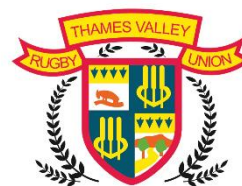


**Thames Valley Rugby Union Sponsor's newsletter –
June 2024.**



“Titia ki te Uma kā taoka o nehe - Pin to your heart the treasures passed down.”



**A message from
our Chairman.**

I must state that I have been really enjoying our club rugby over recent weekends with some excellent displays of running rugby – this reflects the spell of fine weather as it allows a little more freedom to spread the ball wide. I went up to watch Mercury Bay play Paeroa a few weeks back and thoroughly enjoyed the game. Not only was the weather spectacular but the venue with the views out across the boats also topped it off. It did also remind me of that wonderful game the Thames Valley Swamp Foxes played to beat North Otago a couple of years ago and the huge grandstand that was built to accommodate the enormous crowd. These games on our local club grounds

seem to galvanise the whole community to get into the event and the opportunity it presents for each club and their wider local community catchment area.

We all know that the clubs, whether large or small, are a vital part of each town/village. They are very important to the ongoing success of Thames Valley Rugby Union as we know how much they contribute to the success of our teams across all grades. The clubs contribute to the Union across a raft of areas starting with Junior rugby, secondary school rugby and of course senior rugby across both female and male. They also contribute hard working and crucial volunteers that are a vital cog in the survival of each club and as a result the success of the Union. In my mind we must always ensure that all are valued and supported by us. I must state that Scott and his staff are very aware of this importance and deserve congratulations on maintaining contact, creating events, and visiting each area providing coaching support in the schools as well as in the clubs.

Scott Day and former Swamp Fox Gene Waller, now King Country ass. Coach.



Our staff complete an amazing job and I acknowledge their contribution to the success of the Union on a National level. I have been made acutely aware of the importance of all clubs on my visits to the clubs around our district and various games out of the union e.g., our Vixens and the under 21 team who are both competing in the Waikato competition.



I am thrilled to see the turn around that has occurred in the Waihi Athletic rugby club and their incredible success after what must have been a tortuous year for all in 2023. I firstly congratulate all involved in their recent turnaround from last year. They are playing incredible rugby, have sorted out their club structure and attracted players to return or to play here in the Thames Valley for Waihi. I know how hard it was for the club stalwarts who endured the 2023 season. What is incredible is that many of the wonderful players/men who fronted for their senior team in 2023 to keep the A team going are now playing in their B team where they should have been last year while others have again retired – mind you they may disagree Of course they have also combined with Paeroa to bring through the next generation by working closely with Paeroa in producing an



outstanding under 21 side. I think they deserve huge congratulations and I for one know how hard they worked at solving their confronting problems at the end of 2023. We all know that by sharing the load, expert delegation, attracting new players, hard work, great publicity along with rebranding, seeking, and retaining sponsors and outstanding coaching all have contributed enormously to their success in 2024 - but it is also the legacy is what sustains them all – they simply did not want their rugby club to fold. I for one congratulate them all and salute them. Obviously, we all

know they went through the first round unbeaten and have been playing some great running rugby. Their trip up to play Mercury Bay in the recent opening 2nd round game showed how big the gap is when they won the game comprehensively 64 -10.

With the drop in temperature and wet weather returning on occasions winter is well and truly arriving. As we head into the later stages of the club rugby season it is worth noting that the form and skill levels of our Thames Valley sides this year will be of a high standard

if one looks carefully across all teams. No doubt the selectors will use the early game played against King Country to again refine their Heartland side. The teams from both Thames Valley and King Country were picked from local club talent without any outside players for the game – congratulations to King Country as they were the winners on the night at the FMG stadium. It was a little disappointing for all Swamp Fox fans but it is not the Heartland competition so we will congratulate King Country and hope that we perform better in the Heartland fixture later in the year. The performance will certainly cause our coaches to continue to refine, amend and add to our squad when considering their Heartland campaign. I hope you all get out and support our club women’s competition that will start on the 30th June. The six club teams are playing for the **Karly Forsyth Memorial cup.**

I sincerely express the Union’s condolences to the MacDuff family on the passing of Myles. He was a great family man, Swamp Fox man and club player and supporter.

I am greatly saddened as well at the loss of the much loved great All Black, Sid Going.

On a more cheerful note I send the Union’s congratulations to Cam Gerlach (Waihi) on his selection in the NZDF Blacks to tour Fiji. As a small union we are very proud of your selection Cam - See you all on the sidelines.

Regards Gordon.

The last ten years showing Thames Valley against King Country. The last game at Hamilton is in the yellow zone below.

24.05.24	F.M.G stadium Hamilton.	King Country 43	Thames Valley 18.
Last ten results against King Country in the Heartland Championship.			
02.09.23	Heartland Championship	Thames Valley 27	King Country 21
03.09.22	Heartland Championship	King Country 15	Thames Valley 19
30.10.21	Heartland Championship.	Thames Valley 50	King Country 15
12.10.19	Heartland Championship	King Country 15	Thames Valley 37
15.09.18	Heartland Championship	Thames Valley 29	King Country 37
23.09.17	Heartland Championship	King Country 36	Thames Valley 45
10.09.16	Heartland Championship	Thames Valley 22	King Country 22
12.09.15	Heartland Championship	King Country 47	Thames Valley 12
30.08.14	Heartland Championship	Thames Valley 15	King Country 10
14.09.13	Heartland Championship	King Country 27	Thames Valley 22



Sadly, Swamp Fox #936 Myles MacDuff passed away on Sunday the 12th of May. Myles debuted in 2003 and played in every game during that campaign as a devastating number eight. This culminated in him being awarded the Air New Zealand Most Valuable NPC player of 2003. Myles contribution to rugby in the province stretched wide and far.

He represented the Whangamata and Hauraki North clubs with pride. He won the famous Coulter Cup, the supremacy of Secondary School rugby with Hauraki Plains College three times and the last one in 1994 as captain. He also won the Thames Valley Premier Championship, the McClinchy Cup, with Hauraki North in 2004 as a player and again in 2007 as a coach.

Coach Bob,

I have really enjoyed club rugby this year as it seems to be a step up from the previous couple of years. A couple of clubs are standing out to me as possible finalists. Firstly Waihi have certainly turned things around from last season and deserve strong support as they completed the first round unbeaten. Close by Paeroa and COBRAS are showing enough to include them for consideration as worthy finalists as well. The 4th spot is going to be a battle though, with several teams fighting for the opportunity for a chance to compete in them. Early indications are that Whangamata could take that spot.



Brett Runga in action in the even first Half against King Country. It was great to see Brett back in Thames Valley Colours after taking time away from the game.

I must say that the squad chosen by the selectors for

the early preseason game against King Country at Hamilton as the curtain raiser to the

chiefs game was a strong and a very competitive team. I do think that Thames Valley will be in a very strong position this year in New Zealand Heartland competition if these players stay fit and are able to take their present club form into their campaign. The team

WOMENS CLUB OF ORIGIN DRAW 2024
KARLY FORSYTH MEMORIAL CUP

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE **SUNDAY 14TH JULY**

NGATEA vs HAURAKI NORTH THAMES vs NGATEA

WHANGAMATA vs TE AROHA COROMANDEL vs WHANGAMATA

THAMES vs COROMANDEL HAURAKI NORTH vs TE AROHA

SUNDAY 7TH JULY **SUNDAY 21ST JULY**

NGATEA vs WHANGAMATA WHANGAMATA vs HAURAKI NORTH

HAURAKI NORTH vs THAMES COROMANDEL vs NGATEA

TE AROHA vs COROMANDEL TE AROHA vs THAMES

FINALS DAY I NGATEA
SUNDAY 28TH JULY

*HOME TEAM IS LOCATED ON THE LEFT OF THE DRAW.
*ALL GAMES WILL KICK OFF AT 100PM.

was chosen from players playing their rugby for clubs here in Thames Valley. One thing for certain is that the coaches will be able to assess their performance levels and will understand the areas that need attention as they build up for the Heartland campaign after club rugby finishes. It was not our night, but the team will bounce back after being beaten by King Country. The game was close at half time, but King Country proved worthy winners

with a very strong second half performance. I wish them all the very best for their shield challenge against Hawkes Bay.

I must say how sad I was to see that Myles McDuff had recently passed away. He was a great Thames Valley player and a superb North man.

It was also very sad that Sid Going had also passed away three weeks ago. He was an amazing player for the All Blacks, New Zealand Maori, and his beloved North Auckland team. The three going brothers were absolute magic to watch especially when they combined with all their special moves. Super Sid was so different with all the running options he created around rucks and from the scrum. He was immensely strong and had a forward pack in front of him that dominated the rugby world during his era. Sid Going was one of New Zealand’s greatest players and one of my rugby heroes. He was a great family man and tireless community worker – see the information in the following pages.

Much Arohanui Super Sid and Myles.

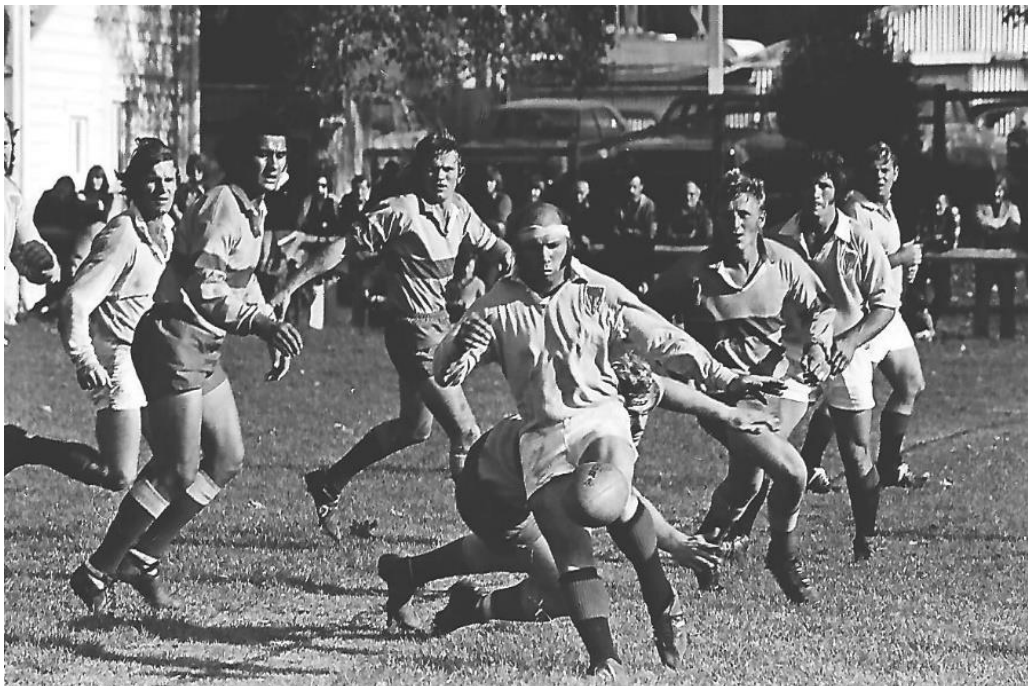
Regards,

Coach Bob.

Sid Going Played against Thames Valley Several times.

Sid Going

The last time the late Sid Going played in Thames Valley was on May 12th 1976. The photo below shows Sid with his head bandaged – the result of a collision with Kerry Moloney (Valley’s fullback) as the two players contested a high up and under, kicked by Moloney, in the first minute of the game. Moloney had to retire from the game as he required stitches but Sid played on with the bandage around his head. North Auckland won 29-3. Kerry recalls that Sid had delayed concussion and was violently sick outside the venue for the after-match function. However, at a time when head injuries were not treated as seriously as they are now, a week later Sid was back playing for North Auckland against Ireland before heading off to South Africa with the All Blacks.



Sid on tour playing in England.

Brian, Ken and Sid Going



A great All Black passes away - Sid Going. MBE.

Birth name. Sidney Milton Going.

Date of birth. 19 August 1943.

Place of birth. Kawakawa, New Zealand.

Date of death. 17 May 2024 (aged 80).

Place of death. Maromaku, Northland.

Height. 1.78 m (5 ft 10 in)

Weight. 81 kg (179 lb)

School. Northland College, Church College of New Zealand

Notable relative(s) Ken Going, Brian Going (brothers) Todd Miller (nephew)

Rugby Union career.

Sidney Milton Going MBE (19 August 1943 – 17 May 2024) was a New Zealand rugby union footballer. Dubbed Super Sid by his fans, **he played 86 matches, including 29 Tests, for the All Blacks between 1967 and 1977.** He represented North Auckland domestically.

Early life and family.



Born in Kawakawa on 19 August 1943, Going was educated at Maromaku Primary School, Northland College, and Church College of New Zealand. In 1962, at the age of 19, he was a missionary in Canada for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS Church). Going and his wife, Colleen, had five children, including sons, Jared, who represented New

Zealand in Sevens rugby, and Milton, who played Super Rugby for the Crusaders. Going was also the uncle of All Black Todd Miller. Of Māori descent, Going affiliated with the Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Hine iwi.

Career.

Many rate him as New Zealand's greatest running halfback, his flair and unpredictability bagging him 10 tries in test matches, and 23 in All Black games. A key member of the 1972–1973 All Blacks touring side to Great Britain and Ireland, Going's combination with flanker and captain Ian Kirkpatrick was pivotal. The side won tests against Wales, England, and Scotland before being narrowly denied an unprecedented Grand Slam by



their 10–10 draw with Ireland. He played a total of eighty-six matches for New Zealand and scored 164 points from thirty-three tries, eighteen conversions, five penalty goals and a dropped goal.

Going was a favourite with North Auckland fans during his long tenure there as halfback from 1965 to 1978, often playing alongside his brothers, Ken, and Brian, and in New Zealand Māori sides. The brothers' specialty was a blindside triple-scissors movement, which almost gave Northland a late victory in the 1971 match against the touring British Lions. That side featured the Welsh great Gareth Edwards, whose duels with Going were a feature of the tour, which produced for the Lions their first test series victory over the All Blacks. Going was awarded the **Tom French Cup for Māori player of the year a record six times**; earning the accolade consecutively from 1967 to 1972.

Going was a member of the 1976 All Blacks touring side to South Africa, his team experiencing a 3–1 series loss to the Springboks. Although only a part-time goal-kicker, Going performed this task during the test matches because of injuries to other players. His All Black career finished during the 1977 British Lions tour to New Zealand, when he was replaced after the second of four test matches.



In the 1977 New Year Honours, Going was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire, for services to rugby. He retired from first-class rugby in 1978, but continued his involvement with the game, coaching Northland secondary school teams from 1988 to 1992, and being selector–coach of the first-class side from 1993 to 1996. In 1978, Bob Howitt wrote a biography of Going entitled *Super Sid – The Story of a Great All Black*. At the 2020 Halberg Awards, Going was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

Sid Going died at his home in Maromaku on 17 May 2024, at the age of 80.

Captain Cameron - COBRAS and Thames Valley. **40 games for Thames Valley**

Cameron Dromgool chalked up his 40th first class match for Thames Valley in their recent game against King Country at FMG Stadium.

He made his debut against West Coast at Te Aroha on 25th August 2018 and is pictured just after being presented with his first Thames Valley jersey before the game. He can play either as a lock or as a versatile loose forward.



News from the Thames Valley Rugby Union Staff.

Club Rugby:

- Waihi Athletic have continued to dominate the 2024 Premier Competition, currently unbeaten after 9 rounds, winning the Silcock Shield (Round 1 Winners) and holding the Frank Poland Memorial Cup. Paeroa are not far behind, winning their last seven matches – only losing to Waihi Athletic in Round 1.
- In the 2024 Senior B Competition, Cobras surprised most punters by winning the Elders Cup for Round 1 Champions, beating Coromandel 34-17 who were previously unbeaten. The competition now splits into two grades, Senior B (Top 5 – Lawrence Memorial Cup) – Cobras, Coromandel, Waihi Athletic, Whangamata and Waihou. And Senior C (Bottom 4 – McDonald Cup) – Mercury Bay, Ngatea, Thames and Hauraki North.
- The Rugby United Under 21s face a daunting few weeks ahead of them as they attempt to break into the Top 4 of the Waikato Colts Competition. They currently sit 7th but can easily reach their destination if they beat Morrinsville and Hamilton Marist.



Club Men's Registrations:

2023: 560

2024: 620

Representative Rugby:

- We are proud to announce our Age-Group representative coaches for 2024. Under 14 Boys (Dan Mead), Under 16 Boys (Dwayne Mansell), Under 16 Girls (Jon Liddell), Under 19 Boys (Pieter Aucamp) and Under 19 Girls (Matt Carden – Scott). We are in the process of finalising our extended management groups and also confirmed fixture schedules.

Secondary Schools:

- Our Secondary Schools Boys rugby competition kicked off in May, with our new grades that the TVRU made to get more boys able to play, so grades that are fit for purpose as opposed to trying to fit everyone in the traditional grades. New grades of U18's Boys grade, U15½ and U14¾ have been implemented and our rugby score differences have improved from last year and we have more teams playing.

Secondary Schools Boy's Registrations:

2023: 366

2024: 422

Women & Girls:

- Secondary School Youth Girls over 3 evenings with a great turnout from 4 teams. Hauraki Plains College, Whangamata Area School, Te Aroha College and Waihi College. This was exceptional display of rugby and the improvement shown on the last night was awesome. We have a slight increase in girls numbers.
- Level 1 Intro to coaching Women and Girls, we had a great turn out and our TVRU Club of origin women's teams will be supported by good coaches.
- On we celebrated the official launch of the Thames Valley Women's Club of Origin Competition at Hauraki North Rugby Club. Thank you to everyone who attended, including members of all six participating teams and also our wider community. We would also like to acknowledge Ange, Brad and Lara Forsyth for unveiling the 'Karly Forsyth Memorial Cup'. Karly's contributions towards Rugby in the Thames Valley will forever be apart of our game. Thank you to whaaoutphotography who captured an afternoon full of fun, games, laughter and tears! Bring on an amazing competition

Women's numbers increase.

2023: 39

2024: 92

- First Aid in Rugby- for all parties involved in rugby, to support our women and men's teams.

Coach Development:

- Continuation of the Inta Sport App for Junior Rugby Coaches.
- Hudl video analysis presentation by Brad Morgan (Chiefs).
- Selection and Player Identification presentation by Paul Williams (NZ Rugby).
- Women's Level 1 Foundation Coaching Course Seminar.
- Swamp Fox Coaches have attended club & school trainings.



Primary School Tackle Rugby Tournaments:

Over the last two weeks we have ran our Primary School Tackle Tournaments for both our boy's and girl's teams.

Wednesday 22nd June saw the first of our Tackle Tournaments for the boy's teams held in Thames at Rhodes Park. What an outstanding day it was with a total 38 teams entered and nine half fields operating. So excellent skills and talent showcased with some close games.

The tournament structure allowed all teams to play 4 games throughout the day and the top try scoring team being crowned the winner of the tournament.

How the scoring system worked is each try was worth one point, 3-5 this then went to the admin tent where all the scores were added on over the day and giving us a total amount of tries scored, them then being the winner. This also took away the 2points for a win a 0points for a loss. We have seen this as a massive positive for all the teams playing and parents watching it is much nicer seeing 3-5 opposed to 15-30.

By doing each try worth one point it keeps all the games positive and even the sidelines positive towards the referees.

Wednesday 29th May, Our Girls Tackle Tournament seen 12 teams entered which was shaping up to be another great day of rugby. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the day after the weather turned horrible and was unsafe for all players, teacher and parents to be traveling in. Awesome to see the girls keen and excited to get stuck in.

Junior Girls Competition:

Sunday 2nd June, the very first All Girls Junior Rugby Competition was played in Te Aroha. An outstanding turnout of girls wanting to play and an awesome amount of support from parents and coaches.

First part of the morning was a tackle clinic with all players, current or not to put them through the correct technique and some confidence so that they are safe when they hit the field for their first game.



A massive congratulations goes to all clubs that have been pushing girls' rugby within their clubs to get girls keen and excited to play.

Junior Rugby:

The Junior Rugby Competition has been booming over the past 7 weeks around the region. Some close and physical matches shown across all grades, with some sharp talent and skills showcased. With only 4 rounds left in the Junior Competition the tables are tight with all teams wanting to push for the top 4 spots come Semi-Finals and pushing on to the Finals on Saturday 6th July at Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea.

A look back at our History – Team reunion 24th August.

1969 and 1970 THAMES VALLEY SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

The Union is hosting a reunion of players from these two seasons on Saturday 24th August in association with the Valley/North Otago game at Te Aroha. The 1969/70 teams were the last Valley sides to be coached by the late Norm McMillan and they are especially remembered for victories over Tonga (1969) and New South Wales (1970). These two wins enabled Thames Valley to remain undefeated in their games against overseas teams (including Australia).

Tonga was defeated 12-10 at Te Aroha (Kerry Moloney 2 dropped goals and a penalty goal, Alan Wilkinson a penalty goal) and NSW was defeated 13-12 at Thames (Ian Jenkins and Tony Slavich scored tries with Kerry Moloney kicking a conversion and a penalty goal plus Brian McCollum adding a conversion).

The Thames Valley team photo below was taken just before the match against Tonga.



Back Row: Mr N. J. McMILLAN (selector-coach), T. B. LANGFORD, A. SLAVICH, I. H. MacDONALD, (Captain), I. K. JENKINS, M. P. ANDERSON, W. K. HENDERSON, MR G. R. YEAGER (manager) MR H. I. FORSMAN (masseur)
Middle Row: M. McDONALD, W. C. WALSH, G. L. MOLD, G. W. SORENSON, J. R. HODGE, P. A. SILCOCK.
Front Row: J. E. CARTER (vice-captain), A. WILKINSON, B. MCCOLLUM, P. BENTLEY, K. D. MOLONEY, B. T. CORBETT. P. MELLOW.

**First Heartland Game: August 17th, 2024,
against Wairarapa - Bush in Masterton.**