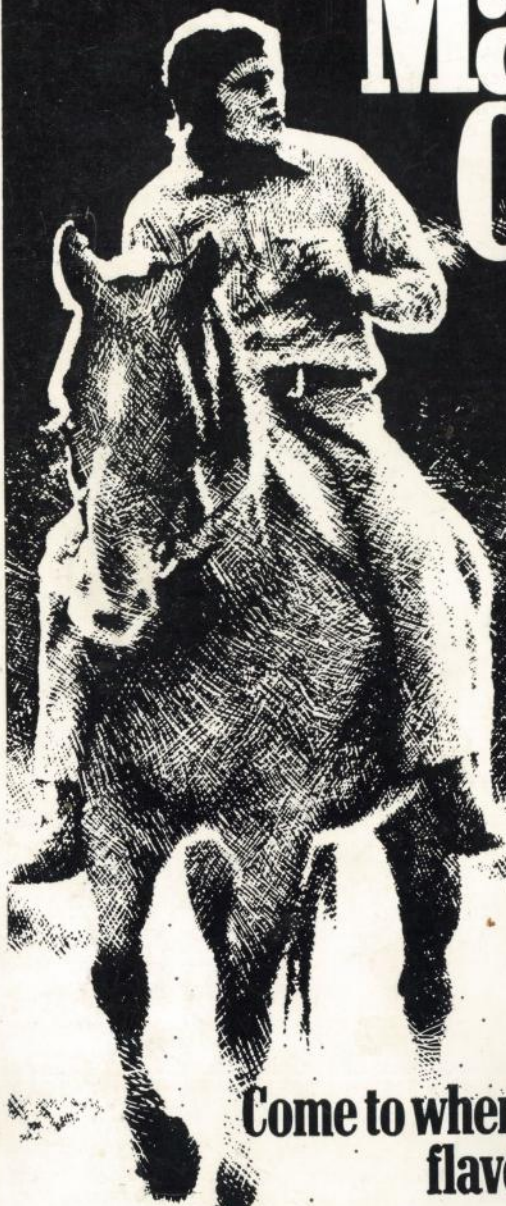


Marlboro Country



Come to where the
flavour is



PIRONGIA
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

CENTENNIAL

1876 -- 1976

CENTENARY PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, JUNE 18th:—

A social gathering in the clubrooms starting at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19th:—

9 a.m. Schoolboy Rugby commences.

11 a.m. Parade and Photographs.

12 noon Luncheon.

12.30-2 p.m. Rugby.

6.30 p.m. Dinner—followed by Grand Centennial Ball.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20th:—

12.30 p.m. Rugby Curtainraiser to

HARLEQUINS v. PIRONGIA INVITATION XV

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: I. HAYWOOD

Secretary/Treasurer: C. COLES

Committee: J. L. MACKY, H. de THIERRY, P. JOHNSTON, K. ORMSBY, H. A. SHERWIN, W. BELL, K. SMITH, R. ELLIS, S. ELLIS, M. ELLIS, W. BOUMA, N. J. R. ORMSBY, E. G. FINCH, B. GORDON, W. SHEPHERD, M. SANDERS, J. C. CAMERON, C. WHITE, K. JOHNSTON.



Back Row: Ellis Finch, Bouy de Thierry, Bill Bouma, John Cameron, Richard Sherwin, Murray Sanders, Brian Gordon.

Middle Row: Russell Ellis, Kelvin Smith, Keith Ormsby, Peter Johnston, Harold Sherwin, Keith Johnston, Chris White.

Front Row: Charlie Coles, Noel Ormsby, Ian Haywood, Max Ellis Stuart Ellis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the following people who so willingly supplied old photographs and other information concerning the history of the club:

Reg Bell, Bob Ormsby, Eric Bell, Keith Johnston, Jack Macky, Harold Sherwin, Noel Ormsby, Max Ellis, Keith Ormsby, Charlie Coles, John Cameron, Stuart Ellis and Winston Hooper (Sports Editor, Waikato Times).



ERRATTA

Since going to print there has been some discussion as to whether Pirongia won the championship in 1925 or not. We know they won it in 1923/24/26 but some former members believe that only the Insurance and Ballasite Cups were won in 1925 — not the championship.

I have recorded that in 1962 Eastwood played Pirongia and that this was the only time Pirongia has played an overseas team. This is not correct, on Tuesday, August 7th, 1973, a Japanese University team played an Invitation Pirongia 3rd Grade team in a night match. Japanese University won 25-12.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As President of the Pirongia R.F.C. in its centenary year I would like to extend a cordial welcome to you all and trust that you have a most enjoyable and memorable weekend during our jubilee celebrations.

It is always an enjoyment to meet old friends and make new ones and on an occasion like this I'm sure there will be a lot of that done.



The healthy club spirit which is very evident today can be attributed to all of you — past and present, and I feel it is a tremendous achievement that after the many many hardships of those earlier years it is that club spirit, which in the end, has shown through and seen Pirongia become the first Waikato Club to become 100 years old.

I would like to thank the centenary committee for the programme they have arranged and it is the sincere wish of the present club committee that you all spend many hours of convivial enjoyment over our jubilee weekend.

MAX ELLIS, President.

INTRODUCTION

It was not long after agreeing to compile a booklet of 100 years of Pirongia Rugby that I realised the sad fact that no one had seen fit to record those early and indeed recent years of our club's history.

In fact if it was not for the minute books of those early Waipa sub-union meetings, the four minute books recording the Pirongia R.F.C. meetings, and the information supplied by "Waikato Times" sports journalist, Winston Hooper, there would be no factual history on which to base this booklet. This, I feel, is something that should be rectified and I would like to recommend to the Pirongia R.F.C. committee that at every A.G.M. an historian be elected so that a brief year by year account of the club's activities can be recorded.

There will no doubt be items in this booklet that some club members believe to be incorrect, however, I hope that with what I have explained to you above, about information being scarce, you will bear with me on this point.

In conclusion I trust that this booklet will revive your memories and that you may remember once again those old times and old friends of yester years.

KELVIN SMITH

PIRONGIA RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICERS, 1976

Patron: R. J. ORMSBY

President: M. N. ELLIS

Vice-Presidents: Snr. C. COLES, Jnr. W. BOUMA

Secretary: C. COLES

Treasurer: R. ELLIS. Asst. Treasurer: C. MacDONALD

Club Captain: J. CAMERON

Delegates T.A.S.U.: N. ORMSBY, R. ELLIS

Committee:

B. GORDON, P. KEWISH, K. SMITH, J. LORIMER, F. ANDERSON,
N. CLARKE, C. WHITE, J. SCOTT, B. BAYNES, R. SHERWIN,
G. LIVINGSTON, P. SCOTT, R. HENDERSON.

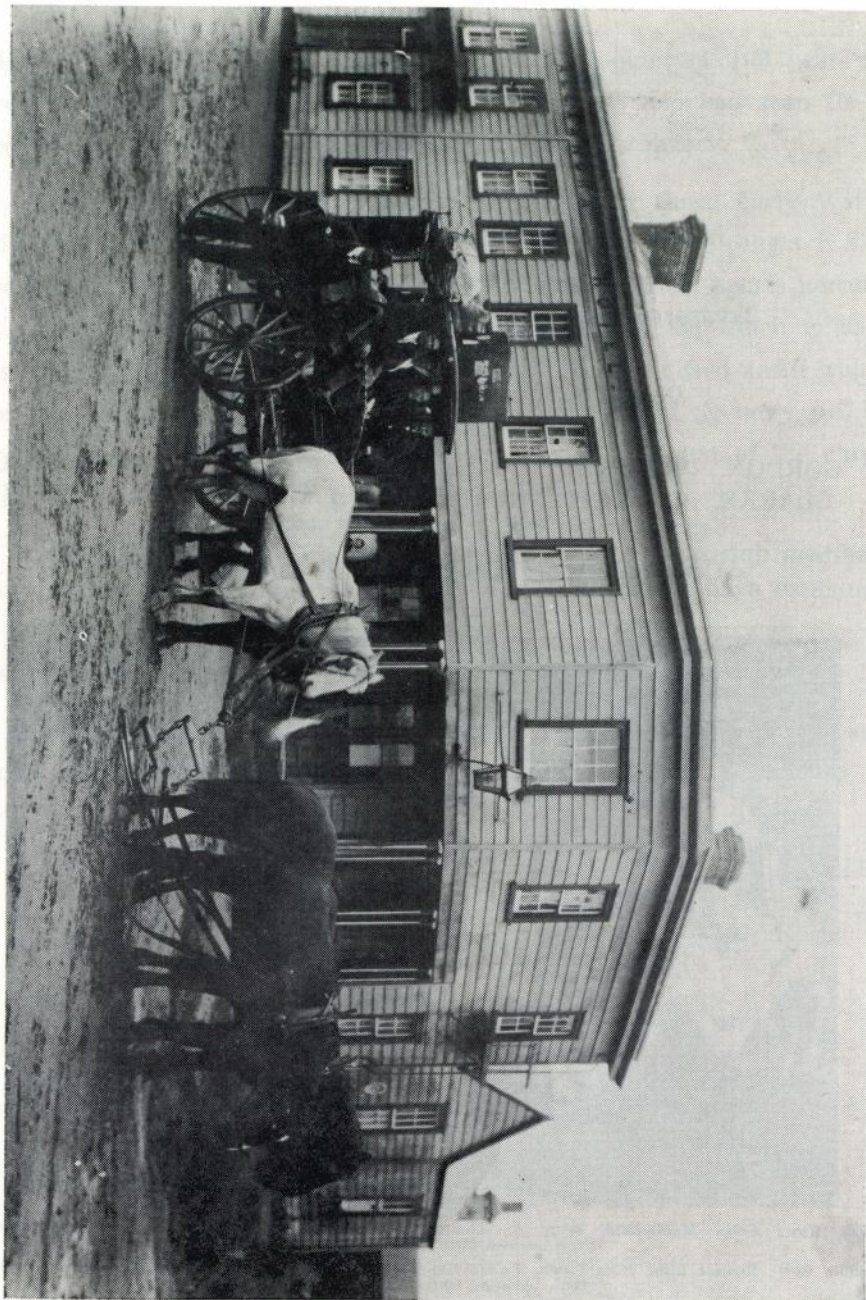
Coaches: Senior: M. SANDERS. Thirds: C. ELLIS.



Back Row: Colin MacDonald, Bouy de Theirry, Bill Bouma, John Cameron, Richard Sherwin, Brian Gordon, Murray Sanders, John Scott.

Middle Row: Russell Ellis, Ellis Finch, Kelvin Smith, Guy Livingston, Brian Baynes, Fraser Anderson, John Lorimer, Chris White, Peter Scott.

Front Row: Brian Ryburn, Noel Ormsby, Charlie Coles, Max Ellis, Peter Kewish, Colin Ellis.



THE EARLY YEARS, 1876-1920

For the earliest history of the Pirongia Rugby Football Club we have to rely on the "History of N.Z. Rugby" written by A. C. Swan.

It is recorded in this book that, during May of 1876 the Alexandra Club was founded at Alexandra. (It wasn't until 1895 the club changed its name to Pirongia).

The first ever match by the Alexandra Club was on September 5th, 1876 when they met the Te Awamutu Club at Alexandra, Te Awamutu Club winning by two goals to nil.

The report of the match in the Waikato Times on Tuesday, September 5th included.

"The ball being kicked off, the struggle began in earnest, Te Awamutu playing well and keeping the ball close to Alexandra's goal line. Heels were put where heads ought to be, and many had the pleasure of a shower bath in the pools of water".

A return match between the two teams took place at Te Awamutu on September 16th, Te Awamutu again winning, this time by one goal and three tries to nil.

It was also in 1876 that Waikato fielded its first representative side which in July went to Auckland and played two matches both drawn, against an Auckland Combined Club XV and a Grafton-Ponsonby XV.

It was in this first ever Waikato team that the Alexandra Club can lay claim to its first ever representative player — a Mr Forbes, about whom no one of the present generation can give any information.

All we can tell you is that he was a forward and weighed 13st 10lbs.

The above mentioned representative side which represented the Waikato Union was not the Waikato Union that we know today.

In fact the present Waikato Union is the fourth to bear that designation.

In Hamilton in 1878 cricket was by far the more popular game with players playing until late May early June (something unheard of in today's rugby).

However in Te Awamutu there was more support for rugby and a mid-week match was arranged between the Te Awamutu Club and Alexandra.

The two teams consisted of twelve players each and this year Alexandra won by one goal and three tries.

For Alexandra, Conroy, McFarlane, Carthy and Cooper were praised for their displays while the two Griersons, especially the eldest, did many good deeds, for Te Awamutu.

The Alexandra twelve were: Cooper (Captain). Conroy, Renwick, Carthy, Kelly, Richdale, Richdale, Higginson, Gordon, Munroe, McFarlane, Knaland.

We don't know the complete Te Awamutu team but there were Grierson (2), Bond (2), Bruce (2), Beasley and Wetherall.

The Alexandra Club had three Waikato representatives this year: Forbes, Cooper and McFarlane.

It was also in 1878 that the Ngahinapouri Club was formed and their first game was against Alexandra.

An account of the game was in the Waikato Times, September 10th and read as follows:

"This match between 13 of each of the Ngahinapouri and Alexandra Clubs came off at Alexandra on Saturday last and resulted in a drawn game, in favour, however, of the Ngahinapouri team by a number of force downs to nothing.

It was evident from the first that the Alexandra men were rather over-matched, as the ball was kept in the vicinity of their goal line during the greater part of the game, and on three occasions the ball was carried across the line, from which, however, nothing resulted, except some very severe mauling.

On the Ngahinapouri side were three who played against Auckland, Lang, Nugent and Cox, who on this occasion fully maintained their reputation. On the same side the play of Paton, Hunter and Higginson may be especially noticed.

Of the Alexandra men Cooper and McFarlane (both Waikato reps) did remarkably well, as did Conroy, Kelly and Carthy.

No incident of any serious nature occurred, although the play was at times rather tough and hacking was indulged in to a much greater extent than was permitted.

A return match has been arranged to come off in Mr Vicker's paddock at Ngahinapouri.

It would be advisable if some of the players were to read up the rules before the next match, as playing offside was considerably indulged in by a few."

With the formation of Ngahinapouri Club there were now five clubs in the Waikato (1878). They were, Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Cambridge, Alexandra and Ngahinapouri.

We have no records or information about the Alexandra Club from 1878 until 1881 when there was an inter-club match between themselves and Ohaupo.

A report on the match said Ohaupo had won but the Alexandra side disputed this.

Letters to the Waikato Times claiming a different result appeared from the captains of both teams and the matter blew up into a minor controversy, which in the eyes of one level-headed rugby enthusiast at least kept football before the public longer than usual.

The Alexandra team beat Hamilton 8-0 at Hamilton in 1883 and in doing so displayed some of their best form of the year.

After this Alexandra met Cambridge and Alexandra fielded 10 forwards, 2 quarter backs, 2 three quarter backs and a fullback whilst Cambridge fielded 9 forwards, 3 threequarters, to half backs and a fullback.

Cambridge went into this match very much the underdog and Alexandra was supremely confident of success but Cambridge scored two tries to win 4-0.

Teams, Alexandra: Graham, McDonough, Newsham, Marshall, Galvin, Martin, Swain, Hopkins, Chandler, McKinnon, forwards; Halls, Julian, quarter backs; Grierson, Sullivan, three quarter backs; Margan fullback.

Cambridge: Barton, Breakell, Kallander, Carnachan, Craig, Davey, Hunt, Odium, Patterson forwards; Bleazell, Hardy, Grey, quarter backs; Mallard, Curtis, half backs; Haimona fullback.

The next year that we have information about Alexandra is 1886, and in early August a game against Kihikihi and Alexandra was arranged but it fell through.

Not to be out done the Alexandra Club played Te Rahu instead.

There were eight players on each side and Te Rahu won 6-2 after leading 4-0 at half-time.

Teams for this match were, Te Rahu: Graham (Captain), Clements, W. Cowley, M. Cowley, Galvin, Floyd, T. Millar, W. Morgan.

Alexandra: T. Bayliss (Captain), J. Sage, T. Sage, J. Munro, R. Burns, C. Tisdall, J. Goble and Moki.

Some of the Alexandra team members had also played for Kihikihi and these two clubs later combined to meet Hamilton twice later in the season. Both games were scoreless draws.

Alexandra and Kihikihi decided to be known as Upper Waipa.

It has been previously mentioned that the Waikato Union as we know it today was the fourth to bear that designation.

Well the second Waikato Union met with varying success until the end of 1901 when the withdrawal of some clubs and the ceasing of others found the union defunct.

In 1895 the Te Awamutu club joined the union only to resign at the end of the season and the Pirongia Club (the name had now been changed from Alexandra) and Morrinsville club were added in 1896, both dropping out soon after. Cambridge and Ohaupo were members in 1898.

The third Waikato Union was made up of the combination of Hamilton, Lower Waikato, Cambridge and Waipa Unions.

The Waipa Union was actually established at Te Awamutu on April 20th, 1898.

Delegates came from Paterangi (who at that time played for Waikato Union), Te Awamutu, Kihikihi and Otorohanga clubs. During the year four more clubs joined: Rangiaohia, Ohaupo, Cambridge and West Districts.

The Pirongia club joined the Waipa Union in 1899.

In 1910, Waipa Union was weakened when the Paterangi club withdrew and Te Awamutu were unable to form a team.

An annual meeting was held and it was decided to suspend the union's activities for a season and the outcome was that Otorohanga affiliated to Maniapoto Union and Kihikihi joined the Cambridge Union.



1900. Standing: R. Steele, R. Smith. Back Row: R. Carnochan, R. Edwards, J. Papesch, W. Smith, H. Hodgson. Middle Row: J. Harper, W. Robinson, D. Bruce (Captain), M. Sutherland, T. Manuka, J. Mawhinney. Front Row: K. Tamaki, E. Robinson.

The Te Awamutu club re-formed in 1911 but there was an unsuccessful attempt to revive the Waipa Union.

It wasn't until 1912 that the Waipa Union was re-established, the clubs involved were Te Awamutu, Kihikihi, Ohaupo, Pirongia.

Waipa at this stage was affiliated to the South Auckland Union, but in 1918 its affiliation was transferred to the Auckland Union.

However, of June 18th of the same year (1918) the Waipa Union became one of the Waikato Unions sub-unions.

The clubs in the Waipa now, were, Te Awamutu, Te Awamutu Rovers, Pirongia, Kihikihi and Wairaka.

For the earliest history of the Pirongia Rugby Football Club that present day members can remember we have relied on the memories of Bob Ormsby, Reg and Eric Bell.

The earliest players they can remember are the likes of Charlie Bowden. A. Smith, R. Carnochan, R. Edwards, Joe Papesch, Bill Smith, H. Hodgson, J. Harper, Billy Robinson, D. Bruce, M. Sutherland, T. Manuka, J. Mawhinney, Karina Tamaki, E. Robinson, R. Steele (who was later killed by aborigines), and A. Smith.

Between 1910-1920 the number of games played in a season was very seldom more than six and Pirongia played teams such as Otorohanga, Te Awamutu, Oparau, Kihikihi and Kawhia.

A number of the men who played for Pirongia at this time came from Fransham's sawmill in the bush on Pirongia mountain.

Other players in this era were Walter Beet, Joe Ormsby, R. Tamaki, Claude Beet, Darcey Jones, Jimmy Fenton, Ted Beet, Bert Sims, Arthur Chappell, Jimmy Turner, Bob Ormsby, Charlie Nichol.

Matches at this stage (about 1910-1920) were usually played by mutual agreement and there were occasions when the loser of a game had to buy the winning team the evening meal.

Transport to and from the games was by horse and by the time the match festivities were over and you had arrived home it was sometimes 1 a.m. in the morning before the cows got milked.

Due to the fact that there are no club records and our present day members have difficulty in remembering back this far there is not much else we can tell you about the period from 1876-1920. All that remains to be told are the following incidents:-

HAMILTON LODGE A REQUEST

Although it has nothing to do with the rugby club itself it is quite amusing to note that before the turn of the century, a Mr John Aubin was Master of the Masonic Lodge in Pirongia, and he received a letter from interested people in Hamilton who were keen to start up a charter in their area.

He replied that as it appeared that Hamilton wouldn't amount to much of a village, he strongly urged them to forget about it for the time being.

It should be pointed out that Pirongia wasn't always as small as it is today and between 1870-1880 contained no fewer than three hotels, court house, bank, resident doctor, baker, butcher, two general stores, gunsmith, blacksmith, shoe maker, saddler, churches, public hall, public library and of course a Masonic Lodge.

DOING A GOOD TURN

Back in the pre 1920 era there used to be a Mrs Turner go along to matches to watch her son Jimmy Turner play and whenever he got caught in the bottom of a maul on the field she would come and belt the living daylight out of the other players with an umbrella, just to make sure they weren't hurting Jimmy.

JERSEYS

Although it was compulsory for your club to register its colours it was not in these early years compulsory to wear a jersey and quite often the black singlet (of Fred Dagg style) was used.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

The following story was given to me by Reg Bell and goes like this:

One of the most hilarious events ever to take place in the annals of rugby history happened in Pirongia. One which for sheer determination and endurance (not to mention comedy) should have its place in the "Guinness Book of Records."

The occasion was a match between Pirongia and one of the leading teams of the senior division. It was decided to make a full day of rugby — as this was a most important match and the followers of the game were expected to turn up in droves fairly early in the day — as was usual in those days of horses and buggy.

So to begin with some curtain raiser games were arranged and first and foremost were the 5, 6, and 7 year olds.

Many of these small boys had never before ever been on a rugby field, let alone handled a football and as for rules well they did not know that such things existed..

The teams lined out — the sidelines were crowded with spectators — the ball was kicked off.

Rolling gently along the ground the ball was immediately snapped up by a boy named Pat.

Now Pat's ideas of rugby evidently differed greatly to everyone else's, including those of the rugby union. He decided that as he was the one who got the ball first and being of good strong Irish ancestry — it was entirely unthinkable that he should surrender it to anyone.

His knowledge of the game extended to the once you got the ball trick — you were supposed to run with it — to where it did not seem relevant — so long as you retained possession.

So he took off — the direction did not enter into it — from one side of the field to the other — ducking — diving — weaving and occasionally, when cornered, waving a threatening fist — where upon a lane would immediately open up among the opposing ranks and away he would go again

The referee's whistle went hoarse — but it only appeared to spur Pat on to greater effort.

The spectators went completely wild, 50 per cent were "Rolling in the aisles" while the other 50 per cent cheered madly, encouraging him to greater heights.

By this time both his own team mates and the opposition had joined forces to attempt to recover the ball — the chase was really on.

For fully 15 minutes he kept his adversaries at bay, when finally he was completely overcome by sheer exhaustion — he hurled the ball fiercely at his opponents and collapsed to the ground.

Mr Reg Bell assures me this is a true story as he was there to see it and has never got over it yet.

THE ROARING TWENTIES

And so we come to the 1921-1930 period, and it was to be a very successful period too, for in 1923 Pirongia won their first championship.

It was the start of four great years, because in 1924 Pirongia again won the championship and completed the hat-trick of successes by not only winning the championship in 1925 but also the Insurance and Ballastite Cups.

And they were not finished yet because in 1926 the championship was again theirs, along with the Nation Trophy and Birnie Cup.

During this time as many as nine Pirongia players would take the field for the Waipa representative team (Claude Beet, Ted Beet, Dick Provis, Doug Smith, Davie Bruce, Eric Bell, Harold Mabbett, Charlie Smith, Bob McDowell).

It is in the 1923 season that we have come across the oldest minute of the club and we note that at the AGM on May 7th, 1923 it was resolved that the clubs of Pirongia, Te Rahu, Karamu amalgamate and play under the name of Pirongia.

A committee was elected to have sole charge of the team consisting of Te Pahu-Karamu rep. Bill Smith and Pirongia rep. Lin Macky.

Officers for the season were:

President: Lin Macky; Secretary: Harold Mabbett; Treasurer: Walter Bell.

The subscription was set at 5/-.

The following players were registered "under their own hand", on May 17th, 1923: Eric Bell, Bert Steele, Jack Harper, Claude Beet, Ted Beet, Roy Matheson, Bill Smith, Dave Marsh, W. Provis, Bob McDowell, Gordon McDowell, Ray Taylor, Walter Beet, Harold Mabbett, Bill Searanke, Joe Ormsby, Arthur Smith and Les Ballinger.

Also listed are the names of people who made donations and we list them in the hope that for the older generation, it may stir up some memories of former club members.

They include: Alec Bruce, Charlie Smith, Bill McCarthy, E. Steele, Alan Hood, Bill Smith, Paddy Peebles, Walter Bell, W Thompson, Jock Livingston, Jimmy Prentice (who was a brilliant fullback), Harry Abercrombie, Miller and Arthur Chappell.

Results of the games played in 1923, in which Pirongia won its first championship were:

12th May v. Te Awamutu, won 5-0; 19th May v. Rovers, won 3-0; 26th May v. Ngahape, won 6-3; v. Te Awamutu, drew 0-0; v. Rovers, won 12-0; v. Ngahape, won 6-3; v. Ngahape won 22-6; v. Rovers, won by default and the grande final v. Te Awamutu, won 12-3 (tries for Pirongia by Claude Beet (2), Eric Bell and Bert Steele).

The final championship points were:

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Pirongia	9	8	0	1	17
Te Awamutu	9	6	2	1	13
Ngahape	9	2	7	0	4
Rovers	9	1	8	0	2

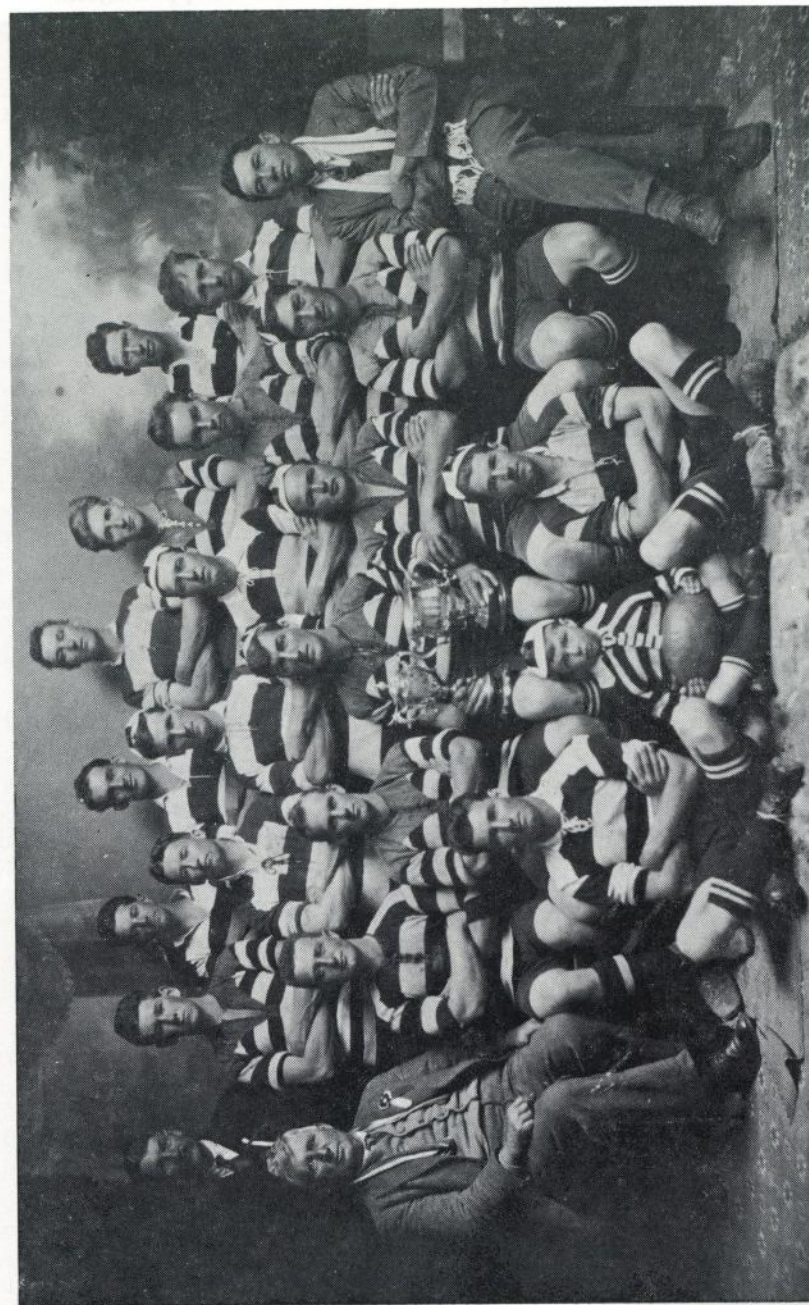
Pirongia scored 66 points for and 15 were recorded against them. Their line was crossed only three times (once by Te Awamutu and twice by Ngahape).

There is no information available about the other years Pirongia won their championships and we rely on the Waipa Sub-Union minute books for our next piece of history, the year being 1928. A fire in the office of the local paper (the Waipa Post) destroyed all of the unions records prior to August 30th, 1927.

Present for Pirongia at the sub-unions 1928 A.G.M. were Mr Wilson and Harold Mabbett.

However it was Eric Bell who attended the Union's meeting on May 7th at which there was a strong protest from a Mr Jeffs about spectators from Pirongia wandering onto the field of play and it was also

Pirongia Football Club — Senior Team, 1923, 1924, 1925



1923, Back Row: R. Beil, W. McDonald, J. Wilson, T. Saunders, R. Ormsby, Second Row: W. Smith (Selector), W. Butler, H. Mabbett, W. Beet, A. Chappell, C. Schwartzfeger, C. Arthur, Third Row: W. McCarthy (Delegate), D. Haig, A. Johnson, E. Beet (Captain), D. Smith, J. Ormsby, J. Prentice (Vice-President), Front Row: F. Beet, W. Beet (Mascoot), E. Beet (Secretary), Absent: J. Harper, C. Smith, A. Smith, B. Steel, A. Osborne, A. Bruce, R. Provis, R. Matherson, C. Beet, R. Malloy, E. Cowley, A. Munro.

stated that the worst offenders were women. Eric Bell soothed matters out however, by assuring members present that it wouldn't happen again.

Pirongia had a junior team this year but because of the lack of players they had to pull out of the competition before the end of the season.

We note that because of this a Mr Pod Grace and Jack Askew applied for a transfer to play for Mangahoe Jnrs, however, for some reason Jack Askew's transfer was declined.

The following year, 1929, saw the Pirongia-Karamu area represented by Jack North and Arnold Finch at Waipa sub-union A.G.M. in the Odd-fellow's Hall on the 4th April.

A new club was included in the competition this year — Ngutunui, represented by Mr R. L. Henderson and G. S. Clarke. They played in the colours of Maroon-Gold band but later changed to Royal Blue and White.

Teams in the Union this year were, Seniors:- Te Awamutu, Rovers, Pirongia, United (not Te Awamutu United that we know today), Parawera, Ngutunui, Korakonui and Waikeria. Third Grade:- Pirongia, High School and Te Awamutu.

We again do not know how good or bad the Pirongia teams were for this year, but we do know that on the 6th May, two players Ray Grace and Ted Howard were granted transfers from Pirongia to play for Ngutunui.

On the 13th May, Pirongia played United and following this match the United captain protested that Pirongia were still playing Ted Howard, who had transferred to Ngutunui. Ray Grace wrote to the next Waipa sub-union meeting explaining that the transfer was for J. Howard and he had mistakenly written E. Howard.

This explanation was not good enough, however, and Pirongia had to forfeit the match.

But it wasn't the end of the matter because one week later Ted Howard applied for and was granted, a transfer back to Pirongia, and further more on the 29th July the Ngutunui captain informed the union that Ngutunui Club had definitely decided to pull out of the competition, and so the argument was all for nothing. There were more transfers and Ngutunui players Leo Bulford, Bill Armstrong, Jim Robinson and F. Takiari applied to play for Pirongia. All transfers were granted.

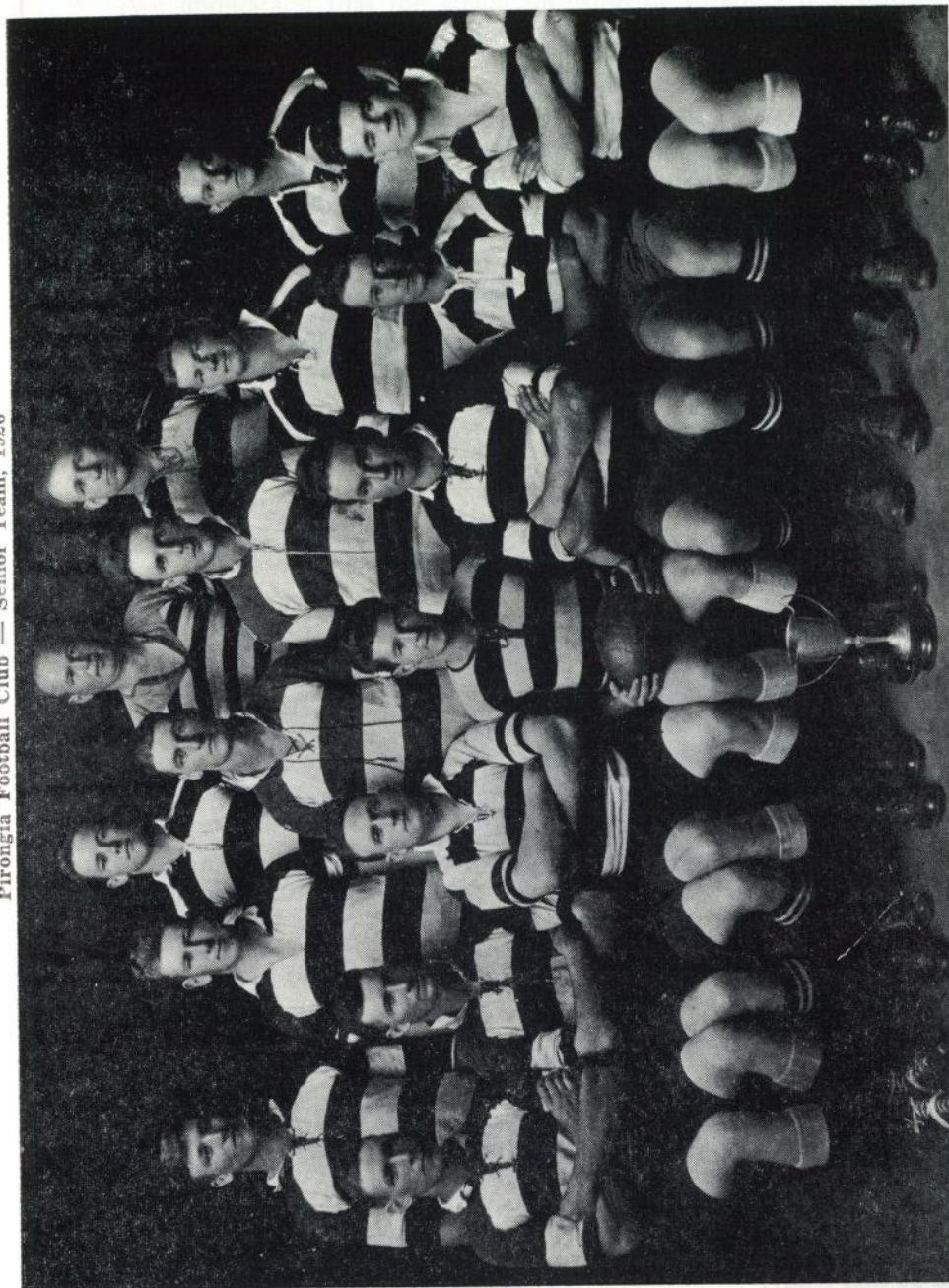
In 1930 Pirongia was struggling to get a team and it was suggested that they join with Kihikihi as that club was also struggling.

It was at this time that the Waipa sub-union was having trouble with the Cambridge sub-union over boundaries in the Kaipaki area.

Pirongia gained quite a few players from the Ohaupo area and the Pirongia delegate at the Waipa meeting Mr Miller, stated that failing boundaries being definitely fixed Pirongia would not be able to field a team.

A gentleman's agreement with the two Te Awamutu town teams was reached and it was decided any surplus players could play for Pirongia and so it was that Pirongia was able to field a team this year, although it is disappointing to add that we once again don't know how they performed.

Pirongia Football Club — Senior Team, 1926



1926, Front Row: L. Young, F. Beet, E. Nicholson, E. Bell (Captain), C. Schwartzfeger, L. Singleton, T. Reichenbach, Middle Row: J. Wilson, W. Butler, I. Beet, L. Hunt, E. Karl, R. Bell, Back Row: J. Davis, D. Smith, C. Arthur. Absent: A. Osborne, E. Beet, W. Beet, D. O'Donnell, W. Steel.

SHAME, SHAME, SHAME

In passing we have to record here that on 12th May, 1930, we have the first recorded sending off the field of a Pirongia player, Jack Askew.

It was against Rovers and the referee was Mr Callas.

At the following sub-union meeting it was moved Brown/Reynolds that Jack Askew be placed on the "caution list".

Two years later Jack Askew was still having trouble with Rovers and on 7th May, 1932, was again sent off. The referee was Mr Annibal. This time he was placed on the "warning list".

In the following years his illegal deeds (on the field of play) were too numerous too mention and I can only suggest he should have been placed on a "danger list".

Five years later on 7th June, 1937, after many years of senior rugby and many many more cautions he finally applied to play for the Junior grade. The application was declined.

But with the same dedication that he showed on the field he again applied to be regaded on 26th April, 1938. At the following Waipa sub-union meeting it was moved C. R. Brown/R. L. Adams that Mr J. Askew's application be granted.

They don't come much tougher than Jack Askew and it is sad to note that he is no longer with us as he was electrocuted by a faulty shearing machine plant some years ago.

GOOD MEN NEVER LOOK BACK

As we have said before Pirongia won its first championship in 1923, but did you know that when the team went out on to the field for their first match of the season against Te Awamutu they were three men short.

Several of the old timers looked on in dismay when suddenly one of them could no longer stand the strain and tossing off his coat he stepped out to join the fray.

Immediately two more joined him.

Nothing unusual about this you may think — but these three men, Bill Smith, Lin Macky, Dave Marsh — were all over 60 years of age.

And despite the cat calls and derisive remarks these old timers proudly marched forth, and if ever a gold plated memorial was deserved it was most certainly deserved by these few, for they fought and they won.

For the next four years there was no shortage of players wishing to take the field for Pirongia and all because three old timers went out and showed those present the meaning of the word guts. How many over 60's could do that today?

VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

We understand that the whole township of Pirongia was waiting as their team came back from Te Awamutu after winning the championship in 1923.

The victorious players arrived on a hard tired truck weighed down with 10 gal. kegs.

Mr Eric Bell tells the story of how he had on his beautiful new "Stetson" hat at the celebrations.

Now outside the hotel where the rejoicing went on till the early hours of the morning there was a "hitch rail" where you tied up your horse, and it soon became a "bog hole".

Well the following morning on finding that he had lost his hat, Eric went down to the hotel to find it, and on arriving there all he could see sticking out of the mud were the tops of a dozen or so "Stetson" hats, in the area of the "hitching rail". There were many polite suggestions from onlookers as Eric tried to find out which hat was his.

TO CAP IT OFF

Between 1924 and 1926 if you won the Waipa championship you were presented with a "cap" in the colours of your club. These caps were donated by Mr Goodhall and Son of Te Awamutu.



NO MONEY

On the 16th June, 1930, Pirongia were informed that their affiliation fees were not paid and they would be given seven days to pay them.

Did they pay? NO!

Nine days later they were given until 2 o'clock that day to pay or all Pirongia players would be suspended.

This time they paid up.

MEETING CLOSED

In the 1923 Pirongia minute book I see that a "desultory conversation terminated the meeting".

Geezus nowadays us uneducated guys just say "the meeting closed at such and such a time."

GOOD GOD A METHODIST TEAM

Did you know that there was a team entered in the Waipa Junior competition in 1923 called The Methodists, and they won the cup for their grade.

They played seven games for seven wins and not once did an opposing team cross their line for a try. But I'm not sure whether that was because of good defence or the grace of God. Mind you it just goes to show what praying can do.

Other teams to finish were Parawera, 2nd; Rovers, 3rd; Te Awamutu, 4th; Ngahape, 5th.

YEARS 1931-1943

It was during the time from 1931-1943 that was perhaps the most difficult period in compiling the history of the Pirongia Rugby Football Club. In these years I have been able only to give a broad picture of rugby in the Waipa sub-union and not an account of Pirongia itself. I trust you will bear with me on this matter while reading this chapter.

In 1931 Pirongia decided to field a senior and junior grade.

Pirongia delegates to the sub-union meeting this year were George Silvester and Claude Grace.

It was also in 1931 that the Ngutunui Club was revived and fielded a junior team and a new club into the area was Puketotara which fielded a senior team playing in the colours of Royal Blue.

And in its first year we can record that the Puketotara Club had its first player sent off.

He was a Mr R. Dunkerby and was sent off for striking C. Pollard for Rovers (the same team our Jack Askew had trouble with). The referee was T. Martin.

Senior teams in the union in 1931 were Pirongia, Puketotara, Rovers, Kihikihi, Waikeria, Te Awamutu.

As once again there are no club records or results kept, we don't know how the Pirongia teams performed this year.

We do know that on the 17th August, 1931, the Te Awamutu 3rd Grade team protested against the Pirongia team for their playing of a "Putty" Bell, who they said had played three senior games.

The secretary of Pirongia (Jack Macky) wrote to the sub-union explaining that the Mr Bell concerned had many nicknames and that he was sometimes confused, on the team sheet, with other Bells.

The explanation was accepted and the protest dropped.

Not much is known about the 1932 season although we can tell you that the Pirongia Club did enter a senior and junior team.

Teams to enter the competition this year were:- Seniors: Rovers, Kihikihi, Pirongia, Waikeria and Te Awamutu.

Junior teams were: Pirongia, Rovers, Ohaupo, Ngutunui, and new Clubs Te Mawhai (colours all green). Owairaka (colours maroon), and Arohena (colours red and white).

Owairaka however pulled out before the season finished.

It is interesting to note that the Ngutunui Juniors won their competition and Doyle Cup in 1932, the only time the club ever had a winning team.

All we know about the 1933 season was that Pirongia managed to field a senior, junior and 3rd grade team.

And in 1934, the club teams of Pirongia, Kihikihi and Ohaupo amalgamated to form the Suburbs team (colours all black).

A new club into the Waipa sub-union this year was T.A.H.S. Old Boys.

Seniors teams now were Rovers, Suburbs, Tokanui, Te Awamutu, Waikeria and T.A.H.S. Old Boys.

1934 was to see the Suburbs team (Ohaupo-Kihikihi-Pirongia combined) win the senior championship, Ballistite Cup, Binnie Cup and the Nation Rose Bowl.

It was in this team that Pirongia can lay claim to its only All Black — Jim Wynyard (as it was a combined team which Wynyard played in it could fairly be said that Ohaupo and Kihikihi could also claim him as theirs, with perhaps Kihikihi laying the best claim as he was educated at Kihikihi primary school). Other members of the Suburbs team which won the championship in 1934 were Bert Watson, Bob Wynyard (brother of Jim), John Campbell, Jack Askew, Charlie Grace, Jack Macky, Arnie Brill, Eddie Gilbert, Eric Bell, Morris Bell, Gordon Thompson, Joe Casey, Stan Mills, Bill Bell, Hugh Miller, David Scriven, Bill Ngahoe, Rod Grace, John Lawry. The manager was Colin MacDonald and selector Evan Yorke.

Although no exact year can be given for when they played, the following players represented Pirongia in the 1930-35 era also:

Bill Baxter, Doug Hancock, Percy Hollister, Roy West, Dave Melville, Keith Johnston (who later represented Waikato), Max Silvester, Eric Worthington, George Hollister, Roberts, Fred Hollister, Fred Beet, Ray Allport, Gordon Ellis, Rod Grace, Stan Mills, Jack and Peter Grace, Bert Worthington, and Tom Alan (who incidentally got his "marching orders" in 1932 against Te Awamutu).



1934. Back Row: H. T. Brill (Delegate W.R.U.), B. Watson, R. Wynyard, J. Wynyard (All Black), J. Campbell, J. Askew, M. Grace, Middle Row: J. L. Macky (Secretary), A. F. Brill, E. Gilbert, E. S. Bell (Captain), M. P. Bell, G. Thompson, E. P. Yorke (Selector), J. Casey. Front Row: S. Mills, W. A. Bell, H. T. Miller, D. Scriven. Absent: Dr J. B. W. Robertson (President), W. Ngahoe, P. Grace, J. Lawry, Mr C. MacDonald (Manager).

1935 saw Pirongia-Kihikihi and Ohaupo still combined under the name of Suburbs.

It was in this year that Jim Wynyard was selected for the All Black team that toured Great Britain under Jack Manchester's captaincy. Jim Wynyard was 20 when he made the All Blacks and was 6' 3" in height and weighed 14st 2lbs.

In 1938, Jim also played for the All Blacks on their Australian tour (incidentally he scored twice on the Great Britain tour and three times in Australia).

Senior teams in Waipa sub-union in 1935 were Te Awamutu, Rovers, Suburbs, Tokanui, Waikeria.

Suburbs also fielded a Junior and third grade team.

The Ngutunui Club folded again and Arohena were granted permission to play in the Putaruru competition.

In 1936 Rovers and Te Awamutu joined the Waikato competition in Hamilton and there was no senior grade in Waipa.

The only teams Suburbs entered this year (1936) were a junior and third grade.

1937 saw Pirongia have its own team again after a break of three years.

The Pirongia delegate at the Subunion meeting this year was Twinney Bowden and the Ngutunui Club was again formed after missing one season and was represented by W. Whitton.

New clubs into the Union were the Territorials (colours Blue and Gold), Korakonui and Hospital (colours yellow and green).

As on numerous other occasions there were no records kept by Pirongia so we can't tell you how the club's teams performed.

However, we do know that in 1938 Pirongia fielded a junior team which won their Waipa championship and Doyle Cup.

They played 12 games of which they won 9, drew 2 and lost 1. In doing so they scored 99 points with 46 against.

Teams they played were Waikeria Hospital, Rovers, Korakonui, Ohaupo (a new junior club this year), Ngutunui, Te Awamutu, Parawera.

Pirongia also fielded a 3rd grade team but there was still no senior competition as Rovers and Te Awamutu were still playing in Hamilton.

Members of the victorious Pirongia Junior team in 1938 were Ken Sifleet, B. Chalmers, Jack Askew (it has already been mentioned about his regrading from senior to junior), Henry Hulton, Gordon Ellis, Percy Hollister, Bill Rose, Jack Grace, Ron Pritchard (selector), Travis Parkes, I. Hamilton, Alf Fear, Doug Carnachan, Jack Macky, Tom O'Brien, Don Ellis and Russell Fear.

Pirongia in 1930 fielded a senior B team which won the senior B championship beating Tokanui in the final at Tokanui on the last Saturday before the second world war broke out.

Players in this team were Bert Wall, Ted Beet, Bill Rose, Wilson Tamaki, Ken Sifleet, Gordon Ellis, Jack Askew, Jack Grace, Henryl Hulton, Don Ellis, Peter Bell, Bert Watson, Bill Tauri, Andrew Carey, Jason Parkes, Travis Parkes, Russell Sifleet, Colin McGruther, Peter Grace, Jock McGruther, Hei Tautari, Tom O'Brien, Kiri Tautari, Jack Macky and Doug Carnachan.

It was also in 1939 that a deputation from Oparau consisting of T. W. Scott, A. G. Ellen, J. Scott, B. Dash and A. Dash, was received by the Waipa sub-union. They wished to enter the Te Awamutu competition this year as the Kawhia Club had closed down.

Their request was granted and the Union's Senior B teams this year were Pirongia, Waikeria Hospital and Oparau (colours amber and black).

Later on in the season another Senior B team was entered — Wharepapa (colours red and white). However, Wharepapa pulled out of the competition before the season finished.

There is not much we know about the Oparau team except they played a friendly game against Hospital and lost 9-8, after which the sub-union decided to make the game count as a competition match. Before the 1939 season was finished Oparau had to pull out of the junior competition but the Senior B struggled on.

Pirongia Football Club — Junior Team, 1938



1938. Back Row: K. S. Sifleet, B. M. Chalmers, J. M. Askew, H. G. Hulton, J. G. Ellis, R. P. Hollister. Middle Row: C. W. Rose, T. Bowden (Delegate), J. J. Grace (Captain), R. N. Pritchard (Selector), T. Parkes. Front Row: T. Hamilton, A. J. Fear, D. A. Carnachare, J. L. Macky, T. O'Brien, W. D. Ellis. Inset: R. A. L. Fear.

As can be seen in the photo of the 1940 team members who played for Pirongia that year were Hally Silvester, Morrie Dixon, George McEwan, Kiri Tautari, Jack Grace, Gordon Ellis, Keith Johnston, Happy Thomas, Bob Wynyard, Blundell Wynyard, Bert Hall (coach), Ken Sifleet (Captain), Jack Macky and Bob McEwan.

This 1940 team were runners up in the local senior competition and played such teams as Rovers, Te Awamutu and Waikeria.

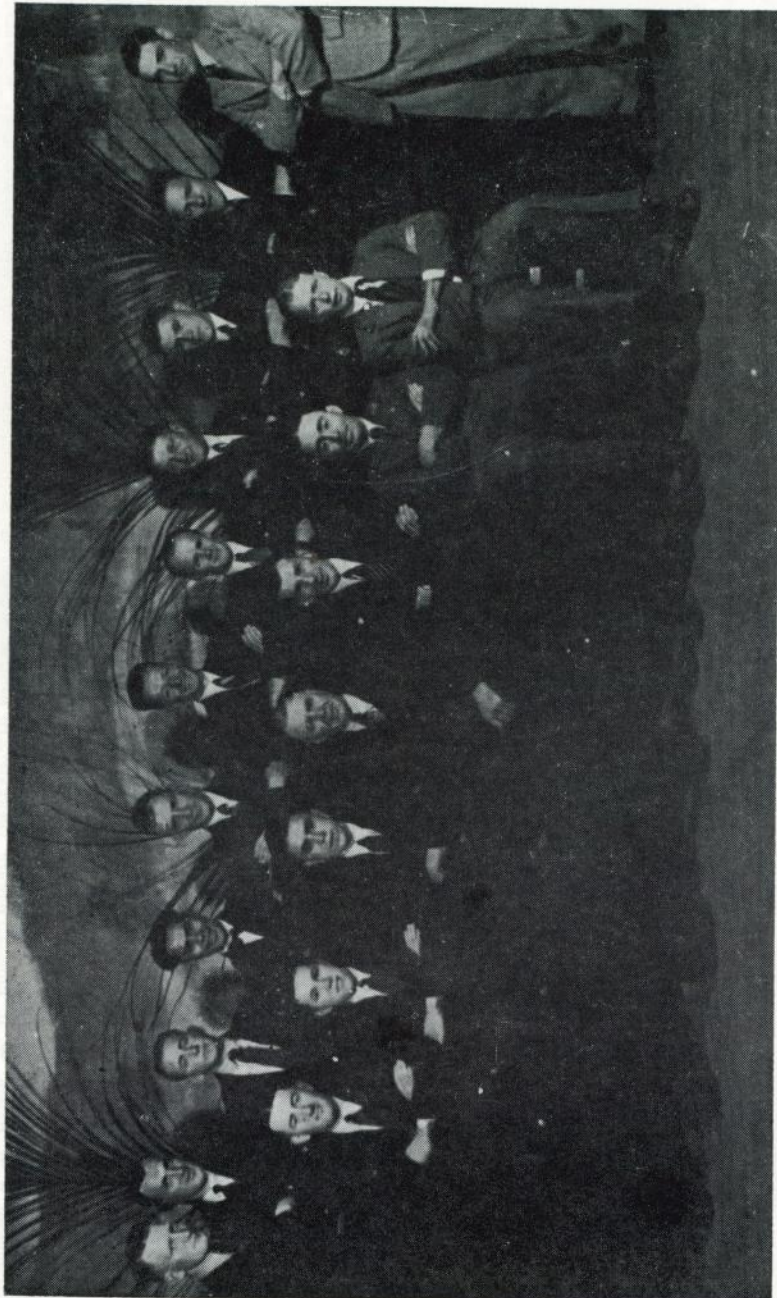
Pirongia also fielded a 3rd grade team in 1940.

As this was the period of the Second World War, records of the Club are few and far between, but we do know that in 1941 Pirongia had a senior team and some members who played then were Tom Te Puni (who later represented Wellington and Maori All Blacks in 1951), Keith Johnston, Peter Bell, Jimmy Edwards (the last three all played for Waipa reps.), Bill Rose, Jack Macky, Gordon Ellis, Andrew Carey. Happy Thomas, Cottle, Jack Cooper.

Pirongia Football Club — Senior Team, 1939



1939. Back Row: H. Wall (Selector), E. C. Beet (Club Captain), C. W. Rose, W. Tamaki, K. S. Sifleet, J. G. Ellis, J. M. Askew, J. J. Grace (Captain), H. G. Hulton, W. D. Ellis, T. Bowden (Delegate), P. Bell, B. Watson, E. S. Bell (Treasurer), H. West, Middle Row: W. Tauri, A. Carey, J. Parkes, R. Sifleet, C. O. McGruther, P. Grace, Front Row: J. R. McGruther, J. Tautari, T. O'Brien, K. Tautari, J. L. Macky, D. A. Carnachan.



1940, Back Row: H. Silvester, M. Dixon, G. McEwan, K. Tautari, J. Grace, G. Ellis, K. Johnstone, H. Thomas, B. Wynyard, F. Walker, W. Rose.
Front Row: A. Carey, C. Wynyard, R. Wynyard, H. Wall (Coach), K. Siflett (Captain), J. L. Macky, R. McEwan.

In 1942 there was only one combined senior team in Te Awamutu and they played in the Hamilton competition without much success.

For the 1943 season there was a Home Guard team, selected from the Ngahinapouri, Ohaupo, Paterangi and Pirongia areas and they played such teams as Old Boys, Air Force and Arohena. The Home Guards won what competition there was.

One Pirongia member of the Home Guard team Keith Johnston played for Waikato against Auckland in 1943 (Auckland winning 27-4).

And so we have come to the end of the 1931-43 period, a period in which the championship was won three times.

As yet the club had still not progressed much off the field of play for they had no clubrooms or showers or any lights under which to train.

In fact there was NO training, simple as that.

All these things were still to come.

RELIEF TEAM

The Puketotara Club which fielded a senior team in 1931 consisted mainly of members of a relief camp set up in Mangati Road.

The camp was set up to help form roads in the local area.

A GUN CUP TO WIN

In 1931 the Ballistite Cup was to be handed over from the Waipa Rugby Sub-Union to the Te Awamutu Gun Club for competition as an individual trophy.

The Sub-Union insisted on still having control over the cup and the Gun Club said that they couldn't comply to these conditions.

However, eight years later on 5th April, 1939 the Waipa Rugby Sub-Union gave the cup to the Te Awamutu Gun Club.

WHERE'S OPARAU?

At a Sub-Union meeting of 25th September, 1939, Oparau were advised that the Sub-Union were £7/4/- out of pocket in helping the expenses of sending teams to Oparau.

Oparau duly gave the Sub-Union £3/7/- towards this amount.

It must be remembered that Oparau was quite a distance out in those days and to get there was no mean feat.



1945. Back Row: T. Bowden (Delegate), W. Bromell, S. Williamson, F. Martin, D. Gordon, R. Hancock, B. Bell, T. Tamaki (Selector). Middle Row: F. Hancock, M. Onyon, L. Reid, E. C. Beet (President), N. Ormsby (Vice-President), T. Parkes, H. Knight. Front Row: J. L. Macky, P. Ormsby, J. Gordon (Mascot), E. Hanning, C. Hancock.

In the years from 1944-46 Pirongia struggled to field teams which culminated in Pirongia and Rovers amalgamating in 1947, an amalgamation that lasted until the beginning of the 1951 season.

Only a junior team was fielded in 1944 and that team was far from successful, winning only two games all season.

However, with almost exactly the same players, the following year, 1945, the junior team won their competition and the Doyle Cup. (The Doyle Cup was presented for the junior competition by a former Te Awamutu policeman).

Members of the successful 1945 team included Bill Bromell, Stuart Williamson, Frank Martin, Dave Gordon, Bill Bell, Tom Tamaki (selector), Frank Hancock, R. Hancock, Malcom Onyon, Les Reid, Noel Ormsby (Captain), Travis Parkes, Twist Knight, Jack Macky, Peter Ormsby, Ted Hanning and Colin Hancock.

A senior team was once again fielded by Pirongia in 1946 — after a break of four years in the senior ranks.

Some of the players at this time were Peter Bell, Colin McGruther (Captain), Put Bell, Albie Rowan, Jack Grace, Bill Bell, Jack Askew, George Sims, Boy Tamaki, "Happy" Thomas, Jason Parkes and Harold Sherwin.



1947. Back Row: B. Ormsby (Vice-President): D. Warrolow, G. Lynch, C. O'Brien, V. Rastrick (Manager), P. Pryor, B. Bell, E. Smith, N. Boyes. Middle Row: E. Nolan, E. Barton, M. Clarke (Captain), N. Ormsby (Vice-Captain), R. Carey, R. Bowas. Front Row: G. Bryant, T. O'Brien, T. Edwards, R. Alport, A. Alport (Mascot), D. Rastrick (Line Umpire). Absent: D. Russ, B. McKinnon, R. Irwin, T. Robinson.

As mentioned before 1947 saw the amalgamation of Pirongia and Rovers. Two teams were fielded, seniors and juniors.

The Juniors again won their championship and Doyle Cup and members of this team were D. Warrolow, Guy Lynch, Colin O'Brien, Vic Rastrick (Manager), Peter Pryor, Barry Bell, E. Smith, Neville Boyes, Eddie Nolan, Eddie Barton, Morrie Clarke (Captain), Noel Ormsby, Richard Carey, Ray Bowers, Gordon Bryant, Tom O'Brien, Trevor Edwards, Ray Allport, Don Russ, B. McKinnon, R. Irwin and T. Robinson.

It is quite remarkable that even in 1947 there was no training whatsoever by the players. Indeed there were no training lights or showers and the only luxury afforded the team was an old tin shed to change in, and even half of this had to be partitioned off to allow opposition teams to change in.

There are no records whatsoever about what happened in 1948 (even present members of the club can't recall anything), but we do know that in 1948 the Pirongia Rovers senior team were successful and won the championship.



Standing: T. Bowden; J. L. Macky; T. Tamaki Seated: E. C. Beet; R. Ormsby

Players included Dick Adams, Boy Tamaki. "Babs" Douglas, "Deg" Empson, Bill Walker, Colin McGruther, Noel Ormsby, Snow Parish, Dave Arona, Albie Rowan, Eddie and Dave Barton and the Hintons (Bob, Stan, Rex, Joe).

Of the above payers Albie Rowan played for North Island in 1949, and was an All Black trialist in 1948 and 1950, and he represented Waikato in 1947, 48, 49 and 50.

Dick Adam was a Waikato rep in 1949 and 50. (Dick Adam also represented Waikato in 1951, 52, 53, 55 and 56 but he was a member of the Te Awamutu United team at that stage — Pirongia Rovers had gone out of existence).

Dave Barton had represented Wanganui before the war and was also an All Black Trialist prior to playing for Pirongia.

Another player to gain higher honours in the '49 team was Bob Hinton who played for Waikato in 1947, 48 and 49.

Other members of the club at the time of the Pirongia Rovers amalgamation were George Roa, Ray Bowers, Eric Osborne, Rex Pratt, Maurie Clarke, Jimmy Baird, Max Mellsop, Miltie Griffin, Peter Pryor, Trevor Carthy, Tracy Sklenars, George Pacey, Wally Griffin, Gordon Bryant, Tommy and Colin O'Brien.

With the Rovers amalgamation ceasing at the beginning of 1951, Pirongia fielded only a senior team.



1951. Back Row: B. Tamaki, L. Meredith, G. Pacy, T. Tupe, G. Stockman, J. Turner. Third Row: T. Tamaki (Manager), J. Graham, A. Rowan, I. Haywood, C. Francis, R. de Thierry, G. Lynch, E. Bell (Selector and Coach). Second Row: E. Beet (President), N. Ormsby (Captain), W. Linehan (Patron), P. Meredith (Vice-Captain), R. Ormsby (Club Captain). Front Row: J. Ross, J. King, C. Wilson, P. Ormsby.

Of this team Noel Ormsby, the captain, had represented Waikato (1950), and Paddy Meredith had previously played for East Coast.

Waikato, North Island and All Black trialist Albie Rowan was still playing and the team's coach was Eric Bell who played for Waikato in 1926.

It was also at this time that the bridge on the main road by the present rugby grounds was being built and the club gained 3 players from the men working on its construction.

One of the social activities at this time was to have regular home and away matches with Awaroa (in the Kawhia Sub-Union), and to get there the team used to travel on the back of the local carriers truck, owned by George Fleming.

And it was about this time (1951) that the Junior Management Board (JMB) started up.

Mr Harvey de Thierry was the club's first delegate to the JMB followed by Fred McVerry and Harold Sherwin (who was JMB chairman from 1956-61).



1953. Back Row: E. Sherley, M. Haywood, G. Morse, P. Johnston, J. King. Middle Row: H. Sherwin (Secretary), R. Dockery, R. Carmichael, T. Wetere, I. Haywood, G. Lynch, E. Bell (Coach and Selector). Front Row: W. P. Linehan (Patron), T. Wolfsbauer, N. Ormsby (Vice-Captain), J. J. Grace (President), A. Rowan (Captain and Selector), R. Gadsby, J. Ross, R. Ormsby (Club Captain). Absent: B. Tamaki, R. Jones, R. Sugden, A. Coxhead, D. Reistrer, T. Tamaki (Selector).

The 1953 season saw Jack Grace still President of the club with Harold Sherwin secretary, and Eric Bell treasurer.

Once again the senior championship was won by Pirongia, along with it the knockout cup and Brown cup.

The Brown cup was played only between Pirongia and Waikeria.

It was also in 1953 that Pirongia fielded a 3rd grade team after years of not being able to.

The instigator of this team was Bob Ormsby, and some of the players had never played rugby before.

Members of the team included Keith Ormsby (who later toured overseas with the Waikato Maoris). K. Foster, Brian Ryburn, Colin Ryburn, Noel Johnson, Jim Waites, B. Hancock and Jack de Theirry.

Not one game was won by this team, but, as had happened in 1944-45 seasons, the following year, 1954 saw the 3rd grade win the championship with much the same team as had lost all their games the previous season.

For the 1954 season Pirongia had a new President, Mr Fred McVerry and Vice-Presidents were Jack Grace, Bob Ormsby, Ted Beet, and Jack Macky. Secretary was E. Shirley and Treasurer was still Eric Bell.

Pirongia entered two teams this season — a senior and 3rd grade.

Coach of the seniors was Albie Rowan and coaches of the championship winning 3rd grade team were Frank Silvester and Bob Ormsby.

It is interesting to note that subs in 1954 for the seniors were £1 (\$2 for those of you who have forgotten) and 3rd grade 10/- (\$1).

It can also be noted that the club had a grand bank balance of £24 and I've been told that that was one of the better years.

In the 1955-56 years there were no great changes made in the club.

1955 saw Pirongia enter three teams, a senior, junior and 3rd but no championships were to come their way.

We see in the minute books that in 1955 Jack Quarrie was the most improved 3rd grade player and Noel Ormsby the most improved senior. Both received the respective cups for their efforts.

For the 1956 season Pirongia had a new President, Harold Sherwin, who later on became President of the JMB, Te Awamutu Sub-Union and also President of the Waikato Union.

Secretary for this season was Mr Blackie and Treasurer Mr McVerry. The bank balance was down this year to a shaky £11/9/2.

Only two teams were entered for 56, a senior and junior, although also competing in competitions in the JMB grades were 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

And so another thirteen years of the club's history had been completed. A period in which saw the seniors successful twice, the juniors twice and the 3rd grade once.

But it was still a struggle for the club to carry on, what with very little finance and never knowing until after the first two or three matches at the beginning of a season whether or not teams could be fielded. And there were still no showers or lights for the players to train under. However these things weren't far away. But first of all there was a Jubilee to arrange.

DON'T FORGET TO PUT AN EXTRA BOTTLE OUT

Jobs handed out for the social, to be held for the hard working ladies committee, in 1952, were Mrs Bagnall to look after the kitchen, Mr F. Chunn the punch bowl, Mrs de Thierry to make savouries and Noel Ormsby to donate 4 gallons of milk — Gee wizz and I thought they were big drinkers in those days.

OH WHAT A RELIEF

On the 28th September, 1953, the club was informed by Jack Grace that a gala day was to be held to raise funds for a new men's convenience, on the club's grounds.

PLEASE RE-LEASE ME

At the A.G.M. in 1954, Mr Jack Grace drew attention to the fact that it was possible to secure, with right of renewal every twelve months, a lease on the football grounds from the Domain Board. It was moved Tom Tamaki, seconded Jimmy Ross that the lease be secured.

POST-MORTEM

It was time for Pirongia to have new goal posts and Fred McVerry approached Smythe and Boryer about the cost.

The quote was £6/15/- but at the next club meeting Eric Bell suggested that "this was unnecessary expenditure and that two kahikatea trees of suitable proportions could be obtained locally". All those present agreed.

Jason Parkes was approached and he agreed to give the club two trees.

However, this is not the end of the story for the posts were stored and destroyed by fire on March 3rd, 1955 at Mr Flemming's place and Jason Parkes had to be approached for another two trees of suitable proportions. Parkes and Boggiss Bros. donated a new set of posts in 1956, and so brought to a close an exciting post-mortem.

CUP DONATED

At a Te Awamutu sub-union meeting on 19th April, 1954, Mr L. McFarlane informed those present that he would donate a cup for senior competition. The cup he donated is what the sub-unions senior teams compete for now — the Phoenix Cup.

Apart from the 1923 minute book the next earliest one we have been able to find is for the 1952 season and we see that officers for that year were: President: Jack Grace; Vice-Presidents: Fred McVerry, Bob Ormsby and Jack Macky; Secretary: Guy Lynch; Treasurer: Eric Bell; Club Captain: Bob Ormsby; Coaches and Selectors: Eric Bell and C. Schwartzfeger.

Usually the meetings took place in the Pirongia Public Library or Bell Bros. store.

Although again we don't know how they performed Pirongia fielded a senior team this year.

FLOODLIGHTS

At the club's meeting on 10th June, 1954, it was proposed Mr Tamaki/Mr Johnston that the club accept Mr Fred McVerry's arrangement with the Domain Board, committing the club to an expenditure of £20 towards the cost of two floodlights to be installed at the club's ground.

MISTAKEN JUBILEE YEARS 1957-1965

As I have mentioned a number of times before, the information for this booklet has come mainly from the retentive memories of our present club members and from one or two old minute books we have found.

No other written recollections were ever kept and with this thought in mind it is only possible to give a very brief year by year account of the club's activities from 1957 to the present year of the club's centenary, 1976.
1957

Officers for 1957 were, President: Harold Sherwin; Secretary: Ted Fuller; Treasurer: Fred McVerry; and the committee was: Rubin Te Huia, Barry Griffith, Jim King, Max Ellis, Keith Ormsby, Peter Johnston, Noel Ormsby, Brian Ryburn.

A senior and junior team were entered this year. Coaches were Bob Abrahams and Peter Johnston.

Although it wasn't played for this year the McNally Cup was donated for competition between Ohaupo and Pirongia (Mr McNally was the publican at Ohaupo at the time).

It was also in 1957 that construction on the club's new showers began.

By far the most important event for the club in '57 was the holding of its jubilee.

At a meeting in the Pirongia Library on May 10th, discussions were held about the possibility of commemorating the club's 75th anniversary, but when members went into it further it was found that the club was in fact 81 years old. It was decided to go ahead with the celebrations and the anniversary committee was, President: Jack Grace; Secretary: Guy Lynch; Treasurer: Harold Sherwin; Executive Committee: Jack Grace, Guy Lynch, Harold Sherwin, Fred McVerry, Eric Bell; Committee: Jack Macky, Tom Tamaki, J. B. Johnston, H. de Thierry, Jim King, Keith Ormsby, Mort. Lorimer, E. Papesch, Putty Bell, Ian Haywood, Noel Ormsby, Reg Bell, Max Silvester, Ted Fuller and Bob Ormsby.

The celebrations took the form of:

Saturday, July 20th: Full day of rugby followed at night by a dinner and dance.

Sunday, July 21st: Pirongia Juniors v. Karamu Juniors and Harlequin XV v. Te Awamutu XV.

After these games a hangi was held.



Group of members at 81st Re-union

1957. Back Row: Ernie Prince, John Russell, Walter Beet, Claude Beet, Eric Bell, Harold Mabbett, Reg Bell, Fred Beet, Eddie Sutherland. Front Row: Ray Johnston, Jack Harper, Bob Ormsby, Harvie de Thierry, Jack Tamaki, Charlie Woonston.

1958

Officers for the 1958 season were, President: Harold Sherwin; Secretary: Ted Fuller; Treasurer: Peter Johnston; Club Captain: Noel Ormsby; and a committee consisting of Warrick Crampton, Max Ellis, Brian Ryburn, Keith Ormsby, Max Mellsop, Jim King, Ruben Te Huia and Noel Johnson. Delegate to the T.A.S.U. was Max Silvester.

Club meetings at this time were still held in various club member's residences, usually at Harold Sherwin's, Max Ellis' or Bob Abraham's.

The bank balance at the beginning of this season was \$288.00, which was a little improved on the balance of \$23 for the 1956 season.

Although I have mentioned above that the secretary was Ted Fuller, there were actually three secretaries this year.

Ted Fuller moved out of the area and was replaced by Max Ellis, but he went into hospital and the job finally went to Keith Ormsby.

The club entered seven teams in the sub-unions competitions this year, a senior, 3rd grade, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grades.

Although the McInally Cup was donated for competition in 1957, it was this year 1958 that it was first played for.

One of the club's activities at this time was to put on once a year, a social night for the ladies.

Items would be put on by the men for the ladies benefit and while they always turned out to be hilarious events it can be seen that the men took their duties seriously even to the point of engaging a Mrs McLeod to teach them the arts of performing the can-can.



Sheriff! Sheriff! Dandruff's back in town. Come on out Dan I'm gonna rough you up. — Max Ellis about to fill someone with lead, at a Ladies night. The angelical person behind Max is fearsome Keith Ormsby.



Nothing peels faster than a banana except 20st. Wally Barton at a Pirongia Ladies night. Behind him are Brian Ryburn and Peter Johnston

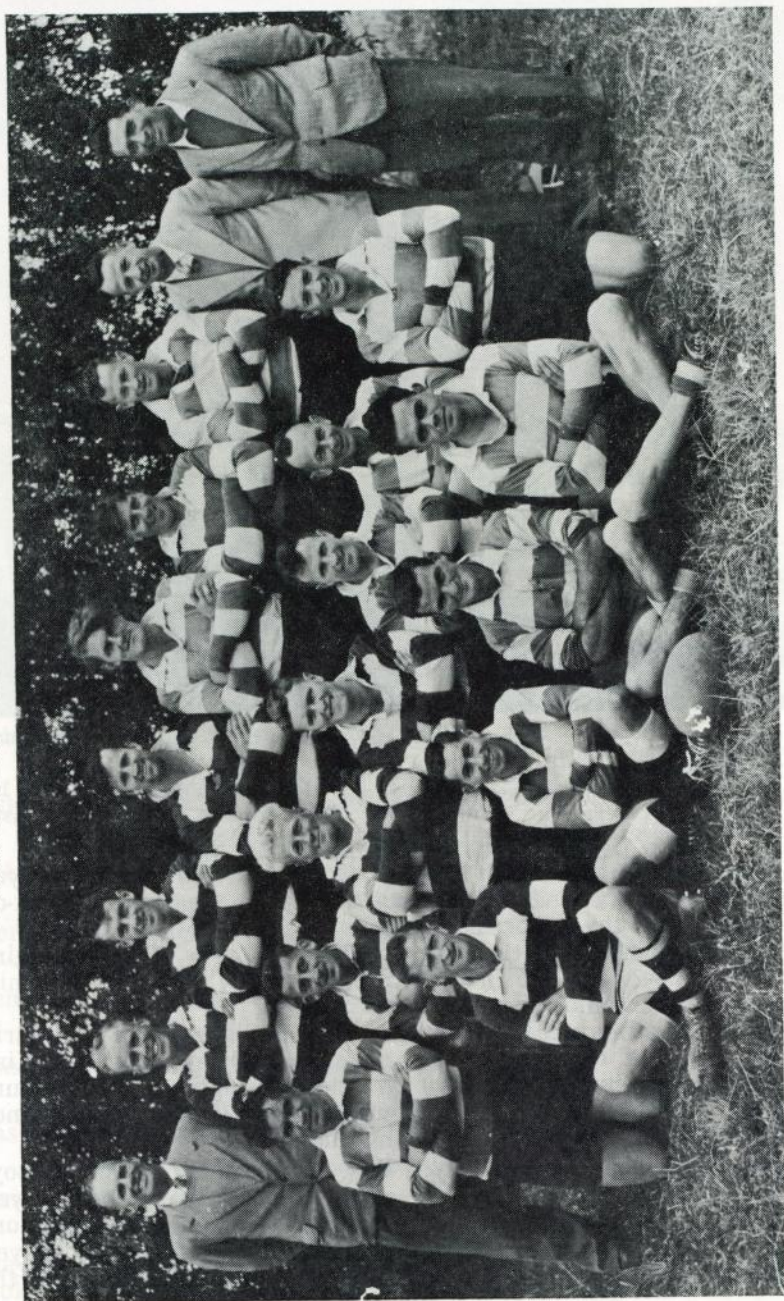
The senior team, under coach Bob Armstrong, were successful this year in winning the Nobel Cup and being runners-up in the senior knock-out cup and runners-up in the senior championship.

It should be pointed out that this was the first year that the original 3rd grade team started by Bob Ormsby in 1953, finally had players coming through to play in the senior team.

Players for the seniors this year included Max Mellsop, Ron Tye, Maurice Dockery, Colin Boshier, Des Whitton, Keith Ormsby, Whaa Turner, Jim King, Snow Dunn, Peter Johnston (Captain), Warrick Crampton, Brian Ryburn, Reg Dockery, Noel Johnson, Brian Hancock, Joe Papesch, Ellis Finch, George Searancke, Noel Ormsby, J. Williams and K. Barry.

Other senior teams Pirongia played this year were St. Pat's, Old Boys, Ohaupo, Te Awamutu United and Waikeria. This was actually the last year Waikeria fielded a senior team in the Te Awamutu sub-union competitions.

It has not been recorded who won the most improved senior players cup but the most improved 3rd graders cup was won by Alan Holroyd this year.



1958. Back Row: H. Sherwin (President), M. Melsop, R. Tye, M. Dockery, C. Boshier, D. Whitton, K. Ormsby (Vice-Captain), M. Ellis (Secretary), R. Abraham (Coach). Middle Row: W. Turner, J. King, S. Dunn, P. Johnston (Captain), W. Crampton, B. Ryburn, Front Row: R. Dockery, N. Johnson, B. Hancock, J. Papesch, Absent: E. Finch, G. Scrancke, N. Ormsby, J. Williams, K. Barry.

1959

Officers elected at the 1959 AGM on the 29th February were much the same as for 1958. Harold Sherwin was still President and Peter Johnston, Treasurer, and Max Ellis was back as Secretary. Club Captain was Des Whitton and the committee consisted of Keith Ormsby, Noel Johnson, Ellis Finch, Max Mellsop, Brian Ryburn, Noel Ormsby, Ian Haywood and Ken Reynolds.

Subscriptions this year were fixed at seniors \$2.00 and 3rds \$1.00.

After discussing it at various meetings the committee decided to adopt blazers and monograms this year.

To obtain a monogram a player had to be financial and play for at least one year or ten games for the club. For officials to obtain one they had to be a financial member for two years.

On the playing field the Pirongia seniors were not quite as successful this year due mainly to some experienced players retiring and younger players filling their places.

The 3rd grade, however, under the coaching of Noel Ormsby, were runners-up in their championship and won the knock-out cup and G. F. Clarke Rosebowl (a cup donated for good conduct).

Members of this team included Murray Smith, Lawrence Tye, Mark Campbell, Russell Ellis, Tom Whitton, Ken Bird, Ray Newdick, Laurie Harper, Peter Gilfillan, Ian Hancock, Noel Harper, Noel Prouting, Alan Holroyd, Denny de Thierry, Owen Johnson (Captain), Tony McCormack, Brian Blackwell, Ken Tye, Colin Bell, Andy Carter. Manager of this team was Max Ellis.

It can also be recorded that the 3rd grade player to win the most improved cup this year was Noel Harper.

Other winning Pirongia teams this year were the 5th grade (who made a clean sweep of everything) and the 8th grade who were runners-up in their competition.

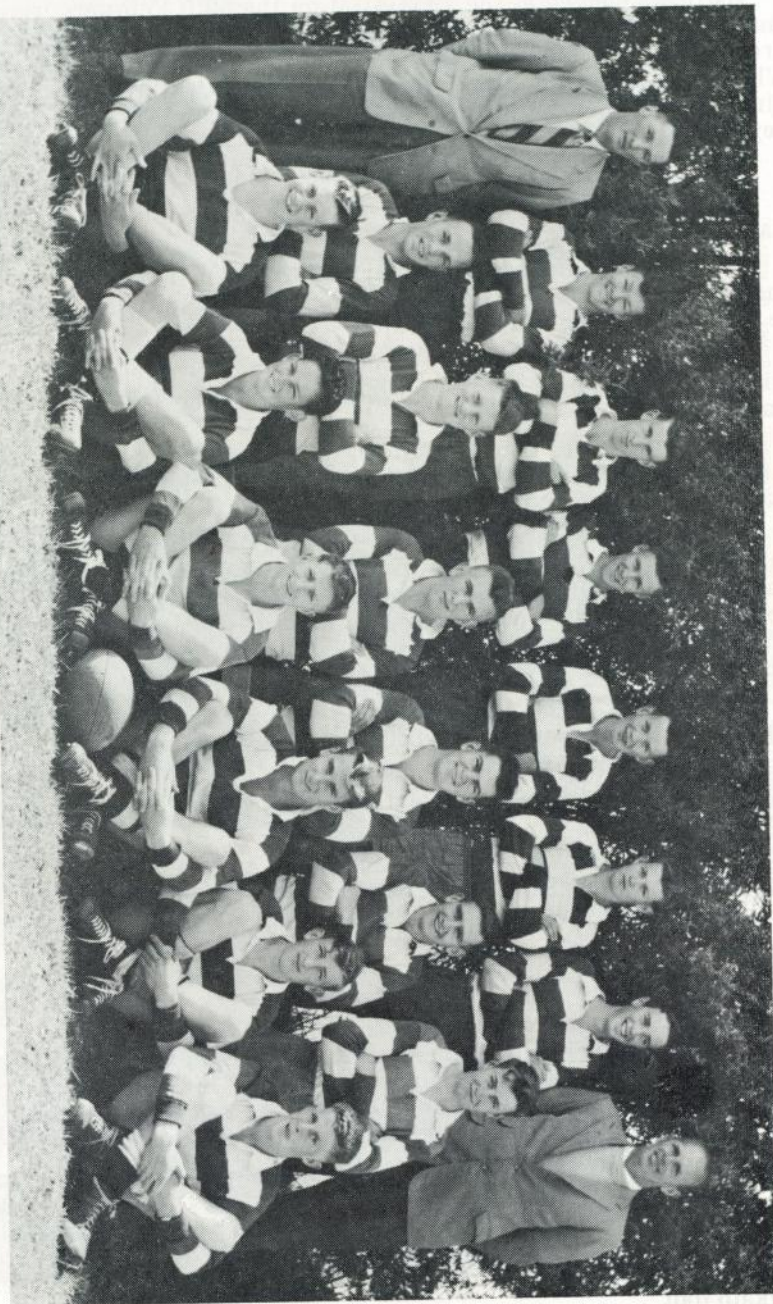
Pirongia also had in their ranks this year a player who made the Waikato Schoolboy reps — Stuart Ellis (who later on became a regular member of the Te Awamutu sub-union's senior reps).

1960

The 1960 season saw Harold Sherwin, Max Ellis and Peter Johnston again elected to their respective positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer and Club Captain was again Des Whitton. The senior team's coach this year was Rob Cumpstone, while the juniors had Noel Ormsby as coach and Jack Grace trained the 3rd graders.

The yearly activities of the club were always run on a shoestring budget and one of the ways the club had of raising money from about 1950 to the early 60's was to take part in offering goods at bring and buy stalls on the day of the local sale (it was around this time that a regular boner cow sale was held in Pirongia, and it was reputed to be one of the biggest in the Waikato too).

1959. Back Row: N. Ormsby (Coach), M. Smith, L. Tye, M. Campbell, R. Ellis, T. Whitton, K. Bird, H. Sherwin (President), Middle Row: R. Newdick, L. Harper, P. Gillilan, L. Hancock, N. Harper, N. Proutie, Front Row: A. Holroyd, D. de Therry, O. Johnson (Captain), T. McCormack (Vice-Captain), B. Blackwell, K. Tye, Absent: C. Bell, A. Carter, M. Ellis (Manager).



Pirongia Football Club — Third Grade Team, 1959

Various organisations and clubs within the Pirongia community would take turns at holding these bring and buy stalls on sale days, and when it was the rugby clubs turn, members would be asked to donate a variety of goods.

These goods would be placed on tables in the local hall, across the road from the boner sale, and when members of the public at the sale came into the hall for a cup of tea they would be enticed to buy what ever goods members had donated.

In 1960 \$37 was raised through this method (not a great amount by today's standard but to put things in perspective just remember that four years earlier in 1956 the club's balance at the start of the season was only \$23).

A major undertaking for the club this year was to install eight flood-lights around the ground.

The cost of these lights was \$522 of which half this amount was given by the Domain Board and the remainder was to be paid for by the rugby club over a period of three years.

It is also interesting to note that in 1960 a new junior team had entered the Te Awamutu sub-union competitions — that of Kawhia.

1961

The 1961 season saw Pirongia with a new President, Max Ellis, and Secretary Murray Askew. Peter Johnston was still Treasurer and Des Whitton, Club Captain. Last year's President Harold Sherwin was this year elected President of the Te Awamutu sub-union.

A senior, junior and 3rd grade team was entered this year and their respective coaches were Noel Ormsby, Des Whitton and Noel Johnson.

For the second year running Pirongia was the only club in the sub-union to field a team in every grade (from senior to all JMB grades).

It was in this year that the club bestowed on Bob Ormsby a life membership. Bob up till this year had been associated with the club for 40 years.

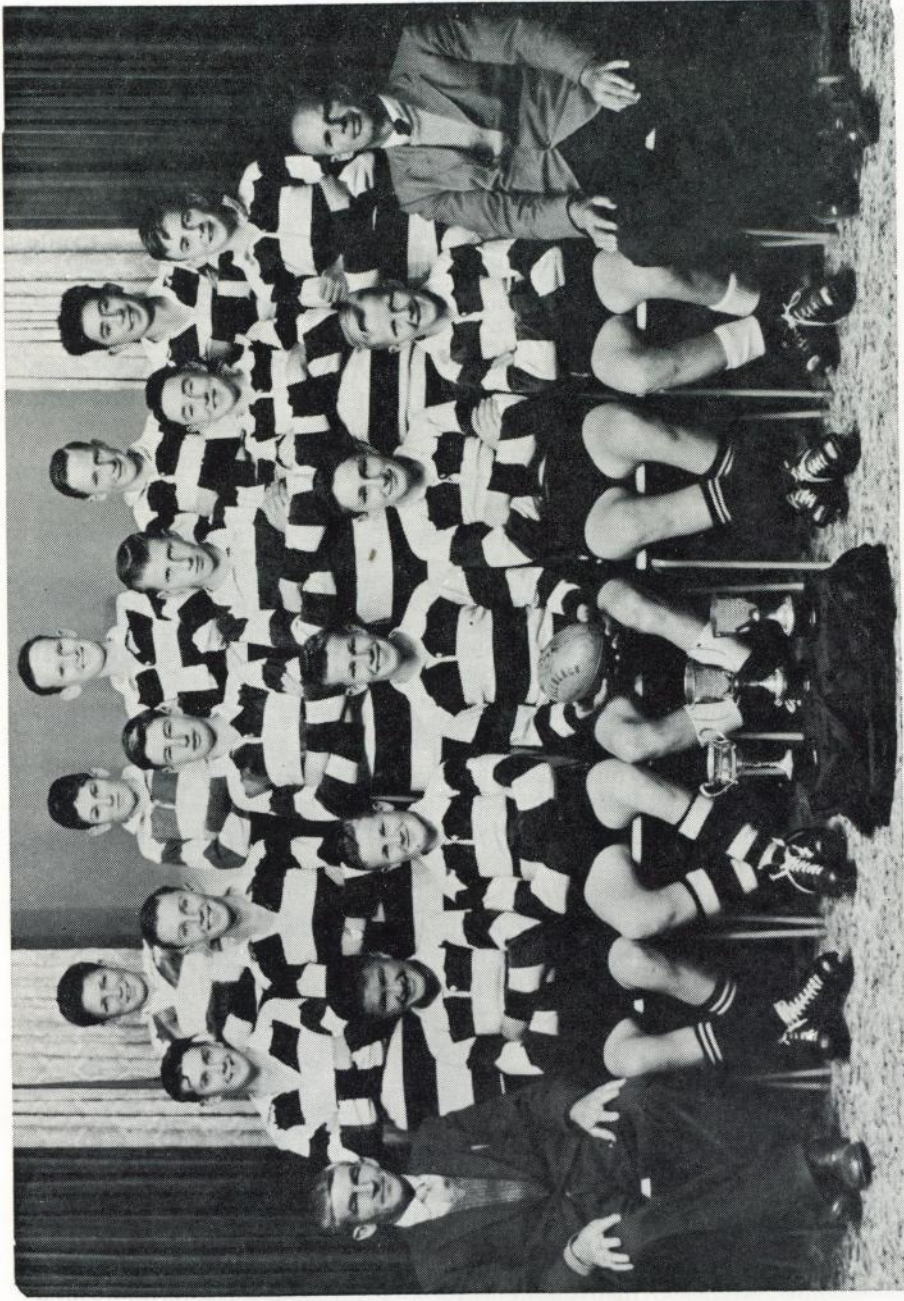
Although it is not done now, the club, around this time, used to "shout" all the members of its JMB grades to the pictures and provide them with an ice cream and lollies. It cost the club a grand total of \$12.40 this year for the JMB outing.

1962

1962 was a very successful year for Pirongia on the playing side.

The seniors, again under the coaching of Noel Ormsby, were runners-up in the Phoenix Cup, winners of the T.A.S.U. competition, and also winners of the knockout competition and McNally Cup (contested between Ohaupo and Pirongia).

Members of this team included Alec Wilson, Ellis Finch, Bill Soby, Stuart Ormsby, Keith Ormsby, Quentin Cameron, John Cameron, Eddie



Pirongia Football Club — Fifth Grade Team, 1959

1959, Back Row: B. Papesch, J. Ellis, H. Sherwin, C. Needham, D. Tautiri, Middle Row: T. Cobble, C. Steenson, L. Reynolds, S. Thomas, R. McHardie, J. Don, Front Row: M. Lorimer (Coach), J. Lorimer, G. Bouma, H. Sherwin (President), Absent: R. Lingman, M. Te Wao.



Pirongia Football Club — Eighth Grade Team, 1959

1959, Back Row: R. Pinfold, G. Randall, R. Karl, D. Pierce, J. Banks, W. Veen, C. White, M. Day, G. Law, Middle Row: G. Connelly, M. Needham, L. Needham (Coach), H. Sherwin (President), L. Shaw (Assistant Coach), M. Needham, R. Shaw, Front Row: P. Gadsby, S. Nielson, B. Karl, S. Steenson, E. Reynolds.



1962. Back Row: H. Silvester (Manager), C. Fletcher, D. Harvey, C. Black, L. Jackson, D. Holm, K. Gardiner, N. Johnson (Coach). Front Row: A. Aldridge, W. Silvester, S. Ellis (Vice-Captain), C. Ellis (Captain), K. Silvester, J. Ellis. Absent: T. Cobbald, K. Holroyd, M. Askew, K. Dawson, G. Boggiss, R. Lingman, R. Greenough.

Sobye, Murray Askew, Fred Green, Peter Johnston (Captain), Jim McFarlane, "Bunt" Kaumoana, Lindsey Trott, Max Bell, Alan Beet and Owen Johnson.

The 3rd graders also won their championship and played 14 games the results of which were v. Old Boys lost 3-14; v. St. Pat's, won 22-3; v. Waikeria, won 11-3; v. United, won 17-0; v. Ohaupo, won 6-0; v. Waikeria, drew 9-9; v. United, won 11-6; v. Old Boys, won 5-0; v. St. Pat's, won 8-0; v. Ohaupo, won 6-3; v. Waikeria, won 11-3; v. Te Awamutu United, won 8-3; v. Old Boys lost 0-8; v. St. Pat's, won 8-0.

Total points were 122 for and 52 against.

Of those 122 points the three Ellis boys, Colin, John and Stuart scored 66 between them and Tony Cobbald figured prominently scoring a grand total of 10 tries for the season.

Another team to win this year was the sixth graders who won the Scalon Trophy.

It was also in 1962, on 5th March, that Pirongia were hosts to a visiting Australian club team (Eastwood) and it is the only occasion in 100 years that Pirongia has ever played an overseas club team.

Eastwood won the night match by 20-3.

One member of the Pirongia team to distinguish himself and gain higher honours this year was Keith Ormsby who was selected to tour Western Samoa with the Waikato Maoris.



1962. Back Row: A. Wilson, E. Finch, W. Sobye, S. Ormsby, J. King (Club Captain), K. Ormsby (Vice-Captain), Q. Cameron, J. Cameron, E. Sobye. Middle Row: N. Ormsby (Coach), M. Askew, F. Green, M. Ellis (President), P. Johnston (Captain), R. J. Ormsby (Patron), J. McFarlane, B. Kaumoana, B. Smith (Manager). Front Row: N. Johnson, L. Trott, M. Bell, A. Beet, B. Smith, O. Johnson.

1963

Presiednt this year was Max Ellis, while Secretary was Murray Askew and Peter Johnston Treasurer. Club Captain was Jim King and coaches were senior, Noel Ormsby, junior, Des Whitton and third grade, Noel Johnson.

The club built new changing rooms and showers this year at a cost of \$940 of which the Domain Board granted \$800.

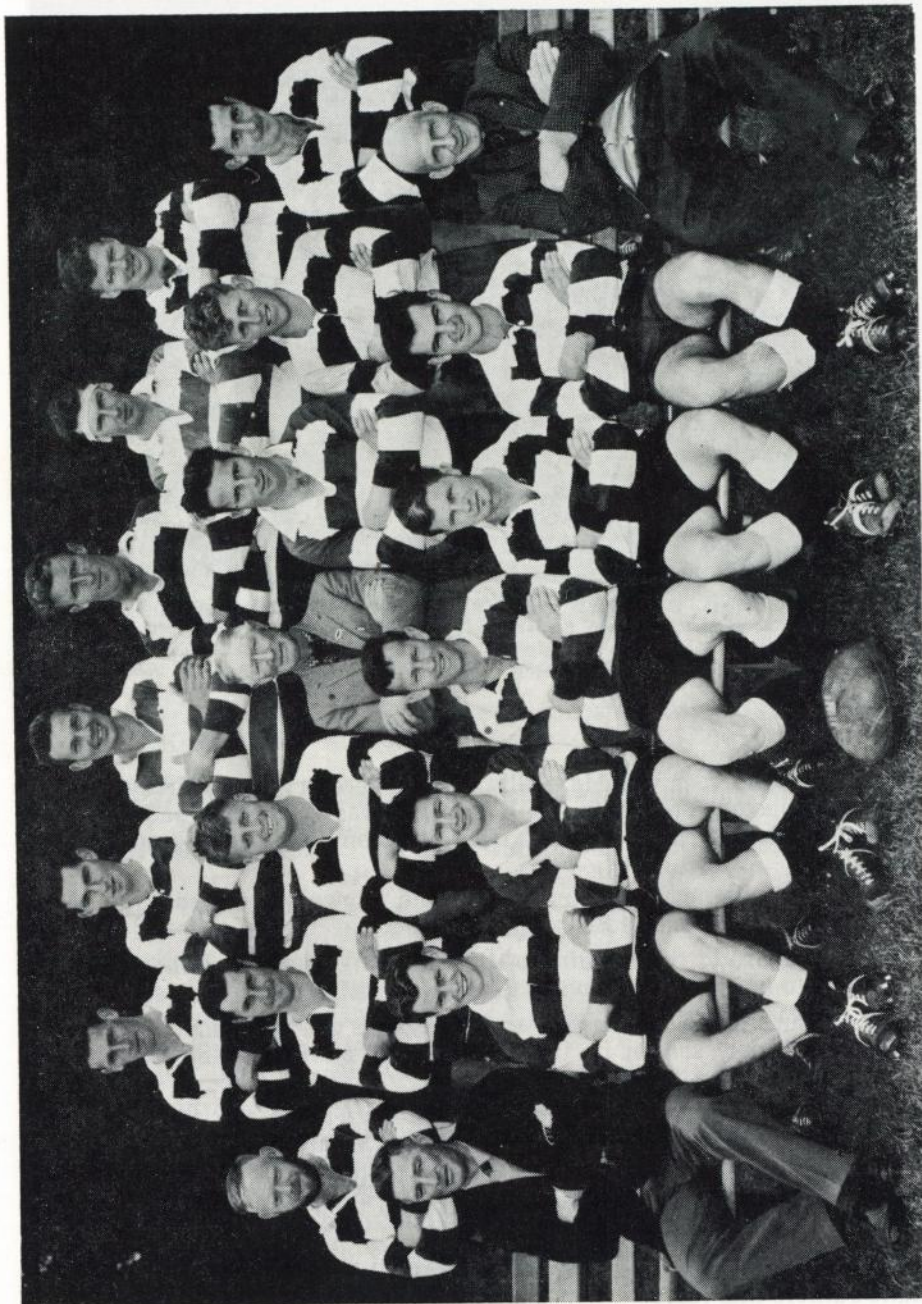
It was because of the building of the changing rooms and showers that the club was to end up at the end of the season with a financial loss of \$132.

I'm not sure of the reasons but the committee got by on meeting only 5 times for the whole season in 1963, the lowest number of meetings in a season for which we have records.

On the playing side the seniors were runners-up in the championship and knock-out competition and won the Lion and McNally Cups.

The juniors won the Brown Cup (between Waikeria and Pirongia), while in the JMB grades the 5th and 9th graders won their divisions and the 8th graders were runners-up in theirs.

One member of the Pirongia juniors, Russell Ellis, went on to represent Waikato Juniors this year.



Pirongia Football Club — Senior Team, 1963-64

1963. Back Row: P. Kewish, G. Foster, R. Ellis, L. Quarrie, R. Kewish, M. Smith, Middle Row: J. McFarlane, W. Sobye, S. Ormsby (Patron), J. Cameron, P. Scott, E. Sobye, Front Row: N. Ormsby (Coach), A. Holroyd, S. Francis, K. Ormsby (Captain), A. Beet (Vice-Captain), H. Haddock, J. Grace (Coach). Absent: T. Whitton, J. Matsen.

The Pirongia 3rd graders were not quite so successful this year and the results of their matches were as follows: v. Old Boys, won 22-5; v. St. Pat's, drew 10-10; v. College 2nd XV, lost 0-6; v. Waikeria, won 11-0; v. Kihikihi, won 21-0; v. Ohaupo, lost 3-6; v. United, drew 5-5; v. Old Boys, won 11-3; v. St. Pat's, drew 8-8; v. College 2nd XV, won 9-0; v. Waikeria, lost 12-14; v. Kihikihi, won 21-3; v. Ohaupo, lost 3-11 and v. United, lost 0-11.

1964

The 1964 season saw Max Ellis, Murray Askew and Peter Johnston again elected to their positions of President, Secretary, and Treasurer, with Jim King being elected Club Captain.

The committee this year consisted of Wyatt Shepherd, Keith Ormsby, Ellis Finch, Alan Beet, Russell Ellis and Bill Bouma.

Most of the Club's meetings this year were held in the new changing rooms that were constructed in 1963.

Three teams were fielded in the sub-union competitions, a senior (coach Noel Ormsby), a junior (coach Peter Johnston) and a 3rd grade (coach Noel Johnston).

The senior team were runners-up in the Phoenix and Knock-out Cups and they won the Lion and McInally Cups.

Members of the senior squad this year were Peter Kewish, Graham Foster, Russell Ellis, Linc Quarrie (Waikato rep this year), Bob Kewish, Murray Smith, Jim McFarlane, Bill Soby, Stuart Ormsby, John Cameron, Peter Scott, Eddy Soby, Alan Holroyd, Stan Francis, Keith Ormsby (Captain), Alan Beet, Ian Hancock, Tom Whitton and Johnnie Matson.

There were two players in the club to gain Waikato honours this year. They were Linc Quarrie (seniors), and Kevin Vickary (juniors).

Over 100 schoolboys played for Pirongia in the JMB grades this year.

All in all seven teams were fielded and the 9th and 7th graders won their divisions and the 6th grade were runners-up.

For the first time in its history the club held a dinner (on September 3rd in the Commercial Hotel, Te Awamutu).

The guest speaker was Has Catley (former All Black hooker), and the evening was such a success that dinners, with guest speakers, have been held annually ever since.

Outside the rugby club, 1964 was to see the district of Pirongia celebrate its centenary.

1965

The club had a new President this year, that of Des Whitton (the past president, Max Ellis, became Pirongia's delegate to the T.A.S.U.).

Secretary was Ian Hancock and treasurer was still Peter Johnston.

Three teams were entered, a senior, junior and 3rd grade, however, none were successful in winning their respective divisions.

The major undertaking for the club this year was the renovating of the tennis pavilion into a clubrooms for the use of the rugby and tennis clubs.

Total cost of renovating was approximately \$340 of which the Domain Board donated \$140.

About the only other exciting piece of news in 1966 was that at one meeting Peter Johnston stated his case for allowing the members of his junior team to attend the annual booze up, called Ladies Night. After a very heated discussion, a motion was passed which allowed the juniors to attend but the situation was to be "under yearly review". Geeee!

WAIKATO COMPETITION BEGINS

1966

At the AGM in 1966, Des Whitton was elected President, but after two months, Des had to resign due to an illness in the family and was replaced as President by Noel Ormsby.

Secretary this year was Russell Ellis and Treasurer was Alan Holroyd (Peter Johnston having resigned from the office after six years).

Club Captain was Jim King and the committee consisted of Jack Barr, Ellis Finch, Stuart Ellis, Ian Hancock, Bill Bouma and Ken Green.

Pirongia fielded three teams in the sub-union competitions this year, a senior under coach Jack Grace, junior under Guy Lynch, and 3rd grade under Bill Smith.

As with the previous year, however, none of the Pirongia teams managed to win their respective grades.

It was in this year 1966 that a combined Waikato competition began, but all sub-unions did not take part and it wasn't until 1968 that the Waikato competition as we know it today (with all sub-unions participating) began.

The only winning Pirongia team this year was in the JMB grade where the eighth graders amassed a grand total of 234 points for the season at an average score of 21 points a game.

Although no present member can remember exactly when it began (possibly 1959 until 1971) it was an annual event for the Pirongia R.F.C. to combine with the Maori Tribal Committee to hold a field day.

These days would take the course of the men playing rugby and ladies basketball, followed afterwards by a hangi.

In 1966 the profit for the rugby club at the field day was \$160.

1967

Officers for 1967 were President: Noel Ormsby, Secretary: Russell Ellis, Treasurer: Alan Holroyd and Club Captain John Cameron. Coaches were: senior, Keith Ormsby; junior, Guy Lynch and thirds Murray Askew.

The senior teams performance in the 1st Division of the combined Waikato competition this year was, played 15, won 2, lost 11, drew 2, but the team redeemed itself by winning the local Te Awamutu knock-out competition (which was played for after the Waikato competition had concluded).

Pirongia Football Club — Senior Team, 1967



1967. Back Row: R. J. Ormsby (Patron), M. Ellis (Manager), K. Foster, S. Thomas, R. Sherwin, L. Quarrie, R. Spence, D. Roberts, R. Donaldson, K. Ormsby (Coach). Middle Row: C. Ellis, P. Kewish, G. Whittaker, R. Ellis (Captain), K. Gardiner, L. Wheeler, P. Kelk. Front Row: P. Scott, E. Sebby, K. Silvester, A. Beet, K. Smith, S. Ellis.

They won the knock-out final by beating St. Pat's 19-3. Scorers for Pirongia were Ken Silvester, Alan Beet, Colin Ellis, and Kevin Smith, 1 try each, and Peter Scott kicked 2 conversions and 1 penalty.

In the JMB grades the 6th and 7th graders had the best season, both being runners-up in their divisions.

On the administration side it was decided to convert the old water heater in the changing rooms from a wood burner to electricity, however, this was not completed until the following year, 1968.

It was this year, 1967, that Jack Grace became a life member of the club, after years of service both as a player and administrator.

Around this period in the club's history, an annual event, to raise money for club funds, was to hold a "Family Night".

At these nights films would be shown and they would also have stalls, raffles and spinning wheels etc. The profit from the Family Night this year was \$86.

1963

At the AGM in 1968 Keith Johnston was elected the club's new President, and a new secretary was Mark Des Landes. Treasurer was still Alan Holroyd and Club Captain John Cameron.

The committee was John Ellis, Ernie Randall, Ken Green, Peter Kewish, Lewis Wheeler, Russell Ellis and Noel Ormsby.

Three teams were entered this year, a senior (coach Keith Ormsby), junior (coach Neil Tye) and 3rd grade (coach unknown).

We don't know how the senior team finished up at the end of the Waikato competition, but an old programme we found showed that with three games to go, Pirongia were in seventh (out of seventeen) position, having played thirteen games for eight wins, 4 losses and a draw.

Members of the 1968 senior squad were Stan Francis, Peter Kelk, Eddie Soby, Ken Silvester, M. O'Brien, Stuart Ellis, Colin Bertelsen, Peter Kewish, Steve Thomas, Richard Sherwin, Russell Ellis, Lewis Wheeler, Max Berntsen, Peter Scott, Colin Ellis, M. Crook, Kevin Smith, Bruce Ellis, John Ellis, P. Barker, Alan Beet, T. Hooten and George Whittaker.

The club's finance in 1968 stood at a healthy \$633 (compared with the \$132 loss in 1963) and as mentioned before a new water heater was installed in the changing rooms costing the club approximately \$320.

Also undertaken by the club this year, were renovations to the combined tennis and rugby clubrooms. The approximate cost of this was \$1805 (of which \$800 was donated towards by the Domain Board).

It was also in 1968 that Guy Lynch was given the honour of selecting the Te Awamutu juniors, something that has very rarely happened to a Pirongia member and further mention of this will be made towards the end of this booklet.

1939

Officers for 1969 were President Keith Johnston, Secretary, Colin Ellis, Treasurer, John Ellis and the committee consisted of Peter Kewish, Lewis Wheeler, Russell Ellis, Noel Ormsby, Richard Sherwin, E. Young and John Lorimer.

Pirongia Football Club — Seventh Grade Team, 1969



1969. Back Row: D. Macky, D. Livingstone, D. Davis, W. Cutforth, M. Maxwell, R. Hoyes, A. Harper.
Middle Row: M. French, S. Smith, P. Macky (Captain), G. Stockman, P. King, I. Macky (Coach).
Front Row: M. Eyre, R. McLeod. Inserts: B. Murray (Vice-capt.), R. Vickers
Absent: P. Walters, D. Gane.

Because of a lack of players only a senior and junior team was entered in the sub-union competitions this year. Coaches for the seniors were John Cameron and Keith Ormsby and the juniors coach was Neil Tye.

However, Neil Tye had to pull out halfway through the season and Richard Sherwin took over as coach.

The seniors, now in the second division of the Waikato competition, performed very well, finishing in fifth place behind Hamilton United, Tokoroa, City and Pirates.

Their results at the end of the season were: played 15, won 10, lost 3, drew 2. Points for were 258 and against 130.

The senior squad this year was Stan Francis, Peter Kelk, Kevin Smith, Ken Silvester, R. Nicole, Stuart Ellis, Colin Bertelsen, Peter Kewish, Ken Titchener, Max Berntsen, Russell Ellis, Lewis Wheeler, Garry Bouma, Ken Green, John Lorimer, Peter Scott, B. Grounds, Trevor Kewish, Brian Baynes, Steve Thomas, Colin Ellis, Eddie Soby and John Ellis.

In the JMB grades the 8th graders finished 3rd, 6th graders 2nd and the 7th graders won their division and were equal first with St. Pat's for the Scanlan Trophy.

Over the season the 7th graders, under coach Ian Macky, scored a fantastic 326 points for only 6 against (no match was lost out of the 15 games they played).

Activities off the field this year included furnishing the renovated clubrooms.

Needed were chairs, tables, heaters, lino and curtains and of the total cost of these items \$200 was donated by the Domain Board.

1970

A new President was elected for the 1970 season, that of Keith Ormsby. Also a new appointment was the secretary Charlie Coles. Treasurer was still John Ellis and the committee was Russell Ellis, Gary Bouma, Peter Scott, Noel Ormsby, Lewis Wheeler, E. Young, Colin Ellis and Stuart Ellis.

Once again 3 teams were entered in competitions. Coach of the seniors was John Cameron, and this year the senior team finished about half way on the ladder in the second division of the Waikato competition.

Pirongia senior players who were selected to play representative rugby for Te Awamutu in 1970 were Russell and Stuart Ellis, Peter Scott and Erin Donaldson.

Both the junior and third grade teams (under coaches Richard Sherwin and Colin Ellis) had mixed seasons. the main problem being that they were young and inexperienced.

Pirongia juniors who played in the Te Awamutu reps this year were Chris White, Barry Smallbridge, Dave Smith and Neville Thornton.

Third grade players to make the reps were Geoff Signal, Phillip Eyre, Brian Cook, Colin Murray and Lloyd Ellis.

In the JMB grades seven teams were entered and Pirongia had the most number of players ever selected for the Gwynne Shield team.

They included Robbie Hoyes, Graham Stockman, Monty Maxwell, Bryce Murray, Stephen Markham, Kelvin Anderson, David Macky and Douglas Wyllie.

On the administration side Harold Sherwin had the honour of being elected President of the Waikato Rugby Union — the only Pirongia club member in 100 years to achieve this honour.

Another club member to have given long service to the club, Guy Lynch, this year donated a cup which is now awarded annually to the player who the club thinks deserves the title of "Club Sportsman of the Year."

A committee consisting of the President, Coaches and Club Captain choose this annual award and they take into account the members playing ability, contribution to the administration side of things and his all-round sportsmanship.

Also started this year was the writing up of a monthly newsletter about club activities. The first editors were Keith Ormsby, Max Ellis and Charlie Coles.

1971

Keith Ormsby was still the club's President in 1971, and Secretary was Charlie Coles, Treasurer was John Ellis and Club Captain was Max

Ellis and the committee comprised Garry Bouma, Neil Clarke, Brian Baynes, Ken Silvester, E. Young, Noel Ormsby, Neville Thornton and Russell Ellis.

Only two teams were fielded in the sub-union competitions — a senior (under coach John Cameron) and 3rd grade (under coach Peter Kewish).

Results of senior matches in 1971 were: v. Eastern Suburbs, lost 0-26; v. Hautapu, lost 3-12; v. Melville, lost 11-25; v. Hinuera, won 14-6; v. Matangi-Hillcrest, won 11-0; v. Cambridge United, won 22-11; v. Te Rapa, won 18-0; v. Morrinsville Old Boys, won 19-0; v. Ohaupo, won 6-3; v. Cambridge United, drew 6-6; v. Huntly, lost 6-17; v. Te Awamutu United, lost 9-11; v. Leamington, lost 3-31; v. Ohaupo, won 18-6; v. St. Pat's, won 10-3; v. Old Boys, lost 6-14.

Although the club possibly didn't realise it at the time, the previous year (1970) was to be the last year that the club had sufficient players to field a senior, junior and 3rd grade all in one season.

From now on only a senior and/or junior or 3rd grade could be fielded.

Subscriptions this year were seniors \$10.00, 3rd grade \$9.00.

The financial position of the club was improving with every year and in 1971 there was \$236 in the P.O.S.B. and \$900 in a Waikato Savings Bank Investment account.

Although the seniors or 3rd graders didn't win their respective divisions they once again provided a number of players for the Te Awamutu representative teams.

Senior players to play for the reps this year were Peter Scott, Stuart Ellis and Brian Baynes, while 3rd grade reps included Barry Smallbridge, Guy Livingston, David Smith and Neville Thornton.

In the JMB grade only Bruce Smith's fifth grade won a competition.

Two Pirongia members Graeme Stockman and Darryl Godsiff gained Gwynne Shield selection this year and Graeme went further and gained selection to the Waikato Roller Mills team.

On the administration side Harold Sherwin was again elected President of the T.A.S.U. and Max Ellis was elected Vice-President.

It can also be seen this year exactly how long Pirongia took to build new clubrooms because Russell Ellis, in September, submitted to the committee a broad outline of clubroom extensions.

However, it was to be five years later (1976) before the building was finally opened.

Social activities for club members in '71 included a "Country and Western" cabaret evening, a past v. present game, the annual golf day and the annual dinner at which the All Black selector Pat Walsh was guest speaker.

At the dinner Pat also presented the "Guy Lynch" Trophy to Colin MacDonald, the most improved senior cup to Donald Millin, and the most improved third grade cup to Alan Burchell.

1972

A new President for the club was elected in '72, that of Garry Bouma. Secretary was Charlie Coles and Treasurer was Kelvin Smith, however Charlie was to go overseas to Taiwan, on a Government programme, before the season finished and Kelvin Smith became secretary and Russell Ellis became treasurer.

The committee was John Cameron, Keith and Noel Ormsby, Max Ellis, Neil Clarke, Peter Scott, John Ellis, Ken Green, Guy Livingston, Colin MacDonald and Brian Baynes.

Again two teams were fielded in sub-union competitions, a senior and third grade.

The seniors, under coach Peter Kewish, had a disappointing season, results of their matches being:- v. St. Joseph's, lost 0-6; v. Huntly, won 4-3; v. Te Rapa, won 13-6; v. Matangi-Hillcrest, lost 3-10; v. Te Akau, lost 0-3; v. Te Rapa, won 10-6; v. Morrinsville Old Boys, lost 7-9; v. Matangi-Hillcrest, lost 13-16; v. Ohaupo, won 26-7; v. Northern, won 17-7; v. Ngaruawahia, lost 6-40; v. Patatere, lost 4-6; v. Melville, lost 3-20; v. Cambridge United, won 31-9; v. Te Akau, lost 6-15; v. Eastern Suburbs, lost 0-9; v. St. Pat's, lost 7-15; v. Old Boys, lost 14-25; v. Ohaupo, lost 14-22.

Senior squad members were: Neil Clarke, Jack Mailman, Geof Law, Kelvin Smith, Stuart Ellis, Mike O'Brien, Roger Chase, John Scott, Fraser Anderson, Brian Baynes, Collin Ellis, Ross Gibson, Ken Green, Peter Scott, Colin MacDonald, Don Millin, Robbie Gilbert, Ross Wilkie, John Lorimer and Alan Lowan.

Once again the only winning Pirongia teams came in the JMB grades where the 6ths won their division and the 8ths the Scanlan Trophy.

On reading through the minute books for '72 I came across an entry which perhaps suggests that the players were more interested in what went on after their matches, rather than during.

The entry was that the club would sell beer at 40c a bottle — except on training nights — when players could drink to their heart's content at the bargain price of 35c a bottle.

1973

The usual practice of holding the AGM at the commencement of a season was changed in 1973 and the AGM was held at the end of that season. Although it might help in the administration of the club to know who the committee etc is months before a season starts there do not appear to be any other great benefits from holding an early AGM.

Officers for the 1973 season were: President: Max Ellis; secretary: Kelvin Smith; treasurer: Russell Ellis; club captain: John Cameron; committee: Noel Ormsby, Ian Macky, Brian Baynes, Peter Scott, Guy Livingston, Fraser Anderson, Colin Ellis, Keith Ormsby, Ken Green, Neil Clarke, Colin MacDonald, Ron Henderson.

The coach of this year's 3rd grade was Richard Sherwin and the senior coach was Peter Kewish.

Results of senior games this season were: v. Ohaupo, won 34-14; v. City, lost 9-25; v. Te Akau, won 13-9; v. C.C.N.Z., lost 6-12; v. Northern, lost 6-16; v. Ohaupo, won 22-0; v. Morrinsville Old Boys, won 9-0; v. Cambridge United, drew 13-13; v. Ngaruawahia, lost 4-6; v. Hamilton United, won 15-10; v. Patatere, lost 6-10; v. Te Akau, lost 0-4; v. Matamata United, lost 0-30; v. Te Rapa, lost 10-15; v. Old Boys, lost 9-11; v. C.C.N.Z. lost 0-28; v. Leamington, lost 0-32; v. St. Pat's lost 6-20; v. United, lost 9-16.

Results of 3rd grade games are not known but one member of that team Guy Livingston this year was selected for the Waikato third grade reps.

Once again Pirongia club member Harold Sherwin was elected T.A.S.U. President and Max Ellis vice-president.

Noel Ormsby who for a number of years was (and still is) our club delegate to T.A.S.U. was this year elected Te Awamutu's delegate to the Waikato Rugby Union.

Fund raising for the projected new clubrooms was gaining momentum and at the end of '73, \$1,700 was put in an investment account in the Waikato Savings Bank. This money had been raised through raffles, donations, the grazing of stock, selling of hay and bobby calves.

One other method of fund raising was used in which \$1,100 was raised but because of its dubious legality that's all the mention we will make of it.

Although it was not directly connected with the rugby club, it was this year that the Pirongia School held its centenary.

1974

Once again the AGM was held at the end of the 1973 season and Max Ellis was again elected president.

Secretary was Kelvin Smith and because of the number of fund raising activities two treasurers were elected this year, Russell Ellis and Colin MacDonald. Committee members were John Cameron, Noel Ormsby, Peter Kewish, Guy Livingston, Fraser Anderson, Colin Ellis, Harry Barlow, Ken Green, John Lorimer, Chris White, Brian Ryburn, Colin MacDonald, Geof Law and Ian Macky.

Third grade coach was Richard Sherwin and the seniors had a new coach, Murray (Buck) Sanders.

For the senior team it was quite a successful season. In the 3rd Division of the Waikato competition they finished 3rd equal. If however they had won their last match against Northern (lost 0-3) the team would have finished 1st equal with Matamata United.

Results for the seniors were: v. Morrinsville Old Boys, won 15-3; v. Matangi Hillcrest, lost 3-9; v. Te Akau, lost 9-23; v. Taupiri, lost 6-12; v. City, lost 11-35; v. Taupiri, drew 10-10; v. Morrinsville Old Boys, won 12-0; v. Matamata United, lost 6-9; v. C.C.N.Z., won 21-9; v. Ngaruawahia, won 15-3; v. Te Rapa, won, 22-0; v. Cambridge United, won 24-11; v. Ohaupo, won 31-6; v. Athletic, won 13-0; v. Te Akau, won 18-3; v. Northern, lost 0-3.



1974. Back Row: J. Law, M. Kay, A. Lowen, J. Mailman, C. White, S. Ellis, J. Lorimer, F. Anderson, B. Cutforth. Middle Row: L. Wheeler, P. Kewish, D. Smith, C. Scott, N. Scott, R. Gilbert, B. Baynes, G. Livingston, J. Cameron (Club Captain), C. McDonald, R. Henderson (Manager), J. Scott (Captain), M. Sanders (Coach), K. Ellis (President), K. Smith (Vice-Captain and Secretary), P. Scott, D. Barr. Absent: K. Green, R. Chase.

In the local Cambridge-Te Awamutu competition the results were: v. Hautapu, lost 12-20; v. Old Boys, lost 0-13; v. St. Pat's lost 0-10; v. United, lost 12-13; v. Leamington, lost 3-44.

In the JMB grades the 10th and 7th graders were successful and one member of the 7th grade Michael Ryburn was selected for the Gwynne Shield team.

The club's financial position was further consolidated this year with \$6,500 being invested and with other money's still to come in the fund for the new clubrooms was estimated to reach \$10,000, before the season finished.

Once again the club members of Harold Sherwin, Max Ellis, and Noel Ormsby were elected to their respective Te Awamutu Sub-Union positions of President, Vice-President, and Waikato Rugby Union delegate.

1975

At the AGM for the '75 season Max Ellis was president and back in the ranks after 2 years in Taiwan was Charlie Coles who was elected secretary. Treasurer was Russell Ellis, with Colin MacDonald his assistant. Committee members were Noel Ormsby, Ron Henderson, Brian Gordon, Peter Kewish, John Lorimer, Fraser Anderson, John Cameron, Ken Green, Chris White, Brian Baynes, Richard Sherwin, Bill Bouma, Peter Scott and John Scott.

Coach of the 3rd graders was Colin Ellis and seniors "Buck" Sanders, however neither teams were successful in their divisions.

By far the biggest project this year for the club was the building of new clubrooms.

On Easter of this year the old clubrooms were shifted to a temporary position, about 50 yards from where they originally were, and construction of the new clubrooms began.

By the end of the '75 season \$17,000 had been spent on the new building.

Novel ways of raising money for the clubrooms were the selling of goats (up till this time \$1,559 had been raised by this method), the selling of pongas (one day worked on these netted \$1,687, and another day \$2,200), the selling of stones to a nursery (they in turn sold them to people for rock gardens), painting of buildings and the usual selling of donated bobby calves and other stock.

Timber for the new clubrooms was donated by Peter Johnston, who had some pine trees on his property which the club had cut down and milled.

Although a building firm did the main construction part of the clubrooms a great amount of the work was done voluntarily by tradesmen within the club.

And so the club had come to the eve of its 100 years of existence but before the event is recorded let us recall, what I hope will be some items of interest to you all.

1976 – CENTENARY YEAR AND CELEBRATIONS

The 1976 season for Pirongia was certainly one to remember because not only did the club celebrate 100 years of existence but on April 3rd the new clubrooms were officially opened.

There was a gathering of about 250 people on the night and the new rooms were opened in grand style.

In the weeks between the opening and the centenary celebrations a lot of work went on: new concrete paths were laid, fences put up, Mrs Barbara Walter kindly donated and planted shrubs around the building and various finishing jobs inside the clubrooms were completed.

And so on Friday, June 18th, past and present members gathered for the club's jubilee.

At the Friday Night Smoko 220 members reminisced over past matches and memories, and a most enjoyable night was had by all.

On Saturday 19th, at 9.30 a.m. J.M.B. rugby started and after their completion at 11.00 a.m. a parade of all players, past and present was held.

All members then gathered on the Pirongia tennis courts for photos taken by Keith Wing and Charlie Coles.

Following the taking of photos, 220 members gathered for a luncheon in the clubrooms.

Rugby matches after the luncheon were Pirongia 3rd Grade (3) v. Ohaupo 3rd Grade (10) and Pirongia Seniors (14) v. Ohaupo Seniors (9).

Scorers for Pirongia seniors were: Chris White, Geof Ormsby 1 try each, and Peter Scott, 1 conversion and penalty.

Ohaupo kicked 3 penalties.

The evening festivities on Saturday night took the form of a Grand Ball and Dinner.

About 450 people attended the Dinner and Ball and a tremendous evening was naturally enjoyed by everyone.

So great in fact was the enjoyment that the last to leave were not home long before the Sunday sun had risen.

But unfortunately, the Sunday sun did not last and from about 8.00 a.m. onwards it would have been impossible to have had a worse day to play our Invitation rugby matches on.

It rained, it blew and it was bitterly cold when the Pirongia 3rd Graders (4) were beaten by Te Awamutu College XV (10).

In the main game, a Pirongia Invitation XV (containing Waikato, King Country and Hawke's Bay reps) beat a Harlequin Team (also consisting of various representative grade players) by 42-34.

Only two Pirongia seniors played in the match, they were Peter and John Scott.

Although the conditions were atrocious the players responded magnificently and it left the large crowd wondering what might have happened had the day been fine.

At the after match function the clubrooms were full to capacity, and mention here must be made of the Pirongia Ladies Committee, who put on the best meal of the weekend for everyone present (which must have been over 300) and all the food was cooked by the ladies themselves.

It was indeed a tremendous end to a tremendous weekend.

Pirongia R.F.C. Senior Team



Back Row: Colin MacDonald (Manager), Paul Mason, Cameron Scott, Ken Scott, Des Barr, Brian Baynes, Barry John, Geoff Ormsby, Murray Sanders (Coach).
Middle Row: Guy Livingston, Bernie Scott, Neil Scott (observed), Alan Sutherland, Fraser Anderson, Rob Gilbert, Chris White.
Front Row: Ian MacDonald, Phillip Eyre, Basil Lowe, Kelvin Smith, John Scott (Captain), Peter Scott, John Lorimer, Neville Thornton.

Pirongia 3rd Grade



Back Row: D. Ormsby, R. Ormsby, D. Veen, D. Livingston, G. Reyner, G. King, B. Cornish, P. Gardiner.
Middle Row: C. Wanless, R. Kendall, P. Marwood, K. Allen, M. Montgomery, S. Smith, J. Corbett, D. Mitchell, J. Jury.
Front Row: D. Livingston (Manager), J. Kendall, K. Whittaker, D. Wyllie (Captain), W. Strong (Vice-Captain), L. Coomber, C. Ellis (Coach).
Absent: T. Wightman, G. Henderson, R. Cameron, M. Jones.

Random Recollections

SELF CONTROL

In the late 1920's (it also can happen now) the spectators at Pirongia used to get so involved in the match that they used to encroach on to the field of play.

But not for too long because the self appointed crowd controller Para Turner, who was about 22 st, used to keep order by brandishing a very large stick, and if that didn't have the desired effect of getting the spectators back, a short sharp belt with the stick did.

HE SPURRED THEM ON

It so happened that a Paterangi player was late for the game (the year and his name are forgotten), but he charged up to the ground on his horse, leapt off and charged straight into the match.

However, after about 5 minutes, the referee stopped play because of a lot of blood appeared on the players — our late arrived player had forgotten to take off his spurs.

THREE DIFFERENT HEADQUARTERS

To the best of our knowledge Pirongia has had in its 100 years 3 different grounds as its headquarters.

Possibly the first ground on which rugby was played in Pirongia was on Mr Alcock's farm at what is known as the Kawhia Corner (from about 1917-1926). Then the club shifted to a paddock on Lin Macky's farm opposite the gates into the present Golf Club. This was from about 1926-31. Finally on the 13th June, 1931, the club shifted to its present day position at the Domain, in Pirongia.

Changing facilities were almost non-existent in those early days

At the Kawhia corner ground the local carriers buildings were used and at Lin Macky's property players changed under the trees or behind a hedge. Later on the luxury of a tin shed was added.

Even when the club shifted to its present position at the domain those early players had to cross the road and wash in a spring, after the match.

SELECTED FEW

Throughout its 100 years Pirongia has had very few club members who have gone on to become a selector for either Te Awamutu sub-union teams or Waikato rep teams.

E. P. S. Yorke, who was headmaster at Pirongia Primary School, went on to become selector for Te Awamutu sub-union reps about 1935 and was also a co-selector for the Waikato senior reps about the same time.

Mr Yorke in fact is the only Pirongia member to have ever selected a Waikato team, and although he was headmaster at the local school there is even doubt amongst present members as to whether he was actually a member of our club or not.

Other men from Pirongia to select Te Awamutu rep teams were Jack Grace (seniors about 1955-56), Barry Griffith (juniors 1958) and Guy Lynch the Te Awamutu juniors in 1968/69. (In 1969 Guy had Charlie Coles as his assistant).

HE DOESN'T HORSE AROUND

Jack Macky, who in the 30's-early forties was a prominent club member, being a former player, secretary, president and the taker on of 101 other club jobs has since that time become an extremely successful horse breeder.

Jack has in fact bred the winners of a Melbourne Cup (Red Handed), an Auckland Cup (Senor), a Wellington Cup (Gay Filou), two New Zealand Cups (Calibrate and Noir Filou) and a Caulfield Cup (Big Philou).

WE NEARLY BEAT 'EM

The furthestest afield that any senior Pirongia team has travelled was to Petone in 1968 and they lost 0-30.

Realising the limitations of their ability to conquer they proceeded in 1970 to go not so far away and went to Inglewood where they were unlucky to lose 3-40. Further realising their limitations to conquer senior rugby trips since then have been to Taupo (for golf) and Tauranga (for fishing) — no rugby has been played on either occasion.

TWO IN ONE

Only once in 100 years has the Pirongia R.F.C. had two successful championship winning teams in the one year (i.e. the seniors have won and also the 3rd graders and/or junior team have won). Do you know what year it was?

Coach of the seniors was Noel Ormsby and the 3rd graders were coached by Noel Johnson.

The year — 1962.

DUTY CALLS

To the best of our knowledge only two former Pirongia club members have gone on to serve the country in a political role.

Jim Macky, CBE, was Commissioner of Works from 1972-74, and Jack Scott who was a member for Rodney from 1966-76, became in the Holyoake Government, Minister of Marine and Postmaster General.

FROM PIRONGIA TO TWICKERS

One member of Pirongia has had the very great honour of playing on the hallowed turf at Twickenham, England.

He is Bill Bell who played fullback for the 1940 Army team against England.

Press cuttings tell us that Bill was the best visiting fullback seen there for 15 years.

Bill would probably have gone on to much greater achievements but for the fact that Adolf Hitler decided he needed a four year holiday as guest of the German Reich.

Before representing the N.Z. Army team in Britain Bill gained Waikato Rep honours in 1935.

WAIKATO PRESIDENT

The only Pirongia club member to be elected to the position of president of the Waikato Rugby Union is Harold Sherwin.

Harold has in fact held three different presidencies in rugby.

From 1956 to 1960 he was president of Pirongia and then from 1961 to 1976 he was president of the Te Awamutu Sub-Union, and for the 1970/71 seasons Harold was president of Waikato.

For his long and varied services to Pirongia Harold was given a life membership of the club in 1974.

At present Harold is chairman of the Waipa County Council.

HE HAD THAT RING OF CONFIDENCE

I just couldn't let this story go by.

It happened in 1957/58 (we're not sure which year) when Harold Sherwin was sound asleep in bed at about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Harold was awoken by the phone ringing and upon answering it he heard someone speaking in a very slurred voice (I am not allowed to say it was Ted Fuller, who was the Pirongia rugby club secretary at the time, and I'm not allowed to tell you he was carrying more turps in his blood system than a Lion Brewery tanker carries beer).

Well after conversing with Ted for about ten minutes Harold hung up the phone only to be awakened again 5 minutes later, by the same phone and by the same person at the other end.

Half an hour went by and after answering and hanging up the phone for the fourth time Harold decided to try the devilishly cunning trick of leaving the receiver off the hook, after which he went back to sleep, thinking that was that.

He really jumped when an hour later the phone started ringing again.

Ted Fuller, upon realising what Harold had done, had come round to Harold's place, climbed in his bedroom window, put the phone back on the hook, then went back to his place, and rung Harold up again. Well done Ted! How they let a man with such perseverance as you had leave the district I'll never know.

LADIES COMMITTEE

No jubilee booklet would be complete, I feel, without mention being made of the contribution that the ladies committee has made to the club in its 100 year history.

Indeed one of the club's six life members is a lady, Mrs Jane Beet, although I'm sure all the ladies, past and present, who have been connected with the club throughout its 100 years, are deserving of a title also.

From washing jerseys to providing afternoon teas, from milking cows on Saturday nights to putting up with the old man's hang-over on Sunday mornings, from freezing to death on the sideline on a Saturday morning watching "junior" play to patching up torn rugby gear, and for 1001 other things, too numerous to mention, you name it, the ladies do it.

And it's quite interesting to note that while it's called a ladies committee, they have never had a meeting and they have never elected officers, in fact although given the said title, there is no such thing as a ladies committee.

They are the wives and girlfriends of players, officials and supporters of the club, and no words that I can write will ever do justice to the time, work and effort that they have done for Pirongia R.F.C. over the years.

I can only say, thanks ladies, we are proud of you.

JUNIOR BOY RUGBY

Over the years the Pirongia R.F.C. has encouraged the playing of rugby by junior boys (another thing to partly thank the ladies committee for, wives that is — not girlfriends) in its area, and each year a great amount of interest is generated amongst the parents and boys who participate. I don't think all of us realise just what is involved in organising the playing of junior boys rugby.

Each year at the Pirongia AGM a delegate from our club is elected to attend the Te Awamutu Junior Management Board meetings and he reports back to the club's monthly meetings.

Also elected at our AGM is a junior boys referee appointee and the person elected has the unenviable task of seeing that referees are available to control any games that are set down to be played locally on any particular Saturday.

As well as all this jerseys have to be washed and mended and transport to away games has to be arranged and the club relies heavily on parent support for this.

Junior boy rugby has been, and still is, very successful in Pirongia and the club is indebted to all those parents and others who have helped since junior boy rugby was instigated.

OH OPARAU!

An excerpt from the "Waikato Times" dated September 14th, 1903 reads as follows:

"All concerned are wondering what happened to the Oparau players; whether an epidemic of funk prevailed amongst them or whether they were afraid that the Raglan men upon their own ground might not tolerate the tactics of 'win, tie or wrangle'".

PINCHED FROM HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND RUGBY, 1870-1945

Although it is not connected with Pirongia how about these three 'gems' from the "Waikato Times", of earlier years:

Saturday, July 21st, 1883:

"It is hard lines that no property, public or private, is safe from the depredations of larrikins. One of the cross-bars of the Hamilton Football Club goals was deliberately stolen by some miscreant on Sunday last.

Tuesday, April 18th, 1876

"The scratch match was also put off to the same day, owing, to the illness of the football which met with a severe accident, having, in fact, to speak rather coarsely, "busted", but as the footballers are evidently in earnest and mean to have a good season, the necessary repairs will soon be effected."

May 23rd, 1907:

"Probably the most appropriate banner possessed by any football club in New Zealand is that of a team at Raetihi. They style themselves 'Fern-rooters' and the banner is a boar's hide, with head and tusks complete, all mounted on a pole."

HONOURS BOARD

PRESIDENTS

We apologise for any member who may have been President of Pirongia before 1945 and whose name is not recorded.

As no records were kept we are afraid their names have been lost forever.

1923	J. L. (Lyn) Macky (J. L. (Lyn) Macky was President before and after 1923 but no exact dates are known).	1956	H. A. (Harold) Sherwin
1934	Dr J. B. W. Robertson (Suburbs)	1957	H. A. (Harold) Sherwin
1945	E. C. (Ted) Beet	1958	H. A. (Harold) Sherwin
1946	J. L. (Jack) Macky	1959	H. A. (Harold) Sherwin
1947	E. C. (Ted) Beet (Pirongia-Rovers)	1960	H. A. (Harold) Sherwin
1948	E. C. (Ted) Beet (Pirongia-Rovers)	1961	M. N. (Max) Ellis
1949	E. C. (Ted) Beet (Pirongia-Rovers)	1962	M. N. (Max) Ellis
1950	E. C. (Ted) Beet (Pirongia-Rovers)	1963	M. N. (Max) Ellis
1951	E. C. (Ted) Beet (Pirongia)	1964	M. N. (Max) Ellis
1952	J. J. (Jack) Grace	1965	D. (Des) Whitton
1953	J. J. (Jack) Grace	1966	D. (Des) Whitton
1954	F. J. (Fred) McVerry	1968	K. M. (Keith) Johnson
1955	F. J. (Fred) McVerry	1967	N. J. R. (Noel) Ormsby
		1969	K. M. (Keith) Johnson
		1970	K. P. (Keith) Ormsby
		1971	K. P. (Keith) Ormsby
		1972	G. (Gary) Bouma
		1973	M. N. (Max) Ellis
		1974	M. N. (Max) Ellis
		1975	M. N. (Max) Ellis
		1976	M. N. (Max) Ellis

LIFE MEMBERS:

Mrs Jane Beet
Mr E. C. (Ted) Beet
Mr R. J. (Bob) Ormsby
Mr J. J. (Jack) Grace
Mr R. (Ray) Johnson
Mr H. A. (Harold) Sherwin

ALL BLACK:

J. G. (Jim) Wynyard, 1935/1938

(Jim was killed in action at El Alamein on November 2nd, 1942.

He played for Pirongia when they were combined with Ohaupo and Kihikihi under the name of Suburbs).

REST OF NEW ZEALAND:

J. G. (Jim) Wynyard, 1939

ALL BLACK TRIALISTS:

J. G. (Jim) Wynyard, 1935/38/39.

A. E. (Albie) Rowan, 1948/49/50.

NEW ZEALAND ARMY TEAM, 1940 (In Great Britain):

W. (Bill) Bell

NORTH ISLAND REPS:

J. G. (Jim) Wynyard, 1938

A. E. (Albie) Rowan, 1939

WAIKATO REPS:

Forbes, 1876/78

Cooper, 1878

MacFarlane, 1878

J. L. (Lyn) Macky, 1901 to 1907

R. Malloy, 1924

J. (Jack) Davies, 1926

E. S. (Eric) Bell, 1926

R. Wynyard, 1932/34/35

J. (Jack) Askew (Suburbs), 1934

J. G. (Jim) Wynyard (Suburbs), 1934

M. (Putty) Bell (Suburbs), 1934

W. (Bill) Bell (Suburbs), 1935

K. M. (Keith) Johnson, 1943

D. G. (Dave) Barton (Pirongia Rovers), 1947

R. (Bob) Hinton (Pirongia-Rovers) 1947/48/49

A. E. (Albie) Rowan (Pirongia-Rovers) 1947/48/49/50

R. A. (Dick) Adam (Pirongia-Rovers), 1949/50

R. A. (Dick) Adam represented Pirongia when they were combined with Rovers. While playing for Te Awamutu United he also represented Waikato in the 1951/52/53/55/56 seasons and a N.Z. XV in 1952.

N. J. R. (Noel) Ormsby, 1950

L. W. (Linc) Quarrie, 1964/65/66

K. P. (Keith) Ormsby, Waikato Maoris (1962)

It should also be recorded that many more Pirongia players could have played for Waikato in those early horse and buggy days but because of the time and distance involved it was physically impossible for them to leave their farm and/or place of work for the length of time required.