



**CROBA**  
EX PLAYERS & SUPPORTERS

# Ngā Tāngata Tautoko Our people supporting College Rifles Park

**Don Stewart Memorial Trust  
Annual Report 2024**

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## **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](http://croba.nz)

## 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 (affectionately known to Club members as 'Grumpy'), a life member, CROBA member and lifelong supporter and benefactor of College Rifles.

### 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

CROBA

Nell Family Trust

Angela and Mark Hutton

Julie Townsend

Wendy and Iain Thompson

Maitland Engineering

McKearney (John) Family

Peter Kempson

Tom Halpin (Patron)

Terry and Dianne Maitland

Perry Family

The Trust is delighted to welcome a new Foundation Supporter in 2024, following the supportive donation from the Perry Family.

## How to Support the Trust

*Please note all deductions are tax deductible*

- By way of a regular donation of a manageable amount; OR
- making a bequest in your will, is a simple and effective way of supporting the Trust beyond your lifetime, OR
- corporate buying initiatives supported by the Club.



Trustees arranged with Wet & Forget as our new corporate sponsor to provide Club members the ability to purchase product and the Trust will receive a contribution. Simply send us an email to [kiaora@croba.nz](mailto:kiaora@croba.nz) with your Wet & Forget requirements and we will place the order and deliver the products to the Club for collection. For each order the Trust receives a donation.

## Our people supporting College Rifles Park

Each year we wish to acknowledge the amazing contribution of individual CROBA, life members, players and coaches 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.

### Jason Husband — 'Going the full 80'

**To our mate Jason Husband**

A player and coach at College Rifles over years from 2015 to 2023

A legend from 1990 to 2024

A son to Bill and Jan

A brother to Sean

A husband to Emma

*See Back Page for Tribute by Logan O'Connell, Raiders coach and mentor.*



*Jason and his dad Bill*

Another attribute of our Club are our players, the key reason we come each week to watch their efforts representing our jersey. These players leave their footprint 'nga tapuwae' that become a legacy for the Club.

### Jarrold Bear – 200+ games

**After clocking up more than 200 games in the College Rifles jersey, Jarrold Bear remains deeply committed to the club he has called home for more than 20 years.**

Joining the club in 2003 after moving to Auckland from Otago, Jarrold soon found

himself on a European tour with the Rifles. Playing nine games in 22 days, the team took on various local clubs on the continent as well as the Slovenian and Croatian national teams. They also faced off against the Italian team.

"We were one of their last hit outs before they went to the World Cup that year," recalls Jarrold.



Other international trips would follow in the coming years, both as a player and coach, including tours to Argentina, Canada, Australia and Hawaii.

Jarrold, who spent most of his career at lock, played a total of 208 games over 11 seasons. He says one of the most special moments of his career was his 200th game. Not only did friends and family come from far and wide to support him in the big match, but he was also welcomed onto the field via a human tunnel and accompanied by a bagpiper.

"I get goosebumps even now just talking about it," he says.

The match wasn't without its drama though. After being slammed in a ruck in his 199th game — by one of his best mates, nonetheless — Jarrold received a knee injury and was told he would be out of action for six-to-eight weeks. Thankfully a follow-up scan revealed the initial

diagnosis was overblown and he was able to take the field the following week.

Another highlight from his time at the club was seeing the team progress from division 2 when he first started playing to being a regular in the top five of the first division, and beating the likes of the Ponies, University and Grammar for the first time in decades.

Having seen College Rifles progress over the years, Jarrold says a massive draw of the club is its willingness to stay relevant and "always look to the future". He gives the example of the club shifting from grass to artificial fields, a game-changer in not only making playing more hygienic but for giving players more of an appetite to get out and train. The artificial fields also gave the Rifles a home-game advantage.

"Other teams didn't really know what to expect but we knew the games were going to be fast underfoot. We were never the biggest team, so we tried to win games by being mobile around the field and creating space."

After hanging up his boots in 2013, Jarrold continues to be heavily involved in the club. Not only did he coach the premier team for three years, but he also has one son playing Rippa Rugby on Friday nights and another playing in the under-nine division on Saturday mornings.

"I think what Rifles has got is unrivalled across the Auckland clubs," he says. "It's also a really conducive environment for families transitioning from being a player to being a parent of a player at junior club level."





## Doris Taufateau

163 Games for Rifles

Black Fern #151, 5 test matches

After joining College Rifles in 2007, Doris Taufateau played an impressive 163 games for the club before retiring from rugby in 2022. She also played for the Auckland Storm and was part of the Black Ferns team that won the 2010 Rugby World Cup.

Now a teacher of physical education and health at Tāmaki College in Glen Innes, Doris is focused on passing on some of what she learnt during her rugby years to the next generation.

“One of the biggest things that I apply to my life from rugby is having high standards,” she says. “And that’s the way I am with students. A lot of our students

don’t know they need it, but when you put high standards and high expectations in place the students thrive — and I learnt that from rugby.”

Looking back on her time at College Rifles, Doris, who played prop, says although winning a number of championships was undoubtedly a career highlight, her fondest memories are of the people she played with.

“

For me, it was more the friendships and the culture of the team and the club that drew me back all the time. Some of my best friends are from the College Rifles team — friends that became family. It was quite a nurturing culture for a young person that came into this random team.

She lists greats such as Monalisa Urquhart (née Codling) and Anna Richards as having a huge influence on her career.

“They helped develop and push me as a youngster,” she recalls. “I didn’t know that I liked it at the time, but I kept going back because I was growing and developing as a player. Not only that, but I felt like they took care of me, they kind of brought me through the system.”

She also names Vita Dryden (née Robinson), Hannah Porter and Rochelle Martin as being “awesome in my journey”.

“They were the ones that were there when I was coming through as a youngster.”

Doris credits College Rifles not only with developing her physical skills, but also with teaching her how to deal with the mental side of the game, something that helped boost her confidence as a player.

"I had the most experienced and amazing people around me at the time who pushed me towards trialling for different teams. They also guided me along the way because they were part of the Auckland Storm and the Black Ferns, so I was driven and inspired to put myself out there," she says.

"And that's a credit to the culture we had at Rifles. I really enjoyed that culture and the journey and everything that comes with it at College Rifles. I've never looked anywhere else because of that."

And although her playing days are still fresh in her mind, Doris says there's no way she'll be swayed to take the field again.

"I know my lungs and I know my joints and I know I can't offer anything to the team, so I'm good with hanging the boots up."



*Doris with rugby legends All Black # 744 and the editor's favourite Black Fern # 68.*





## Hayden Edwards

### 200+ Games

Over 17 seasons at College Rifles, former captain Hayden Edwards was part of a “golden era” at the club, seeing the team progress from struggling underdogs to championship contenders.

“When I showed up as an 18-year-old, College Rifles were real underachievers. They were middle to bottom of the premier division and they weren’t very competitive — there was never really a chance of winning anything,” he recalls. “But over my time there we made some real progress and for a period we were a real force. That improvement and development was pretty cool to be part of.”

Hayden joined the club in 2006 after being recruited by fellow firefighter and current club captain Dave Roach (“Big Red”). A few years later, while still in his early 20s, Hayden was named the team’s captain, something he says was a “real privilege”.

“I enjoyed the responsibility, and I enjoyed having some influence over the team and decision making. I also enjoyed the banter on the field with the referees — we always had a lot of fun.”

There were some challenges leading the team though, the loose forward admits. One particular period saw multiple coaching changes and an influx of new players moving in and out with the new coaches.

“Trying to hold a core group of people together when that kind of thing was going on was a challenge at times, but I think we navigated it pretty well.”

With trips to Canada, Argentina and Hawaii, as well as sevens tournaments in Thailand and Rarotonga, Hayden also lists the opportunity to travel with the team as being a highlight of his playing days.

“There isn’t another club in New Zealand that I’m aware of that had the ability to travel like we did. That was such a unique experience to be part of.”

Today, says Hayden, the club’s strength lies both in its extensive facilities and the structure it has in place to provide a pathway to professionalism for young players.

“

Rifles has a history of bringing players through from school leavers that then go on to play for the Auckland NPC team and in Super Rugby. We’ve even had guys go on to play internationally. It’s really cool to see young people come through, come into that environment and then have some success and turn it directly into a career.

After playing 204 premier games for College Rifles — and captaining the team for around 10 seasons — Hayden called quits on his club rugby career in 2023. He describes his playing days as coinciding with “a bit of a golden era at the club”.



“We were successful on the field, we were travelling, going to these amazing places and having so much fun doing it. And I think it was just having people at the same stage of life that were willing to really make the club a part of their life. It wasn’t just a place to play sport — we socialised together, we travelled together and we ended up spending so much time with these people that we formed some really cool relationships.”



## Fourth Annual Report — for the year ended 30 September 2024

### CROBA Life Members

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](http://croba.nz) for full details.

celebrate a wonderful life and recognise Jason's contribution to Rifles. In his view 'A rising tide lifts all boats.' The Raiders were honoured to also provide support in recognition of a loyal team / club member.

### Trust Patron

Tom Halpin

### CROBA Life Members

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

### Roll call of Past CROBA Members, Family and Players

Peter Dolan, Paul Shorter, Val Maioha, Chris Kendall and Ian Lillie.

On August 26th of this year College Rifles was privileged to host the Husband whanau and friends at the Club to



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

## Trust Purpose — The Trustees are delighted to present this fourth Annual Report for the Don Stewart Memorial Trust.

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.

The park provides a range of facilities, training areas and function space to the community with 12 sports based at College Rifles and used by over 15,000 participants annually.

### 1 Trust Net Assets

The Trust is guided by our Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives — see our website [croba.nz](http://croba.nz). The majority of funds are invested in a range of managed income funds, deposits and debt securities. Total net invested assets now totals just over \$1.0 million, a fantastic milestone.

### 2 Charitable Grant — ‘supporting our community’

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

### 3 Foundation Supporters

All lump sum donations received during the year are recognised as ‘Foundation Supporters’ and a valued ‘friend of Grumpy’. To date \$108,500 has been kindly donated with a further \$40,000 committed in 2024.

### 4 Financial Report

The financial report highlights that total net assets at the end of the September 30 2024 financial year now stands at \$1.0 million, an increase of \$107,226 for the year. This has been achieved by:

- The initial contributions from both the Don Stewart Estate and College Rifles; plus
- Combined donations from Foundation Supporters of \$108,500, including \$40,000 for 2024; and
- Combined interest income from investments and interest free loans of \$144, 654, including \$67,453 for 2024.

Our Statement of Financial Performance including full financials are available on our website [croba.nz](http://croba.nz)

# Ode to Jason Husband

*by Logan O'Connell 'Going the full 80'*

Long before the match was ever played, training got underway  
In Warkworth with family and friends, he was never led astray  
Skills were honed, bonds were made  
With values instilled, a game plan started to be laid

Sport would be the thing, so many chances to compete with others  
It was the thing that passed time, that made friends and tested brothers  
Some sports went well, some could have done better  
Where he would excel was rugby and touch, with boots made of leather

Adventures a plenty here and abroad  
Pre-season of high school proved to have struck cord  
Time to chat with the coaches, on how things were progressing  
What moves did he have planned, to keep opponents guessing  
A life of teaching others, the joy movement could bring  
His Father's path travelled, had a nice ring

With the game under way, up went the high ball  
Caught in the breeze, to the deep end of Dunedin  
With partying ahead, it wasn't a bad situation to be in  
More friendships were forged and more lessons were learnt  
His shoulders were still weak but side step still burnt

Oranges were called and a degree handed out  
The supercity beckoned with a job as a teacher, his career began to sprout.  
His fitness was tested and the lungs began to burn.  
It might have been the asbestos but likely the Lincoln Street party churn.

Monday to Friday he was a classroom hopper  
Saturdays on the rubber was where he was a show stopper  
Rewarded with wearing Auckland's blue and white hoops  
He decided that was enough and hung up the boots

A change of tactic was required  
His mindset needed to be inspired



*...Ode to Jason Husband*

With little plan in hand but a belief it would be fine  
Moving to Canada came at the perfect time  
The wind at his back he played for the corners  
A stroke of genius it proved, he'd never had a girlfriend before  
should someone warn her  
His mind now distracted and his heart certainly caught, he lost sight of the game  
No friend could advise him, what was the plan again?

To London then, it will work out.  
He shook off his daze and gathered himself up  
A new teammate by his side, European adventures filled the cup  
The try line in sight, few defenders left to beat  
He was bringing this game home, on his own two feet

And home he came, lock downs be damned  
Getting time with him was hard, their calendar was rammed  
From here all his actions, were made with so much precision  
The player was turning coach, the game plan coming to fruition

A ring on a finger, a house made into a home  
What life had to offer was all his to roam  
How cruel the world can be to not let this game play on  
It hurts just to think, full time has gone

Think we do, about all we lost and all we had  
It's what we had that warms the heart  
Right to the whistle, all his joy he did his best to impart  
It will fill the leaners in the club rooms, the benches in the sheds  
Great stories of his deeds, will ring out in his stead

***He left the jersey in a better place, that's one thing he would be proud is able to be said***