Sports yesterday to his tight five forwards.

United Pirates stunned not only the opposition but much of the Domain crowd by winning the Tauranga-Te Puke club championship.

One of the victorious winning team, fullback John Cameron, also played for Pirates in 1981 when they last won the championship.

Another of the team was former All Black Doug Rollerson, now 37 years old, who filled in at first five-eighths for the regular goalkicking tactician Rodney Gibbs, injured recently while playing for the Bay of Plenty B team.

Both Cameron and Rollerson played important roles yesterday, the latter starting and finishing the scoring with two dropped goals.

"But it was the tight five who won us the game," said Wilson who, back in his Counties representative days, had had his share of championship wins with the Ardmore club.

Control up front

"It was nice to have control up front. We talked a lot before the game and we gave some emphasis to the tight five. It's all about technique.

"We planned to take the game to Tauranga. To some extent it went the way we planned. But I thought that Tauranga would be a bit more confident.

"We lost to Te Puna in our second game this season and we struggled against some of the first division teams, specially the Rotorua teams, when we were promoted.

"So today's win gave us a lot of pleasure. We were the big underdogs. It was good for the United Pirates club," said Wilson.

In a match mirroring Saturday's representative fixture at Rotorua and underlining the importance of strong scrums in modern-day rugby, United Pirates repeatedly pushed Tauranga Sports off the ball.

The first time this happened, in the 16th minute, Pirates forwards made the most of the tighthead, charging ahead while passing the ball hand-to-hand, and from the next scrum Rollerson kicked his first goal for a 3-0 lead.

That was the most significant moment of the game and tossed in the possibility that Pirates were indeed going to cause an upset.

Other than one fine attacking back attack, involving Troy Jennings and the Honey brothers, Brendon and Cliff, in the 17th minute, there was nothing really to suggest otherwise.

The next most telling moment came midway second half when the Pirates pack, bound together as one, steamrolled their opposites who, though still only 10-6 down, wearily reeled about, continually rejoining their backwards-moving mates.

The result, a blindside try to former Rangluru

centre and Bay of Plenty representative Willie Clarke and a 14-6 scoreline.

Dropped goal

Within a few minutes, Pirates heaved Sports off another scrum for a tighthead and soon Rollerson dropkicked another goal.

That really was the end, though Tauranga did all they could in the last 10 minutes to finish a long season with one last try.

The first half finished, most appropriately 8-6, two goals apiece, just a shade anti-climactic after the superb exhibition of rugby provided in the curtain-raiser by the colts sides of the Mount Maunganui and Rangitanga clubs.

Were it not for the noise emanating from under the stand by the celebrating Mount colts, the noise level would have been about zero as the final unfolded.

The spectators were probably stunned to see Sports, the local front-runners in all competitions since Cadets and Old Boys amalgamated at the start of last season, in serious trouble.

With the pressure increasing in the second half, some of Sports' passes looked more desperate than designed.

Tauranga fullback Jennings injured a leg trying to catch a long, long Cameron punt. He left the field and Pirates' pack walked Tauranga back over the goal line for a pushover try to No 8 Curtis Webber and perhaps the winning of the game.

There was real excitement in the 13th minute of



OH, how sweet the victory! United Pirates' senior team captain JAMES WILKINS kisses the cup on its return home.

the second half when Rollerson, still innovative, took a quick tapkick, made ground and slipped a pass to the equally alert Cameron ranging alongside him. Cameron ran faster than he probably has all season and Paul Fairweather all but scored.

Tight five

The names of the

Pirates' tight five who set up the victory were Warren Taylor, Steve Bailey and James Keenleyside in the front row and captain James Wilkins and Craig Jeffries at lock.

The first quarter displays by flankers Alistair Bean notably and Fairweather should not be forgotten, while Webber completed a very good season.

It seems to have been a long season for Sports who, in many ways, have had luck go against them after their bright start last year.

No particular Sports player had a day to specially remember —

Pirates' day of glory

United Pirates' seniors convincingly won the Te Puke-Tauranga championship, with a 17-6 victory over Tauranga Sports on Sunday.

Played in front of a large crowd at the Tauranga Domain, UP very quickly silenced the home team's supporters with hard driving forward power and fast intelligent back play.

The UP forwards were quite magnificent with their total demolition of the bigger Tauranga pack. Doug Rollerson's control at first-five was a determining factor in the team's ability to keep tremendous pressure on Tauranga Sports for the entire 80 minutes. Scotty McMillan's fine service from half back enabled the strong running

pair of Willy Clarke and Colin Hingston to put Tauranga's defence to the extreme test.

The teams were locked 6-all at halftime with a Dowling penalty and a Rollerson drop goal to two Wilson Jones' penalties for Tauranga Sports. It was evident that UP was going to win at this stage as long as the forwards could keep up the pressure. That they surely did.

A pushover try to Curtis Webber and a fine try to Willy Clarke after McMillan had worked the blindside was enough to break Tauranga's spirit. Doug Rollerson's second drop kick was the icing on the cake. The final score was 17-6.



UNITED PIRATES SENIOR A RUGBY TEAM
CELEBRATE TAURANGA - TE PUKE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN AT THE TAURANGA DOMAIN 1990
 Sponsors: Murray Salt Contractors, Maheatataka Cool Pack

WINNERS OF
 TAURANGA -
 TE PUKE
 CHAMPIONSHIP
 BAY WIDE
 2ND DIVISION
 KERRY
 JENSEN
 MEMORIAL
 SIMPSON
 TROPHY
 TE PUKE
 CHAMPIONSHIP
 TAURANGA -
 TE PUKE
 COACH OF
 THE YEAR -
 BRETT WILSON



TULLOCH PHOTOGRAPHY

Back Row: Brett Wilson (Coach), Steve Bailey, Warren Taylor, William Clarke, Alister Bean, Tony Chadwick, Colin Hingston, Grant McMillan, Doug Rollerson, Shane Dowling.
 Front Row: James Wilkins (Captain), Curtis Webber, Jamie Keenleyside, Paul Fairweather, John Cameron, Craig Jeffries.
 Absent: Ash Peat, Jeremy Cotter, Peter Mitchell, Willy Warbrick, Rodney Gibbs, Steve Erni, Jeff Evans.

Te Puke Times

1990

Paul Fairweather - United Pirates' First Junior All Black

It was a dream run for a young player who had gone to Wellington with the philosophical attitude of learning from the experience.

Last week when speaking to the *Te Puke Times* Paul was still coming to terms with the reality that he was a New Zealand Colt.

As a five-year-old Paul started kicking around the rugby ball with his Eketahuna Primary School team. When his family moved to Te Puke the young Fairweather joined the Te Puke Primary School team then played his first representative rugby as a Tai Mitchell player at Te Puke Intermediate School.

At Te Puke High School, Paul's rugby talents took flight.

Beginning with the school's 1st XV, he went on to represent the Bay of Plenty under-16s, then gained selection in the North Island under-16 team.

In 1986 Paul captained the New Zealand under-17 side on its unbeaten tour of Australia against the Australian under-17s. Four members of that New Zealand team are now All Blacks (Walter Little, John Timu, Craig Innes and Jason Goldsmith).

In 1987 Paul was selected for the Bay of Plenty Secondary Schools' team, the Bay under-18s and the North Island under-19s. The following year he captained the Bay Colts.

Last year Paul again captained the Colts and gained nomination for the New Zealand Colts, missing out on selection for the trials.

Paul also played his first game for the Bay of Plenty seniors — last year.

Obviously the national selectors' eyes were never far away from Paul. He was selected to go to the New Zealand Promising Players school in Wellington last season by the New Zealand Rugby Union.

It seems that 1990 is to be Paul's year.

He has played for the Bay seven-a-side and is currently playing for the Bay of Plenty seniors. Now he is also a New Zealand Colt — a junior All Black.

No-one can doubt Paul's exceptional talent for rugby, but his success has also been due to the tremendous commitment and encouragement given to him by family, rugby club members and players.

His late father, Colin, was the greatest

influence. Colin coached young Paul throughout his early days in the game, inspiring his love for rugby.

Interviewed by the *Te Puke Times* in 1986, Colin was asked whether he wanted his son to be an All Black. He replied: "I hope that he plays for as long as he enjoys the game otherwise there is no point."

His local rugby club United Pirates has also been a mainstay of support. Paul is the first club member ever to reach national level and to have come up through all the grades within the club.

"United Pirates is tremendously proud of Paul," says club captain Bruce Gordon.



Membership of the Tug-O-War section expanded. United Pirates teams were runners-up in Divisions 1 and 2 of the North Island Championships held in the Waikato. United Pirates were nominated by the national body to host the New Zealand Championships in July 1991.

Netball expanded to now include five competitive teams: United Pirates A, B, Black, Yellow and United Pirates Goldies.

Fund raising remained a dominant activity with a variety of initiatives including corn growing, a 'Pickers and Packers' social event, a gala, biathlon and numerous raffles. Funds contributed to on-going improvements to the clubrooms.

The victorious 1990 team celebrating their achievement.



The **1991** rugby season commenced with the senior team competing in a twelve team Division 1, of the Baywide competition. The team finished seventh at the end of the 1st round winning five of their eleven games. They played in the gold section for the 2nd round and finished fifth out of six teams. They lost their play off match against Rotoiti 17 - 7 and Eastern Pirates defeated defending champions Waikite 12 - 7 in the Baywide final.

Extensions Discussion



UNITED PIRATES

Notice of informal meeting for members

at 7.30pm

19 September 1990

All members of the United Pirates Rugby Sports Club Inc are invited to attend a meeting at our clubrooms to view and discuss the plans to extend our facility at Atuaroa Avenue.

Light supper provided

Rugby scores

BOTH Eastern Bay of Plenty teams, Whakatane Marist and Opoitiki United missed out - surprisingly - on places in the final of the Bay of Plenty rugby championship.

Opoitiki, down 10-3 at halftime, lost 10-9 to Waikite while Whakatane were always behind Eastern Pirates, losing 26-11.

Rangiora won a place in the first division for next season while Arataki retained their place in the second division, in promotion-relegation games.

Scores:

DIVISION ONE

Semifinals: Eastern Pirates 20, Whakatane Marist 11; Waikite 19, Opoitiki United 9.

Playoffs for minor places: Tauranga Sports 42, Mouti Manganui 12; Ngongotaha 42, Te Teko 12; United Pirates 17, Rototiti 7.

Promotion-relegation: Rangiora 16, Kahukura 9.

DIVISION TWO

Semifinals: Rangiora 16, Greerton Marist 14;

Paroa 19, Rotoron Old Boys 7. Playoffs for minor places: Whaka 27, Kawerau 16; Marist St Michael's 19, Katikati 6; Te Puna 34, Eastern Districts 15.

Promotion-relegation: Arataki 16, Murupara 15.

DIVISION THREE

Semifinals: Judea 19, Apanui 19; Taneatua 28, Edgecumbe 4.

UNDER 21

Semifinals: Ngongotaha 16, Greerton Marist 13; Judea 13, Rangiora 11.



The team then went on to win five of six matches in their division of the Tauranga - Te Puke competition and qualified for the knock-out section for the championship.

Having won their semi-final against Rangataua 19 - 6, the team's finals victory over Arataki 18 - 6 was the highlight of the season.

Bay of Plenty Times

1991

Pirates post deserved back to back title win

By Peter Reilly
 BY dominating play for most of the first spell and making greater use of their scoring chances as they were presented, United Pirates yesterday emerged worthy winners of the Tauranga-Te Puke senior rugby championship.

On a Tauranga Domain pitch

which was well nigh perfect for a game of rugby, the Te Puke side scored two tries to one in defeating Arataki 18 points to six and thus posted a second successive championship win to follow previous triumphs in 1974 and 1981.

he 21st minute, had Pirates out to 9-0 at the break.

Flanker Graeme James was the outstanding loose of the game and received good support from Curtis Webber while the young inside back trio of Poihipi, Bass and Ernie contributed extremely well to a winning team effort.

Coach and fullback John Cameron also deserves special mention for the telling accuracy of many of his touch-finders, particularly those kicked from outside the 22.

As a summary comment, having been there before Pirates knew more about winning championship finals.



1991 United Pirates Seniors - Winners of Tauranga - Te Puke Championship, Kerry Jenson Memorial, Te Puke Championship
 Back: R. Bibby (President), N. Jackson, R. Lynch, M. Attrill, A. Bean, C. Hingston, M. Wood (Manager)
 Second: B. Gordon (Assi. Manager), L. Browne (Patron), J. Hingston, R. Poihipi, D. Bass, S. Ernie, R. Gibbs, W. Warbrick, J. Cameron (Player/Coach)
 Front: I. Brouwers, W. Taylor, S. Bailey, J. Wilkins (Captain), C. Jeffries, G. James, J. Lewis
 Absent: P. Fairweather, J. Cotter, G. Evans, P. Schuler, P. Mitchell, S. Dowling



Player-Coach of the team John Cameron created a club record by having played in each of the last three Championship winning sides, 1981, 1990, 1991.



Player - Coach John Cameron

The Steve Bailey Trust

In a competition game at Jamieson Oval, experienced hooker Steve Bailey incurred a serious fracture of the spine as a consequence of a mistimed scrum-set.

Administered by Ross Underwood as legal guardian, a Trust Fund was established for Steve. Many rugby clubs throughout New Zealand contributed to a nationwide appeal. Other major fund raising activities were undertaken to bolster the Trust funds. A full document of the nationwide appeal is located in the Appendix on page 5.

Bay of Plenty Times
22 April 1991

Anxious wait for injured player

TAURANGA Hospital staff should know in 10 days whether a neck injury to United Pirates hooker Steve Bailey during a rugby scrum on Saturday is permanent.

UP player-coach John Cameron said he believed the accident happened after a scrum was "possibly mis-timed"

Both front rows went into a half crouch but before a full crouch was

reached or the teams engaged in the scrum a Tauranga Sports player lifted his head, hitting Bailey underneath the jaw wrenching his head back.

Mr Cameron said he was some distance away but other team members had agreed that was what happened.

"It wasn't as if it was a collapsed scrum or players with any malice," said Mr Cameron.

Mr Cameron said the team went to visit Bailey in hospital yesterday.

"He's big and strong," said Mr Cameron. "He's a really, really determined character. If anyone can do it he's certainly going to be one of the guys who could."



A National Tug-O-War Championship hosted by the club was considered an outstanding success. Membership of Tug-O-War section of the club increased with five teams participating.

Netball continued to expand with good success in local competitions.



1991 United Pirates Netball Team

Back: Mella McGinity (Coach), Jenny Nitz, Teresa Burt, Pene Speechlay
Front: Andrene McGinity, Jo Steele, Justine Osbourne (Captain), Louise Fox, Ylona McGinity
Absent: Judi Scown

President Richard Bibby noted that as a consequence of the weak financial position of the club it would be necessary to put any plans for extensions on hold *“with a firm view of putting our house in order”*

Steve Freeman was appointed permanent Club Manager / Secretary.



At the Annual General Meeting 18 November, Brian Stapleton was confirmed a Life Member of the club.

Life membership seen as “tremendous honour”

Commitment to the game of rugby and to the development of club rugby has earned a life membership for United Pirates' member Brian Stapleton.

Brian's involvement in club rugby began when he played as a junior with the former United Old Boys club prior to its amalgamation 27 years ago with Pirates Rugby Club.

His enthusiasm for the game continued through to senior level which he played until 1973, three years of which he captained the team.

Brian recalls the young club as a “humble club” with a small player membership, based in the original clubrooms in King Street (now the New Zealand Employment Service) and using Jamieson Oval as its playing field.

Brian moved onto the club committee in 1968 and later served considerable time as club president. He has been involved at Te Puke sub-union level and was the Te Puke representative on the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union for six years.

The Stapleton family has played a pivotal role in the development and growth of United Pirates. In the 1970s the club was given the opportunity to

purchase the 12-acre Stapleton farm.

The club bought the land, resettled the clubrooms and sold off part of the land as residential subdivision. This enabled the club to freehold its present site and develop the club's surrounding land.

Brian regards his life membership as a “tremendous honour” and says his dedication to and enjoyment of United Pirates is directly as a result of the friendship and support of club members throughout the years.

“I have made so many good friendships and there's no way I would have spent so much time serving the club had it not been for the people who make up the club,” says Brian.

Summing up the qualities of United Pirates, Brian says it is a strong, progressive, competitive and friendly club.

“The strength of the club has been the growth of the club,” he says. “It has gone from a very small, mainly player membership, to a club with a membership of several hundred.”

Brian joins two other life members of United Pirates, Len Browne and Frank Dowse.

John Dowling was elected President.



Prior to 1990 and over the following several years, numerous fund raising initiatives became central to complementing club revenue. Initiatives and undertakings included corn growing, bobby calf and bulk kiwifruit donations, Pickers & Packers functions, Packers & Stackers competitions, biathlons/duathlons, raft races, quiz evenings, a ‘Truest & Fairest’ sponsorship scheme (with as many as 44 businesses participating) as well as membership draws. Such activities became common forms of raising much needed funds. Funds contributed to ongoing improvements to the clubrooms, gymnasium and playing fields.



The **1992** season got off to a shaky start with numerous preseason injuries.

Bay of Plenty Times

1992

Pirates have to plug gaps

By Peter Reilly

INJURIES, transfers and non-availabilities have depleted United Pirates' ranks for tomorrow's main Baywide rugby game at Te Puke's Jamieson Oval.

The day's double-header involves Rangioru against Waikite at 1pm followed by Pirates against Whakatane Marist at 2.30pm with the latter team rated amongst the prime championship contenders of the competition.

Pre-season activities have cost coach Brett Wilson access, because of injuries, to his two first choice hookers and injuries will also enforce a delayed start by such as winger Colin Hingston, flanker Curtis Webber and utility back Steve Ernie.

As well, prolific points-scoring first five Rodney Gibbs, because of a knee operation, is likely to miss the entire season.

In the Baywide competition United Pirates recorded early losses to Whakatane Marist 35 - 22 and Waikite 16 - 3. The team succumbed to Opotiki United and Ngongotaha before bouncing back against Tauranga Sports with a 36 - 11 victory.

As the Baywide competition progressed good wins were recorded against teams such as Eastern Pirates, Te Teko, Waikite and Rangioru with yet another drubbing of Tauranga Sports 45 - 6.

Bay of Plenty Times

1992

Visitors made to walk plank

By Ian Hepenstall

IN the battle of the blackguards of the high seas, Baywide rugby champions Eastern Pirates were forced to walk the plank at the hands of Te Puke's United Pirates 24-6 at Jamieson Oval yesterday.

And shiver me timbers, which most spectators did in the chilling conditions, their 24 points were all scored by Bay of Plenty representative Andy Miller.

He notched seven penalties and a dropped goal as UP, following their upset over Tauranga Sports last week, did not allow the Rotorua side into the match.

UP moved rapidly away from the relegation zone with a complete victory.

Pretty it wasn't. Effective it certainly was.

In other games United Pirates were far too strong upfront as they eased from a 20-4 halftime advantage to a four try 29-4 local derby win over Rangioru in a match where three players were sent off at Jamieson Oval.

At Te Puke's Jamieson Oval United Pirates led Waikite 14-0 at halftime but came right away in the second spell to win 33-5



On the back of these results the team failed to secure a play-off position in the Baywide competition. Their hopes were dashed on Jamieson Oval on 11 July losing 43 - 21 to Ngongotaha.

Bay of Plenty Times

1992

No Tauranga-Te Puke teams in semifinals

By Ian Hepenstall

ALL three local teams bowed out of Baywide rugby after tough assignments on Saturday.

United Pirates, the only

local team to have a home game, found Ngongotaha approaching the quality side of the past in a 43-21 result at Jamieson Oval.

In an attempt to win their third Tauranga - Te Puke Championship in succession the team played the final against Mt Maunganui at Jamieson Oval on 20 September. Club history was made when a 15 - 15 draw resulted in a shared Championship win - and the third Championship title in a row.

Bay of Plenty Times

1992

Late try disallowed but shared title appropriate

By Kevin Savage

A LAST seconds drama completed an otherwise penalty-ridden, error-filled Tauranga-Te Puke rugby final, appropriately shared 15-15 between United Pirates and Mount Maunganui yesterday.

Des Bass kicked five penalties for Pirates and Jeremy Etheredge kicked five penalties for Mount, in the 1992 season's climax at Jamieson Oval.

One could say that the game burst alive in the last seconds when replacement first-five for Pirates, Andy Miller had a long drop-kick at goal. The ball fell short, only to be dropped by Mount fullback Owen Scrimgeour short of the line. Mount scrambled to clear, the ball went loose and Pirates centre Steve Ernie pounced on it for what appeared to be the sole and winning try of the game.

Pirates cheers turned to chokes, then to moans as they realised the try had been disallowed. During all this final action touch judge Mike Friis had his flag out for an earlier stomp by a Pirates forward.

So the title was shared and, on the evidence of the final, so it should have been. Neither team could justly claim to be the deserved winner.



Te Puke Times
24 June 1992

Miller gains NZ selection

The highest honour of the rugby world is within the grasp of a young Te Puke player who has just gained selection in the New Zealand Under-21 squad. United Pirates first-five Andy Miller was selected following trials in Wellington 10 days ago and leaves in three weeks with the team to play Australia.

Andy's skill and striving for perfection in his game are qualities which are winning the respect of many in the rugby world in the Bay and nationally. Some are saying he may well be a future All Black.

United Pirates coach and former All Black, Brett Wilson, says that Andy certainly has the skill to reach All Black level.

"The intensity with which Andy approaches his game holds him in very good stead and it is a just reward for him to be selected to represent his country," says Brett.

Andy is a hometown Te Puke boy who began rugby at Tai Mitchell level and progressed through Te Puke High School 1st XV and into United Pirates club rugby and is now into his second season playing for the Bay of Plenty.

He returned to Te Puke after a season playing for Waikato University and plays for United Pirates' seniors.

Brett says that Andy is very critical of his own performance and doesn't realise the high respect with which others hold him.

"Over summer few would believe the hours Andy spent practising his kicking. After settling in at United Pirates he is now controlling the game well and is playing with great astuteness and accuracy."

Pirates has been a good training ground for Andy, teaching him to play a smart game in order to gain parity with other bigger teams, says Brett.

Andy was one of two Bay of Plenty players selected for the under-21 team, the other player being prop Steve Simpkins from Ngongotaha.

At the Wellington trials Andy's 10-out-of-10 goal kicking success would certainly have sealed the selectors' decision.



In action on Jamieson Oval, United Pirates' Andy Miller – selected for the New Zealand Under-21 squad.



1992 United Pirates Senior A - Joint Winners Tauranga - Te Puke Championship, Winners Kerry Jenson Memorial, Winners Te Puke Championship

Back: K. McCauley, S. Wilson, R. Lynch, M. McKenzie

Third: M. Wood (Assistant Manager), D. Bass, T. Payton, J. Robinson, J. Cameron, A. Stewart

Second: B. Gordon (Masseur), C. Gibbs, I. Brouwers, S. Ernie, R. Poihipi, W. Taylor, L. Browne (Patron)

Front: P. Hughes (Assistant Coach), J. Wilkins, A. Bean, C. Jeffries (Captain), G. James, P. Fairweather, D. Payton (Manager)

Absent: B. Wilson (Coach), A. Miller, B. Baggott, N. Jackson, P. Schuler, M. Attrill, T. Clarke

More structural development of the playing fields continued with embankments redeveloped, the adjoining gully area reshaped and the southwest dead ball area reformed.

The clubrooms became more widely utilised by the community for larger social and business functions.

Tug-O-War team members travelled to Christchurch and won the Division 1 Lightweight title in the New Zealand Championships. They became the first United Pirates sports team to win a New Zealand title.



Te Puke Times
22 July 1992

Pirates take NZ champs by a “country mile”

United Pirates Tug-o-war team set out to show the rest of New Zealand that it wasn't to be taken lightly – and that's exactly what it achieved.

The lightweight men's team came home from the New Zealand championships the 1992 Division One Champion, beating its closest rival by an unpredicted 15 centimetres (six inches).

History would find it hard to show such a large winning margin in a national tug-o-war championship, but it certainly put a smile on the face of the six-person team (four men and two women).



1992 United Pirates Tug-O-War Team

Back: Malcolm Amrein, Tony Parkes, Grant Crowley, David Marshall, Graeme Holster, Maxine Amrein
Front: Warren Gore, Fiona Webb, Robb Webb, Wendy Scott, Len Browne (Patron)



Volleyball flourished as a club sport with sixteen social teams playing in a Thursday night league. Touch rugby became a popular activity with fourteen registered teams.

A milestone in the club's history occurred when a Special General Meeting on 22 April 1992 voted to change the name of the club to Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc. effective 1 November 1992.

Bay of Plenty Times

24 June 1992

Name change for Pirates

FOLLOWING a special general meeting this month the United Pirates Rugby Sports Club will undergo a name change to the Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club.

Club president John Dowling says that the effective resolution was passed by a large majority of attending members and the new name will be effective from November 2 of this year.

"The aims of the club, to foster rugby and any other sports and activities associated with the club remain unchanged as do the club's colours of black and gold," Dowling said.

He added that the reason for the change is to more readily identify with the Te Puke area and to promote the use of the club for other sports and activities.

The existing United Pirates Rugby Sports Club was formed by an amalgamation of the Old Boys and the Pirates clubs some 27 years ago and, over the years, Pirates have developed a fine record in Te Puke, Tauranga and Baywide rugby.

Pirates have won the Te Puke championship many times as well as being winners of the Tauranga-Te Puke competition in 1974, 1981, 1990 and again last season.

The netball teams of the club have been very strong in the Te Puke area for a number of years while tug-o-war teams have represented the club with distinction and currently hold several provincial and North Island titles.

Te Puke Times

24 June 1992

Pirates gives way to new future

A name change and a recent change of manager sees a new phase for the United Pirates Rugby Sports Club.

The name United Pirates officially died yesterday.

A unanimous decision at a special meeting of the club in April this year, changed the name of the club to Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club Incorporated, as of 1 November, 1992.

As United Pirates, the club had the traditional image of being solely a rugby

club. It is now extending its activities to include a wider variety of sports and is spreading its net across a far wider cross-section of the community.

Rugby will continue to be a major strength, but added to the activities is social volleyball, touch rugby, aerobics and circuit training and there is the intention to include basketball, netball and tennis in the future.

Amenities of stadium, equipment and sports grounds make the Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club a valuable asset to the community.

Last weekend was the official celebration of the name change and included a clash of old "heads" on the rugby field in the Golden Oldies' game.

Old scores may have been settled, but many an old yarn followed into the night as members past and present gathered at the bar.



The United Pirates Rugby Club was constituted in 1964 and for 29 years was the stronghold rugby club of Te Puke in respect to player and grade numbers as well as being the most successful side by way of senior team championship wins during that period.

Club stalwart for a period of some thirty seven years and Life Member since 1981, Frank Dowse aged 70 passed away on 30 March following a period of illness.

The following players were selected for the Bay of Plenty **whilst playing** for the club from 1965 to 1992.

Q.T. Quentin Tapsell	1965, 1967
N.M. (Max) Toy	1968
P.J. (Phil) Taylor	1969
K.C. (Kerry) Hanna	1975, 1977
N.M. (Neil) Paterson	1977
I.M. (Ian) McNaughton	1978
P.J. (Paul) Carter	1978
G.J. (Gordon) Dodds	1978
S.D. (Scott) Arroll	1979
J.M. (John) Cameron	1980 - 1984, 1988
A.A. (Alistair) Sutherland	1982 - 1984
D.S. (Jock) McCarroll	1982, 1983
C. (Craig) Ross	1983
G. (Graeme) James	1983, 1986 - 1988
A. (Artie) De Jagger	1983
K.M. (Kevin) Moseley	1986
P. (Paul) Fairweather	1989 - 1991
W. (Willie) Clarke	1990
A. (Andy) Miller	1991, 1992

United Pirates Rugby Sports Club Tie





The following players were selected for New Zealand **whilst playing** for the club during the same period.

Paul Fairweather	New Zealand Under 17's (Captain)	1986
Paul Fairweather	NZ Colts / Junior All Blacks	1990
Andy Miller	NZ Colts / Junior All Blacks	1992

1992 saw participation in many social activities including a weekend of celebration of the club's name change as well as touch rugby and volleyball.

Te Puke Times

1992



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

A Weekend to Celebrate The Change of Name to:

TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB INC

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30
MEMBERS DRAW \$500
\$200 MUST BE WON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
AN AFTERNOON OF ACTIVITIES INCLUDING

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY GAME
Featuring Past and Present members

NETBALL GAMES
Between Past/Present & Netball/Rugby

Followed by a BBQ, Spit and Hangi
with an evening of Entertainment

All past and present members welcome

For further information on the above
Contact Club Manager - Andrew Buchanan
Phone 573-7679 or John Cameron 533-3454



**UNITED PIRATES
RUGBY SPORTS
CLUB**

**It's finally here...
Social volleyball!**

Starts

**Thursday 10 September
at UP GYM, 6PM-10PM**

Minimum of six people per team
TEAM FEES \$125 FOR 14 WEEKS

*More information and registration forms
available from United Pirates and the
Information Centres, Te Puke and Maketu.*
ENTRIES CLOSE 28 AUGUST

**Heaps of fun...
Prizes to be won**

**UP social
touch rugby**

The draw for social touch rugby, 23 October, is as follows:
6pm, field 1: Armies Gang (ref) v Aristocrats (duty team); field 2: Coastal Disturbance (ref) v Young Guns; field 3: Shiny Tops (ref) v Cunning Stunts; field 4: Tug-o-war (ref) v Maheatataka.
6.45pm, field 1: Hobby-Hoys (ref) v NTFTC; field 2: Shotgun Blues (ref) v Untouchables.

**UP social
volleyball draw**

The draw for social volleyball, Thursday, 22 October, is as follows:
5.30pm, court 1: Bulleties v Unknowns; ct 2: 321 Pump v Sensation; duty team: The Dream Team.
6.30pm, court 1: Dream Team v Coastal Disturbance; ct 2: The Saints v Mel's Mob; duty team: unknown.
7.30pm, court 1: Lodgers Dodgers v B n D; ct 2: MJs v Bundy's Clan; duty team: Hobo's.
8.30pm, court 1: Hobo's v Moliti Crays; ct 2: Toughen Up v Rigormortis; duty team: Bundy's Clan.



Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc. - The years 1993 to 2014

1993 was the first full season in which the name Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club was actively introduced.

At the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 27 January, President John Dowling referred to the decision to change the name of the club. He stated that he was *"Sympathetic to those with a long association with United Pirates Rugby Sports Club"*.

As with previous name changes to the Club, the title Te Puke Sports & Recreation was seen to reflect the changing times. Gradually, over several years, club sporting activity had broadened. The name Te Puke Sports & Recreation was seen as being more aligned to the community and more conducive to attracting new codes and increasing membership of the club.

John Dowling further noted *"I sincerely believe that the change was essential for the club to survive and grow as other clubs around us struggle. The need to better identify with the Te Puke community and to expand the range of activities undertaken by the club will, I believe, ensure its future"*.

The rugby season commenced with the club hosting the Tala RFC from Cordoba, Argentina. A further visit by a party of 40 Arizona Wildcats players was hosted.

In late March the Bay of Plenty Times reported *"The formal start to the Baywide club rugby season on Saturday is notable for the passing of the erstwhile United Pirates RFC into Te Puke Sports"*.

With the senior team playing in the Baywide Premier Division, new coach Graeme James commented *"We've got a pretty tough start to the season, after Eastern Pirates we've got Ngongotaha, then Whakatane Marist"*.

The team struggled for results throughout the two round competition, finishing the competition with two draws and two wins; the last being a comprehensive defeat of Tauranga Sports 54 - 15, ensuring the team remained in the Premier Division for the 1994 season.

Bay of Plenty Times 4 July 1993

IF nothing much else goes the way of Te Puke Sports in this year's premier division of the Baywide club rugby championships then the team can satisfyingly hang their hats on yesterday's hard-earned 20-20 draw with competition front-runners Mount Maunganui.



The Baywide Premiership was won by Mt Maunganui defeating Whakatane Marist 16 - 8 at the Tauranga Domain.

The Tauranga - Te Puke Championship competition followed, played in two sections. Te Puke Sports qualified for the semi-finals defeating Te Puna in the final round to qualify for semi-finals. The following week they bowed out to Rangioru losing 27 - 3. The final was won by Mt Maunganui defeating Rangioru 32 - 5.

Te Puke Times
11 September 1993

Sports the top "Te" and in semi final

Te Puke Sports' senior rugby team travelled to Te Puna last weekend expecting a hard-fought game and got it.

Trailing 14-15 at half-

time Te Puke managed to run out winners 26-22. The win puts Te Puke Sports in the semi-final against Rangioru.

Te Puke Times
18 September 1993

Te Puke Sports Club senior rugby team finished its season in disappointing fashion on Sunday, losing to Rangioru for the first time in many years in what was a, Premier division championship semi-final game.

The JAB rugby section of the club flourished under strong management with approximately 180 junior players participating.



1993 Te Puke Sports 6th Grade

Back: M. Wells, S. Cram, N. Potaka, N. Parata, J. Tapsell, S. Pamment, B. Steele, M. Paton
Middle: G. Cotterill (Coach), L. Graham, P. Walter, R. Dixon, C. Sutherland, S. Robins, D. Farquhar, R. Flexman (Manager), J. Dowling (President)
Front: M. Bayliss, D. Jamieson, A. Wihapi, M. Clarkson (Captain), C. Flexman, R. Hansen, A. Watene



Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Senior A Team 1993

Back: T. Trott, M. Curran, M. McKenzie, J. Robertson, C. Gibbs

Middle: G. James (Coach), G. McNaughton, G. Hodgson, A. Stewart, W. Warbrick, J. Hingston (Assist. Manager)

Front: D. Bass, J. Wilkins, C. Jeffries, J. Cotter, P. Fairweather, R. Gibbs

Absent: D. Payton (Manager), A. Miller, R. Poihipi, S. Wilson, B. Baggott, R. West

Women's volleyball became an affiliated sport. In the coming years the team was to become an outstanding success. Based on results at national level, Te Puke Sports remains the most successful women's volleyball club team of all time.

The team was built around several core players who were ex Te Puke High School students. They developed a strong bond and adhered to a strategy that they described as "*serve hard, receive well, play fast and use strengths*". This formula combined with sponsorship that provided funding that allowed participation in a demanding national tournament proved highly successful. In ensuing years the team reached the national club finals twelve times, winning the national club title on nine of these occasions.



In the 1993 season Sasha Patete, Jeanette Haua, Sarah Harrison, Shelly Addison, Vanessa Weld and Cazna Ratana were selected for the New Zealand Women's volleyball team. They became the first women in the club's history to be selected for a national team. Sasha was also selected for the New Zealand under 19's. The team finished third in the National Club Championship.

During 1993 against a the backdrop of three successive rugby championships, growing membership and a generally high level of confidence, it was decided, that expansion of the clubrooms and associated changing facilities should be considered. The club had 515 members and was one of the few clubs in New Zealand with freehold assets, land and buildings.

In spite of the freehold status, the club's financial position was fragile and at a committee meeting the financial dilemma was discussed. A concerning downturn in trading revenue had been experienced and the committee was asked whether the club should, or could sustain a loan if required and if the proposed extensions should continue. After a unanimous 'yes' vote a Special General Meeting was held on 30 November. This meeting gave approval to proceed with extensions and to organise a full working and financial package.

Reflecting on a weak trading year John Dowling noted *"that extensions must be committed to despite the downward looking spiral. It is even more essential to look forward and take pride in this club and what it stands for."*

An approach to the club's bankers headed by John Cameron was received positively and resulted in the club being provided a building loan facility. Initial costing's indicated a tender price of \$154,000 plus furnishings of \$40,000.

A further major change was implemented when a sponsorship proposal was presented by the club to Murray Salt Contractors. The sponsorship took the form of exclusive naming rights in return for up to one-third of the cost of building extensions and improvements. The proposal was successfully negotiated between the two parties with the

Te Puke Times

11 September

17 November



**TE PUKE
SPORTS AND
RECREATION
CLUB**

TENDERS

for

PROPOSED EXTENSION

The Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club are now inviting tenders on the proposed extensions of their facilities on Atuaroa Avenue, Te Puke.

All interested parties should contact:

**PAGE HENDERSON
ARCHITECTS, OXFORD
STREET, TE PUKE**
for applications, plans and
information



**TE PUKE SPORTS
& RECREATION
CLUB**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL
GENERAL MEETING**
All members are invited to the Te Puke Sports Clubrooms on Tuesday 30 November 1993 to discuss the Clubs proposed extensions and financial approval thereof. The meeting will be at 7.30pm.



Atuaroa Avenue fields and gymnasium to be re-named **Murray Salt Contractors Te Puke Sports Stadium.**



Te Puke Times

1993

Big step forward for Te Puke Sports Club

Te Puke Sports Club is undergoing a major transformation with a \$190,000 extension project which will radically enhance its Atuaroa Avenue facilities.

The exciting initiative has been on the drawing boards for a few years but required an adequate funding base. Now work is well underway thanks to a New Zealand Lottery Grants Board

grant, and generous sponsorship from DB Breweries and Murray Salt Contractors.

Mr Dowling and vice-president John Cameron feel Murray Salt Contractors, deserve the highest praise as a local business making an outstanding contribution for the good of the community. Along with a very sizable cash sponsorship, Salts are also involved

in a lot of preparation work on the grounds.

The extensions are due to be completed by the end of February in time for the new rugby season. The existing lounge area will double in size and have the capacity to cater for 350 people.

As well as boasting a very impressive new look, the clubrooms will rate as one of Te Puke's very best function venues and the

facilities will be available for hire. A wedding has already been booked in.

The extensions also give the club an opportunity to build on its new image as the Te Puke Sports Club which has grown from the proud history of formerly being United Pirates. Both Messrs Dowling and Cameron point out that the club is no longer just a rugby club, it is a

sports club in the truest sense, being community based and orientated and covering as many activities as possible.

Te Puke Sports Club is now an umbrella for rugby, netball, power pulling (with club teams having two national titles) volleyball, touch and rugby and the club is open to any ideas if there is sufficient interest for any

other activities. The various sports tend to cover junior, senior and social groupings.

Club management are very proud of the fact that the facilities and grounds are 100% club owned. To ensure maximum usage of the bright new facilities, the club is organising to have all of its rugby on its own grounds this year.



Amongst many and varied fund raising initiatives held to support the Steve Bailey Trust, a weekend of entertainment was organised in October which included rugby, golf and racing. The highlight was the Classic All Blacks rugby fixture which attracted the participation of several previous All Blacks.

Te Puke Times
1 September 1993



**TEPUKE
SPORTS AND
RECREATION
CLUB**

Friday 3 September

*An evening of support for
STEVE BAILEY
and to wish him well for his
preliminary trip to the
Petrovski Centre in the USA*
Members draw at 7.30pm

\$500

**If not struck will
decrease to \$400, then
\$300 must be won**



**DB EXPORT
TOUCH RUGBY**

Te Puke Sports Stadium
Friday nights throughout the summer
Register your mixed social teams
now for an early October start
**Loads of prizes *loads of teams
loads of fun!

**CONTACT ANDREW 573-7679
OR JOHN 573-7493
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**



**SOCIAL
VOLLEYBALL**

**Starts early October
at Te Puke Sports Gym**
Wednesday and/or Thursday nights
For more details and registrations
**CONTACT ANDREW 573-7679 (work)
VANESSA 542-2136 (a/hrs)
KERRY 533-2045 (a/hrs)**

Bay of Plenty Times
29 September 1993

Classic All Blacks playing for Steve

Plenty of excitement, including Classic All Blacks action, is promised at the end of next week in aid of Te Puke's Steve Bailey.

The Steve Bailey Trust has organised a great weekend of entertainment including an indoor race meeting on the Friday, 8 October, five rugby games on Saturday, 9 October, and a golf day on Sunday 10, October.

Blake Park, Mt Maunganui is the venue of the Rothman's Classic All Blacks game against a Tauranga - Te Puke representative team.

The classics line-up is due to include such top names as Dave Loveridge, John Ashworth, Billy Bush, Robert Kururangi, A J Whetton, Andy Harden, Doug Rolleston and Mark Donaldson.

There is a great support card with a Tai Mitchell clash between Tauranga East and Te Puke; a McIntosh Shield (colts) encounter between Mt Maunganui and Ngongataha; Golden Oldies action involving Te Puke Sports and Mounties and the Tauranga and East Coast Bays development squads will also meet.

Admission for the big rugby day is very good value at \$6 for adults and children aged under 12 get in free.

After the games a social event will be held at the Mount Maunganui Rugby Squash Clubrooms. This will feature comedian Phil Kingsley Jones and an auction of rugby memorabilia such as Classic All Black gear and signed rugby balls.



TE PUKE
SPORTS AND
RECREATION
CLUB

An evening to honour
Friday 30 July

Te Puke Sports
Tug-O-War
NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS

at the clubrooms.

Come along to congratulate the
NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONS
of Te Puke sports

Plus Plus Plus
FRIDAY NIGHT MEMBERS
DRAW OF

\$500

If not struck the draw will decrease by
\$100.

\$200 must be won
DRAW WILL BE AT 7.30PM

Be there...!

Te Puke Times

21 July 1993

All power to Te Puke - Second NZ Title

Te Puke club is one of the most 'powerful' organisations in the country thanks to lots of extra pull.

The club boasts an exceptional record in the sport of power pulling (formally tug-o-war) which was cemented recently by two club teams winning national titles at Hamilton.

The men's lightweight team of skip Barry Wood-

ward, Rob Webb, Wendy Scott, Warren Gore, David Marshall and Grant Crowley win their second New Zealand title from Timaru's Dums United.

The club's lightweight team also won the title back to back in 1977-1978.

Winning the National Ladies Lightweight title for Te Puke were skip, Warren Gore, Rachel Liddall, Maxine Amrein, Fiona Webb, Wendy Scott

and Ange Hunter. Pine-lands from Kawerau were runners-up.

Te Puke Sports' men's heavy weight team were a valiant second in the semifinals, losing marginally to a much heavier (by 200 kg) team.

Team's mentor David Marshall says Te Puke has concentrated on good technique and team spirit to often overcome greater weight and strength.

Rothmans Classic
ALL BLACKS

v's

A BAY ENGINEERS TAURANGA/TE PUKE SELECTION
It's a great Cobb & Co Rugby Day

In support of the Steve Bailey Trust Fund

SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER

BLAKE PARK, MOUNT MAUNGANUI.

The Rothmans Classic All Black Team Includes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brad Johnstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Alan Whetton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billy Bush | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Shaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Ashworth | <input type="checkbox"/> John Spiers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jock Ross | <input type="checkbox"/> Lester Ruteledge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Andy Haden | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Sloane |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Middleton | <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Hemara |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Donaldson | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave Loveridge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Boe | <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Rollerson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Ford | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Kururangi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bruce Smith | <input type="checkbox"/> Bryce Robbins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robbie Deans | |

Make sure that you see these "greats" in action

KICK OFF 3PM

ADMISSION ONLY \$6 (Children under 12 free)

CURTAIN RAISERS

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 12.30pm TAI MITCHELL | TAURANGA EAST v TE PUKE |
| 12.30pm GOLDEN OLDIES | TE PUKE SPORTS v MT MAUNGANUI MOUNTIES |
| 1.30pm MCINTOSH SHIELD | MT MAUNGANUI v NGONGATAHA |
| 1.30pm TAURANGA SPORTS | DEVELOPMENT SQUAD v EAST COAST BAYS DEVELOPMENT SQUAD |

AFTER MATCH FUNCTION AT MOUNT CLUBROOMS INCLUDES

- Opportunity meet the Rothmans Classic All Blacks
- Auction of Rugby Memorabilia including Classic All Black rugby gear, signed rugby balls from Centennial Games etc.

Supporting Steve Bailey's Fundraiser *Bay of Plenty Times*



TE PUKE SPORTS AND
RECREATION CLUB
presents the

**Te Puke
Biathlon**

Sunday 7 February

2.5km run

20km bike ride

5km run

Venue: Te Puke Sports and Rec Club

Registration: 8.30am-9.30am

Race starts: 10am

MAJOR SPOT PRIZES

Mitazo Mountain Bike

Trip for two to Christchurch and many more

Sections:

Open men and women, junior men and women, veteran men and women, teams.

Sponsored by:

Atrill Cycles ● Ansett New Zealand ● Dominion Breweries ● Murray Salt Contracting ● Russell and Somers Travel ● 95 BOP FM ● Stationery House

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
CLUB MANAGER 573-7679



TE PUKE
SPORTS
NETBALL
Muster

For all prospective players
and coaches

Thursday 11 February - 6.30pm

At: Te Puke Intermediate School
Courts

and Tuesday 16 February -
6.30pm

At: Te Puke Sports & Recreation
Club Gym

Games will be followed by a social
gathering at the Te Puke Sports
Clubrooms to discuss trials and the future

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

For more information contact:
Wendy Carter 542-3370
Club Manager 573-7679

VOLLEYBALL

All those interested in competitive
volleyball contact Andrew 573 7679
or Vanessa 542 2136.

Mens and Women's Players required
Lets get Te Puke Volleyball on the map
Ring us now and register your interest
All new players, coaches & interested
parties welcome!



In **1994**, following on from the April 1992 decision to change in name of the club, the Annual General Meeting included discussion on a 'Notice of Motion' which read:

“That the club colours be changed to black, gold and red.”

The change was accepted and implemented with red stripes incorporated into the logo and on playing jerseys. The new design was conceptualised by long-term club member, player and coach Danny McGinity. The colour red was strategically incorporated to reflect the many years that the Te Puke Sub-Union team played with black and red striped jerseys. By 1994 the winding up of the Te Puke Sub-Union was the subject of significant discussion.

By popular club consensus, no change other than the addition of the red stripes to the club's 'Pirate' monogram and jerseys was considered appropriate.

At the first committee meeting of the year, club sentiment was only supported by a 7- 4 vote in favour of retaining the 'Pirate' monogram.

Murray Salt was elected a Life Member of the club.

1994 was the first year blazers were introduced, recognising the number of matches played for the club's Premier team.

A preseason rugby match was played against Burlington, a social team from Vermont USA.

The Wentworthville JAB visited during September.



Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club 1992 - 2014

The club season started with uncertainty with only 20 clubs entering the Baywide competition. The previous season 42 clubs had played in four divisions.



Bay of Plenty Times
29 March 1994

Only 20 clubs enter Baywide

THE Bay of Plenty Rugby Union's Baywide sub-committee were late this morning working on a draw for Saturday's opening series of games, involving only 20 clubs. Last year 42 clubs entered senior teams in the four divisions of Baywide but it is probable that some of those clubs will not, this season, be fielding a senior side in whatever competition the club links into — Baywide or Inter-Bay.

Bay of Plenty Times
6 April 1994

Te Puke win with strong last quarter

By Peter Reilly
SUPERIOR fitness expressed through sweeping attacks left and right through the last quarter of the game carried Te Puke Sports to a 16-10, first of the season, win over Kahukura in Baywide premier division club rugby action on Saturday.

The Baywide final was won by Eastern Pirates who defeated Whakatane Marist 15 - 10.

The Tauranga - Te Puke competition started erratically with the senior team defaulting to Katikati and then withdrew from the competition, ending a disappointing season for the club.

What followed was an up and down season, winning their final game against Greerton Marist 23 - 15 to retain their Baywide Premiership status.

The volleyball team won the New Zealand Volleyball Club Championship and in doing so became the first woman's team in the club's history to win a Division 1 National title. Five members of the team were selected for the New Zealand national side, Sasha Patete also for the under 19's.

Bay of Plenty Times
24 August 1994

Volleyball champions

Te Puke women's team won the New Zealand club volleyball championships at Christchurch on Saturday.

The Te Puke team, captained by Shelley Addison, really came on strong in the final against Christchurch's Pioneers after a tight first set to win 15-12, 15-6, 15-4. This followed a thrilling semi-final in which Te Puke ousted defending champions Smash with a 15-10 fifth set.

The big added bonus for Te Puke was the selection of five team members for a two test series against Australia on Monday and Tuesday nights at Tauranga and Rotorua respectively. New Zealand will also play in the Auckland based Oceana team starting on 1 September.

Te Puke's national team members are Jeanette Haua, Simone McLennan, Sasha Patete, Tamara Patete and Vanessa Weld.



1994 Te Puke Sports Volley Ball Team - National Club Champions

Back: Natalie Bird, Sarah Harrison, Jaala Nicholson, Simone McLennan, Tania Gray, Barbara Brown

Front: Suzanne Tilby, Tamara Patete, Vanessa Weld, Shelly Addison, Sasha Patete, Whetu Rolleston, Frances Patete

Absent: Jeanette Haua

Tug-O-War membership continued to increase. A number of social netball teams participated in a social competition. The committee was of a view that more competitive netball teams needed to be encouraged to join the club.

Preliminary work on clubrooms extensions had commenced in December 1993 and by January 1994 the extensions were well under way with a March 1994 completion date envisaged. Members were requested to provide volunteer labour. On 16 September the new extensions, which almost doubled the size of the existing facility, were opened by Tarawera's M.P. Max Bradford under the abbreviated title "Murray Salt Stadium." The opening took the form of a combined function that included the presentation of Life Membership to Murray Salt.

President John Dowling stated *"the honour is very well deserved and not only is it an acknowledgement of Murray's commitment to the club, but also that of Heather who has had a major input over the years"*.



Te Puke Times
29 March 1994

Plenty of Salt benefits club

The name of Murray Salt is an extra special one where the Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club is concerned and it was recognised as such last Friday.

Murray was presented with life membership of the club and it was announced at the opening of the

new extensions that the stadium and grounds are now to be known as Murray Salt Stadium.

In paying tribute to Murray's outstanding contribution over many years, club official John Cameron also focussed on the important involvement of Heather Salt.

Both have been previously honoured as most valuable club members of the year with Heather's work as treasurer for two years in particular being of great benefit in getting club finances together and improving membership records.





Bay of Plenty Times
September 1994

A community club for the times

The impressive Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club extensions were officially opened by Tarawera MP Max Bradford last Friday and it was a time to reflect on the great enhancement of an excellent community facility.

Club president John Dowling said the club has enjoyed the foresight of past presidents and committee members who recognised the need to place the club in a good position to approach the year 2000 and beyond with confidence.

Mr Dowling said a number of vital steps have been undertaken to ensure the future of the club is secure. This includes the addition of many other sporting activities to complement the traditional rugby base, including netball, volleyball, power pulling (tug'o'war), boxing and touch with other sports due to be added soon. Appointment of a full time manager was another important step, particularly in today's environment where a progressive multi-sports club needs to be run as a business.

A name change from United Pirates Rugby Sports Club better identified with the Te Puke area and has allowed the club to become more community orientated, Mr Dowling said. The extensions were the next step in the under-

In thanking all those who made the successful project a reality, Mr Dowling said that without Murray and Heather Salt's commitment, both financially as major sponsors and in practical ways, "we would not be here today" (opening the new extensions). He also expressed sincere appreciation to DB Breweries and the Lottery Grants Board as major sponsors, Trust Bank Bay of Plenty and its Te Puke branch manager Debbie Oakley for all their help, all other sponsors and supporters, club members and all those who worked so well in achieving an excellent result with the extensions.

Mr Dowling also singled out the contribution of club official John Cameron, commending his drive, commitment and enthusiasm.

"Few people could understand the energy that John has put into this project and I venture to say that without him it would not have taken place".

takings and were proceeded with only after a lot of "soul searching" due to the major finances involved. It was decided that to delay expansion would seriously compromise the future of a growing and go ahead club.



A very enjoyable official opening of spacious new extensions was held at Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club last Friday.



During October a Boxing tournament attracted 300 spectators. The tournament led to the sport becoming associated with the club for a period.

Te Puke Times

12 October 1994

Boxing first

What is believed to be a first for Te Puke, at least in living memory, takes place on Saturday evening with a boxing tournament being staged at the Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club. A very high standard of amateur boxing is expected at the event which will feature about 20 bouts, some involving New Zealand and regional champions. Boxers from Te Puke and Maketu will be starring on the night and special guests, in a non-competitive capacity, will include Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Kalelo Fauii and New Zealand representative Colin Hunia. The tournament will draw in boxers from throughout the North Island.

Dennis Keenleyside worked as a builder on the clubroom extensions. Following the completion of the extensions project Dennis has provided the club with maintenance services including alterations, additions and repairs.

For some 20 years Dennis has provided his time largely on an unpaid, voluntary basis.

The club has been very fortunate to have had Dennis available to undertake the many and varied maintenance services that are required by a club the size of Te Puke Sports.

The year ended on a tragic note on 14 December with the death of popular senior rugby winger **Colin Hingston** ('Hingy'), in a work related accident. He was described as a popular player, member and friend. His death had a profound effect on the club and Te Puke.

John Dowling stated that *"His loss will be felt within Te Puke Sports for a very long time"*

Colin had been a key player in the senior team and played in the 1991 and 1992 senior championship winning teams.





New Zealand Title to Rob Webb



Wendy Scott and Rob Webb are part of a powerful force in New Zealand. Here enjoying a fun tug, both are members of Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club's champion power pulling (tug'o'war) teams who continue to excel nationally and regionally. At the recent NZ individual power pulling championships Rob won the Under 65kg title and was second in the Iron man weight holding contest. Wendy was a very creditable second in the ladies under 55 kg final and placed third in the Iron Lady contest.

Rob Webb and Wendy Scott of Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club competed at the New Zealand Individual Power Pulling Championships last weekend in Kihikihi with great distinction.

Rob Webb won the New Zealand Under 65 kg title from Hayden Algra (Te Awamutu)

1994 was once again a very active year on the club's sports and social calendar.

Te Puke Times
1994



TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

SENIOR NETBALL MUSTER
Tuesday 15 February
at the Te Puke Sports Gymnasium
6.30pm

DRILLS & GAMES

- Become a part of a progressive sports club
- Individuals & Teams welcome
 - Social & Competitive Teams
 - Subsidised Netball Fees
 - Weekly Prizes
 - New Clubrooms
 - Local Sponsors
- Come along and brush up on your social & court skills*
- Contact Susan for more details 573 8129



TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

SENIOR NETBALL MEETING
Tuesday 1 February 7.30pm
at the Farside Cafe & Bar
*All interested players, coaches & managers
are invited from either social or
competition grades.*

For Further information contact:
Vicki 573 9658, Wendy 542 3370 or
Susan 573 8129

TE PUKE DUATHLON

Sunday 6 February
Mens, Ladies, Juniors, Veterans & Teams.
Prizes for each division + Major Spot Prizes

- Trip for 2 to Christchurch
- Milazo Mountain Bike

Contact:
Andrew 573 7679 for more details

RUGBY

Pre Season & 7's Training for all grades on
Mondays & Thursdays at 6pm.
Everyone welcome.
Te Puke Sports Stadium.

AGM

Thursday 27 January 7.30pm
At the Gymnasium.

All members & interested people may attend.



TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB

QUIZ NIGHT

Wednesday 31 August, 7.30pm
Six players per team @ \$36 per team.
Topic: General Knowledge.
Loads of fun & prizes to be won.
Enter your team on the night
or contact Andrew at 573 7679

MEMBERS DRAW

Friday 2 September
1st Draw: \$500 2nd Draw: \$150
You must be there between 7-8 to win.

SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL

Starts Wednesday 21 September

SOCIAL TOUCH RUGBY

Starts Friday 7 October
Watch this space for details or contact the
Manager, 573 7679 for more information.

OFFICIAL CLUB OPENING & PRESENTATION OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO MURRAY SALT

Friday 16 September
Evening formalities begin 7.30pm



John Dowling commented the Annual General Meeting 26 January **1995** that *“it is with great humility that I record the contribution made to this club by Murray and Heather Salt. They are absolutely outstanding supporters of firstly United Pirates and now Te Puke Sports and frankly, without Murray and Heathers help, and others like them, this club would struggle to survive”*.

John Dowling’s presidency challenged the status quo and brought about unprecedented change. His leadership during a period of significant development and expansion was acknowledged by many members. Doug Payton was elected President.

The commencement of the rugby season saw Tauranga clubs resolve by a 5 - 3 majority to withdraw from the Baywide competition. Te Puke Clubs also resolved to withdraw, with Te Puke Sports being the sole supporter of the Baywide concept.

Bay of Plenty Times

31 July 1995

By Peter Reilly

TAURANGA rugby clubs have opted out of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union’s Baywide competitions for the 1995 season.

The annual general meeting of the Te Puke sub-union had, in fact, been held the previous evening at which the expressed preference of clubs was three to one against Bay-

wide and in favour of combined Tauranga-Te Puke competitions.

The Te Puke clubs favouring Baywide withdrawal were Rangioru, Eastern Districts and Papamoa leaving Te Puke Sports as the sole supporter of the Baywide concept.

The Western Bay of Plenty competition commenced with an 84 - 3 demolition of Eastern Districts, and the round-robin finishing with the senior team qualifying for the semi-finals after defaulting their final round game against Tauranga Sports. Both teams finished on equal competition points following the default. They defeated Rangioru 22 - 16 in one semi-final and the forwards paved the way to a victory over Mt Maunganui in the final 28 - 10.

In June the club hosted a visit from Nashville Rugby Club and in September an Under 15 Wentworthville Tigers JAB side.

Bay of Plenty Times

31 July 1995

By Kevin Savage

A MUTUAL default has had the effect of pitting Tauranga Sports against Mount Maunganui, and Te Puke Sports against Rangioru in the Tauranga Te Puke senior rugby semifinals on Sunday.

Yesterday, the only unbeaten team Te Puke were due to play Tauranga — a replay of the game previously called off when Tauranga flanker Dion Seeling was severely injured.

Late on Saturday, the Te Puke coach Brett Wilson made the decision to default his team.

“Neither team wanted to play,” Wilson said. “One of us had to default. So I said that we’d default. The players couldn’t see the point of the game.”



Bay of Plenty Times
1 & 4 August 1995

Rugby

Te Puke Sports players are continuing to win recognition wider afield..

Rameka Poihipi and Justin Robertson have been selected for the Bay Colts squad while Ross Pamment, Duncan Jameison and Tony Dowling have won selection for the Bay

Under 19s.

At primary level Te Puke did very well to finish third at the recent annual Tai Mitchell tournament at Kawerau. Akuhata Watson, Richard Wallace and Jacob Kennedy really excelled to be selected for the Bay of Plenty Roller Mills team.

By Kevin Savage

Rugby halfback Rameka Poihipi is said by his coach to be "our best loose forward and best back"

Te Puke Sports coach Brett Wilson goes further: "Rameka's got the potential to go a long way.

"In fact we are looking around for a union to take him and give him provincial representative play."

Scores:

Senior A semifinals: Te Puke Sports 22 (G McNaughton, M McKenzie, tries; McKenzie, 4 pen), Rangioru 16 P Moko, try; B Wharearere, con, 3 pen), HT, Rangioru 13-8.

Mount Maunganui 31 (R McDonald 2, T Jennings, D Leef, T Pike, tries; C Smale, 3 con), Tauranga Sports 28 (A Fraser, M Cross, R Woller, tries; G Jackson, 2 con, 3 pen), HT, Mount 12-6.



1995 Te Puke Sports Senior A Team - Winners Tauranga - Te Puke Competition

Back: P. Hughes (Assist. Coach), B. Wilson (Coach), J. McKeown, K. Hinaki, P. Koce, T. Dowling, P. Smith, T. Robertson (Assist. Manager)

Third: D. Payton (President), A. Horscroft, B. Baggott, G. McNaughton, A. Stewart, A. Miller, E. Carter (Manager)

Second: R. Poihipi, J. Robertson, J. Wilkins (Captain), C. Jeffries, S. Wilson, W. Reid

Front: Ball Boys - B. Saunders, B. Davies, B. Bayliss, M. Burt

Absent: M. Jepsen, M. McKenzie, J. Keenleyside, A. Bean



Bay of Plenty Times
21 August 1995

Forwards pave Te Puke's path

By Peter Reilly
A SPLENDIDLY sustained forward effort eventually broke the back of a brave Mount Maunganui defence to secure the Te Puke Sports senior team a fourth Tauranga-Te Puke title in six years on club finals day at the Tauranga Domain on Saturday.

Through the last 10 minutes of the finale to this year's Stars Travel-sponsored competitions Te Puke ran rampant to advance their tenuous 13-10 lead into the wind to

a 28-10 triumph with only an unforced forward pass right at the death denying robust flanker Bob Baggott a runaway try.

Te Puke's near dominance of the senior field in recent seasons started in 1990 and continued in 1991 and '92 when the final against Mount was drawn 15-15. The side of 1993 was beaten in the semifinals and the club was not represented in the grade last season. In-

Club president Doug Payton,

whose playing and administrative involvement spans nearly 40 years in the Manawatu then Counties unions before his shift to the Bay of Plenty reckoned he'd never witnessed a more animated dressing room after any championship victory anywhere, anytime.

And wearing the broadest smile of all was man-of-the-match half-back Rameka Poihipi whose personal contribution to the win had been immense.

Brett Wilson created a club record in achieving three Tauranga - Te Puke Championship wins as Coach - 1992, 1993 and 1995.

The A netball team went through the season unbeaten to top the Premier division. Current winners of the Bay of Plenty Premier Netball League joined the club as Seeka Te Puke Sports.

The volleyball team retained the prestigious title of New Zealand Club Champions. They won the Bay of Plenty Top Sports Team Award. Five members of the women's volleyball team were named in the New Zealand volleyball side to tour Thailand. Vanessa Weld, Tamara and Sasha Patete, Simone McLennan and Sarah Harrison were selected for the National side. Sasha Patete and Chervonne Tana were selected for the New Zealand Under 21 team.

In a humorous toast to women in sport at the annual prize giving function on 6 October, Simone McLennan commented "If we were rugby players we would be All Blacks".

Bay of Plenty Times
21 June 1995

Famous five in volleyball

Five members of the championship winning Contemporary Classics Te Puke Sports Volleyball team have been selected for the NZ senior team to play in the Asian Games. These are

being held in Thailand this September.

The players are Simone McLennan, Vanessa Weld, Sasha Patete, Tamara Patete and Sarah Harrison.



Other events and activities in 1995 included the following.

<p><i>Te Puke Times</i> 1995</p> <p>TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB</p>  <p>1995 "DANBAND" CHALLENGE NZ KIWIFRUIT PACKHOUSE STRAPPING COMPETITION Friday, June 23, 1995 6.30PM Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club Aturoa Avenue, Te Puke</p> <p>STRAPPING EVENTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Danband Challenge - teams event 2. One person strapping two pallets 3. Packhouse Manager strapping one pallet <p>Entry \$10.00 per team (Refundable on the night)</p> <p>Monies and entries can be sent to Tauranga Packaging branches in Te Puke and Katikati by Thursday, June 22, 1995.</p> <p>For entry forms and further information contact Bill Ellerington (07) 578-0442.</p>	<p>TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB</p>  <p>FRIDAY 19 MAY 1995 "VOLLEYBALL" Free Admission 7.00pm Contemporary Classics Te Puke Sports A v Tauranga A <i>Support our NZ Representatives: Sasha & Chervon.</i></p> <p>SATURDAY 20 MAY 1995 KIWI COAST "TUG OF WAR" COMPETITION Teams North Island wide competing. 12.00 noon</p> <p>"RUGBY" <i>Supported by Murray Salt Contractors</i> 1.00pm Colts v Waikite Senior Reserves v Tauranga Sports 2.30pm Senior A v Tauranga Sports</p> <p>"SOCIAL" 9.00pm \$5.00 Admission Te Puke Sports Colts team will have available a taxi service \$5.00-\$10.00 SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TEAMS THIS WEEKEND</p>	<p>Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club</p>  <p>Cavanagh Group Touch Rugby commencing Friday, 13 October 1995 \$100.00 entry fee <i>Mixed teams only</i> NEW - over 30's section Registrations close 01 October 1995 Available from Te Puke Sports & Rec Club or Te Puke Information Centre</p>
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On 26 January **1996** a Special General Meeting, changes to club rules and management structures were confirmed. These changes had, amongst other criteria, the effect of creating a management committee with reduced numbers and the power to appoint a Club Manager and to delegate powers including to specific sub- committees of different sports codes.

In his report to the Annual General Meeting in February 1996, President Doug Payton noted that 1995 had been a year of transition. He stated that *"The club is changing... over the last two to three years tremendous changes have taken place... the club's name, (along with) big alterations to the clubrooms not to mention a change in management system... 'A Think Tank' meeting in November produced some excellent ideas and made more people aware of the clubs financial position... The overruns on the building costs and not being able to attain our proposed budget have created a huge strain on our financial resources... Unlike other clubs we do not (at this stage) attract substantial help and subsidies from areas of public interest..."* (abridged)



Doug finished by acknowledging the hardworking, unsung and unnamed people that worked hard for the club behind the scene and paid tribute to the clubs major sponsors.

The club again played in a Western Bay Rugby Competition with the seniors qualifying for the top 6 and winning the 1st round of that competition against Katikati 30 - 26.

Bay of Plenty Times
10 June 1996

Te Puke bank on McKenzie

DEFENDING Tauranga-Te Puke club rugby champions Te Puke Sports were heavily indebted to the kicking skills of second five Mike McKenzie when defeating Katikati at Moore Park on Saturday.

Te Puke kicked off the Western Bay of Plenty senior championship rounds by leading Katikati 6-5 at halftime then 30-26 at the finish.

Te Puke Times
24 July 1996



Te Puke Sports are soaring high as current leaders in the Western BOP senior rugby championship playoffs and a 17-10 win against Rangioru. The action here is from their previous winning game at home against Katikati last weekend secured them

Bay of Plenty Times
17 July 1996



Saturday's local derby rugby clash between Rangioru (left) and Te Puke Sports proved to be an entertaining match. Te Puke Sports came out convincing winners against a very gallant neighbour and cemented top of the ladder status in the Western BOP senior rugby championship top six playoffs.

Bay of Plenty Times
19 August 1996

Scoring burst just falls short of win

By Kelly Exelby

A LATE rally by Rangioru wasn't enough to snatch a win against Te Puke Sports during the final round of Western Bay of Plenty club rugby yesterday

Rangioru dotted down twice in the fi-

nal 15 minutes in the Te Puke local derby at Jamieson Oval but their run came too late, with Te Puke Sports winning 21-17.



In early August the seniors were front runners in the championship and in the final match of the round defeated Rangioru 21-17 to qualify for the semi-finals.

They defeated Mt Maunganui in the semis 36-5 only to lose the Grand Final against Tauranga Sports at the Domain 32-3.

Te Puke Times
28 August 1996

Te Puke Sports defending title

Defending champions Te Puke Sports seniors have made another Western Bay rugby final after routing the Mount at Jamieson Oval 36-5 last weekend.

A fired up local side soon had points on the score board and lead 19-5 at half-time.

After an early McKenzie penalty Paul Fairweather finished off some good counter attack to

score wide out. Prop Andy Horscroft dived over from a quick lineout and with Mike McKenzie kicking two more penalties to a soft Mount try things looked good at half-time.

After half-time quick ruck ball allowed Justin Robertson a corner try. Then the backs put it through the line for Robertson to put full-back McKeoun in at the corner.

Just before full-

time outstanding halfback Rameka Poihipi secured quick ruck ball to score the fifth try. It was the team's best win this season. The forwards played really above them selves and the backs put it together to score some great team tries. Excellent games came from Hinaki, Donald and Horscroft the front row locks Bean and Stewart with great defence from Fairweather and Kenny

and a good debut this season for Ross Pamment.

The backs Poihipi, Dowling, McKenzie, Robertson, the two Bass boys and full-back McKeown played as a unit and will be hoping to do the same this weekend.

The final is against Tauranga Sports at the Tauranga Domain on Saturday. Te Puke will want heaps of local support and will have supporters

buses. With the 21 game unbeaten Te Puke Sports Reserves in the curtain raiser final it is going to be a great occasion.

"So get there you locals because Tauranga Sports will have plenty of fans. But with Te Puke's good finals record it's a game not to be missed", says the team scribe.

Bay of Plenty Times
26 August 1996

Best sides make final

By Kevin Savage

LAST Saturday's semifinals proved conclusively that the two right teams made the final of the Western Bay of Plenty senior club rugby championship.

Te Puke Sports and Tauranga Sports will meet this Saturday in the feature

match of the finals day at the Tauranga Domain.

Te Puke beat a toothless Mount Maunganui 36-5 at Jamieson Oval, with even that score not showing the true gap between the two teams.

Te Puke Times
2 September 1996

Tauranga Sports picked up their first Western Bay of Plenty senior club rugby championship since the formation of the club in 1989 with a 32-3 win over defending champions Te Puke Sports at the Tauranga Domain on Saturday.

While the gap on the scoreboard might have been better described as a chasm, the difference in the two teams wasn't nearly as wide.

It took three fine Tauranga Sports backline tries in the last quarter to finally break a gallant Te Puke Sports side who, despite few first-half opportunities, refused to toss in the towel.

As more than one spectator remarked halfway through the second spell, it was real finals rugby just waiting to explode.



1996 Te Puke Sports Senior B - 'The Unbeatables' - Won 22 games and drew final against Tauranga Sports

Back: C. Gibbs, G. Carter, D. Bass, J. McIntosh, C. Morgan, I. Brouwers, K. Hinaki, M. Ratana, E. Wynyard (Manager)
 Middle: N. Tristram (Coach), S. Williams, B. Bass, C. Jeffries, G. McNaughton, I. McNaughton, M. Curran, C. Kerr, M. Goss, M. Salt (Sponsor)
 Front: S. Dowling, M. Edwards, R. Lempriere, G. James, W. Warbrick, R. Williams, M. Williams

After almost eighty-five years of existence, the Te Puke Sub-Union, formed in 1911, was wound up and combined with the Tauranga Sub-Union to create the Western Bay of Plenty Rugby Football Sub-Union.

The women's volleyball team won the Northern Zone club competition narrowly losing the New Zealand Club Championship. Tamara and Sasha Patete were selected for the New Zealand side and Marnie Grant and Joanne Leach won selection in the New Zealand Under 19 team. The team won Bay of Plenty Sports Awards for the most outstanding team in the region.

Te Puke Times
 19 August 1996

Te Puke's top team does it again!

Te Puke Volleyball Team retained the title of "Best Team" at the recent BOP Sports Awards dinner in Rotorua.

Te Puke successfully held the national title again for 1995 without a single loss through the season. They also had five members

named in the NZ Women's team which travelled to Thailand for the Asian Championship.

This latest recognition proves the strength and talent of this Te Puke team. Special recognition must be paid to Captain/Coach,

Shelley Addison whose vast knowledge and understanding of the game is invaluable.

With the 1996 season about to get underway, Te Puke Volleyball are looking forward to completing a hat-trick of national titles, and perhaps BOP Team Awards too!



Te Puke Times
7 August 1996

TE PUKE SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB



SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, 12 August 1996, 7.30pm
Murray Salt Stadium

All members are urged to attend this meeting to discuss the short and long term future of Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club. This may also include possible asset disposal. *All interested parties are urged to attend this meeting.*

Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club



We invite the public to hear our own

"SHELLEY ADDISON"

(Manager Beach Volleyball)

Speak on her experience at

"ATLANTA"

Murray Salt Stadium
Wednesday, 21 August 1996, 8.00pm

Doug Payton commented in his report to the **1997** Annual General Meeting on the 30 January that "1996 will go down in history as a year of frustrationwe seem to have spent the whole time running to stand still....two Special Meetings were held to address the financial crisis which is a direct result of huge building extension overruns. We are negotiating with Western Bay of Plenty District Council to purchase all or some of our land; unfortunately the wheels of progress turn slowly...."(abridged)

Despite the financial pressures which led to serious discussion regarding the strategic sale of club land, Doug was able to provide the meeting with many positives for the season with up-grades and improvements to facilities with grounds and clubrooms maintained in excellent order.

Ashley Peat was elected President in January 1997.

By mid May the senior rugby team were second to Tauranga Sports in the 1st round of the Western Bay Senior A competition and by the end of the round had qualified for the Baywide Championship.



Bay of Plenty Times
26 May 1997

Not only did the inclement weather ruin any hope of a spectacle between Te Puke Sports and Greerton Marist at Trust Bank Stadium on Saturday but the soap-like state of the football made trying to play rugby a fairly luckless task too.

With most of the several hundred spectators tucked warmly upstairs watching the big game of the afternoon, Te Puke Sports set about battling persistent drizzle and a determined Marist forward pack, turning a 3-all halftime scoreline into a 15-6 win in the final game of Western Bay of Plenty club rugby's first round.

Bay of Plenty Times
27 May 1997

POINTS TABLES RUGBY

WESTERN BAY SENIOR A.

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PTS
Te Puke Sports	8	6	0	2	6	238	127	30
Mt Maunganui	8	6	0	2	5	238	133	29
Tauranga Sports	8	5	0	3	6	304	164	26
Rangioru	8	5	0	3	5	253	149	25
Rangataua	8	5	1	2	3	187	132	25
Judea	8	4	0	4	3	153	216	19
Arataki	8	2	0	6	2	112	328	10
Greerton	8	1	1	6	3	125	227	9
Te Puna	8	1	0	7	3	101	258	7

In the Baywide competition the team won their 2nd round match against Whakatane Marist 17 - 6, then succumbed to the Mount the following week 23 - 15. By the end of the Premiership round they failed to qualify for the semi-finals finishing in the bottom half of the points table.

Bay of Plenty Times
9 June 1997

Te Puke stand tall

After a glut of tries both in club rugby and in the bigger stuff shown on the box so far this season, a one-try slog in which had Te Puke Sports battled to a 17-6 victory over Eastern Bay of Plenty champions Whakatane Marist at Murray Salt Stadium on Saturday could, to the uninitiated, seem dull.

Wrong.

If this clash was any indication of the type of intensity that is going to be seen in the re-launched Bay of Plenty club championship, then

this is one spectator that wants plenty more of it.

Te Puke Sports' gutsy home win on Saturday, where they had to weather a torrid second-half Marist storm, showed just what a team can achieve with a bit of skill and a whole lot of ticker.

Te Puke's win was the only bright spot in an otherwise cloudy day for Western Bay of Plenty teams in the opening round of the united club competition.

Bay of Plenty Times
22 July 1997

POINTS TABLES RUGBY

BAY PREMIER (Final)

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	PTS
Kahukura	7	6	0	1	7	229	76	31
Ngongotaha	7	6	0	1	5	323	128	29
Tauranga Sports	7	4	0	3	7	222	164	23
Mount	7	4	0	3	4	133	166	20
Waikite	7	4	0	3	2	124	163	18
Te Puke	7	3	0	4	2	155	232	14
Whakatane	7	1	0	6	3	98	171	7
Kawerau	7	0	0	7	2	99	283	2

The final was contested by Ngongotaha and Mt Maunganui.

Following the Baywide the Western Bay Championship continued with Rangataua defeating Te Puke Sports 29 - 10 in the first game.

Rangataua then went on to defeat Rangioru in the final 28 - 12.



The Arizona Wildcats made their 4th visit to the club in August having previously visited in 1983, 1987 and 1993.

Touch rugby continued as a popular sport with a strong following.

Bay of Plenty Times
5 February 1997

Clash of the clubs in touch soon

By Alana Tierney
An inaugural club clash between Te Puke's top touch-rugby teams may kick off next month.

The idea of a play-

off between six teams – two from each of Te Puke's three sport clubs – at the Jamieson Oval on March 1, was well-received by local touch co-ordinators.

Te Puke Sports, Rangioru and Eastern Districts members have all expressed interest in the first ever mass play-off to decide Te Puke's touch-rugby vic-

tor.

Te Puke Sports touch co-ordinator Willy Warbrick said it was a shame the idea had not been instigated before.

He said a club

clash was a talking point for many in Te Puke and offered two of six promising Te Puke Sport's teams for the challenge.

The volleyball team was defeated in the New Zealand club finals. Sasha Patete, Vanessa Weld and Marnie Grant were selected for the New Zealand team.

In his Annual Report of 4 February **1998** Ash Peat reported that members can feel proud of progress made in turning around the extremely tight financial position of the club. He mentioned that owing to financial constraints it was no longer viable to employ a club administrator. Ash noted that the highest priority for the 1998 year must be to up-grade the field lights to an acceptable standard for night rugby to be played, but that the huge cost associated with new lights had put any up-grade on the back-burner. He added that final tidying up of the gymnasium was required to provide an opportunity for provincial and international games such as volleyball to be played.

Ash announced **“that the club had decided not to negotiate the sale of club property with the Western Bay of Plenty District Council.”**

With Paul Fairweather and Rodney Gibbs as coaches, the rugby season commenced with three losses in the Western Bay competition against Greerton, Rangataua and Tauranga Sports, and at the end of the first round finished in the lower half of the six team Blue section of the competition and failed to qualify for the Baywide competition with Mt Maunganui, Tauranga Sports, Arataki and Rangioru being the Western Bay representatives.



The Baywide final was won by Ngongotaha defeating Waikite 15 - 9.

Playing in the Western Bay Championship, by mid August the seniors only lost a further three games and qualified for the competition semi-finals.

After a comprehensive defeat of the Mount by 42 - 7 in the quarter finals they beat Rangataua 15 - 10 in the semis only to lose the final to Tauranga Sports 14 - 18 at the Tauranga Domain.

Bay of Plenty Times
22 August 1998

Te Puke tear Mount into small pieces

By Ian Hepenstall

WHEN Mount Maunganui rugby team officials used up their last roll of strapping tape and filled in the last page of the team sheets, they wondered if it was a premonition.

Less than two hours later Mount Maunganui's season was over, left in tatters by a rampant Te Puke Sports lineup who ran in six tries in a 42-7 victory at Blake Park in the quarterfinals of the Western Bay of Plenty senior competition.

A Te Puke win always looked the outcome at Blake Park where the visitors had a much clearer game plan, went forward more regularly and with more purpose and had the definite edge in the backs.

Bay of Plenty Times
31 August 1998

The clash between aggressive protagonists Rangataua and Te Puke Sports promised much.

The expected tight battle resulted, with Craig Flexman's sneaky try eight minutes from fulltime breaking the deadlock for Te Puke to advance 15-10.

But the quality of the encounter did not quite meet the expectation, both sides cancelling each other out.

The result was a willing but messy forward confrontation - and further evidence that the current tackle ball legislation is as workable as MMP.

Bay of Plenty Times
5 September 1998

CLUB RUGBY

By Ian Hepenstall

COME-WHAT-MAY Te Puke Sports rugby stalwarts Paul Fairweather and Rodney Gibbs will finish their brief coaching careers tomorrow.

The pair, who stepped into the breach when no coaches could be found this season, have guided the Te Puke side from meagre beginnings to the final of the Western Bay of Plenty championship.

They take on Tauranga Sports in a repeat of the 1996 final at Tauranga Domain, after ousting defending champions Rangataua last weekend.

Both Fairweather and Gibbs have decided they want to concentrate on playing again next season but believe they will leave the club in good heart for a new coach.

Te Puke finished second to bottom in the first round competition, considered too poor to qualify for the Baywide.



1998 Te Puke Sports Seniors

Back: B. Bass, A. Horscroft, G. Donald, J. Anderson, T. Dowling, K. Ngaropo

Middle: R. Flexman (Manager), T. Robertson (Manager), P. Fairweather (Coach), A. Stewart, L. Marsh, J. Cotter, J. Winters, A. Peat (President)

Front: K. Hinaki, R. Gibbs (Coach), T. Rasmussen, J. McKeown (Captain), J. Robertson, C. Flexman, R. Poihipi

Absent: J. Keenleyside, B. Honey, B. Kiddle, K. McGinity



Lost the final to Tauranga Sports, however the team's sense of humour was retained.



The reserve team won the local championship final with a 30 point win over Tauranga Sports.

The New Zealand Men's Lightweight Tug-O-War Championship was won for the second time confirming Te Puke Sports as the strongest Tug-O-War club in the country.

The volleyball team recaptured the New Zealand Club Championship title. Sasha Patete and Marnie Grant were selected for the New Zealand team; Marnie also for the New Zealand junior women's team.

The Daily Post
20 July 1998

Te Puke achieve epic volleyball victory

By David Hulme

After playing bridesmaid for two years the Te Puke women's volleyball side finally claimed the top prize at the National Club Championships at the Rotorua Sportsdrome on Saturday.

For Te Puke this was justice when they took the decisive point in the 18-16 rally point set. Last year, the situation was similar in the final except they were on the wrong end of a 16-14 result.

This match was arguably the finest match at a national tournament brimming with top games as Te Puke took the title from defending champions Pioneer of Christchurch — 6-15, 15-11, 15-10, 8-15, 18-16.

It was an exceptional performance from the Baypak Te Puke side consider-

ing their semi-final against Norths had also gone to five sets and not finished until well after midnight the day before — giving them less than 16 and a half hours break before the final.

Coach Shelley Addison was thrilled with the performance of her team. Addison said. "It was a good all round team performance."

Middle hitter Marnie Grant agreed, saying Saturday's performance left the best feeling for her since she began playing for Te Puke three year ago.

"This is really exciting. This is my highlight in this team," the New Zealand representative said.

Club member and President of the Te Puke Sub-Union from 1983 - 1990 Gordon Schultz passed away. Ash Peat noted at the Annual General meeting "that it is



with sadness that I mention the passing of one of the great gentlemen of Te Puke rugby. He will be sadly missed around the rugby circles of Te Puke."

In the **1999** season, after two successive victories Tauranga Sports, Rangiuuru, Te Puke Sports and Mt Maunganui had emerged as frontrunners in the Western Bay Rugby Championship. After a draw against Rangiuuru, Te Puke Sports ran up some high scoring victories to win the 1st round and be the top qualifier for the Baywide competition.

Te Puke Times
22 May 1999

Te Puke Sports

Western Bay of Plenty's top qualifiers would rate as the side most likely to push for a finals berth among the four contenders from the Baywide's northern reaches.

Coaches Scott Cameron and Kerry Murphy are carrying a huge squad, evidenced by the fact former New Zealand colt and long-serving Bay of Plenty flanker Paul

Fairweather, still playing good rugby, can only get a start off the bench.

Te Puke are the most well-rounded of the four Western Bay qualifiers and lost just once, to Rangataua, during the first round of the competition, averaging 40 points a game and achieving the best defensive record.

Te Puke Sports kick-started their campaign with a 39-10 thumping of Rotorua side Rotoiti after leading 17-0 at the break, with all five of their tries shared right across the backline, with first-five Rodney Gibbs celebrating his 30th birthday with 19 points.



A victory over Rotoiti in the 1st round of the Baywide competition was followed two weeks later with the only loss in the qualifying round to Ngongotaha, finishing in top position on the points table and qualifying for the Baywide final for the first time.

Te Puke Times
2 June 1999

Sports on top again

Te Puke Sports rugby seniors continued their outstanding form this season with a 30-19 win over a spirited Te Teko side last Saturday in the Baywide Premier Competition. Try scorers were Rameka Poihipi (two), Brendan Bass and Tony Dowling. Mike McKenzie kicked two conversions and two penalties. Terry McGinity was named player of the day.

Te Puke Times
23 June 1999

Te Puke Sports' best win

Te Puke Sports senior rugby team had their best win of the season to date on Saturday, scoring 41 to 5 against Kawerau in the Baywide Premier Competition. They lead 17-nil at half time. Tries were scored by Paul Fairweather (2), Tony Dowling, Jared

McKeown, Paul Latimer and Daryl Dixon. Rodney Gibbs kicked four conversions and one penalty. Paul Latimer was named player of the day. This Saturday Te Puke Sports travel to Waikite. Te Puke Sports Reserves won the second division compe-

tion by defeating Greerton 45-nil. Try scorers were Ritchie Williams (2), Glen Johnson, Terry Taumata, Andrew Horsecroft, Willie Reid and Paul Kenny. Des Bass kicked four conversions and Glen Johnson also put one over.

Bay of Plenty Times
24 July 1999

Points table

BAYWIDE PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	B	PF	PA	Pt
Te Puke Sports	10	9	0	1	6	255	104	42
Tauranga Sports	10	8	0	2	8	323	142	40
Ngongotaha	10	8	0	2	6	362	163	38
Waikite	10	6	1	3	4	194	109	30
Whakarewarewa	10	6	1	3	2	216	145	28
Whakatane Marist	10	5	1	4	1	156	202	23
Rotoiti	10	5	0	5	0	167	218	22
Te Teko	10	4	0	6	5	196	206	21
Rangataua	10	3	0	7	6	173	175	20
Taneatua	10	2	1	7	3	148	317	13
Mt Maunganui	10	1	0	9	2	96	282	6
Kawerau Sports	10	1	0	9	1	129	332	5

Bay of Plenty Times
31 July 1999

By Kelly Exelby

THE coaches of both Baywide premier grade club finalists have promised vintage rugby at Tauranga Domain tomorrow — but neither can guarantee it will be the champagne variety.

Finals rugby can have a strange effect on teams and, while Tauranga and Te Puke Sports coaches Craig Sandlant and Scott Cameron hope their players turn on a spectacle, they're certain the game will be won or lost in defence.

"It's a big occasion for us because this is a first for any Te Puke team to make the Baywide final and I think we're going to see a superb game between two teams who've been close all season," Cameron said.

The team was unable to hold their qualifying round form in the final against Tauranga Sports and were defeated 18 - 11.

Three weeks later they were defeated 6 - 7 by Rangataua in the Western Bay final.



1999 Te Puke Sports Senior A - Runners Up Baywide Championship, Runners Up Western Bay Championship
 Back: T. Robertson (Manager), M. McKenzie, G. McNaughton, J. Winters, P. Fairweather, R. Baxter, D. Dixon, R. Poihipi, K. Ngaropo, K. Murphy (Coach) Third: D. McGinity (Rugby Co-ordinator), S. Cameron (Coach), P. Latimer, R. Pamment, K. Greig, K. McGinity, V. Cotter, T. Dowling, A. Peat (President), R. Flexman (Manager) Second: H. Moore, B. Honey, J. Keenleyside, J. McKeown (Captain), K. Hinaki, J. Cotter, R. Gibbs Front: C. Flexman, T. Rassmussen, J. Robertson, S. Taylor Absent: B. Kiddle

During the year the club had 230 registered JAB players and 29 teams entered the clubs touch-ruby competition.

In his review of 1999 Ash Peat said of the JAB that "if the senior side had a great year then I can't think of strong enough words to describe the JAB season; totally remarkable is an understatement with 3 of 5 sides winning their championships and the other two in semi-finals. He went on to say these successes didn't happen by accident but because the club had structures in place to provide top level coaching, top facilities and top-class management of teams".

The 1999 Senior Reserves, were winners who never played the final because they were so far ahead on points that the trophies were just delivered to them at the club at the end of the season. (team photo next page)

Te Puke Times

20 October 1999

Top JAB season

Te Puke Sports Club JAB finished the 1999 rugby season on a high note. One hundred boys from 15th to 9th grade travelled to Hamilton to play Fraser Tech Rugby Club. Te Puke Sports won six games, drew one and lost two, coming home with another trophy. This just adds to amazing achievements by the boys overall this last season with the 10th, 9th and 7th grades winning Western Bay finals. Club JAB official Warren Taylor has extended thanks to the sponsors of JAB this season plus special thanks to coaches "who have done an amazing job this year. Well done to the boys who played this year. I look forward to seeing you back in 2000."



**1999 Te Puke Sports Senior Reserves
Western Bay of Plenty Champions**

The Champions who did not have to play a final as they were so far ahead on points the trophy was delivered to the club.

Back: D. Winchester, M. Le Prou, B. James, A. Williams, G. Johnson, D. Macfie, B. Hofstee, N. Parata, P. Kenny, A. West, W. Taylor (Manager)

Middle: A. Bjerring (Manager), S. Dowling (Coach), J. McPhee, R. Williams, M. Wells, B. Gibney, J. Gibney, S. Porter, M. Goss, M. Edwards, L. Pearson (Assist. Coach), A. Peat (President)
Front: A. Horscroft, P. Moko, T. Taumata, W. Reis, K. Knudsen (Captain), D. Hickman, A. Stewart, J. Carter, R. West

Absent: B. Bass, D. Bass, T. Payton, R. Lempriere, B. Scown, R. Scott, J. King, P. Williams (Bucket Manager)



Te Puke Sports 15th Grade 1999



Te Puke Sports 10th Grade 1999 - 10th Grade Champions, Mt Mangonui 7 Aside Winners



Te Puke Sports 15th Grade 2000 - Mt Mangonui 7 Aside Winners



Te Puke Sports 12th Grade Black 2001 - Welcome Bay 12th Grade Champions



Te Puke Times

8 September 1999

Great season for rugby trio

Three Te Puke Sports junior rugby players have enjoyed a winning season.

Brendon Lee, Josh Sutherland and Ian Somervill have been part of three successful rugby teams this winter. In June they were in the Te Puke Tai Mitchell team that won the prestigious tournament at Whakatane. The following week they trialed for Western Bay of Plenty under 45kg Goldfields team.

All three made the 'A' squad which went on to win the two tournaments held over several Sundays against teams from Auck-

land to South King Country.

During these busy months they have been turning out for their club teams. Josh and Ian are part of an unbeaten Te Puke Sports 9th grade team which drew their final against Tauranga Boys College last Saturday. Brendon is on the 10th grade team who defeated Te Puna in their club final. Brendon's club team mate Gary Levein has been with the boys in Tai Mitchell and had an outstanding tournament for the Goldfields B team.

Te Puke Times

15 September 1999

Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club



**Cavanagh Group
TOUCH RUGBY**

Junior & Senior Grades

\$150 Entry Fee

Competition Starts 15th October

Phone Deborah on 573-9330 to register

In reference to Volleyball Ash commented ... "for sheer grit, determination and the will to win, the volleyball girls would take the prize - to collect back to back national club titles is a truly remarkable achievement." Sasha Patete was selected for the New Zealand National team.

Bay of Plenty Times

19 July 1999

Impressive title victory from Te Puke women

By Ian Hepenstall

NEW Zealand volleyball coach Mike Dudson, with a host of national titles under his belt and a wealth of international coaching experience, thought he had seen it all.

Dudson is quick to place Saturday's outstanding victory by the Te Puke Sports women in defending their New Zealand title in Wanganui as very special.

"The team didn't go as favourites this year but they produced something very special. In the end their spirit brought them through.

"They dug really deep and when it counted they could trust each other to tough it out. That was the critical ingredient and this side has incredible amounts of it."

Dudson had praise for all his side.

"We had people like Jaala Nicholson back this season after having a baby.

And Tamara King played with so much grit and determination — and she's over four months pregnant."

Another veteran Vanessa Gibbs was voted the tournament's most valuable player.

"Vanessa certainly deserved the title. She plays fantastic field defence and made several incredible digs down the stretch to keep us in the final.

"Her bloody-mindedness is probably a reflection of what makes this team different."

Dudson was delighted in the form of Te Puke High School seventh former Katie Winsett, who played most of the final with a fractured wrist and national representative Sasha Patete, the game's best open court hitter, who also produced some steely mental toughness during the week.





The **2000** club rugby season began with the Premier team competing in the Gold Section of the Western Bay competition. Starting the season with a default win over Eastern Districts, the Premiers lost only one match, to the Mount 19 - 29, and won the Western Bay Championship.

Playing in the Baywide Top 10 Division the team lost their first two matches against Ngongotaha and Whakatane Marist before winning six in a row and finished third in the round robin to qualify for the semi-finals, where they were defeated 14 - 10 by Waikite.

Te Puke Times

6 May 2000

Western Bay of Plenty champions Te Puke Sports stumbled on the first hurdle in the top 10, going down 13-9 to Ngongotaha in a tight battle where forward control in the Rotorua mud was essential.

There was just one try, with Ngongotaha wing Aaron Rogers put over in the first half, with Tyrone Taiepa kicking the conversion and two penalties and Te Puke first-five Rodney Gibbs bagging three kicks.

Former Bay of Plenty reps Paul Fairweather (lock) and Mike McKenzie (centre) were standouts for Te Puke.

Bay of Plenty Times

17 June 2000

Te Puke 'silent assassin'

By Kelly Exelby

FEW got as big a fright last week to see Te Puke Sports among the leaders of the Baywide top 10 club rugby championship as Te Puke themselves.

After a losing start to the Fat Snapper-sponsored championship, Te Puke have crept through the competition like a silent assassin,

picking up a win here and there and quietly gathering bonus points to put themselves in early playoff contention.

On Saturday, the 1999 Baywide finalists enhanced those semifinal prospects with a crushing 30-7 win over arch-rivals Rangataua, not only grabbing win points but also a four-try bonus point to bump themselves into third.

Te Puke Times

28 June 2000

Revived playoff hopes

Near the start of the Baywide top 10 rugby championship Te Puke Sports were not looking much on target to repeat last year's feat of making the grand final. But now Sports have really come on strong and made their play.

Last Saturday week they moved into third position after a crushing 30-7 victory over Rangataua last Saturday.

This last weekend, Te Puke Sports beat Rotoiti 27-21 in a seesaw thriller.

Tries went to Jarrod McKeown,

Mike McKenzie and Hayden Riddle, with Rodney Gibbs had a great day with the boot to convert each one. Te Puke is now second on the table and has the distinction of being the leading Western BOP side in the picture at the moment. Local

hopes are that after these impressive efforts the momentum will now be with Te Puke to make the final again and this time come away the winner. Now is the time for Te Puke district public to get right behind all its local teams.

Waikite went on to defeat Ngongotaha 20 - 8 in the Baywide final at Rotorua.



2000 Te Puke Sports Seniors - Western Bay of Plenty Champions, Baywide Semi-finalists

Back: R. Flexman, A. Peat (President), S. Taylor, J. Pardoe, M. McKenzie, N. Parata, T. Williams (Physio), M. Salt (Sponsor)
 Middle: B. Honey (Manager), S. Cameron (Coach), H. Riddell, R. Pamment, B. Kiddle, L. Marsh, G. McNaughton, K. Murphy (Coach)
 Front: P. Smith, K. Hinaki, J. Cotter, J. McKeown, P. Fairweather, S. Boireaux, A. Fitzgerald Absent: P. Williams (Manager), R. Baxter, R. Poihipi, R. Gibbs, K. Greig, T. Solomon, T. Rassmussen, J. Keenleyside, H. Moore, K. McGinity. D. McGinity (Rugby Co-ordinator)

Junior rugby continued to expand with 230 players registered playing in every grade.

Te Puke Times
 14 June 2000

The magnificent sevens



There is a golden glow about these young rugby stars. the 15th grade Te Puke Sports First National team recently won a sevens tournament at Mount Maunganui, beating Tauranga Sports 29-19 in the final.

They have also enjoyed an unbeaten weekly competition run as well. Along with Curtis Baggott (absent for the photo) the team is, back, Lyall Sanders, Sean Williams, Michael Collins, Dylan Williams,

Matthew Fox, Scott Struiksma, Mark Gordon and, front, Jacob Williams, Nicholas McGillivray and Hamish Fox. Proud coaches are Taheo Struiksma, Bruce Gordon and Andrew Bjerring.

Te Puke Times
 28 June 2000

Juniors in great heart

Junior rugby at Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club is currently riding the crest of a wave, similar to that being achieved by both its senior A and B teams. After a wonderful 1999 season, when club teams made five semi-finals and went on to win three

championships, the 2000 season is also shaping up to be another successful year. The club has 230 players registered in 13 teams playing in every grade from 15th through to seventh grade. Already this season a 15th and ninth grade team were successful at the annual Mt. Maunganui sevens tournament.



Recreational sports were strongly supported with 'social and serious' touch rugby teams totalling 22 and adult basketball with 12 teams.

Volleyball expanded with Ash Peat commenting "Volleyball, just like rugby, has now become a year-round sport for the club". The club successfully hosted a New Zealand v Australia volleyball test on 23 March. Vanessa Gibbs was selected for the New Zealand team. The team won the National Club title.

Te Puke Times
24 May 2000

Big rugby club day

Te Puke Sports and Recreation club is extending a friendly invitation to the community to enjoy a big club day at Murray Salt stadium on Saturday, 27 May.

The club's junior section president Warren Taylor says the day is to celebrate all grades and aspects of the club and its close association with the wider community. He feels it is also very appropriate that the morning serves as a showcase for junior rugby, highlighting an abundance of young talent.

The issue of adequate field lighting had been a topic of discussion for several years fuelled by increasing use of the grounds by various sporting activities. The original lighting system was not sufficient to allow maximum use of the fields. Project chairman John Cameron spearheaded an appeal for funds in November by way of a 'Field Lights Sponsorship Proposal'. The Proposal consisted of four elements; lighting towers, concrete foundations, cabling and qualified labour. A target set was to have the new lighting system operating for the 2001 rugby season.

As you may be aware, The Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club is in the process of upgrading our field lights and seeking assistance and financial support in funding this project. We are working towards achieving a standard that allows the playing of night local and provincial rugby games.

A sub-committee under the chairmanship of John Cameron has done a marvelous job exploring the options available and recommending a design which the club committee have endorsed.

This will give us two fields lit to a minimum of 200 lux which will exceed the current minimum requirement of 140 lux. This will ensure that the Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club will enjoy better field vision for players, fans and sponsors alike.

Expanding the concept of increased use is the object of Te Puke Sports and Recreation. Although weekend rugby will continue, members, fans and players are seeking increased events that fit with the demands of work and family commitments. We are committed to responding to these increased demands with the addition of night events that will increase the number of attendees to events.

The Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club is aiming to have the lights in operation at the beginning event March 17, 2001. The first stage of this project is under way with the ground enclosures in place.

Please review the included information in this brochure containing the costing and funding proposal to see if it fits within your marketing and community involvement strategies.

Kind Regards,

Ashley Peat

Ashley Peat, President
07 573 7570





In **2001** for the first season since 1994 club rugby commenced with the Baywide competition, the senior team competing in the 10 team Premier Division. After a 1st round victory over local rival Rangiuuru 35 - 15 the team competed strongly to finish the round robin section in third place to qualify for the semi-finals, along the way defeating some top sides, including the final match of the round against Whakarewarewa 29 - 10.

Te Puke Times

17 March 2001

ASSISTED by a superb 22-point contribution from second-five Mike McKenzie, Te Puke Sports opened their Baywide premiership rugby campaign with a 35-15 rout of Rangiuuru at Te Puke's Jamieson Oval on Saturday.

Bay of Plenty Times

14 July 2001

SATURDAY'S scrappy 29-10 win over Whakarewarewa was as good as a 50-point romp, Te Puke Sports captain Jarrod McKeown says.

Final-round victory at Murray Salt Stadium secured Te Puke's place in this weekend's Baywide club rugby premier grade semifinals, where Te Puke will travel to second-placed Rotoiti.

In the semi-final they defeated Rotoiti 23 - 16. In the lead up to the final against Waikite three club veterans contemplated retirement seeing the final as the ideal swan song.

Bay of Plenty Times

21 July 2001

HE'S back! Bay of Plenty Steamers half-back Rameka Poihipi announced his return to rugby in emphatic fashion on Saturday as Te Puke Sports reversed the form guide to down Rotoiti in a thrilling 23-16 Baywide semifinal at Emery Park.

Poihipi, out for more than a month with a knee injury, was huge as Te Puke — who barely qualified for the premier championship playoffs — repelled a rampant Rotoiti.

It was one of the best games of club rugby in the province for several seasons.

Gibbs, Poihipi and rejuvenated centre Petaia Gidlon were the best of Te Puke's backs while their entire pack stood up to the test, with Simmonds, prop Prep Poata, locks Brott and Cotter and flanker Quentin Harris standouts.

Bay of Plenty Times

26 July 2001

TOGETHER they've played more than 500 games of club rugby for Te Puke.

They've played schoolboy rugby together, travelled overseas to play and been part of the bridal party at each other's weddings.

Tomorrow, win or lose, Te Puke Sports' three amigos — Rodney Gibbs, Paul Fairweather and Jeremy Cotter — will retire. Maybe.

All three have farewelled club rugby before, talked of hanging up the boots and slipping quietly into the background. Cotter has "retired" at least six times already this season but keeps coming back for "just one more".

But this time they reckon they're serious.

Tomorrow's Baywide premier grand final against defending champions Waikite from Rotorua is the ideal swansong.

Gibbs' body is alright, "but, unlike the other two, I don't go where I shouldn't be on a rugby field".

He is nearing 200 club games for United Pirates and Te Puke Sports (after a name-change six years ago) and has played 14 seasons of club rugby in the township, one more than Fairweather, who is approaching 170 games.

Cotter has played for Pirates and Te Puke Sports for a decade, amassing 140 games. All three played a season together for Te Puke High School's first XV and have pulled on their boots in France, Scotland and Wales.



The Bay of Plenty Times headlines recorded *"Te Puke let another final slip from their grasp"*.

Bay of Plenty Times

28 July 2001

ALWAYS the bridesmaids, never the brides.

Captain Jarrod McKeown's face said it all as Te Puke Sports let another one slip, going down 13-9 to back-to-back Baywide premier division club rugby champions Waikite at Tauranga Domain on Saturday.

"We gave it a good crack and it was good for the boys to play in another Baywide final. But I just hope for the club's sake that one year soon we can cap it off," McKeown said after the defeat.

Te Puke were in a similar position two seasons ago, dropping the Baywide final to Tauranga Sports despite enjoying more than their share of territory and possession.

Te Puke Sports coach Scott Cameron, in his last year in charge, believed his team didn't take the opportunities presented to it and paid the price, especially when Waikite were reduced to 14 players for 10 minutes.



2001 Te Puke Sports Senior Rugby Team

Back: M. Salt (Sponsor), T. Williams, A. Peat (President), J. Simmonds, D. Dixon, P. Gidlow, R. Baxter, E. Poata, E. Lenihan, P. Williams
 Middle: C. Stapleton (Manager), S. Chisholm, N. Parata, L. Marsh, K. Greig, R. Dixon, T. Chandler, S. Conner, Q. Harris, S. Cameron (Coach)
 R. Flexman (President WBRFU), K. Hinaki, M. McKenzie, J. Cotter, J. McKeown (Captain), R. Gibbs, P. Fairweather, R. Poihipi, K. Murphy (Assist. Coach)
 Front: N. Harris (Ball Boy), Absent: J. Skiffington, M. Wells, T. Brott, T. Solomon, H. Riddell, A. Wills, I. Richmond



Women's rugby commenced under coach Kellie Kiwi a former Black-Fern player.

Te Puke Times
28 March 2001



Halftime in a match against Judea at the first women's rugby tournament staged by Te Puke Sports.

Significant progress was made with the Field Lights Sponsorship Proposal. An application to the Tauranga Energy Trust for \$50,000 resulted in a grant being made to the club of \$46,000 which, when combined with a Bay of Plenty Community Trust and Gaming Board Trust grant, topped up with a significant contribution from the clubs' primary sponsor, new lights of competition standard were installed. This was a milestone development for the club enabling night games to be played competitively for the first time.

Bay of Plenty Community Trust Annual Report
2001

Te Puke Sports and Recreation



The addition of lights at the Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club has seen a marked upturn in the use of the facilities by the junior rugby teams.

Spokesperson Ash Peat says this and the inclusion of other sports is a justification of why the \$150,000 project was put together and they are thrilled with the help BOP Community Trust gave them by granting \$15,000 towards the project.

"We believe in helping ourselves as much as we can as a community - and it is good to have this backed up by such organisations as the BOP Community Trust," he says.



Te Puke Times

21 February 2001

Classic All Blacks due in Te Puke

The Papamoa Family Tavern sponsored Classic All Blacks are coming to Te Puke to play a Te Puke Sports Invitational 15 on Saturday week, 3 March.

The Classic All Blacks will start their week-end off by playing in a tournament at Omanu Golf Course on the preceding Friday afternoon and then go fishing on Saturday morning. The Classic All Blacks will play a Te Puke Sports Invitation 15 team in a game of rugby under lights at Te Puke's Murray Salt Stadium at 6.30pm on the Saturday. This will mark the opening for Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club's new ground lighting. As a curtain raiser there will be two games of JAB rugby at 4pm. This will be followed by Te Puke Sports Senior Bs playing Waikite of

Rotorua at 5pm.

Names from the past so far lined up for Te Puke Sports Invitation 15 are John Lewis, Ian Brouwers, Warren Taylor, Graeme James, Craig Jeffries, Kim Hinaki and Andrew Horscroft. Names of Classic All Blacks involved will be advised of next week.

An auction of Classic All Black memorabilia will feature after the big game, followed by band entertainment.

There will be a cover charge of \$5 for adults with children under 15 years admitted free of charge.

"This is a neat fun day-evening for all the family and we hope that the Te Puke public will support this great event," says club spokesperson Deborah Keenleyside.

Sasha Patete and Tamara Patete were selected for the New Zealand women's volleyball team. Tamara as Vice Captain. Following three consecutive years of winning the National title, the team slipped to third position.

Te Puke Times

21 March 2001

Te Puke Sports looks forward to the new winter season with great anticipation after a very successful opening of the rugby season under lights two weeks ago against the Classic All Blacks.

With a full complement of teams, seniors, senior B, colts and for the first time ever a woman's rugby team, the basis is set for a successful and enjoyable season.

J.A.B. is again in a very healthy state within excess of 250 registered players making it one of the biggest in the B.O.P. area.

The NZ Club Championship BAYPAK Women's Volleyball Team are trying

for an unprecedented 4 championship club titles in a row. With a mixture of youth and experience this goal is well within their sights.

We are hoping to enter at least three netball teams in the local competition.

We welcome all the local community to come out and support Te Puke Sports and its sports teams and join us at the Clubrooms for post match functions.

Social basketball, volleyball, miniball and other sports are all played in the gymnasium on different nights during the week.

In his first newsletter of **2002** Ash Peat commented "after a huge effort last year to get those new lights up and running, this year will hopefully be one of fund raising, consolidation and doing a bit of maintenance on the building such as repairing the floor".

A New Zealand Divisional 15 played Bay of Plenty Wasps in front of a large crowd at Murray Salt Stadium on 28 May.



The Baywide competition now comprised 12 teams competing for eight positions in the 2nd round. By mid-April the senior team was third on the point's ladder of the 1st round before running up a huge victory over Te Teko in mid-May and finished second in the round. This was followed in June with a first ever win over Ngongotaha.

Te Puke Times
18 May 2002

Te Puke Sports massacred Te Teko, with speedster Charles Baxter grabbing five of Te Puke's 18 tries in their 112-10 victory. The record-breaking scoreline is as amazing at this level of rugby in the province as it is disappointing.

Te Puke scored in the opening minutes, signalling one-way traffic for the remainder of the game. As well as Baxter's five tries, halfback Josh Croucher, fullback Jarrod McKeown, centre PJ Gidlow and hooker Johnny Simmons all dotted two, with evergreen Rodney Gibbs even managing a try to go with his seven conversions.

Te Puke Times
15 June 2002

Te Puke make history with win over Ngongotaha

Te Puke Sports scored an historic first-ever win over Ngongotaha, with victory at Murray Salt Stadium keeping them in touch with pacesetters Whakarewarewa.

In wet and muddy conditions which nullified sparkling

backplay, Te Puke ground out the 18-0 win up front.

Te Puke were again denied the four-try bonus point, with forwards Simon Chisholm and Johnny Simmons and fullback Jarrod McKeown scoring.

In the penultimate game of the 2nd Round they thumped the Mount 37 - 0 to propel themselves back into the top 4.

Bay of Plenty Times
15 July 2002

BY his own admission, Bay of Plenty Steamers halfback Rameka Poihipi hasn't really ignited yet this season.

On Saturday, there was compelling evidence that the Poihipi of old isn't far off as Te Puke Sports thumped Mount Maunganui 37-0 at Blake Park to propel themselves back into Baywide club rugby's top-four.

Mount went into the clash a point clear of Te Puke, with both sides facing a watershed weekend as their playoff hopes went on the line.

Despite predictions of a tight tussle, in the end there was just one team in it as Te Puke's pack took control and their backline ran riot, banging in six tries, including three in the final quarter.

Te Puke Times
17 July 2002

Te Puke Sports perform

The Te Puke Sports Baywide premier team saved their best performance of the season for a must-win game against Mt Maunganui on Saturday.

A 37-points to nil victory over their traditional rivals showed the sort of form that could take them to a Baywide championship victory in the first weekend in August.

After a couple of moderate performances in recent weeks, the Te Puke side were determined to

make amends and the game plan was early points. Just four minutes into the game Jarrod McKeown sliced through the opposition and ran 70m down the field to hand the ball to Rameka Poihipi to score.

Such a comprehensive victory in a vital match was the result of the forwards controlling the ball up front. This allowed quick distribution of the football to arguably the fleetest backline in the competition that racked up six tries.



The following week a 25 - 8 defeat of Whakatane Marist secured a semi-final against Rotoiti which they lost 21 - 16.

Te Puke Times
17 July 2002

Te Puke fighting for semis spot

AFTER being a frontrunner for most of the season, Te Puke's narrow 13-12 home loss to Rotoiti has them teetering on the edge of qualifying for premiership semi-finals.

Playing into the wind at Murray Salt Stadium, Te Puke conceded an early try to opposing No 8 Jason Emery, who recollected after charging down a Rameka Poihipi clearing kick.

But Te Puke hit back to dominate for an extended period that brought two Rodney Gibbs penalty goals and a 6-5 halftime lead.

Te Puke's squeaky halftime lead looked good enough after Gibbs landed two more penalty kicks against Justin Temara's one but, with time almost up, Rotoiti midfielder Walter Trevinus scored the winning try.

Bay of Plenty Times
24 July 2002

Veteran Hinaki The Hero As Sports Snatch Semi

Te Puke Sports qualified for the Baywide premier rugby semi-finals last Saturday when they defeated Whakatane Marist 25 - 8 at Whakatane.

While the score would suggest a comfortable victory, it was only when Kim Hinaki crashed over for the fourth try late in the match that Te Puke secured a home semi-final via the extra bonus point.

Victory was essential in the match against the highflying Whakatane team who had dropped just one match in the second round of the competition.

The next week, Whakarewarewa defeated Rotoiti 22 - 14 in the Baywide final at Rotorua.



2002 Te Puke Sports Premier Rugby Team

Back: A. Peat (President), K. Hinaki, S. Tamihana, S. Taylor, J. Teat, P. Gidlow, J. Simmonds, C. Baxter, P. Poata, P. Williams (Assist. Manager)
Middle: R. Flexman (Assist. Manager), T. Williams (Masseur), B. Hickson, R. Dixon, J. Skiffington, H. Warner (Physio), P. Fairweather (Co-ordinator)
Front: S. Anderson (Coach), H. Moore, D. Macfie, R. Gibbs, J. McKeown (Captain), R. Poihipi, R. Baxter, J. Cotter (Assist. Coach)
Absent: S. Conner, J. Croucher, S. Davison, G. McNaughton, M. Walton, M. Pilcher, E. Roberts, C. Stapleton (Manager), V. Uelese



Netball grew in strength and became a more competitive code. Grade trials were required to establish two senior teams, one each in Premier and A grade and a High School team. Netball teams competed in an indoor competition held at Mt Maunganui, winning the final against Mt Maunganui.

The volleyball team continued their winning form, once again taking out the National club title. Sasha Patete, Marnie Grant and Tamara Patete were selected for the New Zealand team, Tamara as Captain. Carly Hona captained the New Zealand Under 19 team.



2002 Te Puke Sports Women's Volleyball Team - National Club Champions

Back: Alicia Malcolm, Vanessa Gibbs, Dezy HIRAMA, Dana Rodgers, Jaala Nicholson, Juanita Paraha, Sasah Patete, Hannah Cleland
Front: Jo Leach, Marnie Grant, Graeme Weld (Mayor - WBDC) Tamara Patete (Captain), Andrew Fenton (Satara), Chevy Tana, Andrea Clayton

Adult social basketball was introduced along with Friday night volleyball involving twelve teams. Mini-Ball (modified basketball) was a popular kids' sport along with Kiwi Volleyball which boasted 32 teams.

At a well attended Annual General Meeting on 12 December, John Cameron was awarded Life Membership with many speakers acknowledging his commitment to the club over many years, as a player, coach and supporter of many club projects.



At the meeting Life Member Brian Stapleton commented “John has the ability to make things happen at times when we have had little or no apparent funding on hand. He is both a mediator and a mentor”.

An uninspiring draw against Rangioru 11 - 11 opened the **2003** club season for the seniors, in the Baywide competition. In April they defeated Whakarewarewa 30 - 19 in the curtain raiser to the Chiefs-Cats Super 12 match in Rotorua. The team finished the 1st round in second place.

Bay of Plenty Times

22 March 2003

THE pundits were picking some close matches but two draws in the opening round of Baywide premier club rugby could have been stretching things a little.

That was reality on Saturday however.

With Mount Sports and Kahukura scratching their way to an 8-all fulltime result, Te Puke and Rangioru decided to emulate that, finishing their local derby tied 11-11.

Quinton Daniels scored for Rangioru and Simon Rolliston added two penalties, while Rameka Poihipi scored for Te Puke and Rodney Gibbs also slotted two penalties.

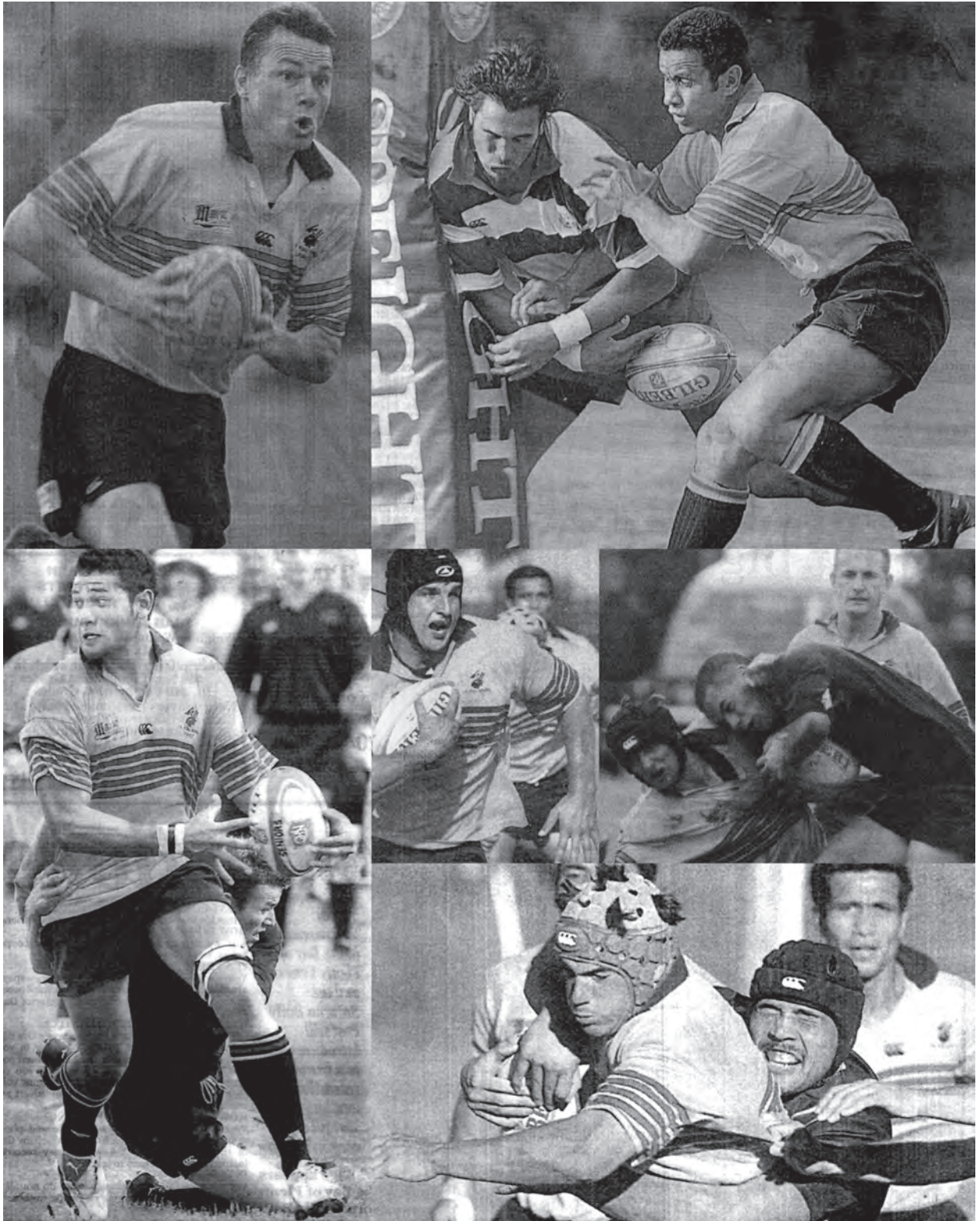


Charles Baxter was selected for the New Zealand 7's team

The 2nd round was notable for the number of close results with the majority of games being decided by less than six points. The team again qualified for the semi-finals only to lose to Tauranga Sports 17 - 9.

Arizona Wildcats made their fifth visit to the club in May.

A Golden Oldies team under the banner 'Te Puke Mutineers' was formed and participated through to 2009 occasionally combining with Eastern Districts players to make up numbers.





Women's volleyball won the New Zealand Club Championship. Marnie Grant and Debbie Hill were selected for the National team; Debbie was also selected for the New Zealand Junior team. Sasha Patete, Tamara Patete, Marnie Grant, Dana Rodger, Dezzy HIRAMA, Natalie Bird and Jaala Nicholson were selected for the New Zealand Women's Maori team.



2003 Satara Te Puke Sports Volleyball Team - National Champions

Back: Greg Cummings (Coach), Debbie Hill, Jo Leach, Juanita Paraha, Marnie Grant, Dana Rogers, Victoria Bennett, Frances Patete (Manager), Andrew Fenton (Satara), Ash Peat (Te Puke Sports President), Front: Natalie Bird, Sasha Patete, Tamara Patete (Captain), Alicia Malcolm, Jaala Nicholson

Repair of the gymnasium floor which had deteriorated over time with water seepage was commenced and completed. Club volunteers assisted with the painting of the clubs interior and other improvements. Ground up-grade and levelling, as well as the installation of an irrigation system added to the quality of the playing fields.

Club Patron and Life Member Len Browne (Brownie) passed away. Len's involvement in the club commenced in 1955 as an inaugural committee member of the Te Puke Pirates RFC. He was 22 years a Life Member, 21 years Patron and a club member for approximately 47 years. During his retirement years Len performed an unpaid caretaker role at the club and fittingly his funeral was held in the clubrooms.

At the 11 December Annual General Meeting Brian Stapleton was confirmed as Club Patron.



Early **2004** season victories over Waikite and Ngongotaha had the premiers off to a good start and then a typical local derby victory over Rangiuuru, finishing the 1st round in fourth position and progressing to the top 8.

Bay of Plenty Times
26 April 2004

IT had the visual appeal of marathon arm-wrestling but Te Puke Sports gladly pocketed the four points from their 13-6 club rugby win over Rangiuuru on Saturday.

Typical of this local derby, most of the game highlights didn't involve rugby, as referee Tait Kora failed to keep a lid on the niggles and ill-discipline.

Two players, Te Puke flanker Nili Latu and Rangiuuru prop Rata Williams, were sinbinned in separate incidents, while Williams was sent off right on fulltime for repeated foul play.

Bay of Plenty Times
19 June 2004

IT was a little bit like lambs to the slaughter but only an aching jaw could stop Jeremy Cotter wearing a big grin after Te Puke's thumping of Tauranga Sports.

Cotter has been through a number of bruising, tense battles for Te Puke against "the old enemy", their fierce Tauranga rivals.

But never has the score blown out as far as it did at the Tauranga Domain on Saturday, with Te Puke scoring six converted tries in winning 48-12.

It was a sweet moment for the visitors who have had their fair share of heart-break courtesy of Tauranga Sports, including losses in Baywide semifinals and finals.

The team was unbeaten in the 2nd round including some impressive victories to qualify for the semi-finals. They went on to defeat Rotoiti 28 - 27 to set up a decider against Whakatane Marist.

Bay of Plenty Times
19 July 2004

Te Puke torrent drowns Mount

TE PUKE marched mercilessly into the Baywide club rugby semifinals with a 27-3 mauling of Mount Maunganui on Saturday, booking a mouth-watering semifinal against a resurgent Rotoiti.

On a day where even self-respecting aquatic animals were taking cover, Mount saw their title aspirations washed away by the unrelenting torrent of Te Puke forwards.

Despite the pouring rain and ankle-deep mud, it was a match of surprising quality, bolstered no doubt by the presence of no less than 20 past or present Bay of Plenty representatives.

Bay of Plenty Times
26 July 2004

TE PUKE captain Dan Goodwin sat his side down before Saturday's Baywide semifinal against Rotoiti and told them he didn't care what the score was — he just wanted a win. A single point would be sufficient, Goodwin said.

Little did he realise just how prophetic those words would be.

Te Puke duly made it through to this Saturday's premier final

against Whakatane Marist at Tauranga Domain but in doing so used up every 'get out of jail free' card they could spare.

Te Puke's 28-27 win came despite Rotoiti out-scoring the home side four tries to one, and owed much to the seven penalties and conversion kicked by first-five Ray MacDonald, the last of which came with just five minutes left on the clock.

Expectations were high for a first Baywide final victory over a well performed Whakatane team with the Colts also qualifying for the final against Tauranga Sports.



Bay of Plenty Times 28 July 2004

UNTIL last night, Te Puke's hopes of breaking a notable title drought were hanging by a thread.

Twice beaten finalists, against Tauranga Sports in 1999 and Waikite in 2001, and a losing semifinalist last year, the club has assembled a powerful squad packed full of representative players.

Even club stalwarts believe if they don't win this year, they never will.

But last week's nail-biting 28-27 semifinal win over Rotoiti exposed

cracks in the Te Puke armour, particularly when injuries ravaged the halves, removing former Steamers Andy Miller and Rameka Poihipi were absent.

Te Puke are unbeaten through June and July, their last loss coming in the first round against Rangataua.

But their opposition Whakatane have also had a great season winning the first round and suffering just one second round loss, to Te Puke.

Bay of Plenty Times 31 July 2004

Finals hoodoo haunts Te Puke

START sprinkling the Holy Water, unleash the exorcist and make way for the medicine man — Te Puke's finals misfortune has officially turned into a jinx.

For the third time in six seasons, the beleaguered club fell at the final hurdle, losing Saturday's premier final to a spirited Whakatane Marist side 25-17 after a dramatic second half collapse.

Each final loss has been on Tauranga Domain, as was their 1998 Western Bay final defeat by Tauranga Sports.

Unfortunately it was not to be! Whakatane Marist won the Grand Final. The Colts also lost 27 - 0, a sad day for the club supporters.

Senior player Solomon King was awarded the Prime Minister's sporting scholarship award. The award's objective was to provide financial assistance to retain athletes in their sport whilst allowing them to make the transition into a career.

Te Puke Times 28 July 2004

No 8 proves his worth on wing

IT'S an age-old problem — how to stop a highly-promising No 8 from sky-larking on the wing when he's meant to be pulling his weight in the pack.

Te Puke Sport's coaching staff came up with a novel approach during the second half of their 29-10 win over Ngongotaha on Saturday — they shifted No 8 Solomon King out there permanently after their shallow outside back resources were exposed.

Unfortunately King's skills are such that he made an immediate impression — and jokingly put his hand up after the match for more latitude in his No 8 play to adopt his new-found three-quarter abilities.

"I quite liked it out there," King grinned. "I thought I did pretty well — I passed it a couple of times and I never pass it when I'm playing No 8."

King, who has just turned 19, starred for the home side at Murray Salt Stadium in the first half at the back of the scrum, barging over for one good try and constantly harassing the Ngongotaha defence.

The former King Country schoolboy representative had a New Zealand under-19 trial and by all accounts went extremely close to selection for the World Cup tournament that started yesterday in South Africa.

"I was pretty close I think

the selectors thought the other guy (Auckland's Daniel Crichton) was running his lines a bit better. I thought I played quite well — I learned heaps and it was a good experience."

First year Te Puke coaches Scott Cameron and Rodney Gibbes coached the young No 8 in the Bay of Plenty Colts last year so they know they've got something special in their ranks.

"He's still got a lot more to learn and we've been working hard on his basic skills but he's got all the attributes there to be an outstanding No 8," Gibbes said.

With King's allround skills, Te Puke eventually won Saturday's match comfortably.



2004 Te Puke Sports Premier Team

Back: S. Cameron (Coach), R. McDonald, M. Pilcher, T. Luteru, N. Kenta, S. Chisholm, A. Miller, M. Youngman, N. Latu, P. Roozendaal, A. Sutherland, C. Flexman, P. Williams (Assist. Coach) Middle: R. Gibbs (Assist. Coach), P. Fairweather (Co-ordinator), M. Wallis, Q. Harris, S. King, B. Baggott, M. Sorenson, K. McGinity, B. Castle, S Tamihana, M. Salt (Sponsor, Life Member), T. Williams (Masseuse) Front: J. King (Fitness Trainer), H. Moore, S. Connor, R. Pohipi, J. McKeown, D. Goodwin, J. Cotter, P. Gidlow, C. Baxter, K. Hinaki, R. Flexman (Manager) In Front: (Ballboys) D. Edge, L. Keenleyside, T. Scott, M. Gordon, D. Underwood Absent: S. Davison

The volleyball team were once again winners of the National club title. Sasha Patete, Tamara Patete (Captain) and Marnie Grant were selected for the National team and Carly Hona for the NZ Under 19's.



Satara Te Puke Sports Women's Volleyball Team - National Club Champions

Back: Ash Peat (Te Puke Sports President), Natalie Bird (Coach), Andrea Clayton, Carly Hona, Marnie Grant, Victoria Bennett, Jaala Nicholson, Frances Patete (Manager), Andrew Fenton (Satara)

Front: Deanna Harrison, Vanessa Gibbs, Tamara Patete (Captain), Sasha Patete, Dezy HIRAMA



A resurgence in netball saw three teams and a netball committee formed.

With the backdrop of several years of bank overdraft restricting club expenditure on improvements, Club President Ash Peat declared "2004 would be the season to 'wipe-out' the club's debt and that fund raising and sponsorship is to be a major commitment for this season. We need to get behind all fund raising ventures".

As an incentive for members to utilise the clubrooms more frequently, a projector and large screen were installed at a cost of \$5,700.00. Male and female referees changing rooms were completed.

Ross Flexman was elected Chairman of the Western Bay of Plenty Rugby Football Sub-Union.

2005 in a rematch of last year's final the Premiers lost to Whakatane Marist in the opening match of the Baywide Competition 23 - 15 and then strung together eight consecutive victories before losing the last two matches of the 1st round, finishing fourth on the ladder.

Bay of Plenty Times
30 April 2005

TE Puke virtually booked a spot in the championship round of Baywide club rugby with a grinding 11-6 win over cross-town rivals Rangioru, leaving their vanquished foes teetering on the edge of the top eight.

Te Puke, although safe on the table, have problems of their own as their stuttering backline failed to fire despite a steady stream of ball.

Bay of Plenty Times
14 May 2005

ANDY Miller has kicked a lot of teams off the football field but on Saturday he showed his feet were also made for running as he quite possibly ran Waikite out of Baywide championship contention.

The former Japan, Bay of Plenty and Crusader first-five played at second-five with distinction, running strongly and freely off potential Steamers pivot Murray Williams as Te Puke Sports thumped the struggling Rotorua side 50-15 at Murray Salt Stadium.

At the end of the 2nd round they were in fourth position and were drawn to meet top of the table Mt Maunganui in the semi-finals where they were beaten 34 - 23.

BAYWIDE PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	PF	PA	BP	Pts
Mount	7	6	0	1	244	88	4	28
Whaka	7	5	0	2	226	108	5	25
Rotoiti	7	5	0	2	211	89	4	24
Te Puke	7	4	0	3	169	135	4	20
Rangioru	7	3	0	4	163	177	4	16
Whakatane	7	2	0	5	106	237	2	10
Rangataua	7	3	0	4	97	143	2	14
Tauranga	7	0	0	7	55	287	3	3



Premier player Ben Castle was selected for the Junior All Blacks



2005 Te Puke Sports 10th Grade Champions



2005 Te Puke Sports 6th Grade Gold



2005 Te Puke Sports 9th Grade Gold



2005 Te Puke Sports 6th Grade Black



2005 Te Puke Sports 9th Grade Black



At the same time the Colts qualified for their final defeating Reporoa 13 - 12, only to have their finals hope dashed for fielding an ineligible player in the semi-final.

Bay of Plenty Times

23 July 2005

WHILE the Te Puke Sports premier rugby team failed to advance to next weekend's Baywide final the Te Puke Sports Colts will take their place in the final stanza of Baywide rugby this season.

The local Colts side have had to dig really deep in recent weeks with injuries and

sickness reducing the available players and two one-point victories to reach the final.

Some four to five weeks ago the side seriously considered withdrawing from the championship title race with a considerable number of players either called up to the premier team or on the sideline.

Bay of Plenty Times

29 July 2005

TE PUKE Sports have been kicked out of tomorrow's Baywide colts final for fielding an ineligible player in last weekend's 13-12 semifinal win over Reporoa.

The Bay of Plenty Rugby Union's Disciplinary committee this week found Te Puke guilty of breaching Baywide protocols and overturned the semifinal result, meaning Tauranga Sports will now play Reporoa tomorrow at Tauranga Domain.

But Te Puke aren't copping the decision on the chin and have appealed the Disciplinary committee's ruling, with the club's protest being heard today.

Te Puke president Ash Peat said the BOPRU's decision had gutted the club.



2005 Te Puke Sports Premier Team

Back: D. Schwass, R. Johnston, A. Sutherland, P. Williams (Assist. Manager), M. Wallis, M. Youngman, D. Whitcliffe-Davies
 Middle: T. Williams (Physio), A. Peat (President), S. Chisolm, M. Dagg, B. Henderson, C. Baxter, Q. Harris, M. Salt (Life Member), A. Fitzgerald (Coach)
 Front: R. Gibbs (Coach), B. Baggott, S. Tamahana, R. Poihipi (Vice Captain), J. McKeown (Captain), J. Cotter, P. Fairweather (Manager), R. Flexman (Manager), Ballboys: L. Keenleyside, D. Underwood, T. Scott, J. Jeffries Absent: M. Sorenson, D. Mathieson, A. Miller, M. Pilcher, P. Gidlow, T. Telephone, F. Bolavucu, B. Castle, S. King, D. Goodwin, P. Roozendaal, M. Williams



Carly Hona, Ashley Kururangi, Renee Handley were selected for the New Zealand Under 19's and Chloe Hoata for the New Zealand Under 17's volleyball teams. The team finished second in the New Zealand Club Championship.

The season was one in which maintenance and improvements to the clubrooms and gymnasium took precedence, along with fund raising initiatives. Work was undertaken to improve the rugby fields with top-soiling and re-grassing. Advertising signage was sold around the circumference of the grounds.

The **2006** Premiers made a fine start to the Baywide competition with wins over Rangataua, the Mount and Tauranga Sports in the first three weeks of the competition and mid-May lead the competition.

Bay of Plenty Times
3 April 2006

TE PUKE Sports started the Baywide section one rugby competition with a first up victory when they defeated Rangataua last Saturday.

Sixteen minutes into the match Andy Miller crossed for the first try of the new season.

Te Puke 25 (A Miller, R Nicholas, W Hughson (2) tries; A Sutherland pen & con) Rangataua 14.

Te Puke Times
12 April 2006

Te Puke Sports you're a legend!

NOT only did Te Puke Sports become the first Western Bay of Plenty rugby team to defeat Mount Maunganui since 2004 but they also relieved the Mount of the Jordan Cup.

The Baywide section two encounter at Murray Salt Stadium was real cliffhanger with the lead changing four times during the match before Te Puke prevailed 24-23.

in the final match of the round they defeated Rotoiti 23 - 17 remaining undefeated, with newspaper headlines describing the match, "Referee's job a lonely one as top sides' fists fly".

Bay of Plenty Times
14 June 2006

IF ever there was a good advertisement for having three officials at a rugby game, Rotoiti's Baywide premier clash with Te Puke Sports on Saturday was it.

Referee Greg Standen, attempting to control his first Baywide section one game of the year and with no official touch judges to aid him, cut a lonesome figure as the two heavyweight clubs tore into each other at Emery Park on Saturday afternoon.

With Standen having no chance of controlling the committed sides, rucks, mauls and scrums were a shambles as both sides pushed the boundaries.

Te Puke Sports justifiably won the

match 23-17 but both teams' frustrations boiled over as the game disintegrated into a pushing, shoving and eventually punching match.

Three players were sinbinned for their indiscretions; Simon Chisholm and Dan Goodwin for Te Puke, while Wayne Walden got the orders for the home side during a second half which finished 50 minutes after it started.

It was a pity. Both camps had been looking to the match-up for a win, Te Puke carrying an unbeaten record into the game and both keen to gain the psychological advantage for the championship round.



At the commencement of the top 8 round the team was described in the media as “Unbeaten Te Puke Baywide’s hot pick”, and enhanced that opinion by winning their three matches convincingly.

Bay of Plenty Times

15 June 2006

Unbeaten Te Puke Baywide’s hot pick

FOR 11 games Te Puke Sports have set the standard now it’s time for the other seven Baywide contenders to step up to the plate.

The eight championship sides all start from scratch tomorrow with

two goals in mind. Firstly, all want to finish in the top four, which will allow them to play in the finals series and ultimately one of these clubs will hold the premier Baywide trophy aloft come August 12.

A 30 - 17 loss to Rotoiti was followed by further loses to the Mount and Whakarewarewa, and in the final match of the round came from 26 -10 down at halftime to defeat Tauranga Sports 32 - 26.

After finishing fourth equal with Rotoiti they missed the semi-finals due to their earlier loss to Rotoiti.

Bay of Plenty Times

20 July 2006

THEY’VE led from the front all season, but Te Puke’s title-winning hopes are hanging by a thread going into the last two round-robin games.

Te Puke only lost their first match of the season two weeks ago, but another loss to Mount Maunganui last week, and the prospect of a resurgent Whakarewarewa side tomorrow has left their prospects in peril.

They’ll need to beat both Whakarewarewa and the building Tauranga Sports side in next week’s last round game to assure a semifinal spot.

Bay of Plenty Times

22 July 2006

Baywide blues for Te Puke

TE PUKE Sports may have kissed their Baywide club rugby hopes goodbye but the real casualty from Saturday’s round was the competition itself.

Amid a backdrop of inept refereeing, fights, sending offs and 80-point thrashings, the biggest issue was how a team could go through 14 games unbeaten, then not feature in next week’s semi-finals.

Te Puke was a club hurting on Saturday night. There were the bruises collected by fair means and foul at the hands of their Whakarewarewa opponents, who deservedly beat them 15-13.

There was an angry hurt over

the refereeing of Richard Kirk, promoted from division one, who may or may not have influenced the result but certainly, and spectacularly, lost control of the match as a fair contest.

But most of all there was the hurt pride. Just 17 days ago, Te Puke hadn’t lost all year. Now, three losses later, they’re mathematically in with a chance of making the playoffs but, realistically, nowhere near.

Te Puke have 11 players involved with the Steamers and though Simon Chisholm, Matt Wallis and Wayne Hughson played parts on Saturday, having the core ripped out has decimated the side.



The Colts team continued their string of near misses in the finals, again being defeated by Tauranga Sports 25 - 8.

During June, Ross McLeod, Rugby Committee Co-ordinator stated that "it was one of the greatest days in the clubs history when two players were recently selected to play for the New Zealand Colts in their world Tournament in France. Solomon King and Matt Wallis were selected, the latter having played his rugby for our club since he was a 10 year old."

Bay of Plenty Times

20 June 2006



Te Puke Sports' Matt Wallis and Solomon King celebrate their selection.

SOLOMON King was still reeling from being named in the New Zealand Colts team yesterday, when the great news suddenly got a good deal better.

While the Te Puke Sports No 8

and Bay of Plenty academy squad member became the first Bay player to make the national under-21 side in nearly a decade, he was quickly joined by good mate Matt Wallis.

Ross also noted "Other Te Puke Sports players to make New Zealand teams during 2006 have been Charles Baxter and Hayden Reid in the New Zealand Sevens, Anthony Tahana in the New Zealand Maori Team.



Ross continued *"Such is the talent of Te Puke Sports members that the following appointments have been made"*:

Ross Flexman - Bay of Plenty Steamers - Manager

Kim Hinaki - Bay of Plenty Steamers - Liaison Manager

Warren Taylor - Bay of Plenty Development Team - Liaison Officer

In addition to the above selection 20 of the senior squad made Bay of Plenty rep teams during the year.



2006 Te Puke Sports Premier Team

Back: J. Williams (Coach), C. Donovan, W. Hurunui, R. Nicolaas, D. Schwass, R. Dixon, R. Just, D. Goodwin, B. Castle, L. Te Kiri, S. Cameron (Assist. Coach), A. Peat (President) Middle: P. Williams (Assist. Manager), M. Ryan, W. Hughson, D. Whitecliffe, D. Mathieson, P. Thirlby, M. Dagg, B. McLeod, P. Roozendaal, M. Williams, R. Ball, R. Johnston, S. King, R. Flexman (Manager) Front: M. Salt (Sponsor), T. Williams (Masseur), C. Baxter, S. Tamihana, A. Miller, R. Poihipi, S. Chisholm, M. Sorenson, M. Wallis, A. Sutherland, J. King (Trainer), B. Hickey (Physio) Ballboys: J. Allen, A. Pitman, J. Jeffries, L. Keenleyside

An Inaugural JAB Goldfields tournament was hosted late in the season. This tournament was run annually by the Western Bay Sub-Union. The Arizona Wildcats continued their close ties with the club visiting for the 6th time in July.

Te Puke Sports women's volleyball won the New Zealand Club Championship. Tamara Patete and Marnie Grant were selected for the New Zealand Beach Volleyball team and Chloe Hoeta for the New Zealand Under 17's.

Three netball teams participated, the A team winning the local competition.

Social sports including touch rugby and volleyball continued as popular club activities with 10 and 16 teams competing respectively.

John Dowling was elected Chairman of the Western Bay of Plenty Rugby Football Sub-Union.



Te Puke Times

13 September 2006



CELEBRATION time for Te Puke Sports 11th grade rugby team who ended a remarkable unbeaten season last weekend winning the final against Welcome Bay 22-5.

No8 Te Kokiri Ronaki had a memorable day scoring all four tries for Te Puke, with Ayden Pitman adding one conversion. This was by far the hardest game of the season for Te Puke with Welcome Bay putting up a fierce fight.

Te Puke Sports have dominated this grade all season, scoring an amazing 963 points for, and having only 32 points scored against them in 15 games. There are some real stars of the future in this team and the following players were recognised at the end of year prize giving. Achievement Award for outstanding efforts during the year: Micah Lang, Michael Collins, Tarure Kingi, Kurt McDonald. Most Improved Player: Jaden King. Most Valuable Player: Ayden Pitman, Jordan Jeffries. Players of the year: Te Kokori Ronaki, Corey Seator.

The **2007** Baywide season began with four successive wins followed by a loss to Tauranga Sports, then a 28 - 12 win over Rotoiti.

Bay of Plenty Times

28 April 2007

IT WAS all any happy rugby ground needs some thirst-quenching autumn rain and a little bit of blood and bone.

Tauranga Domain even managed to add a bit of gristle to its fertiliser requirements on Saturday, as Tauranga Sports and Te Puke engaged in another bout of IRB-sanctioned inter-district warfare.

It's not that these matches are overly violent but for a while on Saturday it looked like the last man standing was going to have to lock up the changing sheds and close the bar.

The hosts won the match 46-24, preserving an unbeaten start to their season and handing Te Puke their first loss.

Bay of Plenty Times

5 May 2007

Te Puke Sports all class

IT'S not often a frontrower waxes lyrical about one of the pretty boys in the backline.

But then again, Te Puke Sports captain Simon Chisholm believes Brett McLeod is something pretty special and after playing with first-fives like Andy Miller and Murray Williams, the hooker is in a good position to comment.

"Brett was here last year and

he's learnt off Andy and Muzza," Chisholm said. "They've both been really good to him but he's in a class of his own really. He can play 10 and 15 and goes really well." Te Puke beat the home side 28-12 in Baywide section one.

Te Puke's re-focus, after losing to Tauranga Sports the week before, couldn't have come at a worse time for Rotoiti.



At the end of the 1st round the team finished in third position.

The team only lost two matches in the 2nd round and qualified for the semi-finals after missing out in 2006.

Bay of Plenty Times

7 July 2007

Nail-biter finish to Te Puke-Mt clash

IT WAS a good weekend all round for Te Puke region teams in the Baywide rugby championships. Te Puke Sports beat Mt Maunganui by a solitary point in their

premier encounter that was in doubt until the final whistle. The Te Puke win, and the victories of the top three championship contenders has opened up a six point gap in

the race for semi-final berths. The victory sees Te Puke sitting comfortably in fourth place on the points ledger.



PASSING OUT: Te Puke halfback Rameka Pohipi clears from another dominant scrum as Mount No 8 Quintin Gould (top) and David Whitecliffe-Davies (right) watch intently during the 19-18 Te Puke win.

PICTURE: MARK McKEOWN 070707MM109BOP

Unfortunately they lost the semi against Tauranga Sports 22 - 15, who then went on to win the final against Whakarewarewa 44 - 19.

A feature of the season was the six losses incurred by the Premiers during the year; five were against finalists Tauranga Sports and Whakarewarewa.



During the season a Premiers competition match was shown by Sky Sports One on Toyota Grassroots Rugby.



2007 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Winners of David Simpson Cup

Back: T. Williams (Masseuse), D. Miller, R. Johnston, D. Schwass, R. Dixon, B. Castle, S. Tamihana, W. Hughson, L. Te Kiri, P. Williams (Asst. Manager)
Middle: J.J. Williams (Coach), A. Fitzgerald (Asst. Coach), M. Ball (Management), R. Nicolaas, R. Ball, S. King, R. Just, J. Murphy, A. Peat (President), M. Salt (Major Sponsor), R. Flexman (Team Manager) Front: B. McLeod, D. Whitecliffe, C. Baxter, R. Poihipi, S. Chisholm, M. Wallis, A. Sutherland, A. Jarvis-Cook, C. Donovan
Ball Boys: J. Jeffries, A. Pitman, C. Seator, J. Allen Absent: A. Tahana, H. Uelese, C. Donaldson, R. Buchanan, M. Williams

The club again hosted the Western Bay Goldfields JAB tournament during September.

The JAB section of the club had some great successes during the season. Here the 12th grade celebrate their Western Bay Championship win, defeating Tauranga Sports Gold 31 - 5.





Te Puke Times
September 2007

Dream ending after bad start

THE annual Tauranga 7-side rugby tournament was held on the weekend of September 1-2. The Te Puke Sports U13 team started in the worst possible way losing their first two games.

With their backs against the wall they battled their way into the semifinals, where they beat Tokoroa comfortably.

The final against Tauranga Sports was a real battle. With two players out with injury before the final it took a huge effort from the team.

Two major contributors were Rowan Hawes and Corey Seator, both of whom got on the finals score sheet with a try each. Seator scored a brilliant individual kick and chase try.

Also continuing his good form and scoring for Te Puke was Brad Moreland.

Final score: Te Puke 15, Tauranga 12.



VICTORIOUS! Left: Jordan Jeffries, Rowan Hawes, Mike Collins, Sean McVeigh, Kabil Young, Tarure Kingi, Ayden Pitman, Mark Ballantyne, Brad Moreland and Corey Seator. 270807SP3TP

A Te Puke Sports website was launched - www.tepukesports.co.nz

Participation in netball strengthened with 5 teams taking the courts with names as diverse as Slow-Ferns, Outback, Hummers, Golden Girls and Subway. The volleyball team slipped to fourth in the National Club Championship.

At the February **2008** Annual General Meeting Deborah Keenleyside presented the 2007 financial report that detailed an overall club profit of \$24,656.00. This was the club's best financial result for several years with members acknowledging that the club was entering a more financially stable period.

Ash Peat commented "An exciting occurrence happens in three months when (hopefully) our mortgage for the clubroom extensions will be paid-off".

Ash regretted that the upper training area and car-park had not been completed and considered this project a priority. This work was completed during the course of the year.

In a March newsletter Ash Peat commented "The Bay of Plenty Union is in turmoil. They continue to stumble from one debacle to another. The coaching fiasco, financial performance and team performance



make bleak reading for us the stakeholders in Bay of Plenty rugby... The financial viability of the proud NPC set-up looks increasingly fragile... as huge losses are racked up... It is more important than ever as a club (that we) pull together and look after our own club patch, club players and members. There are great things happening in this club with many dedicated people". (abridged)

After another successful 1st round where the team finished in fifth position, the Premiers contested the top 8. At the commencement of the 2nd round the topic of representative players became an issue.

Bay of Plenty Times
19 April 2008

Brett McLeod helped secure Te Puke in the top-four of the Bay-wide club rugby competition.

First-five McLeod scored a try, converted it, then added a crucial penalty as his side edged a tenacious Rangataua 15-13 at Murray Salt Stadium on Saturday, moving them to equal-third with Whakarewarewa on 15 points after four matches in the first round.

Bay of Plenty Times
14 June 2008

Who would be a Baywide club rugby coach? Nutbrown, who came on in a slick cameo during Te Puke's 29-3 Bay-wide thumping of Mount Maunganui on Saturday.

No sooner had Te Puke maestro Rodney Gibbs unveiled the answer to the Steamers' midfield woes this season than he'll lose the startling new talent for much of the championship round.

Okay — so the new centre was current Steamers halfback Jamie Nutbrown, who came on in a slick cameo during Te Puke's 29-3 Bay-wide thumping of Mount Maunganui on Saturday.

But the point remains — after the Steamers squad is named on Friday, representative players will become as rare as innocuous refereeing during the club showpiece round.

In mid-July the team qualified for another semi-final after a 29 - 5 defeat of Rotoiti.

In the lead up to the semi-final match against Rangataua, coach Rodney Gibbs mused; "both teams reckon they know how to beat each other."

Bay of Plenty Times
19 July 2008

After 80 minutes, about the only way to distinguish the mud-caked Te Puke Sports and Rotoiti players were the facial expressions.

The hosts were wearing the smiles and slapping backs as they traipsed off the quagmire at Murray Salt Stadium, Te Puke.

They had just won the Baywide premier game 29-5, scored a bonus-point earning four tries, and earned a place in the semifinals with one week to play.

Bay of Plenty Times
1 August 2008

With another sticky surface predicted, Te Puke coach Rodney Gibbs will play prolific point-scorer Brett McLeod at first-five, while he's tinkering with where he plays vastly experienced halfback Rameka Poihipi.

"It's always a good battle between us, probably because both sides reckon they know the key to beating the other," Gibbs mused. "They've gone well this year once they started winning a few games, because they seem to thrive on that success and it makes them even tougher."



Rangataua went on to win 9 - 7 and extend the sequence of finals losses for the Premiers, with Tauranga Sports then defeating Rangataua in the final 13 - 8. Brett McLeod was the top Baywide points scorer with 218 points.



2008 Te Puke Sports Premier Team

Back: M. Burt, D. Colhoun, L. Perrott, J. Harrison, L. Te Kiri, A. Jarvis-Cook, P. Williams (Asst. Manager)

Middle: R. Flexman (Manager), K. Williamson (Masseur), J. Roberts, N. Burt, J. Kouwenhoven, C. Donaldson, R. Just, A. Kelly, J. Murphy, A. Peat (President), R. Gibbs (Coach) Front: S. Crossman, C. Donovan, B. McLeod, S. Tamihana, R. Poihipi, D. Whitecliffe, P.J. Gidlow, M. Wallis, A. Sutherland, R. Nicolaas, M. Salt (Major Sponsor).

Absent: A. Fitzgerald (Asst. Coach), H. Nicolaas, H. Sievwright, S. King, J. Nutbrown, R. Dibell, V. Petterson, T. Johansson, P. Akerson

The Colts won the Baywide 1st round, however missed out on the semi-finals at the seasons end.

Bay of Plenty Times

16 April 2008

Championship form shown by TP Colts

THE two Te Puke premier rugby teams both posted comfortable wins last Saturday with the Te Puke Colts also impressing.

In the Baywide top echelon, Te Puke Sports made a significant move up the leader board — with a seven try victory over Waikite at Murray Salt Stadium.

The game was in the bag at the half time break at 29-5 — with a continuation of pressure in the second spell resulting in a 41-5 victory.

Ross Nicolaas, in outstanding form throughout the encounter, was rewarded with three touchdowns.

Josh Harrison dotted down twice with Jason Kouwenhoven and veteran Rameka Poihipi also contributing five points apiece.

Te Puke Colts are looking like genuine championship contenders when they posted another solid victory on Saturday. A 37-12 win over Rotorua side, Waikite suggests a squad that has championship silverware on their agenda.

Results
Sect One — Te Puke Sports 41 (Ross Nicolaas (3) Josh Harrison (2) Jason Kouwenhoven, Rameka Poihipi tries; Brett McLeod 3 con) Waikite 12.



2008 Te Puke Sports Colts - Winners of the Western Bay Championship

Back: A. Peat (President), M. Roberts, A. Wallis, J. Culligan, J. Tuala, A. Seator, M. Cooney, S. Morris, S. Kelly (Manager)
Middle: B. Kiddle (Coach), B. Roberts (Asst. Coach), V. Zuber, B. Wagstaff, N. Harris, S. Winikeri, T. Hodgson, J. Wagstaff, L. Atkinson, P. Wadsworth (Aqua Tech), M. Salt (Major Sponsor)
Front: S. Montgomery, S. Royal, M. Nicolaas, J. Corbett, E. Kingi, L. Burt, D. Williamson, C. Wheki, K. Paenga

The Te Puke Sports 'Mutineers' team participated in the 17th Golden Oldies Festival in Edinburgh. It was described by team captain Kim Hinaki as *"An experience we will never forget"*.

Another strong netball season ended with five teams again representing the club.

150 JAB players registered to play reflecting the sound management of this section of the club over many years and the Goldfields JAB Rugby Tournament was again hosted during September.

Volleyball membership decreased as a consequence of the domestic commitments of long-term members. In March the team announced that *"motherhood will take priority and we are unable to field a team"*.

The wind down of competitive volleyball was the end of a golden-era for this section of Te Puke Sports. The record of achievements over the previous 14 years was outstanding with 9 New Zealand Club Championships, 9 players selected for the New Zealand team, 7 for New Zealand Maori, 2 for New Zealand Under 21's and 6 for New Zealand Under 19's. This sport raised the club's profile on a regional and national level and their spectacular results are unlikely to be achieved again.



The Originals - Standing: Gary Driver, Marc Borland, Warren Taylor, Kim Hinaki.
Sitting: Dean Payne, Stu Griffin, Dallas McLeod, Lex Robson, Kevin Knudsen, Beau the dog

THE MUTINEERS formed in 2003





Te Puke Sports Uniforms and Merchandise

- From top:
- Shirt and tie
- Shirt and tie with blazer
- 100 game blazer pocket
- Tie
- Pre match Tee shirt
- Bucket hat
- Hoodie
- Wet weather jacket
- Outdoor jacket





The **2009** ruby season commenced with a successful 7's campaign.

Bay of Plenty Times

21 January 2009

Team 'stoked' with sevens performance

The last time a Te Puke team entered the Mount Maunganui club sevens tournament, 36-year-old coach Rameka Poihipi was still a teenager.

His fellow coach Charles Baxter had yet to squeeze his first pimple, while half the team were still in nappies.

After making the final of the

annual tournament at Blake Park on Sunday, eventually losing to Auckland's Grammar-Carlton 33-7, there is unlikely to be a similar length of absence next time around.

"Hopefully it might bring a few more people around to Te Puke and realise we're not just a 15s club," Baxter said.

The club season reverted to a Western Bay top 6 competition, with the Premiers finishing second, prior to the Baywide competition. The Baywide was divided into two sections of six, who then played for positions in the top 8.

By the end of the Baywide top 8 round the Premiers finished fourth and again qualified for the semi-finals where they defeated Whakarewarewa 15 - 13 in Rotorua to set up a final against Tauranga Sports.

Bay of Plenty Times

3 August 2009

Shock semi win gives Te Puke shot at title

Start calling for blood donors and call in extra medical staff.

This week's Baywide club rugby championship decider will see arch-rivals Tauranga Sports and Te Puke fighting out with every pun intended — for the title after a dramatic pair of semifinal matches on Saturday.

A 14-man Tauranga held a gallant Rangataua side at bay to win 19-15, while Te Puke shocked Whakarewarewa in Rotorua with

a 15-13 victory dripping in character.

Te Puke, as they're sure to be reminded this week, have never won in two decades of trying.

"We'll be throwing the kitchen sink at them, that's for sure," Te Puke coach Rodney Gibbs said. "It's going to be a good week whatever and these guys deserve to have a go at it for the way they've hung in there during the season."



Unfortunately the season ended with another finals loss 31 - 23, while the Colts lost their final against Ngongotaha 42 - 3.

Bay of Plenty Times

8 August 2009

Te Puke were unfancied before the game, but displayed incredible tenacity, highlighted by a remarkable lineout display which pillaged Tauranga's supply of ball.

Leading that effort was 31-year-old Mark Walton, normally a blindside flanker, who tips over six feet (1.82m) only if he's wearing sprigs. Walton admitted they'd employed a trick he'd learned playing in England, targeting the middle lifter on the opposition throw and cramming him for space though risky to bring out in a final, it worked perfectly.

Saturday's win speaks volumes of the coaching of Tauranga's Errol Brain, who this year had the least amount of talent to work with of any of the previous championships.

By the same token, Te Puke's Rodney Gibbs and Scott Cameron performed virtual miracles by getting their team into the final.



2009 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Winners of the David Simpson Cup

Back: J. Cotter (Tech Advisor), M. Walton, D. Whitecliffe, R. Lambert, A. Te Moni, J. Fly, J. Rueben, H. Siewwright, L. Te Kiri, J. Roberts, S. Tamihana, J. Redmayne (Physio), P. Williams (Asst. Manager)

Middle: S. Cameron (Asst. Coach), R. Just, J. Murphy, A. Brownlee, N. Burt, C. Donaldson, S. Rolleston, J. Harrison, D. Lee, M. Burt, C. Donovan, A. Peat (President), R. Gibbs (Coach), D. Banks (Physio)

Front: R. Flexman (Manager), L. Perrott, J. Wagstaff, N. McCashin, R. Poihipi, R. Nicolaas, S. Chisholm, B. McLeod, M. Nicolaas, A. Sutherland, A. Vakatawa, M. Ball (Management) Absent: S. King, N. Hunt, D. Bowater, W. King, R. Ball, F. Salu.



2009 Te Puke Sports Colts - Runners Up Baywide Colts Competition

Back: A. Peat (President), B. Bragg, S. Dodds, B. Lloyd, M. Cooney, J. Culligan, J. Farnham, P. Wadsworth (Aqua Tech)

Middle: B. Williamson (Manager), Q. Harris (Asst. Coach), A. Wallis, J. Watton, T. Carter, I. Takai, S. Montgomery, J. Farnham, R. Martin (Coach), J. Fly (Coach)

Front: P. Biel, S. Winikerei, J. Corbett, D. Williamson (Vice Captain), L. Burt (Captain), S. Munro, J. Hawke, B. McNaughton, C. Kingi.

Absent: M. Langdon, N. Hall, C. Wheki, H. Raihiri

Reflecting on the rugby season Ash Peat said *"the all too familiar story of so close, but no cigar rings true for the 2009 season"*.

Ash stated in his 2009 Presidents report *"A must for the coming year is to get the Old Players Club up and running and perhaps look at (employing) a part time executive to drive revenue.... on the financial side of things we are in a holding pattern, we need new blood on the executive to rev things up and get going. We have a tremendous asset that should be providing us with more income to enable the funding of a more professional rugby set-up..... more than ever in these trying financial times the majority of us haven't got the time to devote ... so (finding) a part-time professional is a must in my mind"*. (abridged)

With reference to the club's playing fields, Ash commented *"Thanks to a lot of hard work our grounds are standing up to the rigours of training and are a picture for Saturday games. You only need to go around the other clubs to see the standard of their grounds to realise how lucky we are"*.

Twilight cricket was added to the clubs list of social sports.



In **2010** the 7's season was again popular with tournaments played at Te Awamutu, Greerton and Mt Maunganui, where the team lost the Special Plate final to Grammar 14 - 12.

The Baywide competition was changed to two rounds of ten teams, with the Premiers losing two of their first three games, to Tauranga Sports 27 - 17 in the season opener and two weeks later to Rotoiti 28 - 22. They remained undefeated for the rest of the 1st round.

Their good form continued in the 2nd round and they finished fourth to qualify for another shot at a Baywide title that ended at the semi-final stage, with another loss to Tauranga Sports 14 - 12.

Bay of Plenty Times
4 August 2010

Day of rugby drama

By BARRY LEABOURN

THERE have been few more dramatic days in Bay of Plenty club rugby than the drama that unfolded in the Bartercard Baywide rugby semi-finals at the weekend!

A draw between Mt Maunganui and Rotoiti, and no more than two points separating the other Premier and Division

One semi-finalists, produced nail biting finishes everywhere.

The battle between the Mount and Rotoiti for a place in the premier final came down to the toss of a coin.

There was also plenty of drama at the Tauranga Domain, where defending champions

Tauranga Sports sneaked home from archrivals Te Puke Sports 12-10. The home side made the early running scoring the only try of the match

In the Colts' championship, top qualifier Te Puke Sports, who had a week off when their opponents defaulted.

Tauranga Sports went on to defeat Mt Maunganui in the final 19 - 10.

The Colts were undefeated in 20 games and won their final against Tauranga Sports 19 - 3 to become the first team to win a Baywide title for the club in any grade.

Bay of Plenty Times
9 August 2010

finals win as Te Puke break hex

BAYWIDE FINALS
by Jamie Troughton

Could the jinx finally be broken? Te Puke Colts captain Tukahau Carter reckons so, after leading his team to the first Baywide title — in any grade — in the club's history.

Years of agony, the pain of countless chokes and the desperate tears of supporters were

washed away in the Tauranga Domain rain as Te Puke beat Tauranga Sports 19-3 in the age-grade finale.

"It's the first one in our history and we did it by winning 20 games on the trot, so it doesn't get much better than that," Carter said.



Bay of Plenty Times
9 August 2010

Most of the team were backing up from last year's final when Te Puke suffered a 42-3 humbling at the hands of Ngongotaha at the same venue.

"The final last year woke us up to what it was all about. It's another step up and the boys have been training hard every week, especially on Tuesdays when we knew we were going to get run around. That extra fitness and heart got us through today."



2010 Te Puke Sports Colts - Baywide Colts Winners

Back: B. Williamson (Manager), L. Walsh, B. Moses, R. Wilson, J. Hawke, T. Trinder, B. McNaughton, B. Wagstaff, P. Wadsworth (Aqua Tech), A. Peat (President)

Middle: M. Salt (Major Sponsor), Q. Harris (Asst. Coach), M. Hinaki, J. Farnham, H. Raihania, E. Takai, N. Hall, W. Warbrick (Asst. Coach), J. Fly (Coach)

Front: J. Featherstone, J. Culligan, N. Lekkimlim, I. Takai, T. Carter, J. Watton, S. Munro, B. Bragg, J. Farnham.

Absent: B. Lloyd, D. Morehu, K. Utimawa, W. Campbell.

With reference to the Colts achievement Ash Peat commented in his Presidents Report "It is with jubilation that I can report that this year we managed to knock the bastard off".



2010 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Winners of the David Simpson Cup

Back: R. Flexman (Manager), A. Miller (Asst. Coach), R. Lambert, J. Corbett, M. Broughton, A. Tuise, N. Lekklim, S. Munro, H. Siewwright, H. Bernard, M. Ball (Management), M. Salt (Major Sponsor)

Middle: J. Cotter (Coach), N. Burt, S. Smith, D. Lee, S. Rolleston, B. Harrison, B. Ward, R. Birkin, A. Peat (President).

Front: K. Tyack, C. Donovan, M. Walton, M. Nicolaas, L. Perrott, C. Donaldson, M. Burt, A. Sutherland, B. McLeod.

Absent: S. King, S. Chisholm, J. Murphy, J. Harrison, D. Banks (Physio), N. McCashin, R. Poihipi, P. Williams (Asst. Manager), D. Goodwin, D. Whitecliffe.



Supporters avidly watching the finals action.

Three netball teams and a social grade team participated in the Harbourside competition at Mt Maunganui.



Te Puke Sports - Colts
Baywide Champions
2010



Finals Days 2010 and 2011



The Old Pirates Club was launched in 2010. The objective was to expand club membership by attracting older players and administrators back to the club.

Welcome to our Old Pirates Club!

Congratulations if you are reading this you are now part of, or we would like to invite you to be in our exclusive Pirates club

Firstly thanks to those of you who have subscribed already to what we are hoping is the start of some thing that we can all be proud to be apart of

The Old Pirates Club has been initiated not only to help the development of rugby in and around Te Puke community but also to help to set in place solid

structures that in the future will help us deal with some of the problems that are becoming ever more present in a lot of clubs around the country.

As a club we are in a unique position with some great facilities. We need to make the most of this and utilize these facilities and make our club the hub of the community that it has been in the past.



The **2011** Premier team season commenced with losses to Tauranga Sports, Rotoiti and Rangataua in first four weeks of the competition and controversy surrounding Kenyan 7's star Charles Longwe.

Bay of Plenty Times 2 April 2011

Club rugby by Jamie Troughton

Kenyan sevens star Charles Longwe is set to make his Baywide club rugby debut for Te Puke this weekend in a decent boost to the region's halfback stocks.

Longwe, better known as Chucky, will travel with Te Puke to Rotoiti tomorrow and coach Jeremy Cotter is confident the 22-year-old will get some game time.

Cotter spotted Longwe while on safari in Kenya last year, when the No 9 was loading pineapples on to a flatbed truck on a road near the city of Thika, firing the fruit 40m on the fly.

Dazzled by his passing game, Cotter teed up a contract with French club Cheval Fumier Racing, a feeder club to top-14

champions Clermont, coached by Cotter's brother, Vern.

Longwe's meteoric rugby rise was capped when he made his sevens debut for Kenya in Hong Kong last week, scoring four times in pool play.

"He only flew in from Hong Kong on Tuesday but came straight to training and looked impressive," Cotter said. "He's fast, strong and has already learned several of our intricate lineout and scrum moves, so I've got a feeling he'll fit in pretty well."

Longwe's arrival is timely, with Steamers and Chiefs halfback Tanieli Moa possibly making himself available for Tonga's World Cup campaign.

Chucky chucked

RUGBY: Outstanding Kenyan halfback Chucky Longwe, featured in the *Bay Times* yesterday, has been barred from playing for Te Puke in Baywide club rugby this year after being found with prohibited amounts of April Fools humour in a urine sample. He's expected to be banned for life. Tanieli Moa, however, could still play for Tonga at the World Cup.



The 1st round finished in the midst of an injury crisis and fourth equal position.

Bay of Plenty Times

21 May 2011

Club rugby

By Jamie Troughton

Forget rogue pigdogs, Psa and Hi-Cane spray drift. The biggest dangers on the streets of Te Puke these days may well be blokes with yellow and black eye-patches, waving cutlasses and growling "ahoy there matey!"

Te Puke Sports, formerly United Pirates, have been press-ganging anyone who crosses their path as an injury crisis swamps the club's premier side.

The latest to walk the plank-laden bench was former Steamers fullback Jarrod McKeown, who retired with 203 games for the club more than four years ago.

The 39-year-old McKeown, somewhat relieved, didn't get on in Saturday's 19-17 win over Opotiki, though it was a close-run thing. He was warming up vigorously within 10 minutes of kick-off when centre Gideon Uelese went down with a knee injury, though returned eagerly to the bench when the midfielder gingerly rejoined the fray.

It's not that McKeown would've disgraced himself — far from it, in fact. It's just that the options are running out. His former Steamers teammates, Rameka Poihipi and Andy Miller, both leaning heavily

into their 30s, weren't so lucky. Poihipi played a full and robust game at wing, while Miller came on to steady fraying nerves late in the second spell.

It's getting so bad, crowd numbers are plummeting at Murray Salt Stadium everyone's too scared they'll end up playing. Assistant coach Craig Jeffries gave his boots away a couple of weeks back just so he had an alibi, while head coach Jeremy Cotter reckons he's aged so much this season, he couldn't get a run in Golden Oldies.

Premier standings:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	P
Tauranga	9	7	1	1	340	146	5	35
Whaka	9	7	0	2	286	170	6	34
Mount	9	6	0	3	234	184	3	27
Rangat	9	4	2	3	225	186	5	25
Te Puke	9	5	0	4	193	179	4	25
Opotiki	9	3	2	4	210	210	5	21
Waikite	9	3	2	4	210	212	4	20
Rotoiti	9	4	0	5	168	222	4	20
Te Puna	9	1	0	8	154	337	5	10
Whtk	9	1	1	7	139	310	2	8

The team went through the 2nd round undefeated finishing the round robin in second position to again qualify for the semi-finals, where they defeated Mt Maunganui 20 - 19.

In the lead up to the final, the clubs finals record was at the forefront of media comment.

Bay of Plenty Times

5 August 2011

Mark Walton can still taste the bitterness of defeat from his last Baywide club rugby final although, unlike his teammates, at least he can say he's won one.

That was for Waikite way back in 2000, although the 33-year-old Te Puke Sports stalwart admits victory in tomorrow's premier final at Greerton Park against Whakarewarewa would be all the more sweet given the club's wretched history in the big ones over the last two decades.

Maybe it's the pain of defeat that has clouded the memory but, since that lone title with Waikite,

Walton is struggling to remember how many finals he's played in, and lost, with Te Puke.

Te Puke Sports until 1993 known as United Pirates have won plenty of Western Bay titles but never the big one. Yet they've been consistent, failing just once, in 2006, to make the semifinals, and have marched on solidly this season with a squad almost devoid of any names, unless you factor in former Bay of Plenty reps Andy Miller and Rameka Poihipi and former Northland lock/loosie Dan Goodwin, who is set to be promoted off the bench

into a starting role.

Te Puke lost the 1999 final against Tauranga Sports, again in 2001, 13-9 to Waikite, and 25-17 three years later against Whakataane Marist.

The one that grates is two years ago, when Te Puke fought back to level at 23-all against Tauranga Sports with seven minutes left before losing 31-23.



In a prelude to the Premier final, the Colts completed their second successive finals victory, defeating Greerton Marist 25 - 14.

Bay of Plenty Times
8 August 2011

TE PUKE COLTS 25 GREERTON MARIST 14

Double delight after colts set stage for a great day

By JAMIE TROUGHTON

They showed their senior clubmates what could be done last season and to emphasise things the champion Te Puke Colts side went out and did it again on Saturday.

For the second consecutive year, Te Puke took home the McIntosh Shield, confirming its status as the best age-group rugby team in the Bay with a 25-14 win over Greerton Marist.

Flanker Logan Walsh capped his side's magnificent unbeaten season — it has only lost three games in three years — with a 20-point haul, kicking six sweet penalties and converting centre Jeremy Featherston's try.

But the highlight for Walsh came four hours later, when the colts team charged on to the field to celebrate the senior side's win over Whakarewarewa.

"We've won two years in a row, which is cool, but we didn't get an idea of what that meant until the premiers won and we saw what it meant to them," Walsh said.

"It was humbling — there were a few guys crying and pretty emotional and it made us realise winning any title for the club is a huge deal.

“It was humbling — there were a few guys crying and pretty emotional and it made us realise winning any title for the club is a huge deal.”

"To get two titles in one year is the best feeling of all — we'll cherish this for the rest of our lives."

No 8 Michael Hinaki paid tribute to his livewire skipper Walsh, who looks set to graduate to premier level next year with a handful of teammates.

"Walshy was outstanding — he couldn't seem to miss," Hinaki said.

"Greerton played well and made it pretty tough and playing at home in front of their supporters gave them an extra lift but we kept a level head and kept getting points when we needed them."

Colts final: Te Puke Sports 25 (Jeremy Featherston try; Logan Walsh 6pen con) Greerton Marist 14 (Ken Tupuola try; Ben Dodd 3pen). HT 19-11.

They were again undefeated in 20 games; an outstanding achievement for the team and their coaches John Fly, Willy Warbrick and Quentin Harris.



The headlines the following Monday said it all. A magnificent victory for the Premiers!

Bay of Plenty Times

8 August 2011

21 years of agony over

Victory seals Te Puke's greatest day

Baywide club rugby
By Kelly Exelby

Victory is sweetest when you've known defeat

billionaire US capitalist Malcolm S Forbes. He might have been talking of boardroom battles but Forbes could just as easily have had Te Puke Sports in mind as the club iced their greatest day on Saturday, ending 21 years of heart-break.

During a sizzling Baywide premier season finale at an overflowing Greerton Park, Te Puke's misery at having come close before staggering at the last hurdle vanished as they fought back from 12-3 down at halftime, and 15-3 soon after, with a near-flawless second half to edge Whakarewarewa 21-18.

Unfancied before the game, with all the talk about how big Whaka's winning margin would be, Te Puke refused to lie down in a tense countdown to fulltime, with second-five Simon Rolleston's towering drop goal from near halfway releasing two decades of pent-up pressure.

As Te Puke's fans poured on to the pitch, coach Jereny Cotter, a rugged tight forward who never won the big one as a player, admitted the Baywide title had come at the end of the strangest season, in which all the early indications were that the side would struggle to hold their spot in the top division.

"I'm still pinching myself right now, it's surreal," said Cotter.



LET THE PARTY BEGIN: Te Puke celebrate winning the Baywide Premier Trophy after beating Whakarewarewa at Greerton Park.

PHOTOS/JOEL FORD

In a finals victory sealed with a Simon Rolleston drop goal, long serving members of the club recalled memories of the Kensington penalty goal in 1974 to seal the club's first ever competition win.

Dream drop goal seals win

With nervous hands on heads on the Te Puke bench after the perennial Western Bay of Plenty bridesmaids fought back from 15-3 down early in the second half to lock it up at 18-all, the second-five's booming kick from almost on halfway created a magical finish to a top-drawer final at a great venue.



MAGIC MOMENT: Simon Rolleston had a final to remember.

"I hit it as good as I could but the kick seemed to be heading a bit wide, although they tend to curl from right to left. This one came a bit later than usual so I wasn't sure 'til it dropped over. I wanted to be the one who had a go. This is the stuff every rugby player dreams about and practises for, and there was no way I was going to shy away from it."



Both Premiers and Colts were lauded by the Press.

Bay of Plenty Times
10 August 2011

Great day for Te Puke

By JAMIE TROUGHTON

I started with belief, it ended with undiluted, unbridled relief. Rameka Poihipi sat stunned in the Greerton Park clubrooms on Saturday, still trying to grasp that after 20 years of trying, his Te Puke Sports side had finally won a Baywide club rugby championship.

Their 21-18 finals win over Whakarewarewa was one for the ages, the greatest day in the club's history, made sweeter by a second successive win for the colts, who beat Greerton 25-14.

For Poihipi, who started playing halfback for the club in 1991 and has since appeared more than 400 times, including five unsuccessful finals, there was only one emotion.

"I'm just stoked we finally did it," the 38-year-old policeman said.

"I guess the jubilation will kick in later on but at the moment, it's just relief — we've finally shaken the monkey off our back."

In fact, said primate was last seen floating down the Kaituna River with a dreamy, peaceful look on its hairy face.

Memories of the heartbreaking 2004 grand final loss to Whakatane Marist, in particular, were banished for good. There were many heroes for Te Puke — replacement hooker Simon Chisholm scored two tries as his side fought back from 15-3 down, while second-five Simon Rolleston earned a place in club folklore with a majestic 51m drop-goal with two minutes to play.

But the platform was laid by a brilliant tight-five performance and by an unshaken determination.

All season, coach Jeremy Cotter has pointed to a sign on the changing shed wall that reads "one person with a belief is equal to a force of 99 who have only interest". The tattered sign made the trek to Greerton for the final and Cotter tapped it meaningfully as his side ran out.

As Poihipi explained, it wasn't only the belief of the players that got them through.

"Our supporters have always believed in us. Every year, they'd come down and commiserate with us and say 'never mind, there's always next year'."

"But I was sick of it — I told the boys before the game

"I didn't want to hear that again — we were



PHOTO CHRIS CULLINAN

going to win it for them this year and get it over with."

Te Puke club president Ash Peat has also endured years of torment as his side, time after time, failed to win the game that counted. But as he says, they've also been the most consistent side in the competition — in his 13 years as president, they've only missed the playoffs once and that was through points differential.

"It was long overdue and it's a real buzz for the club and community," Peat said.

"It's the biggest, proudest day the club's had — there's been a lot of work from guys like Cotter and Andy (Miller) and Rameka over the years and for them to win is a joy."



PHOTO TP/STAYWIDE/14 JAMIE TROUGHTON, DISCIBE JOURNALISM, JAMIE@DISCIBE.CO

STOP ME IF YOU CAN!: Jamie Culligan shows the team spirit as Te Puke colts beat Greerton Marist in the Baywide final of the colts section. The brave tackler is Cameron Wilson. Below: Te Puke sports halfback and veteran, with 400 appearances, Rameka Poihipi gets his hands on the Baywide club rugby trophy.

In his Presidents report on 2011, Ash Peat commented "Well, the old adage says good things come to those who wait.... we have certainly waited a while but wasn't the wait worthwhile.... 2011 will certainly be remembered as a stellar year for the club with the Premiers finally nailing a Premiership and the Colts going through unbeaten to add a repeat championship for them. After all that (success) it was a forgone conclusion that the All Blacks would win the World Cup. Special mention must be made of Jeremy Cotter, Andy Miller and Craig Jeffries who spearheaded the campaign".



Ash also noted *“the success on the field probably masks the fact that we are a club under (financial) pressure with a committee well past its use-by-date. We have falling membership and fewer volunteers to do the work.... P.S.A. (bacterial infection of vines) in the kiwifruit industry will only add to this clubs worries”*.

In a stirring response, Patron Brian Stapleton spoke of his confidence in the club and the committee and stated *“other clubs can only be envious of our facilities and our achievements”*.



2011 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Baywide Premier Champions

Back: A. Lee, M. Powdrell, N. Burt, R. Birkin, B. Harrison, S. Rolleston, V. Pettersson, R. Green, B. Ward, N. Harris, P. Williams (Asst. Manager)
 Middle: A. Miller (Asst. Coach), J. Cameron (Life Member), R. Flexman (Manager), M. Salt (Major Sponsor), J. Corbett, A. Tuise, M. Broughton, S. Moimoi, G. Uelese, A. Peat (President), N. Lydiard (Physio), B. Stapleton (Patron)
 Front: C. Jeffries (Coach), C. Donovan, M. Walton, S. Chisholm, N. McCashin, R. Lambert, R. Poihipi, D. Goodwin, J. Murphy, M. Nicolaas, J. Cotter (Coach) Ball Boys: T and R. Poihipi Absent: L. Gibson, R. Ball



2011 Te Puke Sports Colts - Baywide Colts Champions

Back: B. Wagstaff, J. Featherstone, J. Sansom, J. Culligan, S. Nagel, I. Takai, T. Morehu, M. Hinaki, E. Takai,
Middle: J. Fly (Coach), W. Warbrick (Coach), P. Wadsworth (Aqua Tech), E. Ronaki, H. Tamihana, O. Beaumont, H. O'Reilly,
N. Wilson (Manager), Q. Harris (Asst. Coach), M. Salt (Major Sponsor), A. Peat (President)
Front: B. Moses, M. Eru, R. Wilson, L. Walsh, J. Batten, J. Hawke, K. Utimawa.
Absent: J. Watton, G. Featherstone, N. Trinder, T. Trinder, B. McNaughton, D. Morehu, E. Salmon, M. Mohi

Following a lack lustre period during which JAB membership declined, new initiatives and tireless fund raising saw participation again increase. Kids' entertainment was introduced including items such as a bouncy castle and a juke-box purchased to encourage family participation amongst the younger grades.

A part-time sports development officer, Dan Goodwin, was appointed to support sporting activity, fund raising and club promotions as well as assisting with the expansion of the Old Pirates Club.

The Old Pirates Club membership totalled 40 and began expanding.

Friday 'Family Fun' nights featuring big screen entertainment, meals and organised activities were promoted to encourage family participation in the club.



2012 the Premier side put their 2011 championship victory behind them under the guidance of new coaches Craig Jeffries and Leo Scott and played an entertaining brand of rugby. They went through the 1st round undefeated, including an 89 - 5 demolition of Waikite in early April and the following week thrashed Rangataua 90 - 16.

Bay of Plenty Times

16 April 2012

Baywide rugby By Greg Taipari

Te Puke first-five Nick McCashin may not have Super Rugby franchises throwing cash at him right now but it may be only a matter of time.

The 27-year-old scored 44 points — four tries and 12 conversions — in his team's 89-5 demolition of Waikite at the weekend.

McCashin scored a fifth try but it was deemed a penalty try after he was scragged by the collar as he touched down. He had the ball on a string in his kicking game, passed like he was threading a needle and showed Waikite they had more holes in their defence than Swiss cheese.

In June they suffered their only loss in both rounds of competition to Tauranga Sports 26 - 21. The team defeated Opotiki Sports in the semi-final 36 - 14 to set up a back to back finals contest against Rotoiti.

Bay of Plenty Times

30 July 2012

Te Puke 36 Opotiki 14 By Kelly Exelby

The questions on everyone's lips before kick-off at Murray Salt Stadium on Saturday were predictable: Would skipper Simon Chisholm shrug off brain trauma to have a crack at old foe Tauranga Sports one last time?

And could Te Puke Sports reverse that last outing against Tauranga and win back-to-back Baywide premier crowns?

Playoffs rugby is a strange beast.

The form guide is irrelevant now Tauranga Sports again tripped at the penultimate hurdle, setting up a Baywide premier showdown between Te Puke Sports (36-14 winners over Opotiki Sports) and leading Rotorua side Rotoiti and not the tantalising local derby most were predicting.

Perhaps getting ahead of themselves was the catalyst to Te Puke's sub-par effort in the first half of their home semifinal against Opotiki Sports.

They pressed and hammered but were undone by their own impatience, finally going ahead 13-9 when centre Ben Ward burrowed over on the buzzer.

But it was a different beat that emerged after the break, with the brave Opotiki side's back broken by a scintillating 90m solo try from Jack Wilson

Te Puke have unlimited potential in the backline but perhaps their biggest weapon is their depth off the bench.

Jeffries and Scott are demanding a job and were served well by the injection of

enthusiasm coming from the subs.

Jeffries assisted Jeremy Cotter last season as Te Puke won their first Baywide title before he and Scott grabbed the reins this year.

No pressure then to at least get the club into another final?

"Taking over as coach that was part of my thinking.

"I didn't want to be the one stepping in taking the team backwards. But we spent a lot of time getting a decent squad together, making sure there were a heap of local boys in there who were going to work hard.

"Guys like Rollo [Rolleston] and Cash [McCashin] have driven the team fitness and excitement-wise, so not only is the team benefiting but they're also getting what they deserve," he said.



The Colts under the guidance of new coaches Ricky James, Graeme James and Phil O'Reilly, lost their semi against Tauranga Sports 22 - 17, ending another successful season for the team.

In the Premier final, the side prevailed 12 - 3 over Rotoiti to achieve back to back titles, emulating the Colt's teams of 2010 and 2011.

Bay of Plenty Times
6 August 2012

Sports reign again in mudbath tussle

Tough Te Puke cement spot at top of Baywide order with brave Rotoiti victory

Baywide club rugby
By Kelly Exelby

Hard-grafting Te Puke Sports flanker Luke Perrott has finally got his hands on the Baywide premier winner's medal that eluded him a year ago.

Perrott, a mainstay of the Te Puke pack for several seasons, took last year off after returning from overseas, with his ill-timed year's sabbatical just happening to coincide with the greatest day in the club's history as they kicked their way to a win over Whakarewarewa and their first premier title.

While it has not exactly been the proverbial pebble under the beach towel, Perrott said missing out last year had been the motivation he's needed to help Te Puke to a repeat effort.

Perrott was in his element at Tauranga Domain on Saturday, with the openside combining superbly with fellow loosies Michael Hinaki and Ryan Lambert as Te Puke – literally – won a wrestle in ankle deep mud against Rotoiti 12-3.

Te Puke first-five Nick McCashin kicked four from five attempts while Rotoiti kicker Whakataki Cunningham had a

Scores

PGG Wrightson Baywide finals day:

Premier: Te Puke Sports 12 (Nick McCashin 4 pens), Rotoiti 3 (Whakataki Cunningham pen) HT 9-3

Division one: Paroa 18 (Maru Henry, James McGougan tries, Ariki Henry 2 pens, con) Ranguru 18 (Ra Faulkner, Matt Eru, Wi Kendall tries, Ngatai Kingi pen) Paroa won on a countback after scores were tied after extra time: HT 13-10 Rg

Colts: Te Puna 20 (Te Oha Tuhakaraina, Tamiti Jory, Iraia Peira tries, Shaun Borrell pen con) Tauranga Sports 15 (John Bosco Tagaloa, Jay Michalik tries, Geoff Berry pen con) HT 0-10

Division two: Katikati 13 Arataki 0: HT 3-0

Senior reserve: Tauranga Sports 58 Whakarewarewa 0: HT 29-0

solitary success from two penalty attempts.

It was an atrocious day — think waterhogs wallowing on the banks of the Zambezi — with rain falling throughout, kickoff delayed until 3.20pm because of two extra-time games on the No 1 field and mud stretching from 22 to 22.

Players were indistinguishable within 10 minutes of kickoff and consequently, the final didn't amount to much — hardly surprising given footing was treacherous and handling almost as bad.

None of it mattered to Perrott, who treasured his winner's medal in his mud-caked hands, reward for a stellar season that now has Te Puke being talked up as the authors of some sort of Baywide dynasty after going back to back.

"Today is right up there for me after missing out on the action last

"To back up a title with another shows the mark of a quality side."

Luke Perrott,
Te Puke Sports loose

year," Perrott said. "I'd played a couple of semifinals and finals prior to heading overseas without obviously any success, and last year standing on the sideline at Greerton, I was thinking how much I would have loved to be out there with the boys.

"I was happy for them winning the club's first title but it was the spur for me to get in and give it another go.

"Last year we were underdogs but this year we came in as favourites, so to back up a title with another one shows the mark of a quality side."

Perrott and co were ultra-effective, particularly in the wet against a big Rotoiti pack. First-year Te Puke coach Craig Jeffries rammed home the need to get up in the opposition's faces and his young pack heeded the message.

"Defence is something we've worked on, particularly in the second round, and we had to take that step forward and meet Rotoiti on the advantage line," Perrott said.

"Rotoiti took Tauranga [in the semifinal] on up front and won and they've got a strong pack, particularly in conditions like today.

"Piglet (Jeffries) told us it'd be

won through the forwards, which was fairly obvious to everyone as the ground chopped up, and we knew as long as we played our game no one could live with us."

Te Puke did cross the tryline once, but centre Ben Ward's effort late in the second half was thwarted by referee Dave Carston for a forward pass. It was one of Ward's final touches — he was subbed soon after by Carston for interfering with play with Rotoiti hot on attack.

Rotoiti finally found the missing piece to their puzzle with 10 minutes to go and were camped in the Te Puke 22, forcing the best out of the top qualifiers to keep them out. Carston pinged them eight times, creating a lopsided 14-6 penalty count for the match and Te Puke's defence stayed strong as Rotoiti sought tries to bridge the nine-point gap.

Skipper Jesse Acton lamented the late call to arms, saying nerves in their first final since the one-point loss in 2006 to Whakarewarewa might have played a part.

"We didn't pull our heads in and start taking the game to them until the second half, and it was too late then because we were forced to play catch-up and they weren't the right conditions for that.

"That last 10-15 minutes was how we should have played from the start. Te Puke were up for the situation and played the conditions well, with their experienced guys Rollo (Simon Rolleston), Cash (Nick McCashin) and Nutty (Jamie Nutbrown) all possessing good kicking games which pinned us back where we didn't want to be."



2012 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Baywide Premier Champions

Back: M. Hinaki, I. Takai, N. Harris, T. Carter, S. Rolleston, G. Oram, B. King, J. Wilson, A. Lee, A. Peat (President), P. Williams (Asst. Manager) Middle: L. Scott (Asst. Coach), C. Jeffries (Coach), T. Scott, J. Nutbrown, G. Uelese, A. Wallis, S. Moimoi, M. Flood, J. Hawke, J. Gordon (Aqua Tech), M. Salt (Major Sponsor), R. Flexman (Manager)
 Front: M. Broughton, M. Nicolaas, L. Perrott, N. McCashin, S. Chisholm, R. Poihipi, R. Lambert, J. Corbett, B. Ward

In his Presidents report, Ash Peat’s opening comments referred to the Premier team’s repeat Championship success *“It’s been a great year to be a Pirate! They played a superb brand of running rugby...and only dropped one game.... Roll on 2013 and make it three in a row”*. (abridged)

At the Annual General Meeting Treasurer Deborah Keenleyside echoed the view that had been expressed regularly throughout previous years *“Although the club is now mortgage free.....and we are financially sound, things could well change for the coming season as expenses are always ongoing ... we continue to run on a week by week basis which seems to be a continual problem. Without our sponsors it would be very difficult to operate”*

Nathan Harris was selected for the New Zealand Under 20 Rugby World Championships in South Africa.



Jack Wilson was selected to play for the New Zealand 7’s





At the end of the 2012 year the club was rewarded when it was awarded the "Sport New Zealand Club of the Year" at the Bay of Plenty Sports Awards.

Bay of Plenty Times

6 December 2012

Success brings club top accolade



HONOURS: Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club president Ash Peat with the Sport New Zealand Club of the Year trophy.

PHOTO/PETER WHITE ASHPEAT

Sports awards By Peter White

Te Puke Sports and Recreation Club's two consecutive Baywide rugby titles and outstanding administration were rewarded when the club picked up the Sport New Zealand Club of the Year award at the recent Bay of Plenty Sports Awards.

The old adage "you don't have to be the biggest to be the best" rings true in Te Puke, where the club has a playing roster, indoor training and clubhouse facilities bigger city clubs can only dream about, and better floodlights at the impressive Murray Salt Stadium than some provincial unions.

And by all accounts it has the best after-match food in the Bay.

Club president Ash Peat said members hoped they would win the award after being nominated last year as well, but he was not expecting it would go their way.

Te Puke Sports have had a frustrating run of near misses over

the years before finally nailing the Baywide title in the past two seasons.

"Before the last two winning years, we had lost seven semifinals and two finals in 12 years and the year we missed out was on points differential," said Peat.

"We have always been up there and it was overdue to be our time.

"We had new coaches this year in Craig Jeffries and Leo Scott and they had a really good culture going in the team, which filtered through to the whole club.

"Everyone got on really well and they just died for the cause really.

"We had a couple of Bay players in first-five Nick McCashin and hooker Nathan Harris, and I think it is important to have rep players in the mix, but not too many.

"Nathan is a home-grown Te Puke boy, who lives across the paddock, and we are really proud

of him making the under-20s, while Nick played very well for us."

Harris is the latest Te Puke Sports player to represent the NZ Under-20 team, after Solomon King, and his black jersey is proudly displayed above the bar in the clubrooms.

Te Puke Sports have also had a fine history in producing quality netball and volleyball teams but club secretary/treasurer Deborah Keenleyside says they are going through a rebuilding stage at the moment.

She has been involved with the club for 28 years and says knowing everyone at the club is a key factor in their success on and off the fields.

"We really look after our young ones, we know what they are doing and what their jobs are.

"We take an interest in them which is important and if they

"It has a very good culture, which breeds success and it is all about your mates."

**Ash Peat,
club president**

have a problem they come to us."

Te Puke Sports Club will host a double celebration over Easter weekend in 2014. It will be the 50th anniversary of the club established as United Pirates Rugby Club and 21 years since the club changed name to Te Puke Sports Club.

John Dowling was elected President of the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union. This was the first appointment of a club member to Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Presidency in the club's 103 year history.



In **2013**, chasing a three-peat the Premiers won their first five round robin matches before consecutive losses against Tauranga Sports and Opotiki.

When Rameka Poihipi ran on to the field against Opotiki Sports on 4 May he played his 300th game for the club. In June Rameka received Life Membership in recognition of his dedication to the club and his outstanding contribution to playing and the coaching of JAB teams.

Bay of Plenty Times
4 May 2013

Poihipi notches club triple ton

Rugby
By Peter White

When Rameka Poihipi ran out to start at halfback for Te Puke Sports against Opotiki this season it was not just remarkable that a 40-year-old was still good enough and certainly fit enough to be playing Baywide premier rugby.

The significant fact is it was Poihipi's 300th game for Te Puke Sports from his debut 22 years ago when he was an 18-year-old fresh out of Te Puke High School.

Poihipi played the full 80 minutes, starting at halfback and ending up at second-five.

"It was really good to get to 300 and really good that my family could be there," Poihipi said.

"My kids were there, including one of them who goes to Hamilton Boys' who was home for the weekend."

Whether he is the only player to reach 300 senior games is not known. Bay of Plenty Rugby historian Brent Drabble says most clubs have sketchy record-keeping at best so he cannot confirm whether Poihipi is the first, but credit must go to Te Puke Sports team manager Ross Flexman for his dili-

gent recording of statistics.

One thing for certain is that Poihipi is one of the most popular players in the Bay. The Te Puke policeman, who was brought up in Makatu, says he loves the game as much now as he ever did in his pomp, which included 61 games for the Bay of Plenty Steamers between 1994 and 2002.

He played his early years at Rangiuuru but from his senior debut at 18 he has loved his time with Te Puke Sports (or United Pirates as it was known until 1993). The club has honoured him by bestowing life membership to celebrate his 300th appearance.

"I think the club is awesome. It has been really supportive of me and my kids grew up there pretty much," Poihipi said.

"They have a good structure there and their JMC [juniors] rugby is really strong, and it leads on from there as the colts are pretty strong as well."

During 22 seasons Poihipi has played with some special players in the Te Puke jersey and it is a tough

assignment to come up with the best of them. But he narrowed it down to a select group.

"Graham James was a real good leader and flanker, James Wilkins would be another. Chris [Simon Chisolm] is a really good player and has been really good for our club. It is a shame everything has blown up the way it has with him. But I remember when he was a young fullback when he came from Tauranga Boys' to our club, he just moaned about everything but over the years he has really matured and played for the Steamers. He is a big leader in our club.

"Cash [Nick McCashin] was real good and Rodney Gibbs and Paul Fairweather as well. There have been some good players that have come through for sure."

Poihipi has some special memories from his proud days wearing the blue and gold hoops of Bay of Plenty.

"Actually making the side in 1994 was primo. That was awesome and I made my debut against Southland. Winning the second division in 2000 and going up to play in the first division was a great feeling."

Poihipi has no regrets from his Steamers days but would perhaps have liked to have gone

further in his career.

"The system is different today. Back in those days we worked full days and just had to play rugby afterwards. It was just part of the deal. Towards the end of my career it started to become professional and I think we got \$80 a game, it wasn't much at all, and it included all the trainings.

"The development of the players is a lot better these days, which is something I needed. When I look back now, if I had actually knuckled down I could have got somewhere but I have no real regrets.

"I have a huge forum of mates through provincial and club rugby. That's a good thing about it, the camaraderie you get along the way.

"Rugby gives you a good balance in your life, between the stresses of work and keeping fit. You can get bogged down by work so it is always nice to go out on a rugby field and just chill. Not that running around and smashing into people is chilling but it is a good outlet for that."

Poihipi says he might hang his boots up next year but he has yet to make that decision. He is focused on helping Te Puke Sports win their third straight Baywide title which would be a great way to close the door on a wonderful career.



Rameka Poihipi

The 2nd round of the competition proved more difficult, winning only one of their final six matches, however still managing to qualify for the semi-finals, where they were defeated 23 - 15 by Mt Maunganui. The Colts again lost their semi-final against Tauranga Sports 34 - 10.



Tauranga Sports won another Baywide final defeating Mt Maunganui 21 - 16.

President Ashley Peat was accorded Life Membership. A senior player and regular captain between 1981 and 1990, Ash has been continuously involved in the administration of the club from his arrival in Te Puke in 1980. As President since 1997 he has steered the club through many significant developments and challenges. The strength of Te Puke Sports today must be largely attributed to Ash Peat's leadership qualities.

A Jubilee planning committee was established to prepare for the 2014 Easter celebrations, consisting of Ash Peat, Deborah Keenleyside, Kim Hinaki, Brian Stapleton and Rick Hannay.

Te Puke Sports 100 plus Club

The following players have played more than 100 games for the clubs senior side since the records were maintained commencing in 1994 until the end of the 2013 season.

To qualify for a game the player must have been on the field for a minimum 30 minutes in any match.

Rameka Poihipi	307 games
Jarrold McKeown	203 games
Rodney Gibbs	199 games
Jeremy Cotter	168 games
Simon Chisholm	158 games
Mike McKenzie	155 games
Paul Fairweather	152 games
Kim Hinaki	115 games
Bobby Baggott	109 games
PJ Gidlow	103 games



100 Game Blazer Pocket

Unfortunately, no records exist to recognise such achievements prior to 1994.



At the end of the 2013 season long serving club administrators Ross Flexman and Kim Hinaki selected their Blazer XV plus reserves as recorded below. The number of blazer games played by each player is recorded in brackets.

- 15. Jarrod McKeown (203) (C)**
- 14. Rowan Baxter (53)** **11. Charles Baxter (50)**
- 13. Mike McKenzie (155)**
- 12. PJ Gidlow (103)**
- 10. Andy Miller (95)**
- 9. Rameka Poihipi (307)**
- 8. Bobby Baggott (109)**
- 7. Paul Fairweather (152)** **5. Mark Sorenson (52)** **4. Dan Goodwin (63)** **6. Solomon King (61)**
- 3. Ben Castle (33)(VC)** **2. Nathan Harris (45)** **1. Matt Wallis (80)**
- Reserves: **16. Simon Chisholm (158)** **17. Glen McNaughton (80)** **18. Jamie Keenleyside (75)**
19. Jeremy Cotter (168) **20. David Whitecliff-Davies (83)** **21. Andy Lee (41)**
22. Rodney Gibbs (199) **23. Ben Ward (69)**

The following players represented New Zealand Rugby teams from 1993 to 2013 **whilst playing** for the club:

C.N.O. "Charles" Baxter	NZ Sevens	2003, 06, 07
B.J. "Benjamin" Castle	Junior All Blacks	2005
P.S.V "Solomon" King	NZ under 21 - (Colts)	2006
	NZ Sevens	2006, 07, 08, 09, 10
M.R. "Mathew" Wallis	NZ Under 21 - (Colts)	2006
H.B. "Hayden" Reid	NZ Sevens	2006
A.S. "Anthony" Tahana	NZ Maoris	2006, 07
N.P. "Nathan" Harris	NZ Under 20	2012
J.H. "Jack" Wilson	NZ Sevens	2012

The following players represented Super Rugby teams **whilst playing** for the club:

A.J. "Andrew" Miller	Crusaders	1996
B.J. "Benjamin" Castle	Chiefs	2004, 05, 06, 07
S.H.R. "Simms" Davison	Chiefs	2004, 05, 06, 07
J.R. "Jamie" Nutbrown	Chiefs	2008
A.S. "Anthony" Tahana	Chiefs	2006, 07
M.C. "Murray" Williams	Chiefs	2007



The following players represented Bay of Plenty Senior Rugby teams from 1993 to 2013 **whilst playing** for the club:

P.M. "Paul" Fairweather	1993, 94	S.R. "Simon" Chisholm	2004, 06, 10
A.J. " Andrew" Miller	1993, 95, 96, 97	D.L. "Daniel" Goodwin	2004, 12
R.M. "Rameka" Poihipi	1994, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 2000, 01, 02	N. "Nili" Latu	2004
R.J. "Robert" Baggott	1995	F.V. "Filimone" Bolavuku	2005
J.M.G. " Jamie" Keenleyside	1995	M.C. "Murray" Williams	2005, 06, 07
D.S. "Shade " Munro	1996	W.D. "Wayne" Hughson	2006, 07
J.P. "Jarrod" McKeown	1997	PS.V "Solomon" King	2006, 07, 08, 09, 10
P.G. "Paul" Latimer	1999	J.R. "Jamie" Nutbrown	2008, 12
S.M. "Scott" Taylor	1999	H.B. "Hayden" Reid	2006
R.P. "Rodney" Gibbs	2000	A.S. "Anthony" Tahana	2006, 07
T.R. "Tane" Brott	2001	M.R. "Mathew" Wallis	2007, 08
J.H. "John" Simmons	2002	N. " Nigel" Hunt	2009
G.P. "Gregory" Rawlinson	2002	N.P. "Nicholas" McCashin	2009, 10, 11, 12
C.N.O. "Charles" Baxter	2002, 03, 04, 06, 07	T. "Taniela" Moa	2011
S.H.R. " Simms" Davison	2002, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07	N.P. "Nathan" Harris	2012, 13
B.J. "Benjamin" Castle	2003, 04, 05, 06, 07	S.T. "Simon" Rolleston	2012
R.H.P. "Ray" MacDonald	2003, 04	J.H. "Jack" Wilson	2012
M.R. "Mark" Sorenson	2003, 04, 05, 06	T.O. "Timothy" Bond	2013
		M.J. "Junior" Tofa-Va'a	2013



2013 Te Puke Sports Premier Team - Rameka Poihipi 307 Games

Back: C. Hale, N. Harris, J. Tofa Va'a, M. Nicolaas, T. Carter, L. Morrice, B. King, C. Basham, D. O'Rourke, S. Paulsson, J. Ormsby
 Middle: C. Jeffries (Coach), J. Nutbrown (Asst. Coach), R. Flexman (Manager), G. Uelese, C. Savage, M. Hinaki, A. Lee, J. Roberts, G. Scheres, T. Lydiard (Physio), M. Salt (Major Sponsor), A. Peat (President)
 Front: S. Moimoi, J. Corbett, L. Perrott, R. Lambert (Co Captain), T. Bond (Co Captain), R. Poihipi, S. Chisholm, S. Rolleston, B. Ward
 Absent: D. Goodwin, M. Broughton, N. McCashin, J. Gordon (Aqua Tech)



Copyright Jody Beattie Photography 2013

2013 Te Puke Sports Colts

Back: T. Headifen, C. Lambert, S. Peake, S. Nagel, M. Hall, T. Cooper, J. Sansom Middle: Q. Harris (Asst. Coach), R. James (Coach), M. Collins, M. Gordon, C. Whitehead, L. Keenleyside, K. Young, M. Salt (Major Sponsor), A. Peat (President)
 Front: E. Apisai, T. Scott, T. Pula, E. Takai, J. McKoy (Captain), S. McVeigh, B. Moses, K. Utimawa, K. McGovern
 Absent: M. Pretorius, J. Batten, G. James (Manager)



On Monday 26 February **2014** at their Annual General Meeting, Ross Flexman was awarded Life Membership of the Western Bay of Plenty Rugby Football Sub-Union having served that and predecessor Sub-Unions since 1991. Ross served as Chairman for the 2004 and 2005 years.

At the club's Annual General Meeting in March a motion put by Patron, Life Member and ex President Brian Stapleton read, *"that a Posthumous Life Membership Award be conferred upon Alastair Simpson the inaugural President of United Pirates RFC in recognition of his role in establishing United Pirates, the legacy of which is today's Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc."*

Brian Stapleton, Earl Bragg and Bruce McLeod spoke in support of the motion. In moving the motion Brian stated, *"The Simpsons were the first family to sponsor United Pirates. This was done through providing funding to allow the first clubrooms to be purchased. Additionally, Alastair was the key negotiator that brought the United Old Boys and Pirates clubs together for the amalgamation that created United Pirates.....During this period the United Pirates Club was formed from two competing identities to one amalgamated club which eventually became Te Puke Sports....."* (abridged)

Earl Bragg spoke saying *"Alastair Simpson was a special person. He was a friend to many and led by example... he was an achiever who could make things happen....."* (abridged)

Bruce McLeod said that he recalled that he was seventeen when he first served on the United Pirates committee. A lasting memory is of Alastair saying that his objective was to develop the best club with the best people. Bruce noted that *"If you look around now, there is no doubt that Alastair got his wish....."* (abridged)

Six previous Presidents and the current President jointly seconded and signed Brian Stapleton's motion, which was passed with acclaim.



Presidents Past and Present:

Back: John Dowling
Ross Underwood,
Doug Payton,
Rick Hannay
Front: Bruce McLeod,
Brian Stapleton,
Ashley Peat,
Ian Bartie



By 2014 four members of the club had established unsurpassed records.



Ash Peat

President for a term of 18 years and the incumbent President.



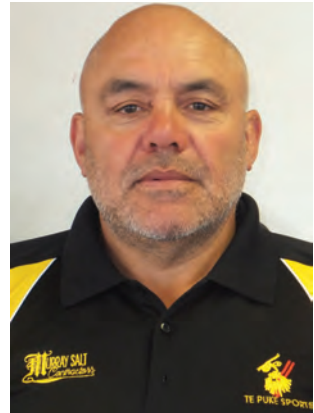
Deborah Keenleyside

Secretary / Treasurer for a term of 18 years and the incumbent Secretary / Treasurer.



Ross Flexman

Team Coach and or Manager and Rugby Administrator for a term exceeding 20 years.



Kim Hinaki

Club Captain for a term of 18 years and the incumbent Club Captain.

Two members of the club had provided their services for many years. Ross Underwood's role of Honorary Solicitor spanned twenty-seven years commencing in 1983. John Lewis had provided survey and planning services for a similar period. He is the clubs advisor on all matters relating to land and buildings and represents the club in respect to Local and Regional Council compliance and by-law matters.



Ross Underwood



John Lewis

The Golden Jubilee celebrating the formation of United Pirates RFC in 1964 was organised for Easter weekend. The programme was planned as:

Friday evening - a light-hearted social occasion. Twenty-two centenary playing jerseys designed specifically for the Jubilee by Kim Hinaki to be auctioned.





Saturday afternoon the Premiers to play Tauranga Sports in a Baywide competition match, wearing the club's centenary jersey.



Saturday evening - a formal occasion with seating arranged by 'club of origin'.

Speeches by President Ash Peat and Patron Brian Stapleton.

Presentation of Alastair Simpson's Posthumous Life Membership to his family.

Presentation of a portrait of Phil Basham, the first recipient of Life Membership in the club's history, awarded in 1963.

Cutting the Jubilee cake to formally mark the Golden Jubilee and celebrate the club's history.

Presentation of the club's first history book "A 100 Year History - The making of a rugby club".



Reflection

To date our club has only been able to relate to our most recent achievements. We have never had access to an accurate reference reminding us of the wonderful club that has evolved over a 104 year time line.

This publication is the first recorded history of the the club capturing milestones through the decades. For the first time ever we are able to look back down the pipeline as far back as the Club's formation in the year 1910.

Today's members have no memories of these early events. We have lost the old timers, and with them we lost knowledge of days gone by. Over the last two years this factual record has been captured because of the dedication, enthusiasm and passion of life time club members Richard Hannay and Arthur Ball. To them we will be forever grateful.

This publication, and the effort in collating it, clearly demonstrate the need to keep accurate and precise records.

*There is nothing truer than **"To plan a future we need to understand the past"**.
We now have that understanding.*

Brian Stapleton

Patron and Life Member

Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc.



Patrons and Life Members



Patrons



A.J. Collins
Patron 1944 - 81
Life Member 1980 - 1981
*(see below for details)



Roy McKenzie
Patron - Pirates RFC 1955 - 64



Len Browne
Patron 1981 - 2003
Life Member 1980 - 2003
*(see below for details)



Brian Stapleton
Patron - Te Puke Sports
& Recreation 2003 -
Life Member 1991 -

Life Members



Phil Basham
Life Member 1963 - 1963



Frank Dowse
Life Member 1981 - 1992



Murray Salt
Life Member 1994 -



John Cameron
Life Member 2002 -



Rameka Poihipi
Life Member 2014 -



Ashley Peat
Life Member 2014 -



Alastair Simpson
Life Member Posthumously 2014

***A.J. Collins** - Patron United
1944 - 1950
Patron United Old Boys
1959 - 1964
Patron United Pirates
1964 - 1981
Life Member 1980
passed away 1981

***Len Browne** - Patron
1981 - 2003
United Pirates and
Te Puke Sports & Recreation
Life Member 1980
passed away 2003



Junior Management Board (JMB) and Junior Advisory Board (JAB) - by Peter McLeod



“The strength of our club has always been a direct consequence of the strength of the junior grades over the years. Alastair Simpson and Brian Stapleton were the first of many Presidents to focus attention on this lifeblood section of the club.

A Junior Management Board existed at the time of the amalgamation that established United Pirates. From the outset, United Pirates management had a structure to encourage younger players.

*Through the 1960’s and 1970’s United Pirates was fortunate to have committed administrators responsible for the JMB section of the club; pioneers included **Sam Langdon, Warwick Elliston, Ian Blakeman, Brian Donovan, Ian Scown, Gordon Schultz, and Frank Dowse.***

In the 1970’s and into the 1980’s I had stepped into the club’s JMB role on the management committee and for the next decade headed this section of the club.....”

The following comments briefly relate to my role during the 1980’s.

“Josie Woodward and myself in a Cortina and Holden Belmont were the main form of transport for the bare feet boys those days. With others we raised funds to get an under 14 and under 16 team to Sydney. This was done through bottle drives, pub raffles, and a Calcutta. We raised \$5,000.00. With the Calcutta we asked the local constable to have an early night at home however he arrived along with most of the squash club. With my wife we ran the toasted sandwich machine for years with 10% of takings going to the JMB.....”

“We established a very long-term reciprocal visit programme with Fraser-Tech from Hamilton. In all, this was a very enjoyable period of my life.”



Following Peter, the JAB was administered through much the 1980's by stalwart members such **Norm Waters, Colin Fairweather, Rusty & Ruth Neal and Merv Paton.**

In more recent years the same form of commitment to this section of the club has been displayed by consecutive Presidents including **Malcolm Cartwright, John Burt, Warren Taylor, John Fly, Craig Jeffries, Snow Williams and Wade Evans.**

Player membership has always been strong. High points during the late 1980's saw more than 200 young players participating. Many of the younger players of that period graduated to the senior grades. Sound management of the JAB section of the club remains a strategic strength of the club. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to those who have been or are, committed to junior grade development.



Office Bearers



	Patron	President	Vice President	Club Captain
1965	A J Collins	A Simpson	F Dowse	P Dickson
1966	A J Collins	A Simpson	F Dowse	L Woodworth
1967	A J Collins	A Simpson	F Dowse	L Woodworth
1968	A J Collins	A Simpson	P McLoughlin	L Woodworth
1969	A J Collins	A Simpson	P McLoughlin	L Woodworth
1970	A J Collins	A Simpson	P McLoughlin	R Wood
1971	A J Collins	A Simpson	P McLoughlin	R Wood
1972	A J Collins	A Simpson	P McLoughlin	B Stapleton
1973	A J Collins	A Simpson	B J Stapleton	B Stapleton
1974	A J Collins	B Stapleton	R Wood	D Roper
1975	A J Collins	B Stapleton	B McDonald	R Burgess
1976	A J Collins	B Stapleton	B McDonald	R Burgess
1977	A J Collins	B Stapleton	D Gardner	R Burgess
1978	A J Collins	B Stapleton	D Gardner / F Dowse	B McLeod
1979	A J Collins	B McLeod	S Langdon	R Hannay
1980	A J Collins	B McLeod	S Langdon	I Bartie
1981	A J Collins	B McLeod	A Buckley	G Robertson
1981/82	L Browne	I Bartie	W Bowyer	G Robertson
1983	L Browne	I Bartie	W Bowyer	C Stapleton
1984	L Browne	I Bartie	W Bowyer	L Wheeler
				P Donaldson
1985	L Browne	K Love	R McLeod	R Underwood
				P Donaldson
1986	L Browne	M Bayliss / R Underwood	R Underwood	A Peat
1987	L Browne	R Hannay	I Bartie	J Burridge / H Spencer
1988	L Browne	R Hannay	G Dodds	B Gordon
1989	L Browne	R Hannay	G Dodds	B Gordon
1990	L Browne	R Bibby	D Marshall	B Gordon
			I Hannay	
			A Peat	
1991	L Browne	R Bibby	D Marshall	B Gordon
			I Hannay	
			A Peat	
1992	L Browne	J Dowling	D Rollerson	A Bean
1993	L Browne	J Dowling	J Cameron	A Bean
1994	L Browne	J Dowling	J Cameron	A Buchannan
1995	L Browne	D Payton	R Flexman	M Crofts
1996	L Browne	D Payton	R Flexman	R Bibby
1997	L Browne	A Peat	R Flexman	K Hinaki
1998	L Browne	A Peat	R Flexman	K Hinaki
1999	L Browne	A Peat	R Flexman	K Hinaki
2000	L Browne	A Peat	R Flexman	K Hinaki
2001	L Browne	A Peat	R Flexman	K Hinaki
2002	L Browne	A Peat	J Hunt	K Hinaki
2003	L Browne	A Peat	J Hunt	K Hinaki
2004	B Stapleton	A Peat	J Hunt	K Hinaki / J Hunt
2005	B Stapleton	A Peat	J Hunt	K Hinaki
2006	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2007	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2008	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2009	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2010	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2011	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2012	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2013	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki
2014	B Stapleton	A Peat	G Donald	K Hinaki

Office Bearers



	Secretary	Treasurer	Senior Rugby Coach
1965	N Crane	B Robertson	J Allen
1966	N Crane	R Brown	I Gibson
1967	N Crane	R Brown	W Williams
1968	N Crane	D Farquhar	R Taylor
1969	M Paton	D Farquhar	I Gibson
1970	P Howarth	D Farquhar	I Gibson
1971	P Howarth	I Renshaw	I Gibson
1972	P Howarth	M Ryan	M Turvey
1973	B Marshall	M Ryan	D Gardner
1974	B Marshall / R Brownlee	D Farquhar	D Gardner
1975	R Brownlee	D Farquhar	D Gardner
1976	D Farquhar	P Howarth	D Gardner
1977	B Tutt	P Howarth	G Ward
1978	B Tutt	D Farquhar	R Burgess
1979	M Paton	B Tutt	C Stapleton
1980	M Paton	B Tutt	C Stapleton
1981	L Mead	B Tutt	C Stapleton
1982	W Young	R Dawe	I McNaughton
1983	R Brownlee	R Dawe	I McNaughton
1984	C Anderson Smith	R Dawe	I McNaughton
1985	R Williams	R Robbie	G J Dodds
1986	S Jones	J Lewis	G J Dodds
1987	M Wild	B Washer	H Sowman / I Hannay
1988	A Smallridge	H Salt	D Rollerson
1989	A Smallridge	H Salt	B Wilson / D Rollerson
1990	A Smallridge	C Phare	B Wilson
1991	J Bibby / S Freeman	C Phare	J Cameron
1992	S Freeman	D Rhodes	B Wilson
1993	A Buchanan	I Brouwers	G James
1994	A Buchanan / P White	I Brouwers	C Johnson
1995	A Smallridge	A Smallridge	B Wilson
1996	A Smallridge	A Smallridge	B Wilson
1997	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Cameron / R McGlashan
1998	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	P Fairweather / R Gibbs
1999	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Cameron / K Murphy
2000	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Cameron / K Murphy
2001	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Cameron / K Murphy
2002	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Anderson / J Cotter
2003	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Anderson / J Cotter
2004	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	S Cameron / R Gibbs
2005	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	R Gibbs / A Fitzgerald
2006	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	J Williams / S Cameron / A Fitzgerald
2007	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	J Williams / A Fitzgerald
2008	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	R Gibbs / A Fitzgerald
2009	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	R Gibbs / S Cameron
2010	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	J Cotter / A Miller
2011	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	J Cotter / A Miller / C Jeffries
2012	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	C Jeffries / L Scott
2013	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	C Jeffries / J Nutbrown
2014	D Keenleyside	D Keenleyside	C Jeffries / R Poihipi



PAPAMOHA FOOTBALL TEAM 1931

Winner Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union Senior Competition, 1931

Back: G. Whiteside, C. Bradford, F. Sykes, E. Stevens, C. Mc Naughton, A. Morton, R. Mckenzie

Middle: R. McPike (Manager), H. Kelly, G. Wilkins, C. Donovan (Captain), W. Pile

Front: E. Morton, W. McCullough, H. Dixon, R. Palmer.

The Papamoa Club was established in 1907 however went into recess in 1909. The United Club was formed in 1910 as a result of Te Puke and Papamoa players 'uniting'. In 1930 the Papamoa club formed again and continued through to 1954 when it went into recess along with Paengaroa and Maketu.

At the same time that these clubs were going into recess, the Pirates RFC was forming. Through the decades a close rugby affinity developed between Papamoa and Te Puke with Papamoa players and administrators prominent in United Old Boys, Pirates RFC and United Pirates RFC.



MAKETU FOOTBALL CLUB - Late 1940's

One of the few known early photographs of a Maketu Senior Team

Back: Rihimona Hapi, Raymond Poihipi, Don Nicholas, Maurice Langdon, Ward Austin, Doug Hapi, Robert Curtis, Sid Shepherd
Middle: Winiata Hapi (Manager), Mapu Tapsell, Don Reid, Eddie Hako, Tim Clarke, Micky Tate, Prim Tate (Manager)

Front: Michael Tapsell, Alvis Polamalu, Mata Tapsell, Tommy McCausland.

Maketu was the original bastion of rugby in our district. At times there were several senior and junior teams. In early years playing fields were crude and often dangerous for players. Understandably, given the travel difficulties in the early years, Maketu administrators at times criticised the Te Puke Union or Sub-Union for the lack of financial assistance provided for them to travel to play at Te Puke. The Maketu team went into recess in 1954 ending what can only be described as one of the great eras of rugby in the district. Maketu players assimilated mainly into United Old Boys and Pirates RFC clubs. Paengaroa and Papamoa went into recess at approximately the same time as Maketu. Pukehina closely followed all three clubs into recess.

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Iona Donovan - United Old Boys photographs and research.

Barbara Spratt - Grand-daughter of W.E Riddle, inaugural United senior player 1911. Donation of original United team photo of 1911.

Betty Freeman (Nee Collins) - Interviews about United / Old-Boys / United Old Boys, and donation of the United Old Boys monogram.

Ollie Hansen (Late) - Donation of the Pirates RFC monogram.

Buster Hodges & Mrs Shirley Hodges (Nee Hood) - Sister of the Late Bob Hood. (Bob Hood Memorial Shield). Pirates RFC photographs and research.

Ray Burt - Te Puke High School Old Boys research.

Jack Mark - Te Puke High School Old Boys research.

Ross Flexman - Research and statistics.

Brent Drabble - BOP Rugby Union Statistician, research and statistics.

Christine Clement - Historian and Editor, details and advice.

Kevin Treloar (Late) - Written record. In spite of poor health Kevin ensured that he recorded the history of the transition from Paengaroa RFC to Pirates RFC.

Mike & Dorothy Gibbs - "The Gibbs Files" without which the writing of this book would have been significantly more difficult.

Bruce McLeod, Ian Bartie and John Dowling - President's reviews.



Te Puke Times
10 May 1960

The Pirate Clubhouse Officially Opened

Warm Congratulations Extended

A worthwhile amenity in their ugly football world of Te Puke, the Pirate Club's clubhouse, was officially opened on Saturday night by their patron, Mr Roy McKenzie, in the presence of a large crowd of supporters and officials of kindred clubs and organisations.

The Mayor, Mr E. H. Raymond, congratulated the Pirate Club on a splendid forward move and indicated that his council would always support organisations caring for the young.

Also present was Eric Anderson, the Boys' only member of the All Black side to tour South Africa. All speakers warmly congratulated him and warm felicitations were extended to his father, Mr H. J. Anderson, who was also present.

The club president, Mr Pat Hannay, thanked everyone who had assisted in so many ways to establish the club house, greeted members and visitors and introduced the several speakers.

A contingent from the Pirate's Club from Rotorua was headed by Mr Burgers, who emphasised the good work being done by Te Puke Pirates among the lower grades, and he wished them continued success in improving and fostering the game of rugby.

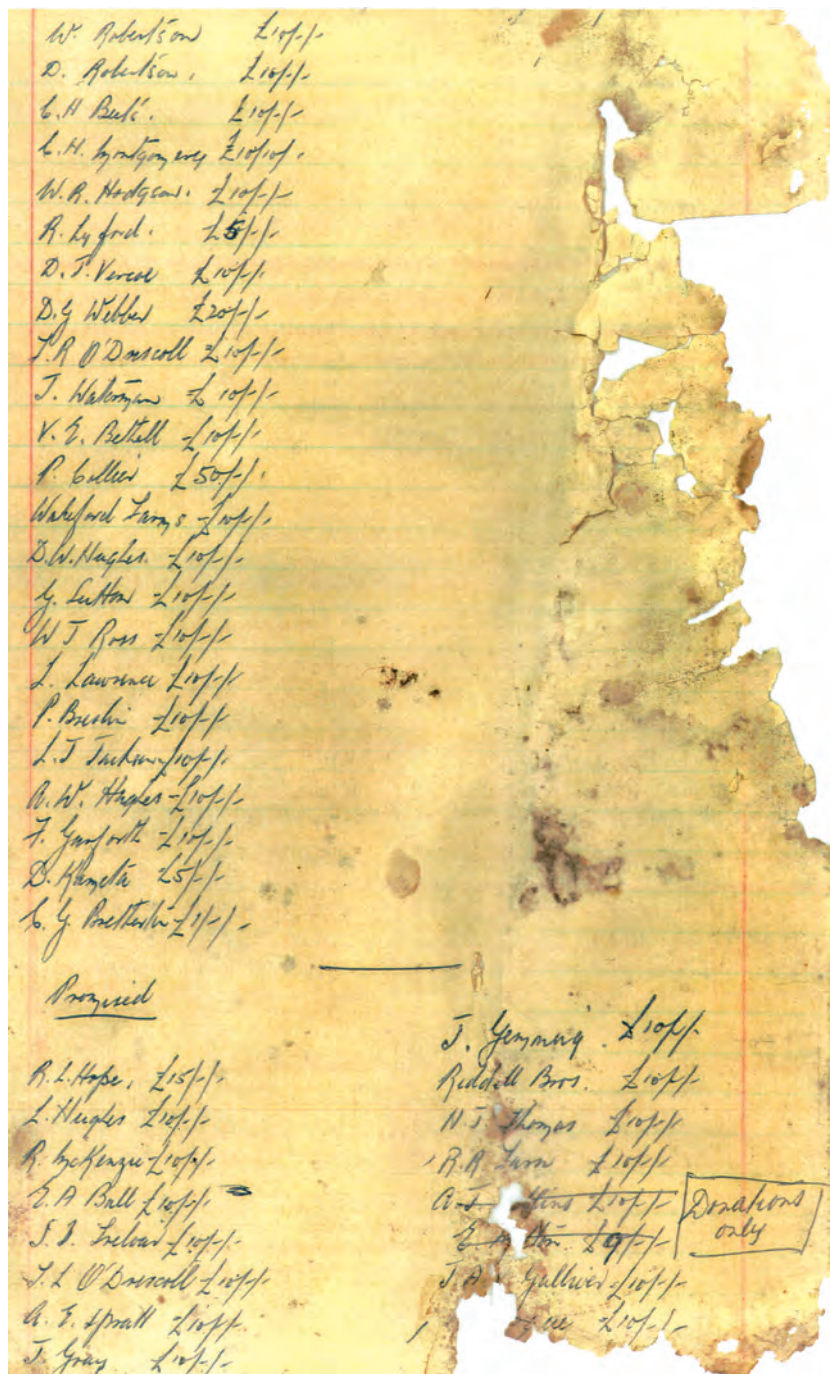
The president of the Te Puke Rugby Sub-Union also conveyed very best wishes and congratulated the club on the fine building and the work the club was doing.

Eric Anderson was delightfully modest in acknowledging congratulations. "Whatever happens, you will know I will do my best."

The ladies of the club did a marvellous job in preparing a bounteous supper and all present had a most enjoyable evening.

The district now has a handsome, well equipped building which will go a long way towards consolidating the rugby game here.

1960 Original Document - Listing funding donations to purchase the original Pirates RFC clubrooms, Jamieson Oval





1965 Original Document - Certificate of Incorporation United Pirates RFC



1979 Original Document - General Meeting of Committee to discuss the Purchase of Land

General -
 Mr Henning presented a proposal that we look into possible sale of present clubrooms and purchase of land in No 3 Rd. A meeting discussion was held & we thank Mr & Mrs McDonald & Mr & Mrs for their attendance and definite interest in the proposal.
 A steering committee was then formed. They being:
 B Stapleton - Ken Henning
 R Henning - Mr & Mrs Burger
 W Burger - Henry Peters
 W Johns - Henry Henning
 A letter of thanks to Mr R Gusting.
 There being no further general business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.
 P. M. Loe 25/7/79

1979 Original Document - Special Meeting of Committee to discuss the Purchase of Land from the Stapletons, to erect clubrooms

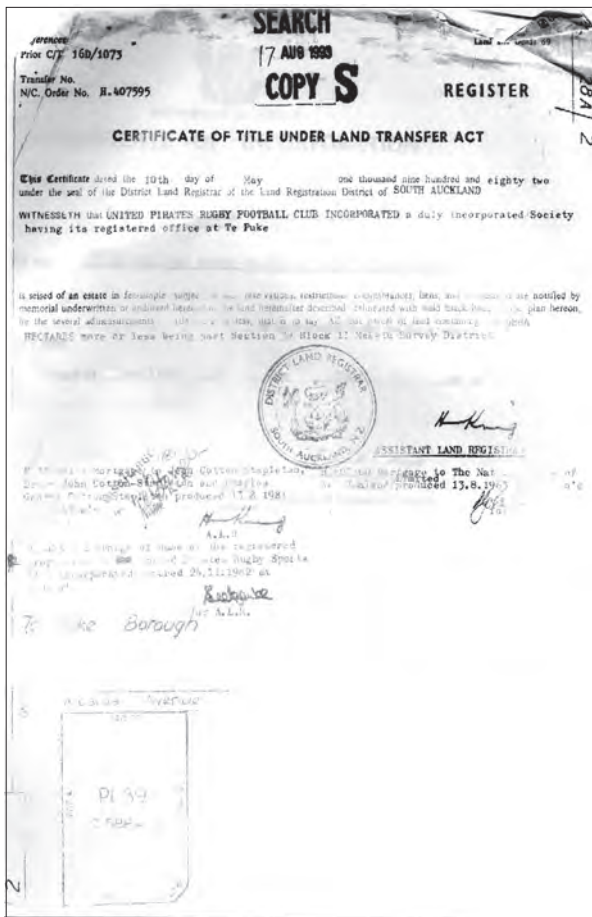
24.9.79
 It was then moved by McDonald / I whole that the committee of United Pirates RFC Inc negotiate the purchase of the land from Stapleton for \$150,000 subject to Te Puke Borough Council planning approval to the proposal to erect clubrooms on the land and upon such favourable terms to the club as the committee thinks fit.
 The motion was passed carried by a show of hands 30-12.
 Mr & Mrs recorded his vote against the motion.
 The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

1979 Original Document - Special Meeting of Committee to discuss the Purchase of Land

New Ground Purchase - Sub Committee meeting with Borough Council very encouraging.
 Unanimously agreed that we proceed with plan to purchase Stapleton land as originally planned at 2nd Special Meeting.
 All committee members to be present at 6.30pm prior to this Special Meeting.
 There being no further general business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.
 P. M. Loe 3/10/79



1982 Original Document - Certificate of Transfer of Land, Autaroa Avenue



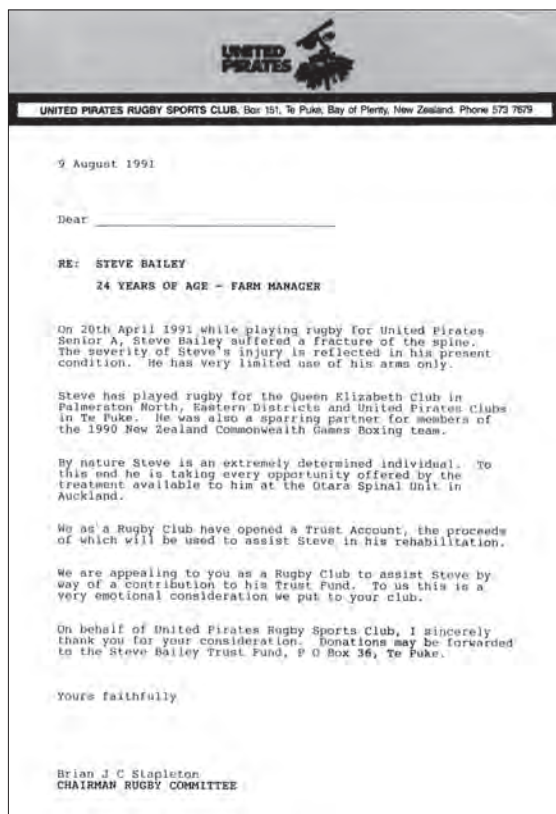
1988 Original Document - First Minutes of the Jubilee Committee



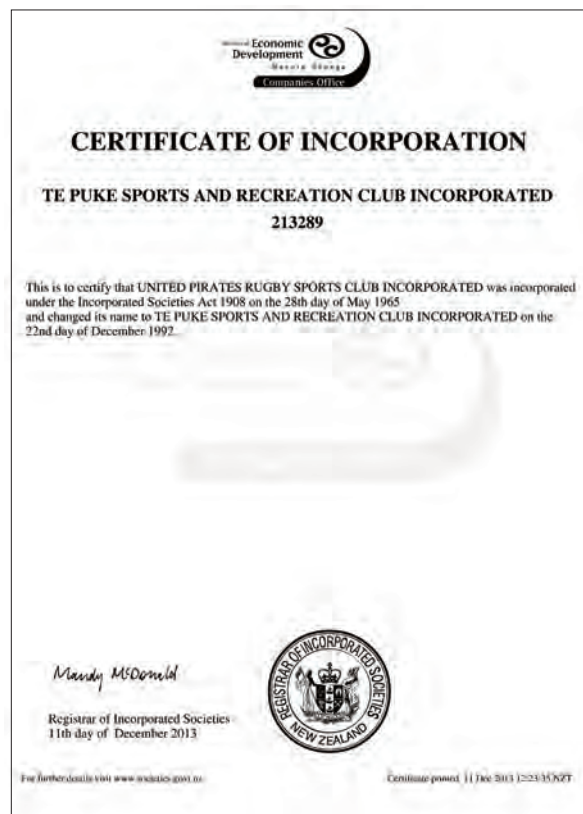
1988 - United Pirates Rugby Sports Club Award for Club of the Year



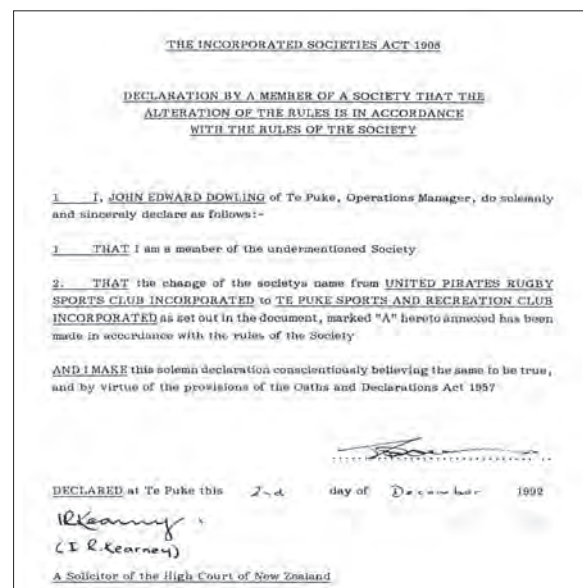
1991 Original Document - Outlining the Steve Bailey Trust Appeal



1992 Original Document - Certificate of Incorporation Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc.



1992 Original Document - Declaration change of name from United Pirates Rugby Sports Club to Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc.





Te Puke Sports & Recreation Club Inc.

Our rich history spanning the years

1910 - 2014



“Other clubs can only be envious of our facilities and our achievements”.

Brian Stapleton - Patron

in a stirring response to the President's Report 2011