



# RHS RUGBY NEWSLETTER

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## FULLTIME FOR RUGBY COACH

Rangiora High School 1<sup>st</sup> XV coach Jim Gilbert has accepted a position at Wakatipu High School in Queenstown, and as such will call time on his involvement with the school's top rugby side.

Gilbert will take up the position in November 2014, ending an association with Rangiora High School rugby that has spanned almost 10 years.

During his tenure, Gilbert has been a driving force behind the school's progression from having only a midweek 1<sup>st</sup> XV in 2005/06 to gaining entry into the elite secondary schools rugby competition, the Press Cup, in 2011.



Gilbert formed a coaching partnership with Marty Ashby in 2006/07. The pair could see the potential for RHS to compete at the top level and set about making a plan that would see the school's 1<sup>st</sup> XV first win the Country Combined Under 18 competition in 2009 and then progress to Press Cup status in 2011.

With a view to player succession and an improvement of skill and culture, Gilbert also established a Junior Rugby Development Programme at Rangiora High School in 2012. The development programme concept has been well received by all involved and inaugural players are now coming through the ranks to gain 1<sup>st</sup> XV status.



Gilbert's coaching partner Marty Ashby describes him as a very intelligent coach who forces the players to challenge themselves both mentally and physically in their approach to the game. "Jim will always make a player think about why he is doing something, what he's trying to achieve, and what the players' role in the team pattern is. The way he coaches engages the player's brain as much as his body, and his style and methods have taken rugby at Rangiora High School to new levels".





Gilbert's influence wasn't just limited to the rugby pitch. As the rugby culture grew, and interest in Rangiora High School rugby increased, he was a driving force behind the establishment of the Rangiora High School Rugby Club. The Club now provides a robust structure for the administration of rugby at all levels within the school.

In addition, the team culture established in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV has rubbed off a large number of the senior boys in the school. The proud wearing of the school blazer and tie has increased greatly over the last 3 or 4 years, a tradition started by the team during the normal school day and now more boys and some of the

senior girls' sports teams can be seen wearing the green and gold proudly.

Another initiative that benefited from the Gilbert "touch" was the Rugby Club's Cook Islands Scholarship programme. Known as the Cook Islands Student Development Programme through Rugby, Gilbert was instrumental in the development of the programme from its inception, and sees RHS and the Rugby Club giving academic and sporting opportunities to up to three Cook Island students each year.

Off the field Gilbert has lead a large Science faculty from the front. His deep and reasoned thinking has ensured that research is behind many of the changes made. This leadership was also seen when he was Head of Rutherford House, taking the "blue team" to the top of the House competition. He was focused on this accomplishment.



While it will be difficult to turn his back on rugby after some many years involvement, Gilbert is looking forward to the challenges of this new position and to spending time with his two young daughters.

## JUNIOR RUGBY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



The JRDP will resume again in Term 4. This development programme is designed to support and develop rugby players through Rangiora High School by developing the technical, tactical and physical standard of players aged 13-16 in North Canterbury. This will also support North Canterbury Clubs by enhancing the profile of rugby through offering opportunities for player development.

It involves a weekly commitment to attend a session of approximately one hour. These sessions are intended to be coaching and development sessions. The fitness content of the programme will be developed and monitored through these sessions but will largely be carried out at a time to suit the player.

The programme will run as off/pre-season summer preparation for the following season, in both Terms 1 and 4.

## OFF-SEASON TRAINING

Boys interested in training over the off-season and trialling for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XVs for 2015 should contact Mr Eder in the Sports Office.

## Cook Island scholarships accepted

After a thorough process to ensure their educational needs can be met, two Cook Island boys, Strickland Tangimetua (left) and Tamatoa Tangimetua (right) have accepted offers to study at Rangiora High School in 2015 while playing rugby for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. This will be the fourth year of the Cook Island Student Development Programme.

"We are thrilled to have these two boys coming to our school in 2015" said Kelvin Eder, Rugby Coach and Director of Sport. "We believe from what we saw in their games and fitness testing Strickland and Tamatoa have a good work ethic and attitude, and we expect them to do very well both in the classroom and on the rugby field."



Travel Tuaputa also plans to return to Rangiora High in 2015 to continue on a succession scholarship. This will be Travel's third year at the school and he feels the school's transition support into the workforce remains his best option.

This year, Thomas Harrison continues progress with his army ambitions, and Davey Mato works one day each week for a local engineer with the intention of moving to a permanent position. After the 1st XV season ended, both played representative rugby for the North Canterbury Colts (Under 21) side, with Thomas also making the Combined Canterbury Country Colts. Travel was a North Canterbury Under 18 representative again, and is heading to the New Zealand Athletic Champs in December for discus.

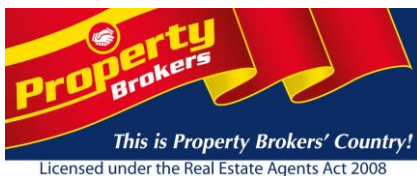
We look forward to following the progress of Strickland, Tamatoa and Travel in 2015.

## Congratulations – RHS's Canterbury Country representatives

RHS Rugby congratulates the following players who made the U14 Canterbury Country team:

### U14

Fraser Philip  
Angus Mitchell  
George Prain  
Fletcher Newell  
Ben Gibbons  
Jack Marshall



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