

Backing New Zealand Rugby Players

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Support the New Zealand Rugby Foundation as we care, advocate for and champion the safety of all players in the game we love



RUGBY FOUNDATION



The New Zealand Rugby Foundation (The Foundation) is dedicated to supporting all 158,000 registered rugby players.

The majority safely play our most loved sport, but for the unlucky few who are seriously injured playing rugby, the Foundation is their safety net. If the unimaginable happens, we've got players and families covered, financially and emotionally with all the support they might need.

Join our team and you can help make sure our national game is played safely and provide essential support for our teammates who do experience a life-changing injury.

Supporting New Zealand rugby players, for life

GERARD VAN TILBORG, *New Zealand Rugby Foundation Chair*

“Over the last 35 years we’ve helped seriously injured rugby players through the worst times of their lives. When they occur, spinal cord injury (SCI) and traumatic brain injury (TBI) are catastrophic.

Our governance team is clear that independence of financing and future proofing our income streams is essential for the further growth of our services to rugby.

We need to be in a position to not only ensure that critical care

is provided, and injured players are empowered to take control of their lives, but that we can look at opportunities to support our big aspirations and deliver on projects that will make the game safer.

We want to see people getting beyond survival and being able to access opportunities that will enable them to live the best life possible – that’s what we all aspire to achieve.”



ANDY LESLIE MNZM, *New Zealand Rugby Foundation President, member of the founding ‘First XV Members’, and former All Blacks captain (1974-76)*

“I’ve seen how the organisation has evolved to best meet the needs of rugby and players. The welfare of injured players has always been paramount since founders Sir Russell Pettigrew and Kel Tremain identified that there was a gap in player support in New Zealand.

People often don’t realise the true value of the Foundation until they’re personally involved through themselves or a friend or associate being injured.

It’s our responsibility to ensure injured players aren’t forgotten, something that occurs all too often once a permanent injury occurs. They deserve the chance to experience all that life has to offer.

And it’s not just the player, we ensure children and siblings of injured players can access education opportunities that might not otherwise be possible for a family impacted by the financial burden of a serious injury. ”





Phil Spring, injured in 1979, with his son Cooper and Rugby Foundation CE Lisa Kingi-Bon at the 2021 AGM.

Vision, Purpose & Values

Our Vision:

Zero serious injuries in rugby, and ensure that any player seriously injured is supported for life.

Our Purpose:

To care, advocate for and champion the safety of all players in the game we love.

Our Values:

- We will stand together in service providing empathetic support and partnership.
- We will provide leadership, opportunity, assistance, advocacy, and networking to enable quality of lives.
- We will be financially sustainable.

LISA KINGI-BON, *New Zealand Rugby Foundation Chief Executive*

“We partner with rugby players who are dealing with the unimaginable, with permanent injuries caused in an instant, from being only a millimetre or two in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I feel incredibly privileged to be part of an organisation that truly helps people at their darkest times, and at their brightest.

I've travelled the country visiting and getting to know every one of our 100 seriously injured players, as well as their parents, siblings, partners, children and carers.

They don't think of themselves as 'inspirational', they just get busy living. To me, it's crucial to have that in-depth understanding of the people we work with, those close to them, and how they live. The network of support we've built is priceless.

Once a serious injury occurs, we're there for the player and their family hour by hour, helping to navigate through the amazing health systems that are in place. A lot of them are young people in their twenties who

can struggle to see direction for their life after suffering a spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury. We help encourage them to see what is possible and connect them with others who have been in their situation.

It's very important that we future proof at every level – that our funding and resources are able to support our vision: Zero serious injuries in rugby, but ensure that any player seriously injured is supported for life.

Rugby has done so much for so many people and the supporters of the game get so much out of it.

We need support to ensure we can always be there for people who have suffered the worst card that rugby can deal.”



*New Zealand Rugby Foundation
co-founder Kel Tremain in possession
against the Springboks in the third test
of the 1965 series in Christchurch. Others
here are, from left: Brian Lochore, Stan
Meads and Colin Meads.*



Our History

The New Zealand Rugby Foundation was formed in 1986 by former All Black great Kel Tremain and Hawke's Bay philanthropist Sir Russell Pettigrew with the broad objective of 'supporting areas of rugby in need'. Both have since passed away, but their legacy continues.

Soon after, in 1987, Goodman Fielder Watties donated an incredibly generous \$1M, on the proviso that it would never be depleted. New Zealand Rugby donated a further \$1M in 2000, with the Foundation again mandated to utilise the interest earned from its investment income only to ensure the Foundation would continue to be financially secure.

To date we have partnered with 112 seriously injured players, half of whom were injured prior to the

ground-breaking All-Player Insurance Policy being established in 1998. Five players were injured prior to 1 April 1974, when the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) was first established.

In 2000, New Zealand Rugby employed an Injury Prevention Officer, Ken Quarrie, who created RugbySmart with ACC's Simon Gianotti. Their work created a significant statistical analysis in the context of Spinal Cord Injury.

Founding Chair Maurice Trapp stepped down after 18 years of service in 2014, with Gerard van Tilborg taking up the reigns in 2015. We have a duty of care not only to all seriously injured players, but all rugby players who have the potential to be injured. We are committed to



Founding member of NZRF, Sir Russell Pettigrew.
Photo Credit: Hawke's Bay Today

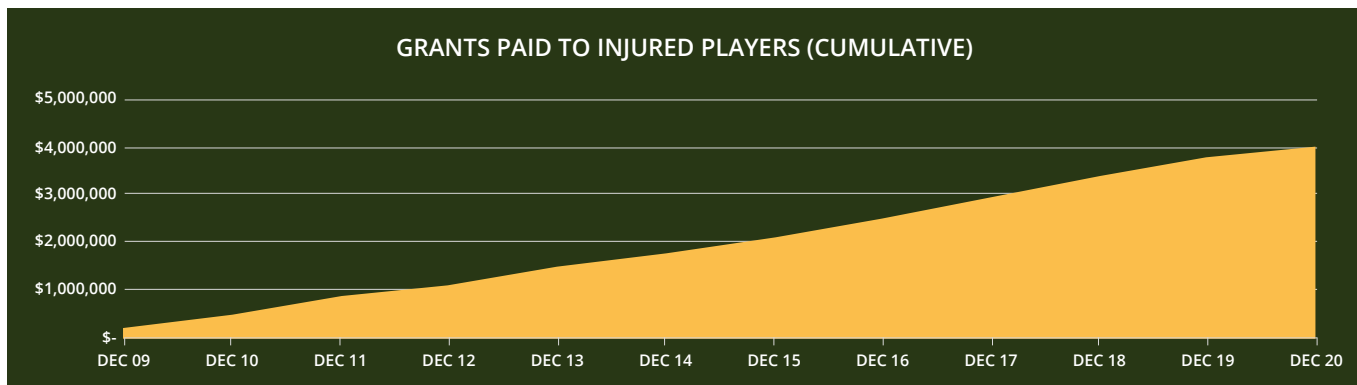


Ex-All Black and founding member of NZRF, Kel Tremain.
Photo credit: Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, [13715]

working in partnership with players for the duration of their lives.

Our work today centres on four strategic areas that drive the framework of our purpose: To care, advocate for and champion the safety of all players in the game we love.

Since 2009 the New Zealand Rugby Foundation, with your support, has paid grants of nearly \$4,000,000!!





RUGBY FOUNDATION

OUR VISION

Zero serious injuries in rugby, and ensure that any player seriously injured is supported for life.

OUR PURPOSE

To care, advocate for and champion the safety of all players in the game we love.

PILLARS

1

SUPPORT

2

PREVENTION /
RESEARCH AND
EDUCATION

3

ADVOCACY

4

FUNDING AND
RESOURCE

Our Four Strategic Pillars

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Our four strategic pillars are at the core of our service to the more than 158,000 registered rugby players in New Zealand that play our most loved sport.

Pillar 1 – Support

Every serious injury is reported and this enables us to connect with the player and their whānau instantly. Their immediate needs are the priority during what can be a physically, emotionally and financially draining time. Our aim is to ensure seriously injured players can safely transition into a new life. This might include trauma counselling and mental health support, and a support network with other seriously injured players and their families.

We are with a seriously injured player for the duration of their life, ensuring the best quality of life possible. This might look like practical day to day support like home and garden maintenance, re-training or gaining qualifications to follow a different work path, recreational pursuits, or even legal assistance with trusts, deeds, wills and other advocacy matters.

When a 'Near-Miss incident' occurs, the injury is still reported as soon as possible, and the Foundation connects with the family of the player to provide instant support. This represents all of rugby taking care of its own. A near-

miss incident is a serious injury that doesn't have a total and permanent impact on the player.

Pillar 2 – Prevention/Research and Education

The Foundation isn't just the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. We support leading-edge research into concussion and injury prevention. We support the outstanding injury prevention programmes led by New Zealand Rugby and the ACC. We champion safety in the game we love.

Pillar 3 – Advocacy

As well as one-to-one support, we also act as champions at a national, governmental and community-based level on behalf of our seriously injured players. We want to ensure they receive appropriate quality levels of care, that their right to access everything a non-injured person can access is unhindered, and that policies and systems are in place to achieve the best outcomes for them and their families.

Pillar 4 – Funding and Resource

To achieve all of these things we have to be responsible stewards of our funds, which will ensure our operations are financially sustainable and that we are able to support our seriously injured players for life. We are proud of our strategic and diligent approach to carefully managing and growing the Foundation's investments, and we are grateful to all our donors and funders for their support.



*Kerrin Tilley, mouth painting
Foundation Patron Richie McCaw.*

Pillar 1 – Support

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WAYNE CHAPMAN, *seriously injured player & former panel beater*

"I've been in a chair since 1996, when I had my accident aged 31.

Once I was introduced to the Foundation team my family really got looked after, which I'm forever grateful for.

Over the years they've been very supportive. One time we had a big storm here, a localised tornado. We're located on the coast and quite remote. The power poles had been wiped out, which meant we had no power. I have an automated bed, automated doors; I need power to charge my wheelchair and run my sleep apnea machine. I'm totally reliant on power to help me live. Lisa got on the phone and organised a generator for us and the Foundation helped cover the costs. That saved my bacon!

During the country-wide COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 the Foundation got in touch with all us injured players and organised Zoom meetings so we could connect and stay in touch with each other. They also had All Blacks come and chat. Those weeks stuck at home were challenging so it was a great way of staying connected with everyone and made me feel we didn't get left alone out here. The Foundation make you feel like part of a big family. It's pretty humbling.

Serious injury, especially SCI is lifechanging. It's 24 hours, seven days a week. It's how we've got to live our life. Living with SCI doesn't change or go away, every day is a demand and some things in life are just not achievable.

A lot of us are dependent on ACC, and things can get very very tough at times. It affects not only us but our partners and children. There's a lot of stress for families in these situations.

The Foundation always makes sure its grants are provided where they're most needed, and they will always return your call when you need help or just to talk.

Living with this disability doesn't come cheap – there's absolutely nothing cheap about SCI. All of us have ongoing needs. And it's not just about us and giving us a voice, it's about the Foundation looking after all rugby players.

I hope one day there is a cure for SCI. The Foundation's research may help

Wayne and his wife of 28 years, Natalie.



in finding a cure or in advancement in making living with SCI easier. The world is constantly changing and we don't know what challenges are ahead of us. We've got to think ahead to the future. I'd love to see the Foundation's core funding grow and be nurtured to benefit others like me down the track."

"Lisa and the team at the Rugby Foundation really make that personal connection with the injured players and families. You really do feel part of a group. We are kept informed and it's just so nice knowing they really do genuinely care about these players."

NATALIE CHAPMAN, WIFE OF WAYNE

Cody and fiancé Jess at their home in Christchurch.



Cody in his sports wheelchair.



CODY EVERSON, seriously injured player & Co-Captain of the Wheel Blacks

"I was 15 years old when a school rugby accident changed my life.

Most of the time injury is just bad luck. For me it was just a tackle and I fell wrong – a freak accident.

It was a shock to the system to suddenly be a C5-6 tetraplegic. I didn't know about the life-long journey with rehab, or the support networks available. I was lucky enough to find I had the Foundation as well as my family and friends there for me.

There's always that chance of being hurt playing sport. But at age 15 you don't expect your whole life to change completely from an injury playing rugby. Your whole life is affected physically and mentally and you're hugely reliant on other people all of a sudden.

There are ongoing complications I never thought about.

To me, it's about knowing the risks and being informed. Those risks

were always there but thought I was invincible. The risks shouldn't be put to the side and we need to help young players learn to play safely. That's key to preventing it from happening again.

As soon as I had my accident my parents dealt with the team from the Foundation straight away. They were checking on me and seeing how I was doing. My mum and dad really praise the support we got.

The tough thing is, being injured at 15 meant I'd never had a job or a career. I get money from ACC to support with life essentials and I manage to work 10 hours a week at Melrose Kiwi Concept Chairs.

I've always loved rugby and as a kid I wanted to be an All Black. I'm lucky enough to be a 'Rugby Foundation' guy and the Foundation has supported my sporting dreams to continue with wheelchair rugby. They've helped fund equipment for my role with the Wheel Blacks.

I still enjoy watching the Crusaders play on a Friday or Saturday. Sometimes it still goes through my mind – I can't believe that player didn't get injured! And other times I think I would have carved that guy up! I've never lost the love for the game.

It sucks what happened to me but I've moved on from that. I've spent almost 10 years in a chair now. I've had a lot of support and I'm always comfortable talking to the team at the Foundation. They're an amazing organisation and they're always there to help.

Now, I own my own home and I have an amazing fiancé in Jess. When we're ready to take the next step and start a family it won't be easy, but I know the Foundation will be here to take those steps with us. It's important to me to keep positive and just be happy. I think I'm doing pretty well.

A big thanks to the Foundation for what they're doing. Please get out and support them."

Pillar 2 – Prevention/Research and Education

MARK ROBINSON, CEO New Zealand Rugby

“As the governing body of the game in this country, New Zealand Rugby sees the Foundation as a key strategic partner in reducing injuries through education and research. Our two boards share a kindred spirit in terms of the care for the players of the game we love.

The Foundation has a unique and important role in the rugby ecosystem. It’s not often you can align and contribute to such a powerful and pervading cause. Giving to an organisation that looks after people and makes their lives better gives long lasting rewards and the emotional benefits that come from doing the right thing.

Rugby is a great sport that inspires and unifies people around New Zealand. It’s also a physical game and injuries unfortunately do occur. It’s important to be on the frontline to help address those situations, not just for the individuals but the families and the wider rugby community.

The Foundation use their resources to change lives and make the game safer. Any donor can rest assured that their money wouldn’t be wasted or trivialized, but rather carefully invested to make a difference.

Donors to the Foundation have an intrinsic connection to helping people. Without it, there would be a massive void in the care available to rugby players. New Zealand Rugby will continue to support and partner with the Foundation and we encourage people to recognise the critical role it plays and get on board.”



Keenan Alexander, injured in 2016, with former All Blacks Anthony Boric and Keven Mealamu.

Liam Squire of the Highlanders comes off with a possible concussion. Super Rugby match, Blues v Highlanders at Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. 26 February 2016.



Concussion / Traumatic Brain Injury Research

A collaboration between the New Zealand Rugby Foundation, New Zealand Rugby and researchers from AUT and University of Otago

The community research project into New Zealand Rugby's Concussion Management Pathway (CMP) started in 2020 and will continue into 2021 and 2022. The project aims to ensure CMP recommendations are executed in the community for each and every suspected concussion.

During the study, the four R's of concussion (Recognise, Remove, Recovery and Return) were operationalised through the use of an App and a GP Portal system.

The themes that are emerging will be used to further guide and develop the CMP to ensure an equitable and better experience for all players and their networks following a suspected concussion.

OUTCOMES TO DATE INCLUDE:

- Lead researcher employed
- Five research journal articles developed, including:
 1. *The Rugby tug-of-war: Exploring concussion-related behavioural intentions and behaviours in youth community rugby in New Zealand* (Journal article submitted to 'International Journal of Sport Science and Coaching')
 2. *Concussion education for New Zealand high school rugby players: A multi-methods analysis of the impact on concussion knowledge, attitudes, and reporting behaviours* (to be published)
 3. *GP perspectives of New Zealand Rugby's Concussion Management Pathway* (to be published)
 4. *Managing concussion in the real world: Stakeholder perspectives of New Zealand Rugby's Concussion Management Pathway* (to be published)
 5. *Concussion roles and responsibilities across a community rugby system – an AcciMaps approach* (to be published)
- Established an Honours project with the University of Otago to look at the perceived value of baseline testing
- Established a Masters project with AUT to examine physiotherapists' perspectives of New Zealand Rugby's Concussion Management Pathway.

Cutting edge, peer-reviewed and publishable research is being undertaken from the project data, which includes:

60 clubs and schools
across New Zealand

1,477 players

125 reported concussions

NUMBERS CORRECT AT 28 JUNE 2021

Pillar 3 – Advocacy

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SIR MICHAEL JONES KNZM, *former All Black*

I feel privileged to be on the Board of the New Zealand Rugby Foundation. It takes a lot of passionate stakeholders, staff, relationships and networks to advocate, educate, and prevent serious injury and disability in rugby. This commitment is demonstrated in the annual fundraiser at Eden Park, where hundreds of people come around this cause and kaupapa, with the generosity, aroha and goodwill of the average Kiwi wanting to do their part.

It's paramount that we journey with seriously injured players for life, and be there through thick and thin, the mountain tops, the highs and lows. We aim to provide the best possible care, physically and mentally in terms of wellbeing so their hauora can be tended to.

These are fellow Kiwis who are on a lifetime journey. It's a sad reality of the game of rugby that no one is immune and freak accidents can and do happen. It would be fantastic to one day eliminate serious injuries for our sons and daughters.

Without the Foundation the wonderful people we have the privilege of working with throughout their life would not otherwise be able to tap into the support that's offered. There's no doubt that having a credible organisation dedicated to advocacy work is essential in championing players.

Through our experience we see where the gaps are in working with Government and different agencies, but with enough funding it's amazing to think we could put in a comprehensive total wellbeing service for individuals.

We want to find solutions and outwork them through aligning, collaborating and partnering with Government, ACC and key agencies in this space and be at the forefront of the development of initiatives and strategies and programmes that continue to minimise the risk of accidents such as we've seen over the decades.



Through our recognised framework we provide a voice for our fellow Kiwis who continue to journey with the impact of serious injuries.

I would ask my fellow Kiwis who are part of the fabric of rugby society: players, volunteers, administrators, and fans who have compassion and aroha to connect with the game of rugby, to support the Foundation in its critical work.



Injured rugby players (left to right) Ross Orsmy, Brad Hayward and Phil Booth on their adapted handcycle wheelchairs with their support crew at the start of the Karangahake Gorge cycle trail.

Pillar 4 – Funding & Resource

Wayne Edwards, *Managing Director of civil engineering company Libbet Ltd, & donor*

“Back in 1988 when I was an apprentice in the UK, there were about 40 interns at the company I worked for and we were all a tight-knit group. My friend John Lawrence was an intern in the year above me. He was an up and coming rugby player for my home rugby club, Newark.

On the Monday we got into work and we were told a scrum John was in had collapsed, and his neck had been broken. He was going to be a tetraplegic and in a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

That was tough on us all, and in those days there was no support, no thought for the mental health of John or his family and friends.

We watched as John, in a chair and not being able to speak, deteriorated until he passed away at just age 24. The last six years of his life post-injury was no real existence, and it took a toll for his parents and everyone who knew him.

All too often the player is left in the headspace of thinking about what's left for them. It's a completely different life and it's really difficult for people who aren't themselves directly affected to actually comprehend.

There are a million different charities to support but I choose to support the Foundation in memory of John.

The Foundation offers its support not just for the period after an injury occurs; they support seriously injured players for life, something John didn't have. With the average injury age around 20 years old, this is their reality for the rest of their life and they need to have hope.

I've been impressed by how well run the Foundation is and the financial management that ensures the end user is always first and foremost. The money the Foundation receives truly makes a difference and reaches people like John that really need the financial as well as social support.



Today the Foundation operates a strong strategic directive to future-proof our work by continuing to grow the capital fund and operate only off the investment interest and dividends. We are responsible stewards of our capital fund and with advice from JB Were manage those finances diligently and with sustainability.

It's a level of support few other charities offer and with non-recoverable situations the care offered is absolutely key to quality of life.

I wasn't in a position to contribute to a cause like this when I was younger. There was nothing similar in place that could help John. While I can't help what he went through, I and my company can do our bit to help others in his situation here and now.

If you believe in this cause, in preventing serious injury in rugby and lending a hand to those most affected by it, please join me in supporting the Rugby Foundation.”

PRIORITY FUNDS



WELLBEING &
WHĀNAU SUPPORT
FUND



PHYSICAL
DEVELOPMENT
& EQUIPMENT
FUND



HOME & GARDEN
MAINTENANCE
FUND



CAREER &
EDUCATION
FUND



RESEARCH
FUND



GENERAL
FUND



CAPITAL
FUND

1

SUPPORT

2

PREVENTION /RESEARCH
AND EDUCATION

3

ADVOCACY

4

FUNDING AND
RESOURCE

How You Can Help

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The New Zealand Rugby Foundation is there from the moment a child, amateur or professional player steps out onto the pitch right through to if the unimaginable happens and beyond.

To us, a player is a member of our rugby family for life. No matter where life's journey goes, we're here to share the ups and downs and be the voice that's needed.

You can support us in achieving our strategic objectives by making a financial contribution to any of our priority funds.



Career & Education Fund

Help seriously injured players and their whānau to achieve an education they might otherwise not be able to attain due to the financial limitations of a family caring for a seriously injured player.



Wellbeing & Whānau Support Fund

Support initiatives that will improve the emotional, spiritual and mental wellbeing of seriously injured players and their whānau, which they may otherwise be unable to access.



Home & Garden Maintenance Fund

'Home is where the heart is' and when you are in a wheelchair, as over 90% of our injured players are, this rings even more true. ACC will provide up-front support and amendments to establish a safe house for an injured player and their whānau. We align with ACC to augment this service and transform this house into a home. Engaging industry experts across the entire building services spectrum we aim to deliver a holistic approach to the injured players current requirements, and further this as the families need change.



Physical Development & Equipment Fund

With your help we can provide players with lifelong and debilitating injuries with the specialised mobility equipment and adaptive devices that will allow them to ride a bike, play basketball and pass the footie ball again.



Research Fund

The research projects we support are focused on safe and injury free participation in rugby. All research we support must be peer-reviewed and publishable. Your donation could help researchers to more fully understand and work towards potential solutions relating to TBI, SCI, early-onset dementia, depression, and other neurological diseases.



General Fund

The General Fund provides us with the flexibility to respond where the need is greatest, or to support our Advocacy work on behalf of the rugby community.



Capital Fund

By giving to the Capital Fund, you are helping protect and build capital which will provide a lasting legacy that injured players can always rely on.



GIVING BACK TO RUGBY: The Pettigrew Giving Circle & The Tremain Legacy Society

Our co-founders, philanthropist Sir Russell Pettigrew and All Black great Kel Tremain had a vision to support rugby players in New Zealand, for life. You can do your part for our national game by becoming a member of our giving programmes named in their memory: The Pettigrew Giving Circle and The Tremain Legacy Society.

THE PETTIGREW GIVING CIRCLE

The Foundation invites you to join an exclusive team of like-minded individuals or businesses who make a significant contribute to the work of the New Zealand Rugby Foundation through The Pettigrew Giving Circle. This collective giving opportunity means your donation will achieve more, sooner.

Become a member of The Pettigrew Giving Circle and you'll be rewarded by connecting with a group of supporters dedicated to making a real difference to safety in rugby for all New Zealand players.



*Founding member of NZRF,
Sir Russell Pettigrew.*

Photo Credit: Hawke's Bay Today



*Ex-All Black and founding
member of NZRF, Kel Tremain.*

*Photo credit: Collection of Hawke's Bay
Museums Trust, Ruawhara Tā-ū-rangi, [13715]*

THE TREMAIN LEGACY SOCIETY

Leaving a gift in your Will is a way you can support New Zealand Rugby Foundation to continue their vitally important work. This lasting legacy will make a real difference to Aotearoa both now and for generations to come.

The Tremain Legacy Society has been set up to honour the generosity of individuals and families who plan to leave gifts in their Will to the Foundation. When you notify us that we have been remembered in your Will, you will be invited to become a member. This prestigious group of benefactors includes a growing number of like-minded friends and supporters of the Foundation.

Contact

BEN STURMFELS

Head of Fundraising & Partnerships

T: 09 623 7981

M: 021 144 1148

E: ben@rugbyfoundation.nz



Injured players, care-givers and Rugby Foundation staff and board at the annual Centurions pre-test fundraising luncheon in Wellington.



RUGBY FOUNDATION

New Zealand Rugby Foundation

Charities Number CC 42547

www.rugbyfoundation.nz