



RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

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1st XV vs StAC Pre-Season Game Saturday 5th April

This has become an annual preseason fixture and a good second game hit out for the 1st XV. Played in four quarters the game allowed for both squads to test combinations and to assess players' progress. Rangiora started brightly and had the upper hand up front, especially at scrum time. Territory and possession was with the home side. An early penalty gave goal kicker Scott Allin the opportunity to christen the new goal posts and put Rangiora 3 nil up. A series of kickable penalties followed as St Andrews continued to infringe when put under pressure. Being a preseason fixture the kicks were turned down in favour of lineouts and scrums. Despite the wealth of possession Rangiora was unable to score tries. Some strong defensive work from the St Andrews side prevented this and their individual tackling skill was impressive.



The third quarter proved to be decisive in terms of the result as St Andrews played what appeared to be their strongest backline combination and began to move the ball skilfully placing the Rangiora defence under pressure. It cracked twice...firstly with a well-constructed backline try out wide and then a more physical forward exchange following a 5metre lineout.

At 12-3 Rangiora became intent on evening the score sheet. Having had the balance of the game for such long periods it took a while to wrestle it back from the visitors. The game finished with another series of almost but not quite attacks that came very close to crossing the white line staunchly defended by St Andrews.



This will be a tough contest when the sides meet in Press Cup competition. Both teams have strengths and the side that wins will have to have played well.

This year's fixture is at St Andrews on May 24th.





RHS vs Rockhampton Grammar

A mixed selection of 1st XV and 2nd XV players hosted Rockhampton Grammar on Sunday 6th.

It is not often in recent years that Rangiora sides have enjoyed a size advantage over an opposition team but this was one of those days. The visitors struggled with this and the style of play in the early exchanges. Although they tackled bravely and attempted to play a fast and open style of game the Rangiora defence and physicality

at the breakdown made it very difficult for the Australian side to make headway.

Impressive performances from all who played but of particular note were the efforts of flanker Matt Cooke and winger Travel Tuaputa. Both were named players of the day by the Rockhampton Coaching team.

Rangiora were able to score tries at regular intervals and finished with six tries to Rochampton's one. Final score was 36-7 to RHS.



Thanks to photographer Murray Stirling for these photos.



Parents and friends of RHS Rugby – tickets are now available for the 1st XV Dinner and Auction on Saturday 31st May. Get a group together now for this fun night out with guest speaker.... tickets available through 1st XV players.



Rangiora High School 2nd XV debuted in the Combined Country Under 18 competition last Saturday. As expected this was a physical challenge with the Kaiapoi side bigger but less organised. A good structured start saw RHS go to an early lead with a penalty to Kerran Jenkins, after Kaiapoi could not defend any longer without infringing. This encouraging start was soon wasted when a defensive lapse in the backs saw Kaiapoi score a converted try. This 7-6 score line continued for much of the first half until RHS went back to their structure and again allowed Jenkins to convert his second penalty.

Although the half time message was simple; play to our structure, the team fell into the trap of broken play, and Kaiapoi scored two more tries from kicks behind our line. With 10 minutes left and 13 points behind, the team consolidated their play, and finished two phases with strong forward movements. The two converted tries (both tries to George Gardner) gave them their 20-19 win and first competition points.

Player of the Day: Brendan Maw.

GAMES THIS WEEK

This Friday the 1st XV head off on their annual pre-season Southern Tour. They play Dunstan High School in Alexandra on Saturday, and Waitaki Boys High School in Oamaru on Sunday. As the 2nd XV have a BYE round in the U18 competition, several players will be accompanying the squad.



2nd XV QUIZ NIGHT

To assist towards the season costs of the new Saturday 2nd XV team, we will be holding a Quiz Night on Monday 19th May.



This is a really fun night out doubling as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10 head. So get together a team of 6-8 people and sign up/pay at the Payments counter in the Student Office or call Sarah on 0274 306 153 – spaces are filling up fast, so don't miss out.

1st XV Blazer Presentation



Proud family and friends of 1st XV players gathered in the Cresswell Room last Friday night to share in the players' blazer presentation ceremony. Principal Peggy Burrows spoke of the importance of the 1st XV to the school's sporting heritage, and of the way the boys are not only acting as role models to the younger players in the school but also representing both their school and sport with distinction.



Pictured Scott Powell receiving the Principal's Pin from Mrs Peggy Burrows.

Pictured the three Cook Island scholarship players Travel Tuaputa, Davey Mato and Thomas Harrison with 1st XV Manager Kerry Sullivan.



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