



CROBA
EX PLAYERS & SUPPORTERS

Ngā Tāngata Tautoko Our people supporting College Rifles Park

**Don Stewart Memorial Trust
Annual Report 2023**

Purpose

To support the recreational and multi-sports fields and facilities at College Rifles Park, for the on-going use and benefit of the community.

croba.nz

Our people supporting College Rifles Park

Each year we wish to acknowledge the amazing contribution of individual CROBA and life members to the continued success of College Rifles. Our Club survives with the amazing commitment of our Volunteers. The Trust is dedicated to building on this legacy that each has helped to create.

These Volunteers are too many and their deeds too great but each year we will honour and remember their involvement with College Rifles.

Neil 'Pinky' Cameron

Player, coach, club stalwart, mentor, 'Naki' man and Rifleman

I first met "Pinky" in 1987, through our respective wives Sue and Chrissy. The Cameron's were duly invited to dinner, and during an excellent and entertaining evening it was discovered that we shared the same interests! Surprise!

We kept in touch as I sort of had an inkling that Neil wouldn't mind a game or two, however was a wee bit reluctant as he wasn't sure of the "quality" of the rugby, bearing in mind his pedigree, i.e. Taranaki #9! I suggested that he have a look the following week.

We must have had a good game, as when I called him up the next day, he agreed to join us, and a long relationship was established.



Although a bit guarded to start with, Pinky became a strong member of the CROCS, even surviving the Rifles arm wrestling test involving one Brian Maitland! Close call!

Pinky stopped playing when the body cried enough, and became very involved with coaching, the U19s initially, and subsequently the U21s, whom he had for a few years. An amazingly astute reader of the game, also an ability to mentor these young men, many of whom went on to play for our Premier side and other honours. They were great times.

There was also the 'larrikin' side to Neil and he had a wicked sense of humour. I never really witnessed him raise his voice, however, once one was fixed with that steely 'Naki' gaze — enough said! Neil became very important to the club with his background and was used frequently for his opinion of the best way forward for the Senior

teams and coaches incorporating his vast knowledge and experience of our game.

Pinky was “the local builder” — his description — however was well known in the Eastern Suburbs and was often seen cruising in his distinctive blue Ford ute, timber etc. on the racks. He often employed young players who came to Rifles, discussing the finer points of the game at smoko! No escape! Neil was pretty well on the tools all his working career. Hard as nails!

His music taste was “his”, with the apprentices and workers getting used to Santana, Neil Young (Harvest Moon) and The Doors! Radio Sport 1332AM was the channel on the jobs! Boss's selection!

A strong family man, and with wife Sue, and sons Fraser and James became an integral part of the Rifles community.



You are missed Pinks, and are often mentioned in our weekly get togethers — beersies! What would Pinky have said about that — ABs selection? You sort them out up there!

Cheers Mate.

Tribute by Graham MacDonald, life member, old CROC and car rally nut.



The Rev'd Moses Cherrington – North Auckland Player #411

A life commitment to Rugby, College Rifles and the Community, for eighteen years also Chaplain for the College Rifles ANZAC Day commemorations.

Moses Henare Cherrington was born on January 10, 1943. He grew up in Northland, attending Moerewa Primary School (1947–1955) before moving down to Auckland's St Stephen's School for secondary education (1956–1958).

At school Moses showed signs of where his talents would take him. He excelled on the sports field, playing rugby throughout his school days, but he was also keen to learn te reo Māori and enjoyed performing kapa haka and singing in the choir. Over the course

of Moses' life, these strands of his personality kept re-emerging and inter-weaving.

As a young man, Moses continued to play rugby for his local club — Otiria — and would go on to represent North Auckland in the 1960s. By the early 1990s, Moses' days of playing rugby had given way to him taking a serious governance role in Northern Rugby. From 1992 he was Chairman of the Northland Māori Rugby Union and the Māori Delegate on the Northland Rugby Union.

His natural leadership and mana were discerned by leaders in the Anglican Church who gave him a scholarship in the late 1990s to study a Bachelor of Theology degree through St John's College, Meadowbank (St John's being one of the three constituent colleges of College Rifles). By this stage, Moses was in his late 50s, so this can't have been easy for him, but the determination he learned on the pitch helped him, within three years, get his degree over the line.

In 2002 he was promoted to a senior position in the Anglican Church, as an Archdeacon within Te Tai Tokerau with responsibility for around 100 clergy there. It was during this time that his relationship with College Rifles began. One of the areas in club life in which he was most visible was as Chaplain to the ANZAC Day Service since 2005.

His eighteen-year commitment to that service says a lot about his character, his love of rugby, and his enduring personal faith. His background in kapa haka, te reo Māori and singing served him well in this role.

In 2011 Moses, now in his late sixties, went back to school, this time to get a Graduate Diploma in Teaching. Within a year he had the diploma and began a new role, teaching te reo Māori and kapa haka at Kamo High School, whilst exercising an important pastoral ministry there. Once again, he was 'giving back' to his community in the North of his skills, experience and passion, just as he gave to the College Rifles community. Moses is remembered fondly by club members as a person who was approachable, human and clearly enlivened by the game of rugby.

On August 3, 2022, in his eightieth year, Moses departed this life. We remember him as a man of great mana, who practiced what he preached, building up everyone around him by what he said and did.

Rest in peace, good rugby man of God.

'A great Kauri has fallen in the forest of Tane.'

Tribute by St Mark's Vicar Tony Surman and new Chaplain for the College Rifles ANZAC Day service.

Don Stewart Memorial Trust

The Trust was established jointly by the Stewart Family and College Rifles, as a long-term legacy. A charitable trust, initially funded by a generous gift of \$250,000 by Don (affectionally known to Club members as 'Grumpy'), a life member, CROBA member and lifelong supporter and benefactor of College Rifles.

Alongside the significant contributions from club members College Rifles has now donated \$500,000 to the Trust over two installments, reflecting the positive contribution the Trust will make to the College Rifles facilities.

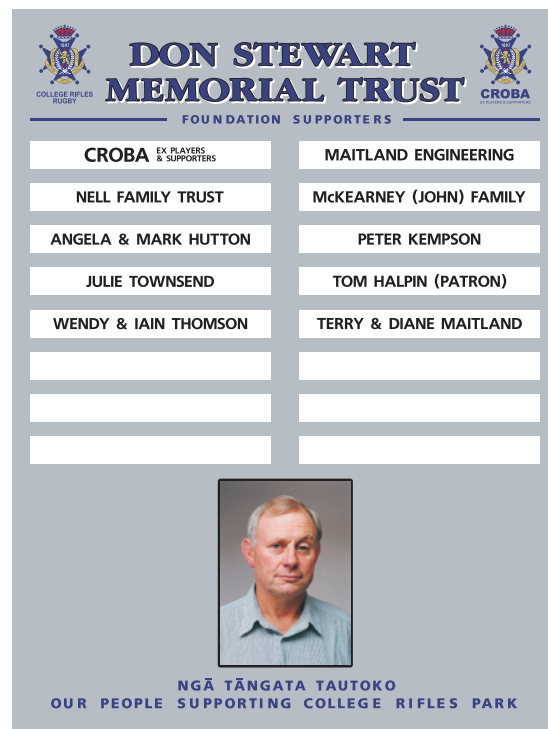
Grumpy's Vision

To ensure Rifles is the home of New Zealand's leading Premier Rugby and Sports Club, by;

- Providing future funding for the sports fields and facilities at College Rifles Park for the on-going benefit of the wider local community; and
- Supporting our community well-being, by providing an annual grant.

Foundation Supporters

The Trust is delighted this year to complete our new display board in the main Clubrooms, honouring Don and all our Foundation Supporters.



CROBA

Our ex-players and supporters club has been operating for over 50 years and boasts in excess of 150 members. Visit our website croba.nz for full details.

Third Annual Report

for the year ended 30 September 2023

Trust Patron

Tom Halpin

CROBA Life Members

Frank Batty, Lloyd McConnell, Dick Freeman, Clive Hart, Brian McPhail, Dennis Ross

Roll call of Past CROBA Members and Family — 2023

Bill Bason, Laurie Nelson, Colin Lendrum, Bob Cairns, Duncan MacDonald, Margaret Garrett and Jillian Dallimore.

On August 25th of this year College Rifles was privileged to host the Dallimore whanau and friends at the Club to celebrate and give thanks for the life of Jillian Dallimore. The Old Boys and Bombers were honoured to also provide support in recognition of a loyal club member to husband Ross.

Trustees



Brian Maitland, Mark Hutton, Julie Townsend, Tom Halpin (Patron) and Peter Kempson

Trust Purpose

A key purpose of the Don Stewart Memorial Trust is to assist with the on-going funding of the synthetic fields and other facilities at College Rifles Park, when required. External community funders for Club facilities expect the Club to provide matching funding.

This outstanding complex is the life blood of the Club, without which our Club would not be able to operate as it does now or provide the facilities for our local community, that are so desperately required in our local area.

The park also provides car parking, shower facilities, sporting equipment, training and fitness areas and function spaces available to the community with 12 sports based at College Rifles and used by over 15,000 participants each year.

ANZAC Day at College Rifles Park

College Rifles is unique among modern sports clubs for its long military history. The College Rifles Volunteer Corps was formed in 1897 as an infantry corps for King's College, St John's College and Auckland Grammar School. All three are still represented in the College Rifles coat of arms.

Each year the Club holds an ANZAC Day service to both recognise the Club's military history and involve the local community, as the commemorations are becoming more important to the Club's younger members. The parade starts at Upland Road and finishes at the Club memorial at the bottom of Haast Street.



Honouring our Heroic Riflemen

During World War 1, 330 Rifles members were on active service, 54 whom did not return. When New Zealand went to war in 1939, 303 Riflemen served and 37 never returned. In the words of the chair in 1917 'we believe no other Club in the Dominion can claim such a proud record as ours.'



The Trustees are delighted to present this third Annual Report for the Don Stewart Memorial Trust

1 Trust Assets

The investments by the Trust are guided by our Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives — see website. The Trust has invested the majority of funds in managed income funds, debt securities and deposits which are currently providing a pleasing average interest return of over 6.0% per annum.

2 Charitable Grant — ‘supporting our community’

The Trust welcomes funding applications for a charitable purpose with a focus on the promotion of health, well being and social inclusion through public participation in sports. Any College Rifles member, supporter or volunteer covering any sport undertaken at College Rifles may apply.

‘During 2023 the Trustees were delighted to announce our first charitable distribution. The distribution of \$3,000, funded from a donation, to young children and their whanau with a focus on young girls in the community. The purpose of the distribution was to encourage participation as part of the official opening of the Women’s Rugby World Cup and the Trustees were delighted with the strong support for this first initiative.’

3 Foundation Supporter

Donations received during the year will be recognised as a ‘Foundation Supporter’ and a valued ‘friend of Grumpy’. To date \$65,000 has been kindly donated with \$30,000 committed in 2023, excluding the Club donation.

If you wish to support the future funding of our facility, please consider providing your one-off donation now, effectively advancing the amount early.

4 Interest Free Loans

The Trust accepts interest free loans from supporters. These loans can be for any amount, any period and including repayable on demand. The Trustees are pleased to advise we have already received commitments to date for \$100,000.

5 Financial Report

The financial report highlights that total net assets at the end of the September 30 2023 financial year now stand at \$895,928 (2022 – \$581,205) an increase of a pleasing \$314,723 for the year. This has been achieved by:

- The initial \$250,000 from both the Don Stewart Estate and College Rifles; plus
- A further donation of \$250,000 from College Rifles in late 2023; plus
- Combined donations including Foundation Supporters of \$65,500; and
- Annual interest income from investments and interest free loans of \$37,011 (2022 – \$32,586) for 2023.

Our Statement of Financial Performance including full financials are available on our website croba.nz

Funding of our Facilities

CROBA members in conjunction with the 'The Friends of Grumpy' and Trustees, wish to grow the Trust to support Don's Vision and enhance this legacy.

To support the Trust's objectives please consider either:

- By way of a regular donation of a manageable amount; OR
- Making a bequest in your will, a simple and effective way of supporting the Trust beyond your lifetime, OR
- Providing interest free loans. The Trust will invest the funds in approved debt securities to earn interest income. At the end of the period selected the loan will be repaid to the lender in full, with the Trust enjoying the interest income;
- Corporate buying initiatives supported by the Club.

The Trustees are delighted and thankful for the support received to date. Please note, all donations are tax deductible.

Please review these options on our website on how this can be actioned or approach a Trustee.

A reminder of the importance of our facilities

Below is a copy of an old local newspaper article highlighting College Rifles and reminding us of the importance of our facilities. The purchase of land in 1948 for 4,000 pounds has given the Club an enviable endowment and provided an important sports and community facility.

COLLEGE RIFLES

Club of the Week

Club's 10 acres now freehold!

When taking over the running of College Rifles 10 seasons ago secretary-manager, Mr. Jim Smithson had one aim - to pay off the mortgage of the Haast Street, Remuera premises and make the club debt free. "Debts inhibit committees at election time and if people have to worry about money at their first meeting they lose sight of their sporting goals," said Mr. Smithson. Last year the dream came true and College Rifles' magnificent clubrooms and 10 acres of land are now freehold. A \$33,000 project on the driveway and car park is now in progress.

Unlike many rugby clubs College Rifles, because it owns its property, has to pay rates like any household. Although in 2nd Division this year the club looks forward to a bright future and its other sporting codes and activities are in the headlines of the New Zealand press on a regular basis. College Rifles would also like to thank all of the club's sponsors, in particular Newmans Travel, Lion Red, and Greenlane Wines and Spirits.



MAKING LIGHT OF THE YEARS!

The Presidents' grade team's year has started off "reasonably" well for the young fellas this year, notching wins every Saturday so far. The team again is brilliantly coached and managed by Jack Gibbons and Taffy "Where's The Money" Bowen. The stalwarts include Bazza Watt, who is fast approaching his fifth decade on this earth; Terry Maitland, who has the magnificent record of 23 consecutive years playing for Rifles; "Chappie" Howell who, like a good wine, is improving with age; "Grumpy" Stewart, who is getting grumpier by the day; Len Lyons, who still defies Father Time and is playing like a young colt (He also, word has it, plays well on Friday

nights too); Jack Foley, all 6ft-8in of him is playing his best rugby since he joined. Tim "Six Burns" Fearnley still insists he has lost at least one bum. But we are not convinced and most of us have perfectly good eyesight. The side has got Garth Townshend back. His is the better looking one of the Townshend family. Ray Warby has not fronted yet (I am sure there is plenty of miles in those aging legs yet, Ray). Don Gibson, Brian Maitland, Iain Thomson are still fronting regularly and still doing their bit to keep the bar profits in the black. Rifles' club captain, Paul Douglas is still trying to play the odd game.

Social Rugby -- answer to a prayer

Social" is the perfect grade for players who do not have the time, and often energy, to train two or three times a week, but are not ancient enough to play for the Presidents Team. It is a grade where anyone, regardless of their prowess, can have a run on a Saturday afternoon.

actually the chairman) and try to engender an atmosphere of fun and friendship in the clubrooms so that people will enjoy themselves and get into the club spirit.

As well as supporting the other rugby teams in the club the team has become avid supporters of the College Rifles champion netball side and you will often see, or hear, the Pistills cheering the girls on. The team has actually challenged them to a game at the end of the season. Although the Pistills are not confident of beating them at netball, they feel they may have an advantage in the scrums. Time will tell.

The team includes at least three guitar players, two comedians, 14 reasonable singers, and 10 players who think they can sing. There are no vegetarians and absolutely no non-drinkers and the entire squad can 'kick' an amazing game of football. The side has also gained the services of a Japanese import this year "Disuke" (alias J.K.), who is in New Zealand for three months to learn English and is learning a lot from the team. He can now order a beer, ask who's shout it is, swear, shock ladies and is almost ready to learn the team song, the classic "It's Only Make Believe" which describes the side's attitude to rugby. It's not winning the game that is important it's the camaraderie and socialising that is the major consideration!

It's often been said: "It's not if you win, it's how you play the game". Well, the Social team has taken this further by adding, "it's also how you enjoy the aftermatch function." This attitude will ensure the future of the grade and we suggest that any club that does not have a Social team should try to get one up and running. They are good for the game, good for the club and especially good for the bar profits.

The "Pistills", although relative newcomers to College Rifles, have become an integral part of the club with four of the team on the committee (one is

College Rifles' schoolboy rugby has got off to a great start with the inclusion of two extra teams from last year.

With the help of parents and club hands Rifles have managed to put together an Under 9 open team. From a number of seven, it has now got 14 boys, ideal for 10-a-side rugby. This team has suffered one loss and this was hard-fought.

Most of the teams are enjoying good successes, with some fine players emerging.