



Northland Rugby League's Junior World Cup day

July 2009

### NZRL staff farewell Interim CEO Murray McCaw

Recently NZRL staff farewelled Interim CEO Murray McCaw, who spent his last two days at head office in hand over discussions with the incoming CEO Jim Doyle.

McCaw provided strong and steadying leadership of NZRL operations during a critical transition period, and will be fondly remembered by staff as a man not afraid to roll his sleeves up. While sad to see Murray go, the organisation now looks forward to the start of the next phase as Jim Doyle officially takes the helm from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.

### EXCLUSIVE! A Trainer's Diary with Kiwis Head Trainer Hayden Knowles

New Zealand Rugby League is proud to present exclusive access to the Kiwis and their training methods.

Found under the Trainers page on the NZRL website, *A Trainer's Diary* offers video footage of the Kiwis in training, and trainer's notes on warm ups and dynamic stretching.

Dain Guttenbeil, NZRL Community Programmes Manager says the five clips are only a sample of the content that is available to assist coaches and trainers by providing an insight into how the Kiwis prepare for matches.

But to access the rest of these invaluable resources, you need to have completed NZRL accreditation as a trainer or international games coach.

"An important part of supporting community development is in providing high quality resources and ongoing learning opportunities to those people in the game who have shown their commitment to achieving best practice in their respective roles. Completing an NZRL accreditation for their role is an indication to the NZRL of this commitment, so we will actively seek to support them in their development."

### Northland Junior World Cup Day

NZRL Community Programmes Manager Dain Guttenbeil and NZRL National Coaching Director Dennis Ward were in Northland again recently, this time taking participants through the LeagueSmart and Mini-Mod workshop.

The workshop ran at the end of an excellent local Mini and Mod World Cup day, which saw many children from Northland having a tonne of fun and activity through Rugby League. The day was run with an emphasis on fun and participation, and this was abundant when the children played on randomly picked teams representing countries like Ireland and the USA.



Northland Rugby League's Junior World Cup day *left*, and Dain Guttenbeil taking the LeagueSmart workshop *right*



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## One bright weekend in Christchurch ... Junior Footy 'Festival' and an MGC Coaching Course

A veritable Junior Rugby League Football feast – that's what was on offer from Canterbury Junior Rugby League (CJRL) during their recent Junior Footy Festival held on the 11th of July at Canterbury Park.

How's this for action? 9.00 am start; eight playing fields; 87 teams ranging in age from U7s to U15s. That equates to over 870 children says Bruce McKenzie, Chairman CJRL, and this takes place each weekend from the beginning of April until 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Inspiring and captivating was the Nursery Grade. Mighty Mites, slightly younger than the 'big kids' who are under seven, were out getting an awareness of the game, getting lots of game time and having plenty of FUN.

Plenty of big names watching too. One of the League's favourite sons, 55-times capped Ruben Wiki checking out the talent after spending Friday night at the Halswell Club auction to raise finances for the Club's playing facilities. The inspirational Gary Endacott, coach and advisor to another famous Kiwi, Frank, out watching his son play and Gary still a player himself.

Mentoring Shirley Club's U10s is sixty years of age Brent Newsom. Fifty-five years playing with the Club and not one season missed. Brent is still going around with the Masters. Brent, with a beaming enthusiasm is not backward in his praise for the event. "This," said Newsom and Endacott, both sweeping their arms to embrace the scene, "is what it's about, kids playing Rugby League in a healthy setting and enjoying themselves".

Judging by the smiles on the faces of the young participants, Canterbury Park could be dubbed Fun Park and the price of admission – simply an attitude of 'kids first' and a smile.

Plenty of volunteers at the ground but if you want any more information on the management of the day try Linda Kennedy, Park Manager, who is contactable through the Canterbury Rugby League office, phone 03 338 4531.

Bruce McKenzie, Chairman CJRL - mobile 021 643 452 - is also ready and waiting for your call to enrol your youngsters to play league and have a good dose of fun.

**Get into Rugby League and be a part of it!**

Sunday saw Canterbury's third Coaching Course for the year. In this case a Mini-Mod Certificate – for the very people looking after most of the kids at Canterbury Park the previous day. Seventeen candidates enrolled and despite some inclement weather the Course was an outstanding success.

A further course, for International Games Coaches i.e. teams catering for players from the U13s upwards, is scheduled for **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**.

Interested and prospective coaches should contact Te Wairau, Coaching and Development Officer, CRFL on 03 338 4531. **Get qualified and get coaching.**

*By Dennis Ward, NZRL National Coaching Director*

### NZRL Museum Committee thank sponsor Autex

Earlier this month the NZRL Museum Committee organised for the World Cup trophy to be taken to [Autex Industries](#).

Autex are the principal sponsor of the Museum, continuing their long association with New Zealand Rugby League.

**AUTEX**



## Obituaries

### Ian Neville Grey

Former Kiwis utility and Auckland provincial coach Ian Grey, Kiwis number 360, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday 7th July 2009. Grey died in his sleep at his home in Blairgowrie, Victoria, after a short battle with cancer.

Born in Auckland, Grey played for the Richmond and Point Chevalier clubs and represented Auckland from 1951-58. A loose forward, he played two tests for the Kiwis on the 1955-56 tour of Britain and France, and a World Cup match at full-back in 1954.



Grey also tasted success as a coach, guiding Ponsonby to the Auckland Rugby League title in 1968 as well as coaching Auckland in 1967-68.

After crossing the Tasman, he became chairman of the Victorian Rugby League from 1988-93.

Grey is survived by his wife Margaret, daughter Briar and sons Mark and David.

The upcoming Auckland Rugby League Centenary book includes a photo of Ian and his father. They had the distinction of playing in the first two Auckland sides to beat British touring teams, 34 years apart (1920 and 1954).

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### Cyril George Paskell

Cyril Paskell, Kiwis number 352, was the first member of the Christchurch Club (later Eastern Suburbs) to be selected as a Kiwi in 1953 when he selected on the wing for New Zealand against Australia in the second test in Wellington. The Kiwis won the test 12-11 to clinch the series that year.

Cyril was an inside back for his club and province, and also an able goal kicker. He was in the final trials in 1951, and a South Island representative from 1951 – 1954, including playing a match against Australia. He later became a provincial graded Coach, and guided Halswell senior teams shortly after it's formation in 1960.

Cyril also gave a lot of his time to schoolboys, having control of the Canterbury 12s in 1965, the Canterbury 13s in 1966, and the Canterbury 14s in 1967.

In 1968 he was coach of the Canterbury 15s team that competed at a national senior schoolboys tournament in Huntly. This team went down to Auckland in its first game 9-13, then beat Waikato 16-9, Taranaki 50-3, and West Coast 20-4.

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### Ces Mountford, 1919 - 2009

Ces Mountford, the famed Blackball Bullet, never represented New Zealand. As a teenager he played fullback for South Island in 1939 and went close later the same year to making the Kiwis whose tour to Britain was aborted by the Second World War.

Before the Kiwis met the 1946 Lions in the first post-war test Mountford had departed for England to further his football career and to attend the Wigan Mining and Technical College. He left behind a promise to return and serve the game in his homeland.

In his absence, two brothers wore the Kiwi jersey. Bill, Kiwis number 289, was a centre in that sole 1946 test won by the Kiwis at Carlaw Park, and loose forward Ken, Kiwis number 310, played in all six tests of the 1947-48 tour to Britain and France. Ces and Ken were rivals when the Kiwis beat Wigan 10 - 8.



There was no thought in those days of overseas-based players representing New Zealand. That was a great pity, for Ces Mountford was clearly one of the finest footballers of an era when Britain was truly great. He captained other Nationalities and The Rest teams against the best of British.

*Continued ...*

Mountford had displayed extreme potential, at soccer as well as rugby league, from his primary school days in the West Coast mining town of Blackball. At 14 he was leading packhorses over the rugged mountains to gold prospectors in the bush, work which was to give him the stamina to survive the tough grind of the long English seasons.

The short (5ft 4in), thickset Mountford had broken into senior football before he was 16. Not just into any team, either, for Blackball was to meet and beat Auckland's best. He represented West Coast at soccer when only 13, and at rugby league as a 16 year-old in 1936. From then on there was only football code in his life.

It did not take Mountford long to establish himself on foreign soil. His partnership with scrum-half Tommy Bradshaw was dynamic on a near all-international Wigan line-up. Mountford's medal collection steadily grew, including Challenge Cup victories at Wembley in 1948 and 1951 and one of the greatest Championship triumphs of all time in 1950. By then Mountford was also Wigan's captain... Never was his leadership more inspiring than in guiding a virtual reserve team to that 1950 Championship title after eight Wigan players had departed for the Lions tour to Australia and New Zealand.

Mountford's first Challenge Cup win was a hard-fought 8 – 3 defeat of fellow post-war giant Bradford Northern, and his second a personal triumph. Wigan shut out Barrow 10 – 0 in front of 94,262 spectators. Mountford set up both tries and kicked the two goals to be a runaway winner of the Lance Todd Trophy as Man of the Match. Todd had toured with the 1907 – 08 New Zealand All Golds, joined Wigan, and became a renowned manager and commentator.

That was Mountford's farewell to Wigan. He was now a family man and Warrington offered him good terms to become manager-coach. Mountford repaid them handsomely during his ten-year term. The Championship was won twice and in 1953-54 a world record crowd watched Warrington complete the Challenge Cup leg of a Championship Cup double.

Warrington and Halifax had played out a try-less 4 -4 draw in the Cup Final at Wembley, and a midweek replay was scheduled for Bradford's Odsal Stadium. The day was dull and overcast, yet an official 102,575 (and unofficial 120,000) crammed into the vast natural amphitheatre to see Mountford's men get home 8 -4.

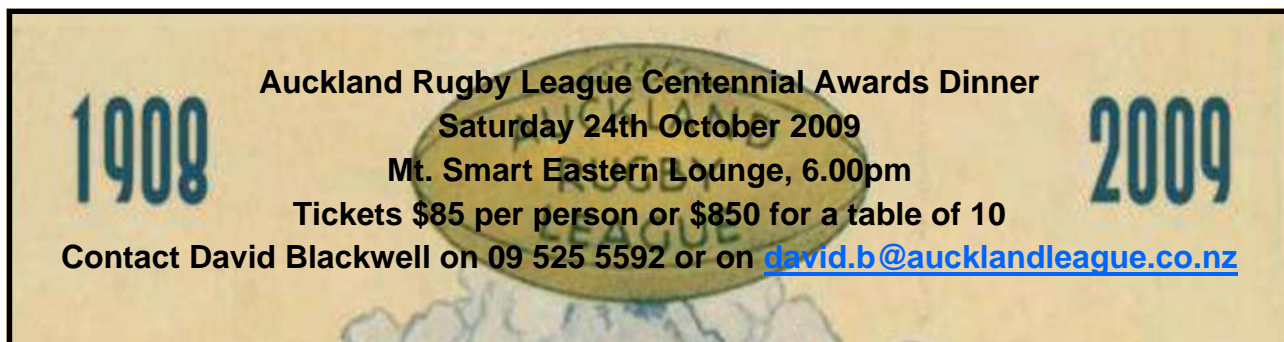
In 1961 Mountford honoured his promise to return to New Zealand. He set up the national coaching school, was its co-ordinator until 1971, and served the NZRL as delegate, secretary, and manager of the 1967 and 1970 Kiwis.

Inexplicably, it was not until 1979 that Mountford became coach of the Kiwis. He started from rock bottom after a disastrous 1978 trip to Australia and laid the groundwork for the glory days of the mid-1980s.

The Kiwis achieved a spectacular third test victory over the 1979 Lions. They lost 0 – 2 to the 1980 Kangaroos before drawing both Series on tour to Britain and France, and then beat the 1981 French tourists 2 – 0. Australia needed a 77<sup>th</sup> minute try to avoid defeat at Brisbane in 1982 in Mountford's last season.

He had given them the defensive steel and professional attitude to challenge the Kangaroos for world supremacy.

*Written by John Coffey for Ces Mountford's NZRL Legends of League portrait (abridged)*



**1908** **Auckland Rugby League Centennial Awards Dinner** **2009**  
**Saturday 24th October 2009**  
**Mt. Smart Eastern Lounge, 6.00pm**  
**Tickets \$85 per person or \$850 for a table of 10**  
**Contact David Blackwell on 09 525 5592 or on [david.b@aucklandleague.co.nz](mailto:david.b@aucklandleague.co.nz)**