

2024 Presidents Report

As the 2024 season comes to an end, it's timely to reflect on what we have achieved this year.

- In an attempt to reduce the high attrition rate of players going into our local secondary schools from Junior ranks and not coming out back to the Club playing rugby, we have this year supported the formation of a combined Youth 15 schoolboys' team made up of players from Northcote, Birkenhead and Glenfield colleges and provided coaching support. In addition, we have organised sponsorship from the Northcote Old Boys raffle team at the Northcote Tavern for training shirts for both the combine Y15 and combined 1st XV teams. Increased support from the Club is now being extended to the girls playing rugby at the secondary school level.
- An outstanding Sevens summer campaign under coach Andrew Menzies and Manager Brendon Wheeler resulting in North Harbour Championship honours and fourth in New Zealand in the National Club Sevens, representing North Harbour.
- A rebuilding of the Under 21 team with most of the players returning next year, under coaches Glenn Newman, Dale Marters, Jacob Corbett (now in Canada) and Joe Kurukaanga with Mina Wharepouri and John Gorst managing.
- The resurrection of our Under 85 kg team under coaches Andrew Chatfield and Chris Seyb and Manager Peter Stapleton. Heaps of promise for the future from what is a very young team for this grade.
- A very competitive Premier 2 side under a new coaching regime of Jason Alexander, Mark Chadwick, Matt Taylor and Kieran Menzies with Managers Divine Hadfield and Richard Mason. Competitive to the end, falling short of expectations not making at least the semifinals, this team will be back in strength next season. Sadly, we lose Mark Chadwick to promotion in his Service career taking him out of Auckland.
- The re-emergence of Women's rugby thanks to Anoushka Dallow (Manager) and sister Natasha Dallow (Player/Coach) playing prominent roles, with Lyle Williams as Coach.
- And of course our Premier side, improving throughout the season and finishing second in the first round. Well coached by Rahul Das and Mike Noble and just as well managed by Brad Boulton and Brett Bedwell. Form Premiers Centurion Richard Mayhew has also provided added assistance as Resource Manager. After having the semifinal in their grasp, our Premier side went down in the dying minutes of the game to Takapuna 24-26, watched by a large crowd at Harvey Wright.
- The renovation of the upstairs bathroom and toilet facilities.
- The Junior Club and its hard-working Committee chaired by Dan Doland, going from strength to strength, with now over 420 registered players, and a touring team heading to Tonga at the end of the season.
- The increase in female participation, now exceeding 42% of playing numbers at the Junior level.
- We introduced a rugby programme for college-aged girls to develop and mentor them as they play for their college teams and then in 2025 will travel to Portugal for the Rugby Youth Festival.
- The enthusiasm and tireless work brought to their respective new roles at Northcote Rugby by Brett Craies (Director Rugby, Men), Anoushka Dallow (Director Rugby, Women) and Raelene Fraser (Manager Comms).

- A very successful fundraising “Long Lunch” thanks to the efforts of Glen Whitley, Gerard Boesley, Doug Golightly and Teho Hermans.
- A new sponsorship model developed by Chair Gerard Boesley and Board Director Theo Hermans led by Gold Sponsors, Harcourts Cooper & Co Bec Whitley Property, Carpet Mill and TGE Construction.

And finally, after nine years as President of Northcote Rugby Club, I will be standing down next year in the interest of impartiality, taking up the President role with the North Harbour Rugby Union. It has been a real privilege to have been President and I do wish everyone and the Club well for the future. We are in good hands.

Simon Williamson MNZM
President NBRUSC, Vice President NH

2024 Senior Club Chair’s report

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present my Chairman’s Report for the 2024 rugby season at Northcote Rugby Club. Reflecting on our journey this year, I am once again filled with admiration for the accomplishments and progress we have made as a club.

On the field, our teams have displayed remarkable dedication and skill. The Premier 1s had an outstanding season, finishing 2nd in the pool rounds. Unfortunately, we were narrowly defeated in the final moments of our home semi-final but the team’s performance throughout the year was exceptional. We also bid farewell to Brad Boulton, who has been a cornerstone of our club in various roles over the years. Brad is now taking up the role of Manager for the North Harbour Men’s Team, and we wish him all the best in his new endeavour.

The Premier 2s had a mixed year but managed to clinch the Plate, showcasing their resilience and determination as they continue rebuilding. Both our U21s and U85s had strong performances and are steadily progressing as they work through their respective rebuilding phases.

Our Women’s team, a new entrant this season, has been a revelation. Starting the season with just four women, they have now grown to over 25 registered players and continue to attract more talent. This incredible growth is a testament to the fantastic work done by Tash and Anoushka Dallow and Lyle Williams.

The standout for the club this year was undoubtedly our 7s team, who not only won the North Harbour Championship but also secured 4th place in the National competition. These are truly outstanding achievements that we can all be proud of.

Off the field, we continue to make significant strides in improving our infrastructure. The opening of the new bathrooms upstairs was a huge success, and I want to extend my thanks to everyone involved in making this project a reality. We also revamped our sponsorship model, welcoming a new Gold Sponsor, Harcourts Cooper & Co Bec Whitley Property, along with two Silver Sponsors, Carpet Mill and TGE Construction. Additionally, we now proudly display the logos of 22 Bronze Sponsors on the back of our Premier jerseys. A huge thanks and appreciation to all our sponsors for their continued support. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Legacy Sponsors – Rex

Industrial, Recreational Services and Sue Mayhew from Bayley – who have supported the club for over 15 years. Your long-term commitment to Northcote Rugby Club is deeply appreciated.

Additionally, I want to highlight the huge success of our annual Long Lunch event. This has become a significant fixture in our calendar and this year's event was no exception. It was a fantastic day that brought our club and community together, and I want to thank everyone involved in making it such a memorable occasion.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the coaching staff, players, volunteers and everyone who has contributed to the success of our club throughout the 2024 season. Your dedication and hard work have been instrumental in achieving the great things we've accomplished this year. I am particularly grateful to my senior board members for their unwavering support in my role as Chairperson. Your collective efforts have been vital in steering the club towards success.

Looking ahead, we must continue striving for excellence, fostering a culture of camaraderie, sportsmanship and respect. Our aim is to build on the strong foundations we have laid and create a legacy that will endure for generations to come. As we look to the future, we remain committed to fostering a positive and inclusive environment where players of all ages and abilities can thrive. We will continue to explore avenues for growth and development, ensuring that our club remains at the forefront of rugby excellence.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to celebrating even greater achievements together in 2025.

Gerard Boesley (BOZ)
Northcote Rugby Chairman

Women's Rugby Report

The 2024 season has been an exciting year for the Northcote Women's Rugby Team. After a 17-year hiatus, 2024 was the year the Women's team would be back in Maroon and Gold for the 10s/15s season. Our overall goal was to create a supportive and inclusive environment where women of all ages and skill levels could thrive and that girls playing in the Junior grades saw a pathway in their club.

Preseason started with a handful of players, but as the weeks went on and the word got out, new players arrived, and the team began to build. The next hurdle was a competition as we did not have enough to safely enter the 15s development grade, this is where our relationship with Weymouth developed and allowed us to play a few games while we waited for the 10s season to begin. It was a long season to get to the 10s competition, but we stuck together and got there and proved ourselves to many that we have the makings of a great team. We welcomed several new players into the team, ranging from experienced athletes to newcomers to rugby. Our focus on skills development, fitness, and teamwork helped build a strong foundation for future seasons. The coaching team of Lyle and Tash worked tirelessly to support player development, both on and off the field.

One of the most significant takeaways from this season has been the growth in camaraderie and team spirit. Whether in training or competition, our players showed tremendous support for one another, helping new players integrate into the team culture and this has become one big family!

We finished off the season with Harbour 7s and Glenfield 7s, where for the first time we had plenty of players to make up a team. A lot of learnings came from these competitions, and we look forward to next year.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have established a strong foundation and look forward to building on this success in 2025.

- Preseason has kicked off with a return from the core group last year and lots of new faces which has meant strong numbers week in and week out.
- We have entered the Development Grade this year and look forward to seeing what we can achieve this season.
- We welcome Boycie Nelson as head coach, Tapu Pauli as assistant coach, and returning to the 2025 season Tash Dallow player / assistant coach and Lyle Williams resource coach.
- The women's team to be involved in club events so they are visible at both Junior and Senior levels

The future looks bright for the Northcote Women's Rugby Team!

I would like to extend my gratitude to the club for their support to see Women's rugby back at Northcote and we can only go up from here! Next steps for Girls and Women's rugby are:

- To see more girls taking up tackle and entering an U13 girls' team in a new Harbour competition.
- Connecting with the local High Schools to ensure girls know where to head after High School.
- Building facilities for our girls and women to have a place in the club that is their own.
- Continuing to grow our women's team so that one day we will be in the Premier grade.

Anoushka Dallow
Northcote Rugby Director of Women's Rugby

2024 Junior Chair's report

2024 in Review

Total Junior Club Membership 421 registered players, 4.7% Growth. The splits are as follows.

- Tackle 3% Growth. 1 st time since 2018.
- Girls Rippa 28% Growth. 2 years of 25% plus Growth
- Junior Rippa 22% decline. We saw lower J8 numbers coming through, approx. 20 member.
- Boys Rippa, same same. Flat and difficult segment to get interest.
- Females now make up 41% of Junior player numbers.

Total new comers to the club continues to be north of 100 but we are not directly seeing the full growth potential or impact of this as a club as we are still seeing higher attrition from Rugby to other sports. Football and Basketball seems to be gaining these kids. Work to be done here to grow the game in tackle.

What did we accomplish in 2024?

- Introduction of Pre season program for Juniors over 4 weeks prior to team release. 1st session saw 100 plus kids attend with an average 75 over the 4 weeks.
- Introduction of the Club Code of Conduct. Increased focus on sideline behaviour, player on field behaviour and accountability.
- Increased Platinum Sponsor by 1 to take us to 6 platinum sponsors
- Continued to introduce Girls Tackle clinics opening up 2 pathways for female players. Saw an increase in attendees to each week hosting 30 plus female players. Hosted an all girl tackle game between Kumeu and Massey to showcase Girls tackle. 2 time period Start of season and end of season.
- Secured Funding to update Playing kit, release date 2025 with the new Kowhaiwhai.
- Introduced a personal project to get more Females into roles within the juniors of coaching and refereeing. Held 2 works shops to understand from our female adult members what's needed to create this.
- 2 successful tournaments and successful Girls rippa preseason day total teams increased to 48 teams from 32 previous year.
- Successful Year 8 tour to Tonga – playing at the National Stadium.
- In house J6 introduction to tackle program.
- Creation of the Youth Rugby role and reorganisation of the Junior Committee.
- Delivery of a Budget to build funds for future growth.
- Increased focus on player Development and enjoyment.
- Successful delivery of the 1 St Club Day for Northcote. Great day, whole club involved. Thanks to the tour team for coordinating the days events.
- Creation and delivery of the Junior Blue Print for next 5 seasons. Copy of Blueprint and 2024 results attached.
- We have been chasing, Junior Club of the Year. Unsuccessful for 2024, lets champion it in 2025.
- Rounded out 2024 with strong financial position with 65k in bank (includes 10k Loan to Club).

2025 State of play

We have completed registration sessions with 382 players registered Currently. We have set our goal to be 400 plus every year and we have achieved this, however against last year we are 3% down. The new Rugby Xplorer platform has created some delays, issues and headaches with sign ups this year, we expected this and have navigated to get to this point. We are chasing those that haven't registered to get them on board. Preseason trainings are well under way with 3 out of 4 completed.

Across the grades this is as follows as it stands at the time of writing my AGM report

- Junior Rippa 48 Compared with 58 Players in 24 season, down 17.2% down on last year. This is down considerably for the second season. This has a huge impact in 6 years.
- Girls Rippa 163 players compared with 146 players in 2024 season, up 11.6% up on last year. Growth is starting to flatten.
- Boy Rippa 4 players compared with 7 players in 2024. This grade continues to be a struggle to form teams.
- Tackle 167 Players compared with 204 players in 2024, down 18.1% on last year. This is the huge area of concern, We are not alone.

- Total new comers to the club continues to be high of 93 for season 2025 compared with 119 but we are not directly seeing the full growth potential or impact of this as a club as we are still seeing higher attrition from Rugby to other sports. Football and Basketball seems to be gaining these kids.

We as Clubs pour our energy into growing from small bases, to attract players with the friendly, inviting, fun and engaging atmosphere. Question is, What is our National Body doing to stem the decline?

Total Female players in the club now represents 49% at this stage of registrations.

I have run some scenarios, 2027 is when I put the line in the sand for when Females would represent 50% of the club, at this rate we are 3 years earlier than I had predicted. Girls Rippa is now bigger than Tackle 172 players compared with 167 players. Tackle as a game as it would appear is struggling and declining. We have engaged as a club to offer further development, ensure it remains fun, Safe and engaging in this space to stem the declines. What is the National Body doing here to keep Tackle as an engaging sport?

Area of growth and development in 2025 –

- Girls tackle space focused on player development, creating safe and fun environment. U13 team and grade on the cards. However like other clubs in our region we agree we need to start at the younger ages.
- Coaches and Players are areas we want to focus on in 2024. Increased focus on roles to support this space Tackle (Ryan Hale) and Rippa (Matt Webb) Coordinators creating increased focus on support at training. Coaching manual created, need coaching group support to complete with them. Inclusion of a new role Referees and Coach development, Darrin Robertson is going to spend time on the field at training sessions offering support to our Refs and Coaches.
- Sideline behaviour is a key area of development at Northcote in 2025. We have created a Junior Rugby Code of Conduct which all members, Team Management and Parents/Supporters will have to abide by in 2024 plus alignment with the Unions programs to ensure the Sidelines remain positive and engaging.
- Club of the year – Andrew will comment further on this as the year goes on.
- Further engagement with the seniors at Club Day and withing the teams over the year.

Now to move onto the thank you's, As I write this report I have been reflecting on my time in the Chairperson's role, my time involved in the Junior committee and my time at Northcote with my two kids, Coaching and playing over the years, I have a lot of people to thank. With this being my last report I would like to thank the:

- Junior Committee – you are all excellent individuals, putting in 100% to ensure the growth and development of our players, Coaches and other officials. Without your support over the last 2.5 years, we wouldn't be able to be as successful as we have. Your effort, passion and commitment just shows on how well this committee runs.
- Club Board – thank you for allowing the Juniors to continue their journey through your support and allowing us to manage ourselves.
- Club Management and Staff

- Junior Coaches, Managers and Referees – your devotion and passion in making sure the kids have fun, grow and develop is why we remain to be a fun and engaging club.
- Junior Club – Thank you to all the mums and dads who get the kids to training and games, for supporting the club in every way. Without you we wouldn't have a Junior club.
- Lastly I need to thank our amazing group of Sponsors, your continued support over the years is paramount to our success. I leave the Juniors with all out sponsors tied into new agreements, We have added in 2 new sponsors and lost 1 Silver
 - Platinum Sponsors (Jersey) – New World, Game ON Turf and Book smart. 10 years sponsorship
 - Platinum Sponsors – PlanCo, Francee Boulton and Harcourts Cooper & Co, Spectrum Construction. 3 years sponsorship
 - Platinum Sponsors (Game Day) – Live wire (Fraser Brothers entertainment). 3 years sponsorship Player of day certificates, 3 x tournaments, Tour Auction and PG Award for team of the year.
 - Platinum (Merchandise) – Paladin, tied into club agreement.
 - Silver Sponsors – Yarntons
 - Thank you to departing Silver Sponsor Mag Assembly for your years of support.

These new agreements aligned with the end of the current agreements and have been tied into the new Playing kit being rolled out in 2025. Thank you for investing in our young ones.

2025 has started strong financially and will end financially with a good surplus to invest back into the Junior Club and any strategic projects.

Changes in the Junior space as noted in the media recently will start rolling out this year with J5 and over the next 3-5 years across other grades. Whether this is the right call for the game I will leave that to those delivering the changes to confirm.

I know I speak for the those in the room, the huge crew of Juniors and myself about the excitement of getting out there in the maroon and gold again this season. We look forward to another successful season here at Northcote.

I would like to sign off by saying thank you to my Committee for believing in me to do the job (Albeit it being cut short for personal reasons), the Club board for allowing me to undertake the Junior program, the seniors for getting involved in the juniors and to all those who I have made friendships with over the last 8 years being involved at Northcote. I am handing over the baton to Andrew Trounson (Trav) to continue to shape the direction of growth and development for Northcote Junior Rugby. I know I haven't achieved everything I set out to but know the Juniors is in good hands. Maroon and Gold is a big part of my life and will continue for some time.

Come and see the kids play when you can and look forward to seeing you on the sidelines over the season.

Dan Doland
Chairperson Northcote Junior Rugby