



# RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

Miles Toyota



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## Press Cup Round 8: vs Marlborough Boys College @ RHS – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2014



Weather was fine and ground conditions were excellent despite one of the wettest weeks and school being closed for two days due to flooding. Rangiora was determined to perform well against defending Champions MBC and despite the disruption to training due to the weather preparations had gone well.

Rangiora started well and were able to maintain possession for long periods and put MBC under pressure early. First points went to the reliable boot of Scott Allin after MBC conceded a defensive penalty. MBC responded quickly and added 3 points of their own before they exercised their large forward pack and set up the first try of the game coming off a simple defensive error. At

10-3 Rangiora continued to apply pressure and despite creating opportunities were not good enough to crack a strong and well organised MBC side. MBC scored late in the first half to build a 14 point lead and went close on the final play of the half but excellent scrambling defence prevented further scoring. It was an evenly contested half despite the scoreboard suggesting otherwise.

### **Half time: Rangiora 3 MBC 17**

The second half Rangiora started full of promise. If they were able to score first then the game was certainly going to be close. Again, however, MBC were too strong defensively and despite being put under a great deal of pressure were able to keep their line intact. The realities of physics were starting to show as the much larger MBC pack began to gain ascendancy over a brave but tiring Rangiora side. A third try secured the result and at 3-22 it was from then on a game chasing exercise for Rangiora. Unfortunately mistakes started to creep in as the side battled hard to score. Turnovers were punished by MBC ruthlessly and as the confidence grew they began a clinical finish that was both impressive and painful to watch. The final 10 minutes were tough for Rangiora as many had played themselves to a standstill...MBC were able to score 3 tries to blow the score out to a flattering 3-43.



MBC certainly deserved their victory and probably deserved of the scoreline given their clinical finish. It doesn't however reflect the contribution that Rangiora made to the game and how hard they forced MBC to play in order to 'crack' their opposition.



Very proud of the performance as every player in the squad gave it their best. Although we came away with a loss it was to a very good side. We will learn from this experience and thoughts now focus on Shirley Boys HS, our next game. They also are a side playing good rugby but not securing wins...it will be a close battle and one both teams will want to win badly.

**Final score: Rangiora 3 MBC 43**



**R.J. Preston Player of the Day: Hooker Connor MacKinnon**  
**Principal's Pin: Flanker Oscar Howat**

**R.J. Preston Ltd**  
**Specialists Farm Accountants**

Chartered Accountants  
P O Box 39 065  
Harewood  
**CHRISTCHURCH 8545**  
Phone: 03 3585 686  
Fax: 03 3587 958



### **RHS 2<sup>nd</sup> XV vs Malvern Combined**

Last Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV boys travelled away for their play off for third spot. It was Club Day at Kirwee, and the Malvern combined side were obviously still hurting after our boys had stolen their previous match with a remarkable 27 point comeback.

Although there was a lot of talk after last week's disappointments, the disruptive week with no trainings and a very restricted warm up had the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV under-prepared. This showed in the first half performance as woeful tackling had them 34 points behind. There was little wind or sun advantage, no oranges or lollies and only one set of fresh legs, so the turnaround required a significant change in attitude if Rangiora High School boys were not going to be embarrassed again. Fortunately this team does have pride in its performances this year, and decided to play.

The fresh legs of Justin Paulsen did add enthusiasm and energy to the pack. Player of the Day; George Howat, Levi Beedles and Conor Churchill tried hard all day. Harley Robinson cleared our red zone intelligently. Brendan Maw and Callum Henderson never stopped looking for opportunities and two eventually came for both. Callum had an outstanding break, fending off 5 tacklers, to eventually gift Andrew McDonald try. Brendan also sparked an attack which rewarded Vaughn Atkins-Percasky with a well-taken try after his well-organised and perceptive play at fullback. Vaughn's try saving tackle was as motivating to the team, as was George Howat's earlier when we were allowing them to get the dominance back again. These two tries from exciting counter attacks against two late (and soft) tries from Malvern, finished that half at 10 all, but a final score 44-10.

We can now take this second half form into the North Canterbury leg of our season, as we battle each local side twice for a spot in the finals on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

### **GAMES THIS WEEKEND**



This weekend the 1<sup>st</sup> XV play Shirley Boys' High School at SBHS, kick-off 2.45 p.m. while the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV have a home game at RHS against Kaiapoi, kick-off 1.30 p.m.



## RHS 1<sup>st</sup> XV Player Profile: Ryan McCallum



Name	Ryan McCallum
Year	13
House	Mansfield
Preferred Position	Lock, Blindside Flanker
Previous Club	Ohoka
Rugby Player you admire most and why	Israel Dagg because he's a jammer and scores sick tries
Most memorable Rugby moment	Playing rugby in Wales for Ohoka U16s
Favourite Food	Nachos and Lasagne
Favourite Music	Hopsin
Other sports played	Touch rugby, motorcross, tennis and basketball
Interests and Hobbies	Motorcross and cars

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