

Christchurch Heroes Touch Rugby 2018 Annual Report

This report is intended to report on the activities since the start of Christchurch Heroes Touch Rugby until December 31, 2018.

While this report is intended for the end of the last financial year, the Touch Rugby Season continues.

This report consists of:

- A Interim Co-Managems' Report from Rāwā.

The Financial Report will be noted in a separate document.

I took assumption of the interim manager role with the blessing of Glenn Dickie and Andrew Rusbach following a successful season of Rugby Union at the start of August. I am happy to report that 2018 has seen Christchurch Heroes Touch Rugby finish their first half of their first season successfully.

Interim management is not an easy task, as I have navigated getting to know a new team, gaining their trust, and learning very quickly the many facets of running a touch rugby team, and having to do this with some urgency as well as manage the rest of the Rugby Union Season work that was still outstanding. My first objective was to make sure we had a enough players to submit a team and was really eggar to see two teams that reflected inclusion of different genders. I am pleased to report that we started the season with two teams, a mens' team and a mixed team.

My first appointment was that of Glenn Dickie as coach, who followed us on from Touch Rugby and has seen a marked improvement in the development of the team and its playing skills throughout the season.

We are very fortunate that Touch Rugby doesn't have large overheads and it worked out to be approximately \$50 per player for the season. We also got our uniforms sponsored by Christchurch Pride and Rainbow Lifestyle Protection. I'd like to thank them both and the work that Emma-Jane Simpson of Tickety-Boo-NZ-Ideaz for helping me.

Highlights for me as an interim manager include seeing so many players come and the supporters on the sideline, getting the uniforms that I worked on for a such a long time to get just right. The visible support from everyone and how amazed they were with the uniforms. Everyone thought it they were incredible which was a real relief. We are also very fortunate to have the support of Mark who continues to volunteer as a medics and the players who help out like washing the jerseys or get a box of beer. All these things are valued contributions of time and effort, and the Christchurch Heroes Touch Rugby Team are indebted to all our volunteers who help make this team a family.

A big thank you must also go to Burnside Rugby Football Club, who have embraced our team and its supporters, and have made us feel so welcome as part of their club.

A touch rugby team is about much more than just playing sport. It's about team culture, physical and mental wellbeing, providing alternate role models in an increasingly diverse community, and it's about

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breaking down social barriers that may have seemed insurmountable between LGBTI+ people and club sports only a short time ago.

Our other big objective this last season was to increase the level of visibility, transparency, and accountability of team management, and assure the team that they have autonomy over their team. A new bank account has been set up, code of conduct established, a constitution and legal structure for the team that will serve the team going forward, and the establishment of its first AGM and election of officers has been completed.

This has been largely spearheaded by myself, as I have extensive history of governance with the LGBTI+ community and other organisations. I want to take this opportunity now to thank the Constitutional Review Committee who was mandated by a rugby union team meeting and have worked a lot of hours on getting the legal documents to a point we have today. Naturally we have taken longer to getting this done due to our other commitments, and sheer exhaustion after the end of the season. However, Tim, Stephen, Keefe, Michael, Jeremy E, Glenn and Andrew, I want to thank you for your deliberation and for your through work.

With Movemeber we raised \$1,045 to go directly into Suicide Prevention as we know that many LGBTI+ people suffer from mental health and that 1 in 6 of us try to commit suicide. It was very important to our team that we help support the community and an entity that could help promote safe suicide prevention.

I am so incredibly proud to stand beside the team as your interim-manager and to have contributed to our first season in my own small way.

I welcome the appointment of new positions on the Christchurch Heroes Touch Rugby Committee and wish the team every success going forward!

I want to thank you all for supporting us, and therefore also supporting the team. I wanted to acknowledge Glenn. He coached the Touch Rugby Team and help recruit for the remainder of the season and also Mark as he is always there for when we fall over and need help. Mark has been our medic all season and we owe him a great amount of gratitude.

I want to thank Glenn, Andrew, Jeremy E, Stephen and Emma Jane for their efforts in the rebranding exercise. We have had strong positive response to the new branding, and I hope we carry it forward.

I also want to thank all of our general volunteers, Mark, Daniel, Glenn, Jeremy E, Stephen, and Taylor. All of whom contributed in various ways from supporting players with injuries, keeping the team together or supporting me at home to keep my energy up.

The year ahead, we hope you will have a positive one, a chance to finish the season strong but also to recruit for the next season. For those of you coming back for 2019, best of luck, I wish you all the best.