

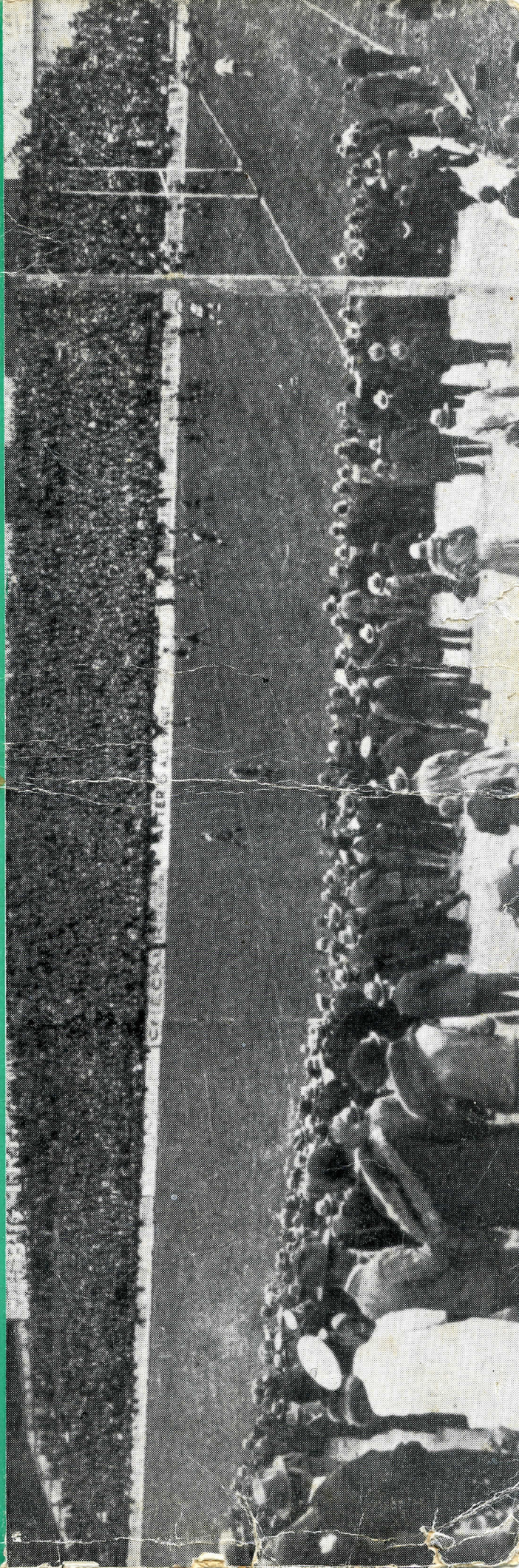
# Marist Memories

1919-1969

BY TERENCE HYLAND

*Published to coincide with the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Auckland Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Football Club (Inc.)*

\$1.80



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**TRIBUTE TO MR. CLIFF TRILLO**

*One of Nature's Gentlemen to whom the Marist Club and the Rugby League Code owe an immense debt of gratitude. Without his wonderful assistance the publication of this book would not have been possible.*

*There are moments in life when mere words are insufficient to adequately portray one's innermost feelings.*

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B. Starnment

DEDICATED TO THAT GRAND COTERIE OF GENTLEMEN, WHO, FIFTY YEARS AGO, INSPIRED BY FORTITUDE, RESOLUTION AND FORESIGHT FECUNDATED THE EMBRYO OF THEIR DREAMS — THIS MARIST, THIS EFFULGENT, ETERNAL, EXAMPLE OF EARNEST ENDEAVOUR.

*As autumn leaves fall on this April night  
The glorious past beckons, a celestial light  
To remembrance — sweet remembrance.*

**M** is for mastery, of our opponents to display  
**A** is for ambition, to succeed in every way  
**R** is for referee, we acknowledge and obey  
**I** is for ideals, no interception can waylay  
**S** is for strength, on defence and attack  
**T** is for tenacity, from hooker to full back.

**B** is for beauty we find in this life  
**R** is for romance, eternal from strife  
**O** is for opposition, to sweep to defeat  
**T** is for temptation, to resist, to beat  
**H** is for help, so close one knows  
**E** is for enterprise, a good player shows  
**R** is for remembrance, of golden years  
**S** is for supporters, our sweethearts of cheers

**O** is for objectives, we strive to attain  
**L** is for legends, let mortals remain  
**D** is for devotion, no barriers restrain

**B** is for brilliance, to inspire our flocks  
**O** is for opportunity, we hope often knocks  
**Y** is for youth, the joy it imparts  
**S** is for springtime, the season departs

**R** is Rugby, L is League, born eighteen ninety-five  
**F** is for football, the fraternity that parades  
**C** is for club, that creates such comrades.

(A fiftyline Golden Jubilee Tribute)

### MARIST

These letters, these words, portray  
inspiration  
Always our succour, our dedication  
As years intermingle and life's  
twilight falls  
Beautiful are the moments that one  
recalls.

The pleasures we recall, the people  
we've met  
Memories too lovely to ever forget  
The treasures of football, could  
perish never  
Memories locked in our hearts for  
ever.

What of the ladies beyond compare?  
Who follow our fortunes year by  
year  
Wives, mothers, they know us so well  
No lovelier roses on God's earth dwell.

Of those who have scored their final  
try  
And now in the fields of heaven lie  
Imperishable names always played  
the game  
Enshrined in Marist's hall of fame.

MARIST—this name that fills us  
with pride  
That stirs our emotions so deep  
inside  
For fifty years such thrilling sights  
Half a century of pure delights.

The glorious past will never fade  
Nor is the future veiled in shade  
New stars will emerge, their deeds  
to enthral  
Stars of the greatest club of all  
Resplendent, in the greatest game of  
all.

T. Hyland.

**MARIST BROTHERS' OLD BOYS'**

**OFFICE BEARERS 1969-70**

**Patron:** His Grace Archbishop Liston.

**Vice-Patrons:** Brothers Anselm, Gilbert, Majella, Peter, Ryan, Urban, William.

**President:** A. Blake, J.P.

**Vice-Presidents:** G. W. Batchelor, J. Donovan, N. V. Douglas, MP, A. Duseinger, W. Feek, G. V. Holland, T. J. Hyland, F. Kirwan, D. H. McLeod, J. F. O'Kane, J. H. Richardson, R. Tanner, N. Trigg.

**Life Members:** A. Blake, JP, A. R. V. de Thierry, J. Duffy, A. Frost, W. Glover Snr, W. Glover Jnr, F. L. Schultz, W. E. Schultz, J. P. Young.

**Chaplain:** Rev. Father M. Brown.



**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
1969-70**

Back Row—A. Ryan, A. Frost (Delegate to A.R.L. Senior Club's Officers' Association), N. D. Munro, C. Morris, D. Hoare (Schoolboys' Committee Delegate), J. F. O'Kane, F. Hodgetts (Delegate to A.R.L. Junior Control Board), R. Boswell (Club Captain), J. Hopkins.  
Front Row—C. G. Mitchell (Chairman), Mrs. B. D. Mitchell (Treasurer), A. Blake (President), D. M. Richardson (Secretary).  
Photographed by Lou Smith

**SCHOOLBOYS' COMMITTEE,  
1969-70.**

Back Row—A. Ryan, F. Hodgetts, D. O'Sullivan, D. Hoare, L. Macefield, J. McAneary,  
Front Row—Mrs. A. Ryan, R. Lipscombe (Treasurer), Revd. Brother Gilbert, C. Morris (Chairman), Mrs. C. Macefield (Secretary).  
Photographed by Lou Smith



**RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB INC.**

**Chairman of Management Committee:**  
C. G. Mitchell.

**Hon. Secretary:** D. M. Richardson.

**Hon. Treasurer:** Mrs. B. D. Mitchell.

**Management Committee:** J. Hopkins, C. Morris,  
N. D. Munro, J. F. O'Kane, A. Ryan.

**Club Captain:** R. Boswell.

**Delegate to Senior Clubs Officers' Association:**  
A. Frost.

**Delegate to A.R.L. Junior Control Board:**  
F. Hodgetts.

**Delegate from Schoolboys' Committee:** D. Hoare.

**Hon. Physician:** Dr. T. Malcolm Smith.

**Solicitors:** Messrs. Milne, Meek and Co.

**Auditor:** D. R. Jaggard-Smith.



**GOLDEN JUBILEE  
COMMITTEE 1969.**

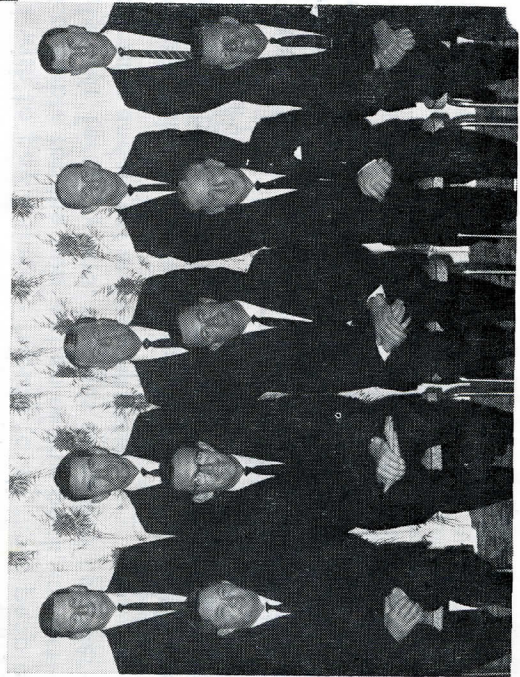
Back Row—J. F. O'Kane,  
D. M. Richardson,  
Front Row—T. J. Hyland  
(Chairman), Mrs. Marie Schultz,  
Mrs. Marge Schultz, W. Feek,  
Insets: D. H. McLeod,  
B. T. Reidy.

Photographed by Lou Smith

**PAST PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE 1968-69.**

Back Row—M. R. Brockliss,  
J. F. O'Kane, D. Barchard, J. L.  
Bagent, D. Mason.  
Front Row—E. I. Hale, R.  
Lipscombe (Secretary-Treasurer),  
F. Kirwan (Chairman), A. Ryan,  
W. Feek.  
Absent: C. Trillo (Patron),  
R. Tanner (President).

Photographed by Alexandra Studios





MESSAGE FOR  
MARIST BROTHERS  
OLD BOYS' RUGBY LEAGUE  
FOOTBALL CLUB  
from  
HIS GRACE  
ARCHBISHOP LISTON

Let me greet with admiration and gratitude the members of the Marist Brothers Old Boys' Rugby Football League at this time of Golden Jubilee.

With admiration for a bold vision seen in forming the Club and holding it through the years, small beginnings in adverse times, struggles, vicissitudes on and off the field met with courage and hope kept, though the road was at times rough and the ground hilly, growth pursued valiantly and happily achieved, prestige won and accepted humbly. All this is achievement on a large scale in the spirit of men.

Hence a City's gratitude is called for and offered for the Club's contribution through its years of something that touches the heart of true greatness in a people: vision, determination, grit, perseverance, patience, character in loyalties to ideals, fellowship, friendships.

Members of the Club still active giving experience and courage to younger men or now onlookers with precious memories of youth will say their days on the field have been worth while.

Others of us offer you felicitations on a fine record of achievement, warm gratitude for your valuable contribution through sport to our country's good estate and our cordial wishes suffused with hope for much joy in your games and friendships and in the pleasure you give to spectators.



WORDS FROM  
THE PRESIDENT

It is with great pleasure that I recommend this book to all followers of Rugby League.

It has been my privilege to have been president of the Marist Brothers Rugby League Club for a period approaching twenty years, and I must state that I have the highest regard for all members of the various committees with whom I have had the pleasure to work. People that give of their time voluntarily in helping their clubs to provide healthy recreation for the youth of today, deserve the respect of the entire community.

I wish to pay a sincere tribute to all those people responsible for the publication of this book, in particular, Mr Terry Hyland, who has expended considerable time and effort in its compilation.

The Club is also appreciative of the assistance rendered by Rugby League officials over the past half-century.

In conclusion, may I thank His Grace, Archbishop Liston, for his ready advice and encouragement throughout the years.

A. BLAKE, J.P.

## PROLOGUE

It was Northern France—the last days of April 1917. Soils which across the ages, shook and shuddered, reverberated and resounded to the marching feet of the armies of history—drenched in their blood—had decapitated under the terrible, timeless thunder of artillery fire, as the legions of France and the British Empire, waged a titanic struggle to combat the engulfing tide of Teutonic dreams of world domination. The city of Arras had fallen into Allied hands; the Germans had retreated to the redoubtable fortifications of Messines.

Amidst this devastation and desecration, dwelt the 1st New Zealand Division who, just two years past had graduated to immortality, in company with the Australian Imperial Forces on the scarred, shell-swept heights of the Gallipoli Peninsula. This glorious tragedy of the Aegean—which evoked countless panegyrics, some comparing the Men of Anzac with Homer's Heroes of three thousand years before—inevitably brought grim repercussions in far-off New Zealand, as had the Division's first year on the gruesome Western Front.

The casualties sustained were appalling, yet enlightening to the evaders of reality who thought of this war as a Tenth Crusade. Reinforcements were raised, trained and shipped to France as the frequent need arose. The consequences of these actions, naturally were felt by many associations, councils and societies, including the various sports bodies.

The Auckland Rugby League and Auckland Rugby Union, notwithstanding continual deprivation of the flower of their existences, remained intensely loyal and patriotic devotees of the cause of freedom; although amalgamation and recession were rife amongst their affiliated clubs. Many footballers had already made the supreme sacrifice, tackling an opponent, the defeat of whom was more vital and imperative, than any

they had previously encountered. Charlie Savoury, Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand and Australasian Rugby League representative, had fallen at the Dardanelles, while in six short weeks the least known (fifty years later), yet equally as brilliant member of the renowned Davidson (Rugby League and Athletics) family, Charles (Bunny), was to give his life during the great attack on Messines Ridge.

In late April of this seventeenth year of the twentieth century, the Marist Brothers Old Boys and City Rugby Union Clubs, decided, in view of the serious depletion of their members, to combine the remnants of their respective Senior teams, and to enter a side in the A.R.U. competitions, under the name of Railway. Prime movers in this venture were Marist secretary, Conrad McDevitt, and City skipper, Doug Stewart, both of whom were employed in the vast precincts of the Newmarket Railway Workshops. Associated with these two gentlemen in their enterprise was a young man named Bill Glover.

Five months duly elapsed; the 1917 Rugby season had concluded with Railway capturing the Union championship and Ponsonby United the League honours. Dissension, however, had erupted within the Railway team: the result of such unrest being contained in the following notice which appeared in the New Zealand Herald of Wednesday, September 26:

### **RAILWAY FOOTBALL CLUB. RUGBY UNION CHAMPIONS.**

At a meeting of the players attended to the Railway F.C. held last evening, the following resolutions were unanimously carried:

- (1) That the Railway Club secede from the jurisdiction of the Auckland Rugby Union.
  - (2) That this meeting of players confirms the action of the secretary in applying to the Auckland Rugby League for affiliation.
- Con McDevitt, Hon. Secretary.

Synchronistic to this secession the team issued a challenge to League title-holders, Ponsonby United, to play them under Rugby League rules at the Domain Cricket Ground on the following Saturday; a challenge that was quickly accepted, although at this juncture, Railway were justifiably presumed by officialdom, to be participating in the Charity Cup Rugby Union match, against University at Eden Park the same afternoon.

Arising from these somewhat remarkable and unprecedented circumstances, a rather amusing chain of events then occurred initiated when the New Zealand Herald of September 28th, published a statement from Mr P. McElwain, Auckland Rugby Union Secretary, which read as under:

"The Auckland Rugby Union wish to advise the football public that the Railway Rugby Team advertised to play under League rules tomorrow, Saturday, against Ponsonby United (League champions) is NOT the team that won the Rugby Union championship but only a small section of the Railway Club. The Union wishes to state definitely that the championship winners (with those few exceptions) will take part in the Charity Cup contest against University at Eden Park. They confidently rely on the wholehearted support of the public in this, their annual effort for local charities".

Saturday, September 29th, 1917, dawned fine, yet the footballing fraternity of Auckland, already confused by the Railway question became increasingly bewildered by the notices which greeted their eyes when they opened their morning paper. One could readily understand if they regarded the entire situation as incomprehensible.

Volatile, red-headed Con McDevitt had this to say:

"As the only officer authorised by the bona fide members of the Railway Football Club, to speak and act

on their behalf, I beg to intimate to the Rugby enthusiasts of Auckland, that as there are only 15 bona fide members of the Club and of that number 13 have been practising with a view to playing against Ponsonby today in the Domain, I can confidently state that there is no possibility of a team from the original Railway F.C. (R.U. championship winners), playing on any other ground.

The club has seceded from the jurisdiction of the Auckland Rugby Union and the bona fide members of the reorganised club will, in future, not be playing the grand old game that made New Zealand famous".

As a contrast the Auckland Rugby Union stated that the following players of the Railway team who had been interviewed, had given authority to definitely announce that they had no intention of seceding from the R.U. code:

J. D. Stewart (Capt), H. Barclay (Vice Capt), J. Corner, W. Lane, E. Herring, G. Birnie, C. C. Dacre, J. Rasmussen, E. Burns.

Though enveloped by obscurity, both matches eventuated. University 15 defeated Railway 13 at Eden Park under Rugby Union rules, while at the Domain Cricket Ground, the novice Railway Rugby League XIII surprisingly accounted for Ponsonby by 12 points to 3, in a disappointing spectacle in which Ponsonby's Spencer Jones, sustained a broken leg. In regard to the Union Game, University deserved their victory although their opponents, who had not played together before gave a grand exhibition, a factor which proves that the great majority of the original Railway XV did indeed transfer their affections to the thirteen-a-side code. Looking at the League match, the Ponsonby team whom most people considered were extremely fortunate to rank as the year's champions, performed in a most disjunctive and lack-lustre manner and deserved to be beaten by the thirteen dedicated recruits who opposed them.

A week later at Victoria Park, the Roope Rooster and championship winners of 1916, City Rovers, a team who in 1917 had vanquished Ponsonby, on more occasions than the Ponies had beaten them, encountered the enterprising Railway XIII and soundly defeated the new chums by 18 points to 6.

Some of the men who wore the Railway colours in these two historic engagements were: Jimmy (Sonny) Hing, Tommy Harris, Billy Ghent,

H. Barclay, Leo Casey, P. Courtney, Jimmy Corner (father of Merv, All Black scrum half of the 30's) and Ces Dacre (who in the next decade became one of New Zealand's most distinguished sportsmen, representing the "Shaky Isles" in both Cricket and Association Football).

This nineteen seventeen season had thus drawn to a colourful conclusion; a conclusion considerably saddened when it became known that Dave Gallaher, captain of the illustrious



**RAILWAY: WINNERS OF AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 1917**

Back Row—G. Birmie, E. Burns, P. Courtney, Second Row—W. Church, J. Nicholson, A. McHugh, T. Daly, T. Harris, W. Lane, Third Row—L. Beate (V.P.), L. Casey, J. Rasmussen, C. McDevitt (Sec.), E. Slade, V. C. Florey (V.P.). Front Row—J. Corner, (Capt.), E. Slade, V. C. Florey (V.P.) Front Row—J. Corner, J. Corner, Jun. (Mascoe), J. Hing. Absent: E. Herring, A. Barclay, C. Dacre, L. Russell.

1905-1906 All Blacks in the British Isles and France, had been killed in the blood-bath of Passchendaele.

In April 1918, the Railway Rugby League Club, confronted by the same formidable problem that had faced them twelve months previously, in their then separate entities of the Marist Bros Old Boys and City Rugby Union Clubs, decided that it would be preferable to seek a union with the Grafton Athletic Rugby League Club than to effect a premature disbandment, particularly after such a brief, spectacular association with the modern code.

A meeting was therefore conducted on the evening of April 16th, in conjunction with the Grafton Athletic Club, in the old Waitemata (now the Great Northern) Hotel, under the chairmanship of the hotel proprietor, prominent citizen and popular R. L. personality Mr Jack Endean. Mr Endean informed the gathering that as both clubs had been substantially weakened, by the incessant departure of members for the holocaust in France, he considered that amalgamation would be both sensible and beneficial. After a short discussion Mr Endean's suggestion was unanimously adopted, thus the forthcoming season looked bright for the Grafton Athletics, this name having been retained. Mr J. H. (later Sir James) Gunson, Mayor of Auckland, was elected patron, Mr J. H. Endean, president, and delegate to the A.R.L., and Mr C. McDevitt as hon. secretary.

During this period the majority of provincial Rugby Unions were of the following opinion, as regarded the reinstatement after the cessation of hostilities, to the R.U. code of those rebels who had ventured forth to play Northern Union football, both before the outbreak of war and during the course of the conflict: that such reinstatement applications should be automatically granted, due to the camaraderie generated by the service together, of players from both codes in the common fight for the survival of King and country.

The Canterbury Rugby League had, in the twilight of the previous season, written to their Rugby Union counterparts in Christchurch, suggesting that an intercode match be staged, the proceeds to be handed to any patriotic or hospital fund. This communication was subsequently referred by the C.R.U. to the New Zealand Rugby Union with a strong recommendation that permission be granted. Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, the N.Z.R.U. did not accede to this recommendation, considering that such a match was not in the interests of the R.U. code.

In so far as the Grafton club was concerned, the 1918 season proved a disappointment. The team was successful in only two championship encounters, thence was quickly eliminated from the Roope Rooster.

Grafton's star performer was the mercurial Karl Ifterson, who now occupies an exalted position amongst the immortals of Rugby—possibly the greatest New Zealand footballer of all time. Bill Glover, Senior, then treasurer, has poignant recollections of the late "Tiffy", seeking and receiving remuneration for his services.

On Monday, November 11th, 1918, jubilation reigned supreme throughout the entire world, for the catastrophe emanating from Sarajevo, just four short years before, was, for the Allies at an overwhelmingly victorious end. A glittering peace had reappeared on earth but at what terrible and enormous cost. Now the rehabilitation of the impecunious and maimed, the emaciated and homeless, faced mankind.

Over sixteen thousand men of the magnificent "Silent Division" would never return to Aotearoa, including many Rugby footballers and adherents of both codes. Undaunted and undismayed the Auckland Rugby League awaited the opening of the first post-war season, in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and optimism. In this aura of excited anticipation, what did 1919 promise for the Grafton Athletic Rugby League Club—what indeed?



# 1919: THE FORMATIVE YEAR

*Memory, that melody that serenades our hearts  
Memory, that reverie, the light it imparts  
Thoughts are transported, emotions are rife  
Ah! sweet mystery of life*

## RUGBY FOOTBALL

### NORTHERN UNION CODE

Players and supporters interested in the promotion of a Football Club under the auspices of the MARIST BROTHERS OLD BOYS which will operate under the jurisdiction of the Auckland Rugby League are invited to attend at the League club rooms in Swanson St, at 8 p.m. this evening. Business: Election of Officers, General preparations for coming season.

Con McDevitt, Convenor.

The above notice of meeting which appeared in the Auckland Star of Thursday, April 24th, 1919, eventuated when a body of aspiring gentlemen, dissatisfied with the conditions governing the administration of the Grafton Athletic Rugby League Club decided to organise a new formation, which if successful, carried fascinating possibilities.

Comment on the gathering was published in the New Zealand Herald the following morning, Anzac Day, as under:

### MARIST BROTHERS OLD BOYS NEW CLUB FORMED

It has been decided to form a new Northern Union football club in Auckland to be composed of old boys of the Marist Brothers' Schools. A meeting of intending players was held last evening and the following officers elected: Patron, Dr H. W. Cleary, Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland; president, Mr C. A. K. Russell; vice-presidents, 56 representative citizens; hon. secretary, Mr T. Harris; hon. treasurer, Mr W. Glover; auditors, Messrs R. Casey and C. A. K. Russell.

On an autumn evening when William S. Hart was starring in "The Apostle of Vengeance" at the Lyric (now the Oriental Ballroom); Tom Mix in "Fame and Fortune"; Tom old National; Mary Pickford in "Stella Maris"; with Charlie Chaplin in "Triple Trouble" at the Tivoli; when prohibition's referendum night majority suffered another decrease, as the results of more returning soldiers' votes became known; when such universal favourite tunes as "Till We Meet Again", "K-K-K-Katy" and "Beautiful Ohio" were in vogue; the Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Football Club was born. The seed had been sown; diligent propagation lay ahead.

Almost immediately, Mr J. W. Tubberly, hon. secretary of the Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby Union Club, advised Union players and followers that his organisation had no connection whatsoever with the team being formed under the Northern Union Code.

Unfortunately, competent players proved hard to locate, thus the Blues (Not Greens) took the field at Victoria Park No. 2 on Saturday, May 3rd, 1919, to do battle against Newton Rangers, with an incomplete XIII comprised of a little competence and a host of inexperience, for this, the club's initial match.

Although Marist relentlessly attacked in the period just after play commenced, several penalties retarded their progress, and Newton rallying, by several individual breaks brought play to the Blue '25 from where George Iles obtained possession and cleverly beat three forwards to score. Castles converted. The Blues were compelled to force a few minutes later when Newton launched a strong assault, then they spent a

period on attack before a penalty to Newton, as the result of a Marist player picking the ball out of a scrum, placed the Red and Whites back on the offensive. Half-time arrived with Newton leading 5 points to nil.

Newton began scoring within five minutes of resuming. First George Iles, touched down behind the posts for Castles to add the extras, then Clarke took the ball from a clearing kick by Marist's Tom Harris and scored an unconverted try. The Blues then achieved the try of the match when, following a sideline rush Bright whipped the ball from the feet of the Newton backs, and transferred to Petterson who scored falling on the line. Clark could not convert. The Red and Whites renewed the pressure and maintained it for the remainder of the game with Keenan, Clarke and Williams notching tries all converted by Castles. Full time came with the board showing: NEWTON 28; MARIST BROS. 3.

A newspaper report of the match stated:

This game played on a ground that had lost nothing of its hardness was far below the standard of senior League football. In the first place, Newton took the field with a team that compared favourably with their seniors of past seasons while the Marist Brothers Old Boys (a new club) were comprised of a mixture of Seniors and Juniors. This misfortune left the latter team with little hope of success against their more experienced opponents. The failure of some of the members chosen to represent the M.B.O.B. to put in an appearance was a source of disappointment to their supporters. The Marist forwards were much stronger than their back division, who suffer-

ed as the result of Hing, a prominent player, being handicapped with a bad knee.

A week later, Grafton inflicted another defeat by 26 points to six while on May 17th the club was the recipient of the bye.

Came Saturday, May 24th: the setting the Domain Cricket Ground: the match Auckland versus New Zealand, the latter part of the Kiwi elect shortly to depart on their tour of Australia. The Auckland stand-off half was none other than I. J. (Sonny) Hing, who thus became the first Marist Brothers player to represent his city. Eight thousand people witnessed a grand spectacle in which New Zealand 25 beat Auckland 19. Sonny performed with distinction.

The next Saturday saw our scheduled clash with Ponsonby (1918 championship winners), postponed until a later date. Skipper, Con McDevitt, at the A.R.L. management committee meeting on the Wednesday evening, had requested such a postponement as Marist was having difficulty in finding a complete thirteen.

June 7th produced a uniquely colourful yet lamentable incident when the Marist team left the field early, in protest at a decision made by the referee, Mr Cleal. At this stage of proceedings the Seasideers were ahead by nine points to nothing, the venue, the Devonport Recreation Ground.

Seven days later Maritime administered a severe trouncing, thirty-four to nil, to a team which appeared on the field with only eleven men, while June 21st presented ignominy in the guise of a default to City.

In the dawn of its existence, the club now faced collapse or consolida-

tion. Fortunes had depreciated to a degree of crisis. New players and supporters must be enlisted: men who besides being capable exponents and educationalists would, above all, remain loyal and devout stalwarts in the midst of adversity, replacing the "fly by nights" who had promised much yet achieved nothing. Difficulties were present though certainly not insurmountable, if assailed with a united determination to succeed. Marist, in the forthcoming weeks would either expire or expand.

An A.R.L. enquiry into the unpleasantness at Devonport on the preceding June 7th, resulted in Conrad McDewitt incurring a twelve month suspension, effective from June 14th. The referee concerned, Mr Cleal, reported that the game was a disgraceful exhibition of football. Towards the finish he had awarded a try to North Shore and while the ball was being placed for the conversion attempt, McDewitt informed him that the Marist team was leaving the field as a protest against his decision to allow the North Shore try. Mr Cleal thereupon instructed McDewitt to depart, blew his whistle and finished the match. The controversial ginger-topped McDewitt, subsequently appealed to the New Zealand Rugby League to have his suspension quashed, however, as a Peace Day gesture the A.R.L. a few weeks later lifted same.

**NORTH SHORE 13 — MARIST BROS 8.** This match decided on June 28th provided a marked improvement in the all round play of the latter XIII; indeed, victory presented itself on more than one occasion to the Blues, yet proved elusive in the final outcome.

July 5th saw our second heavy defeat at the hands of Newton, this time by 27 points to 3. The following Saturday our scheduled meeting with City Rovers had to be abandoned, due to the non-appearance of the referee Mr. Thompson, who had been unavoidably detained without means of notification.

On Saturday, July 19th, at the Domain Cricket Ground, teams repre-

sentative of the Returned Soldiers and Auckland, clashed in both Rugby League and Rugby Union. These contests which commemorated the signing of the Peace Treaty in the Hall of Mirrors of the Palace of Versailles, Paris, on June 28th, by a strange coincidence ended with the Returned Soldiers defeating Auckland in both codes, by 26 points to 24. Jimmy Hing appeared for the Soldiers XIII who wore symbolical red, white and blue as against Auckland's red and black.

On the Monday, designated Peace Day, Marist encountered the eventual championship winners Ponsonby United, this match being our postponement from May 31st. In a stirring performance the Blues shocked the Ponies, who had to pull out all the stops to finally win 11-2. The New Zealand Herald was quick to acknowledge our effort thus:

"The form displayed by the Marist Old Boys must have surprised those Ponsonby supporters who regarded the result as a foregone conclusion. The losing team was reinforced by several new members for the occasion and with a little more practice together would probably have put up an even better fight than they did.

Marist displayed excellent form, but owing to the inclusion of a number of new men and the fact that the players did not wear numbers on their jerseys, it was impossible to pick out individuals for special mention.

Marist, beaten in every championship feature this season, has pluckily taken the field Saturday after Saturday and gradually improved as a combination. Reinforced by one or two young players on Monday, the Blues appeared to be anything but a weak side. Taking the aggressor's role from the commencement, they kept their opponents extremely busy throughout the game and with a little luck might have succeeded in defeating the season's champions."

Inspired by this achievement the lads approached July 26th, the first round of the Roope Rooster knockout competition in a prevailing zephyr of

optimism. Our opponents, North Shore Albions at the Domain No. 3.

From the kick-off Marist launched a series of resolute attacks necessitating some torrid defence on the Seaside's part. First points came to the Blues when Clarke obtained the ball in the open and initiated a passing bout which ended in Robinson snapping a neat field goal. Two points down the Shore players rallied, firstly stemming a sustained attack by their opponents then carrying play within the Marist twenty-five. This offensive checked, play then reverted to mid-field for a considerable period. Marist, however, were not to be denied, a clever run by White resulting in a try which Clarke converted. Half time arrived with Marist leading 7-0.

Upon resuming the Blacks took the initiative confining play to Marist territory without being able to split the solid defence. Jimmy Hing then made a brilliant break carrying proceedings 50 yards down field where from broken play, Keenan secured to make a grand dash and notch a further three points for his side. Clarke could not convert though he soon landed a penalty to give Marist a handy 12-nil lead. The North Shore boys then staged a rousing rally, a determined onslaught resulting in Boon crossing for an unconverted try. This proved to be North Shore's sole points as their opponents returning to the attack, kept them on the defensive for the remainder of the match. Keenan added a converted try for the Blues to make the final score: **MARIST BROS OLD BOYS 17. NORTH SHORE 3.**

The victors made the pace willing from the beginning and apart from isolated dashes into their territory by the North Shore thirteen, held the advantage throughout, their individual and combined play proving superior. Our backs in particular, showed up well being a continual source of annoyance. Sonny Hing again produced an excellent display, making some splendid openings which invariably left the Blacks at a standstill. He was ably supported by the Robinson brothers — two converts from Soccer. Amongst the forwards,

Glynn, Morton and Mitchell were always conspicuous. Nearly fifty years later, Bill Glover, Senior, with a twinkle in his eye, informed the author that the Robinson brothers were in reality the Numms brothers, two good footballers from Wellington, who had, in fact, never played Soccer. These gentlemen wished to avoid the military police, hence the aliases given to the press.

At last the sweet nectar of victory was ours to taste. New faces like Bob Mitchell — formerly of Grafton and City — Billy Ghent and Sid Fry had injected vitality, ability and a much-needed dedication to conquer into the Club; this factor allied with the untiring, inspiring endeavours of the remaining originals — men like Con McDevitt, Tom Harris and Bill Glover, Senior — therefore provided an excellent indication to all sportsmen that this Cinderella Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Club was, indeed, destined to prosper.

August 16th brought the eagerly awaited second round of the Roope Rooster with Marist encountering Maritime at the Domain. Down 22-12 with 15 minutes left, the Blues averted a magnificent attempt to stage a defeat, only terminated by the ringing of the bell for full time, signifying Maritime the fortunate victors 22-21. Marist's grand fight-back though thwarted, had thrilled the large crowd, who responded by accorded the losers a spirited ovation as they departed from the scene. Sonny Hing, once more produced a terrific game which earned him selection, in company with Bob Mitchell, in a Rest of Auckland XIII, to oppose an Aucklanders who had represented New Zealand on the recent tour of Australia team, at Victoria Park the following Saturday. Six thousand people saw this match, won by the latter thirteen 45-30.

On Saturday, September 6th, twenty-three thousand citizens journeyed to the Domain Cricket Ground to witness the Third Australia v New Zealand Test. Bob Mitchell, who had represented his city and country against visiting New South Wales (1912-1913) and England (1914)

teams, as well as touring Australia with the 1913 New Zealand side, achieved honour for his club by being chosen as a reserve forward for the Kiwis, while the Marist XIII itself, met City Rovers in the curtain-raiser; the first occasion the two sides had clashed. Rather surprisingly the Blues inflicted a crushing 22-3 defeat on their formidable foes! The Kangaroos — a really classic combination — proved too fast and skillful for the New Zealanders, to record a 34-23 victory, and take a 2-1 lead in the series; the Kiwis having triumphed in the Second Test at

Christchurch by 26-10 and Australia in the First at Wellington by 44-21. A week after in the Fourth Test, also at the Domain, they handed New Zealand a football lesson, trouncing us 32-2.

On September 20th the pride of the Queen City engaged Australia at the Domain. They too, were the recipients of a thrashing, in this instance 32-8. Twenty-one thousand five hundred people saw this entertaining if somewhat one-sided spectacle, in which Auckland scrum-half, Billy Ghent, and second row forward, Bob Mitchell, became the first players

lia v Auckland encounter brought their initial season to a conclusion; a season which had dawned in promise, abated a depression, thence blossomed into comparative maturity. No fewer than twenty-seven had worn the Marist jersey during 1919; viz: McDevitt, Hing, Fry, Clarke, Glynn, Smith Morton, Petterson, Bright, Numms alias Robinson (2), Keenan, Mitchell, Eustace, Harris, Neville St. George, Leo Casey, Dalziel, Ghent, Campney, Enwright, Skiffington, Val-voi, White, Gardner, Turner, Fricker.

1920 beckoned: we approached it with a refreshing confidence evolved from a fortified desire to coadunate.

## 1920-1923: PRELUDE TO PRE-EMINENCE

At the club's first annual general meeting conducted in the then Rugby League Rooms, 5 Swanson St., City, on March 14th, 1920, in the presence of a fair number of members, the report and balance sheet disclosed a most satisfactory position. The team had played some hard matches during the early part of 1919, all of which they had lost. In the concluding stages of the championship and in the Roope Rooster, strengthened by new members and with more intensive training, they had displayed considerable improvement. Mr J. Endean was elected delegate to the A.R.L., while Dr Cleary, Messrs C. A. K. Russell, T. J. Harris and W. Glover, retained their respective offices of patron, president, secretary and treasurer, although in mid-season Mr T. O'Connell succeeded Mr Harris.

On Monday, March 29, the club staged a successful moonlight excursion on the waters of the Waitemata. The advertisement which appeared in the New Zealand Herald is reproduced herewith, as a romantic reminder of an era forever gone; also as a tribute to the enterprise of the then committee.

game on June 12th, in which two City and one Marist players were given their marching orders. Marist, in a surprise yet deserved result, accounted for the Red and Blacks, nineteen points to five.

Auckland, on Wednesday, June 23, at the Domain, thrashed a Rest of New Zealand XIII, composed of Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Canterbury and West Coast aspirants, by 54 points to nil. Club representatives in the Auckland side were Billy Ghent at scrum-half and Roly Tait at lock forward. Figuring among the reserves were Bill Stormont and Norm Lovridge.

Our next three matches brought a 3-8 loss to Devonport; a squaring of accounts with Ponsoby, 8-4; and a 9-5 victory over Newton; then on July 17th, came our clash with competition leaders Maritme, at the Domain.

The first advantage went to Marist when Hing intercepted in mid-field, cut through, then passed to Eustace, who was brought down near the line. Another fine passing movement by the Green backs ended with Eustace being forced into touch near the corner. Marist Bros continued to press and Lovridge, taking the ball from the toes of an opponent made a clever dodging run to score. Stormont failed to convert. Shortly after-

wards they went further ahead when Hing, receiving in a passing rush, cross-kicked and Cargill, following fast secured the leather and dashed over for a grand try which was not converted. Maritme took a hand in attack but Eustace intercepted and raced to the Maritme '25 where a defensive penalty produced relief.

Fine passing by the Maritme backs carried play to their opponents '25. A try seemed imminent but a poorly judged kick sent the ball into touch. The Maritme forwards were winning possession from the scrums giving their backs opportunities to throw it around. A scramble in front of the Marist posts saw the attackers awarded a penalty for obstruction, Laing obliging with two points. "Sonny" Hing, soon initiated a clever movement halted when McNamara was pushed into touch a yard short. Bill Stormont, then made an unsuccessful attempt to land a goal from a mark.

Grand defence by the Greens prevented Maritme from scoring on at least two occasions. Just prior to the interval "Chilla" Grey, kicked a penalty. Half-time arrived with Marist ahead 6-4.

For the first twenty minutes after play recommenced movements swung to and fro in a delightful exhibition of passing and running which en-

thrilled the 7000 spectators. However, the tenacious defence on both sides withstood all onslaughts. During a tussle on the Marist 25 Maritime marked, but Grey's kick went wide and the defenders forced. Both sets of backs, unable to make decisive breaks, then resorted to kick and follow tactics, although to no effect. A Ghent penalty placed the Greens further in the lead, then in a torrid scramble on Marist's line, Maritime's Yardley, obtained possession and scored an unconverted try.

With the board showing a point difference excitement ran high. Ghent, Cargill and McNamara were prominent in a thrilling attack with the latter stopped near the Maritime line. Continuing to force the pace, Marist threw the leather around in all directions only to see Grey intercept and kick hard down field. A hot duel on the Marist line then ensued, however, the defence proved equal to the occasion, the game ending soon after: **MARIST BROS 8. MARITIME 7.**

Saturday, July 24th, 1920, one of the great days of Auckland and New Zealand Rugby League. Over 33,000 people descended on the Domain Cricket Ground to watch the England v Auckland battle. After a titanic struggle the locals deservedly vanquished the vaunted visitors by 24 points to 16. Bill Stormont gave a meritorious display as one of Auckland's props, being awarded an oblation try and becoming the first Marist Clubman to play against England. Norm Loveridge was a reserve back.

Completely enamoured by Auckland's magnificent victory and looking forward to the infliction of a second defeat on the tourists, the then largest crowd ever to witness a sporting event in the history of the Shaky Isles, approximately 40,000, packed the Domain Cricket Ground on Saturday, July 31st, to behold the First England v New Zealand Test. On this occasion the white jerseyed Englishmen treated the vast assembly to a glorious exposition, dominantly all aspects of play to such an extent, that they triumphed 31 points to seven. Bill Stormont was the out-

standing New Zealander in this, his first Test and as a consequence, the initial appearance in a New Zealand jersey of a player from the Marist Brothers Old Boys Club — an honour thoroughly merited by a popular footballer, a credit to his club, city, province and country.

For the Second Test, decided a week later on Christchurch's hallowed Rugby Union ground, Lancaster Park, Norm Loveridge graduated from the reserves to full back, to give Marist two members in the national thirteen. Six thousand people saw England administer another decisive defeat by 19-3, the match being played in heavy rain.

Reverting to the trials of club football, Grafton presented us with two easy points on August 14th when team difficulties necessitated their default. Four hundred miles south, Bill Stormont completed his hat-trick of appearances, when England II beat New Zealand 10 in the Third Test at Wellington. This splendid showing by the Kiwis marked the farewell Rugby League international of the eulogised Karl Iforson.

On August 21st six thousand people watched the return City v Marist clash, about which the New Zealand Herald has this to say:

"The meeting between Marist and City was expected to produce a struggle and in this, popular opinion was not astray. The game was hotly contested from start to finish and though the victory went to Marist by 10 points to 5, there was nothing to choose between the teams on the day's play. At the same time it appears as if the Marist XIII has been just a little unfortunate in the club competition, in not developing its best form until recently. With two wins over City and one against Marist to their credit, the Marist players have shown that they possess championship credentials second to none in the competition but their form in the early part of the season was not up to their present high standard".

Owing to Maritime's unassailable lead it was decided to terminate the championship one week early. Marist

were adjudged runnersup, a terrific effort by the wooden spooners of 1919.

Now commenced the Roope Rooster, and for the opening round the Greens drew the championship winners at Victoria Park, and were eliminated 6-9 after a strenuous and exciting contest in which the losers scored two tries to one. Maritime's forwards dominated the set scrums, this possession factor proving vital in the final result.

Only tremendous defence by Marist kept the winners restricted to a converted try and two field goals.

Three weeks later in the presence of 10,000 spectators, Newton 12 defeated Maritime 6 in the Roope Rooster final at Victoria Park, there by retaining the trophy. Curtailed by this match was between Marist Bros and Hamilton, the latter the first team from the Waikato centre ever to play in the Queen City. After an even contest with both sides throwing the ball about, the locals ran out winners 21-14.

Marist and Maritime travelled to Hamilton the following week, to play an exhibition match at the request of the Hamilton Rugby League in aid of the Waikato Hospital.

Sporting Marist colours in Senior division during 1920 were: Sid Fry, Billy Ghent, Jimmy Hing (Capt), Percy Gallagher, Neville St. George, Bill Stormont, George Cargill, Sid McNamara, Norm Loveridge, Roly Tait, Frank Turner, "Ginger", Keenan, Eustace, Martin, Sheehan, White, Baker and O'Connell.

Our Second Grade side contained: R. Cross (captain), G. Duane, W. Slatter, R. Stobie, G. Tattersall, H. Clarke, L. Hughes, C. Strange, A. Rhodes, W. Moulden, H. Hart, Keene, L. Fairley and S. Callagher.

1921

The initial matches of the new season took place on Saturday, April 23rd, with Marist Brothers and City Rovers meeting in the main game on Victoria Park. Six thousand citizens watched a particularly bright encounter which produced a victory for City by 22-5, although it was not until midway through the second

spell, that Marist were out-classed. The Red and Blacks handled the ball in a much superior manner to their opponents and developed far better combination.

A trio of fixtures thence saw us thrash Fire Brigade, 43-8; defeat Newton, 22-15; and surprisingly succumb to Ponsoby at the Devonport Recreation Ground by 3-35.

A grand and inspiring influx of players enabled us to place teams in the Second, Third, Fifth and Sixth Grades. Marist was indeed marching.

On Saturday, May 21st, at the Domain Cricket Ground, 11,000 people witnessed the New Zealand v Auckland clash, the latter XIII containing three Marist men in winger, Percy Gallagher, prop, George Cargill and second rower, Arthur Singe (a member of the 1919 New Zealand Army Rugby Union team in South Africa) while a fourth, Frank Turner, was a reserve forward. George Cargill scored a try in this match which resulted New Zealand 22, Auckland 16.

The New Zealand team was Australia bound, to engage both New South Wales and Queensland teenagers at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the matches to serve as trials for the selection of the Australasian side to visit the "Old Dart" in the forthcoming Northern winter. Bill Stormont, was recognised as a certainty for this team until misfortune struck, in the form of an injury in the match against Newton. A cruel blow which deprived this great forward of the distinction of becoming the first Marist player to leave these shores as a New Zealand representative.

The following Saturday we were scheduled to meet North Shore at Devonport, however, the club wrote to the A.R.L. objecting to being asked to play on the North Shore ground twice in succession. Mr. Dan McCarthy, Marist delegate, at the A.R.L. management committee meeting, stated that the ground was too hard and further, that if its fixture at Devonport was adhered to, then the team would default, not only due to the grounds condition but also,

because it would not be possible to place a full team on the field, owing to several players not being able to arrive on time. As a result of these submissions a sub-committee was appointed to visit the ground, their findings necessitating a change of venue to the Domain No. 3, where the Greens inflicted a 17-9 defeat on the Seaside.

Saturday, June 4th, 1921 saw that great horse Coalition, triumph in the Great Northern Steeplechase with the massive weight of 12 stone 5 lbs, while at the Sydney Cricket Ground 51,000 people watched the brilliant New South Wales XIII crush New Zealand to the tune of 56 points to 9, the greatest humiliation ever suffered by a Dominion Rugby League team. Two days later, the Kiwis atoned to some degree, defeating Queensland 25-12. June 11th brought distinction in another guise, when the second half of our match with Maritime on the main ground at the Domain was viewed by New Zealand's then Governor General, Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Jellicoe. His Excellency displayed keen interest in proceedings. Unfortunately Marist were not the victors, losing by 15 points to 8.

On June 18th City Rovers and Marist Bros were to be opponents in the first match to be played on Auckland's new Rugby League headquarters, Carlaw Park. Inclement weather prevented a red letter day for the Club, by forcing a postponement of the opening until the 25th. Our fixture with City was transferred to the Domain where 7,000 people assembled to see us go under 8-11 after a torrid encounter. City subsequently survived a Marist protest that the game was not played to a finish as the bell had sounded while the ball was in play. This match marked the first appearance in a Marist jersey of Jack Lang, an ex Maritime player who had transferred to Rugby Union three weeks previously, then applied for reinstatement to Rugby League. June 25th presented more excitement. On this occasion our match

with the Fire Brigade thirteen had to be abandoned, due to the opposition team members being called to a fire in the city shortly after mid-day, and performing strenuous deeds in suppressing the outbreak. On Saturday, July 2nd the Marist Brothers team made their first appearance on Carlaw Park, the match of the day versus Newton Rangers. Let's recapitulate: "Against the run of play Newton were the first to register points when, following a scrum near the Marist line the Red and White forwards rushed the ball across, James touching down. Stung by this reverse the Greens retaliated, Her-ring scoring from an excellent passing bout. Stormont, in his unusual position of full back added the extras. Not satisfied with this effort Marist went further ahead, the result of a brilliant try instigated by Jack Lang, who received from Ghent, slashed the defence, transferred to Duane, who on finding his way blocked reversed to Lang, the last named dashing over. Shortly after George Cargill, secured in the loose, sent to Arthur Singe who outpaced the opposition to score behind the posts. Carroll converted. Bill Stormont was proving a veritable Rock of Gibraltar at fullback, killing many Newton attacks. Half time arrived with Marist ahead 13-3.

For a period after the interval Newton camped within the Marist '25 but to no avail. The Greens increased their lead when the alert Lang, threw a long pass to Puka, who with the defence beaten burst through to score near the posts. Lang converted. After a little give and take play, Duane secured, split the defence and sent to Eustace, the winger sidestepping several opponents to score a lovely try between the posts which Carroll converted. A few minutes later danger threatened the Marist line, however, Stormont saved a certain try by tackling two men in quick succession. The Red and Whites made several desperate attempts to smash the Green defence, their efforts

being countered by splendid tackling. Marist's backs then launched a powerful assault, Lang exhibiting skill and finesse in sending Singe across for an unconverted try. Newton fought hard to cross the Marist line but met resolute defence. The Green's seventh try was a spectacular affair initiated by a long kick from Stormont which was chased with determination by Eustace, who caught the Newton fullback with the ball. The leather rolled loose to be collected by Percy Gallagher, who raced across, Herring notched a converted try before the match concluded: Marist Brothers 34; Newton 3.

Sister sports were also in the limelight this first Saturday in July. At Jersey City, 91,000 people watched Jack Dempsey successfully defend his world's heavyweight boxing title, against cruiser-weight champion Georges Carpentier of France, in the first of the fabulous million dollar gates. At Wimbledon, tennis immortals, Bill Tilden and Suzanne Lenglen retained their singles titles; Tilden for the second time, Mlle Lenglen for the third. In a lighter vein Oscar Asche's record breaking musical "Chu Chin Chow" had commenced its season at Auckland's, His Majestys.

Maritime, our next opponents were defeated 18-4, at which stage it was decided to terminate the competition and declare City Rovers the champions of 1921, as no other team was considered as being in a position to challenge the lead of the Red and Blacks. The Roope Rooster with its accompanying thrills and upsets was again with us, and as in 1920 Marist drew Maritime in the 1st round. History regrettably repeated itself, Maritime coming out on top 10-8. As with the City encounter of a month earlier, the club protested on the basis of the match not having been played to time. The A.F.L. dismissed the protest whereupon Marist appealed to the National body who deferred their decision pending the referee's evi-

dence. On hearing Mr. Ripley the appeal was upheld, the match being replayed at Victoria Park on August 13th when 9000 people beheld a gripping struggle. Ten all oranges, Marist had the misfortune to lose Eustace through injury soon after the resumption. This factor allied with a peculiar loss of form by the backs, allowed Maritime to emerge with a 21-10 victory.

In the interlude between the above two matches, Bill Stormont appeared for a New Zealand XIII versus South Auckland at Hamilton on July 27th, South Auckland winning 23-21; Jack Lang, Arthur Singe and Stormont for Auckland versus Wellington in a Northern Union Cup challenge at Carlaw Park on July 30th, Auckland winning 31-8; and Lang and Stormont in a second N.U. Cup challenge on August 6th against Hawkes Bay, Auckland being successful 18-3. Champion jumper Coalition, by capturing the Wellington Steeples with 12 stone 11 lbs and the Grand National Steeplechase with 12 st 7 lbs had become the first horse to annex the renowned treble in the same year.

On August 20th Singe and Lang represented Auckland against King Country at Carlaw Park, a match which saw the visitors trounced 58-25; while at the Basin Reserve Stormont took the field for another Auckland side against Wellington, Auckland coming out victors 23-21 after a tense struggle. At Hamilton Percy Gallagher appeared for a third Auckland XIII versus South Auckland, the visitors receiving a 3-13 defeat. Stormont's team (including George Cargill and Arthur Eustace) later accounted for West Coast at Greymouth 47-7 and Canterbury at Christchurch 39-14. Gallagher's side beat King Country at Taumarunui 35-9 but went under to Hawkes Bay at Napier 15-18. In the two last mentioned encounters Billy Ghent was the Auckland scrum-half.

Singe, Stormont and Lang played a prominent role in Auckland's 35-13 defeat of South Auckland on September 17th, thus bringing for the Marist club the 1921 season to a

conclusion. Although it didn't yield success in the desired manner, it nevertheless proved eventful in more ways than one.

April 22nd: Fire Brigade soundly defeated 19-6.

April 29th: Richmond, in their second Senior game, beaten 25-11.

May 6th: Ponsonby vanquished 14-6.

May 13th: Athletic, formerly Maritime, accounted for in a thriller 21-20.

May 27th: Newton conquered 15-5. For the wearers of the green, the 1922 season had opened in a blaze of glory unparalleled in our short history. With five matches, five conquests to our credit it was no wonder the Rugby League public were eagerly awaiting our next engagement, that with City Rovers, championship and Roope Rooster winners of 1921.

On Saturday, May 20th seven thousand people watched the New Zealand Maoris play Auckland at Carlaw Park. The Maoris who were about to embark on a tour of Australia ran out winners 28-18 over the Queen City thirteen which contained four Marist men in Percy Gallagher, Jack Lang, Frank Turner and George Duane. Fourteen days later the Maoris encountered a brilliant Sydney Metropolitan side, being annihilated 77-13 in the presence of 40,000 spectators at the S.C.G.

In anticipation of a cracker exhibition, 8,500 citizens assembled at headquarters on Saturday, June 10th, to witness the Marist v City clash. They were not disappointed.

The game was not 2 minutes old when former Auckland and New Zealand rep. Nelson Bass, now with Marist, accepted a pass from Billy Ghent and burst through to the City line where "Gig" Wetherill saved the situation by disappearing into touch in goal, ball and all. The Red and Blacks quickly retaliated with Townsend, after a neat dribbling sortie, being horrified to see the leather reach the dead-ball area. The first try eventuated when Keenan received from a scrum,

In the last fortnight of June the A.R.L. fraternity was delighted to receive a visit from a colourful, clever bunch of footballers, representative of the Sydney and Brisbane Universities. This team met the Auckland XIII on three occasions, being successful in the first two encounters, 13-12 and 18-7, while in the last the board read Auckland 24: Australian Universities 16, when no side was called. Jack Lang (3), Nelson Bass (3), Arthur Singe (3) and Bill Stormont (twice), participated in these matches.

The month of July brought the second round of the champ. and a fluctuation of Marist fortunes. Against Fire Brigade the Greens, after trailing at oranges 2-15 fought back in the grand manner to secure a 21 all draw, a meritorious performance considering they finished the match with only 11 men. Our next opponents, Richmond, were vanquished 27-15, thence followed two successive defeats at the hands of Ponsonby 13-9 and Athletic 29-8 respectively. Our match with Newton Rangers resulted in a 31-10 victory for Marist.

On August 5th at headquarters, the season's second City-Marist clash eventuated. Should the Red and Blacks who were leading the championship be defeated, such a loss would necessitate the continuation of the competition. At interval the City thirteen held a 10 points to six advantage and the championship seemed over. 'Twas not to be, for in an inspired 40 minutes, the Red and Black defence on three occasions, defended with resolution above average by suppressing numerous assaults with glorious tackling, and achieved an overwhelming superiority in scrum possession, to deservedly carry the day by 21 points to 12.

A week later in retribution or our first round defeat we vanquished Devonport United by 22-13. The championship was now at an end and as in 1921, City Rovers justly triumphed. Marist Bros, by their

mysterious mid-season loss of form had renounced any aspirations of success in 1922.

A challenge match for the Northern Union Cup between Hawkes Bay and Auckland, took place on August 19th with the visitors being defeated 23 points to five by a Blue and White XIII which included Bass, Stormont and Singe. Three weeks before, these gentlemen had appeared for Auckland against the fledgling Cambridge thirteen, in a match which saw the representatives of the picturesque country town, slaughtered by 73 points to 29.

For the third successive year the Greens could not venture beyond the 1st round of the Roope Rooster. On this occasion Ponsonby (the eventual winners) proved the bugbear by running out victors 16-13. This defeat thus spelt finish to the 1922 season for the majority of the Marist team; the remainder acquiring new laurels for the club by participating as under:

(1) September 2nd: Bass, Stormont and Singe, for Auckland against the powerful South Auckland XIII, then in its golden epoch of Rugby League. This Northern Union Cup, challenge saw the coveted trophy head south, the visitors having triumphed after a grand contest by the odd point in 41.

(2) September 16th: Bass and Singe, for Auckland versus New South Wales before 20,000 people at the Domain Cricket Ground. The Sky Blues, another great combination, containing several of the brilliant Kangaroos who had delighted New Zealand crowds three years before, proved too skilful for the Queen City in easily winning by 40 points to 25.

(3) September 20th: Bass, for Auckland Province versus New South Wales. The local lads played with a refreshing fire and vigour, disrupting the efficient machinery of the visitors to such an extent that they nearly inflicted a surprise defeat, only going under by 21

points to 20. Frank Burge, the celebrated Australian lock forward received his marching orders in this encounter, decided on the Domain.

- (4) September 23rd: Bass, for a combined New South Wales — Auckland XIII versus the members of the N.S.W. team who had toured England with the Australasian side, at the end of the previous season. Bass's opponents included "Bookem" Laing, the only Kiwi to make the Australasian combination. This match at the Domain which served little purpose other than as an exhibition, saw the Kangaroos amass 65 points to N.S.W. — Auckland's 27. Both teams finished with 11 men, one from each having been ordered off and one from each carried off. O'Connor and Auckland's Somers received their marching orders while Vest and George Davidson were the injured parties. In a unique incident the tourists' manager, the renowned "Jersey" Flegg, called the Kangaroo scrum-half, A. Johnson, from the field, having taken exception to spectators' remarks about Johnson's play. The half-back was replaced.
- (5) September 28th: Bass, for King Country v New South Wales at Taumarunui. The Aussies slaughtered their token opposition by 87-16.

- (6) September 30th: Nelson, for Auckland against South Auckland at Steele Park, Hamilton. Once again the southerners proved the masters of the Blue and Whites, in this instance inflicting a 28-16 defeat.
- (7) October 6th: Bass, for an Auckland XIII v Bay of Plenty at Tauranga. Auckland took things fairly quietly, preferring to educate their opponents, before taking the match 33-26.

1923

On May 5th, 1923 Marist commenced the season's activities by defeating Richmond 23 points to 15, a success followed by a narrow 11-8

victory over Newton, and a decisive 24-9 triumph against Ponsonby, in the presence of 8,500 people. Athletic then inflicted a 9 nil defeat, thus shattering whatever hopes we held of attaining an unbeaten record, in at least the first round.

Our next opponents were the unbeaten City Rovers, champions of 1921-1922 and to whom we administered a 15-5 drubbing, therefore restoring our confidence and aspirations in no uncertain manner. In a tense, torrid conflict, the Green forwards gave a magnificent display in the adverse conditions, to subdue the opposition to such effect, that inside backs Stevens, Ghent and Lang were given unexpected freedom of movement, enabling them to master their counterparts with clever passing, straight running and some astute kicking.

The first round of the championship was completed on June 23rd. Marist, by vanquishing Devonport 18-13, emerged with the fine record of five victories and one defeat.

New identities sporting the Green jersey were Baden Foss, Mick Sherlock and a promising 18-year-old from the Ellerslie Rugby Union Club, who in the course of the ensuing decade was to achieve the highest distinction: a paragon of Rugby League, the late Hector Brisbane.

The second round was started in excellent fashion; Richmond, Newton and Ponsonby tasting defeat by 20 points to 3, 16 points to 4 and 14-8 respectively.

On July 28th at Carlaw Park, 10,000 Aucklanders witnessed the clash between the championship co-leaders Athletic and Marist Old Boys, intense interest in the fixture having been aroused amongst R.L. supporters.

The Greens quickly swept to the attack, a bad pass to winger McNamara, halting a promising movement. Three successive penalties against Marist enabled Craddock Duffy, to place Athletic on the offensive, although to no avail, the strong defence resisting all efforts to penetrate. The Marist forwards

by obtaining frequent scrum possession were presenting their backs with numerous opportunities; alas normal lock Nelson Bass, playing at stand-off half was kicking too much, thus nullifying the advantage. McNamara, Billy Ghent and Courtney all went close to scoring, the latter being particularly unfortunate in losing the ball as he dived for the corner. The Athletic backs then stormed the Marist line in two vigorous attacks but were suppressed, however, Yardley from a penalty placed them 2 points ahead. Stung by this reverse, the Green backs moved the leather quickly in a copybook attack for Brisbane to evade his marker and notch a nice unconverted try. Maintaining the offensive the Marist winger, McNamara, made two valiant unsuccessful attempts to increase his team's lead; on the second he was forced into touch at the corner. Intermission then arrived.

Not long after the resumption, Duffy in a lovely break supported by Yardley and Avery raced to the Marist full back Sherlock; a try seemed certain but the indefatigable Bill Stormont, appeared from nowhere to block the movement. Athletic now began to dominate the scrums, enabling Nicholson to start several promising sorties. Broadhurst was tackled inches short of the line; his tackler infringed and Duffy landed the resultant penalty. Athletic soon went further ahead when fine passing among the forwards pierced the Marist defence for Avery to collect three points.

The Greens marshalled their forces in a determined bid to assume command. Their endeavours were rewarded when Billy Ghent dived across. Play continued at a merry pace constantly changing from end to end with both sides going close to scoring on several occasions, Marist being particularly unlucky right on time. When the bell sounded the board read: Athletic 7. Marist Old Boys 6. Our gallant attempt had been repulsed; the superiority achieved in the first half could not be consolidated in the second.

City Rovers, a week later added salt to the wounds by lowering our colours, 14 points to three, however, we finished the championship on a high note, in disposing of Devonport, 20 points to 16.

On August 22nd the elite of the Capital City stepped out on Carlaw Park to match their skill against the might of the Queen City. The locals handed their opponents a football lesson running up the cricket score of 71-12. Bass and Stormont played for the victors.

In the championship play-off City defeated Athletic 8-7, thereby emulating Ponsonby United's splendid 1917-18-19 feat, of three successive victories. Marist were placed third.

September 1st brought the opening matches of the Roope Rooster, and for the first time since 1919 we survived the initial round, by trouncing Newton Rangers 43-20. Regrettably our success was short-lived, for, as in 1922 Ponsonby (who were to repeat their triumph of 12 months before) proved our masters; in this instance the result was a hiding, 34 points to twelve.

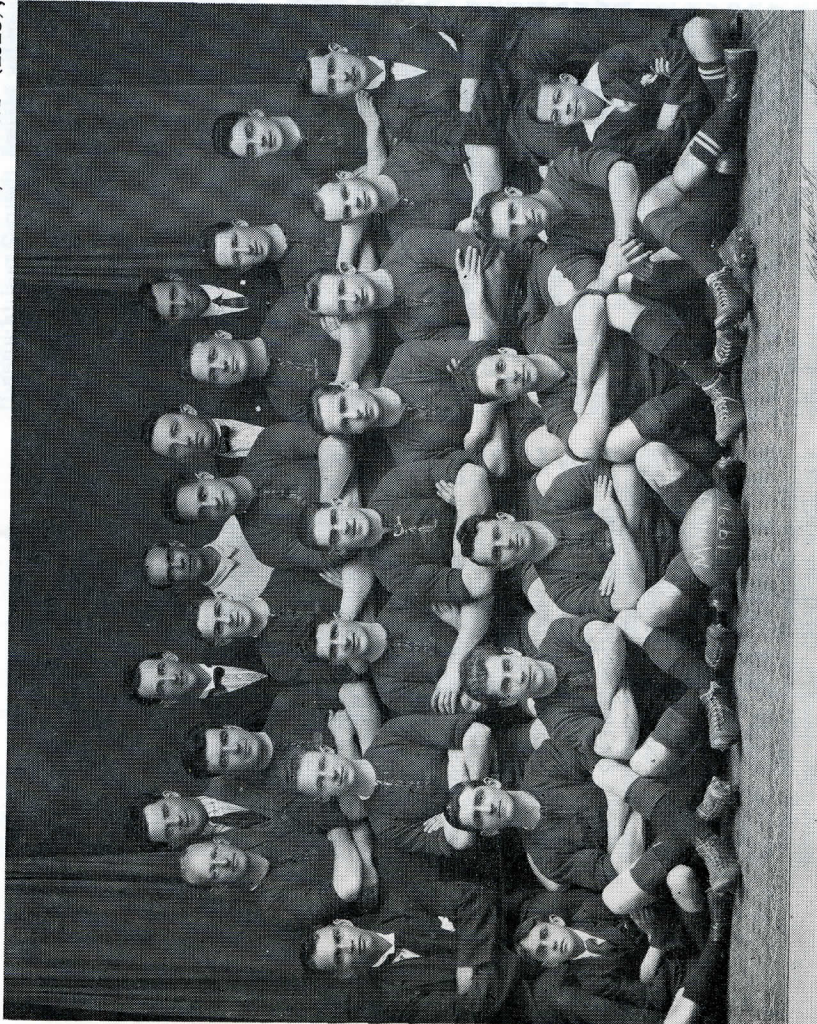
In Auckland's 22-16 defeat of Hamilton, the club was represented by Brisbane, Bass Ghent, Sherlock and Stevens, while in the Northern Union Club challenge against South Auckland, at Steel Park, Hamilton on September 15th, no fewer than six Marist men appeared for the Queen City, the five aforementioned and Bill Stormont, although it is only fair to mention that no City or Ponsonby players were available for selection, owing to the Roope Rooster final being decided on the same afternoon between these two clubs. Auckland were unsuccessful in their challenge, South Auckland holding them to a 20 all draw.

Nelson Bass (who was to appear for City in 1924) played two more representative matches prior to the season's conclusion; one for Auckland City 44 against Auckland Province 15, the other for Auckland 35 versus South Auckland 11, the latter a non Northern Union Cup challenge.

## 1924: ATTAINMENT OF ASPIRATIONS

Auckland Rugby League players, supporters and administrators, approached the fourth season of the fabulous decade with a vibrant, confident feeling that it was indeed going to be the greatest year ever. Practices had never been so well attended—nine clubs were to participate in the senior grade—many new faces would grace Carlaw Park. Interest was at an all time

high; it had to be after the spectacular exhibitions of 1922-23. Evidently portrayed by the presence of over 1,000 people at a practice match between Marist and City, staged at Carlaw Park on Good Friday and won by the Greens 22-16. Mr. H. J. Lipscombe was now club secretary, having succeeded Messrs. W. Glover, Senior (1923);



**WINNERS SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, 1924**

Back Row—R. Fogarty (V.P.), K. Lipscombe (V.P.), H. Donovan (Trainer), D. McCarthy (V.P.), J. McSweeney (V.P.) Fourth Row—S. Neill, M. Carroll, J. Stormont, G. Gardiner, J. O'Brien, G. Robinson, D. Stormont, Third Row—T. De Thierry (V.P.), V. Corlison, J. Johnson, W. Stormont (Capt.), R. Malloy, W. Ghent, H. Brisbane, H. Lipscombe (Sec.) Front Row—T. De Thierry (Mascot), B. Foss, M. Kirkland, B. Sweeney, C. Gregory, L. Stewart, J. Donovan (Mascot). Absent—A. Nelson, J. Kirwan.

ing, when an 8 all draw resulted. In the interim Richmond were trounced 26-2.

Auckland's next visitors were the second Australian Universities team, who, on this occasion played three matches against the Queen City XIII, losing the first two 7-15 and 2-17 and drawing the third 14 apiece. Jim O'Brien and Bill Stormont appeared in the first two fixtures while Billy Ghent participated in part of the last.

A reversion to club matches saw the lads in green produce two outstanding exhibitions, to thrash firstly Mangere 44 points to 3, then Newton 39-3.

In anticipation of a rip-roaring contest 10,200 people visited Carlaw Park on July 12th to witness the duel between Marist and the unbeaten championship leaders, Devonport United. Even in their wildest dreams they could not have imagined the debacle that took place on that fine winter afternoon. Appreciating a firm turn and consequent dry ball—a novelty after the near quagmires of the previous two months—the wearers of the green delighted and amazed the large crowd by flattening the opposition to the tune of 37 points to nil. Ahead 7 nil at the interval Marist overwhelmed the Seaside's in the last quarter. "Pope" Gregory produced a magnificent exhibition, although all thirteen rose to the occasion in grand fashion. This was undoubtedly the finest performance to date in the club's short history. To give an indication of the ground conditions as encountered in earlier matches, one must mention that 11.29 inches of rain fell in April and 10.63 inches in May.

In our next engagement the powerful City side succumbed by 13 points to two; a match distinguished by a scoreless second half. Three days before, L. Stewart (the former South Auckland rep), Gregory and Brisbane played for an Auckland B XIII which defeated Hamilton by 28 points to 18. On Saturday, July 26th, 20,500 people beheld a first class display of Rugby League when the 4th England touring team accounted for Auckland

D. McCarthy (1922); and S. McNamara (1921).

On April 26th the championship proper began, our opponents being Ellerslie, in their introduction to senior Rugby League. The underdogs, in a sterling display, compelled Marist to fight all the way, to achieve their 10-7 victory. Our forwards, J. Stormont, Kirk, Geard, W. Stormont, Johnson, and Carroll were disappointing, while the backs, Sherlock, Kirkland, Brisbane, Reid, Sweeney, Lang and Ghent were no more inspiring.

The following week disaster eventuated when City inflicted a resounding 20 points to 2 defeat. This match marked the initial appearance in a Marist jersey of the celebrated Jim (Offside) O'Brien, former Grafton, Auckland, North Island and New Zealand (1922 in Australia) Rugby Union representative. Another of Marist's illustrious personalities in Charles (Pope) Gregory, made his debut in our next engagement which produced a 10-3 victory over Ponsonby. Gregory, late of the Ponsonby Union team gave a brilliant exhibition of full back play. On the morning of this day, May 10th, tens of thousands of Aucklanders thronged every vantage point on the waterfront, to watch the arrival of the world's mightiest battleship, H.M.S. "Hood", in company with other vessels of the Imperial Special Service Squadron.

A fortnight later at Carlaw Park, Marist Bros Old Boys, Christchurch Rugby Union champions 1919-1923 who, because of a disagreement with the Canterbury Union had transferred their affections to the modern code at the end of the 1923 season, met City Rovers, Auckland Rugby League champions 1921-1923, in a thrilling spectacle which produced a hard fought victory for the local thirteen by 16 points to nine. Ten thousand people saw this match to which Auckland Marist were to play Athletic as a curtain-raiser, however, owing to the sodden state of the ground the game was postponed until King's Birthday morn-



by 24 points to eleven. The Marist Bros Old Boys Club was deeply honoured by the presence of four of its members in the home thirteen: viz "Pope" Gregory, Hec Brisbane, "Tiki" Gardner and Bill Stormont, the last mentioned having appeared for the victorious Auckland XIII against the 1920 Englishmen. Jack Lang was a reserve back for this match, however, in company with Jim O'Brien and Hec Brisbane, he played for the Auckland Province versus the visitors in a mid-week fixture in which England proved too knowledgeable to compile 28 points to their opponents 13.

To those of us who can remember, surely none could ever forget, August 2nd 1924—a red-letter day for New Zealand Rugby League. For the first time on the soils of Maoriland an English Test thirteen tasted defeat. Taking advantage of appalling ground conditions which debarrd the tourists from indulging in their customary bewildering bouts of passing, the Kiwis mastered their redoubtable foes in all aspects of play, producing a truly memorable exhibition. In the great 16-8 triumph, Brisbane and O'Brien, performed with distinction, the former, in particular, enhanced his increasing reputation with a superb defensive display.

Four days later at the Basin Reserve, Wellington, O'Brien and Brisbane featured in the Second Test. Brisbane earned undying fame by scoring a last minute try—chasing a high kick by Craddock Duffy which the Choorns winger, Carr, dropped in front of his posts—to give New Zealand a somewhat fortuitous 13-11 victory and the hallowed "Ashes". Previous to this series the only Shaky Isles side to have beaten England in a Test rubber was the immortal "All Golds", who succeeded in taking two of the three Tests that were decided in the "Old Dart," back in 1907-08.

At this stage of the tour, Mr. E. J. Osborne, the visitor's co-manager aroused the ire of the code's many admired and valued feminine supporters, by stating that the behaviour of New Zealand crowds suffered

in comparison with those that attended bullfights in Spain; in particular the squeaking of the women being terrible, having no parallel in "Blighty". Whether Mr. Osborne was qualified to compare the demeanour of Colonials and Latins is a matter for conjecture, however, his statement as did many made by his co-manager Mr. J. H. Dannett, brought a marked decline in the Englishmen's popularity.

The Third Test took place the following Saturday, on Dunedin's Tahuna Park, where 12,000 curious South Islanders saw England, in a brilliant exposition, outplay New Zealand to record a decisive 31-18 victory. Lyle Stewart, joined his club-mates Brisbane and O'Brien to give Marist its first trio in a national thirteen.

The internationals over, club fortunes again reigned supreme, the Greens, after holding an 11-5 advantage at oranges, going under to Athletic by 23 points to 16.

Subsequent to Jim Johnson's appearance for Auckland B 15 in a mid-week match with Lower Waikato 14, Marist registered three fine victories: Ponsombly, 16-10; Ellerslie, 19-2; and Mangere, 32-5 being the victims. This blaze of form meant that our encounter with Devonport on September 13th, would indeed be crucial. Now two points ahead of the Seasiders, success must be achieved to annex the championship: should a loss eventuate, the two teams would again be equal with one series to be decided.

At intermission on the eventful afternoon, Marist, with an 11-5 lead seemed to have the championship in their grasp: forty-five minutes later in a dramatic reversal of fortunes, the Blacks had secured two further points and were once again sharing first place. Contrary to expectations, Devonport, by a determined and resourceful display had converted their half-time deficit into a spectacular 25-19 victory. Right on time the Green's skipper and grand forward, Bill Stormont, was ordered from the field. A week later the lads defeated Richmond 34-17, while the Seasiders

too, registered another success: these two victories thus making necessary, a shield-off for the coveted Monteith Shield.

Let's now recapture the stirring events of Saturday, September 27th, 1924. In the last week of that bygone spring month, the toast of the footballing fraternity of the Queen City was a young man named Jack Kirwan. Kirwan, on the threshold of a brilliant Rugby Union career with Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay and Auckland representative honours to his credit, as well as being adjudged the unlucky man of the All Black trials for Australia, the British Isles and France, had just transferred his affections to the modern 13-a-side code. Marist Old Boys were the recipients of his services, his debut at Carlaw Park occurring on the occasion of the tension evoking championship play-off between the Greens and the Seasiders.

On a beautiful afternoon a tremendous crowd of over 17,000—one of the two greatest ever to witness a Rugby League club match in New Zealand—thronged headquarters; many out of curiosity to see how the new convert would fare. They were doubly fortunate, for not only did he perform admirably, but also they beheld a glorious and dramatic exposition of the R.L. game.

From the opening whistle Devonport attempted to force the pace with winger, Alf Harper, narrowly missing a try. Following a period highlighted by deadly tackling and furious kick and chase tactics, Marist was penalised: B. Laing obliging with two points from 30 yards. Amidst great excitement the Greens quickly retaliated with Jim Stormont diving across in the corner to capitalise on a brilliant Brisbane break. "Pope" Gregory's magnificent conversion sent Marist supporters into howls of delight. As a consequence of off side play by the Greens, Bookem Laing, reduced the leeway to a solitary point, by placing a second penalty. The ubiquitous Laing continued to initiate movements, cleverly exploiting the sideline. An excellent Devonport try then eventuated when

scrum-half Webb, sent to B. Laing, who, after a great dash transferred to Harper, the winger flying across in the corner. Devonport devotees danced in delirium.

Interval arrived with the board reading: Devonport 7—Marist 5. Upon the resumption, urged on by their frantic fans, the Greens quickly achieved the ascendancy when Malloy, chasing a high kick caught full back Harrison in possession near the latter's line. From the ensuing melee Ghent, whipped the ball to Stewart, on to Kirwan, who spreadeagled the defence to burst over in the corner. Gregory was right on target with another great kick. Marist soon went to 12-7, the result of a Gregory penalty after Webb was discovered off side.

Play was flowing at an exceptional pace with the spectators enthusiasm becoming most pronounced.

The Blacks wasted no time in levelling the scores: a spectacular try instituted by Harper dashing up the side line, evading several defenders then passing to B. Laing, who consolidated the attack before transferring to Douglas, for that player to veer infield and score between the posts. Laing added the extras.

A few minutes passed then Devonport fans were in an ecstatic state when exhilarating play by Douglas, Webb and B. Laing saw Laing touch down. Scott converted. The dauntless lads in Green, however, were not to be denied as they quickly made it 17 points all, when Ghent scored after intelligent work by Stewart, and the reliable Gregory goaled.

At this vital stage Marist winger, Bernard Sweeney, was forced to retire having sustained an injury in a determined unsuccessful scoring attempt.

With time running out in this soul-stirring encounter, a draw appeared imminent—'twas not to be for in the last minute, following a series of scrums near Devonport's line and to the accompaniment of a crescendo of cheering, winger Reg Malloy, crashed over for an unconverted try, thereby enabling Marist

Brothers Old Boys to become Auckland club champions of 1924.

MARIST BROTHERS 20. DEVONPORT UNITED 17; thus was realised the vision of victory, so paramount in our thoughts, the previous six seasons.

To portray the joyous atmosphere that prevailed in the Old Boys camp that September evening, nearly 45 years ago, perhaps it is apt to quote words from the song "Golden Students", part of the operetta "The Student Prince" which in December of that year captivated Broadway. *"Life has nothing sweeter than we're young, golden days, when Marist had truly arrived."*

The triumphant thirteen was:— Fullback: C. Gregory; Three-quarters: R. Malloy, J. Kirwan, H. Brisbane; B. Sweeney; Halves: L. Stew-

art, W. Ghent; Forwards: J. Stormont, G. Gardiner, A. Nelson, J. O'Brien, J. Johnson, S. Neill.

The Auckland Star of the following Tuesday, alleged unsportsmanlike behaviour on the part of the Club, in strengthening its thirteen for the crucial match by placing its new acquisition, Jack Kirwan, straight into the firing line. Mr. Lipscombe, in his swift rejoinder stated that the club had committed no indiscretion: it had simply procured the services of another Rugby Union player, a prerogative that could be enjoyed by an sister club at any time, should it so desire. As for the so-called strengthening, the critic had conveniently overlooked the fact that skipper, Bill Stormont, was under suspension and therefore unable to participate. Was Kirwan's inclusion sufficient com-

ensation for Stormont's exclusion? Our first round Roope Rooster hoodoo was proving a powerful one to overcome, as on this occasion our old friends Devonport, avenged their championship defeat to secure a last minute 5-3 victory. Heavy rain which fell throughout the match made ball-handling a near impossibility. Although Marist deservedly led 3-2 at the change, the Seaside's in the 2nd spell, adjusted themselves the better to the worsening conditions.

On Labour Day morning the season's final encounter took place, between Marist and City Rovers, the latter having captured the Roope Rooster.

The half time score was 2 all, the result of penalties to Gregory and Brown. Early in the 2nd spell the Red and Black backs got cracking,

and clever work by Wetherill and Crewther, enabled Bass to score a grand try which Crewther converted. Spurred by this reverse Marist made strenuous efforts to retaliate and were finally rewarded when Malloy accepted a pass near City's line, split the defence, and dived across. The tide turned in the opposition's favour when the immortal Lou Brown, scored a pretty individual try. The Green rearguard then combined in grand style for Sweeney to cross, only to be brought back for an infringement. From the resultant scrum Kirwan smashed his way over near the posts and Gregory obliged with the extras, to level the position at 10 all; this being the situation when the bell sounded.

So came the valediction, to a wonderful year.

## 1925-1927: YEARS OF VICISSITUDES

For the 1925 season the A.R.L. decided to divide its Senior grade competition into two sections, viz, the A division, comprising the Ponsonby, Newton, Devonport, City, Richmond, Athletic and Marist Bros Clubs, and the B division, to which the Ellerslie, Otahuhu, Mangere, Kingsland and Northcote XIII's were assigned.

When activities in the Queen City commenced on Saturday, April 18th, the Greens were far away in the Garden City, having been deeply honoured by and affirmatively responsive to, an invitation to participate in the initial match to be staged at Monica Park, the new headquarters of the Canterbury Rugby League: our opponents, the powerful Christchurch Marist Bros XIII. The ground — named after Mrs. Monica Thacker, wife of one of N.Z. Rugby Leagues administrative greats — was opened by Sir Joseph Ward in the presence of a large crowd.

Shortly after the start Ellis threaded his way through the Auck-

Following the interlude, Auckland emerged with an irresistible bout of passing, the leather travelling from Jack Kirwan, to Ghent, to Gallagher, the last named scrambling over wide out. From a penalty in front of the visitor's posts, Ellis opened Christchurch's account. Auckland was quick to retaliate when those grand forwards, Arthur Singe and Jim O'Brien, pierced the local defence for "Offside", to score after a stirring run. E. Fitzgerald, Blazey, Brittenden and Petersen combined in an astute movement which ended with Petersen placing the ball between the posts. The resultant conversion spelt finish to the scoring, the match ending: AUCKLAND MARIST 16. CHRISTCHURCH MARIST 7. The Auckland champions had indeed started the new season on a high note.

Back in the Queen City, our first opponents were our staunch rivals, Devonport United, on their home ground. The Greens triumphed 18 points to 9 after one of the most brutal exhibitions of football ever witnessed in the "Shaky Isles". Two Marist players received their

marching orders; "Pope" Gregory and professional welterweight boxer Laurie Cadman, as did the Seaside's "Bookem" Laing.

Three victories, over Ponsonby, 8-7; Athletic, 18-5; and Newton, 18 nil then served as an entree to our clash with City on May 30th; a match which attracted 12,500 spectators.

At interval the Greens led 7-5 after a delightful exhibition of open play by both XIII's. Jack Kirwan, produced a memorable moment when he collared a loose ball and without swerving an inch, like a tropical cyclone, he brushed aside 4 opponents before racing on to score a really dazzling try beside the posts.

Sandham made it 7 all from a controversial penalty, then 'hills and spills emanated from twenty-six dedicated exponents with both defences resisting all attempts to penetrate, until, with time up the brilliant Red and Black centre, Ben Davidson, received in a handy position and snapped a neat field goal: a sensational finale to an excellent match.

Critics agreed that the speed of the City rearguard had proved the decisive factor, however, they admitted that the Marist pack was a formidable one and with a little more celerity in the inside backs that the Greens could be almost invincible.

If Marist hearts were sad at the above misfortune, how deep was their grief when, just 5 days later, Bill Stormont passed away at his parents residence at the tender age of twenty-six, following a long and tragic illness? This grand forward and gentleman, admired by all who were fortunate enough to know him, was the club's first New Zealand representative; one of a family whose name will forever be synonymous with the development and progress of the Marist Brothers Club.

As a mark of commiseration the A.R.L. cancelled our scheduled match with Richmond.

On June 20th at Carlaw Park, 9,000 people saw Devonport inflict an 11-19 defeat in our first second round encounter, another fiery game from which "Offside" O'Brien took an early shower.

A week later, on the same ground, Jack Kirwan produced a polished display as North Island inside centre, in the first of all inter-island fixtures, a match decided in appalling conditions won by the Blacks 27-9 and which served as the main selection trial for the New Zealand team, about to embark on the 8th Australian tour. In the main curtain-raiser an Auckland B XIII, including Kirkland, Jim Stormont and Singe defeated their A counterparts (Gregory, Brisbane, Malloy, O'Brien) by 5 points to nil, while a South Auckland team beat an Auckland C XIII, containing Percy Gallagher, by 13-11 in the first curtain-raiser.

Jack Kirwan, Hec Brisbane, "Pope" Gregory and Jim O'Brien were honoured with selection in the touring team, a wonderful achievement on the part of the Old Boys. Athletic also had four members chosen, including the vice-captain,

Bert Avery. However, no other club could match our representation. Arthur Singe was considered the luckiest player in Maoriland.

On Wednesday, July 1st, New Zealand met Auckland in a pre tour match, "Pope" Gregory played for the nation and Arthur Singe for the city. New Zealand won 16 points to 9.

Ten days later at the famous Sydney Cricket Ground, Kirwan and O'Brien became the first Marist players to represent their country on overseas soil, when New South Wales beat the tourists by 7 points to 4 in the Kiwis opening game. On July 23rd, in the second match with N.S.W., Hec Brisbane, gave a glorious display to score two tries and play a prominent part in the visitors 21-13 victory, while at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground on August 1st, Gregory, coming on as a replacement for Jim Parkes, proved the star of the team which was trounced 43 points to 19 by a brilliant Queensland combination. The tourists played 12 matches, won 5 and lost 7, however, they accounted for N.S.W. in three of four engagements. No tests were decided.

Meanwhile back in Auckland, the Marist team, seriously weakened by the absence of its four stars, succumbed to Ponsonby, 6-24; (a match which had as a curtain-raiser, a ladies club hockey fixture) to City, 5-6; and to Richmond, 17-24. Between the first two encounters we defeated Athletic 35-3 and Newton 26-6.

The championship was now at an end with City the victors. Marist finished in 3rd position with six successes and five defeats. New faces in the Green livery were: Mannix, Hanson, Newdick, Brady, Con Lincen (father of All Black, Terry), Lennihan, Lennard, Cooke and Hannan (brother of Paddy the champion N.Z. rower, who in June had made an unsuccessful challenge for the world professional single sculls championship).

August 8th brought the first round for the elusive "Bird". Our dreaded hoodoo was still encircling

us, as Devonport triumphed 15 points to 12, another torrid encounter featured by tripping.

Three days after, the second United States Fleet to visit Auckland sailed into the Waitemata: remember the "Colorado", West Virginia, Maryland and California?

On the 19th representative fixtures commenced; Singe appearing for Auckland in its successful 24-16 challenge for the Northern Union Cup. Ten days later he took his place in the Queen City XIII against the returned New Zealand side; a match which produced a resounding 41-17 victory for the Kiwis, for whom Gregory, Kirwan and O'Brien played. Hec Brisbane was nursing injuries sustained in Queensland.

On September 5th, 1925, 18,000 Aucklanders beheld a superlative exhibition of Rugby League when the visiting Queensland XIII met New Zealand. Could any person privileged to be present ever forget how:—(1) the captivating Bananabenders rattled up a 19-5 lead at the interval, (2) the courageous and relentless Kiwi forwards inspired a magnificent second-half recovery, to snatch a 23-21 lead with 10 minutes to go, only to lose it 24-23 a few minutes later and (3) Ponsonby's Frank Delgrosso kicked his famous long range, time-up penalty to produce a dramatic 25-24 victory. "Pope" Gregory, Jack Kirwan, Jim O'Brien and Arthur Singe (a great try) were Marist representatives in this truly memorable match.

On the following Wednesday the above four gentlemen wore the Auckland jersey against the visitors, another stirring battle which ended in an 18 all draw. The second clash with New Zealand eventuated at Carlaw Park on the succeeding Saturday. This time the Maroons bewildered the Kiwis to be ahead 35-14 at no-side. Our gallant quartet again sported the Kiwi jersey; Jack Kirwan crossed for three points besides being the recipient of a penalty try.

While the Bananabenders were in the Queen City, a second Auckland side was on a southern tour. M. Kirkland was the Marist man in

this team which defeated West Coast, 22-15; Wellington, 68-9; and lost to Canterbury, 5-6.

On September 19th Singe, Kirkland and Gregory appeared for the Auckland XIII which retained the Northern Union Cup against South Auckland by 36-19.

In a wonderful gesture the Stormont family presented an imposing trophy to the A.R.L. to be known as the William Stormont Memorial Shield, thus perpetuating the memory of a fine footballer. At first intended for competition on a national basis this idea was then abandoned, the shield being handed to Bill's club, Marist, for defence against Ponsonby the 1925 Roope Rooster winners. This match decided on September 26th saw Ponsonby successful by the odd point in 45, after an enthralling and torrid struggle. Had Gregory, who played at stand-off half only in the second spell, spent the full game in this position, it is highly probable the Greens would have reversed the result. In a subsequent match, Ponsonby defeated the championship winners, City, by 35 points to 3 to become the first holders of a beautiful example of the silversmiths and woodcarvers arts.

On October 10th, Queensland, in the farewell match of their N.Z. tour, slaughtered an Auckland Province XIII, containing Singe and O'Brien, by 54 points to 14. Many unbiased judges consider the Bananabenders the greatest Rugby side of either code ever to visit the Shaky Isles: bewildering backs like Cec Aynsley, Jimmy Craig and Tommy Gorman, aided by such terrific forwards as Norm Potter (the captain), Vic Ambruster and Herb Steinhart.

On Saturday the 24th, Ponsonby and Marist clashed in a special fixture for the Labour Day Sports Committee; the winners to receive gold medals. The Blue and Blacks once more proved our masters to register a 26-16 victory, albeit the Greens did score 13 points to their opponents 5 in the second spell. The curtain-raiser (believe it or not) was a Rugby Union match between

Vermont Street A and St. Benedict's School XV's, the former winning by 13 points to 3.

The curtain was thus lowered on the 1925 season. After an enterprising beginning, the selection of four members for the New Zealand touring team had first disrupted, then destroyed, our championship retention hopes.

#### 1926

On Saturday, May 1st, Marist defeated the Grafton Athletics XIII by 31 points to 11; a match in which the luckless Hec Brisbane broke his collarbone. Jack Kirwan was elected skipper in succession to Billy Ghent, who, after wearing the Green each year since 1919 had decided to transfer his affections to City Rovers. That grand stalwart, Jim Johnson, was now secretary with Mr. G. Foster holding the office of president. New jerseys were also the vogue — a Gold collar and monogram enhancing the familiar Green.

Our second game saw Devonport vanquished 19-16, while 9,000 people watched City inflict a deserved 15-0 defeat on a lack-lustre Green thirteen on May 15th.

After disposing of Newton 12-9, we encountered the unbeaten Ponsoby United side and lowered the Blue and Black colours by 13 points to 8, the victorious team being: — "Pope" Gregory, Bernard Sweeney, F. Hansen, Jack Kirwan, Percy Gallagher, Bob Crewther, Gus Nicholson, Jim Stormont, Arthur Sings, Dick Moisle, Jim O'Brien, Jim Johnson, Bill Noble.

A 24-10 defeat of Richmond spelt finish to the first round, at which juncture Ponsoby and Marist were joint leaders.

On June 26th Auckland thrashed South Auckland at Carlaw Park by 49 points to 15. Arthur Sings appeared in the Blue and White livery while Gregory and Kirwan were among five Aucklanders who reinforced the visitors for the second spell.

Saturday, July 3rd: North Island (Kirwan) 31 v South Island 22; B XIII (Sings) 25 v A XIII (Greg-

ory, Brisbane) 16, in the presence of 18,500 spectators.

Wednesday, July 7th: Rest of New Zealand 28 v Auckland (Gregory, Brisbane) 21.

Saturday, July 10th: Possibles 32 (Gregory, Brisbane) v Probables 15 (Kirwan, Sings; B XIII (Jim Stormont) 30 v A XIII (O'Brien) 28.

The above fixtures with Marist representatives shown in parenthesis constituted the final trials for the selection of the second New Zealand team, to embark on the long arduous tour of "Blighly".

The prevailing glorious air of uncertainty was replaced by the unavoidable drama of reality when the names of the fortunate twenty-six were finally announced: some hopes were fulfilled, others were shattered. Delight filled Marist adherents' hearts when it was ascertained that Jack Kirwan, Hector Brisbane, Arthur Sings and "Pope" Gregory could all pack their bags with a label: Destination England. No other club in the Dominion could emulate our achievement of having four players included in the touring team, although the Hornby Club in Christchurch matched it in the original selection, however, "Punch" Vivian later withdrew, to leave the Garden City side with three members.

A reversion to the club fortunes produced the following results:—v Grafton, won 19-2; v Devonport, lost 13-31; v City, lost 13-22, after leading 11 nil at oranges; v Newton, won 15-11, a game which saw a new play-the-ball rule introduced; v Ponsoby, lost 8-10, an opposition try in injury time depriving us of victory.

Ponsoby defeated City in the championship playoff, leaving Marist Bros as in 1925 in 3rd position. New players were Pickering, Bulcraig and Thompson.

On Tuesday, August 3rd, the All Blacks (yes they were really given that title) departed from Auckland per the R.M.S. "AORANGI". On the Saturday prior to commencing their great adventure they encountered an Auckland XIII, and were deci-

sively beaten by 52 points to 32. None of our quartet were included in the national thirteen, while Jim O'Brien appeared for the victors, as he did a month later in their 33 points to 15 retention of the N.U Cup, against Canterbury.

On September 18th we survived the first round of the Roope Rooster when we vanquished Grafton by 29 points to 10. In this particular match one of to-day's vice-presidents and most ardent supporters, Wally Feek, made his Senior debut at scrum-half. Alas, our success was not to be repeated for on the next Saturday, Devonport, for the third successive year destroyed our ambitions of capturing the renowned piece of poultry, by inflicting a 28-11 defeat.

On October 16th Bulcraig represented the club in the 100 yards Senior sprint, being unplaced. This entertainment was a prelude to the Rooster final between Richmond 16 and Devonport 15.

The Auckland season was terminated on October 30th, when an Auckland Colts side defeated the Auckland Senior B reps by 24 points to 17. R. Crewther appeared for the youngsters. The clubs performed during 1926 were summarised by the Rugby League Gazette thus:—"Four members in the All Black team severely affected the Marist side who gave every promise of taking a hand in the settlement of the championship, prior to the departure of the tourists. Even under this great handicap they produced some fine games and were in the running until practically the last two matches. After they farewelled their All Blacks, Marist set to work to fill the gaps but were only partly successful. They made a great find when they induced Bulcraig to return to the code, while they also have several other young players of promise".

A regrettable aspect of the club's activities was being unable to field a team other than in the Senior grade: a deplorable state of affairs which had to be remedied at the earliest opportunity.

At this time the attention of most sportsmen was focused on the scene, twelve thousand miles away in Merrie England. By New Year's Eve the New Zealanders had relinquished the Ashes, having been defeated by the redoubtable Englishmen, in both the First and Second Tests. At Central Park, Wigan, on October 2nd, the Maorilanders went under by 28-20, while at Hulls' Boulevard on November 13th, John Bulls' lads triumphed by 21 points to 11. Gregory and Brisbane were engaged in the Wigan clash, while the latter occasion produced a magnificent Marist moment, when all four of our lads walked onto the arena as part of the New Zealand team. Taking into consideration, only tests played by New Zealand XIII's away from home, this proud feat, although emulated several times, was not eclipsed until Richmond provided five members of the Kiwis First and Third Test XIII's, against Australia at Sydney in June 1956.

For those with memories of this glittering epoch of history, the last month of '26 saw Fuller's Opera House severely damaged by fire on the 3rd, and Luna Park commence operations on the 4th. Immortal screen lover, Rudolph Valentino, had died on August 23rd, while Gene Tunney had captured the world heavyweight boxing crown from Jack Dempsey, at Philadelphia, on September 23rd, before a record 130,000 spectators.

#### 1927

On January 15th, the Lions made a clean sweep of the series when they outclassed a tragedy-stricken New Zealand thirteen, in the Third and Final Test at Headingley, Leeds, by 32 points to 17. Jack Kirwan, was the sole Marist player to participate. From mid December the tourists had been deprived of the services of seven forwards, who, because of their dissatisfaction with the management, had decided to go on strike. It is not the purpose nor the intention of this history, to examine the whys and wherefores to attribute blame or provide exoneration, only to state that one of the

finest teams ever to leave these shores was destroyed by dissension and returned unheralded and practically forgotten. At a subsequent hearing, held in camera, the N.Z.R.L. suspended all seven militants for life. The only Aucklanders involved was Arthur Singe, thus a really grand forward's career, had drawn to a premature and lamentable conclusion.

At the club's 8th annual general meeting conducted in Donovan's Gymnasium, Parnell, on March 15th, the following officers were elected: Patron, Dr. H. W. Cleary; president, Mr. G. P. Westbury, secretary-treasurer, Mr. D. P. Deere; club captain, Mr. H. Donovan; delegate to A.R.L., Mr. D. P. Deere; junior delegate, Mr. Mularvey; management committee, Messrs. F. Hansen, R. Fogarty, J. McSweeney, J. O'Brien, D. McCarthy, R. Moislely and T. Gregory.

The new season began on April 30th with a match between an Auckland XIII and the Auckland members of the recently returned New Zealand side. Gregory and Kirwan appeared for the tourists, who were defeated 21-24.

The Greens commenced the Monthly Shield competition in fine

fashion, by comfortably disposing of Athletic 20-8, then securing a hard fought 12-8 victory over Devonport. An unexpected loss to Richmond followed, the Maroon and Blues outplaying us, to thoroughly deserve their 15-3 triumph. Ponsonby inflicted a second defeat, scoring two tries in the last seven minutes to achieve an 18-10 victory. Two more successes completed the first round: Newton being vanquished 12-7 and a weakened City XIII 33-8.

The second round brought an even more spectacular Marist start than the first, with Athletic suffering by 34-9. Now joint leaders with Devonport United, we encountered our old foes a week later: the Blacks running out victors in a quagmire by 16 points to six, after a heated 2nd spell which saw O'Brien from Devonport take an early shower. We then gained retribution by defeating Richmond 5 points to 2, however, Ponsonby again proved superior, this time by 13 points to nil. The fifth match saw Newton outplay the Old Boys 20-10, while our final game, that with City, at the Domain was postponed due to shocking ground conditions.

Once again we finished in 3rd place, sharing that position with Devonport, albeit we had one match in hand.

## 1928-1933: THE GLORIOUS YEARS

This illustrious period began on March 13th, 1928 in Donovan's Gymnasium, when an enthusiastic and excellent gathering, at the 9th annual general meeting, acclaimed a healthy balance sheet and encouraging report. Mr. G. Foster was elected president and Mr. Bill Noble, secretary-treasurer.

On April 21st the Auckland Rugby League, assisted by the Northern Boxing Association, staged a combined Rugby League—Athletic—Boxing carnival at Carlaw Park, known as the Dick Stack Benefit Fund, to assist the popular

On August 20th the team journeyed to Hamilton and after a very enjoyable encounter with the local representatives at Hinemoa Park, took the honours 21-14.

September 3rd witnessed the opening round of the Roope Rooster, our opponents being championship winners, Newton Rangers. In their finest exposition of the year the Greens lowered the Red and White's colours decisively and deservedly by 27 points to thirteen.

From a recast back division real brilliance emanated with the insides, in particular, combining cleverly. Gregory, who had played superbly all the season at fullback gave a magnificent exhibition of stand-off half play; his quick penetration, straight running and glorious unselfishness recalling the mercurial Jonathan Parkin, 1924 England captain. Hector Brisbane formed an admirable alliance with Gregory, while Knott the other centre showed neat effective work. Jack Kirwan was tried as last line of defence and played a useful game. The Marist forwards gave a colourful and spirited performance well in keeping with their rear-guard's rejuvenation. Moislely's display was up to rep standard;

O'Brien was in every movement, while Graham was always prominent with lethal tackling. "Snow" Drew and Bernard Sweeney were our flankmen in this encounter, with Owen Cronin working the scrum, and Jim Johnson, Keenan and Noble completing the forward set.

Shadow quickly followed sunshine, when Richmond—who eventuality retained their title—thumped us 15 points to nil in the 2nd round and so Marist bade farewell to yet another up and down season, although "Pope" Gregory visited the south with a strong Auckland team, which disposed of Canterbury, 24-13; West Coast-Buller, 42-15; Otago, 20-13; and Wellington, 23-15. He also appeared for the North Island when the Blacks registered a narrow 11-8 victory, and for Auckland in its 60-33 trouncing of a game Buller thirteen.

In 1927, the Old Boys once more fielded Junior teams: indeed the Sixth B side captured the Grade knockout, the first occasion that a Junior competition had fallen to a Marist team. Thrilled by these happenings the Marist Club could not help but view the future with an exciting confidence.

later rubbed salt into the wounds 31-22. Better times then eventuated: Ponsonby tasting defeat 18-14, Ellerslie 26-8, a match in which Dick Moislely (normally a forward) scored four tries as a winger; and City 39-12, an encounter which produced an amusing incident, occasioned by Webberley, who had just emerged through the gates to replace Mackie for the Red and Blacks, running onto the field to tackle Bernard Sweeney, who was enjoying an unopposed sprint for the City goal-line. Newton, in the final match of the round inflicted a 21-3 trouncing; our backs with a deplorable exhibition, greatly assisting their opponents.

Our return clash with Richmond saw us narrowly defeated 9-10. In the last minute Dick Moislely burst clear, however, he was caught from behind while 4 supports outside him, wrung their hands in despair. The following week "Offside" O'Brien made his first appearance of the year, playing a sterling game and notching the winning try in our 14-13 defeat of championship leaders, Devonport.

On the following Wednesday, Dick Moislely, played for a Possibles XIII who defeated the Probables (Gregory, Brisbane, Campbell) by 24 points to 14. A brief return to club fortunes witnessed our exciting 14 all draw

with Ponsonby. Rugby League on higher levels then held sway at Carlaw Park as follows:—

July 21st: Auckland 66 slaughtered Canterbury 26 in a Northern Union Cup challenge. O'Brien appeared for the Queen City.

July 28th: North Island 44 trounced South Island 8. O'Brien and Hector Brisbane who suffered injuries, were Marist representatives in the Black XIII.

August 4th: New Zealand 17 defeated England 13. Twenty-seven thousand people watched the galling Kiwi pack (including O'Brien) subdue the vaunted Englishmen and repeat their great Carlaw Park triumph of 4 years before. Marist Sixth Grade A and B teams opposed each other in the curtain-raiser; a grand credit to the club.

August 8th: England 14 beat Auckland Province (including Moisleyley) 9.

August 11th: England 26 beat Auckland 15. The indomitable O'Brien sported the Blue and White.

A restoration of club football on the 18th saw Ellerslie surprisingly lower our colours 11 nil. On this day O'Brien and Brisbane participated in the infamous Dunedin Donnybrook, when 10,000 people watched England level the series, by taking the Second Test 13-5.

At Invercargill on the ensuing Wednesday New Zealand defeated the visitors 27-26, in a brilliant, clean exhibition match. Hec Brisbane performed admirably, as he did in the vital Third Test at English Park, Christchurch, three days later, when England retained the Ashes, after a torrid battle, by 6 points to 5. In Auckland that day, Marist met City and were vanquished 14-10. Old campaigner, Jack Kirwan, severed his retirement to assist his favourites.

In the final championship match, Newton produced a polished display to defeat the Greens by 10 points to two; our third successive defeat. Devonport captured the Montieith Shield while the disappointing Marist team could only finish 6th out of seven.

prised by missing the conversion. A terrace-side tussle saw Jim Johnson ordered off, although there seemed nothing to warrant such drastic action on the part of the referee, Mr. A. Saunders. Delgrosso again missed an easy goal, thereafter the Marist defence rose to great heights; Kirwan, Brisbane and Gregory being particularly effective. When the final bell sounded the scoreboard showed: Marist 10. Ponsonby 8. After a 10-year crusade the celebrated trophy was really ours. The weather was fine, the ground conditions were excellent, the success was popular. The victorious thirteen was:—

Fullback: Petherick; three-quarters: Batchelor, Kirwan, Brisbane, Hansen; halves: Gregory (captain), Brady; forwards: Noble, Campbell, O'Brien, Johnson, Moisleyley, Graham.

This same delightful afternoon also brought excitement at Ellerslie Racecourse: remember Laughing Prince, the Mitchelson Cup and the resultant riot.

The succeeding Saturday Marist met Devonport in the Champion of Champions fixture, for the William Stormont Memorial Shield; the position of which was another cherished Marist desire, remembering Bill Stormont's association with the club.

After Ernie Ruby (Devonport) and Batchelor had both missed opportunities to score, Brisbane notched a dazzling try, then, in another great run he was only just halted by Simons. After staunch defence stemmed numerous Black onslaughts, Len Scott initiated a glorious try, when he fielded a return kick, raced down the sideline and sent to Preston; the movement being continued by the efforts of five players, before Les O'Leary raced over at the corner, from where Simons made a great conversion to give the Blacks a 5-3 lead—this being the position at the interlude.

The second half scoring opened when Bill Noble snapped up a loose ball and brushed aside several defenders before being tackled on the

line. From the ensuing scrum Jim Stormont, in his first game of the year, dived across for an unconverted try. Devonport regained the lead when Preston split the defence, passed to Beattie, who flew past several Greens and amidst terrific excitement, O'Leary raced across for a great try. Marist could not be denied, for, from a scrum near half-way Hassan sent his backs away. Brisbane astutely caught the opposition off balance and winger Hansen, flashing into the picture crossed wide out for a classic three points. The match concluded with the Old Boys attacking and the board reading: Marist 9. Devonport 8. Brisbane played a magnificent game; Hassan was clever at scrum-half; while Batchelor gave a grand display on the wing.

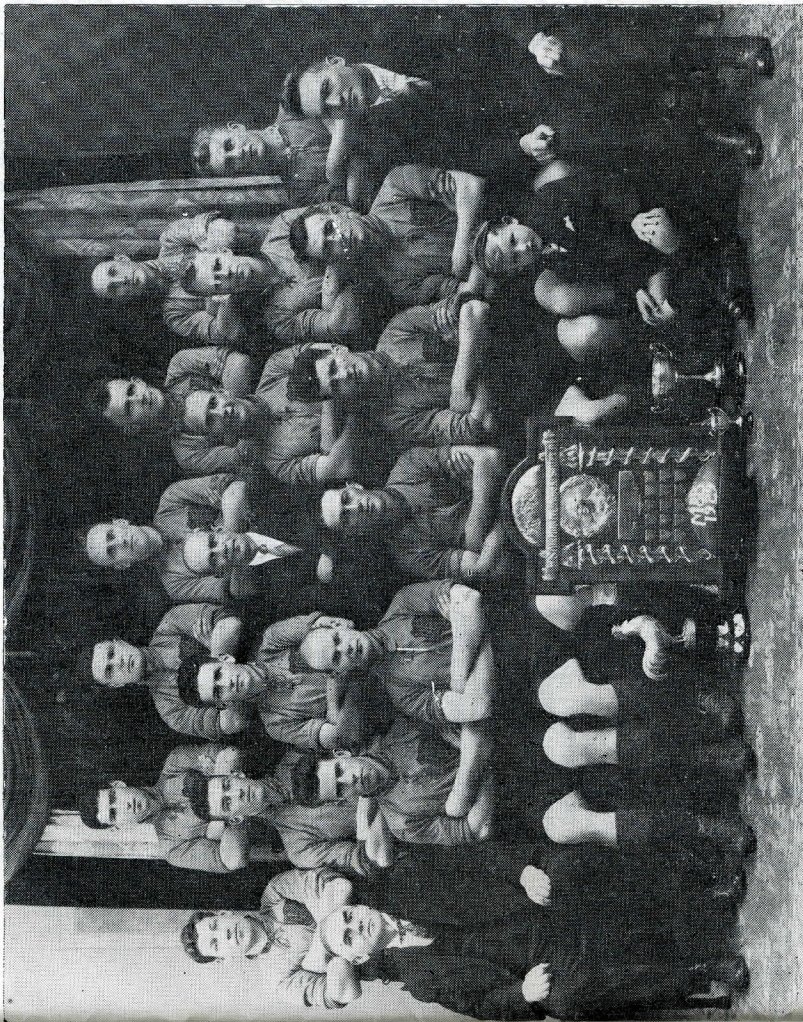
Our hearts were gay that October day as there were now two beautiful trophies to embellish the Marist camp; could we secure a glorious hat-trick by capturing the forthcoming special knockout competition, organised by the Labour Day Sports Committee.

Nine teams participated in the first round on October 20th: the matches comprising two spells of 30 minutes each way. Marist had a close call in their opening encounter against Huntly, the South Auckland champions, only achieving their 12-10 victory in the last minute of play, when Jack Kirwan pierced the defence to enable Petherick to touch-down for our 4th try, the others having been obtained by Batchelor, Noble and Hansen. There being nine contenders for top honours, one of the four victorious sides naturally had to play twice that afternoon. The Greens were the chosen XIII and met Ellerslie, whom they vanquished 11-8. Phil Brady scored in the opening minute, Dick Moisleyley and George Batchelor crossed later, and Bill Noble landed a nice goal.

City Rovers were our foes in the semi-finals, staged at Carlaw Park on October 27th, and bowed to our superiority by 17 points to 12. The Red and Blacks, early in the con-

test looked set for a decisive victory, however, George Batchelor decided differently by collecting three fine tries. O'Brien and Gregory also scored, and "Pope" landed one goal. Now eventuated the final battle, against Richmond Rovers. The Maroon and Blues quickly took the offensive, however, they tired badly in the latter stages when the Old Boys applied the pressure and finally succumbed 5 points to 12. For the victors O'Brien, Jock Graham, Batchelor and Brisbane scored unconverted tries.

The glorious hat-trick was now a reality: the lovely £50 trophy would therefore stand in proud array, beside the Roope Rooster and Stormont Shield. By their latest victory, the Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Club, had made a significant contribution to the Silver Jubilee celebrations (conducted that particular week-end) of a splendid New Zealand educational institution in the Sacred Heart College — already in 1928, the cradle of so many fine exponents of the Rugby League code.



SENIORS 1929: (Winners Roope Rooster, Stormont Shield and The Thistle Cup.)

Back Row—N. Campbell, C. McKay, G. Batchelor, G. Campbell, C. Gregory. Second Row—J. Graham, C. Young, V. McDonald, H. Donovan (Club Capt.), A. Fleet, H. Duane, H. Hickey. Front Row—J. Stormont (V.P.), P. Brady, H. Brisbane (Vice Capt.), M. Moisley (Capt.), J. Johnson, W. Hassan, J. O'Brien (Sec.), Front Row—B. Stormont (Mascof).

Our Sixth B's, too, had brought honour to the Club by repeating their 1927 feat of capturing the Grade knock-out.

Thus, this golden month of October, brought to a spectacular conclusion what had previously been a bitterly disheartening (championship speaking) year.

#### 1929

In an atmosphere of exciting expectancy of eventual success, the Marist Club began operations for 1929 with a practice against City, in which they were successful by 5 points to nil, before 2,000 spectators. Norm Campbell, Alan Clarke and Harry Duane were new stars in the Green firmament. Jack Kirwan had announced his definite retirement at the age of thirty-three, while "Pope" Gregory had reconsidered and decided to continue. Jim O'Brien had assumed the role of secretary-treasurer.

Considering the above and our sweeping successes of late 1928, could any Rugby League supporter have envisaged what eventuated in the first round viz:—

v Newton, lost 20-21; a match in which the Red and White's brilliant Roy (Shaver) Hardgrave, played a conspicuous part in our defeat. Hardgrave and Lou Brown, are adjudged by many experts, the two greatest New Zealand flankmen of all time.

v Richmond, lost 8-9; an encounter which saw victory elude us two minutes from time when Ted Mincham (father of present Kiwi, Bob) landed an excellent side-line goal. Earlier, Gregory had scored a clever opportunist try when he placed the ball for an attempted penalty, tapped, gathered and dashed across unopposed.

v Ponsonby, lost 10-14; v King'sland Athletic, drew 18 all; v Ellerslie, won 19-13; v City, lost 3-5; v Devonport, drew 13 all; this last match being a torrid struggle in which the leaders were extremely fortunate to retain their unbeaten record. Marist led 13-2 at the change, and would surely have been

successful had not the vanguard foolishly conceded three penalties early in the second spell.

Although the Old Boys gained only a solitary victory their performances were marked by misfortune on at least three occasions, plus the fact that a spate of injuries meant a constantly changing rearguard, a position designed to upset any club.

At this juncture the Auckland Rugby League inaugurated the quest for the Thistle Cup, which was to be awarded to the team obtaining the greatest number of championship points in the second round.

Marist commenced in fitting fashion, disposing of Newton 20-19, thus truly avenging our one point loss at their hands in the earlier round, then vanquishing Richmond 11-19 in a gruelling encounter, while Ponsonby was held to a 10 all draw. Kingsland tasted defeat by 25 points to 10, and City went under 13-7 in a match in which Norm Campbell gave a magnificent display as 'last line of defence.'

South Auckland then effected a challenge for the Northern Union Cup and were repulsed 11 points to 8 by a Queen City XIII, including Hector Brisbane and Dick Moisley.

Our next opponents were Devonport; a clash which saw a great Green victory by 10 points to six. On August 10th — the day Ponsonby became 1929 champions — Marist outclassed Ellerslie, 26 points to nil to become first holders of the Thistle Cup with an impressive record of 6 wins and 1 draw. When one considers that in the complete championship we finished in 4th position with 7 wins, 4 losses and three draws, it was indeed an inspired "rags to riches" performance.

Before our battle to retain possession of the Roope Rooster started, two Northern Union Cup challenges took place. In the first a strong and sprightly North Auckland XIII was only just thwarted 22-19, while in the second, Auckland proved too experienced for a weak Canterbury

team, 47-18. Gregory and Moisley played in both games, "Stump" Campbell in the former, and Brisbane and O'Brien in the latter.

On August 31st the Greens, in the 1st round of the Rooster were forced to fight all the way, before downing Kingsland 9 points to 3. They produced their best football a fortnight later, to defeat City 23-7, thus making certain their entry into the final for the 2nd successive year: our opponents as in 1928, Ponsonby United.

Between the Kingsland and City games, the South Island registered their first victory over their Northern adversaries, by 22 points to 13. Gregory and Brisbane appeared for the Blacks.

On Saturday, September 21st, the Roope Rooster final eventuated. Let's now look at a New Zealand Herald resume of the encounter:—

"In one of the brightest club matches seen this season Marist succeeded in retaining the Roope Rooster trophy by defeating Ponsonby (the reigning championship holders), by seventeen points to nine. The Marist victory was the outcome of splendid combination between the vanguard and rear division, the latter's work being tipped with brilliancy. Marist's success is all the more creditable owing to Stevens winning the ball for Ponsonby on almost every occasion. His hooking must have caused great surprise as "Stump" Campbell has met with endless success as of late, in this department. With the considerable advantage of overwhelming scrum possession the Ponsonby backs failed to capitalise: the ball came cleanly to Moore at scrum-half but the Green forwards broke quickly and stemmed all attempts to open up the game.

The combination of Hassam, Gregory and Brisbane on attack, proved the Ponies undoing. The trio looked for the leather in the loose and were dangerous and destructive. Ponsonby has often been noted for its fast open play but on Saturday Marist beat the champions in every department and actually outpaced the opposition."

Gregory, O'Brien, Clarke, Brady and Hassam scored tries for the visitors with Gregory also landing one goal. The only regrettable aspect of this magnificent victory was the ordering off of Harry Duane. The successful thirteen was:— Full back: N. Campbell; Three-quarters: Batchelor, Brady, Brisbane, McDonald; Halves: Gregory, Hassam; Forwards: O'Brien, G. Campbell, Moisley (Captain), Duane, Graham, Clarke.

The following Saturday Marist and Ponsonby again clashed; this time for the Stormont Memorial Shield with the Ponies seeking to put paid to the Old Boys' hopes of retaining their Championship of Champions title. The Greens handed their opponents a football lesson, although Brisbane, Graham and Moisley were unavailable for the match; their replacements being Sweeney, Johnson and Fleet. Hassam and Gregory, in a brilliant exhibition of enterprising and incisive running gave their out-sides every chance to move in full majesty, to such effect that the scoreboard at no-side read: Marist 28 Ponsonby 14. George Batchelor, had a grand day scoring three tries, one being a penalty. Mr. V. Simpson was the referee.

The nectar of victory was indeed sweet. The glories of 1928 had been repeated: would they be transcended for on October 12th was to eventuate the sternest test of all, the clash with South Sydney — for the preceding 5 years, the champions of Australia's largest city — the first club team from across the Tasman to visit Maoriland? Yes! in the greatest honour yet accorded the club, Marist had been recognised as New Zealand's leading exponent of Rugby League, notwithstanding their unsuccessful quest for Auckland championship honours.

The momentous afternoon duly arrived with 15,500 Aucklanders descending on Carlaw Park, hoping that the Green and Golds would unfurl the Queen City's banner on high.

The visitors won the toss and immediately assumed the offensive when Binder cleverly changed direction to pierce the defence, however,

a poor pass to Quimlivan halted the movement. At this stage Marist by taking Alan Clarke from the scrum and placing him between Hassam and Gregory, thereby emulated the Red and Greens unusual formation of four three-quarters, three halves and five forwards. Marist soon bustling the visitors taking play to their 25, from where Why intercepted and made a great run to beyond half-way. First points were registered by the Sydneysiders when Benny Wearing landed a fine goal from well out.

Kicking exchanges followed until Brady accepted a cross-punt and set fly. Unfortunately Brisbane failed to take his co-centres pass when opportunity loomed, however, he quickly atoned with a glorious tackle when the opposition backs looked dangerous. Spillane then made a brilliant 50 yards touch-line dash before sending an in-pass to Percy Williams, whose transfer went astray right on Marist's line. The locals retaliated with George Batchelor and Alan Clarke being associated in a neat blind-side sortie which was only stopped by a delayed pass. Continuing to attack Marist were first Dick Moisiey, dribbled across, touched down, then discovered that the ball had passed into touch-in-goal. Quimlivan intercepted in another Old Boys onslaught but lost the leather with an open paddock in sight. This same player then kicked a magnificent penalty after the Green and Golds were penalised on half-way.

Undaunted by this set back the Marist vanguard carried proceedings to the visitors 25, where Wilf Hassam broke from a scrum, sent to Moisley, on to Clarke, who was pulled down inches short. Gregory secured possession fifteen yards out and spurred by the cheering thousands, made a lovely dummymy run to score a spectacular try between the posts, which he converted.

The locals then spent a period displaying resolute defensive qualities, in repulsing several stirring attacks by the South Sydney forwards. At the interlude Marist led by 5 points to 4.

Following the resumption Marist kept the visitors penned on their line, there being some strenuous tussles in that vicinity. Eventually Eggen led his forwards to half-way, Wearing made a glorious dash, only to be grounded by a great tackle from Norm Campbell. South Sydney remounted the attack and Alf O'Connor just failed to score, losing possession in his vital dive. Fanatical Marist defence resisted all Red and Green attempts to penetrate and Alan Clarke soon relieved with a nice run. Offside play by Alf O'Connor gave Gregory a chance to put the Old Boys further ahead and "Pope" duly obliged.

R. Williams was injured shortly afterwards and forced to retire. Phil Brady was seen to advantage in a sparkling dash from half-way and was unlucky not to score; Spillane throwing him into touch-in-goal. Then it was Wearing's turn, the winger making a scintillating run until Norm Campbell lowered him with another copybook tackle. South Sydney was finally rewarded when Eggen split the defence and although tackled he managed to transfer to the supporting Why, who crossed near the posts. Blair's conversion meant that the Red and Greens now held a two points advantage.

This lead was short-lived, for Brady flew through a gap, sent to Brisbane, who transferred to Gregory for that player to race over wide out. "Pope's attempted conversion hit the upright and bounced back. Inspired by a crowd intoxicated with delight, Marist held the whip-hand until the conclusion of the match when the scoreboard portrayed, perhaps the finest hour of any Green and Gold thirteen viz Marist 10, South Sydney 9. The teams that participated in this memorable encounter were:—

**MARIST BROS:** Full Back: N. Campbell; Three-quarters: V. McDonald, P. Brady, H. Brisbane, G. Batchelor; Halves: C. Gregory, A. Clarke, W. Hassam; Forwards: O'Brien, G. Campbell, R. Moisley, J. Graham, J. Johnson.



**SOUTH SYDNEY:** Full Back: A. Spillane; Three-quarters: B. Wearing, O. Quinlivan, H. Eyers, R. Williams; Halves: P. Williams, A. Blair, J. Why; Forwards: D. Watson, A. Binder, C. Eggen, F. O'Connor, A. O'Connor.

Newspaper critics agreed that the victors were at least a three points better team, with their inside backs displaying superior handling ability. Every Marist player rose to the occasion in this heroes all individuals none, victory. A disturbing feature of the match was the numerous penalties awarded against both teams.

With this glorious swan-song to the season the prevailing silver lining became a golden crown. The Old Boys, however, had failed to realise the magnitude of the interest generated amongst Aucklanders as the result of their grand triumph, therefore it was a surprise to them when the N.Z.R.L. announced that a return match was to eventuate on the forthcoming Saturday, instead of the planned South Sydney v Ponsonby clash.

Devoid of the necessary practice, a somewhat lethargic and disjointed Marist XIII was outclassed by 21 points to 5, in the presence of nearly 16,000 disappointed spectators. The Green and Golds missed many opportunities, particularly in the 2nd spell when their backs constantly attacked. South Sydney produced superior positional play while their forwards dominated the scrums allowing their rearguard to throw the ball around in cavalier fashion. The visitors were quick to take advantage of Marist mistakes; this factor resulting in two easy tries being scored. Another noticeable fault of the Old Boys' performance was that the inside backs showed a tendency to over-kick. Harry Duane replaced Jock Graham in the pack, otherwise Marist fielded the same XIII as in the previous encounter.

A wonderful season had terminated in defeat, however, Marist Brothers were without question the most powerful club combination in the Shaky Isles and could justly lay

claim to the title of joint champions of Australasia, notwithstanding South Sydney having five players in the Kangaroos, at that time engaged on a tour of England.

Apart from those players already mentioned, Messrs. C. McKay, C. Young and H. Hickey were the Senior A jersey during the season.

Although Rugby League had concluded for the year, the Marist Brothers Club was to experience a tragic loss before 1929 became part of history. On Monday, December 9th its beloved patron Dr. Henry William Cleary, Sixth Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, passed to his eternal rest at the age of seventy. Doctor Cleary's magnanimity had won the veneration of all sections of the community; Auckland being the poorer by his demise.

#### 1930

With Dr. Cleary's successor to the episcopate, Dr. James Liston, as the new patron, the Old Boys began 1930 in direct contrast to the preceding year, by vanquishing firstly Kingsland, 16-13, in a gruelling encounter; thence Richmond 20-12; and Ellerslie 13-5.

On the same afternoon that the Senior A XIII met Richmond in the principal attraction at Carlaw Park, the 5th Grade team encountered Northcote in the curtain-raiser on the No. 2 ground; a match about which the Rugby League Gazette had this to say:—"The match provided a very creditable game of League football for Juniors. The packs were evenly matched, Marist being, perhaps, slightly superior in the loose. Individually, Marist backs were the better, but with a few games Northcote will be a very hard team to beat. For Marist Robertson, Miskell and Pennycock stood out in the open and combined well with the backs. Smith, an ex Rugby Union player, gave a sound display behind the pack. The best backs were Chalmers, O. Rogers and L. Schultz. Tries were scored by Rogers (2), Chalmers and Miskell. Two tries were converted—one by Chalmers, the other by Johnston—making the final score: Marist 16 Northcote 0".

On May 17th, Norm Campbell, Phil Brady and Jim O'Brien appeared for an Auckland XIII, that only just retained the Northern Union Cup, in defeating an excellent Northland team, by 21 points to 16. This was the period of North Auckland's greatest glories: will they ever again be emulated?

Carlaw Park patrons, the ensuing Saturday, witnessed a thrilling rugged spectacle between the Greens and City Rovers; the Old Boys gaining a narrow yet deserved 13-12 victory. In a hectic engagement the referee requested Bernard Sweeney and City's Mate Watene, to take early showers. At this juncture it became known, that Marist's unbeaten record was in fact, not so, as the opening match against Kingsland had been subsequently awarded to the Maroons, on the grounds that the victors had played the ex Mt. Albert junior, R. B. Munro, without obtaining a clearance from his former club.

South Auckland, on May 31st wrested the Northern Union Cup from Auckland by the odd point in 25. George Batchelor, Hec Brisbane, Jim O'Brien and Alan Clarke sported the Blue and White.

In the next club fixture the 1929 champions, Ponsonby, fell victim to a dazzling performance by the Marist rearguard, being trounced by 22 points to 2. The victorious thirteen was:— Backs: N. Campbell, Drew, Brady, Brisbane (Capt.), Munro, Gregory Hassan; Forwards O'Brien, Campbell, Webberley, Johnson, Graham, Clarke.

On June 14th, trials for the selection of the New Zealand team to tour Australia took place, the inter-island clash being the highlight. Marist skipper Hec Brisbane, and Alan Clarke were members of the North Island XIII, whom the Whites held to a gripping 22 all draw. In the curtain-raiser a Probables team outclassed a Possibles side by 28 points to 3. "Pope" Gregory, who produced a brilliant exhibition appeared for the former, while Norm Campbell, Phil Brady and Jim O'Brien, played for the latter. The Kiwis of 1930

were duly announced: Marist having two representatives viz the terrific twins, Brisbane and Gregory, the latter being chosen as captain. To this day Charles (Pope) Gregory remains the sole Marist player, holding the proud distinction of having led a New Zealand Rugby League team on an overseas tour. Lock forward, Alan Clarke, was adjudged the Code's unluckiest player in not winning selection.

The following Saturday the two Kiwis gave exhilarating exhibitions in the Green's splendid 31-10 triumph over Newton. Devonport, our final opponents in the round inflicted the first match defeat on the Old Boys, deservedly by 24 points to 12. In this match present life member and devout stalwart, Pat Young, made his initial Senior A appearance, playing as inside centre as a replacement for Brisbane. Hassan shifted from scrum to stand-off half while Owen Cronin took over as pivot. George Batchelor proved conclusively that he was Auckland's fastest flankman.

Marist, although seriously weakened by the absence of Gregory and Brisbane, entered the second round with determination and confidence. These qualities were quickly upset when Kingsland proved such stubborn guardians of their citadel, that a scoreless draw resulted. The Greens were doubly unfortunate as they finished with 11 men, having lost Norm Campbell and George Batchelor through injuries. Richmond centre, Ted Mincham, transformed a certain Marist victory into defeat in our next engagement, by landing a unique penalty right on time. His effort from right in front, struck the upright, deflected onto the crossbar and bounced over. Marist were indeed vis-a-vis with misfortune. New faces against the Maroon and Blues were Little as custodian and Bert Schultz (father of Ray) as Batchelor's replacement. "King Willow", at this time occupied the sporting headlines when a young New South Welshman named Don Bradman, compiled 309 not out on the 1st day of the Third England-Australia Test at Leeds.

Our clash with the lowly Ellerslie XIII brought a decisive 25-8 victory. George Drew scored four tries on the flank and the new full-back was Feran. On this day, July 19th at Eden Park, the British Isles Rugby Union team succumbed to Auckland by 19 points to six. The Queen City inside centre was none other than Reg (Fatty) Haslam, a few years later to become a Marist Bros Rugby League star.

As the A.R.L. in a grand gesture postponed all club matches the following week, to enable patrons and players to view the Third Rugby Union Test a fortnight thus elapsed before our next duel — that with City — eventuated. Another exciting battle saw City after being in arrears 9-22 well into the second spell, stage a magnificent recovery to finish on level terms 28 all. Owing to their comfortable lead the Greens became lackadaisical, paying the penalty when the Red and Blacks commenced their onslaught. Championship leaders, Ponsonby, a week later, experienced little difficulty in accounting for the Greens by 19 points to 10.

On Tuesday, August 19th the club conducted a pleasant successful Welcome Home Kiwis Social and Dance, at the Mancey's Orchestra provided enjoyable music for a large crowd which included a young lady, who, in later years became a prominent supporter, namely Mrs. Bill Schultz Senr., mother of Bill, Jnr. and Paul. The then Miss Elsie Young wore a dress featuring a black velvet bodice and black polka-dotted tulle skirt. Unfortunately the Kiwis experienced a most unsuccessful and disheartening tour. They played 13 matches (no Tests) winning six and losing seven. Hec Brisbane blossomed in full profusion, being the finest individual New Zealander. "Pope" Gregory failed to reproduce the exciting football, of which he was truly capable.

The following Saturday New Zealand narrowly defeated Auckland by 34 points to 27. Gregory appeared for the Blacks while Brady, O'Brien (Capt.) and Clarke were members of the Blue and White selection. The Queen City XIII sustained two

casualties during the match in Brady and "Spot" Riley; their respective replacements being Wilf Hassan and Pat Young. On August 30th the Greens and Newton drew 16 all in what proved to be the last championship round as Ponsonby, because of their unassailable lead, were proclaimed champions of 1930. Marist finished in 4th position with 6 victories, 4 defeats and 3 draws.

Would Marist Bros snare the Roope Rooster for the third consecutive year? This question was swiftly answered for Richmond, in the initial round chalked up an unexpected 6-3 victory. The Maroon and Blue vanguard outplayed their counterparts, from whom O'Brien had made an early departure for repeatedly querying the referee's decisions.

An exhibition match to aid the W. McManus Benefit Fund was played at Sturges Park, Otahuhu on September 20th, between Marist and the Auckland Senior B representatives; the latter defeating a below strength Green thirteen by 26 points to 25. This encounter brought the season to a close for the Senior A team.

After a glowing introduction the fire had blazed, then dimmed, to finally extinguish. Nineteen thirty, however, was not to be completely devoid of victory as — to our delight — the 5th Grade team was successful in annexing both the championship and knock-out; the symbol of their triumph, the imposing Trooper Edean Memorial Shield. Their championship record read: — played 14, won 12, lost 1, drew 1, points for 253, points against 27; a most noteworthy achievement. The team contained: — Powell, Lawson, O'Shea, Jack Bakulich, Brewer, Pennycook, Len Schultz, Bob Rogers (present authority on overseas R.L. events) McCowatt, Hobbs, O. Rogers, Chalmers, Smith, Miskell, Johnston and Robert. The 3rd Open team finished in 5th position out of 8 while our Seventh completed the course in 6th place out of 10. Marist teams also participated in the Second, Sixth A and Sixth B Grades.

1931

The glittering, glamorous, glorious 'twenties had disappeared, never

to return. Now hovered the dark, deepening depression clouds — the Wall Street chaos just beginning to rain disaster on New Zealand life. The Auckland Rugby League, too, was concerned with depression, namely the decline in the Code's popularity during the preceding season, attributable in the main to the number of teams in both Senior Grades, not providing play of a reasonably uniform standard. In view of this factor the League subsequently decided: — (1) to reduce the number of teams in the Senior A Grade to seven, viz Ponsonby, City, Devonport, Newton, Richmond, Ellerslie and Marist. (2) to create a Senior Reserve competition amongst the aforementioned seven clubs; (3) to abolish the existing Senior B grade.

Marist Old Boys reaped the rewards of this reorganisation, securing the services of such capable former players as Claude List, Herb Carter and Ike Railey from the former Kingsland Senior A XIII. Another newcomer was Pat Meehan, from Newmarket's Third Intermediate team.

May 2nd brought the opening of the eagerly awaited new-look 1931 season. Marist defeated Richmond 11-10 in a dramatic encounter, Claude List scoring after time amidst spectators. Revealing splendid rearguard actions, the Greens then vanquished Ponsonby 20 points to 9, before falling victim to an inspired City thirteen 2-16 in a really shock result. Fortunate once more smiled when Newton tasted defeat 18-9 thence eventuated the controversial replay of our opening match against Richmond. This fixture was necessitated by our opponents, having appealed to the A.R.L. to be granted the earlier match, as they considered time had been up when List had scored. The A.R.L. decided that a replay was fair justice, whereupon, the Richmond club sought the views of the national body, who upheld the A.R.L.'s decision. The Greens triumphed in a gruelling contest by 13 points to 7. Herb Carter received his marching orders while "Stump" Campbell and

"Pope" Gregory were forced to retire injured; the Old Boys thus finished with 10 men and registered one of our truly meritorious victories.

The following week the Green rearguard displayed excellent ability in handling a wet ball to be instrumental in the 39-3 trouncing of Ellerslie. This match decided on the No. 2 ground at Carlaw Park produced an amusing incident. As the Ellerslie scrum-half, Olliff, was about to place the leather in a scrum, Jack Donovan, the Marist hooker espied a shilling piece lying on the turf. He reached to the ground collected the coin and was promptly penalised by the referee who was under the impression that Donovan had attempted to hook with his hand. The joke's enjoyment was enhanced when Donovan strolled to the fence and donated his dinar to a spectator.

Fifteen years later this same Jack Donovan refereed the England v New Zealand Test at Carlaw Park.

June 20th witnessed our clash with unbeaten leaders, Devonport United. Rising to the occasion in grand style, the Old Boys ran out victors by 11 points to 4. The team wore white armbands as a mark of respect to George Drew, who had been tragically killed by a fall of earth at Waitakaruru, four days before, at the tender age of 28.

The first round had concluded: Marist occupied top honours with Devonport. A new wave of optimism swept the Old Boys' camp as the Seniors were exhibiting football of a variety unparalleled in the Club's history. By a strange coincidence the feature film at the Civic was "The New Moon", starring singing idols Lawrence Tibbett and Grace Moore. Richmond, won 8-3; Ponsonby, won 25-10; Newton, won 17-9; City, won 18-10; like an encircling avalanche Marist swept towards their ultimate goal — the newly donated E. V. (Chute) Fox Memorial Shield, now the symbol of supremacy in the Senior division. Our backs continued to enchant the eye with dazzling displays.

On July 25th, the Seniors visited Wellington and thrilled Capital City

fans, by producing a scintillating exhibition on a waterlogged ground, to thrash a representative XIII by 40 points to 19. Pat Young was the outstanding exponent.

Ellerslie were our next victims in the Queen City, the Red, White and Blues being outclassed by 21 points to 3 at Papatoetoe, in a match which lasted only forty minutes. Second-half play was rendered impossible by cyclonic north easterlies howling down the ground.

Saturday, August 8th brought the duel of the giants — Marist Bros v Devonport United with the victors to be proclaimed champions of 1931. Both teams entered the contest on

equal terms, each having registered 10 victories and one defeat from 11 engagements. The Auckland Rugby League fraternity buzzed with excitement, hoping for a brilliant battle, to warm not only their hearts but also their bodies, as iceberg conditions reigned in the Queen City, that August morning nearly 38 years ago, in fact 27<sup>th</sup> was recorded at Albert Park in the early hours.

Fast play marked the opening stages of the encounter, with both teams throwing the ball about freely, although the Marist passing tended to be erratic. Claude List, aided by weak tackling, smashed his way through the Devonport defence, only

to halt a dangerous movement with a poor pass. Wilfred Hassan, sparkled in a pretty run from his own territory, then sent a nice pass to winger George Batchelor, who dropped same with a clear field ahead. Marist's grim determination was finally rewarded when left flankman, Pat Meehan, completed a clever rear-guard action by dashing across in the corner, amidst thunderous cheers from the multitude of Green supporters.

The Seasiders then assailed the Marist citadel compelling the Old Boys to defend desperately on several occasions. Regaining the offensive Marist worked their way back into Devonport territory, where "Pope" Gregory created a fine opening which Meehan improved. The movement was temporarily halted, however, Clarke quickly resumed same, dashing away before transferring to Gregory, who sent Batchelor racing across to score wide out.

Devonport's Alf Scott registered the Black's first points when he landed a penalty just prior to half-time, after his team-mate, Dick Smith, had missed two 'sitters'.

Following the interlude, the Blacks played with a strong sun behind them and used nature to advantage, by employing high up and unders which greatly troubled the Marist defence. Jubilation soon enveloped Devonport supporters, when Harding, who had been prominent in several stirring dashes, received and headed goalwards. On being cornered he hurled a long in-pass to Masefield, who gathered and touched down for an unconverted try.

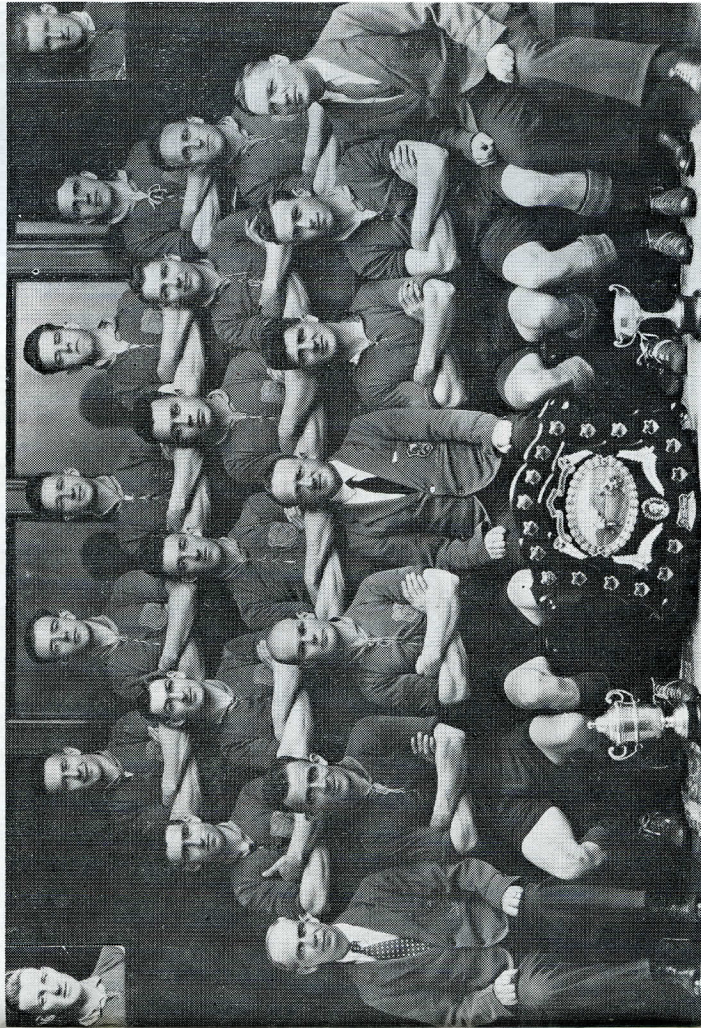
Trailing by a solitary point the Blacks strove valiantly to penetrate the Marist fortifications, only to encounter Spartan resistance — grim and unyielding. Now it was the Old Boys' turn to apply the pressure, and this they did to such effect that their 3rd try eventuated, although it was aided considerably by Devonport's experienced campaigner, Alf Scott, who on his own line fumbled a long kick and though he appeared to force before the flying Batchelor arrived,

the Marist winger was awarded a try by referee Mr. Les Bull, to the dismay and delight of Devonport and Marist fans respectively. It was truly not Devonport's day, as when their inside backs pierced the Green defence, Dick Smith, dropped a perfect pass, therefore throwing away a certain try. The luckless Alf Scott sustained an injury which necessitated his departure from the scene. The Marist vanguard at last assumed control, enabling their backs to thrill the onlookers with a magnificent bout of passing, culminating in Pat Meehan, diving over for a glorious three points.

The thought of defeat never furth from their minds, the Blacks essayed numerous onslaughts in an endeavour to reduce the leeway, however, 'twas all to no avail, for at the final bell the scoreboard read:— Marist 12: Devonport 5.

The following thirteen dedicated exponents, had, by their skilful labours, achieved a magnificent victory against gallant, redoubtable opposition, thereby resurrecting the glories of 1924, and enabling Marist Brothers' Old Boys to again don the mantle of Auckland's premier Rugby League team:— Norm Campbell, Pat Meehan, Claude List, Hec Brisbane, George Batchelor, "Pope" Gregory, Wilf Hassan, Herb Carter, "Stump" Campbell, Ike Railey, Jim Johnson, Fraser Webberley and Alan Clarke. Of this XIII, only Brisbane, Gregory and Johnson had participated in the epic encounter against the same club, seven years previously.

Another honour now fell to Marist, that of becoming the first Club to have their name engraved upon the beautiful (now renowned) Fox Memorial Shield, donated to perpetuate the memory of "Chute" Fox—the North Shore and Auckland player who had later become an Auckland, North Island and New Zealand selector. Mr. Fox, in February 1930, had finally succumbed to severe wounds sustained in the Great War, his demise depriving the Rugby League Code of the services of a sagacious, sincere and deeply respected gentleman.



SENIORS 1931: (Winners Fox Memorial Shield, Thistle Cup, Sunshine Cup (Hamilton).)

Back Row—R. McDonald, W. Hassan, P. Meehan, P. Brady, P. Young, Middle Row—N. Campbell, F. Webberley, C. Young, I. Railey, C. List, G. Batchelor, Front Row—H. Donovan (Club Capt.), G. Campbell, H. W. Brisbane (Capt.), Mr E. J. Lahman (Pres.), J. Johnson (Vice Capt.), B. Schultze, J. O'Brien (Hon. Sec.), Insets: H. Carter, A. Clarke. Absent: C. Gregory.

On August 15th at Carlaw Park, the North Island thrashed the South Island by 52 points to 23. Five of the Black backbone were Marist men viz N. Campbell, List, Meehan, Brisbane and Hassan: a feat to this day without parallel in inter-island contests. Alan Clarke and "Stump" Campbell participated in the vanguard thus over half the North Island team came from Auckland Marist — a justly proud club. To enhance the accomplishment Herbert Carter was selected but injuries forced his withdrawal. The splendid seven sparkled, scoring 46 of the 52 points. Pat Meehan notched 4 tries and 1 goal; Claude List, 3 tries and 1 goal; Hec Brisbane, 2 tries; and Alan Clarke, 1 try and 6 goals.

A fortnight later, drawing the bye in the opening round of the Roope Rooster the Seniors journeyed to Steel Park, Hamilton and defeated a powerful Lower Waikato XIII by 13 points to 11. They received a handsome silver cup donated by the Hamilton Sunshine League. This same day the 3rd Opens beat Ponsoby in a torrid, tryless encounter by 4 points to 2, thereby annexing the grade championship.

On September 12th, Marist met Devonport in the semi-finals of the Wyandotte. The Greens victorious march was dramatically halted when the Blacks, despite a dearth of scrum possession, inflicted a surprise 8-11 defeat. Marist's dangerous centres, List and Brisbane, encountered deadly defence by their opposites "Lar" Seagar and O'Donnell—many Green attacks foundering on these rocks. The Marist players were thunderstruck by the nature of one Devonport try, namely when Seagar, who was tackled just short of the line rose and played the ball 5 yards sideways to Masefield, who strolled across unopposed. The Blacks were unquestionably superior on the day, although Marist provided ardent resistance at all times. A young man named Len Schultz, made his first Senior appearance in this match.

Two weeks elapsed and then Norm Campbell, Meehan, Hassan and Car-

ter played for an Auckland XIII which was held to a 19 all draw by a strong Northland side. This same afternoon an Auckland Marist Junior XIII defeated a Hamilton Marathon team at Hamilton by 7 points to 3.

On October 3rd, the Champion of Champions clash eventuated, between old rivals, Devonport and Marist; the former having captured the Roope Rooster. No follower of the code could have prognosticated the 25 points to 6 thrashing which the vaunted Greens received that day. It was indeed a disheartening performance on the part of a team which, although not at full strength, could not offer this reason as an excuse for the lack-lustre exhibition, particularly when "Stump" Campbell's brilliant hooking had ensured an abundance of possession for the Green backbone, which nullified this advantage by deplorable handling.

As a bright contrast our 5th Grade team had vanquished City 6-3 in the final of the knockout, thus repeating their 1930 triumph of securing both championship and knockout; a splendid achievement of which the club was truly proud.

Inspired by the dual success of the 5ths, the 4ths — a week later — emulated same, by defeating Richmond 13 points to nil, however, our 3rd Opens fell victim to Ponsoby 2-8 in their K.O. final, thus shattering our hopes of a treble double.

On Saturday, October 17th a combined Marist-Devonport XIII encountered the visiting Sydney club, Eastern Suburbs, who had already beaten:—Northland, 23-11; Devonport, 41-27; and South Auckland 23-14. After an exhilarating exposition the effervescent tourists were defeated 14 points to 13. Five minors were stars of this Red, White and Blue combination: the three 18 year olds Dave Brown, Ernie Norman, and Ray Stehr, and two youths aged 20 in Sid Pearce and Viv Thicknesse. These five all became immortals of Australian Rugby League and revisited New Zealand with Kangaroo teams. Seven Marist players appeared for the Combined team:—N. Campbell, Meehan,

Brisbane (capt.), Hassan, G. Campbell, Carter and Clarke. Devonport's:—A. W. Seagar, L. Scott, R. Smith, E. Ruby, R. Casey and H. Simpson completed the White thirteen.

Norm Campbell spoilt a fine display by swallowing a dummy from the mercurial Brown, otherwise he fielded cleanly and kicked with good judgment; Pat Meehan didn't receive many attacking chances, however, his defence was weak; Hec Brisbane was easily the best White back, gaining valuable ground with powerful straight running and exhibiting perfect defence, besides keeping the elusive Norman subdued, while Will Hassan, at scrum-half despatched lovely passes and performed creditably in the open. In the forwards Alan Clarke passed and handled with the ability of a three-quarter; "Stump" Campbell produced a grand display of the hooking art; while Herb Carter was below form.

Dave Brown proved the spectacular figure of the match delighting the spectators with his beautiful running. He displayed a great burst of speed while his first try was an absolute gem.

Four days later, the visitors beat an Auckland Colts thirteen, including Hassan and Carter, by 18 points to 13.

The Auckland season, the latest ever, concluded on October 31st with a 7-a-side tournament. Marist unfortunately was compelled to default to Richmond. Tragedy struck this particular day, when Newton's Sam Harris, collapsed and died on the field of play.

Thus we bade farewell to 1931 — one of the really coruscating years in the story of the Marist Brothers Club. Championships had been annexed in the Senior, Third Open, Fourth and Fifth Grades, and knock-outs in the 4th and 5th, while our Senior Reserves, Third Intermediates and Sixths, although not achieving top honours, nevertheless performed admirably. This memorable season also witnessed the debut of a Marist Primary School team; a most encouraging venture which could only be beneficial.

A fortnight subsequent to the celebrated Queen Street riots which rocked Auckland, the 1932 Rugby League season opened. It was a period of disappointment, discontent, disillusionment and depression.

Our first opponents were Richmond Rovers, who inflicted an unexpected 5 points to nil defeat; a deserved loss as our vanguard was outclassed by a virile Maroon and Blue pack. A week before, the Greens had beaten Ponsoby, 5 points to 3, in a practice match to aid the Reserve. The Richmond reverse served as a tonic, for City and Ponsoby were both convincingly defeated by 12 points to 2 and 23-12 respectively.

The fourth match saw the leaders, Devonport, lucky to escape with an 11 all draw; the Greens—notwithstanding their forwards being, once again outplayed — were considered the unfortunate party, as both Brady and List threw away tries by perfunctorness. That grand campaigner, Jim Johnson, made his reappearance in the next match, a spectacular affair which brought a 13-10 victory over Newton. Wilf Hassan was injured 5 times and was finally assisted from the field, midway through the 2nd spell.

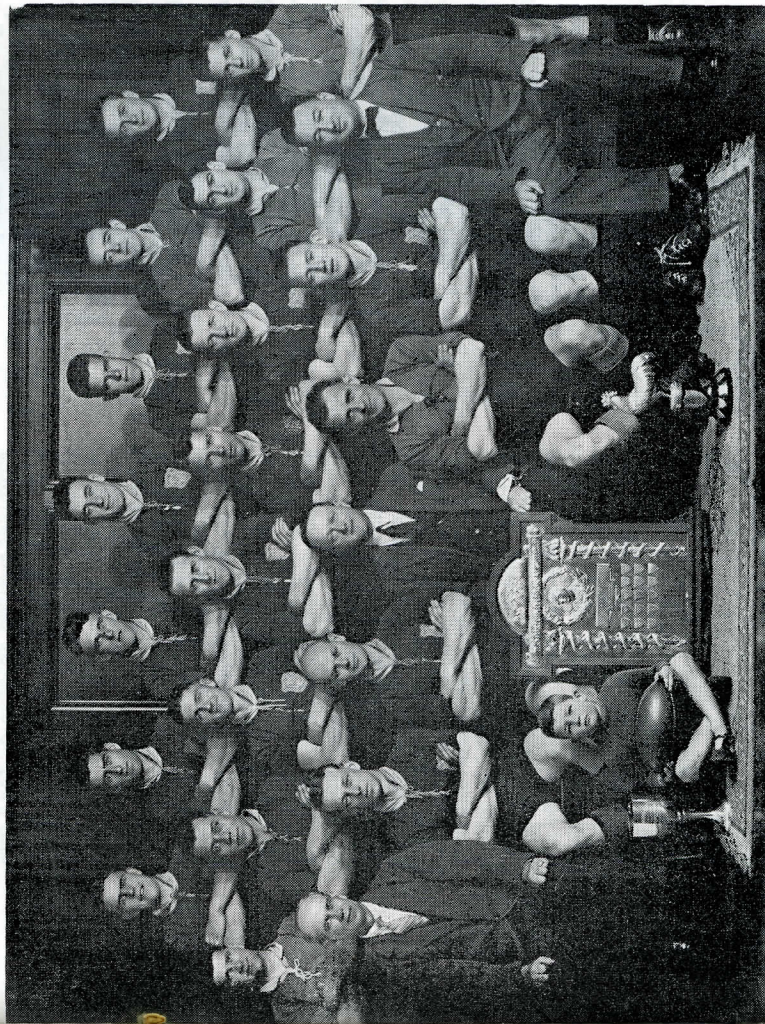
In the initial series of the second round, Richmond was vanquished by 21 points to 13. The outstanding performer in this encounter was the Richmond centre, Harry Johns, then New Zealand professional lightweight boxing champion. This fine sportsman was to die five months later, when he failed to recover from injuries received in a title bout with Archie Hughes. He was only 21 years of age—a grievous loss to Rugby League, Boxing and Cricket.

Following the Richmond match the Marist XIII experienced three disastrous weeks which scattered the four winds any hopes held of championship retention. Firstly City Rovers — the wooden spooners — conquered us in a 13 all draw, then Ponsoby upset us 21-26, and finally on

July 2nd, Devonport triumphed in yet another spine tingling clash by 7 points to 5. The day of the last mentioned encounter is a red-letter one in the annals of New Zealand Rugby League, for it marked the re-appearance in the Code of the peerless A. E. (Bert) Cooke, who, after leaving the 13-a-side game as a Junior, had graduated to immortality with the 1924-25 Rugby Union All Blacks in the British Isles and France. The maestro played his first Senior Rugby League game as a member of the Richmond XIII which defeated Newton 13 points to 6. The clash with

City on June 18th is also a memorable occasion, for it brought a Rugby League oddity: the brilliant Ben Davidson, unable to reach a pass from Purdy kicked at the bouncing ball which to his amazement sailed over the crossbar and was acclaimed as a spectacular field goal. Nowadays points cannot be registered in such fashion.

On July 16th Auckland vanquished South Auckland by 29 points to 13; a match not considered as a challenge for the Northern Union Cup while a Probables XIII proved too skilful for their Possibles counterparts in a 26-



SENIORS 1932: (Winners of Roope Rooster, Stormont Memorial Shield, Jaffe Cup.)

Back Row—P. Young, N. Campbell, P. Flanagan, J. Laird, P. Brady, W. Hassan, B. Schultz. Middle Row—J. Johnson, I. Ralley, C. Thompson, A. Clark, C. List, H. Carter, F. Webberley, W. Cornthwaite. Front Row—H. Donovan, C. Dunne, H. Brisbane (Capt.), T. Lahman (Pres.), G. Campbell, D. Herring, J. Kirwan (Hon. Sec. and Coach), Pat Kirwan (Mascot). Absent—J. Iveson, P. Meehan, R. McDonald.

12 victory. Nine Marist players participated in the two fixtures:—N. Campbell, List, Brisbane, G. Campbell and Clarke (Auckland); Iveson (Probables); Meehan, McDonald and Hassan (Possibles).

The inter-island match took place the following Saturday when the North ran out victors by 27 points to 18. Hec Brisbane (captain) and Claude List wore the Black jersey. In the curtain-raiser the Possibles defeated the Probables 37-16. Iveson played in the former selection while McDonald, Hassan, G. Campbell and Clarke appeared in the latter.

On July 30th, twenty-five thousand Aucklanders watched the 6th England touring team—captained by the incomparable Jim Sullivan—inflict a decisive 24 points to 9 defeat on a disappointing, possession-starved Kiwi side in the First Test. Marist representatives in the national thirteen were Claude List and Hec Brisbane—indeed the great honour of captain was bestowed on Brisbane, who on being accorded this richly deserved and extremely popular distinction, thus attained the zenith of his illustrious career. In the subsidiary curtain-raiser to the Test our 5th Grade team went under to City by 3 points to nil.

Saturday, August 6th, 1932. On this glorious day what feelings of pride, jubilation and satisfaction must have stirred within the hearts of every Marist Bros adherent, as he or she watched seven of the Senior XIII walk onto Carlaw Park, as members of the Auckland team about to engage the might of old England?

At intermission the visitors led 13 points to nothing and 15,000 spectators awaited the advent of the second spell enveloped in gloom. Dejection was quickly transformed into delight as the Aucklanders rose above adversity in a magnificent manner. The Queen City forwards assumed command, taming the ferocious Lions to such an extent that the local XIII in the 40 minutes, registered 14 points to their opponents 6. This remarkable recovery therefore made the final score:—England 19: Auckland 14. The Chooms were spared the pain of defeat only by Auckland's

deplorable exhibition of goal-kicking—many comparatively easy chances being missed. In this encounter Marist was represented by:—N. Campbell, List, Meehan, Brisbane (Capt.), Hassan, G. Campbell and Clarke. Five men from the same club appearing in an Auckland backline against a visiting international combination, is a superlative achievement, unsurpassed to this day.

A week later at Monica Park, Christchurch, Marist had four players in the New Zealand Second Test team which showed considerable improvement, notwithstanding their 25 points to 14 defeat. Wilfrid Hassan and "Stump" Campbell jointed their compatriots Brisbane and List in the Shaky Isles thirteen. This same day, after an interval of six weeks, club fortunes returned to Carlaw Park with the last round of the championship being decided. Despite the loss of four players to the New Zealand team Marist beat Newton by 10 points to 6, thereby finishing in equal position with Ponsoby—the top honours going to Devonport. Wearing the Green jersey for the first time in the Newton match was Jim Laird, formerly of the Ngaruawahia Club and who had represented South Auckland and the North Island.

On the succeeding Wednesday Hassan and "Stump" Campbell were members of a New Zealand XIII, slaughtered by the Englishmen 59 points to 8 in an exhibition match at Wellington.

On Saturday, August 20th, Carlaw Park was the scene of the Third and Final Test between England and New Zealand. If club devotees had been elated at the events of August 6th, how profound was their ecstasy, on beholding the wonderful sight of six Marist players adorned in the colours of their country? The sextet responsible for this venerable occurrence in Marist Brothers Rugby League history was:—Norm Campbell, Claude List, Hec Brisbane (captain), Alan Clarke, Jim Laird and "Stump" Campbell. Hec Brisbane in what proved to be his farewell Test scored two great tries while "Stump" Campbell won the hooking duel 38 scrums

to 30. Those who watched this Test will never forget how a dropped pass amongst the Kiwis backs paved the way for powerful England winger Barney Hudson's, last minute corner try, which gave the tourists a fortuitous 20-18 victory and preserved their unbeaten record in New Zealand. The selection of the New Zealand team was a remarkable tribute to a great club which already occupied — after only 13 years of existence—an exalted place in Dominion Rugby League circles. Three years later the grand feat was emulated when six Richmond players appeared in the First and Third Tests against the touring Australians, however, it has yet to be transcended. This 1932 England side contained a galaxy of stars—member Sullivan, Risman, Ellaby, Stan Smith, Brogden, Hodgson, Feeham? The Marist 3rd Open team also experienced its share of glory on the day of the 3rd Test, as in a subsidiary curtain-raiser they defeated Northcote by 21 points to 11.

The internationals and championship at an end, thoughts now turned to the little Silver Wyandotte, so much desired by the various clubs. After receiving a bye in the opening round the Greens vanquished Devonport in a thrilling semi-final by 19 points to 18. The backs were brilliant, in particular, the flankers Claude List and Bert Schultz. Bill Cornthwaite, the former Marist Bros and Auckland Rugby Union representative made his initial Rugby League appearance for Marist in this match.

September 10th brought the final between Marist Brothers and City Rovers, only the second occasion on which the two clubs had clashed in a Roope Rooster contest.

After a long run of success culminating in the defeat of Devonport many spectators expected City to thoroughly test Marist, however, the Greens were a superior team and after compiling 8 points in the first 5 minutes were always masters of the situation. The Red and Black rear-guard was outclassed, their insipid tackling greatly aiding their opponents. "Stump" Campbell's hooking

bordered on the fantastic, his vis-à-vis winning only 4 scrums. The Marist forwards continued to show improvement while the backs handled well and backed up splendidly. Cornthwaite was the outstanding back creating beautiful openings and sending perfect passes, while Alan Clarke was the pick of the vanguard. For the victors tries were scored by:—Flanagan, Dunne, List (4) N. Campbell and Clarke while the two last mentioned added a conversion each. The final score was:—Marist Bros. 28; City 8. This result was just one leg of an impressive double, for the Senior Reserves defeated Devonport by 12 points to 6 to take the knockout final for the Stallard Cup.

Having captured the Rooster for the third time in five seasons the question was—could we do likewise with the Stormont Memorial Shield? September 17th provided the answer.

The scoring opened in a rather unusual manner when Alan Clarke, although confronted by several Devonport players, coolly placed a neat 25-yard field goal. Both rearguards were nervous with passing errors being frequent. From a scrum breach on Devonport's 25, Clarke put the Old Boys four points ahead; a lead that was short-lived for Devonport's O'Donnell, instituted a glorious movement from his own territory which Seagar and Harding joined, before the latter scored a brilliant try—converted by Smith — following clever reverse passing.

The Blacks maintained the offensive with Simpson narrowly missing a try and compelling a Marist player to force. From a scrum Oliff worked in the blind and sent Len Scott across the point lead, this being the position at the interlude.

For the first twenty minutes of the 2nd spell the Marist backs were prominent in numerous sorties which, however, failed to alter the score. The centres, Cornthwaite and Brisbane, were a continual danger to the Devonport citadel. In the final quarter the Marist forwards, previously subdued, dropped the guise of

lovely reverse passing bout between List and Dunne, slashing the defence to ribbons and leaving him in the clear. Fine play by Stan Clark, was improved by Lunn, who transferred to Crook, for that player to score in the corner leaving Auckland only 2 points in arrears. The Queen City thirteen soon hit the front when their forwards worked play to the Marist line where Ted Brimble gathered and sent Lunn across near the posts for Oliff to convert. The interval duty arrived with Marist down by 8-11.

On resuming, Auckland immediately moved into top gear, when neat passing between Prentice and Brimble, created an opening for Lunn to score his 2nd try which was converted by Oliff. The Greens marshalled their forces and cracked the whips for Wilf Hassan, to register three points after a near miss by Claude List. Hassan, in brilliant form, then scored the try of the match, carving the opposition defence to pieces before touching down in magnificent fashion. Meehan's conversion equalised the scores, but not for long, as List charged down an attempted return punt by Dempsey, gathered the ball, and notched a simple try which Herring failed to convert. Another splendid solo effort by Hassan, gave Marist's scrum-half his 3rd try which he converted. The Green backs were in glorious cavalier form bewildering the opposition rearguard. Their final try eventuated when Dunne slipped through a gap and put List in. Mr. C. Chapman was the referee and the game resulted:—Marist Bros 27; Rest of Auckland 16.

The proceeds of the above match were to be used to aid the return to the Shaky Isles of T. Hanlon, a former Richmond player who had sought fame and fortune in "Blighty", only to sustain injuries and be left stranded with insufficient finance to procure a passage home.

Although no championships had been captured by the various Marist teams, knockouts had been annexed by both the Senior Reserves and Third Intermediates, these accomplishments when added to the remarkable deeds of the Seniors thus

lambs and became lions with Flanagan, Laird and Clarke making slashing runs. At last Marist efforts were rewarded when scrum-half Pat Young, dodged and twisted his way over for a nice try.

Some exciting exchanges then ensued being featured by torrid forward tussles. One point in arrears, the Greens fought valiantly for victory and attained their goal just before the conclusion, when Young, from a scrum passed to Clarke on the blind, on to List, who dived across in the corner. A minute later Young, playing a grand game, found a gap, tore through same and sent Herring racing over near the posts, for Cornthwaite to convert and make the final score:—Marist 15; Devonport 8.

Mr Vic Simpson refereed the encounter in which the Marist XIII was:—N. Campbell, B. Schultz, W. Cornthwaite, H. Brisbane (capt.), C. List, C. Dunne, P. Young, H. Carter, D. Herring, G. Flanagan, F. Webberley, J. Laird and A. Clarke.

On October 1st the Old Boys visited New Plymouth where a strong Taranaki XIII mastered them by 25 points to 17. Both teams scored 5 tries in a bright exposition which was of considerable benefit to all those gentlemen who were dedicated to reviving the code in the province of Taranaki.

The following week Marist and Ponsonby, the joint runners-up in the championship, clashed in a special Charity Day match. The Greens proved irresistible in trouncing their opponents by 37 points to 8. They received the R. Jaffe Cup in acknowledgement of their efforts.

On Saturday, October 15th the local season concluded with a match between an Auckland XIII and New Zealand's finest club side — Marist Brothers Old Boys. Auckland quickly assumed command when Prentice, Oliff and Leatherbarrow combined astutely for the latter to score. Retaliation was rapid with Hassan, badly beating the opposition backs before sending Bert Schultz over between the posts for Meehan to convert. Schultz scored his second try soon after, as the result of a

ensuring that 1932 would always rank as one of the really spectacular years in the Club's development.

Readers may have recollections of the following men who appeared that year in our Senior Reserve and Third Open teams:— **Senior Reserve:**—Leyden, Barry, Regan, Ryan, Corbett, Crouch, Donald, Donovan, Little, Flanagan, Herring, Gunn, McElwain and Jones. **Third Open:** Stag, Pell, L. Schultz, J. Schultz, A. Furlonger, Kennedy, Hill, Strahan, J. O'Kane, Gow, Frazer, Ganley and Tattersfield.

### 1933

On April 22nd at Waikaraka Park, the Greens opened their 1933 campaign by defeating Devonport in an exhibition match. The proceeds from this game were handed to the newly reformed Manukau Club.

A week later the season began in earnest with City Rovers mastering the lighter Marist forwards to register an unexpected 18-14 victory. Considering Alan Clarke, Jim Laird and Herb Carter were absent, the vanguards' performance was indeed meritorious. Our next opponents, Devonport, employed bustling tactics to such good effect that the usually dangerous Green backline was rendered comparatively impotent, this factor permitting the Blacks to achieve all round dominance and finish victorious by 10 points to 5. The Marist forwards, although heavier, were outplayed, combination being sacrificed for individuality.

Shocked at these reverses the Old Boys reorganised for rehabilitation; a process which commenced in rather shaky fashion with an 8-5 defeat of Ponsonby in a poor match. However, atonement was soon complete with the unbeaten leaders, Newton, being vanquished by 11 points to 6. The Marist thirteen in this last mentioned encounter was:— **Backs:** Norm Campbell, Bert Schultz, Claude List, Charlie Dunne, Len Schultz, Hec Brisbane, Wilf Hassan; **Forwards:** Herb Carter, "Stump", Campbell, "Huck", Flanagan, Des Herring, Jim Laird, Jim Iveson.

A 12-6 defeat of Richmond concluded the first round, at which

clusive 14 nil victory. In a curtain-raiser to this fixture an 'A' XIII, including Bert Schultz and Iveson, suffered defeat at the hands of a 'B' selection, including Flanagan and Herring, by 16 points to 9.

Our struggle to retain possession of the Roope Rooster commenced in grand fashion with a 26-13 victory over Ponsonby. Regrettably success was to be short-lived, for in a thrilling semi-final the rapidly improving Richmond XIII, took the honours by 10 points to nil. The Maroon and Blue forwards were superior and broke quickly, thereby disrupting the attacks of the Marist inside backs. The Greens also paid too much attention to the great "Cookie".

The following week an Auckland thirteen, including N. Campbell, Brisbane and G. Campbell, defeated Northland by 28 points to 13.

Auckland, in August 1933, was enveloped by Prosperity Week — a period of gaiety which restored laughter and song to the multitudes enduring the torment of depression.

On August 19th Marist began its participation in the special challenge round, which teams joined as they were eliminated from the Roope Rooster. Play was of a duration of twenty minutes each way, while one point was awarded against a team compelled by its opponents to force Our initial match in this competition saw Newton victorious by 13 points to 11, in a game marked by the first appearance in a Marist jersey of Charlie White, former Northland representative. In the remaining four matches Marist beat City, 10-5; Richmond (Rooster winners), 13-3; defeated Ponsonby, 3 all; and defeated Devonport, 3 all; and drew with Ponsonby, 21-17; Newton were adjudged the overall victors.

During the course of the challenge round, Auckland played three representative fixtures, and vanquished West Coast (on their first visit to the Queen City) by 28 points to 22; Hawkes Bay, 47-17; and South Auckland, 17-5. N. Campbell and L. Schultz appeared against the Coast. N. Campbell, Hassan, Brisbane and G. Campbell against the Bay; and N. Campbell, L. Schultz,

Brisbane, List (who replaced Cooke mid-way), Hassan and G. Campbell versus South Auckland.

On the day of the Hawkes Bay match, the Marist 3rd Open thirteen defeated Glenora by 13 points to 5, to add the knockout to the championship already secured while an Auckland Marist Junior XIII visited Hikurangi and narrowly beat the Whangarei Juniors 12-9.

On Saturday, September 30th, 13,000 fans visited headquarters to behold what promised to be a stirring contest between Marist Bros-runners-up in the Auckland championship—and St. George—who had finished in a similar position in the Sydney premiership. They were certainly not disappointed, being treated by both thirteens to one of the greatest exhibition of Rugby League ever witnessed on Carlaw Park.

Proceedings commenced in brilliant sunshine: indeed the St. George players were shielding their eyes from the elements. After a series of kicking exchanges Rutherford was penalised, and Norm Campbell obtained two points for the Greens; a feat he repeated shortly after following an infringement by a Saint's player, when Brisbane lost possession over the Red and White's line. St. George collected the first try, which proved a dazzling effort, with the ball being handled by six players before Martin, cramped for room, propelled, cut through the defence on the reverse diagonal, and touched down in glorious manner for Robinson to convert.

This one point advantage to the visitors was swiftly erased as the result of clever play by Brisbane and the Schultz brothers. The former was tackled, however, while falling to the ground he flicked a low pass to Bert Schultz, who was marked; Len Schultz then appeared doubled around behind his brother, yelled for the leather which he quickly received, and with the opposition scattered, flew across in the corner for a pretty try.

Ten minutes later the ubiquitous Brisbane, was responsible for one of

the finest individual efforts witnessed in twelve years of football at Carlaw Park. On obtaining possession well inside Marist territory, he placed a long clearing kick and chased same in furious fashion, accompanied by two opponents. The leather proved elusive, bouncing about crazily before favouring Brisbane, who gathered and raced 45 yards for a truly magnificent try. Green fans voiced approval of their skipper's performance by accordng him a tumultuous ovation. N. Campbell's conversion gave the Old Boys a 7 points lead.

The Saints moved three points closer when Killibby broke from a scrum near Marist's line, grabbed the leather and split the defence to score, however, the Greens soon retaliated, when crash tackling by Des Herring, caused the ball to fly loose and be secured by Wilf Hassan, who dashed between two opposing players and threw himself over.

Just prior to the interval the Greens missed a certain try when Herb Carter dropped Bob White's pass with the line open.

St. George resumed with 12 men, scrum-half Mork, having left the scene with a broken collarbone. Displaying plenty of enterprise the Marist rearguard had the Drago-slayer's defence at sixes and sevens, only penalties extricating the visitors from several dire situations. Unfortunately an injury to Norm Tipping, the St. George centre necessitated his departure from the field, thus leaving the Red and Whites with only 11 warriors to continue the fight. Notwithstanding this great setback St. George assumed the ascendancy with Daly sending his backs away in a lovely movement. Winger Martin, then made a brilliant dash until low-ered by a fine tackle from Norm Campbell. The Dragonslayers were finally rewarded when Martin, pierced the defence, transferred to Ward, on to Rutherford, who was lowered by Norm Campbell a few yards short, however, he managed to release the ball for Hayward, backing up, to secure and score wide out.

The game was flowing in spectacular fashion, wonderful tackling by both sides being a feature.

Following scintillating play by both the Marist backs and forwards Len Schultz received, sold Daly a neat dummy and swooped across between the posts for an excellent try which Norm Campbell converted.

The visitors four man scrum by now had won the admiration of the spectators and continued to perform valiantly, providing their rearguard with many attacking opportunities. The Red and White backs threw the leather around in all directions in an incessant endeavour to turn the tide. 'Twas not to be, however, and Marist enjoyed the last say when Hassan, sent Dunne over by the posts for an after bell try which Norm Campbell converted to make the final score:— Marist Bros 25: St. George 11. Mr. Percy Rogers refereed this excellent encounter in which the teams were:—

**Marist Bros:** Full Back: N. Campbell; Three Quarters: A. (Bert) Schultz, H. Brisbane, C. Dunne, R. White; Halves: L. Schultz, W. Hassan; Forwards: D. Herring, G. Campbell, G. Flanagan, C. White, J. Laird and J. Iveson.

**St. George:** Full Back: S. Robinson; Three Quarters: L. Brennan, G. Ward, N. Tipping, B. Martin; Halves: R. Daly, H. Mork (Newtown); Forwards: A. Sprouster, P. Fairall, T. Hayward, L. Kelly, J. Rutherford and W. Killibby.

On October 7th Richmond and Marist—the two conquerors of St. George—clashed in a special challenge match for the R. Jaffe Cup. At half-time the Greens led 8-6, however, in the second spell transformation eventuated in no uncertain manner. The Maroon and Blue forwards, inspiringly led by Cliff Satherley, completely dominated the game, being responsible for several easy tries which enabled their team to administer a totally unexpected 31 points to 8 drubbing. Marist's hopes of success slumped considerably when the

mastermind, Hec Brisbane, was injured and forced to retire. Bert Schultz, and Norm Campbell then changed positions, this shift being a bad mistake. The match itself was a disappointing spectacle with both sides making many errors.

A fortnight later Marist extracted retribution to some degree when they defeated Richmond by 16 points to 5 in a special match to aid the Grey Lynn Unemployed Relief Fund. Neither team was at its best for this fixture which brought the 1933 season to a conclusion. Two added attractions, opened to all clubs, were also staged: a 100 yards dash and a goal-kicking competition. Bert Schultz took the honours in the sprint while Des Herring succeeded in winning the goal-kicking contest.

Although they failed to emulate the achievements of the five preceding years, the Seniors, under the tuition of that brilliant star of the 'twenties, 'Pope' Gregory, nevertheless had no reason to view 1933 with despondency: indeed only two shock defeats at the hands of City, stood between them and the title of champions, while their splendid victory over St. George, would undoubtedly always be considered, one of the golden epics in the club's heritage.

In the Junior grades more honours had descended on Marist, when, like the 3rd Opens the 4th A's had captured both championship and knocked out, while the 4th B's had finished as runner-up in the two competitions—a unique and proud distinction which served to indicate the increasing all round strength of the Marist Club.

The personnel of these three grand Junior sides was:—

**Third Opens:** R. Hoy, R. Connolly, A. Strahan, A. Hoy, E. Donald, R. Brown, L. Smith, J. Phillips, F. Ford, E. Barfoot, P. Cowsill, A. O'Halloran, J. O'Kane, J. Schultz (capt.), N. Loader (vice-capt.), R. Pennycook, A. Young, A. Furlonger, B.

Skinner (coach), L. Skinner (trainer), H. Robertson, (manager). Played 17: won 17: points for 293: points against 37.

**Fourth A's:** R. Rogers, W. Phillips, R. Devlin, T. Cato, J. Burdett, F. Keenan, C. Bridgens, R. Davies, P. Tighe, R. Weavers, B. Crocker, W. Hayes (vice-capt.), R. Donoghue (capt.), G. Holt, R. Whitten, D. Malavey (manager and coach). Played 21: won 20: Lost 1: points for 408: points against 53.

**Fourth B's:** M. Smith, C. Simpson, W. Croul (father of present day New Zealand opera star Pettine Ann), T. Lowther, B. Saussey, W. Phillips, L. Emslie, G. Elliott, R. McDonald, J. Storey, G. Reid, A. Phillips (vice-capt.), J. Dobbyn (capt.), C. Smith, T. McLennan, J. Dobbyn, C. Malone, M. Thompson (coach).

Nineteen thirty-three, thus brought the epoch the author considers as "The Glorious Years", to a conclusion although thirty-five years ago, a person could only have been regarded as a super-pessimist—indeed an imbecile—if he had aired views of a similar meaning. Marist appeared stronger than ever: the Juniors, flushed with success, bubbling with confidence, eagerly awaiting the call to again don jerseys; the Seniors anticipating a triumphant new season. Yes! the events of 1934 could only have been foreseen by a clairvoyant.



## 1934-1939 SUNSHINE SUCCEEDS SHADOW

The annual conference, held in the Auckland Rugby League Rooms in Courthouse Lane, on March 22nd 1934, witnessed the election as president, of the esteemed Mr. Joseph Sayegh, in succession to Mr. E. Lahman. Former Marist great, Jack Kiwan, commenced his third year as secretary.

The Club, a few weeks before, had sadly bade farewell to Dan McCarthy, popular, genial Auckland hotelkeeper, and a devout supporter of the Greens, who had decided to follow his calling in the "Land of the Stars and Stripes".

For the Seniors — now coached by Jim Johnson — the season began with a practice match against Ponsonby, which the Ponies won by 13 points to nil. A week later, in the opening championship series, the Blue and Blacks repeated their success by inflicting a decisive 28 points to 8 drubbing. Lack of possession due to "Stump" Campbell's retirement, proved a vital factor, while the rearguard dearly missed the guiding genius of "Hec" Brisbane, who, at the comparatively early age of twenty-nine had given the game best. Dan Keane, formerly of the Technical Old Boys Rugby Union XV, appeared in the Green scrum.

In the second match a strong Richmond XIII outclassed Marist — again starved of possession — by 29 points to 3. Bill Glover, was the scrum-half in this encounter, while Jack Schultz, and Jim O'Kane, (another of today's stalwarts), made their first appearances in Senior football.

On May 12th, the following thirteen was defeated by City 18 points to 5, in the curtain-raiser to the Richmond—Ponsonby clash, watched by 17,000 people: the occasion being the opening of the present grandstand by the then Governor-General, Lord Bledisloe:—

Norm Campbell, Claude List, Arthur Furlonger, Jack Schultz, Victor Lodge, Charlie Dunne, Wilf

out the first spell, but after the interval the experience of the West-erners began to assert itself. The Marist rearguard disclosed much better team work than was expected from a side that was only finalised on the ground — the Reserve Graders rising to the occasion to a man.

The Marist thirteen in this memorable fixture was:— N. Campbell, J. Smith, Furlonger, Brisbane, Loader, Chalmers, R. Grotte, Laird, Keane, Webberley, Steven, O'Kane, Bakalich.

The following week the unbeaten leaders, Richmond, triumphed by 20 points to 8; their huge weight advantage in the forwards contributing greatly to their success. The "colts" tasted victory in their next encounter, defeating City by 22 points to 13, and subsequently held Devonport to an 8 all draw.

At this juncture the eight suspended players requested a transfer from the A.R.L. The League's chairman, the late Mr. G. Grey Campbell, stated that he could see no reason why such a transfer should be withheld, whereupon the Marist Club appealed to the national body opposing the A.R.L.'s decision.

On June 30th Taranaki visited Auckland, and Norm Campbell appeared for the local thirteen which defeated the Amber and Blacks, by 35 points to 8.

In the last match of the second round, the Greens performed valiantly against the powerful Newton combination, only being beaten by the odd point in 17.

A third round was instituted and Ponsonby notched their hat-trick by running out victors, after yet another stirring contest, by 11 points to 7. Our third engagement with Richmond proved a thriller: the brilliance of Bert Cooke being chiefly responsible for the Maroon and Blue's 13-10 advantage. The next match, that with City, brought a richly deserved 11 nil victory. This series concluded the championship—Richmond's lead being considered unassailable. Marist, for the first time since 1919, held the wooden spoon.

Carlaw Park on August 11th welcomed the Northland team, who were vanquished by 19 points to 12. Jim Laird was a member of the Queen City XIII.

The New Zealand Rugby League had by this time upheld the appeal of the Club in respect of the banned players, however, Marist subsequently decided to lift the suspensions, whereupon the gentlemen concerned: Messrs. C. List, G. Campbell, G. Fianagan, D. Herring, C. Dunne, J. L. and B. Schultz, transferred to the Mt. Albert Club, whose top team at that period took part in the Second Grade competition. A ninth insurrectionist, Wilf Hassan, had at a prior date been reinstated to Rugby Union.

The Greens initiated their Roope Rooster quest in rather shabby manner, disposing of Papakura by 6 points to 3, after a ragged spectacle in which the losers scored the only try. A week later the Old Boys vanquished City by 15 points to 12, and thus qualified for the final against Richmond on September 8th, making coach "Pope" Gregory a proud man.

The final proved a "beaut" one of the hardest-fought in the 19-year history of the Rooster. After 65 minutes of tense, torrid, thrilling football, the scoreboard showed 13 apiece. Bert Cooke then landed a great penalty to give Richmond the lead which was soon consolidated when Ray Lawless crossed for a try following a pretty movement engineered by McNeill and Jack Satherley. Notwithstanding being seven points in arrears the Greens never relaxed their efforts to penetrate, however, the opposition defence remained impenetrable, although just before noon the pro-Marist crowd roared its encouragement as Nelson Loader, broke and raced from half-way in a magnificent attempt to score: alas, his speed was too great to expect support so that his in-pass found no recipient; the game thus ending: Richmond 20. Marist Bros 13.

The Rugby League Gazette made the following comments:—"Beaten but far from disgraced, the Marist team can take consolation from the

fact that they gave Richmond one of their hardest fights of the season. The honours of the game are all with the Marist forwards, who played as men with a mission and never let up their relentless onslaughts throughout both spells. Dividing the scrum honours, they had Richmond six did slightly better in the open work, giving their backs more support on attack. Tactical play carried the day for Richmond, the riper experience of one or two of their backs, doing much to swing the balance in their side's favour, in the face of some of the soundest tackling seen at headquarters this season.

We are not disclosing any club secrets, when we state that the Marist executive, declined offers of the services of several well-known players in their last few games, preferring to stand or fall by the boys who had carried the colours throughout the campaign. And wasn't their faith in their own lads fully justified!"

The teams in the encounter were:—

**Richmond:** A. E. Cooke, D. McNeil, E. Fletcher, J. Satherley, E. Mincham, S. Prentice, R. Powell, A. Broadhead, J. Ginders, W. Teiford, C. Satherley, R. Lawless, R. Jenkinson.

**Marist Bros:** N. Campbell, N. Loader, A. Furlonger, H. Brisbane, J. Smith, W. Glover, R. Grotte, J. Laird, H. Carter, F. Webberley, D. Keane, A. Clarke, J. Bakalich.

As the current attraction at His Majesty's Theatre was "Waltzes from Vienna", it was truly fitting to state that by their efforts, the young Marist XIII had waltzed into the hearts of Auckland Rugby League fans.

The following Saturday the Greens had two representatives in the Auckland XIII, which accounted for South Auckland by 35 points to 16—Norm Campbell and Jim Laird.

On Saturday, September 22nd, the Old Boys faced their greatest ordeal—their clash with Sydney champions, Western Suburbs. The teams:—

**Marist Bros:** Full back: N. Campbell, Three-quarters: N. Loader, A.

Kay (Ponsonby), H. Brisbane, J. Smith; Halves: W. Glover, R. Grotte; Forwards: J. Laird, G. Steven (Devonport), F. Webberley, D. Keane, A. Clarke, J. Bakalich.

**Western Suburbs:** Full back: J. Sharman; Three-quarters: A. Ridley, R. Knight, J. Lynch, V. Sheehan; Halves: S. Tancred, P. Williams (South Sydney); Forwards: A. Blake, P. Fairall, J. Hartwell, J. McConnell, B. Green, F. Sponberg.

For the Greens the battle began in a promising manner, as they won the leather from the first two scrums. It wasn't long, however, before the Black and White rearguard began to assert itself, only to falter on Bill Glover—the Rock of Gibraltar—whose dynamic tackling of Tancred upset the visitors' co-ordination. To the accompaniment of tremendous cheering Glover, registered the opening points of the match, when he snapped up a loose ball to notch a fine try—the result of heady work by Smith, who had raced from halfway to catch Sharman in possession. Norm Campbell surprised by missing the easy conversion.

The brilliant Magpie winger and captain, Alan Ridley, then illuminated the scene. Firstly, he received from a scrum on half-way, scattered the Green defence, but threw away a certain try by delaying his pass, thence he touched down between the uprights—following a Tancred break—for Williams to convert.

Western Suburbs continued to delight: their exhilarating exhibition thrilling the spectators. After a glorious length of field movement, the elusive Stan Tancred, created a beautiful opening and sent Knight across wide out. Williams converted with an excellent kick to give the visitors a 7 points lead at oranges.

On resuming, Marist's Dan Keane, found an opening and kicked ahead. To his chagrin the ball reached the dead-ball line before anyone else. The Green forwards continued to press, only to see Knight gather a loose ball, and with a tricky run beat all the defence except Norm Campbell. Clever play by Sponberg

and Green improved the visitors' position, and from a scrum Williams scored in the corner.

The Marist skipper Brisbane, then took a hand in proceedings. From a melee he received, cleverly changed direction, and raced over for a lovely try which Campbell converted.

Exciting tussles ensued before Laird gathered, sent to Smith, who put his ears back and headed goalwards. The winger just made it—beating Sharman in a thrilling race—to score in the corner. Western Suburbs 13; Marist Bros. 11.

Displaying grand dash and enthusiasm the locals snatched the lead when Bob Grotte scored after a nice opening by Jim Laird. However, it was fleeting, for the giant flankman Ridley, in a magnificent diagonal run left half the Marist XIII grasping fresh air, before he sent a high pass to Sheehan, who gathered same and dived over in the corner.

Undaunted and undismayed—even by the loss of Dan Keane, due to injury—Marist struck again. Vince Sheehan dropped a high kick and the alert Smith, following up, collected the ball and scored. Campbell's great conversion gave the Greens a 19-16 advantage.

With time running out, could Marist hold out? This question was swiftly answered by Alan Ridley, who gloriously cut the defence to ribbons, then lost the ball a yard short. However, Frank Sponberg, in support of his skipper, gathered and touched down. At 19 all, everything depended on Percy Williams' conversion: it sailed straight and true to give the Black and Whites a 21 points to 19 victory. Mr. M. Wetherill carried the whistle in this action-packed drama.

After the match Alan Ridley paid the Marist team a graceful tribute, by stating that the form displayed by the "colts" was a surprise. The clean play of the Greens made them worthy opponents—comment generous as it was just.

On the succeeding Sunday week, the Western Suburbs, Richmond, Newton and Marist teams were the guests of the New Zealand and

Auckland Rugby Leagues, on a pleasant harbour excursion, and at a picnic on Pine Island.

Football was not yet at an end, however, for Glover, Grotte and Loader appeared for an Auckland Colts XIII which defeated the Taranaki Maoris by 29 points to 12, and then on Saturday, October 27th eventuated the Club's testimonial match for Hector Brisbane—amongst the greatest ever to grace Dominion Rugby League, and to the present day, the only Auckland Marist player ever to captain New Zealand in a Test match. In this latter game, Marist beat Newton by 30 points to 21. Both teams included several Juniors, all of whom revealed splendid form. The Green backs played good football and were the better team all round. Glover gave a brilliant display, his defence being high-class.

Other items of interest from this momentous 1934 season were:—

(1) The Marist Brothers 7-a-side schoolboy team made its debut. Included in its ranks were chirpy lads in Evan Hale—still thirty-five years later, one of our most sedulous stalwarts—and JackMudford—in after years a N.Z. turf celebrity.

(2) The Third Intermediate side annexed both their championship and knock-out. The team's composition was:—B. McCowatt, W. Phillips, C. Bridges, R. Donaghue, E. Johnson, A. Phillips, B. Weavers, J. Burdett, F. Keenan, P. Tighe, R. Weavers, B. Crocker, W. Hayes (captain), R. Devlin (vice-capt), G. Holt, R. Davies, D. Malavey (manager-coach).

(3) Our Senior Reserve team comprised:—Glover, Loader, Bakalich, O'Kane, R. Grotte, Furlonger, O'Shannassy, Tate, Ford Batchelor, Barry, Munce, Garney, Buchanan, Kerr, Donovan, Gunn, Brady, Wrothall, Benson, F. List, W. Grotte, Strahan, Chalmers, Brown, Lambert, Corbett, Pennycook, Lessing, Fenton.

(4) Our 4th Grade team finished third in the championship, while our two Primary School XIII's concluded the year with the 'B's' in 4th position and the 'A's' right behind

them. An Auckland Schoolboy team visited Hikurangi on October 13th and played Northland. Marist boys in the Queen City side were Brown, Hughes (B), Farrell and Mullins (A).

(5) The Mt. Albert Club entered a team in the Roope Rooster competition. This thirteen, composed almost entirely of former Newton and Marist players, succumbed to Ponsonby in the opening round, by 19 points to 11. The coach—none other than Jim Johnson.

(6) The Phelan Shield was instituted; providing a further knock-out competition for teams as they were eliminated from the Rooster.

(7) The Richmond Club, by defeating Newton in the Champion of Champions, became the first to capture the A.R.L.'s coveted 'treble'.

(8) The treasurer, Mr. O. Robinson, relinquished the position which he had always filled so capably.

#### 1935

With Jim Laird having assumed Hec Brisbane's mantle as skipper and the former North Queensland representative Joe Woods, in the vanguard, Marist commenced operations in 1935 by drawing with Devonport 17 all. Jack Bakalich filled the role of scrum-half, as Bob Grotte had transferred to Sydney's St. George premiership XIII.

On May 4th, Ponsonby and Marist clashed in the main attraction of the A.R.L.'s Saturday contribution, to the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the ascension to the throne of King George V. The Greens triumphed by 15 points to 10.

The following Wednesday the club's president Mr. Joe Sayegh, was narrowly defeated by Mr. E. H. (later Sir Ernest) Davis, in the Auckland Mayoral election. The final result provided Mr. Davis with a slender majority of 327 votes, however, Mr. Sayegh, achieved considerable consolation by topping both the City Council and Harbour Board polls.

City were vanquished in our next encounter by 22 points to 11, thence eventuated our clash with Rich-

mond—unbeaten leaders and triple champions of 1934—about which the Rugby League Gazette had this to say:—

"For sheer delight and abandon the scene at the end of the Marist-Richmond match was a sight rarely witnessed nowadays, but so keyed up was the crowd that their enthusiasm knew no bounds when Marist triumphed over the hitherto undefeated champions. It was a titanic forward struggle in which the Green packmen towered over the hefty Richmond six. There was precious little between the teams on the day, but the advantage of winning the ball from the scrums and the persistent close formation hunting by the Marist forwards, swung the pendulum just sufficiently far enough, to give the Greens a 10-8 victory. For a match in which both sets of forwards figured so prominently, there were sufficient bright interludes among the backs to satisfy the most fastidious, but the deadly tackling threw the rearguards into confusion many times, when matters were shaping promisingly."

Stars of this grand victory were Norm Campbell, Loader, McGreal, Glover, Laird, Keane and Bakalich. The ensuing match, that against Newton, brought a dramatic reversal of form. The Red and White rearguard introduced every trick in the repertoire. Their splendid reverse and scissors passing nonplussed the Marist defence on many occasions: indeed their display would have done credit to an English combination. Architect of Newton's 27 points to 5 victory was Wilfred Brimble, the scrum-half. The former Marist and Richmond player, Pat Young, appeared in the opposition XIII. Norm Campbell's absence and Jim Laird's departure in the second spell through injury, were significant factors in the Green defeat.

On June 8th, our long awaited initial clash with Mt. Albert took place, and ended in an 11 all draw. Marist adopted a unique 2-3 scrum formation, as Jimmy Laird played in the backs, owing to an eye injury

sustained against Newton. The Greens with twenty minutes left led 11-2, however, the Blue and Golds unleashed a furious onslaught which produced three converted tries. It was a torrid conflict marred by too much in effectual kicking, in which respect, Wilf Hassan (back from Rugby Union) and Bill Glover, the opposing stand-off halves, were the main culprits. O'Shannassy was the Marist custodian and Connolly the pivot.

Marist's 2-3 scrum was the subject of much discussion, at the subsequent Referees' Association meeting, the upshot being that—although several members favoured such a formation, stating that it could improve the standard of hooking, and of the actual scrums themselves—the meeting decided to request the A.R.L. to adhere to the 3-2-1 system.

The second round opened in disastrous fashion with two losses. Devonport after being 8 nil in arrears at oranges, chalked up a 10-8 victory, while Ponsonby downed us 8-3 in the mud.

After disposing of City by 20 points to 7, the Greens again met Richmond. The Maroon and Blues triumphed 22 nil, registering all their points in the last quarter, and consequently being flattered by the result. After 60 minutes it was anybody's game, then, unfortunately, Joe Woods—playing a great game—retired injured, whereupon the Richmond vanguard ran rampant, providing "Bumper" Powell with numerous opportunities to feed his backs. Marist's misfortune was indeed Richmond's gain.

On Saturday, July 20th, the return Marist-Mt. Albert clash eventuated. In the second spell Mr. Wetherill deemed it necessary to request four players to take early showers: Hassan, Herring and Flanagan (Mt. Albert); Carter (Marist). With 12 men against 10 the Greens were expected to erase the 10 points advantage of their opponents, however, a bitterly disappointing rearguard performance spelt finish to any hopes held in this direction, and Mt. Albert came out trumps by 18 points to 6. The

first half yielded splendid football, making the regrettable incidents that marred the subsequent play, somewhat surprising.

In the last match of the round Newton proved superior in a mud-bath by 7 points to 5, thus inflicting our 5th defeat in six engagements. New faces that appeared in the Green livery during the course of the round were: Kerr, Carroll (ex Waikato R.U. rep.), Gunn, Rhodes and Kennedy. Marist finished in 5th position in the championship.

On August 3rd, Taranaki and South Auckland teams both played at Carlaw Park. Norm Campbell and Jim Laird were in the Auckland A XIII which defeated the Amber and Blacks 37 points to 14, while Dan Keane and Joe Woods appeared in the B selection which conquered South Auckland by 17 points to 9.

The following week, Devonport, City, Newton and Marist, clashed in a preliminary Roope Rooster competition: the matches being of 40 minutes duration. Devonport defeated Marist by 8 points to 6, then Newton beat the Greens 17 points to 8 in the contest for the wooden spoon. These fixtures were played as curtain-raisers to the play-off for the 1935 championship between Richmond and Mt. Albert, and which the former won by 14 points to 9.

A week later, the North Island vanquished the Mainlanders after a stirring duel by 19 points to 18. Norm Campbell and Jim Laird wore the Blue jersey with the Black Vee, while a future Marist great in John Anderson, was a member of the South Island vanguard. In the curtain-raiser an Auckland A thirteen—including Glover, Loader, Woods and Keane—defeated their B counterparts 22-19, while on the No. 2 ground the Marist Senior Reserve XIII downed Richmond 3 nil to capture the championship.

In the opening round of the Poultrey Stakes, the Greens drew Mt. Albert, who registered the winning try in the closing minutes, to take the match by 18 points to 15. The first half favoured Marist whose

backs revealed fine combination. After the interval a sensation occurred when the referee—Mr. Percy Rogers—awarded Mt. Albert a very doubtful penalty try. The ball appeared to be resting over the dead-ball line, at the moment that Spiro, who had followed up fast was pushed from behind by O'Kane. This controversial decision aroused resentment amongst the Green players, and gave rise to some bitter exchanges between the forwards, as a result of which Mt. Albert's Dick Shadbolt, received his marching orders. The Blue and Gold van-guard's sterling performance was responsible for victory.

Marist's introduction to the Phelan Shield proved brief, as Devonport, after a high scoring encounter, vanquished the Greens, 34-22. This match was the Seniors' valediction to club football for 1935, although representative and international fixtures beckoned.

Our two Third Grade sides had also 'hung up their boots'. Both finished in third position in their respective championships.

Dan Keane and Jim Laird were members of the Auckland touring side which defeated Wellington, 39-27; West Coast, 32-14; and Canterbury, 26-13.

On September 7th, the Auckland Primary Schools XIII beat Northland at Carlaw Park, in the first contest for the Golden Bloom Banner, donated by Wallace Supplies Ltd., of Whangarei. Marist representatives were J. Williams, J. Muddford and R. Ralph. In the early hours of the following morning, Aucklanders lost a treasured social landmark when the Dixieland Cabaret at Pt. Chevalier Beach was destroyed by fire.

The advent of Dave Brown's Australian team—the first for 16 years—provided some magnificent Rugby League. Stehr, Norman, McKinnon, Thicknesse, Prigg, Pearce, the mercurial skipper—what a galaxy of brilliance!

In their opening match Auckland tasted defeat by 16 points to 8, thence came the First Test, and a

sparkling New Zealand victory by 22-14, in the presence of 23,000 spectators. Carlaw Park was also the venue of the Second and Third Tests, in which the Kangaroos extracted revenge in no uncertain manner, taking both matches, 29-8 and 31-8 respectively. That great forward, Jim Laird, appeared in all the aforementioned contests, the Marist skipper being the Club's sole representative: an impressive performance and a richly deserved honour. Amongst his team mates in the national selections:—Bert Cooke, Ted Mincham, Wally Tittleton, Lou Brown, Stan Prentice, Joe Calder, Bill Glynn, Cliff Satherley, Arthur Kay and Taranaki's Cliff Hunt. Norm Campbell was chosen in the Auckland team, however, injuries necessitated his withdrawal and cost him selection in the Kiwi XIII's.

Harking back to the First Test on September 28th, Marist Senior Reserve defeated City by 16 points to 3 in the curtain-raiser, and added the Stallard Cup knock-out competition to their championship, while during the interval of the Anzac encounter, the Marist 7-a-side team was beaten 3 nil by Greenlane. The Senior Reserve XIII was selected from:—O'Shannassy, Munce, W. Grofte, Bailey, Corbett, Kerr, Crocker, Webberley, Miskell, Rogers, Strahan, Steven, F. List, McLennan, Burgess and Robinson. George Batchelor was the coach.

#### 1936

On April 18th, the Auckland Rugby League staged a series of unofficial matches, and in a magnificent gesture donated a portion of the gate receipts to the Jimmy Laird Benefit Fund—the popular, former Marist skipper having sustained a severe muscular illness.

Marist met and defeated Newton by 15 points to 5. New stars in the Green jersey were Bob Aro, and "Fatty" Haslam, from the Technical Old Boys Rugby Club; Bill Breed, from the Otahuhu R.U. Club; and John Anderson from the Blackball R.L. Club, Greymouth—the last named a 1935 South Island representative.

Mr. Con Hall—a former S.I. selector—was appointed coach.

In the opening championship encounter, the Greens, by virtue of a last minute try, downed City by 12 points to 11. Unfortunately the skipper, Norm Campbell, suffered a severe injury which compelled his retirement. Our next match, against Newton, brought an 11 nil victory and the reappearance of Alan Clarke. Dan Keane was now captain.

Devonport inflicted the first defeat on the Old Boys when poor defensive positional play by the Green flankers was instrumental in the Blacks 20-9 triumph. Bill Glover, at fullback was taken off in the first spell with head injuries. Alan Clarke, naturally enough was not a capable substitute, while Arthur Furlonger, who filled the position after the interval was no better.

Against Richmond, the Greens outclassed their opponents to achieve a 13-5 lead at the change, however, in the second spell the rearranged Maroon and Blue back-line settled down, and proved altogether too smart for their Marist counterparts, whose defence—Haslam and Glover excepted—was lamentably weak. Richmond amassed 18 points in the second spell to Marist's nil.

Continuing to confound their critics, the Greens then defeated the joint leaders, Ponsonby, by 16 points to 11. The forwards were the dominant force while the rearguard revealed considerable improvement.

On June 6th, the Old Boys clashed with the colourful, regenerated Manukau XIII and after leading 18 points to 12 at oranges, went under by 18-39. Following the resumption of the Black and White forwards—Watene, Gault, Pickrang, Kawe, Whye, Rutherford—swept all before them, handling and running like backs in a dazzling display, to which Marist had no effective counter.

In the last match of the round, Mt. Albert chalked up a 10 points to 7 victory.

Our Thistle Cup quest began in similar fashion to the opening

round, with both City and Newton tasting defeat; the former by 16 points to 5 and the Red and Whites by 14-12. That peerless full back, Craddock Duffy, emerged from retirement and took the field in the ranks of the City XIII.

On June 23rd, Auckland celebrated the birthday of King Edward the Eighth. John Anderson was a member of the Auckland A team which was beaten by the Maoris 30-21, while Reg Haslam and Dan Keane appeared in the Auckland B thirteen which snatched a 25-22 victory over Wellington. The Capital City side included the 1929 Marist captain, Dick Moitsley.

Marist included Ken Finlayson, in its thirteen which drew with Devonport 11 all; a match in which success should surely have been ours only for Anderson's shocking goal-kicking. On a Carlaw Park No. 2 inches deep in mud the Greens were unlucky to lose their next engagement—Richmond winning 3 nil.

Between the Devonport and Richmond matches, a North Island XIII defeated the South Island by 21 points to 16. To all those who witnessed this encounter, one episode, above all others, will evoke recollection. Remember the Carlaw Park turf giving way beneath the feet of the North Island outside centre, Reg Haslam? Yes! the genial "Fatty" was the centre of attraction, on that bygone winter afternoon. A photograph depicts a ball-boy up to his waist in the hole. Needless to say the chasm was filled and the game proceeded. John Anderson also sported North Island colours. In a curtain-raiser a B team, containing Breed and Keane, beat an A selection, including Nelson Loader, by 16 points to 13.

On Saturday, July 25th, 14,000 people watched the 7th England touring team vanquish Auckland by 22 points to 16, following a thrilling tactical performance of the visiting halves, Watkins and Jenkins. Bill Breed was the Marist man in the Auckland XIII.

A brief return to club fortunes saw Ponsoby triumph by the odd point in 17. The Greens were undoubtedly unlucky, as Anderson crossed for what would have been a try wide out, but ran over the dead-ball line in endeavouring to improve his position. John paid the penalty for disregarding the immortal proverb, "a bird in the hand".

In the next fortnight Bill Glover and Reg Haslam, both obtained further laurels for the club, although in unusual circumstances Glover gave a faultless display as the Taranaki custodian, when England trounced the Amber and Blacks 35-4, and Haslam played impressively as a Northland centre, when the Chooms slammed the Northern XIII by 34 to nil.

England mastered the Kiwis in both Tests, by 10-8 and 23-11 respectively. Readers will certainly have recollections of Alan Edwards, Stan Brogden, Gus Risman, and that splendid forward, Joe Arkwright. For the first time since 1921 the Marist Club was devoid of New Zealand representatives.

Back at club level, excitement ran high in the battle for the Fox Memorial Shield. Marist encountered a brilliant Manukau XIII, being decisively beaten by 24 points to 7. Jack Hemi, at inside-centre, was in glorious form for the victors. Peter Mahima, Tom Trevarthan, Angus Gault, Joe Broughton, Joe Murray, Frank Pickrang, Rutherford, Mason and Kiwi captain Steve Watene, also appeared for the Black and Whites, while P. Serra, the 1935 South Island forward, played his first game for the Greens. Several Marist forwards played in the backs, the rearguard's combination being consequently disorganised.

On August 29th in the final championship series, the Green's opponents were the powerful Mt. Albert side.

The Marist backs quickly settled down to play grand combined football, being unlucky not to score on several occasions. After Mt. Albert spent a considerable period on fruit-

less attack, the Old Boys' scrum-half, Bob Aro, scored a magnificent solo try, dummying his way through the defence before swerving past Halliwell to place the leather between the posts, for Anderson to convert.

A few minutes later the Blue and Gold vanguard restored fortunes, when Des Herring, accepted a difficult in-field pass from Watkins, and crossed for a nice try. The Mt. Albert skipper, Len Schultz, retired injured as did his brother, Jack.

Marist's first try in the second spell was a dazzling affair. Aro pierced the defence, transferred to Haslam, who centre-kicked for winger Loader, to chase, gather and score. Mount Albert was not to be denied, however, and Des Herring notched his second try to equalise the scores at 10 all.

The Greens dominated the concluding stages with the backs throwing the ball about in cavalier fashion. Eventually List registered the winning try following a united forward movement.

Glover was sound at fullback, his defence as usual being first-rate; Haslam was the best back on the ground, his performance featured by straight running and low tackling; Aro was a splendid scrum-half, making some fine individual sorties, while Chalmers and Bakalich were impressive in attack and the flank men, Loader and Reeves, were solid. The vanguard excelled in the loose with Anderson, Keane and Finlayson, the most prominent.

This 13-10 defeat spelt finish to Mt. Albert's championship chances. A Blue and Gold victory would have necessitated their playing with City of a postponed match, and their possible play-off with Manukau—the actual winners—for top honours. The Greens ended the contest in sixth position.

On September 1st, New Zealand's renowned 40-hour week was introduced, and on the following Saturday, in the opening round of the Roope Rooster, the Greens were eliminated by Richmond, 24 points to 10. The Richmond backs were too speedy and revealed finer know-

ledge of positional play. This match marked the debuts in Marist colours, of Clive Murdoch, the former Technical Old Boys R.U. player, and A. Fletcher, from the Grammar Old Boys Union side.

The Old Boys commenced their Phelan Shield quest, by gaining a last minute 15-11 victory over Newton, thence extracted retribution by thumping Richmond 17-3. Ponsoby—with an abundance of possession—carried the day in the final to win by 13 points to nine, and thus the curtain fell on the 1936 season.

Marist teams successful in annexing titles, were George Batchelor's Senior Reserves, who defeated Richmond 14-13 in the Stallard Cup K.O. final, and the Intermediate Schoolboys who captured the E. Davis Cup, by downing Richmond 4 nil in the knock-out final.

#### 1937

At the annual meeting, the elected Marist executive was: Patron, Bishop Liston; president, Mr. J. Sayegh; management committee, Messrs. J. Ball, W. Maddigan, G. Copas, P. Hughes and F. Webber; hon. secretary, Mr. J. Kirwan; hon. treasurer, Mr. P. Fletcher; club captain, Mr. J. Laird; delegate to junior management committee, Mr. F. Thompson; delegate to school-boys' management committee, Mr. G. Foster; auditors, Messrs. O. H. Johnson and J. F. Hollindrake; hon. messrs, Messrs. J. Duffy and D. Petty. Mr. George Batchelor was appointed Senior coach.

Two Saturdays of preliminary matches ushered in the 1937 season. The Greens defeated City 27-22, and lost to North Shore 15-24. New faces were Crocker (the former Senior Reserve scrum-half), Midgley, Fitzgerald, Donovan and Donaldson.

In the initial round of the championship proper, Marist—with Reg Haslam as skipper—trounced Newton 27-10, while in the following encounter the Greens went under to Manukau 10-17.

On Coronation Day, Wednesday, May 12th, an Auckland XIII, con-

taining Gordon Midgley and Bill Breed, defeated a Maori selection 24-14.

The following Saturday North Shore triumphed by the odd point to 11. Jack Smith was in fine form for the victors.

On May 22nd came ignominious failure, when Richmond annihilated Marist by 55 points to 15, the greatest debacle in the Club's history. The Maroon and Blues monopolised scrum possession providing their backline with countless opportunities. How well they responded is best indicated by the result. The Green rearguard was devoid of combination, lacked dedication and purpose in its defensive efforts, and its passing was deplorable. Richmond's Ted Mincham, Wally Tittleton and Noel Bickerton enjoyed their picnic.

Our next opponents were Ponsoby, the unbeaten leaders. In a totally unexpected reversal of form, Marist vanquished the Blue and Blacks by 20 points to 5, dominating all aspects of the game from go to whoa. Star performer in this excellent victory was new wing three-quarter Ray Halsey, who had just transferred from Mt. Albert. 1936 Marist captain, Dan Keane, appeared in the Ponsoby pack.

The Blue and Golds were the next thirteen to suffer from the Marist rehabilitation, being downed by 10 points to 7. Mt. Albert had no counter to the enterprising and dangerous centre-flank combination of Halsey, Haslam, Murdoch and Midgley.

On June 9th Midgley and Breed appeared for the Auckland XIII which defeated South Auckland by 26 points to 12. The Queen City team was chosen by Mr. H. Brisbane; at that time the sole selector.

The succeeding Saturday saw the conclusion of the first round and Marist continued on their merry way by disposing of City 11 points to 4. Hawea Mataira, the former Hawkes Bay and New Zealand Rugby Union rep., made his initial 13-a-side appearance, however, he sustained an injury in the first spell which necessitated his retirement.

Owing to Carlaw Park being utilised by the Auckland Football Association, for the Second Test between the England Amateurs and New Zealand, on June 19th, the A.R.L. gave the various Senior teams permission to travel to outside centres. Marist journeyed to Whangarei and at Jubilee Park defeated Kamo, the leading team in the Northern town, by 28 to nil.

The Old Boys inaugurated their campaign for the Thistle Cup in grand style, by trouncing Newton 22 points to nil, however, in the next match Manukau once more proved superior, on this occasion by 20 points to 13. Stung by this reverse a revigorated Marist XIII with Jim Dobbyn as hooker, mastered Mt. Albert 15-13, North Shore 18-10, and City 15-5, before clashing with Richmond, the championship leaders, on August 21st.

Marist scrum-half Crocker, gave the crowd an early thrill when he went over in a handy position and Anderson converted. From this moment on the Greens never relaxed the pressure with the vanguard giving an inspired performance in the loose and tackling soundly. The Richmond backs were a constant source of danger, however, grand defence kept them at bay until Bickerton, carved his way through a gap, transferred to Wally Tittleton, who sent his brother George, across under the bar for Furnell to convert. The Maroon and Blues quickly went ahead when Jack Satherley scored after a break by Jack McLeod. Delightful play by the Greens brought tries by Donovan, Anderson and McLaren, all converted by Anderson, which gave Marist a 20 points to 8 advantage at the interval.

After the resumption brilliant Richmond movements swept the length of the field, and finally the leather came to George Tittleton, who scored. Harold Tetley then charged down Glover's clearing kick and went over between the posts, only to be recalled for a knock-on. Hard rucking by the opposition forwards on the Marist line brought

the ball to "Bumper" Powell, who was awarded a try amid a hostile demonstration from the grandstand crowd. G. Tittleton added the extras with a grand kick. Following ragged play Furnell, the Richmond custodian, secured a loose ball, eluded Midgley's tackle, transferred to Powell, who sent G. Tittleton over for an unconverted try, which made the score Marist 20, Richmond 19.

The Greens then assumed control when McGreal scored a clever try between the uprights after gathering a neat cross-kick. Anderson's boot was dead on target. Jack McLeod, the Richmond forward was next to score: a magnificent individual effort in which he evaded several tacklers in a crashing 50 yard sideline burst. George Tittleton's conversion meant the Maroon and Blues were once again only a solitary point in arrears. The Old Boys had the last word, however, when Midgley raced across after gathering a cross-kick from co-winger Halsey, which had eluded the two Tittletons. John Anderson's conversion gave the Greens a meritorious victory by 30 points to 24. Mr. F. Thompson, refereed the match in which the former Brisbane player, Ivar Uhlmann, showed promising form as the Marist outside centre.

Between August 7th and 14th, the Kangaroos, skippered by Wally Prigg, had played three matches in Auckland en route to England and France. Trials to select a New Zealand team had been conducted, and a Possibles XIII, containing John Anderson, had defeated a Probables side, including Glover and Breed, by 25 points to 11. When the National team was announced Marist—as in 1936—was without representation, although Glover was subsequently included in the training squad for the 2nd Test. Bill Breed was considered an unlucky party, while Reg Haslam's strong claims had been cruelly shattered by injury.

The Test rubber was squared with Australia taking the First 12-8, and the Shaky Islanders the Second

16-15. The Kangaroos also clashed with a New Zealand Maori XIII—a celebrated encounter in which the locals were victorious by 16 points to 5. The 1937 Australian side remains to this day, the only international Rugby League team to lose more matches than they won on a New Zealand visit.

Saturday, August 28th, decided the fate of the Fox Memorial Shield. After a tense, thrilling, tussle for supremacy, Richmond entered the ultimate series one point ahead of Mt. Albert and Marist. The vital struggle saw Richmond meet Newton, Mt. Albert encounter North Shore, and Marist engage Ponsonby. If both Richmond and Mt. Albert were conquered and Marist was victorious, the Greens would capture the Shield. The Old Boys produced enterprising football in the main curtain-raiser, to dispose of Ponsonby 17-8, thence watched the principal attraction with baited breath, hoping for a Red and White victory. Alas, 'twas not to be for the Maroon and Blues proved superior and consequently took the honours for the season, however, Marist with most second round points annexed the Thistle Cup. This same afternoon the Auckland Schoolboys defeated Northland to retain the Golden Bloom Banner. Marist boys in the Auckland colours were Len Austen, and Jimmy White.

The captivating Silver Wyandotte was now the centre of attraction. Marist, in dashing displays gladdened their admirers hearts by reaching the final. In so doing they eliminated Newton 15-6, and City—Richmond's conquerors—14-2.

The first half of the Marist v Ponsonby final was an absorbing struggle in which penalties to John Anderson and Ponsonby's Jones were the only points.

After the interval the Blue and Blacks showed exuberant enterprise and harassed the Green defence. Davis and Morgan, were associated in a clever movement which was checked when Stockley threw a wild pass to Brian Riley. A few minutes later the Marist vanguard launched

a furious onslaught which culminated in a lovely try by winger, Uhlmann. Anderson obliged with a great sideline conversion. The Greens went further ahead, when, following a smart run by Haslam, Breed crossed near the posts. The Marist backs were throwing the leather about in irresistible fashion—their handling and positional play being far superior to the opposition, who had received numerous chances, only to be found wanting.

Ponsonby achieved some consolation when Riley scored a brilliant try, however, the Greens retaliated with three points from Joe Woods, followed by a try from John Anderson, who accepted a difficult pass from Bill Breed, and went over between the posts. The Greens had all the better of the final stages and took their tally to 25, as the result of grand play by Haslam and Midgley, which saw the latter score and Anderson convert. Just before noon side Black spotted a gap, nipped through, transferred to Stockley, on to Riley who smashed his way past the cover defence and flung a long in-pass to Brown, who scored under the crossbar. Jones' conversion made the final position: Marist Bros 25 Ponsonby 10.

The successful Marist XIII was:—W. Glover, G. Midgley, R. Haslam, J. McLaren, I. Uhlmann, P. Donovan, B. Crocker, J. Bakalich, J. Anderson, K. Finlayson, W. Breed, J. Woods, R. McCreel; of whom Midgley, Haslam and Anderson, were the luminaries.

This same day the Auckland schoolboys successfully defended the Golden Bloom Banner by defeating South Auckland 17 points to 5. Included in the Auckland squad were Marist's J. White, R. Florian, L. Austen and M. Edwards.

In 1928-29 and 32, Marist after snaring the Rooster had subsequently collected the Stormont Memorial Shield; would 1937 prove different? A fortnight elapsed before the answer was supplied, for on September 25th, the A.R.L., in a magnificent gesture cancelled all

matches under its jurisdiction, to provide players and supporters with an opportunity to view the Third South Africa v New Zealand Rugby Union Test at Eden Park.

Play opened at a fast pace in the Champion of Champions contest, with both the Richmond and Marist XIII's attempting to penetrate the defences, but to no avail. The Greens were first on the 'board when Anderson kicked a nice penalty. Shortly after, Tetley was trapped and threw a hard pass back to Magill, who fumbled, where-

upon the alert Anderson snapped up the ball and raced over between the posts for an easy try, which he converted. Anderson was then penalised and Mincham placed two points for Richmond. The Maroon and Blues attacked strongly after the interval and finally Powell dived through a ruck to score. The Richmond backs — without Furnell and the two Tittletons — were not a happy combination, their passing being very erratic. Anderson, who was enjoying a dream match, secured the leather just inside the opposition half and with a glorious



SENIORS 1938: (Winners of the Fox Memorial Shield and Thistle Cup.)

Back Row—G. Allen (Masseur), P. Donovan, J. Bakalich, J. O'Kane, J. Logan. Second Row—C. Murdoch, C. Erickson, R. Haslam, W. Breed, W. Grotte, J. Woods, K. Finlayson. Third Row—J. Duffy (Masseur), G. Midgely, J. Anderson (Capt.), J. Sayegh (Chairman), J. Chalmers, W. Glover, J. Kirwan (Hon. Sec.), Seated—J. Matthews, R. Grotte.

## 1938

The Greens started the new season in a most unconvincing fashion, only defeating the newly promoted Papakura thirteen, by 16 points to 15 on the call of time. This practice match saw Bob Grotte make his reappearance as scrum-half after 3 years in Sydney and Moree. Joe Woods and Jack Kirwan shared the coaching responsibilities.

In the first series of the championship proper Marist gave a polished performance to down North Shore by 23 points to 7. Reg. Haslam's brilliant display was the highlight. The A.R.L.'s newly appointed player-coach, the former South Sydney star, Bob Banham, stepped out in the Marine thirteen.

The Old Boys drew the bye the following week thence eventuated a bewildering hat-trick of defeats: to Manukau 4-18; Mt. Albert 13-18; and Richmond 8-13.

A 45 points to 11 swamping of City somewhat restored fortunes. This match was the last before the commencement of the trials to select the New Zealand team for the tour of Australia.

Firstly, an Auckland XIII, including John Anderson, annihilated the Rest of the North Island, by 67 points to 14 then—in the greatest rout in the annals of the event—the North Island, including Gordon Midgley, slaughtered the South Island by 55 points to 2. A curtain-raiser to the last mentioned encounter, brought a Possibles victory over the Probables by 25 to 21. Marist had three men in the Possibles XIII, in John Anderson, Bob Grotte, and Bill Breed.

On the announcement of the New Zealand side Marist adherents were delighted by the fact that the club had three new Kiwis, in Gordon Midgley, Bobby Grotte and Johnny Anderson. George Nepia—immortal of both Rugby codes—was chosen as the fullback, however, he was forced to withdraw, whereupon he was replaced by Jack Hemi, who was to ultimately cover himself with glory.

dash shattered the defence before diving across in the corner. There was no further scoring until that man again, John Anderson, landed a spectacular field goal. The match ended shortly afterwards with Marist taking the Stormont, by 12 points to 5. "Gig" Wetherill held the whistle while Anderson held the limelight, having registered all the winner's points. Each Marist player received a medal as a memento of victory.

The afternoon brought a double success, for the Senior Reserves defeated Ponsonby 23 points to 5, in the final of the Stallard Cup knock-out competition. Having held this impressive trophy since 1935 the team thus completed a notable hat-trick. Mr. J. O'Shannasse coached the side which included:—Owens, Phillips, Hughes, Munce, Furlonger, Matthews, O'Shannasse, Brown, Stanaway, Nicholson, V. Barchard, McDonald, Jim Dobbyn, Weavers, McRae, Strickland, Willis and Rhodes.

Our Third Graders finished in third position in their section while our Senior Schoolboys occupied the runners-up berth.

On October 9th the curtain fell on the season's activities, when the newly-formed Auckland Rugby League Senior Clubs Officers Association, staged a Maori-Pakeha match and instituted the Injured Players Fund, to which the proceeds from the aforementioned match were given. The brilliant Maori thirteen handed their opponents a lesson in the fundamentals, and registered a decisive 43 points to 21 victory. Glover, Midgley, McLaren, Breed and Anderson were members of the Pakeha team. John Anderson received a medal donated by noted Auckland sports benefactor, Mr. J. F. W. Dickson, in recognition of his outstanding achievement, in amassing 162 points for the season — the most by any Auckland player. Five Senior teams competed in a football-carrying relay and the Marist fliers had too much pace for their opponents.

Billy Grotte, made his initial Senior appearance in our next match, which yielded a narrow 11-8 victory over Papakura, while Jimmy Matthews entered the top XIII the following week against Ponsonby, an encounter which brought a 13-7 success and the referees' early dismissal of Reg Haslam.

On the King's Birthday a Maori thirteen defeated Auckland, 26 points to 21. Phil Donovan was a member of the latter team.

The Greens completed the first round with a 6-2 defeat of Newton. Intent on retaining possession of the Thistle Cup, Marist opened the second round by trouncing North Shore, 26 points to 4. The rear-guard produced brilliant football which augured well for the future. This optimism was amply justified, for in the next fixture the Greens thrashed Manukau by 24 points to 3. In so doing they broke a hoodoo by registering the club's initial success against the Black and Whites.

Continuing their triumphant march, the Old Boys next lowered the colours of the Mt. Albert thirteen — the championship leaders going under by 14 points to 6. Proceedings were then halted by the memorable clash between the returned New Zealand team and Auckland. After eighty minutes of thrilling football, the locals downed the Kiwis by 21 points to 13. Bill Glover and Reg Haslam wore Auckland's colours, while John Anderson appeared for New Zealand. Bill McNeight's Kiwis had played 9 matches in Australia; winning 5, losing 3 and drawing the other. As in 1911-13-19-21-25 and 30, no Tests were decided.

Flushed with success and now with the Fox Memorial Shield, as well as the Thistle Cup, fixed firmly in their sights, Marist moved relentlessly forward, vanquishing Papakura, 8 nil; City, 9 nil; and demoralising Richmond, 32 points to 4.

In the penultimate series the Greens drew Ponsonby. If victorious

numerous opportunities, however, the insides, Ted Brimble and Sissons, were too selfish.

Marist stars were Glover, Haslam, Chalmers and Murdoch in the backs, and Bill Grotte, Frank Butler and Ken Finlayson in the forwards.

The quest to retain possession of the Roope Rooster began rather shakily, the Greens struggling to defeat Huntly, the South Auckland champions, by 8 points to 6. It ended in rather sensational manner, the following week, when North Shore took the honours by 8 points to 2. Joe Woods and Ken Finlayson received early showers as did North Shore's Simpson. The Blacks outplayed Marist in the forwards while the efforts of the dangerous Green rearguard were nullified by splendid tackling.

Our stay in the Phelan Shield proved brief, Mt. Albert being successful by the odd point in eleven. The Greens were unfortunate as Jack Matthews touched the sideline in diving to score.

On Saturday, September 24th, nine thousand Aucklanders watched the contest between Marist Bros and Eastern Suburbs — the latter, the runners-up to Canterbury — Banks-town in the Sydney premiership. In a warm-up practice match the week before, the Greens had defeated Ponsonby 20 points to 14.

Against Eastern Suburbs the Old Boys fielded the following XIII:— Fullback: W. Glover, Three-quarters: G. Midgley, R. Haslam, J. Chalmers, J. Matthews; Halves: C. Murdoch, P. Donovan; Forwards: J. Anderson, W. Grotte, K. Finlayson, W. Breed, J. O'Kane and J. Woods.

The Tricolour team was:— Fullback: J. Norton; Three-quarters: P. Dermond, R. Dunn, F. Hyde (Balmain), A. Cairns; Halves: L. Pawley, F. Robinson; Forwards: W. Bamford, S. Pearce, J. Arnold, F. Bell, H. Pierce and R. Stehr (capt.). The visitors quickly settled down and from mid-field Frank Hyde, made a brilliant break before passing to Dermond, who streaked for the corner, but was collected 10 yards out by

Glover. The Marist rearguard exhibited venomous tackling and frustrated repeated Eastern Suburbs attacks, until Sid Pearce sent to Dermond who beat Chalmers and transferred to Robinson, for that player to outpace the defence and score a grand try, which Norton converted. The visitors' custodian was again in the picture, when he cleverly caught the Green defence on the wrong foot, gave the leather to Dunn, on to Hyde, who in-passed to Harry Pierce, who scored in a handy position for Norton to add the extras.

Through the deteriorating Marist defence, Frank Hyde, carved his merry way, and sent Arnold across for the visitors' third try. The reliable Norton again converted. At last the Marist forwards displayed some dash, however, Anderson dropped a pass from Woods with the line open. Emulating their vanguard the Green backline commenced to reveal initiative. Firstly, Clive Murdoch narrowly missed a try, then Haslam made a beautiful opening and this time Murdoch touched down for Anderson to convert. Maintaining command, swift passing saw the ball reach Haslam, who swept several would-be tacklers aside in a devastating dash, before handing to Anderson who ran 40 yards for a glorious try, hotly pursued by Pierce. Anderson failed to convert but landed a penalty minutes later. Marist at this stage were irresistible. They notched a further try when an attempted field goal by Chalmers went astray and the bouncing ball beat Norton to be gathered by the trailing Matthews, who brought the Greens three points closer. Thrilling play ensued until intermission when Eastern Suburbs led by 15 points to 13.

Marist were quickly into their stride in the second half and Johnny Anderson kicked a 40 yard penalty to level the scores. Disaster then struck, in the form of a broken leg sustained by the durable Joe Woods. Could Marist survive under this severe handicap? At first the answer was in the affirmative as the vanguard gave the Tricolours no quarter, then Jim Matthews, evoked great applause



when he beat both Hyde and Cairns and set sail, only to kick with Anderson in support and in the clear. The visitors regained the lead when Harry Pierce evaded four Green backs to score between the posts for Norton to convert.

A remarkable transformation then occurred, for in a few minutes the visitors routed the fast-tiring locals—now wilting under the strain imposed by the loss of Woods—and registered three tries. Firstly, Dunn charged down an attempted clearing kick by Midgley for a simple three points, then Hyde scored twice, both being brilliant individual efforts. Norton added the extras twice.

Right on time Sid Pearce went across for an unconverted try to make the final position: Eastern Suburbs 36 Marist Bros 15. Mr. F. Thompson was the referee.

After Woods' retirement the Red, White and Blues dominated scrum possession, providing their tricky rearguard with many chances to test the gradually drooping defence. Eastern Suburbs was the superior team having more method in and polish to their attacks: in particular, they used the reverse pass to perfection. The Marist forwards were the equal of their opponents in the loose, but inferior in handling and in the ability to create openings. What would have happened had not Woods broken his leg, well, that's one of those celebrated 'ifs', so renowned in the world of Sport?

On October 8th, the farewell match of the season took place; this being the Champion of Champions clash between Marist and the Rooster winners Richmond, who had the previous Saturday vanquished Eastern Suburbs by 11 points to 9.

Down 6 nil at oranges, the Greens rallied with two excellent tries and several near misses, to take a 2 points lead, however, Richmond were not to be denied and Leo Davis scored to give the Maroon and Blues victory, 9 points to 8.

Recapitulation reveals that our 1938 Senior Reserve team included:—G. Carroll, Petrie, G. Brown, L. Phillips, D. McWilliams, G. Hughes,

Garrod, Willis, W. Rhodes, Vic Barclay, F. Brown, Weavers, F. Stanaway, Lynch, Rogers, Johnston and an enterprising young forward named Don McLeod.

#### 1939

As Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland, trembled under Nazi terrorism and oppression, bringing Hitler's dreams of global domination nearer to reality, we Rugby League fans in "Gods Own Country", elevated the ominous war clouds hovering over Europe, high into the heavens, and awaited with pregnant interest, the imminent Kiwi tour of England and France. As a prelude to the "Blighty" invasion, a short tour by an Eastern Suburbs Combined team was about to whet our appetites.

The Auckland season began on April Fool's Day. Marist defeated Newton by 13 points to 5, after a ragged display by both teams.

On the ensuing Saturday the Old Boys encountered the Sydney visitors—the teams being as under:—

**MARIST BROS:** Fullback: W. Glover; Three-quarters: R. Halsey, R. Haslam, C. Murdoch, J. Matthews; Halves: P. Donovan, R. Grotte; Forwards: C. Erickson, J. O'Kane, W. Breed, W. Grotte, K. Finlayson and J. Anderson (captain).

**EASTERN SUBURBS COMBINED:** Fullback: J. Sharman (Western Suburbs); Three-quarters: D. Manson (South Sydney), A. Mitchell (Canterbury-Bankstown), F. Hyde (Balmain), R. O'Loan (E.S.); Halves: L. Pickup, (E.S.) R. Thompson (North Sydney); Forwards: R. Stehr (Captain) (E.S.), G. Watt (Balmain), F. Griffiths (Balmain) H. Pierce (E.S.), J. Arnold (E.S.) and J. Redman (Balmain).

Both teams took the field wearing black armbands and prior to the kick-off observed one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the Rt. Hon. J. A. Lyons, Prime Minister of Australia, who had died the previous day.

The Greens thrilled the onlookers by moving quickly into opposition territory where Anderson made two unsuccessful penalty attempts. De-

light became dejection when Ken Finlayson intercepted a wild Maroon and White pass, gathered momentum and headed goalwards, however, Bill Breed failed to gather a difficult transfer with the line open. Exhibiting Rugby League with celerity as the keynote, the Combined XIII gave classic example, as Frank Hyde eluded Glover, sent to Watt, who short-kicked for Aub Mitchell to pursue, collect and race over for Thompson to convert.

Reg Haslam bewildered the Sydney-siders with two sparkling dashes, before Erickson, the Old Boys prop forward, gathered from a visitors' line drop-out and notched a dazzling 25-yard solo try, cleverly side-stepping several opponents in the process. Anderson staggered supporters by missing the easy conversion.

The Greens remained on the offensive with the rear-guard a constant source of danger to the visitors. Halsey and Haslam, in a beautiful movement breached the defence only to discover the linesman indicating that the former had stepped into touch. From the resultant scrum Phil Donovan, secured on the blind side and flashed across for a lovely try which Anderson failed to convert.

Roy Thompson accepted an opportunity when Marist infringed forty yards out, and put the visitors one point ahead with a splendid kick. Half-time arrived with the 'board reading: Eastern Combined 7 Marist 6.

Possession from set scrums, which was about even in the first spell, began to favour Combined, following the interval. The visitors took play deep into Marist territory where both Redman and Arnold, displeased the crowd. Proceedings swung across field and after a melee Billy Grotte received his marching orders for striking Redman. Marist produced another sunshine and shadow incident when Ray Halsey moved gazelle-like through the defence, then unaccountably despatched a wild pass which Redman intercepted, and with Glover out of position, the Sydney lock scored between the posts.

Thompson converted and shortly afterwards landed a fine penalty.

Marists' five forwards laboured valiantly, however, the Maroons' pre-match stone-a-man weight advantage—given considerable impetus by Bill Grotte's enforced departure—was beginning to prove decisive. Smart passing between Thompson, Pickup and Manson brought results in the form of a clever try by Redman.

Defensive dynamo, Bill Glover, was seen to advantage with two thundering tackles of Manson and Hyde. The Sydney-siders, now unquestionably superior, made their total 22 points when Arnold toed the ball past Glover for a simple try which Thompson converted.

Marist rallied in a desperate offensive. Watt, the Combined hooker, was carried off with concussion, and upon play resuming Anderson obtained possession, kicked high and chased, arriving first to score an excellent corner try.

Fast play marked the closing stages and the Greens were attacking when the bell sounded with the final position: Eastern Suburbs Combined 22 Marist Bros 9.

Marist stars in the encounter, refereed by Mr. George Kelly, were: Bob Grotte, Bill Glover, Bill Breed and Cyril Erickson.

More afflicted than sister clubs by a virulent influenza epidemic, the Greens were beaten in successive matches by City 3-4 and Papakura 7-12. Both Ray Halsey and Reg Haslam appeared in the forwards against the Red and Blacks as did Vic Barclay.

The Seaiders—our next opponents—tasted defeat by 16 points to 7; a match in which the late Jimmy Matthews collected three brilliant tries. The following Saturday the Greens held a 10-5 advantage at oranges over the unbeaten Mt. Albert XIII, however, in the second spell the Blue and Golds, with Bruce Donaldson in splendid form, proved too powerful and emerged as victors by 20 points to 13. "Fatty" Haslam, at this juncture succeeded the renowned "Offside" O'Brien as coach.

A hat-trick of defeats, to Ponsonby 7-13; Manukau, 11-26; and Richmond 10-24; concluded a dismal first round. Injuries and illness were proving difficult to overcome and necessitated the fielding of different combinations in every match. Notwithstanding this adversity, morale remained unaffected — a great determination to succeed being in evidence.

Unfortunately, this "will to improve" did not bear fruit immediately, for Newton reversed their first round defeat to take the honours by 5 points to 2, then Richmond triumphed by 26-14 to place the Greens on the bottom rung of the ladder. A curious disinclination to tackle low — apparent all the season — was creating consternation amidst the club.

On June 26th, Marist finally clicked, giving an encouraging display to record a decisive 20 points to 5 victory over City. The following week, strengthened by the inclusion of Cliff Hudson, the former Ponsonby Rugby Union player, the Greens defeated Papakura after a torrid struggle by 7 points to 5.

On Tuesday, July 11th, Erickson appeared for a Possibles XIII which was beaten 18-27 by its Probables counterparts; the game serving as the final trial for the selection of the 1939-40 Kiwi team for England and France. No Marist players had participated in either the inter-island or Possibles v Probables matches staged the preceding Saturday, nor was the Club represented when the names of the fortunate twenty-six were announced.

In our next engagement, that with North Shore, the championship leaders, the Greens produced brilliant football to master their redoubtable opponents by 18 points to 5. Included in the Black line-up were their four Kiwis: Verdun Scott, Jack Smith, Ivor Stirling and Ross Jones, while the Marist XIII was: W. Glover, G. Midgley, C. Hudson, J. Chalmers, J. Matthews, G. Hughes, R. Grotte, C. Erickson, K. Finlayson, J. Logan, V. Barchard, J. Anderson and Grotte.

The following Saturday, July 22nd, provided another of the Auckland

Rugby League's truly celebrated occasions, for on this lovely winter afternoon, a spectacular farewell was accorded the Auckland members of the New Zealand team. Could those privileged to be present ever forget the splendid, stirring spectacle created by the parade of all Auckland players (Seven-a-side to Senior) and referees? The principal attraction was the Mt. Albert v Marist match. The Blue and Golds had replaced North Shore at the top of the ladder. With 10 minutes remaining the Greens led 15-14 and hopes of a second giant-killing achievement ran high. Unfortunately these hopes were not fulfilled, for the Mt. Albert vanguard regained the whip-hand, enabling their backline, spearheaded by McInmarney, Roy Hardgrave and Donaldson, to produce a 24 points to 15 victory.

Ponsonby inflicted a 16-5 defeat in our next encounter while in the final series the Old Boys combined effectively to dispose of Manukau by 28 points to 6. Ken Nicholson made his Senior A debut in the latter match. Marist finished second-to-last in the championship which was won for the first time by Mt. Albert.

Our opponents in the opening round of the Silver Wyandotte, Ponsonby, were vanquished 7-3, while in the semi-final a fortnight after, Manukau was outclassed by 31 points to 15.

Far away in Central Europe, another team had been outclassed: gallant Poland, under the relentless might of the Nazi juggernaut. The preceding Sunday, British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, had informed the world that for the second time in the space of a quarter of a century, the United Kingdom was at war with Germany, in defence of all mankind. Rex King, Kiwi captain, had gained the admiration of the British people with his statement immediately following the team's arrival in England, that all the New Zealand players were available for National defence, if required.

On September 16th, Marist and Mt. Albert clashed in the Roope Rooster final.

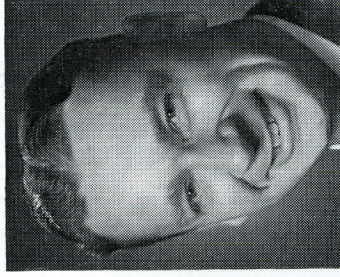
The Greens in the early stages were clearly the better team and looked set for a comfortable victory, however, Bruce Donaldson was in excellent kicking form and he gradually reduced the lead per medium of three penalties Wild passing by the Blue and Gold forwards cost at least two tries and the Old Boys were fortunate to keep their line intact. When the bell rang for no-side, Marist were ahead by 13 points to 11, being over-all deserved victors in a thrilling contest marred by sporadic outbursts of fisticuffs, and refereed by Mr. Ken McIver. The Greens revealed greater enterprise in possession than their opponents, who received more than their share of the ball. Anderson, Midgley and Bill Grotte scored tries for the victors, with Anderson converting one and kicking a penalty, while Donaldson registered all Mt. Albert's points. Glover in the finest form of his career, Hudson, Nicholson, Erickson, V. Barchard and Anderson were the Marist luminaries. Apart from Nicholson who replaced Bob Grotte, the team was the same as that which defeated North Shore in the second round of the championship.

Four times previously Marist had captured the Roope Rooster — Stormont Shield double. Could we make it five? September 23rd brought the answer and the farewell match of the 1939 season.

Marist produced a bitterly disappointing display, never seriously extending Mt. Albert at any time. The Greens had a monopoly of possession from the scrums, but frittered many chances with ill-timed and injudicious kicking. Chalmers was the main offender in this respect and he presented the brilliant veteran, Roy Hardgrave, with many chances; the winger on frequent occasions veering infield to link with his forwards. The Blue and Gold forwards were splendid rovers in the loose, while their Green counterparts, after a promising first half showing, deteriorated mid-way through the third quarter. The final position showed Mt. Albert defeating Marist by 21 points to 9.

Our Fifth Grade team ended the

season in sixth position out of eight, while the Senior Reserves coached by Mr. A. G. Bates, and the Thirds both performed capably. The Marist cupboard was not to be devoid of championships, however, as the Seven-a-side lads proved superior to their opponents to attain top honours. Stars of the team were Ray Keenan and Fergie Kirwan — the latter Jack's younger son and today one of the club's most devoted and inspirational supporters.



Mr. C. Trillo,  
Patron,  
Old Boys  
Association



Mr. R. Tanner,  
President,  
Old Boys  
Association



A. Singe,  
New Zealand  
Rep.  
1925-26

## 1940-1945:

### Magnanimity Ardour Resource Inspiration Stoicism Thanksgiving

Auckland's 1940 season commenced with preliminary matches on April 6th, in an atmosphere of three C's: commiseration, at the death ten days earlier of New Zealand's revered Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. M. J. Savage; confusion, from the pattern of events of the "Phoney War"; confidence, that ultimate victory would be ours and that the Rugby League code, as in 1914-18 would surmount all difficulties arising from the holocaust. Marist drew with Richmond, 8 all, in the principal encounter, revealing promise based on speed and ability to penetrate, which was consolidated a week later by a 23 points to 12 defeat of Papakura, in another trial fixture.

In the opening championship series the Greens disappointed, being downed by Newton, 13-10. The forwards fulfilled expectations but the rear-guard made many mistakes and generally lacked purpose. The Marist XIII was: Glover, Matthews, Hudson, Chalmers, Midgley (replaced by McWilliams), Uhlmann, Hughes, Anderson. W. Grotte, V. Barchard, Breed, Finlayson, Don McLeod. The following Saturday erratic backline passing again spelt disaster and North Shore deservedly registered a 20-12 victory.

Dave McWilliams and Jim Matthews illuminated the Old Boys' rehabilitation when Manukau were outclassed by 30 points to 17, while in our clash with City, two penalties by Warwick Clarke, gave the Red and Blacks a 4-nil advantage. In the curtain-raiser to the latter game, Richmond and Manukau drew 4-all which meant that no tries were scored on the No. 1 ground; a unique experience for the 6,000 spectators.

Our next opponents, Mt Albert, took the honours by 19 points to 8; a match in which Don McLeod and Dick Shadbolt received early show-ers. At this time Hitler's forces were in occupation in Denmark and Norway, while his Panzar hordes had smashed forever the myth of invincibility surrounding the Maginot Line, and were roaring relentlessly across

the Shore citadel, the leaders' prospects looked far from rosy. In the dying minutes, however, the Seaside's had the last say when Verdun Scott atoned for an unhappy afternoon, by landing a glorious sideline field goal, to snatch a 7-5 victory.

The effervescent Manukau XIII bowed to the superiority of the Greens by 20 points to 10, then followed a tense 10-5 victory over City, a match marked by the reappearance of coach Reg Haslam, and the debut in Marist colours of Cyril Wiberg.

A thrilling tussle with Mt Albert saw the Greens take the honours by the odd point in thirty-three. Keen opportunism on the part of Glover who snapped a field goal in the closing minute, produced a Marist victory. An excellent standard of play was revealed in the first spell, there being a host of splendid movements which mostly emanated from the Green rearguard. In the second half both teams displayed open Rugby League and the manner in which fortunes fluctuated kept the 4,000 spectators at fever pitch.

Marist commenced in brilliant fashion throwing the ball about in gay abandon and recovering quickly, both on attack and defence. Devastating defence was a feature of Ivor Uhlmann's fullback performance, while in a speedy and intelligent backline Jimmy Matthews was outstanding, being quick to sense openings and revealing swiftness and elusiveness in many dazzling dashes. Glover at stand-off half was something of a brake on his outsiders, but Nicholson, Chalmers, McWilliams and Midgley were spritely on attack and defended with resolution. Anderson shone in the vanguard and received able assistance from McLeod, Breed, W. Grotte and Barchard. Dobbyn was a match for Leatherbarrow as rake.

The Greens travelled to Papakura for their next engagement and the backline handed the local XIII a lesson, to be instrumental in the 27 points to 8 triumph. This match served as a tonic for the vital clash with Richmond, who needed victory to annex the championship. Marist, after leading 5-nil at the interval —

thanks to the efficient hooking of Dobbyn — wilted under the sustained pressure of the Richmond backline finding Abbie Graham, Dave Solomon and Wally Tittleton too fast and clever. Chalmers and Hughes, the Green inside backs were too slow in possession with the result that McWilliams was frequently smothered on receiving the ball. Richmond's 13-5 success thus gave the Maroon and Blues the Fox Memorial Shield for the fourth time in seven seasons.

Against Ponsonby, the Old Boys produced insipid football and were trounced by 21 points to 3; a defeat that would have been at least 10 points greater, only for the herculean efforts of Bill Glover. Len Jordan revealed exceptional promise in his debut for the Blue and Blacks. In the principal attraction this day, the South Auckland champions, Huntly South, beat Richmond 10-5. Marist finished third equal in the championship.

The Greens began their Roope Rooster quest with an uninspiring 12-2 victory over Newton in a ragged game, thence fell victim to Ponsonby by 18 points to 12, surrendering the lead in the last 10 minutes. Jack Smith, after a long absence had reappeared in the Marist livery, while another new face in Senior ranks was Emslie.

Although extra time was played in our Phelan Shield engagement with Manukau it failed to produce a victor, the result being 10 points apiece. The Greens registered two tries and two goals while Jack Hemi landed five penalties for the Black and Whites. In the replay Manukau proved the better all-round team to run out winners by 23 points to 9. So concluded Marist's participation in the 1940 season.

Our Third Graders finished in 8th position out of 12, while our Intermediate, Junior and Seven-a-side Schoolboys occupied last, second-to-last and second-to-last positions respectively.

On Saturday, October 26th the Schoolboy Management Committee conducted an Athletics meeting at

Carlaw Park. Keith Hing (Marist) finished second to Moyle (Newton) in a goal-kicking contest; Fergie Kirwan occupied a similar position to Taylor (Greenlane) in a 50 yards Junior sprint; Marist and Newton were second equal in a tug-of-war contest; and Marist finished in second place to Newmarket in the Junior relay. I guess the Club played second fiddle that afternoon.

#### 1941

The season commenced with all clubs reeling under the incessant departure of members for the supreme struggle being waged on foreign soils. Two series of preliminaries were staged. Marist was vanquished in both: by 10-27 at the hands of Ponsonby and 10-11 by Papakura. A young winger named Bidwell showed exciting promise.

On May 3rd the championship proper began. The Greens produced enterprising Rugby League to account for Mt Albert by 20 points to 18. New identities were: Harry Dickson and Johnny Simpson, the latter now universally acknowledged as one of the greatest of New Zealand Rugby Union prop forwards. Symbolic of the era the immortal screen epic, "Gone With The Wind" was the attraction at the Plaza Theatre.

Richmond, a week later shattered any presagements of championship attainment, by inflicting a 27 points to 5 drubbing. Wing three-quarter Alan Sayers (now an ace turf photographer) scored four tries for the Whites in a match in which the Richmond players were given plethoric latitude in playing the ball. That morning 100,000 Aucklanders watched a parade of Home Defence Units.

The following Saturday Marist drew the bye and the club president, Mr Joseph Sayegh, unsuccessfully contested the Auckland mayoralty against Mr J. A. C. (now Sir John) Allum.

Manukau, commencing to resurrect their 1936 glories trounced the Greens by 34 points to 3. Joe Murray, Tommy Chase, Jack Hemi and Pita Ririnui were in lethal form, with Hemi collecting 16 points with his

magic boot. Marist's points came from a try by Gower.

The Old Boys then expiated to some degree by battling to a 23-all draw with Newton, after holding a 15 points advantage with 20 minutes remaining. All Marist's points were scored by the forwards with John Anderson notching three tries and kicking four goals, and John Simpson and Vic Barchard collecting a try apiece. This factor is indicative of the vanguards' superiority. The Green backs revealed little constructive play, preferring to confine matters to the pack.

Lamentable tackling and the continuing lack of concerted attack allowed the strong North Shore combination to cruise to a decisive 27 points to 3 victory. Roy Clarke and Eric Chatham spearheaded the Black rearguard while Solomon proved safe as the Marist custodian. In the main match on the No. 2 ground, Alan Sayers collected seven tries in Richmond's 33 points to 4 defeat of Papakura.

Marist chalked up their second success of the season, by coming from behind to vanquish Ponsonby, 22 points to 17. Ashley Best and "Stooge" McWilliams combined effectively to give winger Jack Smith the chances he had lacked in previous matches. The Ponies' fullback — although Arthur Kay was the goal kicker — was none other than Bob Scott, who became in latter years almost a legend in the 15-a-side code. Yes! Scott and Simpson, future Ponsonby, Auckland, North Island and New Zealand Rugby Union team mates, were adversaries in Rugby League that June 14th, twenty-eight years ago.

Our next engagement brought a 14-11 defeat at the hands of City. Poor goal kicking, due to John Anderson's absence, contributed greatly to this reverse.

The Greens completed the round by disposing of bottom ranked Papakura by 15 points to 3. Don McLeod was seen briefly in the role of goal kicker, landing a penalty before receiving his marching orders.

About this time it became known that the former Marist captain, Dan Keane, was a prisoner-of-war, having entered 'the bag' during the disastrous Allied retreat from Greece.

Mt. Albert avenged their first round reverse by taking the honours, after an even contest, by 18 points to 11. Wood, another new face amongst the backs, played well. Richmond, the joint leaders, although outplayed in the forwards had too much finesse in their rearguard, this attribute being responsible for their 19 points to 9 success. All twenty-eight points were registered in the first spell. Prior to the kick-off both teams stood with bowed heads, as a mark of respect to Cyrill Erickson, the former Marist forward who had made the supreme sacrifice.

Annihilation followed in our next match when the exuberant Manukau XIII produced scintillating football to overwhelm the Greens by 45 points to 3. It would have taken a formidable team indeed to have subdued the Black and Whites. The brilliant Hemi notched 24 points with two tries and nine goals, and was ably supported by Murray, Major, Gregory, Te Tai, Shilton and Ririnui. This 42 point losing margin is the greatest ever incurred by a Marist Senior thirteen.

North Shore took advantage of their superior pace and abundance of scrum possession to coast to a comfortable 23 points to 3 victory. The Marist forwards gave their customary solid display, however, the rearguard was devoid of initiative with the exception of Bill Glover. Our fifth successive defeat was administered by Newton who, after a keen battle emerged trumps by 11 points to 9.

The hoodoo was finally broken by virtue of a 9-3 triumph over Papakura. Promising form was exhibited by Katipa, Costello and Tim O'Gorman. Ponsonby were vanquished 9 nil in a stirring wet weather duel, highlighted by Jack Smith's dashing display on the flank, then City took the count by 8 points to 5 in the ultimate series to give the Greens 7th place in the championship, which was captured by North Shore by one point from

Manukau. Between the Ponsonby and City fixtures Jack Smith, represented Auckland against South Auckland at Huntly and proved the shining light of the encounter which was won by the Queen City, 26 points to 15.

Marist commenced the Roope Rooster competition in encouraging fashion by defeating Mt. Albert by 10 points to 6. Cyril Wiberg, who had appeared in almost every position during the season, performed capably on the flank, while that Marist star of a decade before, Claude List, starred in the Mt. Albert pack.

Our second opponents were Richmond, who led by 3 points at the interlude. In the second spell the Greens settled down and dominated all aspects of play. Excitement ran high in the dying stages when the Whites, following renewed efforts held a one point advantage and defended desperately to keep the Old Boys at bay. John Anderson had Marist supporters ululant with delight when, after missing a comparatively easy penalty he dropped a magnificent goal from half-way, to enable the Greens to snatch a meritorious 11-10 victory. Glover, McWilliams and Costello excelled in the backs while Anderson gave an inspiring display in the vanguard, besides scoring all Marist's points with a converted try, 2 penalties and a field goal.

In our semi-final clash with Ponsonby, the Blue and Black rearguard revealed superior speed and better positional play to enable their team to carry the day by 24 points to 13. The Marist vanguard once more turned on a powerful performance and mastered the opposing sextet. Simpson, Breed and Barchard were outstanding.

The Rugby League Gazette of October 11th carried the following paragraph:—

"The Marist Club were on Wednesday evening granted permission by the Board of Control, to forfeit Phelan Shield engagements owing to difficulty in fielding a team, due to sickness, injuries and military drill requirements".

Yes the common fight for survival was indeed encompassing, however,

in this perilous hour there emanated a strengthened desire to surmount all obstacles — a dedication that no Satanic horror could mitigate or obliterate.

Although circumstances prevented the club from fielding any Junior teams, we at least kept the colours flying with our Junior and Seven-a-side Schoolboy combinations.

#### 1942

With all clubs depleted but not discouraged, disturbed but not dismayed, Auckland's Rugby League season began on April 18th, with a series of preliminary matches. Many players were soldiers on week-end leave. Marist encountered North Shore and were soundly defeated by 22 points to 13.

At its meeting on April 22nd, the A. R. L., fearful of a considerable retrogression in playing standards with a corresponding deterioration in public interest, decided to reduce the number of Senior sides to six. This was achieved by amalgamating the three weakest teams, Marist, Newton and newly promoted Otahuhu, with North Shore, Mt. Albert and City respectively; such a measure appearing to the Senior grade only.

To gauge the capabilities of the various clubs, particularly the combines, a second series of preliminaries was decided. Marist-North Shore was due to meet Mt. Albert-Newton, however, the North Shore and Mt. Albert Clubs declined to participate in amalgamated thirteens. Newton, augmented by C. Cowley, (Mt. Albert) and Gregory (Manukau) proved far too strong for the Greens who were strengthened by Ponsoby's Roy Gee, and ran out winners by 36 points to 16. Marist scrum-half Ryan gave a sound display.

In the first two matches of the championship proper, Marist — playing without North Shore — was beaten by Richmond 10-22, and trounced by Manukau 5-33. Fanovich was exhibiting promise as custodian while Costello, McWilliams, Wiberg, Donovan, Simpson, McLeod, O'Gorman and Breed had also turned in good games.

to ensure an abundance of chances for their rearguard, which, however, failed to capitalise.

Sporting the Black jerseys of North Shore; strengthened by the inclusion of Eric Chatham; and receiving numerous opportunities from the excellent hooking of Rutherford, the Combined XIII outplayed Richmond by 23 points to 11, then consolidated with a meritorious 13-3 defeat of Mt. Albert-Newton. Jimmy White and Harry Dickson were the wing three-quarters.

Ponsoby gained retribution for their two earlier reverses by overcoming a dearth of possession — due to Rutherford's superb hooking — to finish ahead by 10 points to 4, while in the final series, City-Otahuhu, in their best display for weeks, trounced the Blacks by 33 points to 5. Bruce Graham appeared in the losers pack. Manukau emerged as the champions of 1942, and Marist-North Shore as holders of the wooden spoon.

In the Maori v Pakeha clash on August 29th, McLeod and Rutherford appeared in the latter thirteen which was defeated by 10 points to 8.

Marist-North Shore encountered Manukau in the opening round of the Silver Wyandotte; a match described by the Rugby League Gazette as follows:—

"With determination and élan that thoroughly disorganised Manukau, the Marist-North Shore pack swept through in wave after wave of assault, giving their opponents neither opportunity to settle nor effectively retaliate. The Black pack, winning from scrums and out-maneuvring their adversaries in the loose, presented a problem which Manukau could not solve. In the rear the Marist-North Shore chain was unimpressive as such, but dangerous in individual sallies. The winners wisely confined the bulk of their work to the forwards'. Heroes of the 14 points to 2 victory were Maurice Costello, who provided the sparkle in the backline, with his incisive dashes being a continual source of danger to the Black and Whites; and Bruce Graham and Don McLeod, who were resplendent in a magnificent vanguard.

Our semi-final opponents were City-Otahuhu, and after a thrilling exposition the Blacks took the honours by 15 points to 14. Rutherford's hooking again made a notable contribution to victory.

On September 19th Richmond and Marist-North Shore clashed in the final.

The Marist-North Shore forwards quickly moved into top gear and stormed the Richmond line. They encamped there for a period without being able to breach the resolute defence. The Maroon and Blues soon retaliated and Ron McGregor, Jack Magill and Bernie Lowther all made slashing runs. The Blacks were receiving less ball from the scrums than in former games, although Jimmy McArthur at scrum-half was always dangerous. Black centre, Harrison, in fine form bulldozed his way beyond half-way, where, from a scrum McGregor intercepted a pass between McWilliams and White, transferring to W. Robertson, who sent winger Kinney, racing forty yards for a delightful try under the crossbar which Magill converted.

The Black rearguard was unable to function effectively, thus McArthur used his grand pack of forwards who again assailed the Richmond citadel but to no avail, although Bill Breed narrowly missed in a battering ram effort. Shortly afterwards Marist-North Shore fullback Len Simons, missed a return kick and the brilliant McGregor, toed the ball ahead, secured and galloped 50 yards for a try between the posts. Magill added the extras.

Back came the Blacks in a determined onslaught. Deeper and deeper they penetrated until McArthur handed to McLeod, on to Breed, to Skinner, who sent Penman over in the corner to cap a dazzling offensive. Half-time arrived with Richmond ahead by 10 points to 3.

Following tense, torrid, forward exchanges in which both teams missed opportunities, the Maroon and Blues increased their lead when a lightning flank attack, initiated by W. Robertson, saw McDonald and Sale handle

for the last named to touch down wide out.

The Combined XIII reasserted themselves when, following a glorious dash by Penman to within 5 yards of the Richmond line, the leather was given to McWilliams, who sliced through on the diagonal for a nice-unconverted try. The Maroon and Blues had rather the better of the closing stages and full time arrived with the 'board showing: Richmond 13 Marist-North Shore 6.

The Black thirteen was: L. Simons, J. White, Harrison, D. McWilliams, Penman, M. Costello, J. McArthur, H. Skinner, T. Fields, B. Graham, W. Breed, J. Rutherford, D. McLeod.

The Rugby League Gazette for this encounter eulogised the example set by the Marist Club, which although encircled by adversity had carried on unaided through no less than seven competition engagements until wisest counsel prevailed and amalgamation was effected.

In lower grades the Marist Sevens finished with the wooden spoon, while the Intermediate and Seven-a-side Schoolboys both collected their respective championships. The Junior Schoolboys also performed with distinction.

The return Maori v Pakeha clash concluded the 1942 season. Marist-North Shore representatives in the Pakeha thirteen which held the Maoris to a 28 all draw, were Don McLeod and John Rutherford.

#### 1943

The Eighth Army's glorious conquest at El Alamein, followed by the colossal Russian triumph at Stalingrad, and United States advances in the Solomon Islands, had turned the tide of the war; thus it was in an atmosphere of renewed hope for a quick restoration of Peace, that the 1943 season commenced on April 10th. Two series of preliminary matches were once more conducted between the nine Senior clubs — who had again reverted to individual entities. Marist was successful in defeating Newton by 7 points to 2, thence suffered a

20-13 loss at the hands of Mt. Albert. The coach was "Snow" Lee.

The Greens met Mt. Albert again the week after, when the competitions began in earnest, and on this occasion they vanquished the Blue and Golds by 15 points to 10, notwithstanding playing a man short for most of the game. Critics were quick to perceive that the Marist pack revealed all the potential of a formidable combination, however, they also agreed that the backs would need to assimilate the cardinal fundamentals, if the desired overall fusion was to be achieved.

In the second engagement, Ponsonby, by virtue of a second half rally gained a 16 points to 9 victory, however, North Shore, the following week went under by 11 points to 8. The rearguard was showing improvement, although their understanding of positional play was poor.

The following Marist thirteen gave their Richmond adversaries a real headache, before the Maroon and Blues took the honours by 6 points to nil: C. Wiberg, N. Silva, A. Best, D. McWilliams, J. White, G. Hughes, R. Katipa, D. McLeod, F. (Ginger) Glover, J. Simpson, H. Skinner, L. Simons, J. Barnes.

On June 5th the powerful Manukau XIII encountered the Old Boys. The Black and Whites as a unit were effectively subdued by the devastating raiding of the Green sextet, however, the latter was once more let down by a ragged rearguard that failed to capitalise on the opportunities offered, therefore, the superior individualism of the Maoris prevailed, to obtain a 10 points to 5 victory. Morrie Brockliss landed a penalty goal, the forerunner of countless more in ensuing years. A colourful newcomer in the pack was Al Knight, a member of the United States Marine Corps — at that time stationed in the Queen City — while Ken Nicholson reappeared as scrum-half.

With the rearguard at last revealing the requisite handling and tackling standard, the Greens slammed Otahuhu 21-8, then trounced Newton by 31 points to 5. The last match of the round saw the Greens meet City, in their first

appearance of the season in a principal attraction, the gate takings from which were donated to the Third Liberty Loan. At intermission the Red and Blacks deservedly led by 12 points to 3 having held the upper hand from the commencement. In the 2nd spell the anticipated onslaught of the peerless Marist vanguard did not eventuate until the last quarter, and although it dominated proceedings it just failed to bring success, and City held on to win by 12 points to 11. Marist scored three tries — all by Maurice Costello — to two by their opponents.

The Greens inaugurated the second round by disposing of Mt. Albert 13 points to 7 — this being a grand display — thence they consolidated with a 17 points to 12 defeat of Ponsonby, and a 21-6 trouncing of lowly North Shore.

The improving Otahuhu vanguard exhibited fire and purpose and surprised Marist by forcing a 5 all draw, in a disappointing exposition in which two powerful packs portrayed clever, constructive football, and two ragged rearguards revealed dismal, disjointed football.

The following week the backline redeemed itself, being most impressive and instrumental in the 21 points to 8 triumph over Newton. Gerry Hughes was particularly effective at scrum-half. On the next day, Sunday, August 8th, the Seniors visited Huntly and after a bright encounter downed the locals by 19 points to 6.

In our next match, against second placed Richmond, Marist produced a dazzling brand of Rugby League to swamp the Maroon and Blues by 23 points to 7. Richmond were simply beaten by a better team. They were outpaced and outplayed in the forwards, while their dangerous backs — Ron McGregor in particular — were quickly and frequently lowered by copybook tackling. The victorious XIII was: — M. Brockliss, R. Katipa, M. Costello, D. McWilliams, J. White, G. Hughes, K. Nicholson, J. Simpson, H. Skinner, L. Simons, A. Knight, F. Glover and D. McLeod (captain).

Against Manukau, who had already been adjudged the champions of 1943,

the Greens endeavoured to repeat their tactics of the Richmond encounter, however, on this occasion the forwards could not establish complete ascendancy. The Black and Whites triumphed by 22 points to 15, aided immensely by the brilliance of their inside backs, Joe Murray Jack Hemi and Jack Major. The Marist backs continued to attract favourable comments. The Greens' first points were registered by "Ginger" Glover, who kicked a rolling ball over the crossbar to obtain a sensational field goal, in a manner reminiscent of Ben Davidson's 1932 effort.

On August 28th the first Chairman's Day was staged and no less than 15,000 people watched Richmond inflict a 10 points to 5 defeat on Manukau. In a scrappy curtain-raiser highlighted by shocking scrummaging, City headed Marist by 8 points to 5, therefore the Greens finished the championship in fourth position. A week later Maurice Costello and Don McLeod were members of a Pakahas XIII which held the Maoris to a 13 all draw. The curtain-raiser on No. 2 ground between the Richmond and Marist Sixths, resulted in an 11 points to 8 victory for the Greens, coached by Mr. Les Phillips, and comprising Fergie Kirwan (captain), V. Curtis, R. Keenan, A. Ryan, B. Ryan, Pat Kirwan, P. Scurrah, H. Moore, P. Zainey, M. Thompson, S. Gallagher, B. Tilby, S. Bennett, Parsons, Courtney and C. Strange.

Marist made a most inauspicious start to the Roope Rooster, being thrashed by Richmond by 30 points to 5. There was no co-ordination between forwards and backs, and while the former laboured earnestly, though devoid of purpose, the latter perambulated like 'headless chooks'.

On September 18th, an Auckland thirteen comprising players from teams eliminated from the Roope Rooster journeyed to Huntly, and was defeated by South Auckland by 28 points to 15. Jim White, Dave McWilliams, Maurice Costello and Don McLeod were members of the Queen City selection.

The following Saturday the Greens were scheduled to meet Newton in

the Phelan Shield competition, however, they were compelled by circumstances to default.

On October 9th, at Carlaw Park, the return clash eventuated between the Auckland and South Auckland representatives. Don McLeod and Dave McWilliams appeared for the Blue and Whites, who were outclassed by 21 point to 9.

A week later the New Zealand club premiership was at stake and 19,000 spectators watched Manukau vanquish the West Coast and South Island champions, Blackball, by 23 points to 9. Manukau had previously beaten Ponsoney 21-9 in the Roope Rooster final and City, 12-9 in the Champion of Champions encounter, to become only the second Auckland triple titlists.

Amongst our lower grades, the Sixths performed capably; the Junior Schoolboys captured both their championship and knock-out; and the Senior Schoolboys the championship.

Mr. Bob Clark coached the Senior boys who included: J. Taylor, B. Jones, G. Murphy, J. McKinnon and R. Dragievich — all of whom represented their city in the Golden Bloom Banner challenge against South Auckland at Huntly on September 11th.

Mentor of the Intermediate lads was Mr. R. Grantley, whose charges included: R. Teague, B. Wheeler, T. Tolich, T. Smith, R. Langton, D. Grantley, I. Farach, O. Meredith, Huckstep, Patten, Goodall, Duncan and McIntyre, of whom Grantley was the only boy to gain rep honours.

The all conquering Juniors were coached by Mr. N. (Snow) Drew and managed by Brother William. Des Birmingham, M. Silva, L. Cunningham, H. Smith, J. Tinnetti, J. Davis, N. McGuire, B. Huckstep and L. Randall were members of this team.

#### 1944

Feverish preparations in England for the impending opening of the long awaited Second Front: intense activity in Italy as the British 8th and United States 5th Armies pushed relentlessly towards Rome: millions lib-

erated from the Nazi yoke as the Eastern Front receded westwards: many Anzacs greeted ecstatically in their homelands — truly spring was returning again.

Two series of preliminary matches instituted the 1944 season and Marist took the count on both occasions — to Richmond by 10-21 and to City by 5-20.

Reeling under and profiting by these reverses, the Greens trounced Newton by 30 points to 5 at Grey Lynn Park in the first round of the championship proper on April 29th, thence in the main attraction on Carlaw Park No. 2 the following week, they massacred the newly promoted Pt. Chevalier XIII by 51 points to 10. The victorious team in both these engagements was: Fullback; M. Brockliss; Three-Quarters: A. Shepherd, D. McWilliams, J. White, I. Te Wiri; Halves: G. Hughes, B. Crocker; Forwards: D. McLeod, F. Glover, J. Simpson, L. Simons, I. Simpson, and A. Best. The coach was Mr. H. McWilliams.

In our next encounter Mt. Albert held the Greens to a 9 all draw, then a week later an impressive City thirteen proved the superior combination, to inflict a 21 points to 13 defeat. Pat Keenan performed well in the pack before injury necessitated his retirement.

On May 23rd, pre-war Marist star, Jimmy (Sonny) Chalmers, was accorded a rousing reception on visiting Carlaw Park. One of Jimmy's legs had been amputated due to wounds sustained on active service. The same afternoon the Greens again tasted defeat when the improving Otahuhu XIII, after an exciting 80 minutes, finished to the fore by 8 points to 6. Bruce Kidd, a new recruit from Rugby Union revealed encouraging form in the Marist vanguard. Johnny Simpson had transferred to Palmerston North.

A solitary penalty goal by Morrie Brockliss, was sufficient to bring victory over Richmond, although this 2 points to nil margin would have been greater only for the rearguards disinclination to run straight. The progress of the puissant Manukau thirteen was interrupted by a dedicated

Marist team, which delineated mastery over their opponents for more than 70 minutes, before yielding a converted try to Tom Butler, which allowed the Black and Whites to finish on equal terms at 5 points apiece. A feature of the contest was the fine performance of Arthur Shepherd, who on Benny Crocker's retirement shifted from wing to scrum-half where he displayed definite ability. The world's attention was now focused on the Normandy beaches.

Against North Shore at the Ellerslie Domain, the Greens, although deprived of possession exploited the Blacks' mistakes to such good effect, that they carried the day by 8 points to nil. Maurice Costello, in his first appearance of the season, took the injured Benny Crocker's place at scrum-half and scored a dazzling try.

In the quagmire that was Carlaw Park No. 2, lowly Ponsoney, by virtue of adapting themselves the better to the prevailing conditions, gained an 11 points to 8 victory. The New Zealand professional heavyweight boxing champion, Don Mullett, was a member of the Blue and Black vanguard. An unfortunate and unusual incident occurred in the second spell, when the referee, Mr. George Kelly, was compelled to retire due to having been struck a painful blow by the ball.

Our Thistle Cup quest commenced in somewhat shaky fashion, the Greens having to struggle to defeat a revigorated Newton XIII by 11 points to 4, while in their ensuing encounter at Walker Park, Pt. Chevalier, the locals — whom we had pulverised in the opening round — only went under by 8 points to nil, thereby demonstrating just to what extent they had improved. Arthur Shepherd gave ample indication of his versatility, by filling the hooker's role with distinction in the absence of "Ginger" Glover.

On July 15th, in the main attraction at Carlaw Park, Mt. Albert narrowly defeated Marist by 5 points to 3, after a scoreless second half. Constant rain which fell throughout the match transformed the ground into a sea of mud, and under these

adverse conditions Auckland's most improved player, Morrie Brockliss, produced a wonderful display of fielding and line kicking, while Rangi Katipa and Ted Sexton performed creditably in the vanguard. Originally destined for the No. 2 ground at 3.10 p.m., the match was awarded pride of place when City announced their controversial and sensational decision to default to Manukau.

The following Saturday City again defaulted and on this occasion the Greens were the recipients of the hollow victory. Circumstances appertaining to the Red and Blacks refusal to participate were:—

(1) On July 8th, during the Richmond — City encounter Mr. George Kelly, after 20 minutes of play ordered City forward Eugene Donovan from the field, on a charge of constantly chipping the referee.

(2) Donovan appeared before the Judicial Committee denying any derogatory remarks to or at the referee prior to being ordered from the field, after which he considered himself released from control of the referee and free to express his opinions.

(3) The Board of Control issued a caution with the proviso that Donovan had to apologise to Mr. Kelly. Asserting that he had committed no breach of law the player flatly refused to apologise.

(4) On Saturday, July 15th, the City team, after a meeting, informed the Board of Control that the side would not be available and would therefore default to Manukau.

Our clash with Otahuhu saw the Double Blues triumphant by 5 points to 2. Ironically this same day City, who had reappeared in the competition much to the delight and approbation of all adherents of the Code, won by default from Newton. At Western Springs before a good attendance Mt. Albert defeated Marist 10 nil, in the final of the Fifth Grade championship.

Representative honours once more descended on Don McLeod, when he participated in the Auckland — South Auckland clash on August 5th, won by the Blue and Whites 36-5. George

Vasey, Dave Grantley and Ron Teague appeared for the Auckland Senior Schoolboys XIII which drew with South Auckland, 3 points all; and Mick Silva, C. Brennan and R. Dragiech for the Auckland Intermediate Schoolboys team, which vanquished their Huntly counterparts by 8 points to 6.

Giving an impressive exhibition Marist downed Richmond by 11 points to 6, thence on August 19th, faced Manukau the championship leaders; a match about which the Rugby League Gazette had this to say:—"The Greens in concentrated, coordinated attack, strode forward with deadly purpose and execution. Halted momentarily, they wheeled to debouch through gaps, then to deploy in excellent position, ever pressing on. The tactical scheme was perfect and its performance irresistible.

Marist, confident and capable, rose above conditions and opponents, to sterling form. Below strength, they nevertheless had no flaw either on attack or defence. Never in the past four years have Manukau been so decisively outclassed, both forward and back, for an entire game". Stars of this magnificent twelve points to nil conquest were:— Brockliss — who outplayed Ralph Martin — Jack Smith, Benny Crocker, and the evergreen Len Simons.

Shadow as so often happens succeeds sunshine and Ponsonby proved this conclusively, for, with pace and possession, plus Roy Nurse, Arthur Kay, Len Jordan and a promising young forward from Dunedin named Travis Hardwick, they upset Marist by 20 points to 13, scoring six tries in so doing. Johnny Simpson made a transient reappearance in the Marist pack.

The Old Boys ended their championship campaign by downing North Shore, 12 points to 5, in an exhilarating little run.

On September 9th, after a spectacular exposition the Maoris emerged victors by 18 points to 13, over a Pakeha XIII which included Jack Smith and Don McLeod. Just before the interval Maori fullback, Ralph

Martin, spreadeagled the opposition defence in a glorious dash before he transferred to George Shilton, who was nailed just short. Jack Smith's clearing kick while in flight touched a Maori forward thus placing Don McLeod, who was in the process of retiring 60 yards upfield, automatically on side. The wily Don — who still recalls this incident with a chuckle — thereupon turned, secured the ball and leisurely strolled over between the posts for a gift try.

The succeeding Saturday witnessed the resumption of the inter island contest, and on this occasion, a brilliant North combination thrashed the Mainlanders by 43 points to 15. The subsidiary curtain-raiser was a Seventh Grade fixture between Pt. Chevalier and Marist. The Greens were victorious by 6 points to nil, the team being selected from: J. Hill, J. Buzzie, B. Jones, J. Taylor, G. Murphy, E. O'Leary, A. Jakicevich, D. McInnes, J. McKinnon, J. Portias, J. Reid, J. Dragiech, L. Reid and B. Cahill.

On September 23rd, City Rovers vanquished Mt. Albert by 17 points to 7 in the play-off for the Fox Memorial Shield, to give the Red and Blacks their first championship success since 1925 — a spectacular climax to, for them, a remarkable season. At its meeting on August 9th, the A.R.L. had accepted a unanimous recommendation from its Senior Clubs Officers Association, that the City teams readmittance to the competition be sanctioned, notwithstanding the Red and Blacks having automatically suspended themselves for a breach of the parent body's constitution, re their failure to fulfil two consecutive championship engagements. Former Marist winger, Jimmy Matthews, was a member of the champion team. The Greens finished the championship in equal fourth position.

On the same day as the championship play-off the Roope Rooster quest commenced. Marist drew one of the byes and consequently entered the second round, only to be defeated 11 points to 10, by a faster, fitter Newtown XIII. The redoubtable Green sextet was devoid of its customary vim. The A.R.L., having decided there

would be no Phelan Shield competition, this reverse thus terminated for the Marist Club, the 1944 season, although on October 7th, Don McLeod and Jack Smith, were members of an Auckland thirteen which suffered a 10-12 loss to South Auckland at Huntly.

Our Third Grade team, coached by Bill Glover, finished equal last; the 5th Graders amongst whom were Jimmy Edwards and the Kirwan Brothers, occupied the runners-up position to Mt. Albert in both the championship and knock-out; the Sixths were not amongst the top division; and the Sevens, managed by Frank Moody captured the championship.

As for the Schoolboys, the Seniors proved that they were one of the best combinations seen in the grade for years; the Intermediates, coached by "Snow" Drew took highest honours; and the Juniors and Seven-a-sides upheld the Club's fine reputation. A magnificent feat was achieved by George Vasey, the Senior wing three-quarter in scoring 110 points during the season. The brilliant youngster registered 16 tries and kicked 31 goals.

#### 1945

The annual general meeting attracted an enthusiastic record attendance, who complimented the Executive on the presentation of the excellent report and balance sheet, which showed the Club to be in a sound and healthy financial position. The following officers were elected:— Patron: Bishop Liston; vice-patron: Rev. Bro. Marcellin; president: Mr. J. Sayegh; hon. secretary: Mr. J. Kirwan; treasurer: Mr. P. Fletcher; club captain: Mr. R. Grantley; management committee: Messrs. W. Maddigan, J. Ball, R. de Thierry, J. Anderson and Robertson.

The Auckland season commenced on April 14th in a mixed atmosphere of gaiety and grief, for as Hitler's Thousand Year Reich tottered on the verge of extirpation, the world mourned President Roosevelt, who had passed to his long rest just two

days before. Marist started in smashing fashion by subduing the 1944 champions City, 17 points to 10. The successful thirteen was:— Fullback: M. Brockliss; Three-quarters: R. Katipa, D. McWilliams, J. McWilliams, J. Smith; Halves: J. White, A. Shepherd; Forwards: D. McLeod, G. Davidson, K. Mills, E. Lyall, B. Curran and J. Anderson.

Continuing to exhibit enterprising, effervescent football Marist trounced Pt. Chevalier by 29 points to 5 at Walker Park. New recruit Leo McCallion, played a grand game in the pack.

In their initial main match appearance the Greens were held to a 9 all draw by Otahuhu. In the last minute Colin Riley equalised the position for the Double Blues, with a penalty goal which struck the crossbar and bounced over. On May 5th, Marist maintained their unbeaten record with a 17 points to 8 defeat of North Shore. Ken Finlayson — after service with Otahuhu and Manukau — had reappeared in the Green livery.

Tuesday, May 8th, 1945, brought history's happiest hours: Germany's capitulation had restored Peace to Europe — amidst unparalleled rejoicing and revelry — thus terminating the terrible years of Nazi thraldom, imposed on and endured by millions, from Bergen to Belgrade, from Le Havre to Leningrad.

Marist's first reverse of the season eventuated the following Saturday, when Ponsonby triumphed by 8 points to 7. Brian Nordgren, then on the threshold of what proved to be a fabulous career, landed 4 penalties for the victors. Taking heed, Johnny Anderson — who had returned to Marist after a few appearances with Pt. Chevalier in the latter part of 1944 — kicked four goals against Newton, and five versus Manukau, to be mainly responsible for the Greens respective 11-5 and 13-9 successes. In the latter match a young man named Stacey, performed with promise in the pack.

On King's Birthday, June 4th, the Marist Club, with the sanction of the



A.R.L., staged the Jimmy Chalmers benefit match at Carlaw Park, between Town and Country thirteens. The Country side was selected from the Otahuhu and Manukau Clubs while their Town opponents were chosen by Mr. Jack Kirwan from the City and Marist Clubs, Jack Smith, Dave and Jim McWilliams, Don McLeod, John Anderson, George Davidson and Ivan Simpson were Marist representatives, in the Town team which was successful by 21 points to 19. Such was the public's desire to acknowledge the courage of a fine sportsman, that the Marist Club was on a subsequent occasion, able to present Jimmy Chalmers, with a cheque for no less than £350.

The following Saturday Fergie Kirwan, Pat Kirwan and Pat Scurrah were members of the Auckland Fourth Grade side which was defeated by South Auckland by 6 points to 3.

The battle for the Rukutai Shield had aroused intense interest, as with two fixtures remaining, Mt. Albert, Otahuhu and Marist shared top position, while Richmond was just one point behind. In the penultimate series the Greens drew Mt. Albert.

In a game which failed to fulfil expectations and fell well below the customary standard at headquarters, Mt. Albert took the honours by 7 points to 5. Frequent senseless kicking and deplorable tackling by the Marist rearguard contributed greatly to the team's downfall, while standing half Jimmy White, didn't aid matters by often collaring his opposite R. Neary, when the Mt. Albert man was without the ball. The Blue and Gold rearguard commenced the second spell with the only bright interlude of the entire match, when pivot Les Clement broke cleverly from a scrum transferred to Alan Wiles, who spreadeagled the defence before sending Basil Cranch across. The Mt. Albert rearguard, well led by Harold Milliken and Conza, was always menacing in the loose, however, splendid Marist tackling repeatedly checked their endeavours. All the Green forwards played fine football, particularly Don McLeod, Bren Curran and Ivan Simpson. Just as John Anderson, by

virtue of his excellent goal kicking had won several earlier encounters, so on this occasion did his lapse cost victory, for he missed with 9 attempts — some from easy positions.

Against Richmond the Old Boys revealed a curious disinclination to attack, preferring to adopt a purely defensive campaign, which in the long run only permitted the Maroon and Blues to finish on top by 13 points to 5. The Richmond forwards achieved an unusual mastery over the Green sextet, who had no answer to some devastating rushes by Aubrey Thompson, Frank Hilton and Des Ryan. Curran moved to the flank for this match with Rangī Katipa as outside centre, while the Richmond inside centre was a capable 20 year old named Maurie Robertson.

A week later Don McLeod, was the sole Marist representative in the Pakeha XIII which defeated the Maoris, after a thrilling tussle by 19 points to 16. Rangī Katipa appeared on the Maori flank.

The five match second round commenced in dismal fashion when Ponsonby outclassed the Greens by 31 points to 15. Jimmy Matthews, again sported the Marist jersey. City then inflicted our fourth consecutive defeat when — thanks to "Smoke" Silva, who scored three tries and converted them all — they emerged as victors by 18 points to 9.

On July 21st, a Wellington thirteen, including Jack Hemi, engaged the might of the Queen City and was trounced by 46 points to 7. Don McLeod added another to his already imposing list of representative appearances. The subsidiary curtain-raiser to this encounter was between the Wellington Junior team and the brilliant Auckland Marist Seventh Graders, about which the Rugby League Gazette had this to say:—"From the kick-off Marist went to a solid attack in the Wellington quarter, for Grant to place a perfect kick which Ennis followed through to score. Marist maintained pressure, and from a scrum the ball travelled to Vasey, for the wing to cross near the corner flag. The Greens had too many tactics for their opponents, and soon Wheel-

er cut through cleanly to score near the posts. Grantley converted and at half-time, Marist were 11 points up.

Wellington won more scrums after the breather. McCaddy, a clever half, opened up as smart move which Bolton finalised with a neat try which he also converted. Marist then took control, tries being added by Nelson (2), Teague, Wheeler and Grantley, to make the final account: Marist Bros. 26 Wellington 5."

The Marist team was selected from: D. Grant, N. Nelson, D. Grantley, G. Vasey, G. Rouse, R. Teague, B. Wheeler, I. Farach, J. Kerr, R. Ennis, T. Toleich, R. Passon, F. O'Sullivan, J. Porteous, N. Morgan, W. Patton, D. O'Brien and D. McGibbs.

The next series of club matches saw Newton record their first victory of the season, when they vanquished Marist at Fowlds Park by 5 points to 4. The Red and Whites try was registered by Vic Belsham, the future international player and referee. In the space of six short weeks the Greens had descended from the heights of success to the depths of failure. In consequence our championship aspirations had been shattered.

The following Saturday 20,000 people watched Auckland, after being down 7 points to nil at the interval, stage a thrilling rally to secure an 8 points to 7 victory over a great West Coast team, which included Jack Forrest, Ces Mountford, Jack Newton and Charlie McBride — all to become exalted figures in Rugby League. Marist's sole representative in the Blue and White jersey was none other than Don McLeod.

On August 11th the sweet nectar of victory was again ours to taste, when Pt. Chevalier was decisively overcome by 21 points to 8, in the principal match on Carlaw Park No. 2. Stars of this conquest were scrum-half Evan Hale, who was making his Senior debut for Marist, and John Anderson, who landed six goals to enable him to draw level with Colin Riley, in the quest for the Lance Painter Trophy.

In the last series of the minor championship Marist was vanquished

10 points to nil by Otahuhu, who occupied second place on the ladder just one point behind Richmond. Although they revealed little purpose in attack Marist's defence restricted the Double Blues to two tries which were both converted by Colin Riley, who thus captured the Painter Trophy awarded to the player registering the highest number of goals in championship matches. Runner-up with 43 successful attempts — just two behind — was Johnny Anderson. As Mt. Albert defeated Richmond by 12 points to 7 in the principal attractin, Otahuhu, therefore, emerged as minor champions, this title being an innovation for 1945.

During the preceding week Japan's unconditional surrender had been announced, to bring the Second World War to a conclusion. Over 10,000 New Zealanders would never return to their native isles, amongst them Richmond's 1939 Kiwi, Laurie Mills, and Marist's Phil Donovan and Cyril Erickson. George Gardiner, 1924 star, was killed at Tobruk while serving with the Australian forces.

On September 1st, in their opening Roope Rooster engagement, the Greens — in a manner more characteristic of their early-season performances — thumped Newton by 28 points to 9. George Davidson worked like a Trojan in the forwards while Hale moved in fleet fashion and dispensed a swift service from the scrum base, being the leading light in the rearguard.

In the second round a fortnight later, the Greens were eliminated by Richmond 18 points to 12. The Maroon and Blue backs displayed superior attacking qualities; this factor allied with the dominance achieved by their forwards, being responsible for their success. Old warhorse, Bill Glover, reappeared in the Marist XIII which was by no means disgraced.

The week before, Don McLeod had stepped out on Wellington's Basin Reserve as a member of the Auckland thirteen which thrashed a Capital City selection by 47 points to 17. Our scintillating Sevenths, in the curtain-raiser, maintained their unblemished record with a 19 points to 5 success

over the Wellington Fifth Grade reps.

Marist's sojourn in the Phelan Shield proved transient for Ponsonby took the honours by 17 points to 13 after an entertaining exhibition. The Green vanguard achieved superiority over its opponents, however, Ted Allen, Arthur Kay, Pat Kelly and Brian Nordgren were in sparkling form and made the difference between victory and defeat. Dick Brockliss appeared on the Marist wing and scored a try.

On September 29th, North Shore defeated Richmond in the Rooster final by 22 points to 12, while at

Huntly an Auckland thirteen including Don McLeod, lowered South Auckland's colours by 26 points to 13. A fortnight later Otahuhu annexed the Fox Memorial Shield when they vanquished Richmond by 11 points to 5 in the final of the major championship.

The Marist Thirds finished second-to-last in their competition as did the Fourths, while the Sixths filled third position. Our Sevenths with an unbeaten record secured their championship, however, in the knock-out final they sustained their first defeat, when Richmond triumphed in extra time.

## 1946: BIRD SONGS AT EVENTIDE

In an atmosphere of tranquility and felicity, the Auckland Rugby League commenced its first post-war season on Saturday, April 6th, 1946. Could Carlaw Park ever have looked more inviting, its turf more lush, its charms more captivating, than on this lovely autumn afternoon, just twenty-three years ago? For the Marist Club, however, it was also a time of sadness for its beloved president, Mr. Joseph Sayegh, had passed to his long rest the previous Saturday during a visit to Dunedin. A prominent Auckland businessman and civic leader, Mr. Sayegh, had, by his courtesy, generosity, integrity and sagacity, commanded the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens.

Marist encountered Ponsonby in the No. 1 ground curtain-raiser and was vanquished by 15 points to 9. With Travis Hardwick in brilliant form the Blue and Black forwards were always in the ascendancy; this factor proving decisive. The exhibition of tackling by the Green rearguard — M. Brockliss, J. Matthews, D. McWilliams, J. McWilliams, J. White, P. Kirwan and E. Hale — brought delight to all Marist supporters and despair to Ponsonby flankmen, Roy Nurse and Frank Collins, both of whom hardly saw the ball. Pat Kir-

Our Schoolboy teams all performed creditably, with the Seniors obtaining pride of place by meeting Greenlane in the knock-out final, which was played as a subsidiary curtain-raiser to the inter-island clash at Carlaw Park on October 6th. The North Island XIII took the honours by 18 points to 8 and Greenlane vanquished Marist by 9 points to 5. The Green thirteen was:— R. Bam-bury, Clark, N. McGuire, L. Cunningham, H. Smith, P. Bambury, J. Tinnetti, O'Leary, Brennan, Bradley, Merko, L. Randall and D. Bermingham.

The contest for the James Rukatal Memorial Shield concluded on June 8th. Marist encountered the redoubtable North Shore thirteen, holders of the Stormont Shield. Eleven points in arrears soon after the commencement of the second half, the Blacks looked certain to be defeated, however, they unleashed a terrific onslaught to snatch a last minute victory by 13 points to 11.

New faces in the Green livery were Reuben Posa, Charlie Brown, Jack Fisher and Morrie Edwards.

Marist finished the round in 6th equal position while Newton and Manukau, the two lowest ranked teams on the ladder were relegated to the Second Division. For the Red and Whites, who were officially formed in the Oddfellows Hall, Pitt St., on July 29th, 1909, this circumstance was indeed a grievous blow, while for the Black and Whites, it was a staggering zenith-nadir transformation, as only 3 seasons before they had captured the coveted "treble", with one of the finest Club teams in New Zealand R.L. history.

In a disheartening introduction to the Sayegh Shield round — this trophy having replaced the Thistle Cup as the symbol of supremacy — the Greens sustained two consecutive defeats, being downed 17 points to 13 by a Pt. Chevalier team, strengthened

Recapitulation of nineteen forty-five would ne'er be complete without mention of Brian Nordgren's staggering season's total of 267 points, made up from 41 tries and 72 goals, and at that time a New Zealand record. This was the Ponsonby champions last season on the Shaky Isles, for he accepted an offer from England's famous Wig-an Club, becoming one of the greatest of all wing three-quarters while sporting the Cherry and White livery, and consequently foregoing the chance to represent his country — an honour that would most certainly have been his, on numerous occasions.

by the former Manukau celebrities, Joe Murray and Peter Ririnui, and 12 points to 8, by the unpredictable Mt. Albert thirteen.

July 4th, 1946, marked the introduction of the Marist Bros Rugby League Club's weekly dances, which were organised by Vic Barchard, and conducted every Thursday evening in the old Catholic Social Centre, on the corner of Pitt and Wellington Streets. Doubtless there are many readers who have countless pleasant recollections of these delightful functions.

On July 13th, Marist then occupying the wooden spoon position, clashed with the championship leaders, Richmond. In a glorious rags to riches performance the Greens bewildered the Rugby League fraternity, by compelling their formidable adversaries to produce all the tricks in their repertoire, to obtain a rather fortunate 11 all draw. The Marist forwards exhibited fire, fervour, power and purpose to dominate proceedings up front, while the backs displayed devastating defensive qualities to disrupt, then destroy, the customary dazzling combination of their opponents. Morrie Brockliss kicked three magnificent goals, however, he also missed several easy attempts, thus sacrificing victory. George Davidson, Don McLeod (back after a long spell

due to an accident) Bren Curran and Vic Barchard were the outstanding packmen.

Heartened immensely by this achievement, the Greens, the following week met North Shore, who shared second place with City. At the interval Marist led by 5 points to nil, the result of an excellent try initiated by Pat Kirwan, who threaded his way past several opponents before sending Billy Grotte across. Although John Rutherford's great hooking had ensured ample possession for the Seaside, the Old Boys offset this considerable disadvantage by assuming control of the loose play and repeatedly storming the Black citadel. After the resumption the brilliant North Shore backs, in particular Ivor Stirling, Roy Clarke and Eric Chatham, capitalised on the feast of possession and constantly harassed the Marist defence, which proved equal to the task on all bar three occasions, however. Bren Curran's injury forced retirement had seriously affected the Green's endeavours. At the call of time North Shore led by 15 points to 5, nevertheless Marist had gained many admirers by their exposition of physical fitness and enthusiasm.

The Green rearguard was: M. Brockliss, E. Hale, J. Fisher, P. Kirwan, J. Matthews, O. Wilkie and K. Nicholson while the forwards were selected from P. Hoefft, G. Davidson, D. McLeod, D. Harrison, W. Grotte, V. Barchard and B. Curran.

In their next engagement the Old Boys encountered City, the third of the powerful trinity. Once again Marist thrilled their supporters, however, the Red and Blacks half-time advantage of 8 points proved the crucial factor, and they emerged triumphant by 17 points to 15. Marist was unquestionably the better overall side with the vanguard solid and constructive. During the match Vic Barchard and City's Roy Gee, incurred the displeasure of the referee, Mr. Jack Hawkes, and received their marching orders.

In the course of the ensuing fortnight, Aucklanders were thrice given the opportunity of watching Gus Ris-

man's "Indomitables" display their wares. The "Indomitables", so called because they voyaged from Plymouth to Fremantle in the aircraft carrier of the same name, had retained the Ashes in Australia by defeating the Kangaroos in two Tests and drawing the other. The Englishmen encountered the Auckland side twice and vanquished the locals on both occasions; by 9 points to 7 in the mud and 22 points to 9 in reasonably firm conditions. On Saturday, August 10th, the solitary Test was decided. This match produced one of the extraordinary incidents of international Rugby League, resulting in the North Shore forward, Bruce Graham, inscribing his name on the scroll of fame. In the last quarter with the scoreboard showing 8 all, Kiwi custodian Warwick Clarke, attempted a penalty from the morass; the ball struck the crossbar and rebounded into the field of play, to be secured by the fast following Graham who, to the consternation of the Chooms and delight of the spectators, dived over between the posts, to give New Zealand a richly deserved 13 points to 8 triumph. Amongst the tourists who captured the imagination were: Eric Batten, Ernest Ward, Willie Horne, Tommy McCue, Ike Owens and Ken Gee. Sad to relate the Marist club had no representative in either the Auckland or New Zealand thirteens.

Reverting to the realms of club football, Marist recorded a spectacular 27 points to 23 victory over Ponsonby. The match proved to be an enthralling contest between the magnificent Marist forwards — McLeod, Barchard, Davidson, Grotte — and the brilliant Ponsonby backs — Jordan, Kelly, Nurse and Collins. The power of the Green vanguard is aptly illustrated by the fact that they registered five of Marist's seven tries. The Auckland-South Auckland clash eventuated the following Saturday. Don McLeod appeared for the Blue and Whites who repulsed the visitors by 29 points to 10.

In their final championship engagement Marist downed Otahuhu by 15 points to 6, an auspicious feature of this success being the improvement

displayed by the backs. The Greens finished the competition in 6th position, their resolute resurgence being the feature of the second round.

Alluring and attractive, the little Silver Wyandotte now held the centre of attention. Marist surmounted the first obstacle in inspiring fashion, disposing of Pt. Chevalier by 20 points to 10.

In our semi-final match with Otahuhu, a high standard of play ensured for the spectators many moments of enthusiasm. Both thirteens revealed greatly improved co-ordination, particularly Marist, whose backs played splendid football. At intermission an atmosphere of dejection surrounded Marist adherents, for the Double Blues had established a comfortable lead, making defeat more than a probability for the Old Boys, who had failed to score a point. 'Twas not to be for despondency soon became delirium when the Marist forwards recovered in spectacular style, to subdue the opposing sextet and dictate the trend. Barchard, Grotte and Hale collected tries, two of which were converted by Brockliss to give Marist an exciting 13 points to 7 victory, and a place in the 1946 Roope Rooster final. Grotte, Barchard and McLeod were outstanding in the vanguard, as were Hale, Posa and Pat Kirwan in the backs, while Ralph Martin gave a brilliant display as the Otahuhu custodian.

On Saturday, September 28th, nearly 7,000 spectators watched in beautiful spring weather, the duel between the intrepid, yet underdog Greens, and the mighty, near-invincible Richmond. Considering the powerful counter-attraction of the Second Australian New Zealand Rugby Union Test at Eden Park, the attendance was remarkable, and a tribute to the interest generated amongst Aucklanders in this David and Goliath conflict.

The teams lined out as under: —

**MARIST BROS:** Fullback: M. Brockliss; Three-Quarters: J. Matthews, J. Fisher, E. Hale, R. Posa; Halves: P. Kirwan, K. Nicholson; Forwards: B.

Curran, W. Grotte, P. Hoefft, V. Barchard, G. Davidson, D. McLeod (captain).

**RICHMOND:** Fullback: J. Magill; Three-Quarters: B. Lowther, R. McGregor, M. Robertson, T. Bramley (replaced by G. Prenter); Halves: A. Graham, T. Rennie; Forwards: A. Laird, R. Simpson, G. Morgan, F. Jennings, E. Pinches, A. Thompson.

Early in the game the Greens settled down to produce constructive football. To the unrestrained pleasure of the crowd Marist drew first blood, when the alert Evan Hale, kicked cleverly through a gap for Jack Fisher to chase, gather, then increase momentum to spreadeagle the Richmond defence to collect a spectacular try.

Inspired by the frequent applause and encouragement of the excited onlookers, Marist rose to the heights and play swung to and fro at a furious pace. Scrum possession was evenly divided, however, Rennie resorted to individualism, paying the penalty when he found Kirwan and Hale presented an impenetrable barrier. Swift cover defence by the Green forwards also checked the brilliant Richmond backs. Finally the fortifications were breached when Graham sent to Robertson, on to McGregor, whereupon Robertson revealed perfect positional play, entered the movement a second time, and sent Benny Lowther across for a magnificent try.

After pretty play by Ron McGregor just failed to reap rewards, the Old Boys retaliated with Curran, Grotte and McLeod uniting in a scintillating 75 yard burst.

At the interlude Marist held a 7 points to 5 advantage: Brockliss having landed two penalties to Lowther's one.

Immediately after the resumption the Maroon and Blue rearguard assumed the offensive and launched a series of determined and often dangerous onslaughts, however, all

were repulsed. Constantly waiting for opportunities around the scrum base Ken Nicholson, finally received his chance, accelerated through the hiatus, sent to Matthews, who electrified the crowd with an exhilarating 40 yard touch-line dash. A Richmond infringement then allowed Morrie Brockliss to increase his team's lead. At this juncture the Maroon and Blue backs commenced to fritter chances by an over-indulgence of kicking; these changed tactics having been enforced by the devastating tackling of Kirwan, Hale and Fisher, however, it was an error to lose possession.

Just ten minutes from time Richmond's persistent aggression paid dividends when Abbie Graham, handed to Laird, on to Robertson, who brilliantly evaded four Marist players and raced across for a dazzling three points. Magill's conversion attempt sailed outside the posts.

Now one point in arrears Richmond marshalled their forces for a smashing assault. A sweeping offensive by Simpson and Jennings came to naught, when Alan, Laird was ruled offside, then Morrie Brockliss enraptured the fans with a glorious 40 yard penalty, to place the Greens ahead by 11 points to 8. Frantic Richmond efforts in the final minutes were fruitless, thus Marist deservedly triumphed in a match which greatly appealed to the spectators, who accorded the victors a rousing reception as they trekked from the field. The superb condition of the Marist players was the paramount factor in the tremendous victory—possibly the greatest upset in the colourful history of the Roope Rooster. Wasn't coach Reg Haslam proud of his charges?

At fullback, Morrie Brockliss, played very well often converting defence into attack while the flankmen Jimmy Matthews and Reuben Posa revealed plenty of dash and the outside centre Jack Fisher, produced his best game of the season. Evan Hale and Pat Kirwan were the luminaries of the backline, their venomous tackling of Robert-

son and Graham being a highlight, while the scrum-half Ken Nicholson, in defence went down to forward rushes in great style, and in attack passed to supports on every occasion. It was difficult to fault any of the forwards so well did they perform. Thus Richmond sustained their second defeat of the year, the other being on May 4th when City was successful by 14 points to 5.

That evening twenty-two years past, Auckland cinemagoers watched Laurence Olivier in "Henry V" at the Plaza; Rita Hayworth in "Gilda," at the Century; Marie McDonald in "Getting Gertie's Garter," at the Civic; and Bette Davis in "The Corn is Green" at the Regent.

A week later the two teams clashed in the Champion of Champions contest. On this occasion Richmond was undoubtedly the superior combination, being victorious by 16 points to 4 after Marist held command 4-3 at oranges. The Greens failed to produce the grand teamwork which was a cardinal factor in their Rooster success. The standard of play suffered in comparison to the previous Saturday, as both sides kicked to excess in passing bouts. The opposition vanguard quickly mastered the Marist side who revealed neither dash nor sting, although Vic Barchard's early departure through injury, unquestionably affected their performance.

On Saturday October 12th the champion Sydney team Balmmain, made its initial appearance at Carlaw Park — their opponents, Marist Bros, who, because of injuries to key players in Curran, Hale and Posa, had deemed it necessary to enlist the services of three Ponsonby men, in Trav Hardwick, Pat Kelly and Frank Collins. Twelve thousand Aucklanders were in attendance, all hoping to be enthralled by a gripping spectacle.

The match opened in sensational manner when Morrie Brockliss misjudged the flight of a high kick,

which bounced over his head and was secured by the flying Balmmain winger Arthur Patton, who scored unopposed. Marist retaliated with a dazzling 50 yard break by Jack Fisher who was pulled down a foot short. Brockliss, with a fine penalty opened the Green's tally then missed several easy attempts.

The redoubtable Stan Ponchard, soon showed spectators why the Englishmen considered him Australia's finest scrum-half, when he bewildered the Marist defence in a beautiful side-stepping run and touched down. Eleven Tigers then handled the leather in a delightful movement which surprisingly brought no reward. Marist—clearly dazzled by the unorthodox effluency of the visitors, in particular, the lethal combination of Pat Devery, Ponchard and Jack Hampsted — had no respite, however, as the Kangaroo stand-off half Devery, placed the Gold and Blacks further ahead with two glorious opportunities: the first from a dropped pass by Pat Kirwan, the other when he collected a mulled transfer from Kelly to Fisher.

Just before the interval the Green forwards in a fierce onslaught forced their opponents to retreat. From a resultant scrum lock forward Hardwick, broke swiftly with the leather, flashed past the opposition inside backs, passed to Kirwan who sent Frank Collins across for a lovely try. At oranges Balmmain led by 18 points to 7.

In the third quarter Marist rehabilitated themselves to a considerable degree, by holding a territorial advantage for a lengthy period. Ponchard, however, shattered the faint hopes of a Green victory when he crossed for a clever try, after Devery had slashed the defence to ribbons in a spectacular 60 yard dash. At this juncture the Tigers placed their great lock Jack Hampstead, amongst their inside backs as a deterrent to Trav Hardwick, who was playing a magnificent game, and whose lightning

assaults from the rear of the scrum were causing concern. Even this strategy failed to impede Hardwick, who secured, raced quickly into the backline, sent to Kelly, on to Fisher, who raced across to climax a pretty movement.

The final 10 minutes were all Balmmain's and brought one further try, when Spencer headed his forwards in a devastating raid, in which excellent handling paved the way for Hampstead to touch down. Balmmain thoroughly deserved their 28 points to 12 victory, this margin being a reliable indication of their superiority. Mr. Jack O'Shanmassey was the knight of the whistle.

The teams were:—

BALMAIN: Fullback: D. Parkinson; Three-quarters: K. Parkinson, T. Bourke (captain), J. Jorgensen, A. Patton; Halves: P. Devery, S. Ponchard; Forwards: J. Hampstead, H. Bath, F. de Belin, J. Spencer, H. Gilbert, H. Kidd.

MARIST BROS: Fullback: M. Brockliss, Three-quarters: F. Collins, J. Fisher, P. Kelly, R. Katipa; Halves: P. Kirwan, K. Nicholson; Forwards: T. Hardwick, W. Grotte, V. Barchard, P. Hoeft, G. Davidson, D. McLeod (captain).

History was made this same afternoon at Ellerslie, when for the first time on a New Zealand race-course a photo finish camera was used to decide a result. Cracroft narrowly beat Tweedsmuir and Hot Pursuit in the Mitchelson Cup.

Thus concluded the first post-war season, of which the highlight was Marist's magnificent elevation from obscurity to renown. No championships were annexed in either the Junior or Schoolboy sections. Our seven-a-siders included Paul and Bill Schultz.

In succession to Mr. Sayegh, that fine gentleman, Mr. Alf Blake, had commenced his first term as president.

## 1947-1950: FLUCTUATING FORTUNES

At the Domain Cricket Ground on April 12th, Marist commenced the 1947 season in splendid style, taking Newton's measure by 23 points to 5. The following Saturday week they downed City, in the main attraction at Carlaw Park by 14 points to 7, after a colourless display by both teams, almost devoid of constructive football. The Marist thirteen was:—M. Brockliss, J. Smith, J. Fisher, P. Kirwan, J. Matthews, M. Loneragan, K. Nicholson, D. McLeod (capt.), G. Davidson, V. Barchard, D. Harrison, P. Hoeft, B. Curran. The coaches were Reg Haslam and Joe Woods.

Against North Shore, the Greens took a 6-4 decision with all points coming from penalties, thence preserved their unbeaten record with a 15 points to 9 defeat of Pt. Chevalier, who received permission to play in Maroon and Gold jerseys, owing to the confusion arising from the similarity in the colours worn by the two clubs — shades of 1968.

On May 17th, Jimmy Matthews, capped an excellent display by scoring a fine try in the last seconds, to enable Marist to snatch a 20 points to 16 victory over Otahuhu. Fourteen of the points were registered by Morrie Brockliss, who converted both tries, kicked four penalties and landed a spectacular 50 yard field goal. This day saw two prominent Rugby Union converts make their Rugby League debuts, Claude Hancox, the former King Country and North Auckland representative, who had just forsaken a chance to tour Australia with the All Blacks, appeared for Otahuhu, and Clarence (Sandy) Humdell, the former Wairarapa representative was a member of the Richmond XIII which suffered a shock 3-9 defeat at Ellerslie's hands.

The following Saturday 10,000 people witnessed the clash between Richmond and the unbeaten leaders, Marist. In the first half the Greens proved the superior team and surprised the big crowd with their

willingness to match their opponents at the open game. The forwards performed in inspiring fashion. After the interval Richmond secured a possession abundance, which enabled their rearward to collect three magnificent tries, notwithstanding copybook tackling by Ron Harper and Jack Fisher. At the conclusion, following a brilliant exhibition by both sides, Richmond was ahead by 29 points to 15.

Strengthened by the inclusion of Des Barchard and Tommy Rae, from the champion Marist Bros Rugby Union team, a confident Green XIII encountered Ponsonby in the principal attraction on the last day of May. Their optimism was rudely shattered, for the Blue and Blacks amassed no less than 40 points to Marist's 12, thereby giving two efficient exponents — both Auckland reps in the 15-a-side code — an ignominious yet memorable baptism in Rugby League. A future New Zealand Rugby League immortal played his second Senior match for Ponsonby, converting five of the eight tries and kicking three penalties — the twenty year old Des White.

On the King's Birthday, Don McLeod appeared for a Pakeha XIII which trounced a Maori selection, including Pene Hoeft and Norm Kennedy, by 29 points to 6, while at Ellerslie 52,000 people cheered the champion steeplechaser, Brookby Song, to his first Great Northern success.

Marist completed the first round with two consecutive victories, Mt. Albert, after outplaying the Greens in the first half went under by 26 points to 19 and newly promoted Ellerslie, in appalling conditions succumbed by the odd point in nine. Included in the Red, White and Blue forwards was a fixture Kiwi captain in Cliff Johnson. As a result of these successes Marist became joint holders with Richmond of the James Rukutai Memorial Shield. For the first time the name

of Marist was engraved on the imposing trophy.

On June 21st, the initial trials were staged to select the New Zealand team for the forthcoming tour of England, Wales and France. Des Barchard and George Davidson, starred in a Probables XIII which downed the Possibles, for whom Don McLeod appeared, by 16 points to 5: this match being a curtain-raiser to the Auckland v Rest of North Island clash, won by the former by 32 points to 11.

In the opening series of the Say-egh Shield competition, North Shore trounced Marist 27 points to 3. The Blacks were in tip-top form while the Green rearward was disjointed and indulged in senseless kicking.

On July 5th, nearly 27,000 people thronged Carlaw Park to watch the North Island XIII avenge its 1946 defeat, by vanquishing the Mainlanders by 24 points to 12. In the curtain-raiser a Possibles XIII containing Davidson and Des Barchard, thrashed a Probables selection, including Don McLeod, by 46 points to 5. During the interval of the inter-island clash the following Marist 7-a-side A team defeated Zora A by 3 points to nil:— Paul (Whisker) Schultz, Bill Schultz, Paul Waterman M. Brunt, Graham Brayne, B. Page, and Randall.

To the thousands eagerly awaiting the announcement of the New Zealand team, it was something of an anti-climax, when it was disclosed that Messrs. E. Asher, T. McClymont and J. Amos, considered only 10 players worthy of selection for the great adventure, and had decided that a further trial would be held the following Tuesday in order to determine the remaining 16 positions. In this match Barchard and Davidson, both produced outstanding displays for a Probables XIII which downed the Possibles by 24 points to 15. That evening the names of the sixteen fortunate young men were proclaimed. Marist devotees were thrilled at the inclusion of the 24-year-

old Barchard, and 21-year-old Davidson.

A restoration of club activities brought another Marist reserve, when Pt. Chevalier took the honours by 15 points to 6. This match was decided in drenching rain with the ground a quagmire. The similarity of the jerseys caused a little confusion at the outset, however, members of both teams were soon covered in mud and beyond recognition. The Green and Whites deserved their success against a Marist thirteen depleted by the absence of six regular players.

Against City the Greens obtained a 15 points to 11 victory after a torrid forward struggle, while in their clash with the leaders Mt. Albert, the Blue and Golds were rather fortunate to emerge the victors by 16 points to 14, after a match highlighted by the wild passing and shocking tackling of both teams.

On August 2nd, the Old Boys trounced Otahuhu by 25 points to 2 in a display reminiscent of their early-season performances. This same evening the energetic efficient Ladies Committee tendered an enjoyable social to farewell Messrs. Des Barchard and George Davidson, and also to extend felicitations to Pat Kirwan, on attaining his majority.

In their next engagement the Greens encountered the starstudded Richmond side which contained four New Zealand representatives: McGregor, Robertson, Graham and Humdell, although Robertson sustained a nasty shoulder injury which compelled his retirement at the interval. On numerous occasions danger threatened the Marist citadel, only to founder on Kirwan, Rae and Fisher, who, in a magnificent exhibition of tackling repelled all onslaughts. With time about to expire a draw seemed imminent, until Jimmy Matthews decided otherwise, chased a tactical kick in furious fashion, gathered the ball, and kept ahead of the converging defence to score a spectacular corner try to give Marist victory by 10 points to 7.

In the final championship series Marist defeated Ponsonby by 10 points to 2 to share with North Shore, the runners-up position to Mt. Albert.

The following Saturday Auckland was held to a 13 all draw by the visiting West Coast combination. Don McLeod and Jack Fisher, were Marist representatives in the local thirteen.

On August 30th, the Greens disposed of Ponsonby by 11 points to 4, to surmount the first obstacle in their endeavour to retain the Roope Rooster, however, in the semi-final Mt. Albert, with superior teamwork took the honours by 15 points to 7. Roy Roif — considered in many quarters the unluckiest player not to be chosen for "Blighty"—secured an abundance of possession, proving too astute in the art for Ken Mills.

In their initial Phelan Shield engagement, Marist downed Pt. Chevalier in a ragged contest by 12 points to 8, while on the ensuing Thursday in a play-off to ascertain Mt. Albert's opposition for the Stormont Shield fixture, North Shore vanquished the Greens by the odd point in twenty-three. Vic Barchard and the Seaside's Clarrie Peterson, received early showers.

Two days later Tommy Rae and Don McLeod were members of the Queen City XIII which accounted for Canterbury by 22 points to 20.

September 27th, brought the Phelan Shield final between Marist and Ponsonby. The Greens defeated the Blue and Blacks by 13 points to 4 and thus annexed the trophy for the first time. Introduced to Senior ranks that day was a youthful winger named Jimmy Edwards. The match served as a curtain-raiser to the Stormont Shield clash in which Mt. Albert defeated North Shore by 26 points to 15, to become the third club to capture the A.R.L.'s celebrated treble.

On Wednesday, October 8th, the second Balmain touring team — as in 1946 managed by Harold Matthews (in later years secretary of both the New South Wales and Australian Rugby Football Leagues),

the field to unload to the mercurial Bobby Lulham, who revealed his capabilities by accelerating past his marker, then swerving into and away from the cover defence for a magnificent try.

As penalties had been previously landed by Morrie Brockliss (3) and George Williams (4), the final position was therefore: Marist Bros 17—Balmain 11.

The Greens deserved their victory as they were without question the superior combination on the day. The vangard mastered the opposition sextet while the rearguard proved far more constructive and permeative than their counterparts. The Marist tackling was generally excellent, although it lapsed on occasions when players went high, while the cover defence was dynamic, never more so than when a Balmain player attempted to veer infield in an endeavour to change the line of attack, only to fall victim to two or three simultaneous tackles. Tommy Rae left the field at the interlude being replaced by Rangī Katipa, while Des Stapleton retired 10 minutes after the resumption to leave the visitors a man short. Frank Collins, the Ponsonby and former Sydney player created a unique record on his appearance for Balmain, as twelve months previously he had reversed the position when he represented Marist against the Tigers.

The only Marist side to capture a championship in 1947, was the Intermediate Schoolboys team which included a flying wing three-quarter named Neville Denton. Proud mentors were Messrs. H. Denton, Roy Dempsey and R. O'Gara.

Success also came the way of our Fourth Graders who defeated Otahuhu in the knock-out final of the No. 2 section. This team included: Ron Mack, Ron Patten, Jakovich, Len Reid, K. Lyons, Clem Beckham, J. Reid, Trevor Mark Cahill, Harry Barrett, Bussey, Bill Murphy, Jack Dragevitch, Jim Grogan, Everson, Dave Grantley, Des Gardiner and Stan Callagher. The two last mentioned players appeared for the Auckland thirteen which vanquished South Auckland by 17 points to 6 at Huntly on

August 9th, with Callagher as captain.

On Sunday, December 28th, Rugby League history was created at the Park of the Princes, Paris, when the First Test ever played between New Zealand and France was decided. The Kiwis covered themselves with glory to vanquish the volatile, unpredictable Frenchmen by 11 points to 7. Des Barchard became the first Auckland Marist player to wear the Kiwi jersey against the Chanticleers. Prior to this engagement the Kiwis had just failed to regain the coveted Ashes from Great Britain—only two points standing between them and immortality. They were successful in the Second Test by 10 points to 7; narrowly defeated in the First 10-11; and outclassed in the Third, 9-25. Neither of the two Marist men appeared against the Chooms.

#### 1948

On Sunday, January 25th, in the Second Test at Bordeaux's majestic Municipal Stadium, a brilliant French thirteen trounced the Kiwis by 25 points to 7 to square the series. George Davidson underwent his Test debut.

Three months later a series of practice matches opened Auckland's eagerly awaited 1948 season. Had the lessons of the great adventure been assimilated by those who participated therein? Marist encountered City and with an impressive performance vanquished the Red and Blacks. The Reverend Father M. J. Ryan was now chaplain; Mr. J. Chalmers, club captain, and Mr. J. Woods coach; while the management committee comprised Messrs. J. Richardson (father of present secretary, Denis), de Thierry, Talbot, Grantley, Bakulich, W. Schultz, Fenton and Lyall. Mr. Ball was the delegate to the Senior Officers Association; Mr. Davidson, to the Junior Control Board; and Mr. Alf Frost, to the Schoolboys' Control Board.

On April 19th, in the first series of the championship proper, Marist encountered North Shore in the match of the day. The Greens were successful by 21 points to 12 follow-

ing a dreary exhibition from both teams.

The victorious thirteen was:— M. Brockliss, E. O'Leary, J. Fisher, L. Rae (capt.), J. Edwards, D. Barchard, P. Kirwan, D. McLeod, G. Davidson, P. Hoef, V. Barchard, W. Grotte, P. Mulcaire. Youthful fans — including the author — were unable to be present that afternoon as the authorities had imposed a restriction, preventing the attendance of children who had not attained the age of 16 years at community attractions, owing to the

terrible poliomyelitis epidemic which had descended upon Auckland the previous November, and had compelled the closing of all schools, although at the period under review the pestilence had subsided to such minor proportions that the restriction was about to be lifted.

The following Saturday the Greens met Richmond in the principal attraction. Again given ample opportunities by George Davidson, the Marist rearguard fumbled and faltered, their mistakes being turn-

ed to advantage by the Maroon and Blues, who thus dominated proceedings and eventually triumphed by 28 points to 11.

Our next engagement saw Pt. Chevalier as the opposition and Marist complete a hat-trick of main matches. Although Davidson's suprelative ranking ensured plethoric possession — indeed he won 52 scrums to 12 — the backline was again unimaginative and clumsy, being outplayed by the Green and Whites, who with Russel Green, Belsham, Rich and Doug Anderson in dashing form, revealed superior speed and better positional play to take the honours by 15 points to 10. Marist sported City jerseys, while the Red and Blacks wore Green for their clash with Otahuhu on the adjoining ground. Two minutes after the commencement, sensation occurred, when Don McLeod was issued with his marching orders by Mr Ken McIver: a foolish dismissal which probably cost victory.

On May 1st, the Old Boys, thanks to a last minute try by Don McLeod, emerged as victors over Mt. Albert by 16 points to 13. At last the backline exhibited enterprise.

The following Tuesday brought the first trial for the selection of the New Zealand team, about to embark on a tour of Australia. Des Barchard and George Davidson were members of the Auckland thirteen, which conquered the Rest of the North Island by 39 points to 23. On the ensuing Saturday the South Island XIII mastered the North Island by 21 points to 18 in a gruelling, powerful exposition of forward play. George Davidson was the Black hooker. In the curtain-raiser the Probables XIII defeated the Possibles (Rae, D. Barchard, McLeod) by 37 points to 23.

The promulgation of the Kiwi side disclosed that Des Barchard was the sole Marist representative. George Davidson's non-representation was attributed to the poor scrummaging of the North Island forwards impeding his efforts to win the ball.

The return of Club football saw Marist and City meet in the match

of the day; an exciting encounter won by the Greens 19-16. The Old Boys were lethargic in the first quarter, sparking in the middle stages and insipid in the last quarter. This same day Otahuhu trounced Ellerslie by 29 points to nil. The Double Blue vanguard was a family affair, of the four Johnsons — Ivan, Joffre, Norm and Mick — and the two Fogartys — Dick and Jim — while Royce and Jack Speedy were the halves. Against Otahuhu the following week, in a mud-bath at Grey Lynn Park, the Greens, in their finest exhibition of the season, outclassed their opponents by 20 points to 5. Laurie Rae took Barchard's place at stand-off-half and considerably sharpened the attack.

On May 29th, Marist continued on their triumphant march with a 25 points to 12 defeat of Ellerslie, thence suffered a surprise 7-9 reverse at the hands of the newly-promoted Northcote XIII. Fergie Kirwan made his Senior debut against Ellerslie, scoring a try and filling brother Pat's scrum-half position with distinction.

The King's Birthday attraction was a Town v Country contest which the former thirteen won by 29 points to 17. The Town side was culled from the Richmond, City, Ponsonby and Marist Clubs, and the Country team from the Pt. Chevalier, Otahuhu, Ellerslie, Northcote, Mt. Albert and North Shore Clubs. Marist representatives in the Town selection were Rae, Fisher, P. Kirwan, Davidson and McLeod. At Ellerslie Brookby Song, took his second successive Great Northern Steeplechase before 51,000 spectators. Later in the year he annexed both the Wellington and Grand National Steeplechases to complete a glorious treble.

In the final series of the round the Greens reverted to an attacking theme and overcame Ponsonby by 24 points to 12; a success which enabled them to share the Rukutai Shield with Richmond, City and Otahuhu. Teams relegated to the Second Division were Ellerslie and

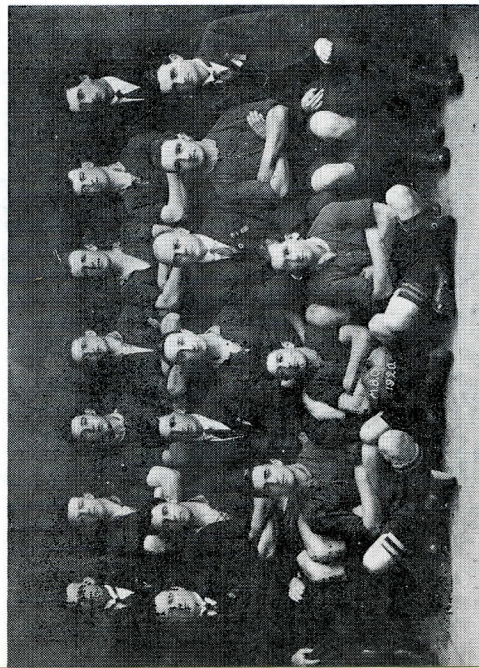


**SENJORS: 1948**  
**(Winners Fox Memorial Shield, N.Z. Club Premiership.)**  
 Back Row—J. Edwards, E. O'Leary, C. W. Hoef, Mr E. Lyall (Manager), J. W. Fisher, R. Kalpa, W. G. Davidson. Second Row—Mr E. M. Hirst (Treas.), D. A. Barchard, J. A. Curran, W. Grotte, L. Kelly, J. P. Kirwan, V. J. Barchard, Mr R. de Thierry (Selector). Front Row—Mr J. Dufy (Masseur), M. K. Brockliss, L. S. Rae (Capt.), Mr A. Blake (Pres.), Mr J. Kirwan (Hon. Sec.), D. H. McLeod (Vice Capt.), D. G. Grantley, Mr J. Woods (Coach). Absent—K. Mills, W. Morton.



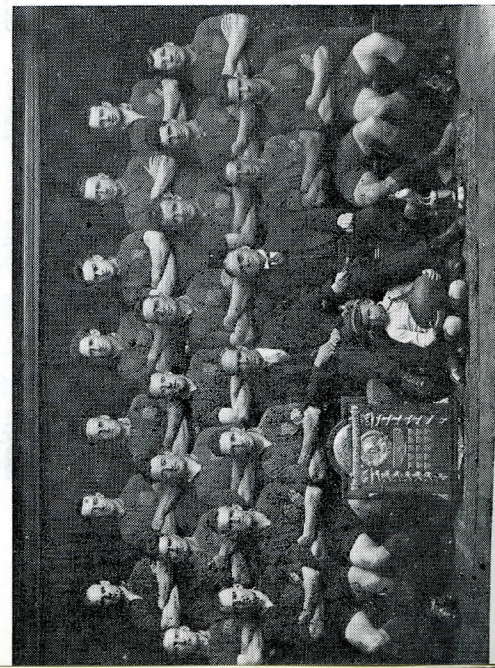
**SENIORS 1920**  
(Runners-up A.R.L. Championship)

Back Row: P. Gallagher, W. Ghent.  
 Second Row: R. Late, W. Storer,  
 N. St. George, A. Eustace,  
 F. Turner, J. Keenan. Front Row:  
 W. Ghent (Treas.), S. Fitz,  
 O'Connell (Sec.), J. Hing (Capt.),  
 J. Eudean, S. Hillingham.  
 Insets: G. Cargill, T. Sheehan.



**SECOND GRADE, 1920.**

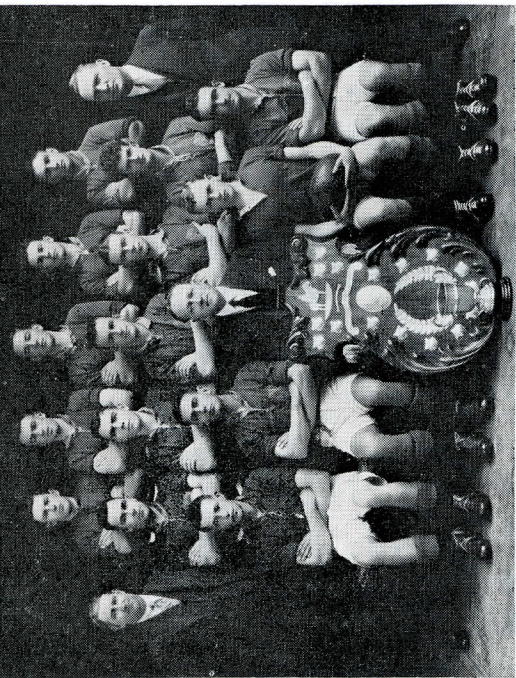
Top Row—A. H. Johnston, G. Duane (Vice Capt.), W. Slatter, P. Gallagher, R. Stobie, G. Tattersall, W. Glover. Second Row—C. McDevitt, H. Clarke, M. Turner, R. Cross (Capt.), J. Eudean (Pres.), L. Hughes, T. O'Connell (Sec.). Front Row—C. Strange, Rhodes, W. Moulden. Absent: H. Hart, F. Keene, H. Fairley, S. Callaher.



**SENIOR TEAM, 1928.**

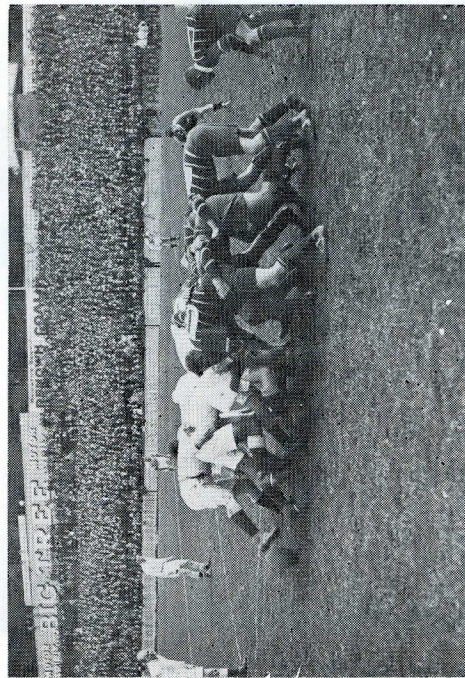
Winners Roope Rooster, Stormont Shield, and Labour Day Knockout Competition.)

Back Row—H. Brisbane, M. King, G. Batchelor, A. Petherick. Stormont, J. Keenan, B. Sweeney. Middle Row—F. Nasey, D. McKay, J. Kirwan, W. Noble, J. O'Brien, G. Campbell, J. Johnson, J. Graham. Front Row—O. Cronin, H. Hansen, C. Gregory (Capt.), J. Donovan (Club Capt.), J. Stormont (V.P.), M. Moisiey (Vice Capt.), P. Brady, B. Stormont (Mascot). Absent: J. O'Sullivan, W. Hassan.



**FIFTH GRADE TEAM, 1931.**  
(Winners Championship and Knockout.)

Games: Played - 18; Won - 18.)  
 Back Row—G. Holt, W. Phillips, R. Devlin, R. Rogers, F. Peters, Middle Row—D. Malavey (Manager and Coach), L. Nodder, J. Burdett, W. Hayes, F. Keenan, C. Bridge, J. O'Brien (Hon. Sec.) Front Row—R. Donoghue, G. Crocker (Vice Capt.), E. H. Lahman (Pres.), T. Cato (Capt.), G. Croul.



**IT REALLY IS A RUGBY LEAGUE SCRUM!**

Marist-Devonport (White) v Eastern Suburbs (Sydney). Carlaw Park, Saturday, October 17th, 1931.



**NEW ZEALAND'S THIRD TEST TEAM versus ENGLAND**  
at Carlaw Park on 1932.

Saturday, August 20th, 1932.

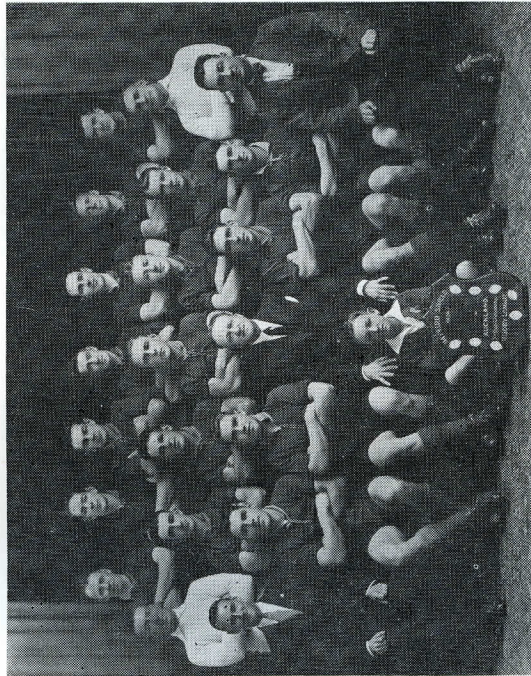
Back Row: C. List (Marist), J. Calder, R. Lawless, A. Clarke (Marist), S. Clark, N. Campbell (Marist), J. Laird (Marist), Front Row—G. Campbell (Marist), E. Brimble, E. Abbott, H. Brisbane (Capt., Marist), S. Watene, A. E. Cooke, W. Kelly (Coach).





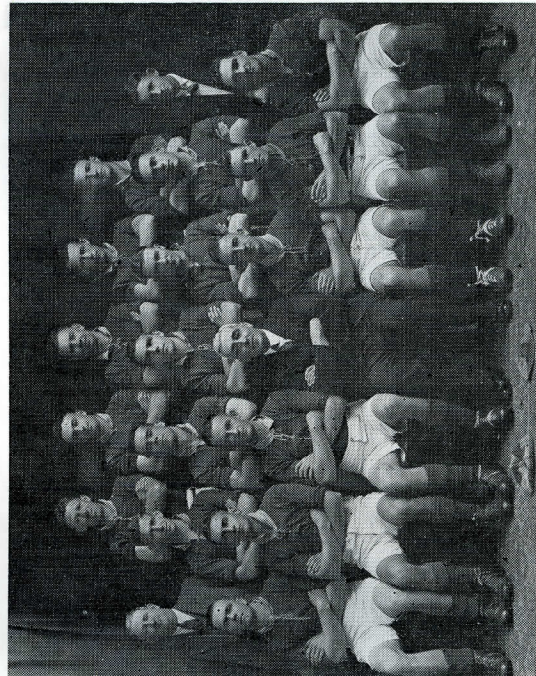
**FOURTH GRADE, B TEAM, 1933.**  
(Runners up in Championship and Knockout. Matches: Played - 22; Won - 18; Lost - 4.)

Back Row—M. Smith, C. Simpson, W. Croul, T. Lowther. Middle Row—B. Saussey, W. Phillips, I. Emshie, G. Elliott, R. McDonald, J. Storey. Front Row—G. Reid, A. Phillips. (Vice Capt.), J. Dobbyn (Capt.), C. Smith, I. McLennan. Absent: J. Dobbyn, M. Thompson (Coach), C. Malone.



**THIRD OPEN GRADE TEAM, 1933.**  
(Winners Championship and Knockout Champs. Matches: Played - 17; Won - 17; Drawn - 0 Lost - 0.)

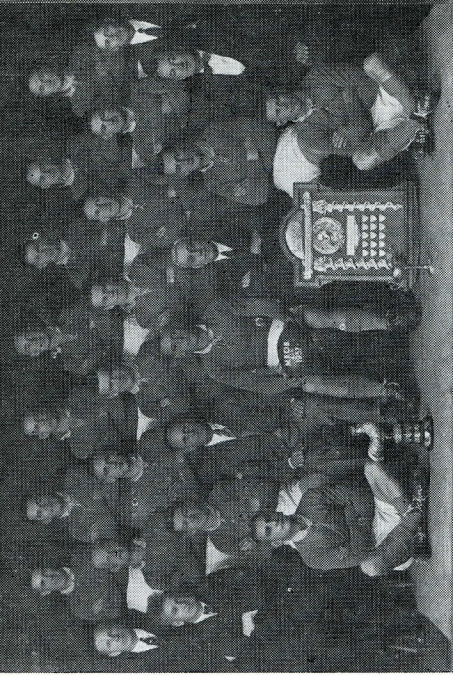
Back Row—R. Hoy, R. Connolly, A. Strahan, A. Hoy, E. Donald, K. Brown, L. Smith. Middle Row—B. Skinner (Coach), J. Phillips, F. Ford, E. Barfoot, P. Cowhill, A. O'Halloran, L. Skinner, (Trainer). Front Row—H. Robertson (Manager), J. O'Kane, J. Schultz (Capt.), E. Lahman (Vice Capt.), R. Pennycook, J. Kirwan (Hon. Sec. M.B.O.B.F.C.), Sitting—R. Loader (Mascot.) Absent: A. Young, A. Furlonger.



**THIRD INTERMEDIATE TEAM, 1934.**

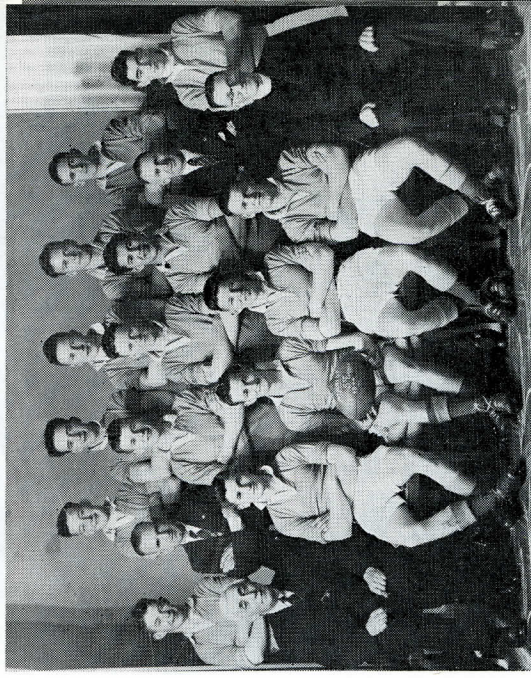
(Winners of Championship and Knock-out. Games: Played - 24; Won - 21; Lost - 2; Drawn - 1.)

Back Row—B. McCowatt, W. Phillips, C. Bridgens, K. Donaghu, E. Johnson. Standing—D. Malavey (Coach-Mgr), A. Phillips, B. Weavers, J. Burdett, F. Keenan, P. Tighe, A. Hayes (Line Umpire). Sitting—R. Weavers, G. Crocker, W. Hayes (Capt.), J. Sayegh (Pres. M.B.O.B.F.C.), R. Devlin (Vice Capt.), G. Holt, R. Davis.



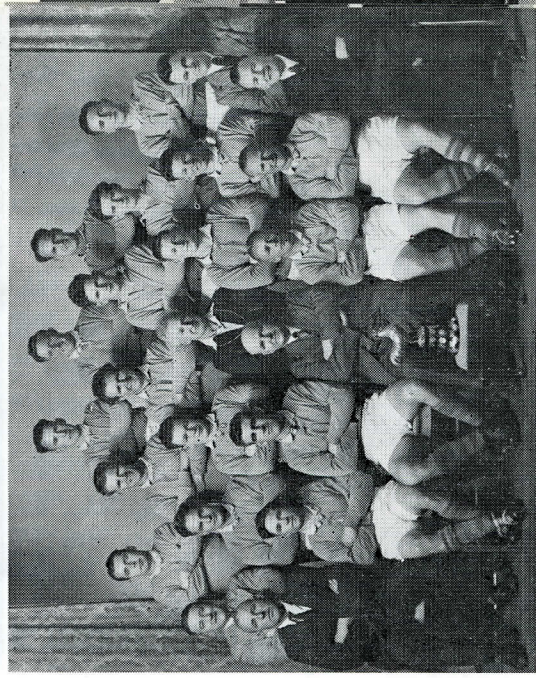
**SENIOR TEAM, 1937.**  
(Winners of the Roope Rooster, Stormont Memorial Shield and Thistle Cup.)

Back Row—J. Dobbyn, J. O'Kane, P. Donovan, R. McGreal, Bakalich, G. Midgely, C. Murdoch. Middle Row—P. Fletcher (Hon. Treas.), G. Matson, I. Uhlmann, J. Woods, K. Finlayson, S. Finlayson, W. Breed, W. Glover Senior (Hon. Organiser). Front Row—J. Duffy (Masseur), F. McLaren, G. Batchelor (Coach), R. Haslam (Capt.), J. Sayegh (Pres.), J. Anderson (Vice Capt.), J. Kirwan (Hon. Sec.) In Front—B. Crocker, W. Glover.



**FIFTH GRADE, 1944.**  
(Runners-up Championship. Knock-out Finalists.)

Back Row—J. Yates, R. Anderson, B. Hilby, V. Wenzlick, K. Hughes. Middle Row—K. Keenan, Mr L. Phillips, P. Scurreah, F. Hannan, P. Zamey, Mr R. Grantley (Club Capt.), G. Maitland. Front Row—Mr J. Sayegh (Pres.), C. Strange, F. Kirwan (Capt.), P. Kirwan (Vice Capt.), I. Fitness, Bro. William (Sch.-Boy Delegate). Absent: J. Edwards, A. Meighan, J. Long, P. Clark, J. Howe, S. Bennet.



**SENIOR TEAM, 1946.**  
(Winners Roope Rooster Comp.)

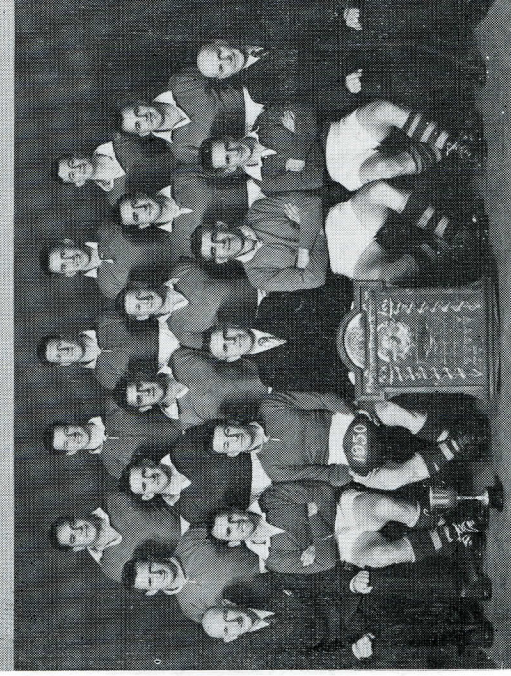
Back Row—J. W. Fisher, B. H. Curran, R. Katipa. Third Row—J. D. Matthews, W. Grotte, R. L. Barchard, D. E. Harrison, R. J. Posa, W. G. Davidson. Second Row—Mr J. B. Chalmers (Sel.), C. W. Hoett, L. C. Gupitli, Duffy (Masseur), M. R. Brockliss, P. Kirwan, Mr R. de Thierey (Sel.), Front Row—Mr R. Haslam (Coach), E. T. Hale, D. H. McLeod (Capt.), Mr A. Wilkie (Pres.), K. Nicholson O. C. Absent: Mr E. Lyall (Mgr.), N. Kennedy.



**SEVEN-A-SIDE 'A' TEAM, 1949.**  
 (Championship and Knock-out.  
 Matches: Played - 18; Won - 18.)  
 Back Row—G. Wright, D. Fletcher, J. Kenny, K. Mathelison, B. Reidy (Vice Capt.), Front Row—P. A. Blake (Pres.), B. Logan, W. Schultz (Capt.), T. O'Brien, W. Schultz (Coach), P. Young (Mas.)



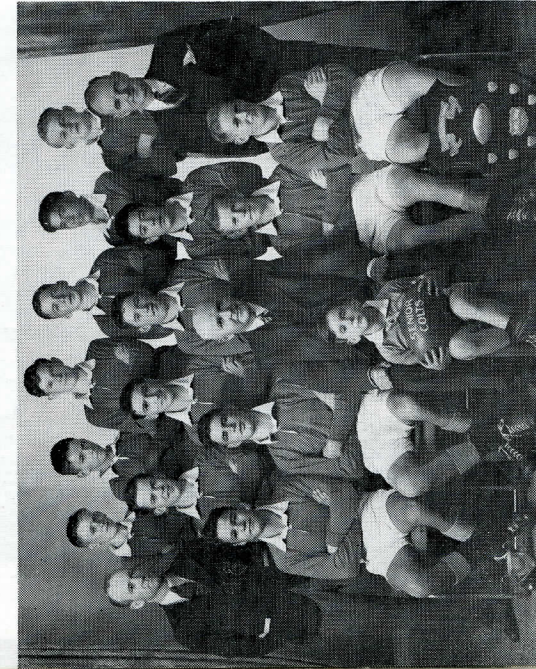
**JUNIOR TEAM, 1949.**  
 (Championship and Knockout.  
 Matches: Played - 20; Won - 18; Lost - 2.)  
 Back Row—P. Frost, M. Brunt, P. McMahon, B. Temms, R. Smith, Middle Row—W. Eades (Asst. Manager) C. Rands, P. Tounsoon, P. Radell, B. Wright, N. Rogers, W. Wright (Manager), Front Row—A. Blake (Pres.), D. Schlesinger, P. Waterman (Vice Capt.), J. Corfey (Capt.), W. Schultz, M. Butler, P. Young (Coach), P. Young (Mascot).  
 Absent: G. Brayne, E. Duncan.



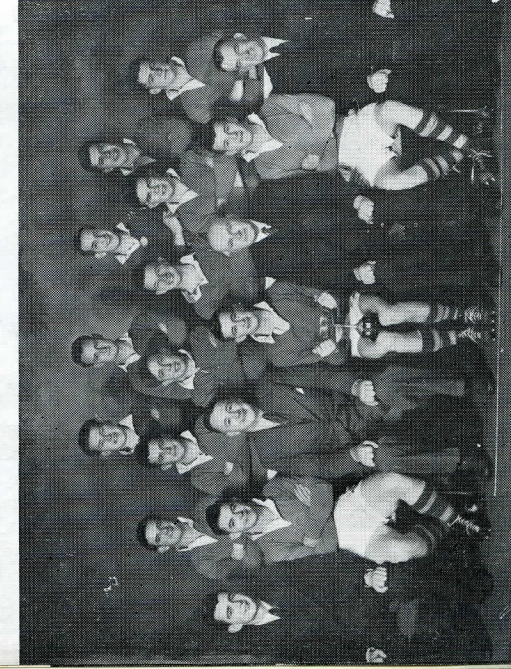
**SENIOR TEAM, 1950.**  
 (Runners-up Championship, Roopie Rooster, Winners Stormont Shield, Davis Cup.)  
 Back Row—P. Hoeft, P. Kirwan, J. Edwards, J. Fisher, F. Kirwan, Middle Row—V. Barchard, P. Dormer, K. Mills, M. Brockliss, G. Davidson, W. Goulin, Front Row—Mr K. Lipscombe (Manager) E. Chatham, D. Barchard (Capt.), Mr P. Young (Coach), D. McLeod, (Vice Capt.), T. Rae, Mr A. Blake (President).  
 Absent: C. Harris.



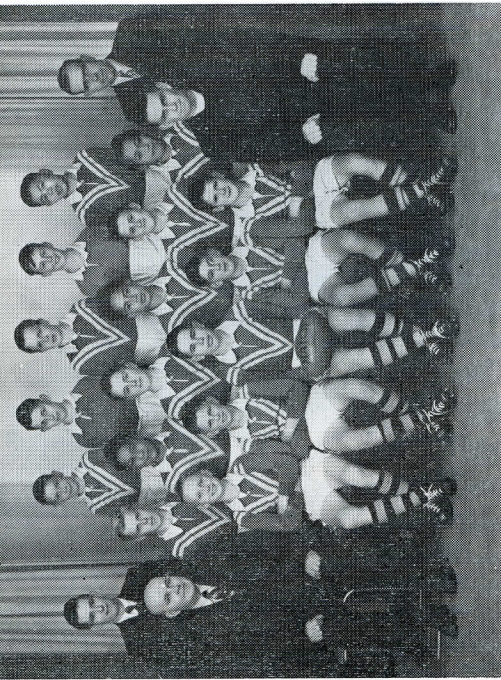
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLBOYS, 1947.**  
 (Winners Championship: Champion of Champions)  
 Games: Played - 23; Won - 20; Drawn - 2; Lost - 1.)  
 Back Row—B. A. Craft, K. J. Kelecher, C. Slater, R. Skelton, N. Butler, Third Row—Mr H. Denton (Coach), R. Talbot, J. McKee, J. Forrest, C. Southey, Mr R. Dempsey (Coach), Second Row—B. Madigan, C. F. Hrsrich (Capt.), Mr R. O'Gara (Manager), R. de Thierry (Vice Capt.), N. Denton. Front Row—E. Farrah, A. Glenn.



**SENIOR COLTS, 1948**  
 (Winners Knock-out & Richardson Cup; Runners-up Championship.)  
 Back Row—P. McSweeney, R. Talbot, B. Craft, N. Butler, G. Forrest, A. James, Second Row—B. Jamieson, C. F. Hrsrich, R. F. Skelton, B. Maddigan, Mr R. Dempsey (Coach), Front Row—N. R. Tainui, A. R. de Thierry (Capt.), Mr A. Blake (Pres.), J. McKee (Vice Capt.), N. Denton, E. Holt (Mascot).



**SENIOR 3rd TEAM, 1949**  
 (Championship Winners, Matches: Played - 16; Won - 13; Drew - 1; Lost - 2.)  
 Back Row—B. Lyall, B. Walsh, M. George, H. Gleeson, Middle Row—L. Kelly, N. Finnigan, S. Bennett, P. Kirwan, B. Finlayson, P. Keenan, Front Row—B. Murphy (Asst. Managr), R. Keenan, E. Markey (Coach), F. Kirwan (Capt), A. Blake (Pres.), P. Scurrah (Vice Capt.), R. Skelton (Manager), J. Loftus, O. Timmins, J. Muir. Absent: J. Dunn, C. Harris.



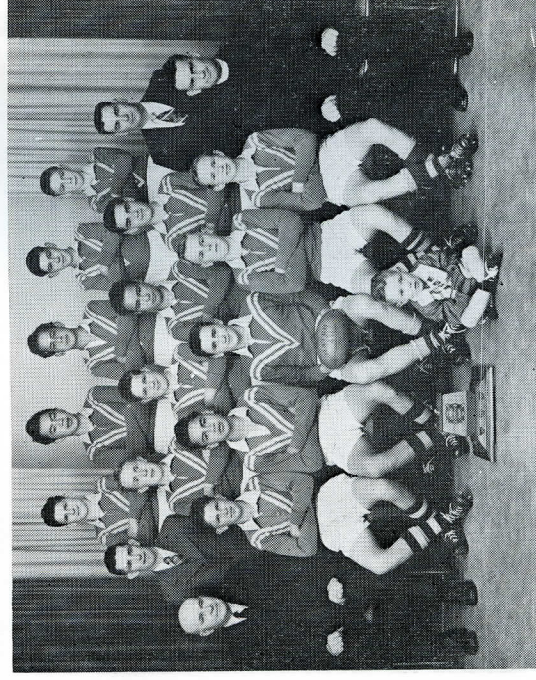
**INTERMEDIATE COLTS TEAM, 1951.**

(Championship winners. Matches: Played - 18; Won - 17; Lost - 1.)  
 Back Row—K. Ball, P. Corbett, M. Rooney, F. Pedlar, J. Stowers.  
 Middle Row—M. Donaghu (Coach), P. Bryant, G. Hogg, M. Rodgers, E. Murray, D. Fletcher, H. Purcell, W. Schultz (Mgr).  
 Front Row—Mr. Blake (Pres.), B. Logan, B. Reidy (Vice Capt.), W. Schultz (Capt.), G. Wright, S. Bakalitch, Rev. Bro. Paulinus.



**MIDGET "A" TEAM, 1951.**

(Winners Northern Group. Runners-up Championship. Winners Vic. Simpson Medals. Games: Played - 17; Won - 16; Lost - 1.)  
 Back Row—B. Buchan, T. Hanna, G. Rossieur, Front Row—J. Hughes (Selector), W. Harford (Vice Capt), W. Fletcher (Capt.), O. Fletcher (Coach). Sitting—M. Davis, W. McNeil.



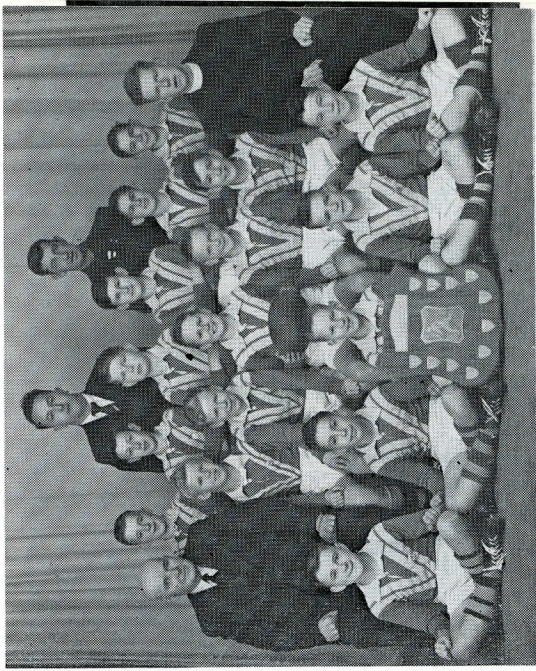
**SENIOR COLTS TEAM, 1953.**

(Championship. Games: Played - 14; Won - 12; Drawn - 1; Lost - 1.)  
 Back Row—S. Bakalitch, J. Stowers, J. Swann, G. Wright, K. Ball, Middle Row—T. Donoghue, L. Masters, R. Barnes, W. Wright (Coach), A. Turner, I. Govorko, (Manager), Front Row—A. Blake, (Pres.) B. Reidy, E. Murray (Vice Capt.), D. Fletcher (Capt.), P. Bryant, B. Logan, Rev. Brother Paulinus. In front—P. Donoghue (Mascot.)



**FOURTH GRADE TEAM, 1953.**  
 (Winners of Championship, Runners-Up Knockout.)

Back Row—R. G. Mark, I. J. Jelcicich, W. V. Maguire, L. G. P. Mihajevich, J. Anderson, F. McKee, R. A. Grimmer, Mr. R. Scurrah (Masseur), A. A. Page, K. R. Payne, Front Row—Mr. S. J. Hrstich (Manager), C. A. Jensen, T. Mark (Capt.), E. M. Scurrah (Vice Capt.), N. R. Talnui, Mr. E. T. Hale (Coach).  
 Absent: R. M. Moloney, B. Huston, R. H. McBride.



**JUNIOR TEAM, 1954.**

(Winners Central Group, Championship & Knock-out, Points Cup. Games: Played - 15; Won - 15.)  
 Back Row—Mr. D. Anderson (Coach), Mr. O. Fletcher (Assist. Coach), Third Row—E. Quill, M. Milner, D. Meikle, W. Hayes, A. Dromgool, R. Schultz, Second Row—Mr. Blake (Pres.), R. Bryant, M. Davis, (Vice Capt.), B. Dumper (Capt.), P. Coggins, T. Coyle, Rev. Bro. Frederick, Front Row—K. Quill, H. Dixon, W. Fletcher, W. Harford, W. McNeil.



**INTERMEDIATE COLTS TEAM, 1955.**

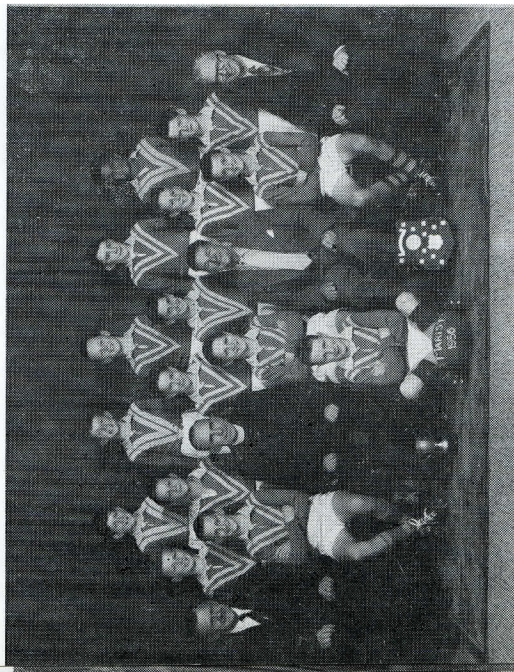
(Winners B Section, Championship & Knock-out, Points Cup. Games: Played - 18; Won - 18.)  
 Back Row—R. Schultz, W. Fletcher, T. Musin, W. McNeil, Middle Row—A. Dromgool, D. Meikle, D. McGowan, M. Milner, H. Dixon, W. Harford, Front Row—Mr. D. Anderson (Coach), P. Coggins, E. Quill, B. Dumper (Capt.), M. Davis (Vice Capt.), K. Quill, Mr. O. Fletcher (Coach.)



**SENIOR TEAM, 1956.**

(Winners Phelan Shield.)

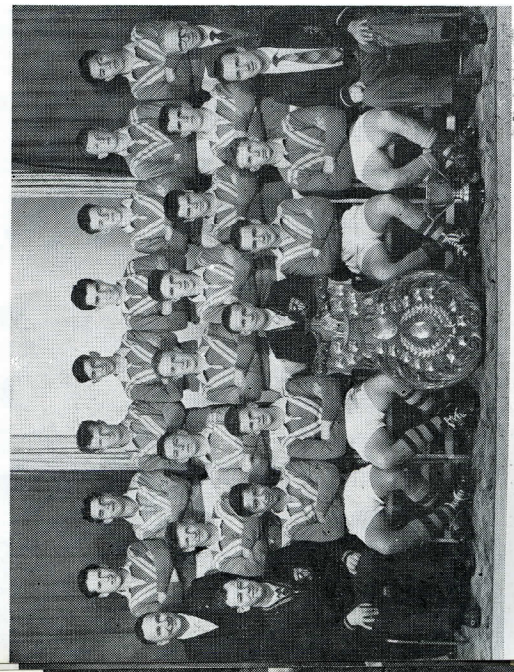
Back Row—J. Baigent, M. Posa, M. Faasola, M. Patterson, P. McSweeney, Middle Row—T. Markey, T. Mark, D. Diamond, A. Reichelmann, K. Ngawati, F. Purcell, Front Row—W. Baker, D. Barchard (Coach), R. Mackay (Capt.), F. Moody (Club Capt.), N. Denton, P. Atkins (Manager), I. Ahloo.  
Absent: J. Sommerville, R. Goodin, J. Cassidy, B. Finlayson, D. Anderson.



**JUNIOR TEAM, 1956.**

(Winners Championship. Games: Played - 15; Won - 13; Lost - 1; Drew - 1.)

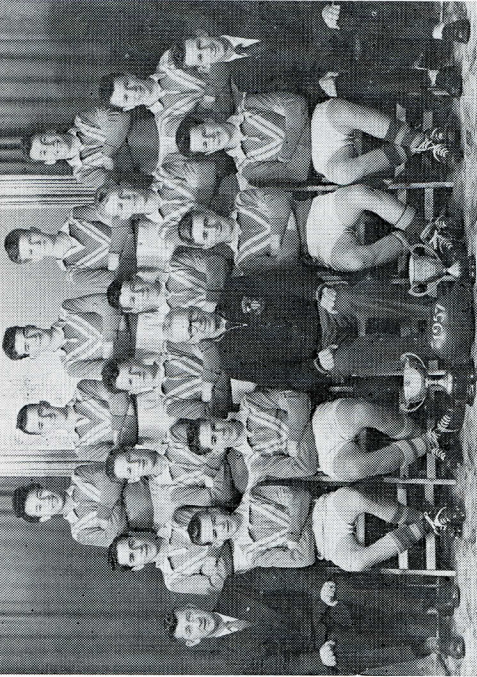
Back Row—B. McRae, M. Hare, B. Martin, P. Wilson, S. Hogg, Middle Row—K. Meikle, L. Swan, W. Hutley, H. Brown, F. Casey, D. Tanner, Front Row—F. Bryan (Manager), W. Quedley, Rev. Bro. Patrick, T. Bryan (Capt.), W. Feek (Coach), P. Govorko (Vice Capt.), F. Casey (Pres.) In Front—J. Bolton.



**FIFTH GRADE TEAM, 1957.**

(Winners of Championship and Knock-out, Endeane Shield and Militch Cup. Games: Played - 17 Won - 16; Lost - 1.)

Back Row—R. C. Loneragan, R. Barnes, F. Bootler, G. Wright, M. Guy, F. I. Hawken, P. J. Hanna, J. H. Stowers, Middle Row—Mr. F. H. Moody (Club Capt.), A. W. Taylor, R. Stewart, A. G. Turner, R. Kriletich, G. McClynn, P. Schultz, Mr. F. Casey (Pres.), Front Row—Mr. S. Goodwin (Manager), R. Hogg, B. Reidy (Capt.), Mr. P. J. B. Logan, Mr. P. Frost Gherardi, (Co-Manager).



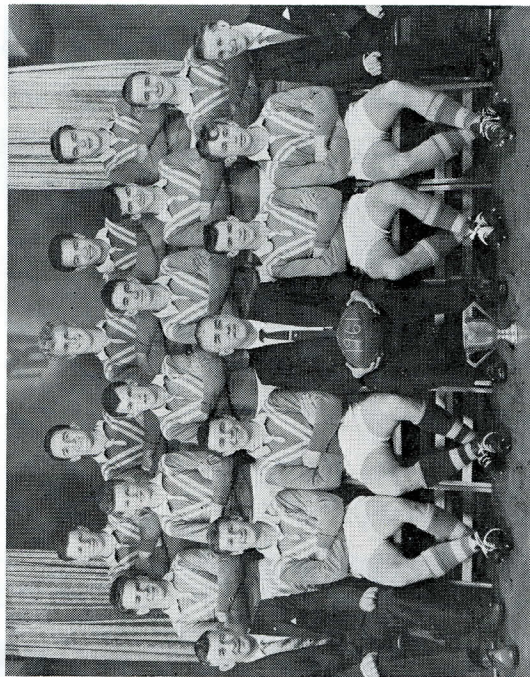
**SENIOR COLTS TEAM, 1957.**  
(Winners of Championship and Knock-out. Games: Played - 16; Won - 16.)

P. Stowers, E. Quill, R. Grimes, J. Phillips, H. Dixon, Middle Row—J. Hodge, W. Fletcher, R. Harrison, W. McNeil, R. Bryant, T. Musin, Front Row—Mr. O. Fletcher (Coach), W. Harford, R. Schultz (Capt.), Mr. F. Casey (Pres.) K. Quill (Vice Capt.), L. Marvin, Mr. R. Fletcher (Manager).  
Absent: J. Kao.



**SENIOR GRADE TEAM, 1958.**  
(Winners Father Duffy Memorial Cup, Roope Rooster, Stormont Shield.)

Back Row—M. Paterson, K. Ngawati, H. Purcell, W. Schultz, J. Hopa, N. Posa, J. Young, Middle Row—F. Purcell, V. Hammond (Masseur), R. Goodin, T. Maxwell, S. Edwards, P. Keenan, Seymour, Front Row—N. Denton, P. Duigan (Act Club Capt.), T. A. Wiggs, H. J. Sommerville (Manager), R. McKay (Coach-Capt.), F. Moody (Pres.), A. Reichelmann (Vice-Capt.), J. Ah Loo. In Front—B. Replia, R. McPhee, E. Pennell.



**FIFTH GRADE TEAM, 1961.**

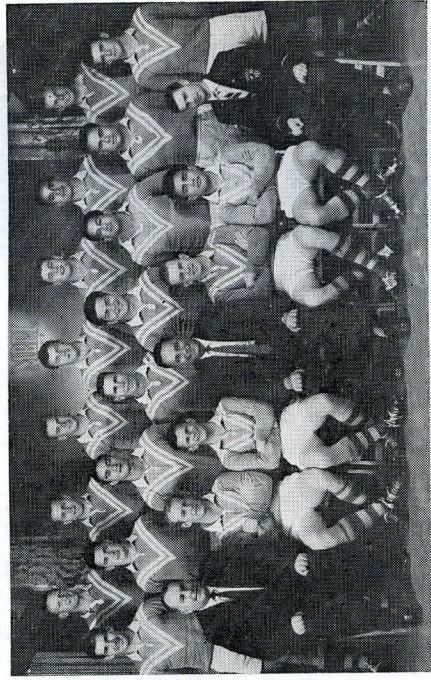
(Winners of Championship and Knock-out. Games: Played - 15; Won - 13; Drew - 1; Lost - 1.)

Back Row—R. Musin, R. Cavanagh, R. Bryant, P. Stowers, N. Harvey, Middle Row—R. Schultz, T. Hanna, A. Hanna, M. Pullin, R. Grimes, E. Quill, Front Row—Mr. O. Fletcher (Coach), W. Fletcher, A. Musin (Capt.), Mr. L. Schultz (Pres.), W. Harford, H. Burnette, Mr. R. Franklin (Manager).  
Absent: P. Buchan.



**SENIOR TEAM, 1961.**  
(Winners of the A.R.L. Easter Tournament.)

Back Row—V. W. Lord, A. P. Kriletich, K. A. A. Ngawati, F. M. Venu, J. B. Chapman, Middle Row—H. M. Paterson, S. R. C. Keogh, T. R. Hammond, C. C. Tua'i, N. Allison, W. T. C. Schultz, Front Row—Mr. O'Donnell (Hon. Sec.), E. D. Wiggs, N. L. Denton (Capt.), Mr. F. H. Moody (Manager), R. C. Goodin (Vice Capt.), R. J. McKay (Coach), Mr. F. L. Schultz (Pres.), Absent: B. T. Reidy, R. Duffy, A. Wiggs, O. Danielson, P. Bryant, E. Pennell, P. Schultz.



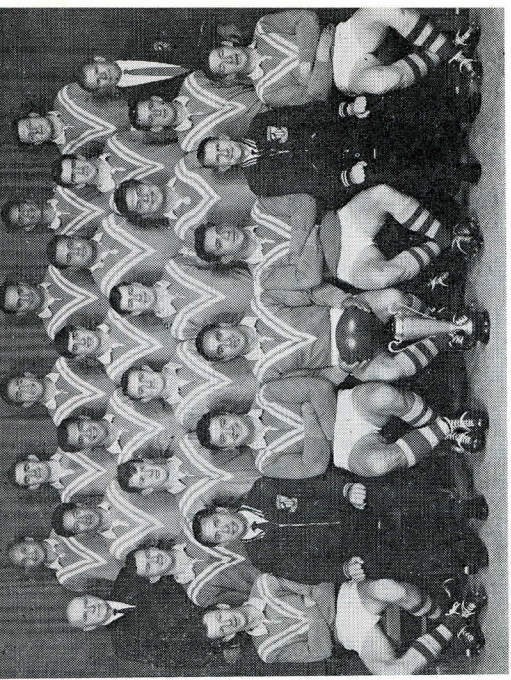
**SENIOR TEAM, 1962.**

(Winners of the Phelan Shield, Runners-up in the Roope Rooster.)  
Back Row—V. W. Lord, J. B. Chapman, R. A. Schultz, J. Old, A. P. Kriletich, T. Karanga, M. Hale, Middle Row—J. R. Hammond, S. R. Keogh, D. G. Munga, W. Schultz, O. G. Tua'i, P. C. K. Edwards, C. C. Tua'i, P. C. Allison, Front Row—Mr. O'Donnell (Hon. Sec.), N. L. Denton (Coach), B. T. Reidy (Capt.), Mr. F. H. Moody (Manager), R. H. Duffy (Vice Capt.), F. Venu, Mr. P. A. Duigan (Assist. Manager).  
Absent: J. O'Brien, J. Kerr.



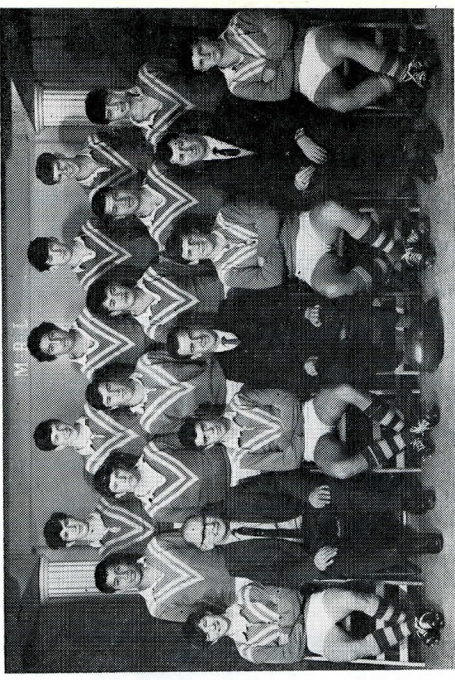
**SENIOR TEAM, 1964.**

(Winners Phelan Shield, Games: Played - 21; Won - 13; Lost - 6; Draw - 2.)  
Back Row—D. Benson, T. Sullivan, R. Schultz, W. Harford, Third Row—A. Blake (Pres.), R. Devonshire, A. Bacon, W. Schultz, W. Glover (Club Capt.), Second Row—J. Stoll (Assist. Manager), M. Reed, R. Wright, S. Lipscombe, J. Raymond, V. Lord (Sec.), Front Row—T. Kriletich, V. Barward (Coach), F. Venu, D. Mason (Manager), P. Hanna.  
Absent: P. Schultz, M. Newton.



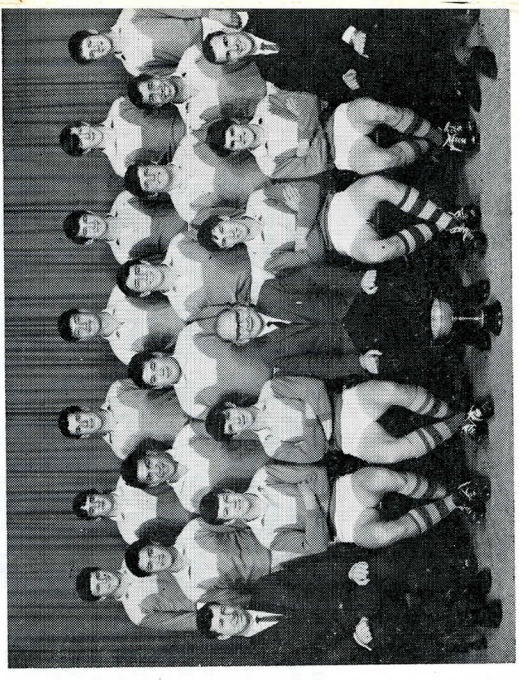
**SENIOR RESERVE GRADE, 1964.**

(Championship Winners, Games: Played - 21; Won - 17; Draw - 1; Lost - 3.)  
Back Row—O. Apulu, J. Comerford, F. Venu, D. Marsh, B. Swan, B. Crowther, Third Row—A. Blake (Club Pres.), G. Marino, A. Clarke, J. Raymond, C. Tua'i, C. Bacon, B. Glover, (Club Capt.), Second Row—P. Frost, T. Johnson, J. Clemens, D. Richardson, O. Danielson, J. O'Sullivan, Front Row—S. Lipscombe, R. Goodin (Player Coach), Cassidy, T. Karanga (Capt.), H. Kemp (Vice Capt.), C. Mitchell (Manager), C. Linton.  
Absent: M. Kelly, L. Matthews.



**TENTH GRADE, 1967.**

(Winners of the Championship and Knock-out, Games: Played - 17; Won - 16; Lost - 1.)  
Back Row—J. P. Hodgetts, P. R. O'Donnell, H. K. Wolfram, M. Hunt, G. N. Martin, Middle Row—E. James, B. A. Bell, B. C. Macken, F. Talamai, J. Dudley, B. Wikitera, Front Row—D. E. Frelan, Mr. F. P. Hodgetts (Manager), G. Mason (Coach), G. M. Kennedy (Vice Capt.), Mr. D. Richardson (Hon. Sec.), R. F. Morrison, H. Tamarillo, R. Davis, T. Nathan, E. Williams, L. Patti.



**EIGHTH GRADE, 1968.**

(Winners of the Championship and Knock-out, Games: Played - 18; Won - 16; Lost - 2.)  
Back Row—R. F. Morrison, R. Davis, S. Mihaljivich, J. Dudley, S. Hunt, P. R. O'Donnell, D. E. Frelan, Middle Row—F. Talamai, H. Tamarua, F. Kennedy, J. M. O'Connor, G. M. Kennedy, F. E. James, Front Row—Mr. D. Richardson (Hon. Sec.), M. Worthington, J. P. Hodgetts (Capt.), Mr. F. P. Hodgetts (Manager), B. C. Macken (Vice Capt.), B. Hollis, Mr. D. G. Mason (Coach), Absent: G. Nixon, G. Martin, W. Wikitera, L. Patti, H. Wolfgang, G. Adams.

North Shore—the latter, Auckland's first official Rugby League Club, having been formed on July 21st 1909, in the Devonport Borough Council Chambers.

On Friday, June 18th, the first New Zealand Rugby League side to travel by air—they flew to and from Sydney—received an enthusiastic welcome home at Whenuapai. The Kiwis had squared the rubber with the Kangaroos, taking the First Test by 21 points to 19 before 55,866 people, and losing the Second, 4-13. Des Barchard, who appeared in both clashes as scrum-half, became the first Marist player to represent his country in a Test match on Australian soil: a position easily explained by the fact that prior to the tour, the last Test between the two countries in Australia was decided at Brisbane on July 6th, 1912. The following afternoon the Kiwis were unexpectedly thrashed 30 points to 9, by a dedicated young Auckland thirteen which included Laurie (Tommy) Rae, Don McLeod and George Davidson. Des Barchard was the Kiwi pivot.

The Old Boys commenced the second round in fine fashion by disposing of Pt. Chevalier (who were clad in Maroon and Gold) by 13 points to 2. Pat Kirwan was at inside centre, Laurie Rae at stand-off-half and Des Barchard behind the pack. Defeat eventuated in our next engagement when Mt. Albert finished ahead by 7 points to 5, however, at least five tries were lost by the Greens, owing to passes being missed within 5 yards of the opposition goal line. In heavy rain which debarked decent football, Roy Roff outhooked George Davidson. A curious mixture of brilliance and indifference was in evidence in our 26 points to 5 drubbing of Northcote. Apparently forgetting they were playing football, several of the backs switched to cricket and attempted to take the ball one-handed, to their subsequent dismay.

On July 17th, at Carlaw Park, a powerful Auckland XIII, including Davidson and Des Barchard, slaughtered South Auckland by

58 points to 9. This same day a touring Auckland team defeated Canterbury, in Christchurch by 32 points to 22, and was then outclassed by a strong West Coast side at Greymouth the following afternoon by 18 points to 2. On the succeeding Tuesday they downed Wellington by 14 points to 5, Laurie Rae and Don McLeod made this enjoyable southern journey.

The following Saturday Otahuhu was vanquished by 13 points to 9; a success which meant that the top rung of the ladder was occupied jointly by City and Marist. In the next series the two leaders clashed and the Old Boys, in scintillating form, scattered the opposition to record a decisive 21 points to 4 victory. Favoured with a liberal supply of the ball from set scrums the Marist backs played as a team, and attacks well supported by the forwards. The Greens handled the greasy ball brilliantly and seldom kicked. The elusive blind-side movements of Des Barchard and Laurie Rae proved a handful for the City defence.

In their next engagement Marist encountered Richmond—formidable adversaries—in a crucial match, for victory would give the Greens the championship. Marist rectified their mistakes of the first round clash, however, they failed to pack a tight scrum, which allowed Neal to obtain 70 per cent of the ball, and to be responsible for the Maroon and Blues 11 points to 9 success. Kiwi flankman, Dave Redmond, collected three dazzling tries and kicked a penalty to score all Richmond's points, while Maurie Robertson and young 18-year-old centre, Tommy Baxter, with penetrative running often troubled the Marist defence. Morris Brockliss, by landing three goals, became the first Senior player to amass 100 points during the season.

August 14th brought the last series of matches and the title of champions within the range of no less than five teams. The Greens with their slender one point lead from Pt. Chevalier had to defeat

Ponsonby to emerge triumphant, however, a draw would be sufficient to bring success, provided Richmond downed the Green and Whites.

How many Marist adherents can remember the nail-biting ordeal imposed by the tense, dramatic final quarter, as Ponsonby repeatedly stormed the Green citadel in determined endeavours to force victory? Three times the Blue and Blacks reached the line and three times they were brought back. In one thrust Des White, who linked with the chain might have broken through, however, he gave the ball to Roy Nurse, who was thrown into touch at the corner. What sighs of relief were breathed when the final bell sounded and the board showed: Marist Bros 7, Ponsonby 7.

Marist did not monopolise scrum possession as expected and appeared somewhat jaded, this no doubt due to the effects of their three tough previous matches.

Now outright victory was dependent on the outcome of the Richmond-Pt. Chevalier clash. To the uncontrollable delight of the Green supporters, the Maroon and Blues trounced the Chevaliers by 20 points to 5, therefore Marist Brothers Old Boys, captured the imposing Fox Memorial Shield for the third occasion, and the Auckland Rugby League championship for the fourth time since 1919. It was indeed a great day for the Irish: it's joy being increased when it was announced that Morrie Brockliss, with 53 successful attempts had won the Lance Painter Trophy. Billy Grotte completed a notable double, for he had also participated in the memorable match against Newton, which gave Marist their last championship success on August 20th, 1938.

The following Saturday the Pakehas trounced the Maoris in a high scoring contest by 53 points to 24. D. Barchard and Davidson appeared for the former XIII and Ken Mills for the Maoris. This match witnessed the experimental

tion with the pass-the-ball-in method of restarting play following a kick into touch, whereby a member of the side which did not send the ball out of play, was permitted to pass the leather infield to a teammate. This measure was not a success. Patrons were treated to a thrilling hockey curtain-raiser in which Auckland defeated the touring Australians by 3 goals to 2.

Marist began their Roope Rooster quest against Mt. Albert, and after an action packed exhibition the Blue and Golds administered the quietus by 23 points to 18. There were thrills galore at the commencement, with McLeod scoring in the opening 30 seconds; the opposition equalising from the second kick-off; and Marist breaching the Mt. Albert defence to obtain their second try from the third kick-off. Amazing antics which brought 13 points in the first 3 minutes.

The Greens exodus from the Phelan Shield proved equally as rapid as that from the Rooster, for Otahuhu inflicted a 13 points to nil drubbing. Dave Grantley appeared over-awed on the Marist flank.

A fortnight later Marist and Mt. Albert clashed for the Stormont Memorial Shield. Although Davidson subdued his arch rival Roy Roff, in the hooking duel, the Blue and Gold vanguard outplayed their opponents in the loose, with the Greens lacking a concerted pattern. This factor was mainly responsible for Mt. Albert's 18 points to 5 victory. Pat Kirwan, at inside centre marred an otherwise fine display by his reluctance to feed Fisher, O'Leary and Katipa.

On Saturday, September 25th, all eyes were focussed on Carlaw Park, the occasion being the battle for the New Zealand Club premier-ship, between Runanga—the West Coast Champions—and Marist Bros—the premier thirteen of Auckland.

The teams took the field as under:—

RUNANGA: Fullback: J. Soster; Three-quarters: J. Forrest, R. Forrest, M. Thomas, J. Curragh;

Halves: G. Menzies, L. Sweetman; Forwards: R. Baxendale, F. Thompson, D. Stevens, J. Newton (capt.), J. Higson, A. McTaggart.

MARIST BROS: Fullback: M. Brockliss; Three-quarters: J. Edwards, J. Fisher, P. Kirwan, E. O'Leary; Halves: L. Rae (captain), D. Barchard; Forwards: J. Curran, W. Grotte, V. Barchard, K. Mills, G. Davidson, D. McLeod.

A dominance in scrum possession; superior physical fitness; the ability to quickly transmute defence into attack: these were the decisive factors which enabled Marist to suppress their opponents by 23 points to 10, and produce one of the resplendent victories in the annals of the Club.

Two grievous Marist mistakes in the early exchanges presented Runanga with seven points, however, the Greens soon rectified these errors and thereafter were in control. The Runanga backs—including the 17-year-old George Menzies—made the most of the few opportunities they received. Nuggetty Kiwi winger Jack Forrest, twice gave glimpses of his speedy and powerful running although overall his barging tactics foundered on the courageous tackling of his opponent Eugene O'Leary. The Black and White vanguard—their early superiority apart—found the pace of Grotte, Vic Barchard, McLeod and Davidson overpowering, as witness the domination of Marist in the concluding stages.

The best try in the first half came from an astute blind-side movement by Des Barchard and Rae, joined by Pat Kirwan, who consequently scored. The visiting backs made the mistake of adopting an overdeep defensive system; a practice which on one occasion permitted Des Barchard to break 20 yards from the scrum base and in-pass to his forwards, who sent Edwards across.

There wasn't a failure in the Old Boys XIII. The perfect understanding of the halves, Des Barchard and Laurie Rae, was a significant factor in the victory. Barchard dis-

In their finest display of the tour the Western Suburbs vanguard provided the key to victory, being far more enterprising, powerful and rugged than their adversaries. Their superior weight also considerably aided the reduction of the Marist sextet to relative impotency.

The Old Boys' rearguard produced some magnificent football. Faced with overwhelming odds, in that their forwards carried three pass-engers, the chain bore the brunt of the Black and White assaults, but was quick to riposte with brilliant thrusts which brought three lovely tries. Barchard, Rae, Kirwan and Fisher often slashed the opposition defence to ribbons, and with forward support would have won the match. Edwards and O'Leary performed their tasks well and Brockliss although on several occasions he lapsed in waiting for the ball to bounce.

W. Grotte, Davidson and Mills adhered courageously to a torrid task, while the other three became less and less useful; in fact, they appeared not to relish the assignment at any stage.

Early in the game Pat Kirwan scored a dazzling try when he burst clean through the opposition defence. At this stage the Greens appeared to hold the whip-hand, the inside backs handling particularly well and providing the wings with numerous opportunities. Just prior to the interval glorious play by Rae, Kirwan and Fisher allowed the last-named to collect the try of the match.

In the second spell the Sydney-siders revealed their best combination and fast, clever movements often had the Old Boys in difficulties. The Magpie forwards monopolised proceedings and the scintillating union of Keith Holman, Frank Stanmore (both future Kangaroos) and Eric Bennett, produced two sparkling tries. A strong wind which prevailed in this spell was of benefit to the visitors, whose inside backs used a clever kick to beat the speedy Marist cover defence.

In the final minute the New Zealand champions had a glorious opportunity to save the game, when Vic Barchard raced into the clear with McLeod and Curran in support, however, to the dismay of the large crowd the final pass to Jim Edwards, who was unmarked, was ruled forward by the referee, Mr. McIver, therefore the match concluded with the scoreboard showing Western Suburbs 19, Marist Bros 15.

Tries were obtained for Marist by Kirwan, Fisher and Edwards while Brockliss converted two and kicked a penalty goal. Keith Holman (2) and Bennett registered tries for the visitors with Keato converting two and kicking three penalties.

The Green thirteen was the same as that which vanquished Runanga while the Western Suburbs team was—

Fullback: W. Keato; Three-quarters: C. Hudson, J. Lackey (replaced by E. Worner), E. Bennett, L. Rodda; Halves: F. Stanmore, K. Holman; Forwards: J. Walsh (captain), W. Rawlinson, W. Horder, K. Hansen, J. Seery, D. Milton.

During 1948 our Second Division team shaped promisingly while the performances of our Junior thirteen were a source of considerable disappointment to the Club: lack of fitness and failure to attend training being cardinal factors in their often deplorable displays. The Third B side, although not completely successful nevertheless took pride of place. They annexed their No. 2 section, thence were defeated by the No. 1 section winners, Pt. Chevalier, in two clashes for the championship proper, by 11 points to 7 and 7 points to 4.

In the knock-out final the team fell to City by 14 to 12. At Western Springs Stadium on June 26th, the boys encountered City B; a match about which the Rugby League Gazette had this to say: "The Third Grade fixture won by Marist, 12-2, was producing very good football until an unfortunate set or circumstances culminated in the game being abandoned. After the interval

some of the City players commenced to pay more attention to opponents than to the ball; the referee let many illegalities go past and eventually lost control; spectators became incensed and the upshot was an impossible situation which was certainly no credit to the "League Code". By their reluctance to engage in fisticuffs and their coolness under temptation, the Marist lads earned distinction for themselves and for their Club. Included in this team were:— Pat Scurrah, Ray Keenan, Fergie Kirwan, Jimmy Loftus, N. Finnegan, John Dunn, Bernie Walsh, McDermott, Bill Goulin, Ray Anderson, H. Moore, McIndoe, O'Sullivan and Tilby. Rep honours were gained by Keenan, Kirwan, Loftus, McIndoe and Scurrah.

In the Schoolboy ranks the Opens captured the knock-out; the Senior Colts, after taking their section honours finished the championship proper as runners up to Pt Chevalier, who were successful in the other division, however, in the knock-out final, the Green and Golds vanquished their formidable rivals by 5 points to 3. The Seven-a-side A's finished on top of the Central Group while the C's occupied fourth place, and the B's fifth. Star of the B VII was a little fellow named Brian Reidy.

By 1948 the award of a Dickson Medal was the cherished desire of every player who placed the game above all else. These medallions were presented annually by Mr. J. F. W. Dickson, a vice-patron of the A.R.L., to the Senior, Junior and Schoolboy exponent, considered to have most delineated the qualities of sportsmanship, manhood and ability, throughout the season. How proud was the Marist Club when it was announced that Pat Kirwan and Emmett Leach, had been adjudged the respective winners of the Senior and Schoolboy sections?

#### 1949

On April 2nd 6,000 spectators watched a series of trial matches inaugurate the new season. The 1948

champions commenced in fine fashion with a 10 points to 3 victory over Ponsonby. Several new players wore the Green jersey — amongst them C. McNamara, George Gardiner (son of the former Marist, Ponsonby and Kiwi rep) and former North Auckland All Black triallist, Peter Dormer.

The following Saturday Marist drew the bye and as no competition matches were decided over Easter week, it was not until April 23rd that the Greens entered the championship proper. However, it was a happy introduction as Otahuhu was trounced by 23 points to 3, although misfortune struck Pat Kirwan, who sustained a cracked collarbone, and Vic Barchard, who received six stitches in a leg. Bill Goulin was the new breakthrough.

In our next clash, that with Pt. Chevalier, the controversial colour question again arose, and in response to spectators' cries of "change the jerseys", the Green and Whites donned Mt. Albert colours for the second spell. No matter what their garb the Chevaliers proved a superior combination and took the honours by 22 points to 9. In the first quarter they scored five unconverted tries.

A lack of co-ordination in the inside backs proved the destroyer in our 12-14 defeat at Mt. Albert's hands, however, this fault was remedied to such good effect, that in our subsequent engagement the North Shore XIII was outclassed by 29 points to 11. Ray Keenan was proving an able substitute for Pat Kirwan.

For their next encounter the Greens trekked to Papakura, where an exciting last minute try brought victory over City by 19 points to 14.

The contest between Marist and the unbeaten leaders, Richmond, took place on May 28th, when the brilliant Maroon and Blues were shocked by the sterling endeavours of the Irish, and were fortunate to emerge triumphant by 6 points to 2. A very heavy ground ensured a dour, desperate struggle—a battle which saw the Marist sextet dispute every minute of the torrid forward tussle, to finish with the honours, and the Green rear-guard reveal superb cover defence.

The second Richmond try which occurred late in the second spell proved one of the most controversial ever scored on the ground, being hotly debated by players and spectators alike. Abby Graham kicked beyond the Marist goal-line and the ball was dangerously close to the dead-ball line when Tommy Baxter dived to touch down. Baxter seemed not to touch the ball with his hand and a section of the crowd claimed that the leather was out of bounds when contact was made. Referee Mr Jack O'Shammessey however, had no doubts for he awarded a try. A prolonged demonstration of hooting greeted the referee's decision and was repeated at the conclusion of the match. During this game Des Barchard's immaculate handling of the slippery ball was astonishing.

The following week the dead-ball line was again in the news when the Greens drew 15 all with Northcote in the principal attraction. Ten minutes from time Marist held a commanding 8 points lead, then the Black and Golds scored two tries to obtain the draw. The last try was registered right on time when a foolish mistake by Don McLeod cost victory. The ball was rolling about in the Marist in-goal area and only required to be kicked dead by the attendant McLeod, however, he hesitated and Jack Lepper dived to touch down.

On the King's Birthday, the Ivan Culpun Testimonial match was staged as a tribute to the many outstanding accomplishments of the gentleman and great administrator, who had held the post of A.R.L. secretary during the period from 1918 until 1948. Eugene O'Leary appeared for an Auckland Colts XIII which accounted for South Auckland by 23 points to 6.

In the last series of the round the Irish, in a spirited display, downed Ponsonby by 24 points to 14.

On June 18th, Injured Players' Day, the powerful unbeaten Richmond thirteen defeated the Rest of Auckland by 18 points to 12. Marist representatives in the latter XIII were O'Leary, D. Barchard and Davidson.

The Greens ushered in the second round with a 16-12 defeat of Otahuhu.

Jim Edwards and Vic Barchard, were both back on deck after long periods on the sideline with injuries.

On Monday, July 4th, a New Zealand Herald paragraph informed Aucklanders that the Marist Bros Rugby League Club was to establish its headquarters at Cornwall Park, having accepted an offer from the A.R.L. of use of a ground in the park area; an offer that came at an opportune time and would solve a difficult problem which had been a headache to the Club executive for a number of years.

The ensuing Saturday saw the Queen City thirteen surmount a stirring West Coast challenge to be ahead at the bell by 9 points to 3. Davidson and D. Barchard wore the Blue and White.

First round defeats were avenged by the Greens in their next two encounters, with Pt. Chevalier going under by 18 points to 10 and Mt. Albert by 13 points to 12. In the first mentioned clash the scrummaging was so deplorable that the referee, Mr. A. Pearson, ordered the hookers, Davidson and J. Herring, to assume the positions. Against Mt. Albert the Old Boys led by 13 points to nil with 15 minutes remaining, however, the Blue and Golds in a glorious recovery registered four unconverted tries; indeed Dick Shadbolt scored the last near the posts right on time, and defeat beckoned for the Irish, however, the greasy ball slid off Alan Wiles' boot and Marist was safe. Don McLeod, in this match was awarded an obstruction try.

On July 30th the Wellington representatives graced Carlaw Park and although they were conquered by 23 points to 8, they nonetheless provided stout opposition for an Auckland thirteen which included Des Barchard. On the same afternoon at Huntly, Rae, Dormer and Davidson were members of the Auckland B team which trounced South Auckland by 32 points to 5.

Flushed with success the Old Boys continued their triumphal march, by vanquishing firstly North Shore 21-16, and then City 31-13 after being 6 points in arrears at the interval.



At this period twenty years ago stiff-arm tackles were considered a dangerous practice and a cause for concern.

The second placed Greens encountered Richmond on August 20th and to the amazement of all were annihilated by 45 points to 6, although ignominy was greatly aided in this instance by the loss through injury of both wingers, Eugene O'Leary and Brendon Curran (back from Wellington), early in the second spell. Vic Barchard and Ken Mills were transferred from the pack to the respective flanks, thus a four man scrum was left to continue what was already a losing battle. The Greens trailed 6-11 at oranges and failed to score a try. In spite of their misfortune it would have taken a tremendous team to overcome the Richmond XIII, which comprised:— M. Cooke (son of the immortal Bert), H. Moore, T. Baxter, M. Robertson, D. Redmond, A. Graham, O. Stewart, W. Spence, M. Smith, C. Hurdell, G. Burgoyne, S. Rogers, A. Laird.

The succeeding Saturday saw Marist defeat Northcote by 15 points to 10. Cliff Harris and Leo Kelly made their Senior A debuts while Trevor White gained admirers with a fine display in the pack. This match served as the curtain-raiser to the interprovincial clash between Auckland and Canterbury. Des Barchard again sported the Blue and White jersey and the Garden City XIII was conquered by 37 points to 22.

In the ultimate Fox Memorial Shield series, Marist comfortably defeated the wooden spooners, Ponsonby, by 34 points to 19, and as Pt. Chevalier upset Richmond, the Irish thus captured the Sayegh Shield by registering the most championship points in the second round. In the complete competition the Greens finished in second position, three points behind Richmond.

On September 10th, the North Island XIII trounced the Mainlanders by 38 points to 18. Des Barchard wore the Black jersey until the interval when injury compelled his retirement. George Davidson appeared for a Possibles selection which defeated the Probables by 31 points to 20.

The following Saturday brought the opening round of the Silver Wyan-dotte, and the Greens gained a somewhat fortuitous victory over City by 22 points to 18. The Red and Blacks led 18-12 early in the second spell, at which stage they had the misfortune to lose Doug Gibson, whereupon Marist assumed command.

Richmond a week later administered the quietus by 15 points to 10. On this occasion the champions were not permitted to run riot, their star-studded combination being repeatedly forced into errors. The Marist backs persistently attempted blindside manoeuvres although cramped for room; this foolish practice spelling their doom. Morrie Brockliss demonstrated why he was considered Auckland's most consistent goal kicker by landing 5 penalties, a performance which meant that for the third successive occasion the Old Boys had failed to score a try against Richmond. This day, September 24th, saw Auckland's first trolley bus service (Herne Bay) commence operations.

Two days later George Davidson took the field at the Wanganui Collegiate school for a Southern Provinces thirteen which succumbed to the touring Australians by 17 points to 15. The following Saturday Australia trounced Auckland by 36 points to 18. Davidson hooked for the Queen City XIII which included 8 members of the Richmond Club — four backs and four forwards. In their next encounter the tourists thrashed a Northern Provinces XIII at Whangarei by 39 points to 9. Peter Dormer appeared for the local team.

At Carlaw Park on October 8th, the Kangaroos squared the series by taking the Second Test, 13-10. George Davidson wore New Zealand colours while Dormer was a reserve. A fortnight before in Wellington, the Kiwis had been successful by 26 points to 21. On Monday, October 10th the Australians concluded their 10 match tour with a decisive 30-16 victory over an Auckland Colts side which included Jack Fisher and Vic Barchard. Keith Froomes' Kangaroos introduced to Auckland arenas one of history's greatest footballers, in Clive Churchill — "The Little Master".

Our stay in the Phelan Shield proved evanescent for City expiated for their previous reverses and deservedly vanquished the Greens by 16 points to 6.

On October 22nd, the 1949 season was terminated with the staging of the Champion of Champions encounter between Richmond and Marist. A week earlier the Maroon and Blues had snared the "Rooster" by defeating Pt. Chevalier 23-8. In the Stormont Shield clash the champions made a remarkable recovery after being two points in arrears with only 10 minutes of play remaining. They registered two splendid tries in rapid succession thanks to the inspired handling of the Green backs and the alertness of Tommy Baxter, who snapped up dropped passes on both occasions, and flew across before the defence had time to recover. Richmond fielded five Juniors, including Sel Belsham and Jim Riddell, while Marist too, was not at full strength, and for ten minutes of the second spell was deprived of the services of skipper Tommy Rae, who sustained a head injury which required off-field attention. The Maroon and Blues' 24 points to 14 success enabled them to capture the 'treble' and emulate their predecessors of 1934.

Although the Greens were plagued by injuries throughout the season — such key players as Pat Kirwan, Jimmy Edwards, Eugene O'Leary, Des Barchard, Bill Goulin and Vic Barchard, being side-lined for considerable periods — this in no way detracts from Richmond's performance for the Maroon and Blues were unquestionably the finest team in New Zealand. Championships were won for the Club by the Senior Thirds (a new grade), the Junior Schoolboys and the Seven-a-side A schoolboys, coached by Messrs E. Markey, P. Young and W. Schultz respectively. The two latter teams also captured knock-outs.

The Senior Thirds comprised:— B. Lyall, B. Walsh, M. George, H. Gleeson, L. Kelly, N. Finnegan, S. Bennett, P. Kirwan, B. Finlayson, P. Keenan, R. Keenan, F. Kirwan (capt), P. Scourrah, J. Dunn, C. Harris, J. Loftus, O. Timmins, J. Muir, R. Skel-

ton (manager), W. Murphy (assistant manager).

Our sparkling Seven-a-side A's included:— Paul Schultz (capt), Des Fletcher, John Kenny, Keith Matheson, Barry Logan, G. Wright, T. O'Brien and Brian Reidy. The last named attained Auckland representative honours against North Auckland.

B. Maddigan and N. Maloney, were honoured with selection in the Auckland Senior Schoolboys Side which retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield in the tournament at New Plymouth.

Teams from St. Benedict's, St. John's and St. Patrick's Convents also participated in the Schoolboys' competition. 1968 Senior Reserve coach, Allan Bacon, was a member of the St. Pat's Midgets seven.

#### 1950

At its annual general meeting the Club accepted with the deepest regret, the resignation of Mr. Jack Kirwan, from the office of hon. secretary; a position which he had filled so capaciously and competently for a period of 18 years. In recognition of his splendid efforts the former Kiwi centre was elevated to life membership. Mr. Kirwan's services, however, were not lost to the Club for he continued to fill the role of delegate to the Senior Officers Assn. The hon. treasurer, Mr. Eric Hurst, was elected as Mr. Kirwan's successor. Mr. Pat Young was appointed Senior Coach Mr. R. Leech, Senior Masseur and Mr. E. Lyall, Senior Manager while the Management Committee was to comprise Messrs. J. Ball (chairman), R. de Thierry, K. Lipscombe, R. Dempsey, R. Grantley and W. Schultz.

Saturday, April 15th witnessed the inception of the 1950 season. At Western Springs Stadium the Old Boys in an encouraging enterprising exhibition outplayed Ponsonby to the tune of 23 points to 7. Skipper Des Barchard, led his backs in constructive movements which gave Jim Edwards a chance to show his pace and collect 4 tries. Former North

Shore and Eastern Suburbs (Sydney) star, Eric Chatham impressed at stand-off half.

The following week the Greens encountered Mt. Albert in the principal attraction at Carlaw Park. Although Ken Mills received his marching orders from Mr. McIver early in the second spell, this circumstance did not deter the Irish, who drew level at 11 all with ten minutes to go, however, Mt. Albert had the last say when a glorious individual try by Bob Hayward, who swerved past several dozing defenders from 10 yards out allowed the Blue and Golds to take the honours by 16 points to 11. Illegal tactics adopted by the rival hookers, Roff and Davidson, marred the match as a spectacle. Of fifty scrums set, only twenty-two proved decisive — twelve being won by Davidson and ten by Roff.

The curtain-raiser at the Park on April 29th was between North Shore and Marist and both teams treated the fans to a delightful exhibition before the Greens triumphed by 16 points to 13. A feature of the match was the excellent goal kicking of Les Pye and Verdum Scott for Shore and Des Barchard for Marist. Morrie Brockliss injured his knee in the early stages and was replaced by Fergie Kirwan, who performed admirably.

A week later the Greens in another brilliant display, trounced City by 39 points to 11. George Davidson amassed 21 points from one try, five conversions and four penalties. In their next engagement Marist vanquished the unbeaten Richmond side by 19 points to 15, to achieve their first success over the Maroon and Blues since August 9th, 1947. With ten minutes to go, side Richmond held a 6 points lead and appeared certain winners, however, Marist rose to the occasion in superb style, scored two converted tries and secured a popular victory. The wizardry generated by the Barchard-Rae combination proved a decisive factor, while the Irish sextet produced probably the finest exhibition of forward play seen at the

Park, since the performance of the South Island vanguard, two years before. The triumphant Marist XIII was:— F. Kirwan, J. Edwards, C. Harris, P. Kirwan, J. Fisher, T. Rae, D. Barchard, W. Goulin, P. Dormer, P. Hoelt, K. Mills, G. Davidson, D. McLeod.

In direct contrast to the Richmond match the Greens were lethargic against Northcote and very fortunate to escape with a 12 all draw. Only their fitness enabled them to effect a spirited recovery and avert defeat.

The final series of the round brought the Old Boys a 13-11 success over the unpredictable Pt. Chevalier thirteen. With a draw and a loss the Greens shared second place with Richmond, one point behind Mt. Albert. Carlaw Park was now embellished by imposing new entrance gates, office accommodation and public amenities.

The members of the Senior Officers Assn. had been so thrilled by the Richmond-Marist clash of May 13th, that they requested the two clubs to stage a special match in aid of the Injured Players Fund, on Saturday, June 3rd. Another exhilarating exposition ensued and the scoreboard showed 12 all with two minutes remaining, however, the ubiquitous Des Barchard, broke cleverly from a scrum, passed to Jack Fisher, who had revealed nice positional play in moving from the wing into the stand-off half position, and Fisher cracked on the pace before sending Jim Edwards across for a classic try, to give the Greens an exciting 15-12 victory. Marist deserved their success as throughout the match they had revealed superior tactics to the Maroon and Blues. At the conclusion of the game the A.R. L. chairman, Mr. Dave Wilkie, congratulated both teams on a sterling display, and presented a silver cup donated by Mr. T. Davis, to Des Barchard. Each Marist player received a miniature of the cup.

In the curtain-raiser the Auckland Senior Reserve XIII downed the Auckland Senior Thirds by 13 points to nil. B. Walsh, B. McNeil, D.

Diamond and G. Gardiner appeared for the former selection, while F. Kirwan (captain), A. Reichelmann and M. George were members of the Senior Thirds.

The Old Boys commenced the second round in shaky style when they took a 17-12 decision over lowly Ponsonby, thanks to a rousing rally in the last minutes. Our return bout with Mt. Albert proved a tense, torrid tussle fought in rain, mud and slush and finished in a 9 all draw, while our clash with North Shore on June 24th, brought a victory by 26 points to 11. The following day North Korean forces crossed the 38th parallel and thereby launched another catastrophe upon the world.

Auckland in their first interprovincial fixture of the season thrashed Wellington by 41 points to 4. D. Barchard (captain), Edwards, Davidson and McLeod wore the Blue and White.

A brief return to club competition saw the Greens outclass City by 30 points to 2, and take a one point lead in the championship.

On July 15th Laurie Rae, Des Barchard and George Davidson were members of the North Island XIII which bowed in defeat to the Mainlanders, 12-19. The curtain-raiser saw the Probables (Edwards, McLeod) 31 vanquish the Possibles (Hoelt, Dormer) 11.

Back to club fortunes and a thrilling see-sawing encounter saw the Old Boys and Richmond draw 10 points all. As Mt. Albert defeated North Shore 16-5, the Blue and Golds thus became joint leaders with Marist. The following Saturday the Greens dazzled Northcote to the tune of 38 points to 8; a feat enhanced by the fact that both Davidson and Des Barchard were absent. These two great players performed herculean tasks in New Zealand's glorious 16-10 victory over Great Britain in the First Test, at the Addington Showgrounds, Christchurch.

On Saturday, August 5th, Great Britain defeated Auckland by 26 points to 17. Marist had 4 representatives in the Queen City thirteen, in Edwards, D. Barchard, McLeod and

Davidson. A week later 22,000 Aucklanders — delirious with delight — watched a magnificent Kiwi team subdue the Lions by 20 points to 13. Des Barchard (at stand-off half) and George Davidson, both gave grand performances, however, the fantastic combination of Haig and Hardwick, bewildered the visitors and played the dominant role in the eventual outcome. Ernest Ashcroft and Dickie Williams were British stars to remember. Twenty-six years had passed since New Zealand had taken a rubber from Great Britain — the one Test in 1946 excluded.

In the last club series of the second round the Greens, playing in Blue jerseys, survived a second spell onslaught from Pt. Chevalier, and ran out victors by 14 points to 10 to retain the Sayegh Shield. As Mt. Albert defeated Richmond by 7 points to 4 the Blue and Golds and Marist thus finished equal first in the championship, however, the A.R.L. decided that a play-off was necessary: this crucial contest eventuating on August 26th.

George Davidsons loss through injury in the opening minutes proved a terrible blow to the Greens, particularly when the opposing hooker happened to be Roy Roff. Don McLeod assumed the role of rake, although, understandably, without success. In the first spell the Mt. Albert backs, with the exception of Terry Nixon, revealed little constructive football, while their Green counterparts tended to overkick; factors which, when allied to the Marist vanguards' persistent unsuccessful attempts to barge through the defence, made the game a dull spectacle.

Just after the interlude Ken Mills retired, so the Old Boys' chances considerably deteriorated. However, such was the resolution and courage that they displayed, that Mt. Albert's lead was reduced to 12-9; at which juncture Pat Kirwan, had a glorious opportunity to put his team ahead. Alas! Marist supporters were mortified when Pat elected to kick with four unmarked team-mates in attendance. The Mt. Albert forwards then regained control and dominated pro-

ceedings until the game's conclusion, when the scoreboard showed: Mt. Albert 15, Marist Bros. 9. Darby Diamond shaped well in his initial Senior A appearance.

The ensuing Saturday saw an Auckland XIII, including Laurie Rae, defeat South Auckland by 29 points to 26. At this period an Auckland side toured south, vanquishing Wellington, 13-10; Canterbury, 17-8; and losing to West Coast, 5-8.

The battle for possession of the Roope Rooster took place on September 23rd, with the combatants being Mt. Albert and Marist: the Greens having reached the final by means of victories over North Shore by 28 points to 23, and Ponsonby by 21 points to 13. At the call of time the scoreboard revealed that both teams had registered nine points, therefore two extra five minute spells were played. On the third minute of the latter spell, the tight Marist defence cracked, and Roy Roff created a beautiful opening, transferred to Alan Wiles, who consolidated the position in a delightful 30-yard dash, thence sent Rod Seymour over between the posts to give the Blue and Golds the "Bird" by 14 points to 9.

The League News carried the following resume:

"Three men must take the credit for the success of their club in the 1950 Roope Rooster. Hayward, Taylor and Nixon turned on a display of rock-like defence the like of which has not been seen on the Park in club matches this year. Marist found that these three were just impassable

despite all the variety of moves which the Greens turned on. For excitement the game could not be surpassed, but for good Rugby League football, well 'Front Row' considers that the best League team lost. Marist are always endeavouring to play bright and open football, but the style of the Mount team does not permit of this. Also, it once or twice appeared that Marist had all the cards stacked against them".

The Mt. Albert hoodoo was proving a difficult one to overcome, however, the Greens had one final chance to vanquish their rivals, when the two teams clashed the following Saturday in the Champion of Champions contest.

The Marist backs commenced in enterprising fashion treating the spectators to a delightful display of bright, clever football, and registering the first points when Eric Chatham crossed after a splendid combined movement. The superior hooking of George Davidson, was presenting the Old Boys in general, Des Barchard in particular, with many opportunities to exhibit their talents. Just before the interlude a glorious blind-side movement, initiated by Des Barchard and completed by Pat Kirwan, yielded the finest try of the match.

Following the resumption the Blue and Golds made a grand recovery, with their vanguard controlling the loose play and bringing tries by Bailey and Ra Rogers. However, with the Greens ahead by 15 points to 10, the Barchard-Kirwan combination struck again. The latter

raced around the blind-side of a scrum, accepted Barchard's pass, drew the startled defence, and sent the supporting Laurie Rae across for a lovely try, to place the issue almost beyond doubt. Right on time, the Mt. Albert scrum-half, Bill Tocker, collected a try which was converted by Roy Moore to make the final position: Marist Bros. 18; Mt. Albert 15.

Although Mt. Albert produced easily their most attractive exposition of their series against the Greens, they found their opponents just a little too clever on the day. The successful Marist thirteen, which by its persistence, finally won the smile of Lady Luck, was: M. Brockliss, E. Chatham, J. Fisher, T. Rae, J. Edwards, P. Kirwan, D. Barchard (capt.), W. Goulin, B. Finlayson, D. Diamond, K. Mills, G. Davidson, D. McLeod. For the first time since 1937 the Marist Club was the proud possessor of the William Stormont Memorial Shield.

A week later the West Coast and South Island champions, Blackball, trounced Mt. Albert by 35 points to 15, to take the New Zealand club premiership.

The 1950 season was terminated on October 14th, when an Auckland thirteen, including Edwards, Fisher, P. Kirwan, Davidson and Goulin, thrashed an ex Kiwis team, containing Johnny Anderson, by 29 points to 2.

Our Senior Reserves enjoyed a highly satisfactory season filling the runners-up position in both the

## 1951-1957: THE INAUSPICIOUS YEARS

On Saturday and Monday, March 24th and 26th, 1951, the initial New Zealand Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Clubs Easter tournament for the Reverend Father J. Duffy Cup, was staged at Carlaw Park under the auspices of the Auckland Marist Club, the initiators of the venture. The participants in this exciting innovation — now a highlight of the the Rugby League calendar — were Auckland A, Wellington, Greymouth and Auckland B. On the Saturday the favoured Auckland A XIII trounced Wellington by 41 points to 13, with Jim Edwards brilliant and the Kirwan brothers impressive, while the powerful Grey-

championship and knock-out. The team was selected from: N. Finnegan, D. Diamond, J. Dunn, B. McNeil, G. Gardiner, V. Gaffaney, T. White, K. Shaw, J. Walsh, W. Glover, L. Kelly, R. Herewani, J. O'Sullivan, B. Moody, R. Katipa, P. Summers, S. Bennett, C. Milnes, K. Hughes, G. Edwards.

The Senior Thirds, who did not achieve the same success as in 1949, comprised: Paul Keenan, Ray Keenan, C. McNamara, M. George, B. Finlayson, C. Duffy, M. Stace, N. Brennan, B. Sheridan, J. Beresford, D. Grantley, P. Brennan, E. Thorpe, P. Scurreh, C. Kruse, T. Scurreh, Alan Reichelmann, P. Mills, A. Williams, B. Lyall, O. Timmins, B. James, W. Huckstep.

Our Fourths finished second-to-last; the Fifths filled seventh place; and the Sixths occupied the runners-up berth, in company with Pt. Chevalier.

In the Schoolboy legions no championships were annexed, however, the Junior A team captured the knock-out. Included in this side were: Paul Schultz, George Hogg, P. Waterman, N. Rodgers, B. Schultz, J. Kenny and Brian Reidy.

The Senior Schoolboys' provincial competition for the Amalgamated Theatres Shield was decided at Greymouth. Marist representatives in the unconquered Auckland team were: T. Markey and M. Lovrich.

Our Seven-a-side F's and Midgets both won their sections, but were unsuccessful in the play-offs.

guard, who, after 55 minutes of venomous tackling finally wilted under the imposition, to allow the Mainlanders to dominate the concluding quarter and emerge victors by 18 points to 11. In the last minute Greymouth was awarded a penalty try. The curtain-raiser saw Wellington down Auckland B by 19 points to 7.

Throughout the tournament the new penalty rule was in operation,

whereby the kick was taken from the mark where the offence occurred, and not from a distance behind. Consequently two members of the offending side were no longer required to stand on the spot.

On April 7th a series of trial matches raised the curtain on what promised to be an eventful season. The Greens, in a delightful romp outclassed City-Newton — the two eminent old clubs having been forced by declining fortunes to amalgamate — by 30 points to 8. For the first time since the Park was opened in 1921, the price of admittance to ordinary club fixtures, was raised from one shilling to one shilling and sixpence.

A week later the competition began in earnest and the biggest opening day crowd since 1946, watched the principal attraction between Ponsonby and Marist, in which the Greens amassed 35 points to their opponents 18. The speedy Marist inside backs co-ordinated in dazzling fashion to give the dashing Jim Edwards, many chances to display his capabilities. The triumphant thirteen was:— M. Brockliss, J. Edwards, J. Fisher, F. Kirwan, W. Harris, P. Kirwan, D. Barchard, W. Goulin, K. Mills, P. Dormer, F. Malloy (replaced by P. Hoeffl), G. Davidson, D. McLeod. Malloy was a member of the West Coast Marist team which had won the Easter tournament. New jerseys were also in vogue — Green with two Gold Vees.

In our next engagement, that with Pt. Chevalier at Western Springs the Green and Whites were successful by 16 points to 9, their spoiling tactics considerably disrupting the Marist rearguard's performance. R. Cornes appeared on the flank.

A hat-trick of Carlaw Park principal attractions thence eventuated, the Old Boys encountering Richmond, Mt. Albert and Northcote in that order. Against Richmond, Marist registered a meritorious 12-10 success; a match highlighted by the persistent neck tackling of Tommy Baxter, the overshadowing of Bevan Hough by Jim Edwards, and the remarkable form of the young vet-

eran, Don McLeod. The Mt. Albert clash saw the Blue and Golds snatch a sensational last minute victory by 16 points to 15. With 5 minutes of play remaining and several thousand spectators having departed from the scene the Irish led by 15-6, however, their opponents in the space of 4 minutes collected two converted tries, the second being scored by Roy Roff in the corner. It was a game of lost chances for Marist. The last match of the trinity brought a 14-18 loss and the following comments of the League News: "The work of Northcote's forwards especially and the team as a whole, was most creditable, and more similar performances should see the Black and Golds well up the ladder before long. In contrast, several Marist forwards not only robbed their side of victory but also damaged personal prospects for higher honours. Rugby League is a game of bright open play, not of barging and stodgily lying on the ball. Marist turned on some dazzling back play. They have probably the best back line in the Code, and it is a pity to see their efforts nullified by the actions of several of the forwards, who hang and indulge in barging and little else".

In the Pt. Chevalier v Ponsonby curtain-raiser to the Northcote match, the Pt. Chevalier skipper, Bob Robertson, pioneered the use of contact lenses by Rugby League players in New Zealand.

Marist concluded the first round in magnificent manner, by massacring North Shore by 56 points to 10 and trouncing City-Newton by 28 points to 5. In the first mentioned encounter Brockliss scored 20 points from 8 conversions and two penalties. A new face against City-Newton was M. Heremal.

Between the two matches Auckland met and defeated Canterbury by 26 points to 13. Edwards, Barchard and Davidson wore the Blue and White. In the curtain-raiser a Probables XIII containing Harris, F. Kirwan and Mills vanquished a Possibles selection, including McLeod, Dormer and Goulin, by 23 points to 13.

The commencement of the second round brought a 6-15 loss at the hands of Ponsonby, while in the following series the Greens gained retribution with a 19 points to 8 victory over Pt. Chevalier.

Representative fixtures were again in vogue and Auckland vanquished firstly West Coast 19-6, then Wellington 12-3. Edwards, Barchard and Davidson appeared in both matches, and Harris against Wellington.

Betwixt the rep games Marist encountered the joint leaders, Richmond, and after a stirring contest went under 5-11. The Old Boys dominated the last half-hour of play yet were unable to reduce their opponents' lead. Favoured with a liberal supply of the ball the Green backs were frequently halted on the verge of scoring. The forwards played well while the rearguard lacked a match-winner, although Fergie Kirwan was brilliant on attack, Star of the Richmond side was the 18 year old Bruce Robertson.

On July 7th an exciting Marist-Mt. Albert clash ended with the Blue and Golds ahead by 21 points to 17. In an entertaining exhibition each side registered three tries. Mt. Albert, in the opening quarter went to a 10 points to 2 lead, and appeared to have the game at their mercy, however, a dramatic transformation then ensued when the Greens scored two dazzling tries to draw level. Firstly, Edwards, raced over following pretty play by Fergie Kirwan, who, was also instrumental in his brother's try when he waltzed through the defence before sending Pat away on a thrilling 60 yards dash, hotly pursued by Tocker and Nixon. At a much later stage when Mt. Albert looked certain winners, Fergie, with two dazzling dashes almost pulled the game out of the fire. Bernie Walsh appeared in the Marist three-quarters.

The following Saturday brought the final trials for the selection of the New Zealand team for the forthcoming tour of England, Wales and France. The North Island XIII vanquished the Mainlanders by 13 points to 7, while the Probables defeated the Possibles by 11 points

to 9. Marist representatives were: Edwards, Barchard, Davidson (Nth. Island); F. Kirwan (Probables); Harris (Possibles).

The promulgation of the fortunate twenty-six revealed the selection of three Marist men, in Edwards, Barchard and Davidson — the two latter being veterans of the preceding tour. The selectors, after choosing twenty-five members, deliberated for a further two hours on whether to include Auckland's Fergie Kirwan, Taranaki's Ron McKay, or Wellington's Johnny Dodd. They finally gave the nod to the Wellingtonian. The unlucky Ferg, thus missed in a photo-finish, the adventure of a life time and the chance to emulate the deeds of his father, of a quarter-century before.

A return to club matches brought victories over Northcote 9-3 and North Shore 28-12.

On Saturday, August 4th, 27,000 spectators, bubbling with enthusiasm, packed Carlaw Park to watch the Auckland debut of the first French Rugby League touring team: the incomparable, controversial, unpredictable, sparking Chanticleers, who had captivated Australian audiences and captured the Ashes from the Kangaroos, with 26-15 and 35-14 victories against a 13-23 loss.

No person privileged to be present that fine winter afternoon nearly 18 years ago, could ever forget the many magical moments of one of the most memorable Tests ever decided in the Shaky Isles. Remember: Jim Haig's retirement with a broken jaw 10 minutes after play commenced; French hooker Martin Martins; refusal to leave the field after being dismissed early in the second spell, by Mr. Jack Griffen, and the consequent stoppage of play for 5 minutes until the tourists' manager, Antoine Blain, intervened and ejected the culprit; the Kiwi stand-off half, George Menzies, after a dream Test debut, carried off with concussion in the final minutes; and Des White's glorious, dramatic time-up side-line penalty, to allow New Zealand to turn a 14-15 deficit into a deserved 16-15 victory? The Kiwi hooker was George Davidson.

The following Monday proved conclusively that Aucklanders had been enraptured by the antics of the Tricolours, for no less than 29,000 citizens (how many grandmothers were laid to rest that afternoon) crammed Carlaw Park to witness the visitors' clash with the powerful Auckland thirteen. In an excellent, efficient exposition, devoid of temperamental outbursts, the Frenchmen lowered the colours of the Queen City side by 15 points to 10. Edwards, Barchard (Capt) and Davidson appeared for the losers. This greatest of all French teams introduced many colourful characters, including the inimitable fullback, A. Puig-Aubert, the mercurial centre, Jacques Merquay; and the massive yet magnificent second row forwards, Elie Brousse and Edouard Ponsinet.

The excitement of the international over, interest reverted to club level and the last round of the championship. Marist, although without its three Kiwis nevertheless proved too strong for City-Newton and took the honours by 21 points to 12. The Greens finished in third position eight points behind Richmond and Mt. Albert, who were subsequently declared joint winners of the Fox Memorial Shield.

A week later, Fergie Kirwan and Cliff Harris, were members of the Pakeha XIII which conquered the Maoris, including Ken Mills, by 38 points to 30.

Marist's participation in the Roopie Rooster proved ephemeral yet eventful. When the bell rang for full time in our match with Ponsonby, the 'board showed 11 points all, however, in the 20 minutes of extra time the Blue and Blacks added six points to the Old Boys' nil. The Greens were somewhat unfortunate, as twice Pat Kirwan beat the Ponsonby defence only to slip in a mud patch a few yards short. Powerful Ponsonby prop Joe Ratima, was a continual source of danger to the Green fortifications.

Our stay in the Phelan Shield was equally brief for Mt. Albert inflicted a 22 points to 11 defeat. The Blue

and Golds, in the adverse conditions, used high kick and follow tactics to bring success. George Kataovich was included in the Marist pack.

For the Seniors the 1951 season had drawn to an unusually early conclusion, however, 4 weeks later, Fergie Kirwan and Cliff Harris, wore Auckland colours in the Blue and Whites 22 all draw with a capable Taranaki combination, for whom the star performer was a future Marist great in Ron McKay.

Championship annexation came the way of our Intermediate Colts Schoolboy team, which was skipped by Bill Schultz, with Brian Reidy as his second-in-command.

By New Year's Eve Great Britain had vanquished the Kiwis in all three Tests; by 15-21, 19-20, and 12-16 respectively. A consensus of opinion revealed that commensurate with ability the New Zealanders were the superior team in the first two engagements. George Davidson participated in all three Tests, Barchard in the Second, and Edwards in the Third; indeed in the last mentioned encounter the great Marist wing scored a try the first time he handled a ball in a Test match — an unusual and proud distinction.

On Sunday, December 23rd, 35,000 Parisians cheered their brilliant countrymen to an 8-3 triumph over the luckless Pig Islanders, thence at Bordeaux the following Sunday, the Tricolours took the rubber with a decisive 17 points to 7 victory. The Marist trio participated in both matches.

Fortune had indeed been loath to smile on Maurie Robertson's tourists who would therefore return to New Zealand devoid of international success: oh! valiant hearts, no glory to you came.

## 1952

On New Year's Day the Kiwis defeated a Catalans XIII by 20 points to 10 at Perpignan; a match made remarkable by an incident centred on Des Barchard. During the game the New Zealand scrum-half incurred

the referee's displeasure and was ordered from the field for alleged cheating. At a later stage, after the Catalans had scored a try, Des was asked to return to the battle, an invitation he declined.

On Saturday, April 5th, a series of preliminary matches commenced the new Auckland season. Marist encountered Pt. Chevalier in the principal attraction at Carlaw Park and fell victim to the Green and Whites 13-20. Amongst the contenders for Senior honours, Alan Reichelmann, produced an impressive display at inside centre, as did Jack Meates in the pack.

Mr Ray (Twinkletoes) Tanner — a gentleman well-known to players and supporters of the present day — was the new manager of the Senior team, having succeeded Mr Ken Lipscombe. The management committee comprised: Messrs W. Wright, R. Tanner, P. Anderson, W. Feek, A. Blake (president), E. Hirst (Secretary), and A. Tanner (Treasurer); while the schoolboys organiser was Mr Bill Schultz, ably assisted by Mr Mick Hallissey.

Wingham Park, Greymouth, the following Saturday and Sunday, was the scene of the second inter-Marist Easter tournament. In the opening matches Greymouth thrashed Wellington by 52 points to 28 and Auckland slaughtered Christchurch by 42 points to 8. On the Sunday, in the contest for the wooden spoon, Christchurch downed Wellington 15-5 while the clash for the Father Duffy Cup was reviewed by the League News thus: "The final between Greymouth and Auckland was watched by 2,000 people and although Greymouth were favourites, the chances of the Auckland team winning were not taken lightly. From the start Auckland appeared to be a little too anxious to secure possession and incurred the displeasure of the referee, Mr Griffin, in the play-the-ball and scrums. The game was very even to half-time with both Soster and Brockliss missing opportunities to kick goals. P. Kirwan (Auckland) and I. King (Greymouth) both thrilled with dash-ing side-line runs, but the only points

of the half were from a try by Malloy, converted by Soster.

Shortly after the resumption, Bill Goulin was penalised for off-side play and Soster made it 7-nil. The Coasters went further ahead when pretty play by Pascoe, Mundy and Malloy saw the last-mentioned score for Soster to convert. Jack Fisher then collected a brilliant try for Auckland, the outcome of many determined onslaughts and Brockliss added the extras. Soster kicked two more penalties before the conclusion, when the 'board showed: Greymouth 16, Auckland 5."

The vanquished Auckland party included: J. Dunn, R. Anderson, J. Edwards, L. Kelly, J. Fisher, C. Harris, A. Reichelmann, F. Kirwan, P. Kirwan, G. Kataovich, M. Brockliss, D. McLeod, K. Mills, J. Meates, M. Heremai, D. Diamond, W. Goulin and B. Moody.

The Greens began their Fox Memorial Shield quest in an inauspicious vein by going under to Ponsonby 5-13. The combination of the Blue and Black vanguard proved too much for their Marist counterparts, who wilted badly towards the finish and whose fitness was open to question. Pat Kirwan broke a collarbone during the match. In our next encounter, that against North Shore on Carlaw Park No. 2, the Old Boys, after being down 17-nil in the opening 15 minutes, rallied in splendid fashion to over-run their opponents and emerge victors by 35 points to 17. No tries were registered on the main ground that afternoon: the matches between Richmond and Pt. Chevalier and Ponsonby and City-Newton, both ending in 4-all draws.

The following Thursday in a trial match to aid the selection of the North Island team, a Red XIII, including Harris and Davidson, defeated a Blue side, containing Jim Edwards, by 13 points to 11.

On May 3rd in the season's finest exhibition, Marist took the honours from Richmond by the odd point in nineteen. The match was a thriller from go to whoa, indeed in a sensational last-minute bid to avert

defeat the White's winger, Vern Bakalich, actually crossed the Old Boys' line as the bell sounded, but failed to make proper contact with the ground and ball, so a try was lost. Marist deserved its victory, although Richmond was unfortunate to lose Maurice Robertson, who sustained a broken jaw 17 minutes after play began. Alan Reichelmann was brilliant at stand-off half while Des Bar-chard gave a masterly display at scrum-half. The victorious XIII was: J. Dunn, L. Kelly, J. Edwards, C. Harris, J. Fisher, A. Reichelmann, D. Barchard, W. Goulin, G. Katarovich, D. Diamond, D. McLeod, G. Davidson, J. Meates.

In the inter-island clash the Saturday after, the North triumphed by 20 points to 10 while in the curtain-raiser a Red thirteen vanquished the Blues by 33 points to 15. Marist representatives in these fixtures, which served as the final trials for the selection of the New Zealand team for the 12th Australian tour, were Edwards, Davidson (Nth. Island) F. Kirwan, Reichelmann (Red) and Harris (Blue).

The annunciation of the 1952 Kiwis gladdened the hearts of all Marist supporters for the names of Edwards, Reichelmann, Harris and Davidson were included in the fortunate twenty-four.

In our next encounter an insipid exhibition of tackling brought an unexpected 15-29 loss to Northcote.

On May 21st the Club and Code suffered a tragic loss when the Reverend Father Joseph Duffy, passed to his eternal rest at the Lewisham Hospital, Christchurch, while on leave in the Garden City. This reversed Scottish priest was the first chaplain of the Club and the donor of the imposing trophy awarded to the champion team at the inter-Marist Easter tournament.

Three days later the Old Boys vanquished a determined City-New-  
ton XIII, after a tense tussle, by 25 points to 21.

Marist concluded the Rukutai Shield round with two successive losses. Firstly, Mt. Albert — aided immensely by 11 goals from their

promoted Junior fullback, Don Der-bridge — lowered our colours 8-37, thence Pt. Chevalier inflicted a 16-20 defeat, although they had to survive a rousing rally from the Old Boys. Brian Finlayson and Ken Mills had reappeared in the Green and Gold pack while new faces were George Neillson, Hec Firken and Noel Finnegan. The absence of our Kiwis and deflections through injury were extracting their toll.

On June 14th Ken Mills and Darby Diamond appeared for the Maori XIII which was trounced by a Fake-ha side 41-13.

Marist commenced the Sayegh Shield round with a grand performance against the unbeaten Ponsonby team, who were somewhat flattered by their 15-13 success. Both teams handled the greasy ball in brilliant fashion. The dynamic tackling of the young Ponsonby centre, Bill Sorenson, proved a headache to the Greens.

On Thursday, July 3rd the Kiwi gladiators returned in glory having retained the Trans-Tasman Cup with a 2-1 Test advantage over the Kangaroos. For the first time since the All Golds in 1908, a New Zealand side had won a series on Australian soil. Highlight of the tour was unquestionably their wonderful 49-25 victory in the Second Test at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on June 28th. Edwards and Davidson participated in all three Tests.

The First Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground was attended by 56,376 people: to this day the greatest crowd ever to watch a New Zealand Rugby League team in action.

The following Saturday Marist continued their disheartening sequence of defeats, though in this instance they were distressed by the rulings of the referee Mr. D. Graham; a factor that was significant in their 15-17 loss to North Shore. Another blow to Green hopes was the early departure of the old campaigner Don McLeod, who incurred Mr. Graham's displeasure.

In our next engagement Richmond avenged their first round defeat with a victory by the odd point in twenty-nine. The lack of penetration in the inside backs greatly perturbed coach, Pat Young, although the problem was temporarily solved when Fer-gie Kirwan shifted into the line from the fullback position.

On July 12th the great morale-booster eventuated: Lady Luck finally smiled on the Old Boys for in a quagmire at Otahuhu's Sturges Park they deservedly accounted for Northcote by 5 points to 3. The vanguard, spearheaded by Jack Meates, produced their finest performance of the season. This same day the Marist St. Joseph's Convent 7-a-side team vanquished Glenora A by 6 points to nil. Both tries for the winners were scored by Ray Schultz.

Spurred by their success over Northcote the Old Boys then mastered City-Newton by 25 points to 17. A great contribution to the victory was made by George Davidson, who converted one try and landed seven penalties. This match had an interesting aftermath when a deputation from the Marist Club appeared at the A.R.L. meeting the following Wednesday, and stated that during the game Davidson attempted a penalty which both line umpires acknowledged as a goal by raising their flags, however, the referee, Mr. D. Graham, had ruled otherwise. Following an enquiry Mr. Graham admitted his error, stating that he had been under the impression that the linesmen had waved their flags across their bodies to indicate no goal. The A.R.L. upheld the appeal and increased the Marist tally to 25.

Against the second placed Mt. Albert, the Greens rose to the heights and emerged the victors by 14 points to 10. Given a feast of possession by Davidson, the rear-guard ran with purpose and prevented the dangerous Edwards with plenty of chances. Murray Stace gave a sound display as Marist's custodian while his vis-a-vis Roy Moore, with 5 penalties was the Blue and Golds sole points getter.

In the final championship series Marist, after appearing to have the match in safe keeping at the interval, succumbed in the second spell to the relentless onslaughts of the Pt. Chevalier thirteen and finally went under 18-29. Reg de Thierry, Jnr, revealed promise in the three-quarters. For the first time since 1930 Ponsonby captured the championship, while the Greens finished in 6th place — their lowest position since 1946.

On Friday, August 15th the Old Boys Association of the Richmond Club, convened a meeting of all the Senior Clubs with a view to arranging, for the benefit of the Rugby League Code, the formation of Old Boys Associations by each individual club. Marist was represented at the gathering by Mr. W. E. Schultz, who was to recommend to his Club the establishment of a Past Players Association, at the earliest opportunity.

The attention of all clubs was now directed towards the capture of the Silver Wyandotte. The Greens drew the bye in the opening round thence encountered Ponsonby. Tragedy struck Marist in the second spell when Jim Edwards sustained an ankle injury which necessitated his retirement, however, notwithstanding this setback the Old Boys played admirably in the mud-bath, only going under 7-8. The luckless Edwards also had the misfortune to lose a try when the greasy ball slipped from his grasp over the opposition goal-line. Laurie Rae's welcome reappearance restored enterprise and co-ordination amongst the inside backs.

During the preceding week the Auckland touring side, including Edwards, Barchard and Goulin, returned from the south. They defeated Canterbury 18-8 and Wellington 22-18, and succumbed to West Coast 12-19.

Relegated to the Phelan Shield the Greens received an 8-20 hiding from Mt. Albert. The rearguard was presented with numerous opportunities

but failed to capitalise, while the defence crumbled in the face of determined opposition onslaughts.

The curtain descended on the 1952 season on September 27th, when an Auckland thirteen downed a Kiwis team by 22 points to 19. Meates and Goulin appeared for the victors, and Edwards, Davidson and Barchard for the vanquished.

Ponsonby, by conquering Pt. Chevalier 10-2 in the Roope Rooster final, and trouncing Mt. Albert 30-7 in the Champion of Champions contest, had annexed the renowned "treble". In respect of Marist's performance the League News stated: "Marist had a most difficult season mostly through injuries to key men. The loss of the two Kirwans and Harris in this way and the transfer of Reichelmann to Hawkes Bay, meant a complete revision of the backline. Fisher and Barchard have carried on well, while Edwards, although not suited to inside play, has filled the unaccustomed position soundly. Finnegan, de Thierry and McNeil are promising backs. There are still few better front row forwards than the evergreen McLeod, who has performed well throughout this year. With Davidson and Goulin he has carried most of the weight of vanguard work. Meates, Katavich and Diamond are developing slowly".

Sad to relate no titles were captured by the club during the season. Closest to success was our Sixth Grade side which was beaten 8-5 by City-Newton in a play-off for the championship. This team comprised: C. O'Brien, J. Baigent, R. McPhee, K. Tristram, A. Emberson, P. Frost, Wilson, T. Markey (vice-capt), N. Pennycook, E. Samuels, E. Farich (capt), M. Barnes, P. Tounsoon, T. Murfit, T. Rout, D. Foley, M. Purcell, I. McKay, E. Finnigan, B. Kendrick, E. Baigent (manager) J. O'Brien (coach).

Fourth Grade representative honours were bestowed on Neville and Laurie Denton, while Bill Schultz, T. Allison, George Hogg and Dave Mason were members of the Auckland Schoolboy Senior Colts team,

which travelled to Christchurch and retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield. Hogg and Mason appeared for the North Island thirteen and were afterwards selected in a New Zealand fifteen.

## 1953

The inter-Marist Easter tournament at Carlaw Park, inaugurated Auckland's 1953 season. In the Saturday matches Christchurch trounced Wellington 20-2, and Greymouth downed Auckland by the odd point in 11. In the muddy conditions the latter game developed into a struggle amongst the forward packs to retain possession of the greasy ball; a battle in which the Coasters proved superior. Although the Auckland rearguard was always dangerous, dropped passes in its midst halted many movements. Jim Edwards was the best back on the field, while the inside centre Neville Denton, created some clever openings. Jack Meates was the spearhead of the Auckland vanguard, ably assisted by Don McLeod, George Davidson and Bill Goulin.

In the play-off for the wooden spoon Auckland proved too shrewd for Wellington and cruised to a 26 nil victory, in a scrappy exhibition highlighted by much sacks-on-the-mill play. Don Derbridge, who had transferred from Mt. Albert, gave a grand display at fullback. The final saw Christchurch triumph over Grey-mouth by 7 points to 6, thanks to a last minute try by Bill McKenzie, which was converted by Jimmy Haig.

This same week Richmond and Ponsonby clashed in a floodlight fixture at the Epsom Showgrounds, as an Easter Show attraction. The former Marist star Morrie Brockliss, played a prominent part in Richmond's 8-2 success.

As the A.R.L. had decided to intermingle the Roope Rooster and Fox Memorial Shield competitions, the club season therefore commenced on April 11th with the opening round for the "Bird". The new-look Marist side — hard to imagine with-

out the Kirwan brothers, Jack Fisher, Des Barchard and Don McLeod, all of whom had decided to hang up their boots — accounted for North Shore by 16 points to 11. The League News commented thus: "Marist and North Shore provided a bright, open exhibition. Both teams were fit and played the game with zest and in excellent spirit. They lacked, however, the constructive planning and well-timed moves which are essential to win championships. On numerous occasions tries were lost through lack of backing up, and on others through bad handling." The appearance of the Marist XIII drew from our programme scribe the following admonishment: "If you can't sew the members of the ladies' committee would be only too willing to make you a pair of garters".

Mr. A. Cameron was now the Club treasurer while the management committee comprised: Messrs J. Cox, A. Tanner, R. Tanner, W. Schultz, W. Wright, J. Reidy and V. Barchard.

The following week in the opening series of the championship, the Greens again encountered North Shore, who, on this occasion proved the better team and took the honours by 16 points to 12. Weak handling by the Marist halves Dunne and Finnegan, and their slow service through the centres Denton and Harris, to winger Jim Edwards, seriously hampered scoring chances. Finally the skipper George Davidson, tired of these failings and kept play amongst the forwards; a move which nearly turned the tide. Brian James sustained a severe injury in this match.

Our next engagement, which was a championship clash with City-Newton, brought a 22 points to 7 victory. The faults of the previous match had not been rectified, Edwards again being starved.

The second round of the Roope Rooster then eventuated. Marist headed Pt. Chevalier 8-5 at the interlude, however, in the second spell they wilted under the sustained pressure applied by the Green and

White vanguard, and were trounced 11-31. The Maxwell brothers starred for Pt. Chevalier.

On May 16th, Jim Edwards, Jack Meates and George Davidson were members of the Auckland A side which vanquished West Coast by 12 points to 2, and in so doing captured the newly-donated Meates Cup. This trophy was to be the symbol of supremacy between the two provinces. The donor, Mr. W. F. Meates, was the immediate past president of the West Coast Rugby League, as well as being Jack's father. This same day an Auckland B XIII triumphed over South Auckland at Huntly by 22 points to 4. Peter Keenan appeared for the victors.

A week later Marist was overwhelmed by a brilliant Ponsonby team to the tune of 43 points to 8. The Greens played well, however, they had no chance with a Blue and Black XIII which revealed copy-book co-ordination, back and forward. Des White, Doug Clapp, Wally Bouvaired and Bill Sorenson proved a potent, permeative force. The Marist luminary was scrum-half Des Barchard, who had decided to terminate his retirement. The experiment of playing Jim Edwards at stand-off half failed. Neville Denton, at inside centre displayed considerable promise.

Success came to the Greens in their next encounter — a 16-12 defeat of City-Newton in a Phelan Shield match. The previous day the hitherto unconquered Monarch of the Clouds, Mt. Everest, was scaled by New Zealander, Ed Hillary, and Sherpa Tensing.

The following Tuesday, June 2nd was the Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II. The N.Z.R.L.'s contribution to the celebrations was the inter-island match, in which the Mainlanders were successful by 23 points to 20. Edwards and Davidson were members of the vanquished thirteen.

The continuation of the championship saw Otahuhu inflict a 12 nil defeat on the Old Boys, after a scoreless first half.

Two days later parking meters were introduced to the motorists of Auckland.

Marist's dwindling stocks declined still further when Pt. Chevalier cruised to a comfortable 20-10 victory. The League News made the following comments: "For Marist only the big three — Edwards, Barchard and Davidson — played anything like good football. But they alone were not enough to beat Point. Edwards scored twice but other wise saw little of the ball. Barchard was his usual competent self. Davidson hooked the ball monotonously throughout the game, only to see his backs fritter chances."

The following Saturday all competition matches in Auckland were cancelled due to inclement weather, however, at the Addington Showgrounds, Christchurch, New Zealand outplayed Australia to take the First Test by 25 points to 5. George Davidson, who was appointed vice-captain, and Jim Edwards wore the national jersey as they did a week later at the Basin Reserve in Wellington when the Kiwis retained the Trans Tasman Cup with a somewhat fortunate 12-11 victory. Many Kangaroos claimed that the last minute conversion awarded Des White had in fact sailed outside the uprights. In the Queen City the now expected Marist defeat eventuated — a 4-9 reverse at the hands of Richmond.

On July 11th the Australians made their first appearance at Carlaw Park and trounced a lacklustre local thirteen by 26 points to 4. Marist was honoured by the selection in the Blue and White team of Barchard (captain), Davidson (vice-captain) and Meates. In the subsequent Saturday's Third Test at the Park the Kangaroos rallied in remarkable fashion in the last 15 minutes to snatch success by 18 points to 16. Edwards and Davidson once again represented their country. Besides the mercurial skipper, Clive Churchill, Australians that delighted Auckland audiences were: Ken McCaffery, Harry Wells, Keith Holman, Roy Bull, Ken Kearney and Brian Davies.

The internationals over, attention once more turned to the championship tussle and the Greens succumbed to Ellerslie 10-13. Dame Fortune again proved an elusive lady, for Reg de Thierri just missed scoring a try after the final bell sounded, when he fielded a mis-kick by Cyril Eastlake and dived short of the line. By their victory the Red, White and Blues lifted themselves off the bottom rung of the ladder, a position they had occupied with City-Newton and Marist.

Saturday, August 1st, 1953 is another never-to-be-forgotten day in N.Z.R.L. history, for on this afternoon 13,000 spectators watched an entertaining, exhibition style encounter between the United States All Stars and Auckland won by the locals 54-26. Although they lacked knowledge of the games finer points — particularly the art of cover defence — the Americans, by their sportsmanship and willingness to learn, endeared themselves to the crowd and were accorded three hearty cheers as they left the field. Because of their plight as regarded injuries and illness — including a poliomyelitis victim — plus the fact that several players had returned to the United States owing to university and military commitments, the tourists were reinforced by the inclusion of four of New Zealand's finest exponents in Frank Mulcare, Roy Roff, Travis Hardwick and Des Barchard, Goulin, Meates, Davidson and Edwards appeared for Auckland in the spectacular romp.

In the ensuing fortnight Marist fell victim to Northcote 6-8 in a tryless encounter, and to the leaders Mt. Albert 2-19, however, the Greens showed improvement in both matches.

On August 22nd the Auckland Maoris vanquished the Americans by 40 points to 23. Five New Zealanders appeared for the losers in Mulcare, Hardwick, Roff, Barchard and Roy Moore. The curtain-raiser to this match was between the champion Marist Bros Fourth Open team — coached by Evan Hale — and Richmond, who later captured both

the Fourth Intermediate championship and knock-out. In an excellent exhibition Richmond defeated the Greens by 16 points to 7. The Marist side was chosen from: K. Payne, R. Mark, E. Scourah, L. Mihaljevich, R. Grimmer, A. Page, T. Mark, N. Tainui, C. Jensen, F. Anderson, J. McKee, W. Maquire, R. McBride, I. Jeletic, B. Huston, P. Bishop, L. Randall, D. Delaney and M. Moloney.

In the opening series of the four match second round Marist plummeted to the depths, being trounced by our companions on the bottom rung, City-Newton, by 21 points to 5.

A strong Canterbury side visited Carlaw Park on September 5th and was beaten 24-8 by an Auckland XIII which included Edwards, Meates and Davidson. This same afternoon Northcote defeated Marist in the Fourth Open Grade knock-out final by 13 points to 9: a match which won acclaim from the beholders, for the sportsmanship displayed by both teams.

Three defeats — two of them heavy — brought Marist's participation in the 1953 championship to a conclusion. Firstly North Shore slaughtered the Greens 51-18, thence the unbeaten leaders, Mt. Albert, after being 13-2 in arrears at the interval ran out victors 38-15, and finally Northcote proved superior by 24 points to 15.

The performance of the Seniors was the worst in the history of the Club, and only the altered formula of the championship precluded the ignominy of Marist participating in promotion — relegation matches. During the season the following Senior players names appeared in the programme: M. Stace, E. Priestly, G. Davidson, N. Denton, R. de Thierri, J. Meates, Peter Keenan, A. Reichelmann, J. Dudley, J. Edwards, D. Barchard, L. Davidson, B. Moon-ey, R. Daley, Paul Keenan, T. Richardson, R. Smith, P. Gabriel, A. Miles, S. Smith, D. Derbridge, M. Stowers, B. Finlayson, G. Katavich, K. Mills, W. Goulin, B. Moody, J. Dunn, C. Harris, D. Diamond, L.

Bender, C. Beckham, L. Kelly, J. Duffy, B. James, N. Finnegan, M. Brockliss and none other than D. McLeod. If the quality was absent the quantity was there.

If Marist was luckless, so too was Mt. Albert, for the Blue and Golds, after going through the two rounds of the minor championship unbeaten, fell to Pt. Chevalier in the semi-final of the major championship. On October 10th Pt. Chevalier defeated Richmond by 11 points to 5 to obtain possession of the Fox Memorial Shield for the first time. Sensation had also occurred in the Roope Rooster for after 100 minutes of play in the final between Ponsonby and Pt. Chevalier, the board had read 5 all, thus a replay was ordered, in which the Ponies were successful by 17 points to 2. There was no champion of champions contest in 1953, nor was the Phelan Shield competition played to a finish.

The 4th Opens apart no titles were won by Marist Junior teams. In the Schoolboy ranks the Senior Colts and Seven-a-side A's captured their respective championships while the Seniors were awarded the Wetherill Shield, on being adjudged the most sportsmanlike team in their grade. The provincial Senior Colts tournament was conducted in Auckland during the August holidays. Marist boys who took part were: K. Ball, (Auckland A) P. Bryant, B. Reidy, G. Wright, J. Swann, R. Barnes and J. Stowers (Auckland B) Brian Reidy won selection in the New Zealand team. On September 6th at the Gala Day Marist's Ernie Wiggs, was successful in the Junior goal-kicking contest — a portent of things to come.

1954

On April 10th the opening matches of the Roope Rooster inception the new season. The Greens, in an auspicious introduction, downed Otahuhu by 25 points to 12. Kiwi centre Ron McKay, who had transferred to Marist from New Plymouth was the star of the match, while another to show encouraging form in the Green



rearguard was Doug Anderson, the former Pt. Chevalier and New Zealand utility back who had severed his short retirement. These two players, both valuable acquisitions helped considerably to mitigate the misfortune imposed by the absence of Jim Edwards, who was recuperating after a cartilage operation. The successful thirteen was selected from: B. Mooney, Peter Keenan, W. Munga, R. McKay, N. Denton, D. Anderson, A. Reichelmann, R. O'Loughlin, J. Armstrong, B. James, Paul Keenan, G. Neilson, R. Daly, G. Davidson, and J. Meates. Champion scrum-half Des Barchard, had taken over the coaching responsibilities and was also appointed an Auckland selector, in company with S. Prentice and J. Clark. At this period 15 years ago it was strongly rumoured that the mercurial West Coast forward, Frank Mulcare, was to play for Marist.

The following week-end the fourth inter-Marist Easter tournament was staged in Christchurch. In the Saturday matches the host team defeated Dunedin 15-2, and Auckland downed West Coast 19-3. On the Monday afternoon Christchurch successfully defended the Father Duffy Cup by vanquishing, firstly, Wellington 25 nil, thence Auckland in a thrilling final by 13 points to 11.

A week later Marist succumbed to Pt. Chevalier 5-22, therefore terminating our bid for the "Bird". At one stage it appeared as if the Old Boys would carry the day, particularly when they took the lead soon after the interval, however, the greater weight of the opposition vanguard, plus Ron McKay's absence from the rearguard, gradually took its toll. The Marist forwards were not fully fit. Neville Denton at custodian was the best back, although Peter Keenan showed speed and determination on the flank. The scrum-half R. O'Loughlin, by his persistent infringing incurred many penalties.

In our Phelan Shield clash with City-Newton, both teams had registered 18 points when the bell rang for no-side, however, in 10 min-

utes of extra time the Red, Black and Whites collected two tries and took the honours by 24 points to 18. The Greens sorely missed Davidson and McKay, both of whom were sidelined by nasty injuries.

Our next engagement was a friendly match with Northcote won by the Black and Golds 15-4. This same afternoon North Shore captured the Rooster with a thrilling 16-14 defeat of Richmond. Jim Austin's epic field goal in extra time brought victory.

In the initial series of the championship Marist held City-Newton to a 10 all draw at the Mt. Wellington Reserve, thanks to five penalty goals from Doug Anderson, while in the second fixture the Greens fell to Otahuhu 7-11 at Sturges Park; a match in which Neville Denton scored a spectacular try from the outside centre position, and John Yates exhibited power and purpose for the Double Blues.

Jim Edwards made his eagerly awaited reappearance against Ponsonby, and although he received few chances he gave sufficient indication that he had lost little, if any, of his former prowess. The match itself brought a Ponsonby triumph by 37 points to 27. Jimmy Walker, the new scrum-half gave a promising performance as did B. Mooney, who replaced the injured Alan Reichelmann at inside centre. The effects of his shoulder injury had compelled George Davidson to quit competitive football, however, the Seniors loss was the Senior Thirds gain, for the latter team was to be coached by George — one of the sublime figures in the history of the Club.

On June 5th the Maoris downed the Pakehas by 25 points to 17. Jack Meates and Doug Anderson wore the losers colours.

The following Saturday Des Barchard's countenance beamed for the Greens, in their finest performance for nearly two seasons, thumped Richmond 15 nil. D. Anderson, J. Edwards, N. Denton, A. Reichelmann, J. Sommerville (the former Mt. Albert celebrity), T. Mark and J. Walker, comprised the Marist

rearguard which outplayed its opponents, while the forwards were selected from: R. Daley, B. Finlayson, G. Katavich, B. James, D. Diamond, J. Armstrong and Paul Keenan.

Against North Shore the Old Boys produced even better form, and in a quagmire disposed of the Blacks by 12 points to 7. The sparkling play of Neville Denton continued to win admirers.

On July 3rd at the Addington Showgrounds, Christchurch, Jim Edwards appeared for the North Island XIII, which vanquished the South Island by 21 points to 12, in the first inter-island clash to be decided away from Carlaw Park, while at the Park in the main attraction Pt. Chevalier ran out victors over Marist by 11 points to 6. Ron McKay marked his return with a good display.

Our stirring match with Mt. Albert saw the Blue and Golds finish in front by 7 points to 2. Star of the encounter was the 19 year old Mt. Albert centre Ron Ackland. Sensation occurred this day at the Sydney Cricket Ground when the New South Wales — Great Britain match was abandoned mid-way through the second spell by the referee, Aubrey Oxford, following the most degrading scenes ever witnessed in international Rugby League. The Sky Blues were leading 17-6 when disorder erupted.

In their next engagement the Old Boys secured another two championship points by means of a 9-6 defeat of Ellerslie, in a bright match featured by immaculate handling of a greasy ball, and the grand centre combination of Denton and McKay. Ellerslie's English winger John Duggan, proved elusive.

The following Wednesday, Great Britain opened their New Zealand tour with a 14 points to 4 victory over the Auckland Maoris at Jubilee Park, Whangarei. Darby Diamond appeared for the Maoris.

On Saturday July 24th, 32,000 Aucklanders crammed Carlaw Park and watched Great Britain trounce New Zealand by 27 points to 7 in

the First Test. The great crowd was appalled by the puerile performance of the Kiwi backs, amongst whom were Edwards and McKay. A subsidiary curtain-raiser was the Sixth Grade clash between Marist and Richmond. The Green thirteen was programmed as: J. Ikitogia, L. Masters, B. Wright, D. Fletcher, V. Lord, G. Hogg, P. Oram, R. Thurlow, I. Heke, R. Fletcher, H. Emmall, D. Mason (captain) and H. Purcell.

The following Saturday at Wingham Park, Greymouth, the Kiwis atoned in brilliant fashion, and outplayed the Lions 20-14 to square the series. Jim Edwards made his 11th Test appearance.

A week later in the last match of the round, Marist defeated Northcote by 15 points to 13, and by their success became eligible for the second round of the championship, as one of the top five teams.

On Monday, August 9th, at New Plymouth, Ron McKay and Neville Denton appeared for a North Island Colts XIII, which was thrashed 42-7 by Great Britain.

Five days later Great Britain defeated New Zealand by 12 points to 6 in a bruising, brawling Third Test at Carlaw Park. Edwards again wore the Kiwi jersey.

Monday, August 16th, 1954 is both a glorious and tragic day in Auckland R.L. history. A courageous, battered Auckland team, including Edwards, overcame adversity and vanquished the vaunted visitors by 5 points to 4 — the Blue and Whites first success against an overseas team since 1920 — after the most brutal exposition of international football ever witnessed in the Shaky Isles. Two Englishmen, Jack Wilkinson and Nat Silcock, Jnr., received their marching orders from Mr. George Kelly, while a third, Doug Greenall, was most fortunate not to share the same fate, following a dangerous tackle of the Auckland skipper Des White, which necessitated White's departure to the Auckland Hospital, where he later underwent an abdominal operation. This British team which is notorious in the memories of Australasian R.L. fans for

the unsavoury nature of its play, nevertheless possessed some brilliant exponents of the game, in men like Billy Boston, Phil Jackson, Ernie Ashcroft, Lewis Jones and Alan Prescott.

In their first encounter of the second round Marist registered a resounding triumph by lowering the colours of the previously unbeaten Ponsonby XIII by 22 points to 18, after being behind 4-10 at the interval. The complexion of the game was transformed early in the second spell when the Old Boys notched three excellent tries, the result of clever back play. When Walker scored a fourth try the match seemed all but over, however, Ponsonby rallied and gave the Greens many anxious moments, before the sounding of the final bell signified the upset of the season. The forwards, with Brian James, Ron Daly and Jack Meates outstanding, mastered the opposition sextet, while the rearguard outplayed their Blue and Black counterparts, Jim Edwards capably filled the injured Dentons' out-side centre berth, and Doug Anderson gave a high-class display at full-back.

With George Davidson as hooker, the Greens had always been assured of abundant possession, however, it was now a different story and they were forced to rely on winning the ball from loose play. This factor was aptly demonstrated in our 12-11 victory over Otahuhu. The following Saturday there was again only a point separating the Old Boys from their opponents: on this occasion the Greens were the defeated party, going under 9-10 to Mt. Albert. In an exhilarating exposition Marist collected three tries to the Blue and Golds two, however, Mt. Albert was the superior all round team.

On September 11th Ron McKay was a member of the North Island XIII which thrashed the Mainlanders at Carlaw Park by 31 points to 3. This match served as a trial to guide the selectors in their choice of the 18 players, to comprise the New Zealand contingent to compete in the forthcoming initial World Cup tournament in France. Another magnifi-

cent Marist moment occurred when the promulgation of the elite eighteen for the historic venture, revealed the inclusion of Ron McKay, Jim Edwards, Doug Anderson and the 20 year old Neville Denton. No other New Zealand club could equal Marist's representation.

In their final championship match the Green and Golds were trounced by Pt. Chevalier 10-38. The Old Boys were unable to effect a counter to the splendid teamwork exhibited by the Green and Whites.

On Saturday, October 2nd the then Mayor of Auckland, Mr. J. H. Luxford, officially opened the new covered terraces. To mark this memorable occasion a match was staged between the Auckland Kiwis and Auckland. Edwards, McKay and Anderson, were members of the former XIII which was successful by 32 points to 29. Jack Meates wore the Auckland jersey.

Marist finished in fourth position in the championship which was won by Ponsonby.

This 1954 season witnessed an influx of South Pacific Islanders into the Green and Gold ranks. They were immediately successful for the First Juniors, managed by Frank Moody, took dual honours in their grade. Included in this team were: J. AhLoo, F. Purcell, G. Haslam, J. Crowley, B. Purcell, F. Filians, P. Tuisamoa (capt), T. Tumata, R. Vaafu, V. McCarthy, V. Vrase, M. Lue Lue, Lui Taumata, T. Gabriel, R. Malloy, Niko and Olumalu.

Fortune also smiled on our Eighth Grade side who vanquished Richmond 9-6 to capture the knock-out final. This team comprised:— B. Drollert, J. Stowers, R. Lonergan, R. Lipscombe, J. Swann, B. Logan, A. Butler, E. Reidy (capt), P. Tunncliffe (vice-capt), P. Bryant, G. McGlynn, P. Schultz, M. Dadds, S. Bakalich, S. Lipscombe and W. Feek (coach). They were also runners-up to Richmond in the championship.

Representative honours were won by: J. Young (5th), P. Gabriel, (First Juniors); G. Hogg, L. Hickey, D. Mason and R. Thurlow (6ths).

In the Schoolboy legions pride of place went to the Juniors whose imposing record read: Played 14, won 14, points for 193, points against 4. Their line was uncrossed. The brilliant young combination included: R. Bryant, W. Hayes, M. Milner, P. Coggins, H. Dixon, B. Dummer (capt), W. Harford, W. Fletcher, R. Schultz, W. McNeil, D. Meikle, M. Davis, K. Quill, E. Quill, A. Dromgool and T. Coyle. Mr. Doug Anderson was mentor and Mr. Oscar Fletcher, his able assistant. Trophies annexed were the Eccles Shield (championship) and Burnett Jones Cup (K.O.).

Harry Dixon (Juniors); Lou Watcombe and Merv McNeil (Intermediate) gained Auckland jerseys in their respective grades.

A Schoolboys management committee, affiliated to the Club committee, was now operative.

The New Zealand World Cup team left Auckland on October 18th and returned seven weeks later, devoid of success, yet the greater in education and experience. Firstly, the Kiwis were defeated by France in Paris, 13-22; thence were outclassed by Australia in Marseilles, 15-34; and finally trounced by the eventual winners, Great Britain, in Bordeaux, 6-26.

Edwards and McKay played in all three matches, Anderson against France, and Denton appeared as full-back against the Kangaroos.

## 1955

At the annual general meeting the following officers for 1955 were elected:— Patron, Bishop Liston; president, A. Blake; secretary, E. Hirst; treasurer, F. Buckley; Club captain, A. Frost; management committee, R. de Thierry (chairman), R. Tanner, J. O'Sullivan, W. Feek, J. Kirwan, L. Grace and F. Moody; junior delegate, Mr Thurlow; schoolboy delegate, E. McNeil; chairman of schoolboy committee, W. Schultz; secretary of schoolboy committee, F. Casey. The Senior coach was again to be D. Barchard; while the manager was Vic Barchard.

On April 2nd in the principal at-

traction of the opening series of the Fox Memorial Shield competition, Ponsonby defeated Marist by 24 points to 18. The Blue and Blacks collected two freak tries and were assisted to victory by Lady Luck. The Old Boys enjoyed a 4 points advantage at the interval and spent the majority of the second spell on the offensive. The turning point of the game eventuated when Bruce Whitehouse, intercepted a wild Marist pass and scored a runaway try. The sacrifice of cohesion for individuality was a source of concern to Marist supporters, as was the lack of fitness amongst the forwards. This latter trait was clearly delineated by the pack almost slowing to a walk in the last 10 minutes. P. Wiseman was the new scrum-half while Cliff Harris had returned from Christchurch to win a place in the vanguard.

The following week-end the Seniors travelled to Greymouth to participate in the inter-Marist Easter Tournament. On the Saturday the Aucklanders downed the powerful Christchurch team, holders of the Father Duffy Cup, by 15 points to 11. In the final Greymouth overwhelmed Auckland by 29 points to 5 and amazed their supporters by the ease with which they accomplished this feat.

Back in the Queen City, the Greens gained their first championship points by means of a 13-9 victory over Otahuhu. The Double Blue prop forward John Yates, with his bulldozing dashes wreaked havoc in the Marist defence, however, he alone, was not sufficient to turn the tide.

The following Saturday, in a try-less encounter, Marist defeated Glenora by 8 points to 6. The Old Boys spent the greater portion of the game in repulsing the many determined onslaughts of the Blue and Whites, who were engaged in the third Senior A match in their Club's history. The total scoring consisted of a field goal by Doug Anderson and six penalties, including a prodigious 55 yarder by Ron McKay.

In their next two engagements the Greens succumbed to City-Newton 10-15; and defeated Northcote 31-23. In the latter fixture Ron McKay,

spelt disaster to the Black and Golds by contributing 19 points from a try and eight goals. Against City-Newton the custodian's role was capably filled by Laurie Denton.

At Carlaw Park on Sunday, May 15th, 14,000 people were treated to a scintillating exhibition by a Maori XIII which conquered the Pakehas by 37 points to 22. Diamond appeared for the victors and McKay for the vanquished. Six days later the Auckland and West Coast teams engaged in a thrilling contest which concluded in a 19 all draw. McKay represented the Queen City. In the curtain-raiser an A team, including Jim Edwards, defeated a B selection, containing Neville Denton, by 33 points to 17.

In the main attraction at Carlaw Park on May 28th, Mt. Albert after deservedly leading 14-2 at the interval, withstood a furious Marist challenge and took the honours by 18 points to 9. Murray Patterson, a convert from Rugby Union, revealed enterprise on the flank while former winger Jim Sommerville, shone as the loose forward. The referee, Mr. Vic Belsham, gave a crowd-pleasing interpretation of the advantage rule.

The Greens then experienced two further losses: to North Shore, the leaders, 5-15 and to Pt. Chevalier 5-22. On the same day as the latter fixture the Marist and Eilerslie Senior Reserves brought dishonour to their respective clubs, by engaging in a vicious brawl which culminated in the match being abandoned 15 minutes before time by the referee, Mr. Horscroft. Both teams were subsequently suspended for two playing Saturdays.

The following week Jim Edwards once more wore the Auckland Jersey when the Blue and Whites were held to an 18 all draw by Canterbury. In the curtain-raiser Murray Patterson appeared for an A thirteen which was defeated by a B selection by 5 points to nil.

In their next engagement Marist emerged victorious over Eilerslie by 19 points to 14, after an exciting contest in which the lead constantly changed hands. The Greens at last produced the type of football so long expected from them. The forwards—

previously the team's weakness—more than held their own with the opposition sextet.

In the ultimate series of the round Richmond downed Marist by 25 points to nil, however, the Maroon and Blues were somewhat flattered by their wide winning margin. This defeat terminated Marist's quest for the 1955 championship, as prior to the commencement of the season the A.R.L. had decided that at the conclusion of the first round, the then top six teams would carry their points forward, and constitute the combatants to strive in the crucial second round for possession of the Fox Memorial Shield. Marist, unfortunately had insufficient points to qualify, so in company with Glenora, Otahuhu, City-Newton and Northcote they were to contest a one round minor competition for the Sayegh Shield.

The opening series saw the Greens take Otahuhu's measure at Papanakura by 18 points to 15. Ron McKay's splendid goal-kicking meant the difference between victory and defeat.

On July 16th McKay sported the Black Jersey when the North Island downed the South Island at Carlaw Park by 11 points to 7. Denton appeared for the A team which accounted for a B selection by 21 points to 17.

A week later an Auckland thirteen, culled from the teams in the minor competition, thrashed the visiting Wellingtonians by 34 points to 9. Marist representatives in the Blue and White were Edwards, Denton, McKay, Diamond and Meates.

The following day Glenora avenged their first round loss with a 12-5 success over the Greens. Draw followed defeat when the bottom placed Northcote held the Old Boys to 15 all.

On August 6th the second French touring team charmed 24,000 denizens of the Queen City, with a dazzling display of passing and handling to emerge triumphant by 19 points to 9, in the First Test against the Kiwis. Ron McKay, at outside centre was the star of the New Zealand rear-guard. He marked the French skipper Jacques Merquey, and kept the world's greatest centre comparatively

quiet. In the curtain-raiser—refereed by French visitor, Monsieur Proust—Darby Diamond appeared for the Auckland Maoris who defeated the Waikato Maoris 29-14.

A week subsequent, in the Second and Final Test, also at Carlaw Park, the Shaky Islanders after losing full-back, Roy Moore, 10 minutes before half-time, rose above adversity and squared the series with a magnificent victory by 11 points to 6. McKay, on Moore's retirement, shifted to custodian and played a 'cracker'.

On the ensuing Monday a brilliant Auckland thirteen—devoid of Marist players—deservedly defeated France by 17 points to 13, after a champagne exhibition of Rugby League, while at Davies Park, Huntly the previous Wednesday the New Zealand Maoris, including Darby Diamond, conquered the Tricolours by 28 points to 20, in another exhilarating exposition. Chanticleers that captivated Aucklanders included: Gilbert Benausse, Jean Dop, Jacques Merquey, Antoine Jiminez, Raymond Contrastin, and Christian Dupie. New Zealand crowds were also appreciative of the sportsmanship shown by the tourists.

The New Zealand team for the impending tour of England and France had also been announced, and amongst those to pack their bags were Ronald John McKay and Neville Leon Denton.

On August 27th Marist defeated City-Newton by 7 points to 3—a victory that gave the Greens the Sayegh Shield, the symbol of supremacy in the B section.

Our Roope Rooster aspirations were swiftly shattered, for in our opening round clash with Glenora at Glen Eden, the home side triumphed by the odd point in twenty-seven.

In their initial Phelan Shield fixture the Greens produced a grand exhibition and massacred North Shore by 47 points to 9, however, their success was short-lived, for the following Saturday they were downed 21-27 by Mt. Albert. In the latter match John Ah Loo appeared on the Marist wing. The next day, September 18th, the Pakehas defeated the Maoris by 37

points to 30. Ah Loo and Diamond appeared for the losers.

During the season the team had failed to attend practices in the expected numbers; a shortcoming, the consequence of which was manifested in the performances produced, and which proved that the old adage 'practice makes perfect' did have some import after all.

Men who had been programmed to wear the Senior Jersey were:—D. Anderson, J. Edwards, J. Sommerville, A. Reichelmann, B. McKay, N. Denton, P. Wiseman, B. Finlayson, J. Duffy, R. Daly, J. Meates, C. Harris, D. Diamond, K. McKay, P. Gabriel, Paul Keenan, T. Mark, J. Walker, L. Denton, R. de Thierry, J. Dunn, M. Patterson and J. Ah Loo.

The only Marist team to salute the Judge in 1955 was the Intermediate Colts Schoolboys combination who snared both their championship and knock-out, and repeated the double success they had attained in 1954, as Juniors.

Senior Colts, Sel Lipscombe, Merv McNeil and Neil Larsen were members of the victorious Auckland team at the Amalgamated Theatres Shield tournament in Wellington. The first mentioned also wore the North Island Jersey and was selected in a New Zealand XIII.

In the Junior division Auckland honours were gained by T. Markey, R. McPhee and I. McKay in the Fourth Intermediate Grade. Markey, in company with Ray Thurlow, also won selection in the Auckland Combined Grades Junior thirteen which was defeated 2-8 by the champion Sydney Junior team, Eastern Suburbs, on October 1st, in a curtain-raiser to the Champion of Champions clash, between Eilerslie, the Roope Rooster winners, and Richmond, who had captured the championship. Eilerslie vanquished the Maroon and Blues by 24 points to 15.

In England, Tommy Baxter's tourists—like all their predecessors, except the All Golds—failed to take the series, however, they became the first team from 'down under' to win a Test on the Headingley ground in

the unsavoury nature of its play, nevertheless possessed some brilliant exponents of the game, in men like Billy Boston, Phil Jackson, Ernie Ashcroft, Lewis Jones and Alan Prescott.

In their first encounter of the second round Marist registered a resounding triumph by lowering the colours of the previously unbeaten Ponsonby XIII by 22 points to 18, after being behind 4-10 at the interval. The complexion of the game was transformed early in the second spell when the Old Boys notched three excellent tries, the result of clever back play. When Walker scored a fourth try the match seemed all but over, however, Ponsonby rallied and gave the Greens many anxious moments, before the sounding of the final bell signified the upset of the season. The forwards, with Brian James, Ron Daly and Jack Meates outstanding, mastered the opposition sextet, while the rearguard outplayed their Blue and Black counterparts. Jim Edwards capably filled the injured Dentons' outside centre berth, and Doug Anderson gave a high-class display at full-back.

With George Davidson as hooker, the Greens had always been assured of abundant possession, however, it was now a different story and they were forced to rely on winning the ball from loose play. This factor was aptly demonstrated in our 12-11 victory over Otahuhu. The following Saturday there was again only a point separating the Old Boys from their opponents: on this occasion the Greens were the defeated party, going under 9-10 to Mt. Albert. In an exhilarating exhibition Marist collected three tries to the Blue and Golds two, however, Mt. Albert was the superior all round team.

On September 11th Ron McKay was a member of the North Island XIII which thrashed the Mainlanders at Carlaw Park by 31 points to 3. This match served as a trial to guide the selectors in their choice of the 18 players, to comprise the New Zealand contingent to compete in the forthcoming initial World Cup tournament in France. Another magnifi-

cent Marist moment occurred when the promulgation of the elite eighteen for the historic venture, revealed the inclusion of Ron McKay, Jim Edwards, Doug Anderson and the 20 year old Neville Denton. No other New Zealand club could equal Marist's representation.

In their final championship match the Green and Golds were trounced by Pt. Chevalier 10-38. The Old Boys were unable to effect a counter to the splendid teamwork exhibited by the Green and Whites.

On Saturday, October 2nd the then Mayor of Auckland, Mr. J. H. Luxford, officially opened the new covered terraces. To mark this memorable occasion a match was staged between the Auckland Kiwis and Auckland. Edwards, McKay and Anderson, were members of the former XIII which was successful by 32 points to 29. Jack Meates wore the Auckland jersey.

Marist finished in fourth position in the championship which was won by Ponsonby.

This 1954 season witnessed an influx of South Pacific Islanders into the Green and Gold ranks. They were immediately successful for the First Juniors, managed by Frank Moody, took dual honours in their grade. Included in this team were: J. AhLoo, F. Purcell, G. Haslam, J. Crowley, B. Purcell, F. Filians, P. Tuisamoa (capt), T. Tumata, R. Vaafu, V. McCarthy, V. Vrase, M. Lue Lue, Lui, Taumata, T. Gabriel, R. Malloy, Niko and Olumalu.

Fortune also smiled on our Eighth Grade side who vanquished Richmond 9-6 to capture the knock-out final. This team comprised:—B. Drollett, J. Stowers, R. Lonergan, R. Lipscombe, J. Swann, B. Logan, A. Butler, B. Reidy (capt), P. Tunnicliffe (vice-capt), P. Bryant, G. McGlynn, P. Schultz, M. Dods, S. Bakulich, S. Lipscombe and W. Feek (coach). They were also runners-up to Richmond in the championship.

Representative honours were won by: J. Young (5th), P. Gabriel, (First Juniors); G. Hogg, L. Hickey, D. Mason and R. Thurlow (6ths).

In the Schoolboy legions pride of place went to the Juniors whose imposing record read: Played 14, won 14, points for 193, points against 4. Their line was uncrossed. The brilliant young combination included: R. Bryant, W. Hayes, M. Milner, P. Coggins, H. Dixon, B. Dumper (capt), W. Harford, W. Fletcher, R. Schultz, W. McNeil, D. Meikle, M. Davis, K. Quill, E. Quill, A. Dromgool and T. Coyle. Mr. Doug Anderson was mentor and Mr. Oscar Fletcher, his able assistant. Trophies annexed were the Eccles Shield (championship) and Burnett Jones Cup (K.O.).

Harry Dixon (Juniors); Lou Watcombe and Merv McNeil (Intermediate) gained Auckland jerseys in their respective grades.

A Schoolboys management committee, affiliated to the Club committee, was now operative.

The New Zealand World Cup team left Auckland on October 18th and returned seven weeks later, devoid of success, yet the greater in education and experience. Firstly, the Kiwis were defeated by France in Paris, 13-22; thence were outclassed by Australia in Marseilles, 15-34; and finally trounced by the eventual winners, Great Britain, in Bordeaux, 6-26.

Edwards and McKay played in all three matches, Anderson against France, and Denton appeared as full-back against the Kangaroos.

## 1955

At the annual general meeting the following officers for 1955 were elected.—Patron, Bishop Liston; president, A. Blake; secretary, E. Hirst; treasurer, F. Buckley; Club captain, A. Frost; management committee, R. de Thierry (chairman), R. Tanner, J. O'Sullivan, W. Feek, J. Kirwan, L. Grace and F. Moody; junior delegate, Mr Thurlow; schoolboy delegate, E. McNeil; chairman of schoolboy committee, W. Schultz; secretary of schoolboy committee, F. Casey. The Senior coach was again to be D. Barchard; while the manager was Vic Barchard.

On April 2nd in the principal at-

traction of the opening series of the Fox Memorial Shield competition, Ponsonby defeated Marist by 24 points to 18. The Blue and Blacks collected two freak tries and were assisted to victory by Lady Luck. The Old Boys enjoyed a 4 points advantage at the interval and spent the majority of the second spell on the offensive. The turning point of the game eventuated when Bruce Whitehouse, intercepted a wild Marist pass and scored a runaway try. The sacrifice of cohesion for individuality was a source of concern to Marist supporters, as was the lack of fitness amongst the forwards. This latter trait was clearly delineated by the pack almost slowing to a walk in the last 10 minutes. P. Wiseman was the new scrum-half while Cliff Harris had returned from Christchurch to win a place in the vanguard.

The following week-end the Seniors travelled to Greymouth to participate in the inter-Marist Easter Tournament. On the Saturday the Aucklanders downed the powerful Christchurch team, holders of the Father Duffy Cup, by 15 points to 11. In the final Greymouth overwhelmed Auckland by 29 points to 5 and amazed their supporters by the ease with which they accomplished this feat.

Back in the Queen City, the Greens gained their first championship points by means of a 13-9 victory over Otahuhu. The Double Blue prop forward John Yates, with his bulldozing dashes wreaked havoc in the Marist defence, however, he alone, was not sufficient to turn the tide.

The following Saturday, in a try-less encounter, Marist defeated Glenora by 8 points to 6. The Old Boys spent the greater portion of the game in repulsing the many determined onslaughts of the Blue and Whites, who were engaged in the third Senior A match in their Club's history. The total scoring consisted of a field goal by Doug Anderson and six penalties, including a prodigious 55 yarder by Ron McKay.

In their next two engagements the Greens succumbed to City-Newton 10-15; and defeated Northcote 31-23. In the latter fixture Ron McKay,

Leeds, when they decisively defeated the Lions in the Third Test by 28 points to 13. In the first two tests the Kiwis were outclassed, losing 6-25 at Swinton and 12-27 at Bradford. McKay filled the outside centre berth in both the Second and Third Tests.

#### 1956

At Toulouse on January 8th, France outclassed New Zealand in the First Test by 24 points to 7, however, the Kiwis avenged their setback and squared the series with a spectacular 31-22 victory at Lyons. In the Third Test at Paris, the Chanticleers demonstrated their undoubted superiority to the tune of 24 points to 3.

In Auckland, Marist approached the 1956 season determined to resurrect past glories, and rehabilitate the Club in the eyes of its legion of supporters. To fructify these desires a new-look executive was elected which consisted of: Patron, Bishop Liston; vice-patron, Rev. Brother Marcellin; president, F. Casey; secretary, A. R. Tanner; treasurer, F. Buckley; management committee; A. Frost (chairman), Rev Father Michael Ryan, J. McLean and P. Botica.

Owing to the high cost involved in sending a team to Dunedin it was resolved not to participate in the sixth inter-Marist Easter tournament.

A preliminary engagement against Otahuhu at Sturges Park proved a gruelling encounter decided in heavy rain. The Double Blues adapted themselves the better to the conditions and at the final bell were ahead by 19 points to 11. Weakened by the absence of D. Diamond, the Green vanguard won admirers with a grand display to hold their stronger opponents. Terry Markey, in his Senior debut showed his more experienced teammates the art of tackling.

Our opening championship fixture against Ponsonby at Carlaw Park No. 2 began in promising manner, with the Greens taking a 7 nil lead after 20 minutes, and appearing to have the edge on their redoubt-

strong Richmond side by 82 points to 5. The Old Boys, after a lethargic and uninspiring performance, emerged the victors by 18 points to 6. For the first time in their 4 matches the Maroons had conceded less than 44 points: whether this circumstance evoked compassion from Marist or not is a matter for conjecture. The team clearly missed the penetrative play of Neville Denton, who was out of commission due to injuries received on the tour of England.

On Saturday, May 12th, trials were staged to select the New Zealand team for the tour of Australia. The inter-island match was the principal attraction and brought an overwhelming North victory by 50 points to 15. No Marist players wore the Black jersey, however, Ah Loo and Reichelmann were selected in the B team which was defeated in the curtain-raiser by an A XIII.

Marist supporters' expectations were fulfilled when the promulgation of the Kiwi tourists disclosed the failure of the Club to achieve representation.

A day later Ron McKay appeared for a Pakeha XIII which just headed off an exuberant Maori team, including Ah Loo, by 37 points to 35. The curtain-raiser was between Maori and Pakeha B sides who drew 20 all. Diamond and Cassidy were members of the former team and Reichelmann the latter.

Marist's eagerly awaited contest with the joint leaders, Richmond, then evenuated. Although the Maori and Blues triumphed by 38 points to 13 the Old Boys provided far stiffer opposition than is indicated by the result. Already weakened by the unavailability of Anderson and Reichelmann, Marist then had the misfortune to lose its best forward Jim Cassidy, at the interlude. Down 13-18 with 20 minutes remaining the Old Boys looked to be achieving superiority; alas they wilted under a renewed opposition offensive. Richmond paraded all seven of its 1956 Kiwis in Bakalich, Baxter, Belsham, Murray, Lasher, Johnson and Riddell.

able opposition. However, to the bewilderment and dismay of their supporters, Marist, suddenly, for no apparent reason folded up, and the fundamentals of the game — tackling, positional play, retaining possession — all went by the board. At the conclusion of the debacle the position was: Ponsonby 41, Marist Bros. 12.

Marist adherents were indeed disheartened by the Seniors performance, however, the following Saturday the team regained a little prestige with a 16-7 victory over City-Newton. The Red, Black and Whites' persistence in employing bash and barge tactics as a means of breaching the Marist defence, led to a dreary exhibition and to their own downfall.

At this juncture Jim Edwards announced his retirement, thus the Club was deprived of the services of one of its all time greats. Though Jim had departed the scene many imperishable memories of his prowess would remain. As a consolation the dashing North Shore centre, George Turner, had applied to his club for a transfer to Marist. North Shore subsequently refused to grant such transfer, whereupon Turner reconsidered his application and decided to remain with the Blacks.

Complete atonement was achieved in our clash with Mt. Albert for the Greens, in a sparkling exposition, swamped the Blue and Golds by 45 points to 20. John Ah Loo collected three spectacular tries. Skipper Doug Anderson, was in grand form at fullback, as was Jim Cassidy in the vanguard — the latter in his Rugby League debut. Prior to the season's commencement it was strongly recommended that a policy of administering harsher treatment to the members who failed to attend practices be implemented. This measure which was left to the coach D. Barchard, and manager P. Atkins, to enact was beneficial to both player and team.

The following Saturday the Greens encountered the struggling Papakura XIII who, the previous week had been slaughtered by the

That Marist were as unpredictable as a spring morning was aptly portrayed in a 15-40 thrashing administered by Pt. Chevalier. The League News commented thus: "Pt. Chevalier were never in trouble, controlled the game both in the forwards and backs, and seldom appeared to be playing at top speed against a dispirited Marist side. In outside centre, M. Patterson and wingers, F. Purcell and J. Ah Loo, Marist have three good scoring backs but they were given no chances to show their paces on attack. At no stage did Marist settle down to team play and its individual efforts were soon stopped by the solid Pt. Chevalier defence."

The Marist vanguard was selected from J. Sommerville, A. Reichelmann, D. Diamond, B. Finlayson, M. Posa, M. Faasola, M. Heremai and J. Cassidy, while the back line was programmed as: D. Anderson, F. Purcell, M. Patterson, J. Ah Loo, P. Keenan, R. McKay, T. Mark, P. McSweeney and J. Richards.

A fortnight later Ellerslie inflicted our third consecutive defeat when they took the honours by 26 points to 14. The former Ponsonby Rugby Union player, Ron Goodin, made his initial Rugby League appearance as the Marist fullback.

On June 16th Auckland vanguard Canterbury in Christchurch by 13 points to 5, thence the following day, downed West Coast in Greymouth by 9 points to 7. Alan Reichelmann was a member of the Queen City team, which also thrashed Otago in Dunedin by 51 points to 11. In Auckland trials were staged to guide the selectors, faced with choosing the New Zealand Maori team to tour Australia. John Ah Loo and Darby Diamond, appeared for the Auckland Maoris XIII which drew 18 all with a Waitakato selection.

Neville Denton made a welcome reappearance against Glenora and with Ron McKay, formed an admirable centre alliance which enabled the back line to function smoothly and be instrumental in a 15 points to 6 victory.

The Greens finished the first round in splendid fashion with three excellent triumphs: over North Shore 29-2; Northcote 18-8; and Otahuhu 20-8 respectively. Denton and McKay continued to inspire their team mates while Purcell won admirers with some fine displays. Murray Patterson was shaping well as was scrum-half, McSweeney. Diamond and Reichelmann were prominent in the pack.

Richmond annexed the Rukatai Shield and in company with Ponsonby Pt. Chevalier, Marist, Ellerslie and Otahuhu entered the second round in quest of the Fox Memorial Shield.

In the meantime touring teams were in the spotlight as under:

(1) Tom Baxter's Kiwis had returned from their Australian tour without the Trans Tasman Cup which they had surrendered to the Kangaroos. The Green and Golds made a clean sweep of the series with respective victories of 12-9, 8-2, and 31-14.

(2) The New Zealand Maori side had been announced and Marist was represented by Ron Goodin, Jim Cassidy and Darby Diamond.

Marist's first opponents in the second round were Otahuhu and the Double Blues were vanquished by 12 points to 6, after an even contest highlighted by the versatile Jim Sommerville's excellent portrayal in the role of custodian. The following Saturday the Greens registered their sixth consecutive victory when they surprisingly, yet deservedly accounted for Ellerslie by 17 points to 5. The vanguard produced a fiery display and with Sommerville and Reichelmann at the helm, repulsed the many attacks launched by the Ellerslie inside backs. Jack Baigent, in his Senior A debut, impressed onlookers with a fine exhibition at fullback.

On August 18th Richmond downed Marist 13-2 and thus shattered our string of successes. Although beaten, the Greens nevertheless won the hearts of the observers for a courageous second spell exposition. No points were scored by either

side in this half, yet Marist lost Purcell, just after the resumption. A resolute defence kept their formidable adversaries at bay.

A week later Marist encountered Ponsonby in the principal attraction on the No. 1 ground at Carlaw Park; this being the first time since July 7th that the main arena had been used, owing to the disastrous effects of the worst winter within memory. In the intervening period Cornwall and Waikaraka Parks were utilised. In a tense and grim struggle the Old Boys thoroughly deserved their 9-6 victory. They took the field without skipper, Ron McKay, thence lost scrum-half, McSweeney, after 20 minutes of the second spell. Ponsonby were unlucky not to equalise just prior to no-side when Rex Percy, forced his way over in the corner, however, he accidentally touched the referee in his struggle and the try was disallowed. Patterson, Denton and Mark moved swiftly in defence and stifled many Blue and Black attacks at their source. Doug Anderson reappeared for the Greens and outplayed his opposite, Arch Whorsky, while at fullback, thence proved a useful scrum-half when substituting for McSweeney.

As Richmond had established an unassailable lead it was therefore decided to terminate the championship a week early. Marist finished in fourth position, one point behind Ponsonby.

The Silver Wyandotte — which we hadn't snared since 1946 — once more held the attention of all clubs, and Marist made a brilliant beginning to trash North Shore by 42 points to 14, after being behind 8-12 at oranges. The former New Zealand Maori Rugby Union representative, Kevin Ngawati, made his Rugby League debut in this match as the Marist stand-off half.

If their performance against North Shore was regarded as pleasing, then the Old Boys exhibition versus Ponsonby could only be described as disheartening. At the interlude the Blue and Blacks led by 11 points to 9 after an exciting

first half in which the honours were even. In the third quarter Marist surged to the attack and Ngawati and McKay repeatedly slashed the opposition defence, only to see their astute efforts come to naught owing to lack of forward support. The final twenty minutes saw a devastating Ponsonby pack, led by Keith Bell and Rex Percy, completely subdue their Green counterparts. At no-side the Blue and Blacks were ahead by 30 points to 13. Although the Marist rearguard was always menacing the forwards were devoid of drive and energy.

Relegated to the Phelan Shield, Marist were compelled to produce their best football before defeating Northcote 23-12.

On Sunday, September 23rd, Richmond maintained their imposing, unbeaten record against visiting Sydney teams when they defeated Balmain by 12 points to 10, thanks to a glorious last-minute try by Vern Bakalich. For Bakalich 'twas a great day for earlier he had been placed first in the A.R.L. 100 yards sprint championship; an event in which Neville Denton finished second, and Northcote's Tom Hadfield, third.

The following Wednesday Marist matched wits with Balmain before a sparse attendance. The Greens delighted the onlookers when they gained a 12-11 lead after 20 minutes, however, the Tigers rallied to be one point ahead at the interlude. In the second spell Balmain, aided by deplorable Marist tackling, coasted to a decisive triumph by 36 points to 20. The Marist forwards — Jim Cassidy apart — were disappointing being outplayed by the visiting sextet who dictated the trend, and frequently broke through insipid tackling to initiate try-scoring movements. The Green backline was also uninspiring and seldom achieved parity with the visitors either in expertise or enthusiasm. Ron Goodin, at fullback was the rearguard luminary, his defence being of the required standard, while he instigated a glorious sortie which culminated in a try to Ah

Loo. Ngawati made several dazzling side-stepping breaks which fizzled out when he lost contact with his supports; McKay was devoid of enterprise; and Denton missed too many tackles to impress. Balmain players to catch the eye were the explosive centre Kevin Moseman, and winger, E. Bonser, with his strong running and powerful fend.

The Marist forwards were selected from: J. Cassidy, E. Finlayson, T. Markey, M. Posa, M. Faasola, A. Reichelmann, J. Sommerville and G. Ferguson, while the backs lined out: R. Goodin, J. Ah Loo, N. Denton, R. McKay, M. Patterson, K. Ngawati, P. McSweeney.

The Balmain team was chosen from: K. Smythe, E. Bonser, K. Mosman, G. Hawkey, A. Lorimer, J. Alleyne, A. Mason, T. McGovern, N. Watt, R. Bolland, K. Humphreys, R. Potter, R. Moses, J. Moon and M. Griffiths.

The curtain fell on the 1956 season on Saturday, October 6th when the Greens expiated for their performance against Balmain, by outclassing City-Newton in the final of the Phelan Shield by 34 points to 13. This match served as a curtain-raiser to the Stormont Shield clash in which Richmond defeated the "Rooster" winners, Ellerslie, by 24 points to 8.

Championships were secured by the Intermediate Schoolboys — who shed further lustre on the laurels they had won in 1954-55, as Juniors and Intermediate Colts respectively — and the Junior Schoolboys. Included in the Junior side were: K. Meikle, S. Hogg, R. McEae, J. Bolton, F. Casey, P. Wilson, H. Brown, T. Bryan, W. Hutley, P. Govorko, W. Quedley, L. Swann, D. Tanner, M. Hare and B. Martin. Mr Wally Feek was the mentor.

Representative honours were gained by: W. Fletcher (Intermediate); R. Grimes, (Intermediate Colts); S. Hogg, R. McEae, (Juniors); D. Bassett, (Junior Colts); C. Stowers (7-a-side); and "Snow" McCarroll, (Midgets).

Our Junior division again experienced a barren season. The Sixths

— amongst whom were Paul Schultz and Brian Reidy — were a powerful force in their grade without reaching the summit.

Although success had not materialised in the grand manner improvement had been displayed, thus we awaited with confidence the advent of 1957.

#### 1957

In 1957 the Auckland Rugby League introduced the now familiar semi-final, final, grand final system of ascertaining the season's champion team, however, there was a notable difference in that 12 years ago the Fox Memorial Shield was awarded to the minor champions — the team that headed the table at the conclusion of two rounds each of seven series, based on the positions occupied by each team at the end of 1956 and the finish of the first round respectively — and the Stormont Shield to the triumphant team in the grand final whereas nowadays the former trophy is emblematic of grand final success, and the Stormont Shield, as always, the symbol of the Champion of Champions.

The inaugural matches under this innovation eventuated on April 6th. Marist met Pt. Chevalier in the Carlaw Park No. 1 curtain-raiser and a large crowd was treated to an excellent early-season exhibition which resulted in a 19 all draw. Marist held a seven points advantage at the interval but a second-half rally inspired by their forwards saw the Chevalliers move to a 19-12 lead, only to have the Old Boys register another seven points to equalise. The Marist XIII was culled from:— R. Goodin, M. Patterson, J. Ah Loo, N. Denton, R. McKay (capt), K. Ngawati, E. Seymour, J. Cassidy, M. Posa, J. Hopa, A. Reichelmann, M. Sarich, F. Purcell, J. Sommerville, G. Ferguson, B. Repia, P. Keenan and M. Faasola.

In their next engagement the Greens—aided by the insipid tackling of the opposition — amassed thirty-nine points to Northcote's 12. Jim Edwards emerged from retirement to fill the outside centre berth in Denton's absence.

The seventh inter-Marist Easter

tournament was conducted at Wellington. In the opening matches Auckland defeated the holders, Greyouth, by 18 points to 5 and Wellington vanquished Dunedin by 26 points to 3. The host city then downed Christchurch by 15 points to 8 to become Auckland's adversaries in the final. Another ardent aspiration was attained when Auckland outclassed the Capital City thirteen by 43 points to 7, to at last annex the Reverend Father Joseph Duffy Cup.

Against North Shore the Green vanguard tired considerably in the final quarter and permitted the lighter Black sextet to initiate a series of stirring sorties which thoroughly tested the defence of the Marist rearguard. The Green backs were equal to the task and at no-side Marist were the victors by 27 points to 17.

On May 4th the Old Boys, for the first time in the season, tasted defeat when Richmond took the honours by 7 points to 5. Considering Denton and Patterson were missing from the Green line-up it was a creditable performance. A week later Marist achieved an impressive victory when they downed Ellerslie by 19 points to 13. In the second spell the Red, White and Blues led by Campbell and Eastlake, made incessant efforts to breach the Green fortifications which, however, proved impenetrable. That hardened campaigner and loyal stalwart Jim Sommerville, had the misfortune to sustain a broken leg in a tackle.

The following day Reichelmann, Denton and McKay appeared for a sparkling Pakeha XIII which had too many guns for their Maori opponents, including Ah Loo and Ngawati, and triumphed by 35 points to 19. The curtain-raiser proved an auspicious encounter for it marked the Carlaw Park debut of an Auckland University College XIII. Although the City-Newton Senior Thirds, theirs was an encouraging performance and the portal to exciting possibilities. Alas, in the intervening decade, gestation has not been concomitant with desire.

On May 18th the principal attraction at Carlaw Park was the clash between Marist and the unbeaten leaders, Ponsonby.

The first points of the match were registered by the Greens when scrum-half Ted Seymour, pierced the defence on the blind-side and transferred to fullback, Goodin, who had showed enterprise to enter the movement. Goodin consolidated the position then slipped a clever back pass to Neville Denton, who accelerated and left several opponents sprawled in his wake before touching down for a glorious try. At intermission Marist deservedly led by 5 points to nil.

In the second spell the referee, Mr. Peter Yaxley, of Christchurch insisted that the ball be placed in the centre of the scrum. The subsequent failure to comply with this instruction led to a spate of penalties and many temperamental outbursts. The third quarter saw the Blue and Black forwards assume control and Bill Sorenson, the Ponsonby skipper, convert a nice try by K. Tamati to level the scores.

The imperturbable Greens rallied and Goodin sparked a clever piece of play which culminated in Denton racing across for his second try.

Ponsonby retaliated with three points by Crawford, then launched onslaught upon onslaught in an endeavour to snatch the lead. 'Twas to no avail for the Marist defence was impervious to the end and the Greens triumphed by 10 points to 8. Although hampered by lack of possession the brilliance of the Marist backs won the day.

The ensuing Saturday the Greens led Otahuhu by 10 points to 2 at the interval, however, following the resumption the Marist backs were hesitant in tackling the big Otahuhu forwards, whereupon the Double Blues confined play to their vanguard and ran out victors by 19 points to 10.

On the first day of June trials were held to select the New Zealand team to participate in the World Cup competition due to open in Sydney and Brisbane a fortnight later. A Blue thirteen, containing Kevin Ngawati,

defeated a Red selection, including Denton, by 16 points to 7, while in the curtain-raiser an Auckland team thrashed South Auckland by 41 points to 8. Denton (2 games that day) and Reichelmann wore the Blue and White.

The promulgation of the Kiwi team revealed that Neville Denton was to play in his 2nd World Cup tournament. Regrettably, tragedy occurred on the following Thursday when the blonde speedster failed to pass a medical examination of a pulled leg tendon, injured the previous day at practice, and was forced to withdraw from the team in favour of Reece Griffiths of the West Coast.

The Greens launched their second round campaign in resplendent fashion when they slaughtered North Shore at Cornwall Park by 51 points to 5, scoring 43 points after the interval. Ted Karanga showed good form in the forwards while a former Ponsonby Rugby Union player named Sam Edwards, made his initial Rugby League appearance in this match and was energetic, if a little unskilled.

Mt Albert a week later upset Marist aspirations with a decisive victory over a full strength Green thirteen by 28 points to 17. The Blue and Gold inside centre was none other than Don Hammond. The Old Boys restored fortunes with a 21-16 defeat of City-Newton, thence fell victim to Ellerslie at Western Springs Stadium 5-12. J. Smyth was making his presence felt in the Marist pack.

Aucklanders were becoming accustomed to a Queen Street without tram rails: to celebrate the removal of same a carnival was in full swing.

History was made at Carlaw Park on Saturday, July 6th, when, for the first time two overseas international teams engaged in combat on New Zealand soil. The match—an exhibition—brought a Great Britain victory over France by 26 points to 12. Two days later the combined Great Britain-France XIII narrowly defeated New Zealand by 34 points to 31.

In the World Cup, Australia, with an unbeaten record, captured the magnificent trophy. Great Britain, France and New Zealand each had one victory. The Kiwis lost to Australia 5-25, and to France 10-14, though they recorded a spectacular 29-21 success at Great Britain's expense.

In their next championship encounter Marist's hopes of reaching the top four were conclusively shattered when Otahuhu took the honours by 28 points to 13. The dangerous Green backs held command before the interval while the powerful Otahuhu pack dominated second spell play.

On July 20th Marist drew the bye while at Willowmoore Park, Benoni, near Johannesburg, Great Britain downed France in an exhibition encounter by 61 points to 41—the introduction of Rugby League to South Africa.

In the ultimate series before the play-offs the Greens succumbed to Ponsoby 2-16, Ellerslie and City-Newton were bracketed for the Fox Memorial Shield while Marist shared seventh position with Richmond.

The following Saturday a powerful Auckland thirteen cruised to a comfortable 20 points to 8 victory over Canterbury. Denton's elusive-ness and celerity enabled him to collect four tries while Reichelmann

performed admirably in the Blue and White pack.

While Ellerslie, City-Newton, Mt Albert and Pt Chevalier contested the Stormont Shield competition the remaining teams battled for possession of the Phelan Shield. In their first match Marist avenged their defeat of a fortnight before, when they surprisingly accounted for Ponsoby by 27 points to 21. The Old Boys commenced the match with 11 players, however, they were subsequently reinforced by two Juniors in M. Rolleston and R. McPhee. Ron McKay filled the role of lock forward.

Elimination eventuated in our second round clash, when Richmond was successful by 20 points to 6. Influenza played havoc with team selection.

On August 24th Patterson and Rolleston were members of the Auckland University College team which was beaten 15-18 by Otago University. This match was the curtain-raiser to the grand final in which Ellerslie downed City-Newton by 19 points to 13.

A weakened Marist thirteen defeated Northcote 26-10 in the opening round of the Roope Rooster. Sio (Marist) and Cooke (Northcote) received early showers. The following day at Western Springs Stadium the Maoris and Pakehas staged a

spectacular contest which finished in a victory to the latter by 28 points to 21. Ah Loo appeared for the Maoris and Reichelmann, the Pakehas. In an added attraction the mare Coleen Jess, ridden by ace hoop and Marist Bros Rugby League stalwart Grenville Hughes, defeated former Kiwi wing and 1950 British Empire Games long jumper, Bevan Hought, by 8 lengths in a 60 yard sprint from a standing start.

In our second Rooster match Otahuhu proved superior and took the honours by 28 points to 15. It was the Double Blues' third consecutive victory over Marist. Alan Gore—former A.R.L. treasurer—was prominent in the victor's pack.

This defeat thus terminated the Senior A teams activities for the season, although Reichelmann wore the Pakeha jersey when the Blue and Whites swamped the Maoris by 52 points to 18. Ah Loo appeared for the losers. The curtain-raiser between the Sydney Watersiders and the Auckland Cargoworkers ended in a 13 all draw. Marist members included in the local squad were: R. Goodin, T. Karanga, M. Sarich, J. Hopa, B. Replea, J. Cassidy and S. Edwards.

1957 witnessed the most momentous event in the annals of Junior Rugby League. An Auckland representative side visited New South Wales and returned to the Shaky

Isles with an unblemished record. The team defeated Illawarra 32-7, Western Suburbs 21-4, Eastern Suburbs twice 16-3 and 5-2. The Marist Club was deeply honoured by the presence in the trail-blazers of Ray Thurlow from the the Thirds and Brian Reidy from the Fifties; an achievement enhanced when the latter was appointed captain.

Our Third and Fifth Grade teams annexed their respective championships while our Sevenths finished near the top. Sel Lipscombe of the latter team amassed a century of points.

Pride of place in the Schoolboy division was claimed by our First Graders (Senior Colts), coached by Oscar Fletcher and captained by Ray Schultz. These unconquerable yet unostentatious lads, in their farewell year as Schoolboys, snared both championship and knock-out, and climaxed a remarkable trail of triumph 1954-1957, unprecedented in the Club's history.

Auckland honours were gained by Bill Harford, Ray Bryant, Wayne McNeil, Bill Fletcher (Senior Colts); Peter Govorko (Intermediate Colts); George Govorko and Gene Swann, (Juniors). Billy Harford also appeared for the North Island XIII at the interprovincial tournament in Huntly and was then selected in the New Zealand team.

## 1958: RESPLENDENCE RECAPTURED

At the thirty-ninth annual conference the following officers were elected:— Patron, Archbishop Liston; vice-patrons, Brothers Marcellin and Augustine; chaplain, Father M. J. Ryan; president, F. Moody; secretary, A. Tanner; treasurer, K. Cooney; club captain, P. McSweeney; management committee, A. Frost, R. Tanner, H. Denton, V. Hammond, P. Frost, J. O'Brien, P. Anderson, I. Keenan, A. Gilbert, O. Fletcher, G. McKeenan, W. Glover, Jr., and B. George.

church by 39 points to 13 to retain the prized Father Duffy Cup. Neville Denton, at outside centre was exhilarating form in the final to register 18 points from four tries and three conversions. Sam Edwards, John Ah Loo, Fred Purcell, B. Replea and Darby Diamond were also prominent. It was indeed a propitious overture to 1958.

In the initial series of the Auckland championship Marist downed Eastern City Districts by 15 points to 6. The Greens superior speed and fitness carried them to a comfortable victory.

The threequarter line Ah Loo, Denton, McKay and Patterson gave a sparkling exhibition, while the former Pt. Chevalier player Theo Maxwell, revealed promise in the pack. Incidents in this match led to the issue of a Board of Control circular, stating that players could be called to appear before the Board to account for their actions even though their misdemeanour did not incur dismissal from the field.

The following week Marist defeated Glenora by 25 points to 15. The absence of Denton deprived the back-



line of penetration and it was only a sustained last-quarter rally, in which McKay, Ngawati and scrum-half Eddie Pennell, were prominent, that brought victory.

In their next engagement the Old Boys encountered Richmond. With Ngawati and Rolleston in tip-top form, the Greens subdued their formidable adversaries and advanced to a merited 20 points to 10 success.

On May 3rd Marist produced a glorious display to outclass Mt. Albert by 28 points to 5 and assume the championship lead.

A week later the Greens were toppled from their perch by the second-placed Ponsonby side, who took the honours by 18 points to 12. The League News summarised the contest thus:—"Greater physical strength and more purposeful football enabled Ponsonby to down Marist in a gruelling, often brilliant main match. From the opening whistle Ponsonby bombarded the Marist line and with two tries went to an early lead. Marist settled down to counter-attack and at the interval were trailing 5-8. The Greens assumed the offensive after the resumption. However, the Blue and Black defence was shatter-proof and 'twasn't long before the Ponies increased their lead with a penalty and a converted try.

Suddenly the scene changed as Ngawati engineered a dazzling movement that changed direction several times, before Denton raced across for a memorable Marist try. The conversion and a subsequent penalty placed the Greens only three points in arrears. Ponsonby put the result beyond doubt a few minutes before nose-aside with a fine forward try which was not converted."

In the first interprovincial match of the season Auckland retained the Northern Union Cup by defeating a vigorous West Coast XIII by 16 points to 12. Denton and Reichelmann wore the Blue and White. On the following day, May 18th, a series of club matches was staged on suburban grounds—the first time that A.R.L. competition fixtures had been decided on a Sunday, apart from the 1953 Roope Rooster final re-play. In a

spectacular principal attraction at the Ellerslie Domain the locals out-sparked Marist and emerged victors by 27 points to 15.

Against Pt. Chevalier, the Old Boys were in delightful form and stormed to a decisive 31 points to 17 victory. The following Saturday, although weakened by the absence of star players with the Auckland team in the South Island, the Greens nevertheless managed to draw 14 all with Otahuhu. Ron McKay, with devastating tackling and clever positional play, was proving a success as custodian.

In Greymouth the touring Queen City team outclassed the West Coast XIII by 31 points to 11, thence journeyed to Christchurch where they inflicted a 36-15 defeat on the Cantabrians. Denton, Ngawati and Reichelmann were members of the Auckland side.

In the ultimate series of the round the ameliorating Northern Districts thirteen upset Marist to the tune of 19 points to 6. New Zealand's top two wing three-quarters opposed one another in the outside centre berth—Tom Hadfield and Neville Denton. This Northern Districts team comprised players from the North Shore and Northcote Clubs, and with the Eastern City Districts side which was culled from the talent available in the City-Newton and Eastern Suburbs Clubs, formed the embryo of the imminent District Scheme.

The programme of June 7th carried an interesting advertisement drawing the attention of all Rugby League fans to the fact that forty-five debentures of £50 each, bearing interest at 5% per annum, were available for purchase to aid the procurement by the Marist Brothers Old Boys Club of a property in Falcon Street, Parkwell, which would be converted into imposing club rooms.

After many years of procrastination the most dramatic and necessary venture in the Club's development was about to become a reality.

On Sunday, June 8th, a Pakeha XIII including Denton, Patterson and Reichelmann, narrowly defeated the Maoris, for whom Ngawati appeared,

by 28 points to 26. Neville Denton finished first in the 100 yards sprint championship and received the A.D. Organ Cup.

In their first second round match, against Eastern City Districts, the Greens were 7-18 in arrears at inter-mission, and although they staged a rousing second half rally 'twas not sufficient to turn the tide, and the District\* side ran out victors by 26 points to 23. A week later Marist snatched a 16-14 success over Glenora.

On June 28th a Kiwi-studded Auckland thirteen swamped Wellington by 60 points to 10. Ngawati, Denton and McKay appeared for the victors. The latter gave a brilliant display in the role of lock forward. The following day Marist raced away from Richmond in the final quarter to record a decisive victory by 32 points to 19. Highlight of this encounter was the clash between the star wingers Bakalich and Denton. The honours slightly favoured Bakalich who collected four tries for the Maroon and Blues. A week later Marist secured two more championship points when they soundly defeated Mt. Albert by 14 points to nil.

In their next engagement the Greens succumbed to Ponsonby 6-14, however, they were immensely weakened by the absence of Denton, McKay, Ngawati and Reichelmann—all of whom were in Christchurch on duty with the North Island team which was surprisingly beaten by the Mainlanders 15-25.

As in the first round the Old Boys were outplayed by Ellerslie; this time to the tune of 19 points to 6. A fiery forward by the name of Albert Wiggs, was making his presence felt in the Marist pack, as was a young hooker called Bill Schultz.

The following Wednesday Kevin Ngawati was a member of the North Island Maori thirteen which met Great Britain at Davies Park, Huntly, and was slaughtered by the visitors 7-59.

On Saturday, July 26th, Test fever again gripped Auckland and New Zealand conquered the vaunted Great Britain team in the first duel by 15

points to 10. The tourists had lost only one match (the First Test) in Australia and the week before on the Sydney Cricket Ground, had trounced the Kangaroos in the "decider" by 40 points to 17. 25,000 spectators were entranced by a glorious exposition from thirteen dauntless Kiwis who perplexed the prognosticators and vindicated the beliefs of those brave enough to be optimists. Neville Denton capably filled the outside centre berth. The curtain-raiser to this epic encounter was between the Northcote and Marist First Juniors—the Black and Golds being successful. The Green and Gold team was selected from:—F. Sio, T. Stowers, T. Taualofa, L. Opetala, A. Duseigneur, W. Swann, P. Tousson, M. Kapihi, J. Betham, M. Vitale, C. Tuai, T. Saifiti, P. Muller, C. Ulberg, M. Purcell, La Faele, A. Mariner, P. Numata and Ofisa.

A brief return to club fortunes brought gales, rain, mud and a Marist victory over Pt. Chevalier by 6 points to 2.

The following Tuesday at the Palmerston North Showgrounds, Great Britain annihilated a combined North Island Provincies XIII, including Ngawati, by 72 points to 3.

The ensuing Saturday brought the Second and Final Test and 30,000 people watched the Lions run rampant and outclass the Shaky Islanders by 32 points to 15. Denton again wore the Kiwi and Silver Fern jersey and two days later appeared for Auckland, in company with Ron McKay, when the Queen City XIII gave the tourists a torrid time before going under 17-24. The author considers this Great Britain combination the finest team to tour New Zealand since the conclusion of the Second World War. Remember the mercurial scrum and stand-off half Alex Murphy; the astute long striding centre Eric Ashton; the dazzling wing Mike Sullivan; the devastating second rower Dick Huddart; and the ubiquitous lock Vince Karalius? Tour captain, Alan Prescott, broke an arm in the Second Test against Australia, thus the team was skippered in New Zealand by Phil Jackson.

In their final match of the minor championship the Old Boys went under to Northern Districts 2-12, however, they had qualified for the top four play-offs, in company with Ponsonby, Otahuhu and Ellerslie. The Greens had a match in hand as their scheduled opponents for August 16th, Otahuhu, were at that time engaged on a tour of New South Wales.

Marist encountered Ellerslie in the first semi-final. In the dying stages of an entertaining match, Brian Campbell crashed through several tackles to score a fine try which was converted by Cyril Eastlake, to give the Red, White and Blues victory by 10 points to 6.

Eliminated from the championship, a dedicated Marist approached the Roope Rooster competition determined to snare the elusive 'bird' for the first time since 1946. In a bright beginning to their quest the Green and Golds downed Pt. Chevalier by 21 points to 16, thence consolidated with a 20 points to 16 defeat of Otahuhu in a Wednesday match. The semi-finals brought victories to Ellerslie over Northern Districts by 16 points to 12, and to Marist against Glenora by 15 points to 6.

The final was played at Sturges Park, Otahuhu, before a large crowd in delightful spring weather.

Marist received plenty of ball in the early stages and a nice break by Paul Keenan, initiated a pretty movement which stretched the opposition defence to breaking point. Ellerslie centre Brian Campbell, retaliated when he intercepted a wild Marist pass and raced goalwards, however, he was smothered just short. The Greens remounted the offensive and Ron Goodin opened the scoring with a 35 yard penalty.

Plethoric possession enabled Marist to encamp in Tricolour territory, and following two unsuccessful penalty attempts by Goodin, the irrepressible Ron McKay, dived across in the corner.

Marist infringed in front of their own posts and Cyril Eastlake raised the flags. Spurred by this success Ellerslie displayed better combination

unsavory incident: an action which resulted in the referee, Mr. Vic Belsham, cautioning the Ponsonby forward Arthur Tomlinson. A few minutes later while Denton and Ericksen were wrestling for possession of a loose ball, Joe Ratina suddenly appeared on the scene, leapt into the air and brought both Denton and Ericksen crashing to the ground. Ratina's behaviour was viewed with disfavour by Mr. Belsham, who unhesitatingly ordered the massive Maori from the field. Keith Bell immediately disputed the decision whereupon he too, received his marching orders. A minute passed and Ericksen late-tackled Reichelmann, thus he joined his two team-mates in an early shower.

The Ponies were now in dire straits in the first spell they were unlucky to lose their hooker Ted Johnson, although he was replaced. Another forward, Mazzolini, was in considerable pain from an injured finger, however, he refused to leave the field and continued to win a reasonable share of the ball as hooker in a three man scrum. The Blue and Blacks, although their misfortune was of their own making, nevertheless gained the admiration of the crowd as they surged to the attack and Graham Bint scored, then Bill Sorenson, who was playing a magnificent game dodged and darted twenty-five yards for a lovely try which placed the Ponies ahead by 20 points to 16. Marist struck back and Brian Reidy, in his first Senior A match, raced into the backline and collected a fine try which McKay converted. Ponsonby were not to be denied and regained the lead when Sorenson landed a penalty.

The Blue and Blacks effort was impossible to sustain, however, and soon afterwards the Green forwards barged their way upfield and Sam Edwards charged across for a converted try. A few minutes later the coup de grace was administered when John Ah Loo scored. At no-side the 'board read: Marist Bros 29—Ponsonby 22.

For the victors tries were gained by Patterson (2), McKay, Seymour,

and emulated the copybook tackling of the Old Boys, however, their persistent attempts to breach the Marist fortifications were fruitless, and intermission arrived with the Greens ahead by 5 points to 2.

Ron Goodin began the second half scoring when he landed his second penalty, following a period of sustained Marist attack. The solid play of forwards Sam Edwards, Alan Reichelmann and Theo Maxwell, was inexorably extracting the sting from the Ellerslie sextet. The Greens increased their lead when Denton accepted a reverse pass from Ngawati, flew through a gap and sent John Ah Loo across near the corner post. Goodin added the extras with a splendid kick.

Marist was now irresistible and the ubiquitous Denton spreadeagled the defence, transferred to Patterson, moved quickly to receive an in-pass, thence raced around behind the posts to touch down for a lovely try which Goodin converted.

The sound of the final whistle a few minutes later was indeed sweet music — the Greens having waltzed to victory by 17 points to 2, and brought to the Club its first major Senior A trophy since the Stormont Shield in 1950.

Sunday, September 28th, 1958: another red-letter day in the history of the Club. By a strange coincidence Marist had last captured the Roope Rooster on Saturday, September 28th, 1946. The victorious 1958 thirteen was:— Fullback: R. Goodin; Three-Quarters: J. Ah Loo, E. Pennell, N. Denton, M. Patterson; Halves: K. Ngawati, E. Seymour; Forwards: S. Edwards, W. Schultz, T. Maxwell, A. Reichelmann. P. Keenan, R. McKay (captain).

On Saturday, October 11th, Marist and the Fox Memorial Shield winners, Ponsonby, clashed in the Champion of Champions contest.

After sixty minutes of an exciting, even encounter the Greens led by 16 points to 12, thence erupted events without precedent in the annals of the Stormont Shield. Firstly a line umpire raced onto the field to report an

Reidy, Edwards and Ah Loo. McKay landed two conversions as did Denton. The season therefore concluded in memorable manner with the Greens enjoying their most successful year since 1948.

For the Marist Club overall, 1958 was a year of amelioration: our Senior Reserves after reaching the top four play-offs were beaten 13 18 by Mt. Albert in the first semi-final; the Senior Seconds shared the runners-up position; the First Juniors annexed their championship; the Fourths succumbed to Richmond 18-19 in a thrilling championship final; the Sevens performed with distinction; and the Ninths shared their knock-out title. Paul Tousoon of the First Juniors amassed a century of points, and Phillip Muller of the same team was awarded the Geddes Medal on being adjudged the most sportsmanlike player in the Junior Grades.

Effulgent in our Schoolboy legions were the Thirteen Graders (Intermediate Colts)—coached by Charlie Gilbert—who were the premier team in their Grade. Included in the side were:— J. Doherty, O'Sullivan, Vujnovich, Gregory, R. Gilbert, J. Grey, P. Compton, McKeown, T. Buchan and R. Hone. Our Fourteenth Grade (Junior) side, although they only occupied the runners-up berth nonetheless turned in some impressive performances and are worthy of special mention. This team comprised:— Charlie Stowers (a points centurion), Paddy Young, Wayne Dunne, Andrew Larsen, Ernie McNeil, Billy White, Gordon Ross, Peter Keeley, Tom Brown, Rex Barry, Jim O'Donnell, Lou Foster, Kevin McNamara, Gene Swann (captain), Winkie Musin and R. Prendergast. Representative honours were gained by W. Quedley, P. Wilson (12ths); C. Stowers, R. Prendergast (14ths); and R. Compton (15ths).

Nineteen fifty-eight will also be remembered for the formation of that grand organisation, now synonymous with the 13-a-side game—the Auckland Rugby League Supporters Club. The Marist clubrooms, although unfinished, were being utilised.

## 1959-1963: DISTRICT DESTINY

To commence the story of this exciting period in Marist history, I feel it is apt to quote from the Auckland Star of Tuesday, March 24th, 1959.

"The Marist Rugby League Club host to this year's interprovincial Marist tournament will boast new club headquarters for the event. Its new £10,000 clubrooms in Falcon St, Parnell will be officially opened at 10 a.m. next Saturday morning—a few hours before the start of the tournament.

Marist will then be in its own headquarters for the first time.

Bought half completed late last year, the building has been finished off by club members. Throughout the summer they have acted as carpenters and painters, turning the 820 sq ft of floor space downstairs and 1500 sq ft upstairs into clubrooms of which they can be proud.

On the ground floor there is a kitchen and recreation room. Upstairs is the social room. In time part of the upstairs portion will be turned into a gymnasium.

Club members will continue to train at the Domain.

To help finance the project the Club sold £50 debentures which raised £2000".

The initial match in the tournament brought victories to Auckland A by 29 points to 13 over Auckland B, and Greymouth by 23 points to 6 at Wellington's expense. In the final the Auckland A thirteen proved superior in all departments and amassed 46 points to Greymouth's 18. Stars in a team which handed their opponents an object lesson in physical fitness were: Maxwell, Alby Wiggs and John Coffey. For the losers Graham Kennedy showed promise.

In the contest for the wooden spoon Auckland B downed Wellington by 23 points to 14. Steve Keogh (Auckland B) was acclaimed the most sportsmanlike player.

The great day Saturday, March

The following Saturday the Greens sparkled and thrashed Southern Districts by 40 points to 14. McKay continued to astound the critics with his phenomenal goal-kicking, while today's star kicker, Ernie Wiggs wore the Marist Senior A jersey for the first time. In their next engagement the Old Boys vanquished Richmond by 25 points to 4 at Sturges Park. Paul Schultz made his initial Senior A appearance and played capably at scrum-half.

The visiting Canterbury team tried conclusions with Auckland on May 2nd and was swamped by 48 points to 5. Reidy and Denton appeared for the Queen City. In the curtain-raiser an Auckland B thirteen, including Bill Schultz, Alby Wiggs and Sam Edwards, trounced an Auckland A side, containing Murray Patterson, by 24 points to nil.

A week later Eastern Districts inflicted Marist's first defeat of the season when they took the honours by the odd point in twenty-three. Terry Hammond revealed promise in the Green vanguard.

The next day the Pakehas conquered the Maoris by 16 points to 10. McKay and A. Wiggs wore the Pakeha jersey and Ah Loo and Ngawati the Maori.

In an endeavour to discover hidden, and further improve existing talent, amongst its younger and less experienced players, the New Zealand Rugby League conducted a National Training School in Palmerston North from May 9th to 15th inclusive. Marist boys that attended were Reidy, Patterson, Edwards and Bill Schultz.

On May 16th a Kiwi thirteen defeated a Potential Kiwis team, culled from students of the National Training School, by 23 points to 17. Denton took the field for the Kiwis, and Reidy, Schultz and Patterson for the losers. In the curtain-raiser Ngawati was a member of the Red team which downed a Blue combination, including Edwards and McKay, by 20 points to 18. These matches served as the final trials to choose the 14th New Zealand team to tour Australia.

The announcement of the fortunate twenty-six was greeted with approbation by Marist supporters, as Denton, Patterson, Reidy and Bill Schultz had all won selection. For the two latter—both 20 years of age—it was a tremendous thrill and a meteoric, yet just, rise to fame. Both boys had progressed through the grades from Seven-a-side to Seniors, always in a Green and Gold jersey.

Feeling the loss of their four Kiwis, Marist struggled to an 18-17 victory over Northern Districts; thence succumbed 3-8 to Glenora; and 3-24 to the powerful West United (Mt Albert and Pt Chevalier) XIII, whose captain-coach was the great Tom Baxter. The Auckland Harbour Bridge was opened on Saturday, May 30th.

In their initial second round engagement Marist ameliorated and vanquished Ellerslie by 21 points to 8, however, a week later they again tasted defeat when Southern Districts ran out victors 28-25, after the most entertaining match of the season. This latter encounter was the first principal attraction to be controlled by today's top whistle-bearer, John Percival. The curtain-raiser was also of an historical nature, for the contestants were two Secondary School teams, in Tamaki College and Wellington Technical College. The Aucklanders were successful by 41 points to 6.

In our meeting with Richmond, the Maroon and Blues triumphed by 13 points to 6. A colourful second spell incident saw a Marist player dragged eight feet along the ground into touch and Richmond awarded the penalty; a decision which led to a try by Bakalich.

Cliff Johnson's Kiwis had returned from Australia with an impressive record of 13 victories and 2 defeats. The Trans Tasman Cup remained in the Commonwealth as the Kangaroos had taken the series by 2 matches to one. The Australians won the First Test 9-8, the Second 38-10 and lost the Third 12-28. Neville Denton appeared in all three encounters.

Strengthened by their Kiwis, Marist carried too many guns for Eastern City Districts and prevailed by 24 points to 2, thence fell victim to the unpredictable Northern Districts side 10-14.

The following week Marist produced a champagne display to overwhelm Glenora by 35 points to 3.

On August 1st in the final series of the championship, the Greens met the leaders, Western United. Marist had to win this crucial match to be assured of a place in the top four play-offs. The Rugby League News summarised the conflict thus:

"A brilliantly fast first half saw the lead see-saw and the crowd wildly excited. From the kick-off Western were in full cry and came close to scoring, then Don Raisbeck missed a penalty chance but immediately atoned when impetuous Marist players were caught offside. Marist misfortune allowed Raisbeck to place his team 4 points in the lead when Green skipper McKay, in covering his fullback Reidy, accidentally put the latter offside when the ball eluded his grasp and bounced forward into Reidy. Undaunted the Greens hit back in spectacular fashion. Murray Paterson made a glorious end to end dash, sold Western fullback Doug Moselin a lovely dummy and scored between the posts. Two further simple penalties by Raisbeck gave the Reds the lead once more, however, Marist soon evened when the leather came along the backline at toe level to Denton, whose speed did the rest and enabled him to touch down in the corner. McKay's attempted conversion struck the upright and bounced back. Ten minutes later the Greens forged ahead with a 50 yard penalty by McKay, only to see Western regain the lead 11-10 right on halftime as Graham Clarke bounced through several tackles and scored wide out.

The tempo of the match slowed down in the second half and the renowned Western cover defence proved impregnable despite continuous Marist assaults. The Greens played

most of this spell a forward short as the energetic Sam Edwards retired with an injured shoulder. With 60 minutes gone Western's Ted Penney crossed for an unconverted try. In a last do or die attack McKay ignored three easy penalties at goal as he strove to win the match with the necessary five pointer. Regrettably 'twas to no avail and Western thus edged Marist out of the top four with their 14 points to 10 victory."

At this juncture the A.R.L. instituted a special knock-out competition to be decided amongst Ponsonby, Manukau-Greenlane, the bottom four Senior A teams and in the second week, the loser of the first semi-final. Manukau-Greenlane provided the upset of the year when they vanquished Marist by 21 points to 16 in the opening round.

Fifteen days later the 1959 Roope Rooster competition began. Marist's hopes of retaining the title were swiftly shattered, for Ellerslie deservedly triumphed by 19 points to 8. On August 29th the inter-island match eventuated. The Kiwi studded North Island thirteen, including Neville Denton, prevailed by 26 points to 13. This fixture was a highlight of the New Zealand Rugby League Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Activities for the Marist Senior As were now at an end, although Denton appeared for the Auckland thirteen which was vanquished 5-23 by the visiting Sydney champions. St George on September 26th.

Western United proved the glamour team of 1959 by defeating Richmond 15-0 in the championship grand final; Papanui (Christchurch) 39-14 in the final of the New Zealand club tournament; and St George (greatly weakened by the presence of seven members with the touring Kangaroos in England and France) 8-7 in a match billed as the championship of Australasia. Ellerslie stored the Roope Rooster with a 20-8 victory over Northern Districts, thence annexed the Stormont Shield by downing Western United (non-competitors in the Rooster) 9 points to 7, in a thrilling champion

of champions encounter on an afternoon designated the Auckland Rugby League's Golden Jubilee Day.

As part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations the A.R.L. conducted a Queen Carnival. The Marist Club's representative was the attractive Miss Daphne Casey — alas, she was unsuccessful.

The only triumphant Marist side in 1959 was the First Junior combination, coached by the indefatigable Bill Glover, Jnr, and managed by Charlie Hickey. This brilliant team produced many outstanding exhibitions and proved invincible: they won all their 17 games, scored 658 points and yielded 118. Members included: P. Sio, L. Apulu, W. Swann, P. Gabriel, H. Purcell, J. Matthes, P. Tousoon, M. Faasolo, K. Tenari, A. Faavesi, C. Tuai, L. Hickey and P. Muller.

A random glance reveals the following in our Schoolboy legions:— W. Quedley, R. McRae (Elevenths); C. Stowers, P. Donnelly, G. Swann (Thirteenth); P. O'Donnell, R. Hone (Fourteenths); T. Dilworth, W. Burt (Owairaka 10-a-side); T. Lucca, N. Shalfoon (Trinity Street 10-a-side); D. Walsh, J. Waters, (St Josephs 7-a-side); J. Hodgetts, R. Hurley (St. Josephs Midgets).

W. Quedley, J. Parkinson, P. Govoriko and P. Wilson were members of the Auckland A 11th Grade (Senior Colts) team which regained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield at the national tournament staged in the Queen City. The first named also won North Island and New Zealand honours. Bob McRae was the Marist boy in the Auckland B team.

#### 1960

The controversial, sometimes paradoxical District Scheme unfolded in earnest on Saturday, April 2nd, 1960. Three new formations were introduced to the Rugby League Public in: (1) Ponsonby-Richmond; (2) Manukau-Roskill — the union of Mt Roskill and Manukau-Greenlane; and (3) Eastern United — the combination of Eastern City Districts

and Ellerslie. Glenora retained its name although Te Atatu became a feeder club while for Marist, a status quo existed — the A.R.L. being vitally aware of the important issues involved as regarded the Green's retention of identity. As the scheme only applied to the Senior and Senior Reserve Grades, the individual clubs continued to participate as such in all other grades; these teams acting as feeders for the District thirteens.

In a high scoring encounter Northern Districts downed the Greens by 34 points to 28. George Hogg and Graham McGlynn both made promising entrances into Senior A football. In their second match Marist atoned with a 20 points to 6 victory over Glenora. Versatile Ron McKay moved to inside centre and effectively contained the dangerous Bill Sorenson, who was playing his first game for the Blue and Whites. "Pip" Bryant impressed on the Marist flank while the vanguard star was Kel Connolly, who had just transferred from Pt Chevalier.

A new rule was in operation whereby a scrum was formed should the dummy-half be caught in possession following a play-the-ball.

The following weekend the 10th inter-Marist Easter tournament was staged at Wingham Park. Grey-mouth. In accounting for Wellington in their opening match the Aucklanders thus qualified for the final against the West Coasters. The Father Duffy Cup returned to Grey-mouth as man for man the locals proved just too good. The visitors were soon unbalanced by the opposition's strong attacking forwards and fast running backs. At no stage did Auckland regain their equilibrium. It was a bright, fast, open and purposeful game. Greymouth led 5-0 after one minute; 17-10 at the interval and finally triumphed by 40 points to 20. Brian Reidy impressed the onlookers with his dazzling acceleration, skilful handling and judicious kicking. He thoroughly merited the award of the tournament's most outstanding

player. The vanquished Auckland thirteen was:—B. Reidy, R. Harris, J. Comerford, R. Goodin, T. Rout, G. McGlynn, P. Schultz, A. Wiggs, F. Matangi, B. Repia, R. Duffy, W. Schultz (capt), T. Hammond. Six of the regular Senior A team, including Denton and McKay, were unavailable for the trip.

In the principal attraction at Carlaw Park on April 23rd the Greens, spurred by the frenzied cheering of 6000 fans, produced a scintillating exposition to defeat Western United by 19 points to 16. A week later Southern Districts conquered Marist by 23 points to 21—thanks to a remarkable second spell transformation when the Blacks amassed 17 points to Marist's 5.

7500 spectators witnessed the clash between Marist and the unbeaten leaders. Eastern United, however, the expected thriller failed to materialise as the injury-stricken Old Boys were compelled to field a makeshift rearguard which revealed little penetration, and thus the Tricolours took the honours by 28 points to 6. McKay at scrum-half was a continual inspiration to his team; Denton's defensive play improved; and Albert Wiggs showed fire in the pack.

The following day the Pakehas proved too astute for the Maoris and triumphed by 28 points to 10. Denton and McKay appeared for the Blue and Whites and Goodin the losers.

On May 21st a powerful West Coast thirteen upset Auckland by 22 points to 18. The Queen City vanguard included Marist's most improved player, Terry Hammond. In the curtain-raiser Marist had no difficulty in defeating Manlane-Roskill by 25 points to 9, while on the Sunday, in the opening matches of the second round, they struggled to a 22-16 success over Northern Districts. In the latter fixture three Third Graders received their baptism of fire in Senior A ranks—Barry Crowther, Alan Bacon and the 16 year old Tony Kriletich.

Our next engagement saw Glenora triumph by 12 points to 7. Head-high tackling Paul Schultz excepted—was a deplorable characteristic of the Green's performance. A week later Midland Districts (formerly Manlane-Roskill) went close to achieving their first victory at Marist's expense, however the Old Boys survived to be ahead 10-6 at no-side.

During Queen's Birthday weekend the Auckland A representatives experienced a successful South Island visit when they vanquished West Coast 19-4 and Canterbury 8-2. At Carlaw Park an Auckland B thirteen, including Hammond, W. Schultz and A. Wiggs, downed Waitakato by 11 points to 8.

Marist appropinquated their best form in the return clash with Western United, although, on this occasion they filled the losers role. Down 12-13 with two minutes remaining the Greens assailed the Gold's line, only to be adjudged offside. From the resultant penalty Western launched a brilliant movement which was climaxed by Addie Cunningham scoring his second try to give his team victory by 16 points to 12.

Great hooking by Bill Schultz, allied to the intelligent play of Edwards, A. Wiggs, Hammond and Maxwell, was instrumental in our 17-12 conquest of Southern Districts.

The following Saturday glamour team Eastern United, who were reeling under three consecutive defeats, outclassed the Greens to win by 14 points to 3 and thus regained their championship lead.

In the ultimate series of the second round Marist deservedly downed the second placed Central Districts (formerly Ponsonby-Richmond) by 14 points to 11. As Southern Districts defeated Midland Districts the Greens thus failed to qualify for the top four play-offs.

The Second National Coaching School was conducted in Rotorua between July 9th and 15th. Alby Wiggs and Sam Edwards were amongst the thirty students. On the

16th a Kiwi team encountered a thirteen comprised of graduates from the Coaching School. The Kiwis adjusted themselves the better to the adverse elements and triumphed by 15 points to 4. For the victors Denton scored all three tries, gave a splendid all round performance and thus convincingly silenced his critics. Sam Edwards was prominent in the School pack.

A week later New Zealand vanquished the third French touring team in the First Test by 9 points to 2, in the presence of 23,000 spectators. Neville Denton gave a grand display on the Kiwi's left wing.

In the semi-finals of the Phelan Shield Marist experienced little difficulty in taking Glenora's measure by 19 points to 2 and thereby qualified for a place in the grand final.

The ensuing Wednesday saw France gain a 23-12 victory over the New Zealand Maoris at Rotorua. Sam Edwards appeared for the losers.

On August 6th, Denton again sported the Kiwi and Silver Fern when New Zealand outplayed the Frenchmen in the Second and Final Test by 9 points to 3. Seventeen thousand people watched this tense tussle which concluded in sensational manner with policemen converging on the field from all directions as the referee Mr Belsham was punched and kicked by irate Frenchmen. As a result of these regrettable incidents the N.Z.R.L. Council banned winger Alain Perducat, and hooker Andre Vadon, from future participation in Rugby League matches in the Dominion. The following Monday Auckland registered their second successive victory over France when they triumphed in the mud by 14 points to 5. Marist men in Auckland livery were Ron McKay, Murray Pattinson and Denton—the latter exhibiting the most brilliant form of his career. French stars to remember were the three forwards Boldini, Barthe and Bescos.

The Phelan Shield grand final between Glenora and Marist was

played as a curtain-raiser to the Southern Districts v Eastern United championship grand final.

From the opening whistle the Blue and Whites moved quickly in defence and allowed the dangerous Marist backs no room in which to move. After 5 minutes Glenora registered the first points when Bruce Carson crossed for a nice try which Bill Sorenson converted. Marist were soon 10 points in arrears when Munga Emery crashed through their defence and sent Bruce Carson over for his second converted try.

Dazzling play by Denton was frustrated from a deserved reward when he was tripped a yard short. Glenora soon returned to the attack and a lovely combined movement saw Brian McInerney score. Sorenson missed the conversion but landed a penalty just prior to the interval.

Marist used Ron Goodin's tactical kicks to advantage in the second spell and looked far more menacing but the Glenora defence held them to two tries—one an excellent solo effort by F. Venu. The Blue and Whites were unable to increase their tally, however, their first half endeavours were sufficient to bring them victory by 15 points to 6.

This same afternoon the Marist Senior Reserves contested their championship grand final against Western United and were trounced by 29 points to 2. The Fox Memorial Shield clash saw Eastern and Southern finish on level terms at 7 points apiece.

The following day at Sturges Park a Kiwi-studded XIII selected by the Rugby League Public defeated a team chosen by the Auckland selectors Messrs Des White, Des Barchard and Laurie Kearney, by 27 points to 13. Denton and McKay appeared for the Public and Patterson and the Schultz brothers for the Selectors.

Marist commenced their Roope Rooster quest in sparkling fashion by outclassing Midland Districts by 28 points to 13. This same day at Wingham Park, Greymouth, Denton and McKay were members of the

North Island XIII which downed the South Island by 37 points to 24.

The promulgation of the New Zealand XVIII to participate in the Third World Cup in England revealed the inclusion of only one Auckland Marist player in the person of Neville Denton.

Continuing to exhibit spectacular football the Greens advanced to the 'Rooster' final by means of a brilliant 23-13 victory over Southern Districts. Tony Kriletich showed speed on the Marist flank and collected two delightful tries.

On Saturday, September 10th, Glenora and Marist clashed to decide the fate of the Silver Wyandotte for 1960.

From the outset the Blue and Whites assailed the Green fortifications and after 17 minutes were rewarded, when Sorenson smashed his way past several defenders and sent Gyde across in the corner. Ron Goodin drew an ovation when he registered Marist's opening points with a magnificent penalty from a yard inside halfway — an effort Sorenson emulated a few minutes later.

Glenora maintained the offensive for Charlie Owen to break clear, hand to Hart, on to Sorenson, who raced 25 yards to score. Jacobsen converted then added an easy penalty. Just prior to intermission "Boof" Sorenson's unearring boot landed a second 50 yarder to give the Blue and Whites the lead by 14 points to 2.

Glenora began the second spell as they had the first—storming the Marist citadel. On this occasion only four minutes elapsed before the Greens cracked to permit Gyde to touch down in the corner. Jacobsen added the extras with a great kick.

At this juncture the Blues eased; a situation of which the Old Boys quickly took advantage. Bill Schultz hooked from a mid-field scrum, the ball travelled to Ngawati, who raced to the blind, pierced the defence and sent outside centre Kriletich across for a lovely try which was

converted by Denton, who shortly after landed a penalty.

Marist was staging a spirited revival which was unexpectedly terminated when Sorenson hurled a long pass to his unmarked winger Brian McInerney, who sprinted 65 yards to score wide out.

The Greens continued to attack and were finally rewarded when Sam Edwards crashed over following an up-and-under penalty awarded after the bell.

Glenora deservedly annexed the celebrated trophy by 22 points to 12. In reviewing the match the Rugby League News stated that:—

- (1) In a sparkling final Marist could not match the tactical brilliance of Bill Sorenson.
- (2) Glenora displayed better understanding and backed up well, rarely dying with the ball.
- (3) Neville Denton worked hard for Marist and kicked well. Kevin Ngawati revealed some of his elusive dash and full marks go to the versatile Ron Goodin, who filled in at scrum-half after Paul Schultz's early injury. In the forwards Sam Edwards was a tower of strength while Ernie and Alby Wiggs worked fiercely.

The Seniors participation in the 1960 season was now at an end, although the Schultz brothers and Alby Wiggs were members of the Auckland Colts thirteen which downed Manly Warringah by 10 points to 4 on September 25th — the only defeat sustained by the Sydney visitors in their 4 match tour.

In the Junior division the only triumphant side was the Sixths who secured both the championships and knock-out. This team coached by Oscar Fletcher comprised:— R. Schultz (capt), A. Musin, K. Quill, E. Quill, W. Harford, D. Buchan, B. Dummer, R. Grimes, M. Pullin, A. Drummond, R. Bryant, P. Brunton, N. Harvey, H. Dixon, P. Stowers and W. Fletcher. Auckland perseys are also T. Taylor, N. Larsen and R.

Lipscombe of the Fourths. A new recruit was Oscar Danielson of the First Juniors.

In the Schoolboy ranks the sole success was achieved by the St Benedict's lads who captured the double honours in the 15th Grade D section. Twelfth Graders Gene Swann, Paddy Young and Charlie Stowers gained representative honours, as did Michael Clark of our mighty Minors.

New Zealand's World Cup campaign brought losses to Great Britain at Bradford 8-23; to Australia at Leeds 15-21; and a victory over France at Wigan by 9 points to nil. Denton appeared in the first two encounters.

#### 1961

At the forty second annual general meeting, Mr Len Schultz — a Marist star of the early 'thirties and former York (England) player—was elected to the presidency, while Mr Jack O'Donnell was chosen as secretary in succession to Mr Alan Tanner.

Mr A. Jarvis was the new secretary of the schoolboy's committee, a position previously occupied by Mr N. Larsen.

On Easter Monday the A.R.L., as a prelude to the season, staged a 7-a-side tournament at Carlaw Park. The Greens commenced with a convincing victory over Eastern United B, thence entered the final by means of an impressive 9-6 defeat of Eastern United A. In the decisive encounter Marist downed Glenora by 17 points to 6. The favoured Blue and White VII had no effective counter to the celerity of Denton, Ah Loo and Patterson.

In the initial series of the championship the Greens met Eastern United in the principal attraction at headquarters. At the end of an opening spell, highlighted by the close marking and copybook tackling of both sides, the Tricolours led by 5 points to 2. After the resumption the Eastern rearguard functioned like a well-oiled machine and bewildered the Greens, who were flat-

footed in comparison. At no-side the Tricolours were ahead by 34 points to 2. Lin Marvin, Peter Allison and Brian Reidy were prominent in a Marist team which dearly missed the services of Denton, Patterson and Bill Schultz, who were all victims of our somewhat pyrrhic 7-a-side tournament success. The former Waikato star Reg Cooke, gave a brilliant display in the Eastern backline. Another new Marist jersey was in fashion — Green with a gold letter M on the chest and a gold stripe on each sleeve.

A week later defeat again eventuated when Central Districts took the honours by 14 points to 4. Keogh, Duffy and Goodin gave creditable performances as did Jim Musin in his debut.

Marist, strengthened by the return of Denton and Bill Schultz, trounced Midland Districts by 27 points to 8. Classy displays were produced by John Chapman and Kevin Ngawati.

On April 29th, the Greens encountered the strong Glenora XIII; a spectacular match described by the Marist scribe to the Rugby League News thus:—"Seniors turned on what was probably the best performance by a Marist side in years to defeat Glenora 20-11. The football displayed could only be described as brilliant, particularly the forwards who really played above themselves. Murray Patterson and Paul Schultz stood out in the backs while in the forwards Steve Keogh, Ernie Wiggs and Tony Kriletich could not have been more impressive."

Former Marist hon. physician Dr Leo Cooney was now president of the New Zealand Rugby League. The enchanting musical "My Fair Lady" was breaking all records at His Majesty's Theatre.

The following Saturday the Old Boys secured a further two championship points when they accounted for Northern Districts by the odd point in forty-five, however, they were fortunate to survive a spirited second spell rally by the Whites.

The next afternoon a Pakeha thirteen (including Denton and P. Schultz) proved too strong for the Maoris and ran out victors by 31 points to 17.

Auckland's first interprovincial appearance of the season brought an easy victory over Canterbury by 38 points to 4. Denton (left wing) and Paul Schultz (scrum-half) were brilliant.

A day later the Greens continued their string of successes when they downed Southern Districts by 26 points to 11.

In the last series of the round Marist vanquished Western United by 17 points to 5 and assumed second position on the ladder, four points behind the unbeaten Eastern United.

On May 27th, Auckland repulsed a stirring West Coast challenge by 16 points to 7. Denton and P. Schultz again represented the Queen City.

The following day the second round commenced and Marist, as in their earlier encounter, found Eastern United too proficient in the arts and succumbed 2-26.

Marist quickly atoned with a grand 20-15 victory at the expense of Central Districts. Ron McKay reappeared and instigated the rousing recovery which transformed defeat into triumph. By their success the Greens regained their second position which the previous week they had relinquished to Central.

In our next engagement bottom ranked Midland Districts shattered the Greens confidence, when they exhibited devastating tackling and intelligent attack, to deservedly take the honours by 8 points to 2.

The following week a gruelling contest between Marist and Glenora finished in a 2 all draw. Highlights of this tryless tussle were: (1) the inside centre clash between Bill Sorenson and Neville Denton which ended all square; (2) the impressive Senior A debut of Oscar Danielson; and (3) Tony Kriletich's capable performance as custodian. This same day at the Rotorua Showgrounds,

circumstances, was unable to make the great adventure, however, to our delight Ron Duffy was included in the team on the withdrawal of Ron Ackland.

Marist celebrated the reversion to district football by producing an exhilarating exhibition to dispose of Northern Districts by 33 points to 7, and in so doing assured themselves of participating in the top four play-offs.

The following Saturday the Old Boys downed Southern Districts by 12 points to 5, thence, in the ultimate series of the minor championship, vanquished Western United by 20 points to 11, to finish in 2nd equal position with Central Districts, 3 points behind Eastern United and 1 point ahead of Glenora.

Thirteen years had elapsed since Marist had last taken possession of the Fox Memorial Shield: would 1961 bring attainment of our aspirations? The answer was quickly provided for on August 12th Glenora, thanks to the prodigious goal-kicking of Bill Sorenson, downed the Greens by 14 points to 10 in the first semi-final. Ken Beaver commented on the encounter thus:—

"The result of the exciting curtain-raiser was in doubt until the end and speedy Marist looked a little unlucky to go down. There was little between two evenly matched teams but who could argue with those three superb Sorenson kicks of 50 yards, 55 yards and 60 yards. Marist was first to register when Paul Schultz paved the way for Ernie Wiggs to touch down. Ron Goodin missed the conversion but atoned soon after with a penalty. Sorenson reduced the leeway with his first penalty, thence the Blue and Whites equalised the position with a try to Brian McImmerney, following a clever break by Fred Karika. Right on half-time Marist custodian Steve Keogh, gathered the leather, sidestepped several opponents, transferred to Murray Patterson, who raced up the sideline, inpassed to Denton, who sent Mc Kay across near the posts to climax a magnificent movement — Denton bounced

the ball off the upright to convert. Following the resumption Marist produced a vigorous display which had Glenora defending desperately. "Crash" Carson finally relieved in a great dash to half-way where he was lowered by Keogh, however, he managed to pass to Al Gyde, who outdistanced the defence to score a great try, which was converted by Sorenson to level the position at 10 all.

After a period of sustained Marist attack which brought no reward, Sorenson landed two further long range penalties. These great efforts spelt finish to the scoring, therefore Marist rest until the commencement of the Roope Rooster."

On September 9th, the Old Boys surmounted the first obstacle in their quest for the "Bird", when they accounted for Central Districts by 7 points to 3, in a continual downpour of rain. Highlight was a grand display by the forwards Goodin, Schultz, Tual, Hammond, E. Wiggs and Kriletich.

A week later an Auckland Colts thirteen slaughtered Taranaki by 51 points to 11. Paul Schultz and Ernie Wiggs appeared for the victors.

An upset occurred in the "Rooster" semi-final when Southern Districts defeated Marist by 9 points to 5. The Greens failed to take advantage of their superior speed, and instead confined play to the forwards, a manoeuvre which suited the Blacks and was instrumental in their surprise victory.

The following day Ernie Wiggs and Bill Schultz were members of the Auckland Colts team which outclassed the New South Wales visitors, Riverina, by 34 points to 10.

On Sunday, October 8th, Neville Denton was at his brilliant best in scoring four tries for a Rest of Auckland XIII which outclassed Eastern United by 32 points to 12. Bill Schultz hooked for the victors. The match was organised by the Eastern United Club as part of the appeal to raise £2000 to send Sue

Robertson — six year old daughter of coach Maurie — to England for a vital spinal operation. 8500 spectators paid £1500.

The following Sunday the Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Football Club Inc., sponsored and organised a benefit afternoon at Carlaw Park, with all proceeds to the £102,000 appeal for the Mater Misericordiae Hospital — that wonderful institution held in the highest esteem throughout the entire community.

The principal attraction was the clash between Marist and the Waikato champions Huntly South. Regrettably wet weather ruined the match as a spectacle, the water covered ground making handling very difficult. The Greens took the honours by 14 points to 8 with tries being obtained by Chapman, Patterson, McKay and Venu and a conversion by Goodin. Former Marist great Des Barchard performed creditably in the first spell, his perfect passes being a joy to behold. Huntly South's prolific points-scorer Roger Tait took his season's tally to a staggering 468 (34 tries, 183 goals) easily a New Zealand record.

The previous day Eastern United had defeated Glenora by 14 points to 7 in the champion of champions encounter. As the Tricolours had earlier vanquished Glenora 24-7 in the championship grand final, and Southern Districts 9-5 in the Roope Rooster final, they thus captured the celebrated "treble".

Pride of place in the Junior division for 1961 went to Oscar Fletcher's Fifth Graders, who snared both the championship and knocked out to add further lustre to their magnificent record. The team was:— A. Musin (capt), R. Musin, R. Cavanagh, R. Bryant, P. Stowers, N. Harvey, R. Schultz, T. Hanna, A. Hanna, M. Pullin, R. Grimes, E. Quill, W. Fletcher, W. Harford, H. Burnette, D. Buchan, R. Franklin (manager), J. McNell of the Fourth Grade gained representative honours.

In the Schoolboy legions, championships were won by the 11th

A. Frost, K. Connolly, P. Young, P. Ryan, M. Copas and V. Hammond. In recognition of his outstanding devotion to the Club over a period approximating two score years, Mr J. P. (Pat) Young was elevated to life membership.

Mr Bill Glover, Jnr, was chosen as Senior A coach with Mr F. Moody as manager, while the Senior Reserves were to be under the surveillance of Ron Goodin (coach) and Cliff Mitchell (manager).

The advent of the 1962 season on April 7th brought a thrilling 32-24 success over Midland Districts. Marist—again wearing Green jerseys with a double gold vee—overcame an early deficit to be in front 17-14 at the change. After the resumption Denton notched two scintillating tries to give the Old Boys a comfortable lead which they retained until the conclusion. Ted Karanga, although unfit, was the most impressive back. Steve Keogh at custodian and Brian Reidy at stand-off half also gave capable exhibitions.

The following Saturday in the principal attraction at Carlaw Park, Glenora, after a shaky beginning dazzled the Greens with three tries in four minutes to assume command and eventually emerge the victors by 27 points to 19. Vic Lord at scrum-half performed creditably, as did Michael Reed in the vanguard when he took the field to replace the injured Ernie Wiggs. Former Marist forward Albie Wiggs, who had stood down during 1961 to obtain a transfer, proved a menace to his old club.

The inter-Marist Easter tournament was conducted in Christchurch, however, Auckland was once again unable to participate.

Against Central Districts the Old Boys gave a deplorable display of tackling and were consequently trounced by 32 points to 7. Only Marist players to reveal enterprise were Michael Hale, John Chapman and Ron Duffy. Charlie Tuai received an early shower as did Central's Bill Snowden and Bob Draper.

In their next engagement, that with Northern Districts, Marist returned to the winner's list when they outclassed the Whites by 24 points to 8. John Old won admirers with a powerful performance in the Old Boys pack.

The following afternoon Reidy, Denton, Ernie Wiggs and Hammond were members of the Paheka team which downed the Maoris in a spectacular contest by 22 points to 19.

On May 12th Marist encountered second placed Western United; a match which drew the following comments from the Rugby League News:—

"With names like Sam Edwards, Murray Patterson and Paul Schultz back in the team Marist assumed the healthy appearance of former strong combinations, however, it was try-scoring machine Neville Denton, who captured the limelight with two more typical tries. Western had the better of the early exchanges and with a solid defence held sway on the change by 10 points to 7 after tries by Gary Dick and captain Don Hammond. The Greens evened when Vic Lord crossed early in the second spell. Western quickly regained the lead when Ray Webber scored, only to see Marist equalise on the call of time. The final score was: MARIST 15, WESTERN UNITED 15."

A fortnight later the brilliant Eastern United combination—headed by maestro Ron Ackland—thrashed Marist to the tune of 45 points to 15, however, the Greens gained the approbation of the large crowd when after being down 2-25 at the interlude, instead of completely disintegrating as expected they rallied in magnificent manner to register three fine tries. Reg Cooke contributed 27 of the Tricolour's points.

On June 2nd an Auckland West XIII, comprised of players from the Glenora, Northern, Western and Central Clubs, defeated an Auckland East selection, culled from the Eastern, Midland, Southern and Marist



Clubs by 28 points to 15. Tony Krilitch, Ron Duffy and John Old were included in the losing team. This same weekend the Auckland touring team vanquished West Coast by 11 points to 4, thence lost possession of the Northern Union Cup 13-16 to an inspired Canterbury thirteen. Denton, Reidy and Edwards represented the Queen City.

The following Saturday brought the final series of the first round and a Green reverse 3-13 at the hands of Southern Districts.

To the dismay of their supporters Marist commenced the second round by sustaining two consecutive losses: to Midland Districts 4-7 and Glenora 5-21. A week later expiation eventuated: the Greens — with George Munga in sparkling form — registering a great 18-2 victory at the expense of Central Districts. This same afternoon at the Addington Showgrounds, Christchurch, the South Island vanquished the North Island by 10 points to nil — the first occasion in the history of the inter-island contest that the losing team had failed to score. Reidy, Denton and Edwards wore the Black jersey.

The Greens secured two more championship points in their next encounter when they defeated Northern Districts by the odd point in twenty-seven. Bing Gascoigne appeared for the opposition.

On July 28th at Carlaw Park, New Zealand trounced Great Britain in the First Test by 19 points to nil. Albeit it was raining, twenty-two thousand Aucklanders bathed in the sunshine which emanated from the effulgent exhibition of the Kiwis. Reidy, Denton and Edwards were members of the triumphant thirteen and the first mentioned scored an unforgettable interception try. Although the vaunted tourists were considerably weakened by the absence of their mercurial captain Eric Ashton, and scrum-half Alex Murphy (both injured in Australia) it is highly improbable that their presence would have affected the result, as the Kiwis on the day were invincible. Ignominy for the visitors was complete when it was ascer-

tained that for the first time in the forty-three Tests decided between the two countries since January 25th, 1908, the vanquished team had been unable to amass any points.

The following Tuesday Sam Edwards appeared for the New Zealand Maoris when they were outclassed by Great Britain at the Basin Reserve, Wellington by 35 points to 5.

A return to club football saw a disappointing Marist side go under to Western United by 11 points to nil.

On Saturday, August 11th, glory again enveloped thirteen dedicated Kiwis, including Reidy, Denton and Edwards, when they overwhelmed a dispirited Great Britain team by 27 points to 8, to take not only the Second Test but also the series for the first time since 1950. The magnitude of New Zealand's decisive victories was considerable, for it entitled the Kiwis to lodge claims to be adjudged the world champions, as earlier in their Australian tour the Englishmen — although at that period a much more powerful combination — had inflicted convincing defeats on the Kangaroos in both the First and Second Tests, and succumbed by the odd point in thirty-five in the Third Test.

Two days later at around 4.30 pm, fourteen thousand spectators departed from Carlaw Park captivated yet confounded by the astounding 46 points to 13 victory achieved by Auckland against the Lions — the biggest thrashing ever administered to an overseas touring team in the Shaky Isles. Reidy and Denton (the wonderful wings) were members of the Blue and White XIII which demoralised the dispirited, disinterested remnants of the tourists. Readers I'm sure will agree that the Lion's brightest star was Richard Huddart, the magnificent second rower.

International aspirations attained thoughts now reverted to the tension generated by the contest for the Fox Memorial Shield. In the penultimate series of the minor championship the Greens engaged the leaders Eastern

United, and after providing stiff opposition succumbed to the superior adroitness of the Tricolours 2-14. The following week Marist redeemed some of their lost reputation when they downed Southern Districts by the odd point in twenty-one, and thus finished in 5th position. A new face in the Green livery was John Kerr. Present mentor Neville Denton assumed the coaching responsibilities during the course of the second round. Eastern United centre Reg Cooke, became the first player to capture both the Harold Tetley and Lance Painter trophies in the same season. He scored 15 tries and kicked 47 goals.

In the second semi-final of the Phelan Shield the Old Boys produced a delightful display to overwhelm Northern Districts by 38 points to 14. Neville Denton collected three tries and seven goals. By virtue of their victory Marist moved directly into the grand final, in which they encountered Central Districts on September 30th. Lets recapitulate per medium of the Rugby League News:—

“Marist took advantage of their superior speed on a rock-hard ground to race to an 18-4 lead at halftime. Better positional play was rewarded by tries from Denton (2) and Reidy (2). The former also converted two and landed a penalty. Centrals only points in this half came from two penalties by D. Eagles. Central improved on resumption with Brian Lee, Gary Bailey and Don Nathan running prominently but sloppy handling among the inside backs proved costly. The Greens scored again when Reidy pierced the defence and sent Munga across. The Sky Blues rallied with tries by Nathan, G. Bailey and Cuthbert. This effort was not sufficient to turn the tide, however, and Marist roared relentlessly ahead with touch downs to O'Brien, Denton, Reidy and Munga (2). The final position was: MARIST BROS 46—CENTRAL DISTRICTS 17. Denton had now amassed 48 points in two successive matches.

The opening round of the 48th Roope Rooster brought quagmires and

an excellent Marist triumph over Western United by 8 points to 3. Ray Schultz performed admirably in his initial Senior A appearance.

A week later the Greens defeated Southern Districts 11-10, and thus entered the following day's final against championship co-winners Eastern United. Although the Old Boys tried hard they were outclassed by the individual and combined brilliance of the Tricolour backs; amongst whom were Phillips, McCracken, Ellwood and Cooke. Marist also lacked an effective deterrent to the damaging exploits of the great R. C. Ackland. For the Greens who were beaten 6-35 Denton (now a points centurion for the season) appeared omnipresent on defence while the best forwards were Keogh, Danielson and Bill Schultz.

This disappointing performance signified valediction to 1962 — a dejection obliterated by the illustrious double award to skipper Brian Reidy, of the Dickson Medal (most sportsmanlike Senior player) and the Rothwell Trophy (the years most outstanding Senior exponent).

For the first time since 1935 the Senior Reserve championship came the way of the Marist Club. Included in the proud complement were: P. Hanna, O. Apulu, T. Lawson, C. Linton, K. Moody, O. Fong, T. Rout, O. Danielson, G. Munga, J. Comerford, P. Te Hira, G. Clarke, J. Kelly, R. Munns, R. Wright, B. Repia, S. Sio, V. Lord, J. Raymond, D. Marsh, R. Goodin, J. Cassidy, R. Swann, F. Purcell, P. Allison, J. Kerr and M. Hale.

The sole Junior success was the knock-out title snared by the 10th Graders who comprised:— P. Akulu, E. Poching, A. Moore, B. Compain, M. Hawke, C. Stowers, P. Taunt, P. Donnelly, M. Gow-Campbell, E. Fafafua, S. Schaumkel, G. Swann and P. Compton.

Representative honours in the division were accorded Linton Marvin—who toured New South Wales with the 2nd team to represent the Queen City in the Commonweath—Bob McRae, Don Benson and Ray Schultz.

Only Schoolboy attainments during 1962 were the knock-outs captured by the 13th C and 15th B sections, Colin Fleming was selected in the Auckland 11th Grade team which retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield at Huntly. Rep jerseys were also won by Peter Sutton, Peter McKay (son of Ron) in the Midgets; Tony Hawton (7-a-side); Grant O'Donnell (10-a-side); J. Hodgetts, W. Wikitera (15ths); B. Donnelly, E. Thompson, J. Robertson (13ths) and M. Sutton (11ths).

#### 1963

For the first time since 1954 the A.R.L. commenced a season with the staging of the Roope Rooster competition. Marist encountered Glenora in the opening round and were vanquished 10-12; thanks to a last minute try by Eric Carson which was converted by Bob Best. George Munga showed resource on the flank as did Tony Krlitich in the vanguard. Roger Wright performed with distinction in his initial Senior A appearance.

Mr Alf Blake, our capable president of the years 1946-56 had commenced his second term in that distinguished office while the management committee comprised:—A. Frost, L. Schultz, M. Copas, V. Bar-chard, J. Stoll and V. Hammond.

In their first match in the Phelan Shield competition — this trophy having reverted to its former role as the symbol of supremacy amongst teams eliminated from the Wyandotte — Marist cruised to a comfortable victory over Southern Districts by 27 points to 13. Vic Lord (2), Bill Schultz (2) and Paul Schultz collected tries while Denton converted all five and landed a penalty.

At its meeting on April 17th the A.R.L. discussed a communication from the Marist Club protesting at the parent body's decision to play competition matches on Sundays. It was resolved that the letter be received without the taking of further action.

Canterbury retained the Father Duffy Cup at the Easter tournament

held in Wellington. For the third successive year Auckland was unable to compete.

On April 20th Midland Districts and Marist clashed in the final for the Phelan Shield; a match described by the Rugby League News thus:—

"A very solid first half to a tense curtain-raiser saw the half-time score appropriately 2 all. Marist's tackling of their heavier opponents was a feature of the match, as also was the hooking of their rake, Bill Schultz. Time after time the Greens and Golds halted steam-roller Henry Maxwell's charges round the ankles but encountered difficulty in stopping Midland's other heavyweight, Roy Roberts, who amazed the crowd with his light-footed tackle slipping twists, and safe hands plucking the ball from all angles.

Terry Hammond returned to the Marist pack and experienced a splendid match. Brian Reidy at outside centre in the second spell added thrust to the backline.

After the resumption Midlands applied the pressure and took the lead with a fine penalty from Graeme Cootes, thence went further ahead when John Mitchell spotted a gap, sent to Brian Campbell, back to Mitchell who raced over for a grand try. Reidy assisted the Marist total with a penalty whereupon Cootes performed a similar action for the opposition.

Reidy landed his third penalty, at which juncture the Green and Golds came alive. Ray Schultz gathered a loose pass from Steve Keogh and crossed to equalise the scores. Midlands desperately drove back into Marist territory and were rewarded in the dying minutes when Ray Fen-ton ducked and dived through the defence to score a fine try which Campbell converted. The final position was: MIDLAND DISTRICTS 14 — MARIST BROS 9.

In the principal attraction this same afternoon, Eastern United defeated Central Districts in the Roope Rooster final by 22 points to 5, and so became the first team ever to capture the celebrated 'Bird' on three successive occasions.

Marist began its championship quest with a spine-tingling 10-6 victory over Central Districts; gaining victory in the last minutes when scrum-half John O'Brien spotted a gap, spreadeagled the defence in an exhilarating 45 yard dash to score between the posts. Lin Marvin obliged with the vital extras.

A day later the Pakehas thrashed the Maoris by 44 points to 17. Brian Reidy wore the victor's jersey and was also first past the post in the 100 yards sprint championship for the A. D. Organ Cup.

At this period a New Zealand Coaching School was conducted at Rotorua. Amongst the thirty students were Paul Schultz, Tony Krlitich and Bill Schultz.

On Saturday, May 4th, Reidy, Denton and Edwards were members of a brilliant Kiwi thirteen which outclassed a Coaching School selection by 34 points to 6. This match was the first major Rugby League attraction to be televised live in New Zealand. In the curtain-raiser a Blue XIII defeated the Reds by 13 points to 7. Krlitich and Paul Schultz were included in the former selection and Bill Schultz the latter.

The announcement of the New Zealand team to tour Australia revealed the inclusion of Denton, Reidy and Edwards. Paul Schultz was regarded in many quarters as being unlucky.

The following day Rugby League journeyed to the suburbs and Southern Districts upended Marist by 19 points to 5 at Sturges Park, Otahuhu.

The Greens quickly expiated for this reverse by producing a delightful display to bewilder Northern Districts by 33 points to 9; thence they succumbed 10-26 to co-leaders Eastern United, in a special Sunday fixture at the Ellerslie Domain.

On May 25th the Old Boys encountered Glenora in the principal attraction at headquarters and were defeated 6-8 although they had a great chance to obtain a draw just two minutes from no-side when winger Faatui Venu received a long pass on the Glenora ten yard line and finding the gate open, flashed down

the sideline to register a spectacular try, however, John Chapman failed with the conversion attained and the Blue and Whites retained their two points advantage. Krlitich, Hammond and Frank Greenough were prominent in the Green pack while Mike Hale and Paul Schultz shone in the rearguard. Three Carsons appeared for Glenora and three Schultzes for Marist.

Losses to Western United 10-15 and lowly Midland Districts 6-21, brought the first round to a conclusion and the following comment from the Marist scribe in the Rugby League News:—"Seniors are now displaying the worst form possible and cannot now, I hope, do anything but improve. Surely three players don't make all that difference."

In their opening engagement of the second round the Greens recorded a 14-10 triumph over bottom-placed Central Districts. The following Saturday they encountered the unbeaten leaders, Southern Districts, Rugby League News columnist Ken Beaver, commented thus:—

"The destiny of last week's principal attraction appeared a foregone conclusion at the interval, when Souths held a comfortable 10-3 lead in bleak, wintry conditions. A greasy patch in the No. 2 end of a resited main ground made ball handling difficult and Marist, in whose territory this slippery portion lay, as a consequence struggled for the majority of the first spell.

Southern attacked from the outset and were first to register when Doug Sanderson landed a 50 yard penalty. Maintaining the pressure the Blacks a few minutes later increased their lead when flankman Ross Waldon, touched down in the corner.

The Greens settled down in a determined endeavour to stem the opposition onslaught: a measure that was rewarded in a sensational manner when a dropped pass amongst the Southern backs saw Marist outside centre Mike Reed, pounce on the loose ball and collect three points after a spectacular 60 yard dash featured by a fascinating exhibition of juggling.

The Blacks moved further ahead just prior to the interlude when Eddie Moore pursued a kick by Waldon, gathered and slid over for a try between the posts which Sanderson converted.

Shortly after the resumption South-ern's Des Cash took play to the Green line and from the ensuing melee Roy Christian dived across. The Marist vanguard then began to unsettle their opponents. Ted Karanga kicked a penalty which served as an entree to a Paul Schultz try following a brilliant movement between Bill Schultz, Ron Duffy and Terry Hammond.

Trailing 10-13 Marist's hopes were high of inflicting their opponents first defeat of the season, however, neither team was able to increase its tally in the bruising last quarter.

The Greens spirited exhibition induced delightfulness amongst their supporters, and in their acting coach Don McLeod.

In the light of the above performance it was somewhat surprising to see the Old Boys in their next engagement, fall to Northern Districts 8-34.

During the course of the ensuing week Mel Cooke's Kiwis returned from Australia. Although — like their predecessors of 1959 — they failed to recapture the Trans-Tasman Cup, they nevertheless registered a magnificent 16-13 victory in the Second Test at Brisbane's Lang Park: a gripping encounter highlighted by the devastating display of Brian Lee in the Kiwi vanguard, and the three dazzling tries by winger Brian Reidy. Edwards and Reidy appeared in all

three Tests and Denton in the First, which, because of subsequent injury proved to be the mercurial Neville's valediction to Test football.

In their clash with Western United, Marist foundered on their opponents sterling cover defence and were vanquished 5-22.

Against Glenora defeat again eventuated: the Blue and Whites took advantage of the Greens numerous handling errors and emerged the victors by 20 points to 7. The Marist try was scored and converted by outside centre Pat Hanna.

On July 27th Brian Reidy and Sam Edwards were members of the North Island XIII which downed the Mainlanders by 12 points to 6. The following day at the Manurewa Memorial Park, the Old Boys turned on an impressive performance to hold the powerful Eastern United side to 12-22.

In the ultimate championship series Marist regained some prestige by accounting for Midland Districts by 21 points to 6. The Greens always held the upper hand, notwithstanding Bill Schultz being outhooked by Warren Satherley. With 4 victories and 10 losses Marist completed the course in 6th position. Southern Districts with a solitary defeat gained top honours by 2 points from Eastern United.

On Wednesday, August 7th, 5000 Aucklanders braved the adverse elements to watch the Carlaw Park debut of the first ever South African Rugby League team — captained by Fred Griffiths in the absence of former Springbok Rugby Union forward Dawie Ackermann. Paul Schultz gave a capable display as scrum-half in

the Auckland thirteen which repulsed the tourists by 10 points to 4. Three days later, again in appalling conditions 10,000 spectators were enamoured by the enterprising exhibition of the Springboks, who, in possibly the greatest international upset of all time achieved a stupendous success by 4 points to 3, over a full strength New Zealand team which included Reidy and Edwards. In this so-called unofficial Test the South Africans educated their opponents in the fundamentals of wet-weather Rugby League — reintroducing foot into football.

A week later at the Epsom Showgrounds an exciting match between Auckland and Canterbury ended in a 10 all draw. Reidy and Paul Schultz sported the Blue and White.

For the Marist Seniors the disappointing 1963 season had drawn to a conclusion — the earliest in the Club's history.

On September 14th Eastern United downed Southern Districts by 8 points to 0 in the championship grand final, while in the curtain-raiser the Marist Senior Reserves — winners of the minor championship — took the grade grand final by defeating Central Districts. The team was programmed as: — McIntyre, Kerr, Hanna, R. Schultz, Raymond, Karanga, O'Brien, Kelly, Kemp, Danielson, Goodin, Linton, Cassidy, Helg, Moody, L. Matthews, Swann, Clements, Marsh, Gabriel, Purcell, Ron Goodin coached and Cliff Mitchell managed the side.

Eastern United subsequently defeated Southern Districts by 10 points to 2 in the Stormont Shield contest

and thus repeated their 'treble' success of two years before.

The twilight of the season was brightened by a visit from the Sydney club Parramatta. The Blue and Golds vanquished Glenora 13-11 and succumbed to Southern Districts 13-20 and Eastern United by an identical score.

Apart from the Senior Reserves the only Marist side to 'bring home the bacon' was the 12th Grade B Section Schoolboy team who captured both the championship and knock-out.

Representative honours in the Junior division were gained by: P. Gabriel, S. Helg, L. Opetaita (First); and points centurion Eddie Poching (Ninths). Schoolboys selected for Auckland were: B. Donnelly, S. Thomsen (compiler of over 100 points), L. Baigent, R. Hunt, B. Preston (Twelfths); D. Walsh, S. Mihaljevich (13ths); W. Wikitera, J. Hodgetts (14ths); M. Clark, G. Thomsen and B. Bedwell (10-a-sides).

1963 witnessed the abolition of the District Scheme: this system which at its genesis was enveloped in controversy appertaining to the retention of individual club loyalties; a factor which was to remain ubiquitous throughout the Schemes existence, and be responsible for its ineluctable demise.

The eradication of the Districts naturally meant that considerable re-organisation would ensue, however, Marist would not be unduly affected by this procedure, thus the Greens eagerly awaited the advent of the 1964 season.

## 1964-1965: STAIRWAY TO SPLENDOUR

On Saturday, April 4th, 1964, the old familiar cries of "Ponies", "Oats", and "Cote", echoed across Carlaw Park, as the re-introduction of club Rugby League became a reality. The curtain-raiser on the No. 1 ground was between Richmond and Marist: a match reviewed by the Rugby

Hanna landing a penalty and a conversion.

Richmond fullback Neil Brady (the present Auckland Rugby Union representative) kicked a penalty and kept the Maroon and Blues hopes alive with two more in the opening minutes of the second spell. Marist retaliated when Reidy accepted a pass from Kriletich and crossed wide out. Richmond crept nearer with a fourth

Brady penalty. Although Dorricot secured an abundance of possession the Maroon and Blue rearguard was too flat-footed to capitalise. With only a minute remaining the Greens looked to have the game in safe keeping until Richmond outside centre John Sparnon, who had experienced an indifferent match, redeemed himself. He intercepted a loose pass, beautifully beat the Marist custodian,

thence cleverly evaded Reidy's desperate tackling bid, to force beneath the bar. Brady's conversion made the final position: MARIST BROS 13—RICHMOND 13."

Encouraging form was revealed by G. Tobin, A. Krieltich and S. Keogh in the vanguard, while Reidy, Ray and Paul Schultz and P. Hanna starred in the backline.

On the adjoining ground Otahuhu massacred Eastern Suburbs by 93 points to 4 — the greatest debacle ever recorded in A.R.L. Senior club matches.

Mr Vic Lord had succeeded Mr Jack O'Donnell as hon. secretary, while the position of hon. treasurer was occupied by Vic Barchard, who also filled the role of Senior coach. The management committee comprised Messrs A. Frost, M. Copas, J. O'Brien, J. McInmarney and L. Schultz.

In the course of the succeeding week, at the home of Mr and Mrs Len Schultz, a citation from the United States People to People Sports Committee, was presented to the family of the late Mr Ken Lipscombe, who had passed away the previous January.

In their next engagement the Greens annihilated Eastern Suburbs by 64 points to 2—the greatest winning margin and the highest number of points ever registered by a Marist Senior A thirteen. Tries were scored by: S. Lipscombe (2), P. Hanna (2), J. Raymond (2), O. Danielson, S. Edwards, M. Reed, W. Harford (his first Senior A match), D. Marsh and G. Tobin. Hanna converted 11 tries and landed 3 penalties.

Defeat eventuated in our encounter with Ellerslie; the Red, White and Blues taking the honours by 20 points to 10, Mike Newton collected two tries in his Senior A debut.

On Anzac Day 6000 people visited Carlaw Park to behold the principal attraction between City-Newton and Marist. The Greens gave a polished performance against their powerful opponents, who included Ron Ackland, Reg Cooke, Keith Wright and Doug Ellwood, and trailed 5-8 with

13 minutes remaining, at which stage they met disaster. Firstly, Paul Schultz, playing a fine game at scrum-half sustained a gashed head which compelled his retirement, thence, a few minutes later Pat Hanna left the field injured. The Red, Black and Whites capitalised on Marist's misfortune and rattled on 4 converted tries to emerge the victors by 28 points to 5.

As the A.R.L. had decided that the top eight teams at the conclusion of the first round would comprise the entrants for the 1965 championship, and that the top six of these eight would play-off for the Fox Memorial Shield in 1964, it was imperative that Marist — especially after their shaky start — amass a string of successes.

Amelioration eventuated against Midlands and brought a 14-5 victory. This same day in the main match at headquarters, Cyril Eastlake landed 10 penalties to enable Ellerslie to force a 20 all draw with Ponsonby.

Marist next encountered Mt Albert and in a thrilling tussle held the Blue and Golds to a 12 all draw. The following afternoon Sam Edwards appeared for a Maori XIII which downed the Pakehas, including Paul Schultz, by 19 points to 16. Edwards, the Saturday after, wore Auckland colours when the Blue and Whites trounced a feeble West Coast side by 44 points to 2. The Greens, the next day, took the measure of Glenora by 13 points to 9. Joe Raymond revealed potential on the Marist flank. This same afternoon Ellerslie slaughtered Eastern Suburbs by 95 points to 7.

On May 23rd Marist entered the top six, thanks to a 23-10 victory over North Shore.

Continuing their triumphal march Marist vanquished Southern Districts by 28 points to 9. This same weekend Sam Edwards was a member of the Auckland touring team which downed West Coast 31-2 and Canterbury 13-7.

June 6th brought our eagerly awaited clash with the joint leaders, Otahuhu. At the interlude the Greens led 4-2, the result of two penalties to Pat

Hanna, against one by Ernie Wiggs. Three minutes after the resumption a penalty to Ron Goodin advanced Marist's total to 6. Otahuhu soon after seized the lead, thanks to the enterprise exhibited by Wiggs who, firstly, landed his second penalty, thence spreadeagled the Green defence in a dazzling dash, before transferring to speedster Roy Christian, who touched down between the posts for Wiggs to convert.

The former Marist player was again on target to register his third penalty, to which Ron Goodin replied with a glorious 53 yarder.

In the concluding stages the Greens — aided by plethoric possession — assailed the opposition citadel in desperate endeavours to transform defeat into victory. Marist fans were rapt when Bill Schultz, finding himself unmarked in a play-the-ball tapped the leather on his toe and dived across. Their joy was quickly extinguished as Schultz's error had been perceived by referee Alan Taylor, who punished the Marist rake's over-eagerness by awarding a defensive penalty to Otahuhu. As neither team increased their tally before the call of no-side, the final position was therefore: OTAHUHU 11, MARIST BROS 8.

In their next engagement the Old Boys produced a sparkling display and trounced Pt Chevalier by 34 points to 2, to retain their precarious position in the top six. Bill Schultz, in the finest form of his career, was the dominating figure with his grand hooking, intelligent ball distribution and backing up.

The following Saturday Sam Edwards was the sole Marist representative in the Auckland XIII which unleashed a second half onslaught to subdue a spirited Rest of the North Island team by 29 points to 7.

The Old Boys netted two further championship points with a comfortable 22-0 victory over lowly Northcote, and thus entered the final series in 6th position, two points ahead of Midlands. In this vital encounter Marist continued their grand form and outclassed Ponsonby by 26 points to 5. Pat Hanna collected 7

goals and 1 try to reach the coveted centry of points for the season. As Mt Albert was upset by Midlands 9-15 the Blue and Golds therefore surrendered their 5th position to Marist. The leading four teams were Otahuhu, Ellerslie, City-Newton and Glenora.

Owing to inclement weather on two successive Saturdays and a Test match the following week, our opening second round engagement, that with Glenora, did not eventuate until August 1st, when the Blue and Whites after being behind 2-5 at the interval, demoralised the Greens in the second spell and emerged the victors by 23 points to 7.

The preceding Saturday 17,000 Aucklanders had watched New Zealand, including Edwards, vanquish France in the First Test by 24 points to 16. The durable Maori had also worn the North Island jersey at Christchurch on July 4th, when the Southerners triumphed by 14 points to 11.

Another Marist man to have obtained distinction was Oscar Danielson, who was a member of the North Island Maori team which downed France by 7 points to 5 at Whangarei on July 22nd.

On Saturday, August 8th, the Frenchmen produced some champagne Rugby League to defeat Auckland by 13 points to 10. Edwards and Bill Schultz sported the Blue and White. A week later New Zealand downed the Chanticleers in the Third and Final Test by 10 points to 2. Having won the Second Test at Christchurch, a fortnight before by 18 points to 8, the Kiwis thus effected a 'clean sweep'. This fourth French team — the most passive ever to tour the "Shaky Isles" — lost all six Tests on its Australasian adventure — the Kangaroos were successful by 20-6, 27-2 and 35-9. Stars of the side were the captain Bernard Fabre, Claude Mantoulan (remember his courageous attempt to convert his brilliant First Test try with a right leg containing a broken bone), Michel Boule and Georges Ailleres.

On August 22nd Marist encountered Mt Albert — only the Greens second match since July 4th. This

lack of serious play proved the underlying factor in the Blue and Golds 15-7 triumph. Our scheduled clashes with Ellerslie on Sunday, August 9th, and Otahuhu the following Sabbath had both been cancelled.

In the ultimate series Marist downed second-placed City-Newton by 18 points to 2, to finish in 6th position, one point behind Ellerslie. The Greens had two matches to play and Ellerslie one. Otahuhu were proud recipients of the Fox Memorial Shield. As a consequence of the A.R.L.'s decision to carry forward into the second round, all points obtained in the 13 match first round, the top six competition — like the bottom eight — failed to attract the interest that would otherwise have been generated by all contenders starting from scratch.

The principal attraction in the initial round for the Silver Wyandotte was between Glenora and Marist. Rugby League News critic Ken Beaver, commented thus: "The exuberance of youthful Marist prevailed in the first spell to have six valuable points on the board at half-time. Glenora, seeing more of the ball in the second spell, fought back strongly but Marist held doggedly to its hard won lead and upset the favourites by 11 points to 10".

The Green rearguard gave a bright display, in particular, the scrum-half Bill Harford. Ray Schultz was an effective stand-off half and Paul Schultz an elusive centre. Don Benson scored a nice try from the fullback position. In the forwards Bill Schultz demonstrated his great ability as a rake, while Sam Edwards, Mike Newton and Tony Kriletich all produced enterprising exhibitions.

A week later the Greens trounced Richmond by 36 points to 14. In this exhilarating exposition, tries were registered by Kriletich (2), P. Schultz (2), Raymond, Reed, Harford and Newton. Goodin converted five and landed a penalty. Encouraging form was revealed by G. Robertson in the pack.

The following afternoon Sam Edwards appeared for the Publics

team which trounced a Selectors side, for whom P. Schultz, Harford and Kriletich were chosen, by 40 points to 28.

On September 19th the Old Boys met their Waterloo when Mt Albert — who eventually snared both the "Rooster" and the Stormont Shield — triumphed in a gruelling semi-final by 20 points to 9. The Blue and Gold forwards, ably led by Don Hammond, controlled proceedings while their inside backs Ray McQuoid and Barry Morgan, moved quickly in defence and upset the Green's endeavour to spin the leather.

In their first Phelan Shield engagement Marist outclassed Midlands by 33 points to 13. On October 10th the Greens carried too many guns for the more fancied Glenora and took the final by 22 points to 7. Marist trailed early but then fought back in the grand manner to register six tries and secure an excellent victory — a propitious indication for a successful 1965.

Top billing in 1964 went to the Senior Reserves who captured the championship for the third successive year. This grand team comprised: T. Karanga (capt), O. Apulu, J. Comerford, F. Venu, D. Marsh, B. Swann, B. Crowther, G. Marino, I. Clarke, J. Raymond, C. Tuai, P. Frost, T. Johnston, T. Clements, D. Richardson (present secretary), O. Danielson, J. O'Sullivan, S. Lipscombe, J. Cassidy, H. Kemp, C. Linton, M. Kelly, L. Matthews, R. Goodin (player-coach), C. Mitchell (manager).

Knockouts came the way of both our Third and Eighth Grade sides. Bob McRae, Terry Hanna, George Hogg and Bill Fletcher were members of the former team, while Gene Swann, Charlie Stowers and Pat Young were stars of the 8ths.

Championship winning Schoolboy sides were our 12th C Section and 13th C Section. Included in the Twelfths were: S. Mihaljevich (Auckland rep), J. Robertson, J. Tarpo, G. Morgan, R. Dave and D. O'Dwyer. Thirteenth Grades to re-

veal promise were: J. Hodgetts, W. Wikitera, M. Gilbert and F. Gascoigne.

1964 witnessed a tour of New South Wales by a New Zealand 11th Grade Schoolboy team: indeed the author was a proud spectator at Henson Park, Newtown, on September 12th, when the young Kiwis, in the final match of their visit outclassed a Sydney thirteen by 31 points to 12. Marist boys in the touring side were Brian Donnelly, Wayne McDonald and Roger Hunt. Prior to this adventure the Auckland team retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield at Rotorua. Donnelly, Hunt, McDonald, Stephen Thomsen, L. Hugo and Brian Williams wore the Blue and White. North Island honours were also attained by the first three mentioned. Additional distinction was gained by Brian Williams who was awarded the Hayson Memorial Trophy, based on playing ability, sportsmanship and general appearance.

1964 will also be remembered for the performance of the Eastern Suburbs Senior A team, who, in 20 matches conceded the colossal total of 1057 points while they themselves registered 127 points.

#### 1965

Another new-look competition greeted Auckland's Rugby League fans when the 1965 season opened on Saturday, April 3rd. The top eight Senior A teams of 1964 were thenceforth to be known as Premier sides while the bottom six teams augmented by Mangere East, Howick, Mt Roskill and Southern Districts B were to be styled the Senior Division. At the conclusion of two rounds of the Premier championship the top four teams were to play-off for the Fox Memorial Shield on a semi-finals, final, grand final formula.

In the initial series Marist encountered City-Newton in the curtain-raiser on the main ground at Carlaw Park. After 60 minutes the Red, Black and Whites trailed 9 nil, however, they affected a sensational

recovery to snatch a thrilling 15-14 victory as the final whistle sounded.

Eight days later, in the principal attraction at headquarters, the Greens were again attended by misfortune, and succumbed to Ellerslie 25-27, in the closing minutes of a spectacular match. Each side scored five tries. Outstanding for Marist were skipper Brian Reidy, Paul Schultz, Tony Kriletich and Neville Pennycook.

Club officials for the season were: President: A. Blake; hon. secretary: V. Lord; hon. treasurer: J. Comerford; club captain: J. O'Brien; management committee: A. Frost, M. Copas, D. Richardson, V. Hammond, L. Schultz, T. Lynch and T. Donovan. Neville Denton and Cliff Mitchell were coach and manager respectively of the Premiers.

On Easter Monday an Auckland thirteen, including Reidy and Paul Schultz, thrashed a National Coaching School team, containing Bill Harford, by 40 points to 9.

At Glen Eden on April 24th, Glenora downed the Greens by 8 points to 5 — our third consecutive loss. Victory continued to prove tantalisingly evasive for the following Saturday, Mt Albert took the honours by 8 points to 6 after Marist had led 6 nil at the interlude. In the concluding stages Blue and Gold winger Ken Lowe, was awarded the decisive try, although he struck the corner flag before touching down. The seal was then set on the Old Boys ill-luck when Brian Reidy, who was in the clear, received a pass from Paul Schultz, which was ruled forward by the referee Mr Bert Payne.

On Sunday, May 2nd, the Pakehas narrowly defeated the Maoris by 8 points to 3. Oscar Danielson wore the Maori jersey while Reidy, P. Schultz and Harford appeared for the Pakehas.

The ensuing Saturday at Cornwall Park fortune finally smiled on the bottom-placed Marist when they accounted for Midlands by 18 points to 7. For the victors tries were scored by Terry Hanna (2), Mike

Hale, Russ Devonshire, while Pat Hanna converted two and was successful with a penalty.

The essence of victory — so sweet to taste — spurred the Greens to even greater deeds and they next vanquished the formidable Otahuhu side by 21 to 18. Marist registered 5 tries to their opponents two. The following day Brian Reidy appeared for the Auckland XIII which out-

played the visiting New South Wales Country team by 18 points to 5.

In the final series of the first round, Ponsonby, the leaders, became the third victims of the Greens rehabilitation. The constantly infringing, frequently penalised, possession-starved Blue and Blacks went under 10-2 in an exciting, often turbulent main attraction. Had Marist's goal-kicking been of the

required standard, their winning margin would have been far greater. A week later in atrocious conditions, the visiting Cantabrians found the powerful Auckland combination too clever and succumbed 23 nil. The Schultz brothers and Reidy represented the Queen City.

As the Kangaroos were about to commence another tour of New Zealand, a trial was staged at Carlaw Park on June 5th to aid the selectors in their choice of the Kiwi team for the First Test. In this match New Zealand Red defeated New Zealand White by the odd point in thirty-five. Marist men in both sides were: Reidy, Harford, Krileitch and the Schultz brothers. Green supporters were thrilled by the announcement of the New Zealand team, for two Marist players in Reidy and Paul Schultz gained selection.

In a scintillating introduction to the second round Marist outplayed City-Newton by 27 points to 10. Two of the Old Boys' seven tries were scored by replacement flankman John Kerr.

Marist continued their majestic march with a grand 13-12 victory over joint leaders Ellerslie. In an entertaining spectacle the Greens concentrated on the short-passing rush and used their powerful props, Danielson and Devonsire to advance, while Ellerslie essayed long and switch passing in an endeavour to penetrate the fast enveloping Marist cover defence.

On Saturday, June 19th, 23,000 Aucklanders watched the brilliant Australian three-quarters, turn on a dazzling second spell display to enable the Kangaroos to come from behind, and emerge as First Test victors by 13 points to 8. Graeme Langlands was dismissed from the arena by referee John Percival, for a vicious punch of Jack Fagan, which necessitated the Kiwi custodians withdrawal. Paul Schultz was acclaimed New Zealand's star. Brian Reidy had been compelled by injuries to withdraw from the Kiwi squad.

A week later the New Zealanders squared the series when they triumphed by 7 points to 5. The diminutive Schultz was not so prominent as in the First Test. On the succeeding Monday the Kangaroos, in the farewell match of their tour, exhibited glorious handling and trounced Auckland by 18 points to 2. Billy Harford was the Queen City pivot while Tony Krileitch replaced Eddie Moore at half-time. The tourists — captained by Ian Walsh — included: the tricky stand-off half Jim Lisle; the flying wing Ken Irvine; the clever fullback Les Johns; and the devastating forwards Brian Hambly and John Morgan. Mercurial centre Reg Gasnier as in 1961 failed to fulfil his sublime reputation.

On Ellerslie's downfall, Glenora assumed the championship lead, however, the Blue and White's reign proved ephemeral, for they too, became victims of the rampant Greens who always looked the more competent combination and thoroughly merited their 22-14 success. Two tries and five goals were registered by high-scoring centre Pat Hanna.

On Saturday, July 10th, rehabilitation was complete for Marist by vanquishing Mt Albert 16-10 recorded their seventh consecutive victory and in so doing became championship leaders. Prior to the interval the Blue and Golds were the better and more dedicated team, however, within six minutes of the resumption, Paul Schultz, with two dazzling dashes — both of which led to tries — changed the course of events, and thenceforth Marist were in command.

The Greens retained their premier position with a narrow 6-5 victory over bottom-placed Midlands at the Birkenhead Memorial Park. The following day at Wingham Park, Greymouth, Reidy and Paul Schultz were members of the North Island team which downed the South Island by 14 points to 2, in the final trial for the selection of the New Zealand team for the forthcoming tour of England and France. The Kiwis of 1965 were duly announced and



**(Winners Fox Memorial Shield (Championship) Co-holders Stormont Shield (Champions of Champions.) Games: Played - 22; Won - 12; Lost - 9; Drew - 1.)**  
 Back Row—P. J. Schultz, B. T. Reidy, H. Kemp, N. L. Pennycook, J. Kerr, L. R. Marvin.  
 Middle Row—J. R. Stoil (Assistant Manager), R. Schultz, T. M. Hanna, P. J. Hanna, J. A. Raymond, R. F. K. Devonshire, J. Hopa (Masseur), Front Row—C. G. Mitchell (Manager), A. P. Krileitch, W. T. Schultz (Vice Capt.), W. Harford (Capt.), M. J. Hale, N. L. Denton (Coach). Trophies: Painter Trophy (P. J. Hanna), Stormont Shield, Fox Memorial Shield, Player of the Year (W. Harford).  
 Insets: R. Wright, O. Danielson.

the Marist Club was deeply honoured by the inclusion of Reidy and the Schultz brothers.

On July 24th, Otahuhu halted Marist's sparkling stream of successes when they triumphed by 18 points to 4. Ken Beaver described the eventual final minutes thus:—"Down 48 with 5 minutes remaining, Marist hammered Otahuhu's line with such purpose that it seemed they must score and bridge the narrow four point gap. The dramatic then occurred when Otahuhu centre Roy Christian, intercepted a lobbed Marist pass 10 yards from his goal-line and raced towards the open spaces. Striding powerfully he left opposition fullback Brian Reidy, hopelessly sliding in the wrong direction on the greasy ground, and sped onwards for 80 yards to touch down between the posts for a magnificent try which Ernie Wiggs converted. Two minutes later Clarke scored, Wiggs converted and it was all over."

In the ultimate series Marist encountered Ponsonby. The Blue and Blacks staged a rousing rally in the final 10 minutes to convert a 6-13 deficit into a 17-13 victory. Victor Yates was a constant source of danger to the Marist defence.

Ponsonby and Glenora finished equal first in the minor championship, however, the Blue and Blacks, by virtue of a higher percentage, were adjudged victors. Otahuhu filled third berth while Marist and Mt Albert tied for the vital fourth position. Percentages again decided the issue and the Greens gained the nod.

The following week-end Harford, Krileitch, Danielson and Devonshire were members of the Auckland team which toured south and defeated Wellington 19-2 in the Northern Zone final of the Rothmans inter-provincial tournament, thence Canterbury 86 to retain the Northern Union Cup.

On August 21st, the Greens surmounted the first obstacle in their quest to repossess the Fox Memorial Shield, when they downed Otahuhu

by the odd point in fifteen. Pat Hanna landed 4 penalties to register all Marist's points in the narrow, yet convincing victory. The Greens astounded the onlookers with their immaculate handling of a greasy ball.

Marist hopes of supremacy were given considerable impetus on September 4th, by a great 188 defeat of Ponsonby in the final. The Green vanguard — led in magnificent fashion by Oscar Danielson — overpowered the Ponsonby sextet, and enabled their fleet backs to score four fine tries. Pat Hanna registered his century of points.

The next day the Auckland Rothman's team, including Harford, Danielson, Krileitch and Devonshire, thrashed a Senior Officers XIII by 47 points to 17.

The fate of the "Fox" for '65 had suscitated intense interest therefore, on September 11th, a large crowd descended on Carlaw Park in eager anticipation of beholding a memorable contest between Glenora and Marist.

Spectacular movements highlighted the opening minutes, however, both fortifications remained impenetrable. Glenora fans shrieked with joy as Collect, 10 yards from his own line, sold the Greens a brilliant dummy and raced 75 yards before his progress was halted by Joe Raymond, who had made a frantic dash from the opposite wing. With the Marist defence at sixes and sevens Bruce Carson, who had supported Collect, secured the leather and crossed for a fine try.

Stung by this setback, the Old Boys assailed the Glenora citadel in a series of desperate onslaughts which brought no reward. The Blue and White defence finally cracked when fullback Mike Hale entered the backline, obtained possession, and dashed over in the corner. Pat Hanna gave Marist the lead with a magnificent kick.

Just before the interlude Glenora moved ahead 6-5 when forward Bob Best, dived across from a play-the-ball.

Marist were not discouraged and following the resumption rose to the occasion in grand style. Firstly Neville Pennycook ran wide from a ruck and to the accompaniment of a crescendo of cheering from delighted devotees, weaved past several defenders for a pretty try, thence Pat Hanna was successful with two excellent penalties. The Green forwards at this stage assumed the offensive and effectively subdued the opposing sextet. Marist's next points came in sensational manner when they were attacking just short of the Glenora goal-line — a back flip pass found no recipient; the Blue and Whites surged towards the loose ball; a second Marist pass went wildly astray, however, Pat Hanna raced back in cover, snapped up the leather and under pressure spun around and landed a glorious field goal.

Fifteen minutes later Danielson spreadeagled the defence to notch a lovely try which was converted by Pat Hanna.

There was no further scoring and the match concluded: MARIST BROS 19, GLENORA 6. After seventeen long years Marist were again Auckland champions.

The thirteen responsible for this coruscating achievement were: Fullback: M. Hale; Three-quarters: S. Helg, P. Hanna, T. Hanna, J. Raymond; Halves: R. Schultz, W. Harford (capt); Forwards: O. Danielson, L. Marvin, H. Kemp, R. Devonshire, N. Pennycook and A. Krileitch. Danielson, Devonshire and Krileitch starred in the vanguard while the most prominent backs were Harford, Schultz, P. Hanna and Hale.

Marist had never previously won both the championship and Roope Rooster in the same year: would 1965 prove different?

In the initial round the Greens encountered Mt Wellington and defeated the Senior team by 32 points to 6, however, they appeared jaded, particularly in the first spell.

A day later Auckland downed Wellington 11-4 in the final of the Rothman's inter-provincial tourna-

ment. The Queen City team included Harford, Krileitch, P. Hanna and Danielson.

In the upset of the season Marist was eliminated from the "Rooster" by Senior champions Richmond, N. McNeil the Maroon and Blue hooker gave his backs a feast of possession and John Sparnon obliged with three dazzling tries. Richmond completely outplayed their vaunted opponents and deserved their decisive 24-7 victory.

The fourth Balmain touring team made its Auckland debut the following afternoon, Sunday, September 26th, and 7000 spectators watched their encounter with the Queen City champions. The teams were:

BALMAIN: K. Barnes (capt), D. Quinn, B. Dunlop, H. Browne, D. Bolton, L. Fagan, P. Provan, G. Connell, R. Clothier, G. Piper, D. Wilson, B. Sullivan.

MARIST BROS: J. Kerr, S. Helg, P. Hanna, T. Hanna, J. Raymond, R. Schultz, W. Harford, A. Krileitch, R. Devonshire, N. Pennycook, O. Danielson, L. Marvin, H. Kemp.

For most of the opening spell the Tigers, although beaten in the scrums, nevertheless thoroughly tested the Old Boys defence as, when in possession, the deep attacking formation of their backs allowed time to think and room to move. The Green citadel, however, proved impregnable until just before the intermission when Bolton, the former Great Britain Test star burst clear and kicked over Kerr's head. The Gold inside centre Hal Browne flashed after the leather and touched down inches short of the dead-ball line. Earlier the Balmain and former Australian skipper Keith Barnes, had landed three penalties as against two by Pat Hanna — both grand efforts from 45 yards out.

In the early minutes of the second spell a third penalty to Hanna heightened Marist supporters; alas it was only a temporary pleasure as it became apparent that the Greens

were showing the effects of their recent spate of gruelling matches, and were not tackling with the zest and determination that they exhibited in the first half.

The Tigers went to a 14-6 lead when Barnes converted a brilliant try by their outside centre Brian Dunlop.

The final quarter — during which Oscar Danielson received his marching order from Mr Percival — was all Balmain's, and tries to Sullivan — converted by Barnes — and Mara, plus a Barnes penalty made the final position: **BALMAIN 24, MARIST BROS 6.**

An ignominious weekend had concluded. Defeat, however continued to dog our footsteps, for in our first Phelan Shield engagement, Glenora triumphed by 19 points to 10.

On Saturday, October 16th, the Champion of Champions clash eventuated between Marist and Otahuhu, who the week before in the Roope Rooster final had downed Southern Districts by 28 points to 14.

From the outset Marist was irrepressible and took advantage of Otahuhu's Achilles Tendon — slowness in settling down — and in less than 10 minutes had registered 10 points; the result of fine tries by Kriletich and Pennycook, both converted by Pat Hanna. An Ernie Wiggs penalty opened Otahuhu's account

after a '25 drop-out by Marist had sailed into touch on the full.

The Greens continued to assail the opposition citadel, however, Otahuhu defended in desperate fashion and kept the attackers at bay. Right on half-time Double Blue skipper Simon Yates, conceded a penalty and Pat Hanna placed the Old Boys ahead by 12 points to 2.

A revigorated Otahuhu XIII entered the arena for the second spell and after 12 minutes were rewarded when winger Clive Neary scored. A second penalty by Wiggs followed by a try to second rower Gwynne, reduced Marist's lead to 10-12.

The Greens remained imperturbable and quickly retaliated, when Harford crossed after a bewildering run which paralysed the defence.

Otahuhu were not to be denied and Wiggs landed his third penalty.

With full time showing on the clock the Double Blues employed battering ram tactics in an attempt to penetrate the Marist fortifications. Realising the futility of these actions they quickly resorted to the passing game and danced in delight when inside centre Ross Johnson, dived across to equalise. Silence shrouded Carlaw Park as Wiggs attempted the vital conversion: his foot made contact; the ball headed towards victory; one line umpire began to raise his flag; then to the unrestrained relief of Marist adherents, lowered same as

the leather sailed outside the uprights. A grand game had therefore concluded in a 15 all draw.

Hec Purcell replaced Kemp otherwise the Green team was the same as that which played Balmain.

Forty-one years before, Marist had captured the championship and shared with City, the equivalent of the champion of champions. Stars of the 1965 encounter were R. Schultz, Harford and Kriletich.

The Premiers were not the only Marist side to achieve renown in 1965, for the Sevens and Tenthhs both captured a championship and knocked out, and both were unbeaten. Included in the former team, coached by Ross Lipscombe, were:— R. O'Shannessey, W. Rush, D. Soo Choon, J. Kahu, W. Woods, C. Stowers, M. Lelaulu, B. Compain, E. Poching, A. Larsen, M. Gow-Campbell, S. Schaumkel, R. Ieriko, G. Swann, P. Tunnicliffe, K. Tracey, K. Ponga and T. Moore. The last four mentioned were Auckland reps. The Tenthhs, tutored by Red Leslie, contained B. Donnelly, R. Hunt, L. Hugo, T. Kopu (who, during the season amassed the staggering total of 195 points), W. McDonald, P. Bidois, H. Matthew and G. Pirihī. The last named was selected, in company with J. Robertson and J. Tariipo of our 11th Grade, for the Auckland Amalgamated

Theatres Shield tournament team and

## 1966: THE TREMENDOUS TREBLE

In a scintillating introduction to the new season, which opened on Saturday, March 26th, Marist annihilated Ponsonby by 41 points to 2, and by their spectacular performance demonstrated that they intended to retain their position as Auckland champions.

The following week the Green's downed Mt Albert by 13 points to 8, however, they were far less convincing on this occasion, and had to over-

in magnificent form, surged to a 25-15 advantage, and finally Marist's powerful forwards assumed command and enabled the Greens to snatch a sensational, spine-tingling draw. The Old Boys' points came from four conversions and two penalties by Gascoigne, and tries by Devonshire, Edwards, Gascoigne, Kriletich and Bill Schultz. This same day, the delightful musical film "The Sound of Music" commenced its record breaking second year at the Plaza Theatre.

In their next engagement, that with Southern Districts, the Greens struggled to maintain their unbeaten

later won North Island and New Zealand Schoolboy honours.

Other Juniors to represent their city were Eighth Grader, John Mihaljevich and Lin Marvin in the Thirds. Our Schoolboys experienced a barren season. Auckland jerseys were gained by Twelfth Graders J. Hodgkett and G. Kennedy and J. Schmidt from the Minors.

Further eminence was bestowed on the Club with the awards to Tony Kriletich of the Dickson Medal and to Billy Harford of the Player of the Year. As Pat Hanna had earlier won the Lance Painter Trophy, the season was truly verdant.

By New Years Eve the Kiwis had returned to the Shaky Isles. In a close series with Great Britain they succumbed 2-7 at Swinton; 9-15 at Bradford and drew 9 all at Wigan — the first Test between the two countries to finish in a draw. Across the Channel they were beaten 3-14 at Marseilles; 2-6 at Perpignan and 5-28 at Toulouse. The Frenchmen were irrepressible and produced exhibitions reminiscent of their champion teams of a decade before. Brian Reidy appeared in all three Tests in England and the First in France; Bill Schultz in the Second and Third encounters with Great Britain and the first two Tests against France; and Paul Schultz in the opening two Tests with Great Britain, and the Final Test against the Chanticleers.

record, however, two slashing tries by coach Neville Denton (his first match for over 2 years) spurred them to a 31-21 success.

A week later Marist appropriquated their true form and lowered the colours of the previously unbeaten Otahuhu combination by 16 points to 6.

The annual Maori — Pakeha clash brought a victory to the latter team by 24 points to 13. Three Marist men participated in Tony Kriletich (Pakehas) and Danielson and Devonshire (Maoris).



In the United States, the New Zealand wonder light harness horse, Cardigan Bay, achieved an unprecedented clean sweep, when he won the International, Good Time and National Championship Races.

On April 30th the Northern Zone team, including Reidy and Danielson, thrashed the Southern Zone by 43 points to 15, and in so doing won the right to visit Queensland. Tony Kriletich and Paul Schultz were also to visit the "Banana State".

The following afternoon Marist's triumphal progress was halted, when Glenora took the honours by 23 points to 8. The formidable Green pack was tamed by the Glenora sextet, while the Blue and White backs capitalised on the deplorable handling of the Marist rearguard.

Marist restored their prestige and avenged their 1965 Roope Rooster defeat when they vanquished promoted Richmond by 27 points to 13.

On May 14th, bottom-placed Pt Chevalier provided the surprise of the season when they deservedly vanquished a lack-lustre Old Boys XIII by 18 points to 10.

Expiation was again swift and Manukau took the count by 46 points to 10. In this match, the last of the first round, Bing Gascoigne — a worthy substitute for Pat Hanna — became a points centurion.

An Auckland side which included Danielson, the Schultz brothers and Kriletich outclassed the second New South Wales Country team by 23 points to 2. Roger Bailey, at his sparkling best, illuminated the scene as he did the following day in Ponsonby's clash with Marist. Against the Greens, Bailey's uncanny anticipation to be in position to accept that final pass brought him two early tries, and thereafter the Ponies were never in trouble and emerged the victors by 27 points to 11. Jim McIntyre and S. Schaumkel, made their Premier debuts.

Marist's vicissitudes were not aiding their aspirations of championship retention, however, they settled down against Mt Albert and vanquished the Blue and Golds by 15 points to nil,

notwithstanding being a greatly weakened team. Brilliant wet-weather football was displayed by the vanguard which comprised Edwards, Marvin, Duffy, Newton, Bacon and former flankman Joe Raymond.

At this time the Auckland team was engaged on a southern tour. They defeated Wellington 20-7 and Canterbury 28-5. Marist was represented by P. Schultz, Kriletich and Danielson.

A spectacular 21 nil conquest of Ellerslie, followed by a 31-8 drubbing of Southern Districts, preceded our battle with Otahuhu, who led the championship table by 5 points. The season's largest crowd was enthralled by a torrid, tryless tussle, highlighted by a titanic forward struggle and devastating tackling, and which ended in a great Marist victory by 4 points to 2.

The following Saturday Glenora established themselves as our bete noire, when, as in the first round, they proved superior and deserved to finish in front by 15 points to 8. The Greens led 8-5 at the change, thence their expectations of success were shattered by the enterprising play of Mick Turner and Bob Mincham. The vaunted Marist vanguard was suppressed by the Glenora sextet.

Marist's subsequent two engagements brought victories over Richmond 11-0 and Pt Chevalier 22-8. Thus the Greens made certain of their participation in the championship play-offs.

In the ultimate series wooden-spooners Manukau shocked the fans when they upset Marist by 15 points to 10. This same day at Huntly, Harford and Danielson appeared for an Auckland thirteen which was somewhat lucky to down Waikato by 13 points to 12 in the Northern Zone final of the Rothman's inter-provincial tournament.

On July 30th, in the second semifinal, Marist produced an effervescent exposition to trounce the minor champions Otahuhu, by 20 points to 4. Given plethoric possession by Bill Schultz, the mighty props Danielson and Edwards were magnificent as they repeatedly spreadeagled the

Double Blues defence. Jim McIntyre revealed exceptional promise on the Green flank. Marist supporters were overjoyed at this performance and eagerly awaited the advent of the grand final.

A week later the thirteenth British touring team outclassed New Zealand in the First Test by 25 points to 8. If the twenty thousand fans were dismayed by the pathetic exhibition of the Kiwis, they were appreciative of the visitors' clever play, and loudly applauded a magnificent 50 yard left footed field goal by Great Britain fullback Ken Gowers. Edwards and Reidy wore the national jersey.

The Second and Final Test brought a Great Britain victory by 22 points to 14. New Zealand's points came from 7 penalties by Ernie Wiggs. The Lions handed their opponents another football lesson. Edwards and Reidy were amongst the vanquished thirteen, with Reidy appearing at fullback for the first time in a Test.

The following Tuesday the Lions withstood a stirring challenge from a gallant Auckland thirteen by 12 points to 11, and so became the first post-Second World War international team to compile an unbeaten record on a tour of New Zealand. This impressive feat was only achieved by means of a penalty in the last minutes. Marist men in Blue and White were Reidy, Danielson and the Schultz brothers.

On Saturday, August 27th, encouraged by the cheers of countless devotees, a dedicated Marist team, determined to retain the Fox Memorial Shield, stepped onto Carlaw Park to engage Ponsonby in the decisive encounter. The Green and Gold thirteen was:— Fullback: B. Reidy; Three-quarters: B. Gascoigne, T. Hanna, P. Schultz, J. McIntyre; Halves: R. Schultz, W. Harford; Forwards: A. Kriletich, M. Newton, J. Raymond, R. Devonshire, O. Danielson, S. Edwards.

In the opening quarter perturbation enveloped Marist supporters as the Greens failed to colligate, however, to their unbounded relief, the Ponies were unable to capitalise on their opponents' vacillation. Ponsonby adherents were enraptured, when, after

17 minutes had elapsed, Vic Yates charged clear, sent to Carey, on to Bailey, who sent Lewis over wide out. Their joy was short-lived as they discovered a forward pass had been ruled by the referee Mr Percival. Compensational was rapid as the Greens were penalised in the resultant scrum and Brian Tracey obliged to give the Blue and Blacks first points.

Three minutes later Bing Gascoigne equalised the position. Heartened by this success the Marist juggernaut erupted into relentless subjugation and virulence shrouded the scene. Firstly hooker Danielson, left defenders sprawled in his wake before touching down, thence Gascoigne crossed in the corner after a dazzling backline movement, and finally McIntyre scored as the half-time bell sounded, to give Marist a morale-boosting 11-2 advantage.

Immediately upon the resumption a confident Old Boys thirteen invested the Ponsonby citadel. The Blue and Blacks repulsed the invaders but relief was only fleeting for Joe Raymond nipped through a gap and crossed for Gascoigne to convert. Although Ponsonby were down they were by no means out and Yates scored after a brilliant swerving run. Tracey converted.

Fullback Brian Reidy then placed the issue beyond doubt when he flashed into the backline, collected the leather and raced away from the scattered defence for a delightful three points.

The Green onslaught continued and Jim McIntyre strolled over for his second try which was followed by a second penalty to Bing Gascoigne.

A few minutes later no-side was called with the position: MARIST BROS 24, PONSONBY 7.

Entranced Marist fans acclaimed a feat without parallel in the clubs history — the retention of the Senior (Premier) championship.

One unprecedented achievement accomplished, the Greens inaugurated their quest for a second in glorious manner, by trouncing Glenora — twice our championship conquerors —

by 42 points to 12 in the opening round of the Roope Rooster.

The previous day a powerful Auckland thirteen, including Reidy, P. Schultz, Harford, Danielson and Kriletich, had defeated Wellington by 31 points to 21 in the final of the Rothman's interprovincial tournament.

The Greens advanced to the

"Rooster" semi-finals by means of a 9 points to nil defeat of Ngaruawahia. The Huntly visitors provided such unexpectedly stiff opposition that the Auckland champions could score only one try, and that after 60 minutes had elapsed.

Our semi-final opponents were Ellerslie, and Marist triumphed 25-24 after extra time. The memorable final

minutes of a stirring encounter were described by Ken Beaver thus:—"Scrum domination can play a mighty important part in Rugby League, but if ever there was a situation where a team needed only to pack correctly and forget about winning possession, then that chance came Ellerslies way on Saturday. After 79 minutes of rousing football Ellerslie led Marist by 19 points to 17 and looked set for a surprise victory. Down went, what should have been the last scrum, on Ellerslies' 25 and to the consternation of the Red, White and Blue camp, their heroes conceded a penalty. With the final bell ringing the jubilant Marist supporters cheered Bing Gascoigne's kick through the uprights and it was extra time." Marists powerful props Danielson and Edwards then began to assert themselves in some bulldozing dashes, and with Brian Reidy constantly entering the back-line, these were tactics which paid dividends with two tries to winger Gascoigne, Ellerslie, weary but game, retaliated with a converted try to John Young. There was no further score and so the Greens entered the final — the first Marist side to do so after winning the championship.

On Saturday, September 24th, Marist Bros and City-Newton, the Senior champions clashed to decide the fate of the "Bird" for 1966.

The Red, Black and Whites gained an early lead when John Duffy raised the flags with an angled penalty. Spurred by this success the Senior champions commenced to dominate proceedings with Bill Kamana and Des Fletcher, prominent in the vanguard assaults, and Keith Wright the rearguard general.

City-Newtons persistence reaped a deserved reward when clever passing between Fletcher & Campbell, created a midfield break which ended with Gene Woolsey sending winger Real across in the corner. Duffy failed to improve but soon after a forty-five yard penalty struck the crossbar and bounded favourably to give the Red, Black and Whites a shock 7 nil advantage, and enrapture their supporters.

Aided greatly by Marist's peculiar sacrifice of constructive team-work for ineffective individuality, City-Newton continued to hold the whip-hand until just before the interval, when Marist at last exhibited coordination, and Paul Schultz cleverly drew the defence, thence handed to Gascoigne, who thundered across wide out.

Throughout the interlude Green fans — depressed by their teams performance — debated the prospects of lethargic Marist becoming lustrous Marist.

Transformation indeed eventuated for, from a scrum following a splendid 50 yard touch finder by Brian Reidy, Harford and Ray Schultz neatly reversed play and Paul Schultz flew past several startled defenders to touch down between the uprights for Gascoigne to convert and place the Greens ahead.

Spirited thrust and riposte ensued then Sam Edwards breached the opposition defences and headed goalwards. Although collared just short, he managed to unload to the ubiquitous Kriletich, who transferred to Danielson and the massive prop crashed over. Gascoigne converted and Green supporters ululated with delight.

City-Newton moved onto the offensive and launched onslaught after onslaught, however, the Green citadel remained impregnable, until Duffy and Kamana combined to penetrate the defence and Real was in for his second unconverted try.

With full-time imminent the tension increased ten-fold, as City-Newton made desperate endeavours to snatch a glorious victory. They were unsuccessful so Marist captured the "Bird" by 13 points to 10.

City-Newton were magnificent in defeat: indeed a tactical blunder may have caused their downfall, when four minutes into the second spell evergreen prop Bill Woolsey departed the scene to receive attention for a deep cut above the eye, and on obtaining same returned to discover to his horror that he had been replaced. As Woolsey had done much to sup-



**PREMIERS: 1966**  
**(Winners Roope Rooster (K.O. Champs.), Fox Memorial Shield (Championship), Stormont Shield (Champion of Champions). Games: Played - 26; Won - 19; Lost - 6; Drew - 1.**  
 Back Row—W. J. Harford, A. Bacon, B. Gascoigne, H. J. Purcell, R. A. Schultz, L. R. Marviri, Third Row—A. Blake, J.P. (Pres.), R. F. K. Devonshire, J. McIntyre, M. Newton, D. Richardson (Sec.), Second Row—F. Endacott (Massager), J. A. Raymond, S. K. Edwards, O. Danielson, T. M. Hanna, J. R. Stoll (Co-Manager), Front Row—C. G. Mitchell (Manager), F. Venu, W. T. Schultz Vice Capt.), B. T. Reidy (Capt.) A. P. Kriletich, M. J. Hale, N. L. Denton (Coach). In Front—P. J. Schultz, Trophies: Roope Rooster; Fox Memorial Shield; Stormont Shield; Painter Trophy.

press the marauding activities of Danielson and Kriletich, it is difficult to understand, in this instance, City-Newtons impulsiveness.

The Marist rearguard was identical to that which participated in the grand final, except that Venu replaced Terry Hanna, who retired injured during the match. The forward pack comprised Danielson, Marvin, Edwards, Devonshire, Raymond and Kriletich. Luminaries were R. and P. Schultz, Gascoigne, Raymond and Kriletich.

A second unparalleled feat achieved, the Greens now hoped for a spectacular culmination to a wonderful season — the capture of the William Stormont Memorial Shield, to complete the coveted "treble".

Saturday, October 1st, 1966, was a lovely afternoon: would its loveliness be enhanced was the question that Marist supporters asked of themselves as the intrepid Greens stepped onto Carlaw Park to engage Ponsonby in the Champion of Champions contest?

Their doubts were quickly replaced by febrile felicity as the Greens attacked from the outset and bedazzled

the Ponies to rattle on 10 points in the first nine minutes. At the change the Old Boys led by 20 points to 9.

In the second spell the blitz continued and deplorable handling plus persistent infringing by the Blue and Blacks was of considerable assistance to the Old Boys as they proceeded towards the fulfilment of their aspirations.

At the sound of Mr Percival's final whistle the board showed: MARIST BROS 32, PONSONBY 16.

"The tremendous treble", a dream for more than 40 years was now a reality. The team responsible for this glorious event in the Club's history was:— Fullback: F. Purcell; Three-quarters: B. Gascoigne, T. Hanna, P. Schultz, J. McIntyre; Halves: R. Edwards, W. Harford; Forwards: S. Edwards, L. Marvin, O. Danielson, R. Devonshire, J. Raymond, A. Kriletich. Tries were scored by Harford (2), Kriletich (2), T. Hanna and McIntyre. Gascoigne (Painter Trophy winner with 65 goals) converted all six and landed a penalty.

Encomium was showered on coach Neville Denton, who in the past two

seasons had cultivated the talent, previously apparent yet never fully exploited.

Cliff Mitchell maintained his imposing record as a manager; John Stoll was Cliff's able assistant, and Frank Endacott proved an extremely competent masseur.

Although they paled in comparison with the deeds of the Premiers, three other Marist teams won championships in 1966, the First and Third Green in the Junior division and the Eleventh A section in the Schoolboy ranks. The first mentioned side included:— Stan Helg (capt), Louie Stowers, Jnr, Henry Purcell, Les Hickey, Owen Fong and Fred Purcell, while the Third Green team comprised:— J. Forsyth, T. Brown, E. Poching, W. Wood, B. Compain, C. Stowers, S. Schaumkel, A. Larsen, P. Tunncliffe, G. Swann, P. Donnelly, K. Ponga, R. Bell, D. Adams, T. Wiki, W. Musin and D. Tracey.

Included in the Schoolboy team were: J. Hodgetts, W. Wikitera, L. Patti, B. Macken, G. Nixon, G. Kennedy and R. Davis. These lads also annexed their section knock-out and

drew 12 all with B section double titlelists, Mt Wellington, in a play-off. Wikitera, Kennedy, Nixon and Hodgetts were members of the Auckland team which retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield in the tournament at Greyhound. Hodgetts and Kennedy gained North Island honours and the latter was selected for a New Zealand team. Later in the month the Marist Club acted as hosts to the New South Wales Catholic Schoolboys team during its stay in Auckland. The tourists were vanquished by the Queen City 5-7 and defeated New Zealand at Huntly by 21 points to 6.

Others to win Auckland honours were:— L. Baigent, T. Kopu (under 17); R. Davis (11th Schoolboys); J. Wikitera (10-a-side); and J. Goddrett (16ths).

The Marist executive during the year was:— Patron, Archbishop Lis-ton; president, A. Blake; secretary, D. M. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs B. D. Mitchell; club captain, J. O'Brien; management committee, A. Frost, L. Schultz, P. Dempsey, A. Bacon and T. Donovan.

## 1967-1968: DECLINE FROM DISTINCTION

The 1966 triple titleists commenced their 1967 campaign by participating in the inter-Marist Easter tournament in Wellington. On Saturday, March 25th, Auckland trounced Christchurch by 24 points to 7, while West Coast outclassed Wellington by 28 points to 4. Two days later the favoured Aucklanders proved too powerful for the "Coasters", and triumphed by 19 points to 6. Tries for the victors were scored by P. Schultz (2) and W. Schultz, all converted by Kriletich, who also landed two penalties. At the conclusion of the tournament a New Zealand Marist thirteen was selected and included Reidy, McIntyre, P. Schultz, Danielson and Kriletich.

A week later Ponsonby ended the Greens sequence of 8 victories when they deservedly took the honours by 19 points to 13. Marist's play was unimaginative as on many occasions when the fourth tackle loomed, instead of employing the glorious uncertainty of a tactical kick, they decided to "die" with the ball and pin their faith on Bill Schultz's ability to regain possession from the resultant scrum; a confidence often shattered by the Ponies' rake Robin Satherley. Neville Denton's pre-season presagement that his team would encounter difficulty with the new rules was being fulfilled.

In their next engagement Marist vanquished the promoted North Shore XIII by 26 points to 20. Because of some half-hearted defence by the Greens, the Seasideers were permitted to finish with a somewhat flattering deficit of 6 points.

The following week a thrilling main attraction at Carlaw Park between Glenora and Marist concluded in a victory to the Greens by the odd point in forty-seven. The Old Boys registered 6 tries to 3, revealed splendid positional play, exhibited exhilarating combined sorties, and were not reluctant to use a tactical kick as the fourth tackle approached. Only for poor goal-kicking by Kriletich and Gascoigne, Marist's triumph would have been more extensive.

On Anzac Day Paul Schultz and Kriletich were members of the Pak-eha team which accounted for a Maori selection, including McIntyre and Danielson, by 41 points to 26.

Next to succumb to the Marist machine was the powerful Otahuhu side, which was outclassed by 26 points to 2. Bing Gascoigne scored 17 points and thus atoned for his failure against Ellershe.

On May 6th Auckland repulsed Wellington's challenge for the Northern Union Cup by 29 points to 14. P. Schultz and Danielson wore the Blue and White.

The following day the Green and Golds secured two further championship points when they comfortably disposed of Pt Chevalier by 33 points to 15.

Norm Potter's Queensland tourists of 1925 left many imperishable memories of their prowess. Unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, their successors of 1967 failed to emulate their accomplishments. On May 13th a far from brilliant Northern Zone team, including Oscar Danielson, outplayed the Maroons by 21 points to 12. In the curtain-raiser a Blue team, containing Harford and Gascoigne, defeated a Red selection, including W. Schultz and Kriletich.

A day later Jim McIntyre, Ray Schultz, Bill Harford, Joe Raymond and Tony Kriletich starred in the Greens 43-11 trouncing of Richmond.

This same evening the 16th New Zealand side to tour Australia was announced and the Marist Club was thrilled by the inclusion of Paul Schultz, Oscar Danielson and Tony Kriletich.

At this juncture three teams headed the championship — Ellerslie, Ponsonby and Marist shared the top series the Greens bewildered Ellerslie to score six tries and emerge the victors by 30 points to 16. As Ota-huhu upset Ponsonby 8-3 the Old Boys therefore became outright leaders; a position they surrendered the succeeding week when they were beaten 9-16 by Mt Albert, in a match in which they dearly missed the services of hooker Bill Schultz, who was under a week's suspension for a misdemeanour in the Ellerslie encounter. The first round was now at an end. Ponsonby and Marist shared the top position.

In their return clash with City-Newton the Greens again carried too many guns for the opposition and cruised to a comfortable 24 points to 9 success. Jim McGinty produced a grand defensive display.

Our fourth successive appearance in a principal attraction at head-

quarters brought a 6-13 defeat at the hands of co-leader Ponsonby. Marist's task was made more difficult when promising centre Fred Smith, was compelled to leave the field, the victim of a vicious head-high tackle.

An unconvincing 22-14 victory over bottom-placed North Shore, was followed by a shock 6-23 loss to Glenora, who then occupied 7th equal position. Russ Devonshire, Ray and Bill Schultz were unable to participate in the latter match; a factor that undoubtedly influenced the outcome.

Defeat continued to dog Marist, for in our next engagement Otahuhu took the honours by 16 points to 6. Apart from the opening 10 minutes, the Double Blues were always in command.

On July 8th lowly Pt Chevalier outclassed a disjointed Marist team by 31 points to 14. R. Meredith, Joe Forsyth and Louis Tavlofo made their Premier debuts. The absence of their three Kiwis; injuries sustained by other key players; a disinclination to tackle; a lack of enterprise; yes the Greens badly needed a stimulant to arrest their flagging fortunes.

The Kiwis, as in 1956-59 and 63, returned from Australia without the Trans Tasman Cup. The New Zealanders were unable to find an effective counter to the all round brilliance of the Kangaroos, who made a clean sweep of the series with successive victories of 22-13, 35-22 and 13-9. Danielson appeared in the First Test, Schultz, Danielson and Kriletich in the Second Test, and Kriletich in the Third Test.

For the Greens rehabilitation eventuated in their next encounter when Richmond was trounced by 34 points to 9. Paul Schultz, Tony Kriletich and old maestro Neville Denton, inspired their team-mates to a display reminiscent of their early season performances.

Restoration proved ephemeral, as a week later Ellerslie lowered our colours 8-12.

July 29th brought the ultimate series of the minor championship. Marist shared third position with their opponents Mt Albert, however,

as Ellerslie was only one point behind, victory was necessary to ensure their participation in the top four play-offs and the consequent chance to defend their championship. The Greens rose to the occasion in magnificent manner and thrashed the Blue and Golds, at Cornwall Park by 41 points to 7.

On Sunday, August 6th, Ellerslie clashed with Marist in the first semi-final.

The Red, White and Blues were the superior combination in the opening stages and raced to a 7 nil lead, the result of a John Young penalty; a dazzling try by Paul Rowe; and a magnificent 50 yard penalty by Robin Orchard — the latter the consequence of a Marist player putting the ball into touch on the full from the kick-off following Rowe's try.

Bing Gascoigne raised the dropping spirits of Green supporters when he was successful with a penalty. Misfortune, however, attended Marist for a dropped pass was seized by the alert Rowe, who outdistanced his Green opponents and placed the Tricolours ahead by 10 points to 2, this being the position at the interlude.

Not long after the resumption Young landed his second penalty and it seemed that Ellerslie was headed for a comfortable victory. 'Twas not to be, for in direct contrast to the first spell, everything started to go awry for the Tricolours and right for Marist.

The Green vanguard moved to the offensive and rapid, short passing enabled Hec Purcell to breach the Ellerslie citadel and touch down, however, Gascoigne, having a bad day with his boot, was unable to convert. Tony Kriletich assumed the role of kicker and with a penalty further reduced the leeway.

Marist, spurred by their frenzied fans, produced delightful football which had the opposition defence at sixes and sevens, and was rewarded when Kriletich received the leather from a quick play-the-ball and dived across under the 'bar. Gascoigne converted to equalize the scores.

The Old Boys, now clearly the better team, looked to have the

match at their mercy, alas, disaster struck: Ray Schultz lobbed a long pass which never reached its intended destination, for Mr Anticipation, Phillip Rowe, intercepted and in the space of 40 yards shattered Marist's aspirations as he showed a clean pair of heels to collect his and Ellerslie's third try. John Young added the extras. The Greens never recovered from this setback: the Tricolours holding their 17-12 lead until the final whistle. 'Twas to be no hat trick for Marist.

The previous day Gascoigne, Harford, Kriletich, P. and W. Schultz were members of the Auckland team which downed Waikato 21-7 in the Northern Zone final of the Rothman's inter-provincial tournament.

On Sunday, September 3rd, the Roope Rooster competition began and Marist — the holders of the trophy — gave an encouraging display to defeat Pt Chevalier by 23 points to 12. Bing Gascoigne received his marching orders from Mr Armitage. Wayne McDonald, although hesitant, revealed promise at fullback.

The day before an Auckland side, including Gascoigne, Kriletich and W. Schultz, had repulsed Canterbury's challenge for the Northern Union Cup by 25 points to 6.

The Greens surmounted their second "Rooster" obstacle when they gave a polished performance to vanquish Ellerslie by 20 points to 11. Neville Denton replaced the injured Ray Schultz at stand-off half and proved that he was still, at 34 years of age, worthy of the highest honours when he waltzed through the opposition defence to touch down in brilliant fashion.

The following Saturday at the Wellington Showgrounds, Auckland outclassed Wellington by 39 points to 13 in the final of the Rothman's tournament. Gascoigne, Kriletich and the Schultz brothers wore the Blue and White.

Our "Rooster" retention hopes received a spectacular boost when the Greens, in devastating form, thrashed Mt Albert by 43 points to 12 in a semi-final.

The "Birds" fate for 1967 was decided on Saturday, September 30th, our opponents being Otahuhu.

The Greens thrilled their supporters as they exploded into action from the outset and stretched the Otahuhu defence in a series of lively, if unsuccessful assaults. Their efforts were not unrewarded, however, for Gascoigne landed a penalty and Bill Schultz a field goal.

The Double Blues marshalled their forces and rapidly retaliated when Joe Gwynne, in a determined dash crashed past several would-be tacklers, unloaded to Peter Rasmussen, who scored beside the posts to give Doug Sanderson an easy conversion.

Otahuhu continued to apply the pressure and worked play to within 15 yards of the Marist goal-line, at which point a sensational event occurred which was to have a vital effect on the eventual outcome. Bill Schultz finally succumbed to the needling tactics of his opponents, resorted to fisticuffs and was issued with his marching orders by Mr Percival, as was the Otahuhu centre Buster Parks. The Double Blues increased their lead when winger John Hunt chased a kick-ahead, gathered the leather and raced across in the corner.

A brilliant break by Paul Schultz raised Marist hopes, alas he delayed his pass and the movement died. In retribution Sanderson landed a penalty.

Reeling under the imposition which resulted from their hooker's enforced departure, the Greens were unable to obtain sufficient possession to greatly trouble their adversaries, who scored their third try just prior to the interlude when Don Everitt nipped through the scattered defence and touched down.

Marist sparkled in the opening stages of the second spell, however, only the one try eventuated when Billy Harford spreadeagled the defence in a dazzling dash and on being tackled quickly played-the-ball to Neville Denton, who raced wide, then straightened up and

scored in the corner. Gascoigne missed the difficult conversion but soon after was successful with a penalty to bring the position to 13-9 in Otahuhu's favour.

Marist fans began to smell victory, although the Greens were still not seeing enough of the ball and when they were in possession the Otahuhu fortifications had proved equal to the task.

A torrid, tense tussle ensued until with 10 minutes remaining the Double Blue custodian Ron Berghman entered the backline, created an overlap and sent to winger David Gore. The latter, who had earlier been pushed out on the corner flag, made no mistake this time and crossed for a fine try.

The Old Boys refused to admit defeat and from loose play close to the Otahuhu line, Harford secured and dived over. Gascoigne's conversion brought the Greens within two points of their opponents.

Spurred by their frantic fans, Marist tried desperately to snatch a last minute victory, however, their efforts went unrewarded and Otahuhu triumphed by 16 points to 14.

The Marist vanguard as the game progressed had been forced into a group of disorganised individuals, while the rearguard, when in possession, had dropped too many passes to be an effective unit.

The Greens thus surrendered their three titles as their "Rooster" defeat would prevent their participation in the Champion of Champions encounter.

This same day in Christchurch the Northern Zone team, including Danielson and Kriletich, vanquished the Southern Zone by 24 points to 19.

On Sunday, October 8th, the Auckland season was concluded with the staging of the initial New Zealand Marist — New Zealand Maoris encounter. A somewhat disappointing crowd was entranced by the most spectacular fixture of the year which ended in a victory to the Maoris by 31 points to 30. Auckland Marist players to participate were: Kriletich (capt), Danielson, W. Schultz, McGinty, P. Schultz and

McIntyre. Tony Kriletich was adjudged the best New Zealand Marist player by Messrs Evan Hale and Don McLeod, and received a statuette donated by the author.

The Senior Reserve championship for the fourth time in six years came Marist's way. Included in the team were: S. Helg, K. Ponga, R. Wright, T. Karanga, T. Harris, P. Frost, P. Allison, L. Matthews, P. Govorko, T. Bateman, P. Kennedy, R. Torrie, A. Musin, K. Marino, F. Venu, H. Kemp, A. Bacon, L. Marvyn and D. Benson.

Our Tenth Graders also attained the limelight — a brilliant combination who won both championship and knock-out.

Glen King, Charlie Tohe and Wayne McDonald were selected in the Auckland under 19 teams.

Only Schoolboy side to record a success was the Marist team which won the 16th Grade North knock-out competition.

Jim Dudley was a member of the Auckland 11th Grade team which retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield at the tournament conducted in Wellington. He was afterwards selected in both the Northern Zone and New Zealand teams.

## 1968

The commencement of the new season on March 23rd — the earliest ever — found the Marist Club without its rooms. The building had been leased to commercial interests for a period of four years, due to the unpropitious economic situation and the advent of 10 o'clock closing for hotels.

Office bearers for 1968 were: President, Mr A. Blake; secretary, D. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs B. D. Mitchell; club captain, R. Boswell; management committee, T. Donovan, B. Williams, C. Morris, N. D. Munro, B. Canavan and T. Hyland.

In their opening encounter, which was the principal attraction at headquarters, the Greens defeated City-Newton by 22 points to 12. In temperatures over 70° three thousand spectators watched Marist reveal

more purpose and penetration than their opponents. Newcomers John Walshe, the ex Kiwi from Dunedin, and Frank Bruno, both made promising debuts.

This same afternoon disorder erupted on the No. 2 ground in the Premier Reserve match between Ponsoby and Manukau. Disgraceful brawling compelled the referee Mr R. Caddy to abandon the game a few minutes before its scheduled conclusion, when the Ponies were ahead by 26 points to 9.

A week later Marist downed Otahuhu by 13 points to 10; a match in which John Walshe had the misfortune to sustain a compound fracture of a leg.

On April 6th the Old Boys bowed to Glenora 13-15. A last minute try gave the Blue and Whites victory, however, it was a deserved success as they were undoubtedly the better team, with Eric Carson being a continual danger. The Marist side was disjointed, leaden-heeled and disinclined to tackle. Charlie Stowers, Gene Swann, Paul Schultz, Tony Kriletich and Brian Reidy were the only players to reveal enterprise.

The following weekend the first trials were staged to aid the selectors in their choice of the 19 man New Zealand team to participate in the forthcoming World Championship. A Blue team defeated a Red selection, containing Kriletich and Danielson, by 21 points to 13, while in the curtain raiser Gascoigne was a member of the A team which downed a B side, including Paul Schultz, by 29 points to 26. On the Sunday Schultz and Gascoigne appeared for the Rest side which vanquished the Northern Zone selection, including Danielson and Kriletich, by 18 points to 12.

The Greens next two matches brought a 19-15 victory over Richmond and a 13-24 loss to joint leaders Ponsoby.

On Sunday, April 28th, at Davies Park, Huntly the Northern Zone outclassed the Southern Zone by 31 points to 11. Schultz and Kriletich appeared for the victors as they did

the ensuing Saturday when the Blacks vanquished New South Wales County by 13 points to 5.

A day later the New Zealand Maori XIII, including Oscar Danielson, downed the visitors by 18 points to 10.

In the final World Championship trial a New Zealand thirteen, including Schultz, Danielson and Kriletich, took the honours by the odd point in forty-one, against a Rest team for whom Bing Gascoigne appeared.

The Kiwi XIX was duly announced and Marist — as in 1967 — was represented by Schultz, Danielson and Kriletich. The New Zealand coach was none other than Des Bar-chard.

The main attraction at Carlaw Park on Sunday, May 12th, was the clash between Marist and the unbeaten leaders Ellerslie. The Old Boys thrilled their fans with an exhilarating exposition to trounce the Red, White and Blues by 19 points to 6. Tries were scored by McIntyre (3), Schultz and Bruno, while Gascoigne landed a conversion and Marvin a field goal. Ponga, Swann, Stowers, Schultz, F. Purcell and Kriletich produced some dynamic tackling.

If their performance against Ellerslie was considered encouraging, then that against Mt Albert could only be regarded as discouraging. Marist was first to score when Gascoigne intercepted and streaked 90 yards, however, the remainder of the match belonged to the Blue and Golds and they finally ran out winners by 15 points to 7. Mt. Albert skipper Albie Wiggs received his marching instructions from Mr Caddy.

On Saturday, May 25th, 18,000 Aucklanders watched France deservedly defeat New Zealand by 15 points to 10 in the first World Championship fixture. Although forced to play with 12 men for the majority of the match, the Kiwis nevertheless had sufficient possession to achieve victory. The performance of the back-line could only be described as incompetent. Brian Lee was ordered off by Sydney referee Col Pearce while Oscar Danielson was compelled

to retire with an injury that later examination revealed as a broken bone in the neck. Tony Kriletich and Paul Schultz also wore the Kiwi and Silver Fern, as they did in New Zealand's two subsequent trouncings 12-31 by Australia in Brisbane and 14-38 by Great Britain at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Aucklanders also watched in pouring rain and atrocious ground conditions the excellent exposition given by France and Great Britain. This match decided on Sunday, June 2nd, saw the Chanticleers victorious by 7 points to 2. In the final at the Sydney Cricket Ground on June 10th, Australia thrashed France by 20 points to 2. The Kangaroos were unbeaten in the series.

On the home front Bing Gascoigne was a member of the Auckland touring team which during Queen's Birthday weekend lost to West Coast 3-16, thence downed Canterbury 29-15.

In the first series of club matches for four weeks, Pt Chevalier accounted for Marist by 12 points to 9. The Green and Golds fielded a makeshift thirteen as Schultz and Kriletich were in Queensland with the Northern Zone team, while Danielson, Reidy, McDonald and Gascoigne were all sidelined by injury. During the match the referee Mr Armitage issued marching orders to Frank Bruno, Raine Meredith (Marist) and R. Brown (Pt Chevalier). Marist replacements Meredith, Terry Hanna, Schuster, Schaumkel and Taito all played well as did Peter Donnelly.

In the ultimate series of the round Marist had to struggle to defeat bottom-placed Manukau by 10 points to 7.

In their opening engagement of the second round an unimaginative Green thirteen vanquished City-Newton — who shared the bottom position with Manukau — by 12 points to 6.

A week later at Omana Road, Papatoetoe, Otahuhu took the honours by 9 points to 5 while at the Glen Eden Recreation Ground on July 20th, the home side — the championship leaders—vanquished the Greens after an exciting encounter

by 19 points to 14. Marist exhibited improvement in this latter fixture in which Joe Raymond and Glenora's Eric Carson incurred the referee's displeasure and received early show-ers.

The following weekend the first of the A.R.L.'s controversial double-headers eventuated. On the Saturday the Greens fell victim to bottom-placed Richmond 12-24, thence 24 hours later in a dramatic reversal of form upset Ponsonby by the odd point in twenty-three. Bill Harford had reappeared in the Marist rear-guard while veteran Ron Goodin, in the forwards was an inspiration to his younger team-mates.

The Old Boys again proved superior to Ellerslie when they vanquished the Red, White and Blues by 14 points to 10, while in the second double-header they outclassed Mt Albert 19-7 and disposed of Pt Chevalier 23-18, to ensure their participation in the top four play-offs. In the final series Manukau deservedly defeated Marist by 21 points to 13. Glenora won the minor championship.

On Saturday, August 24th, Mt Albert encountered Marist in the first semi-final of the major championship — sponsored by Arthur Guinness (N.Z.) Ltd. Rugby League News columnist Trevor Berry commented as follows:—

'It is hard to credit that within fourteen days of beating Mt Albert by 19-7, Marist should have the tables turned completely and go under just as decisively by 15-2. But Marist coach Nev Denton was not too concerned at the outcome. Beset by injuries throughout the season to many of his key players, Nev has had to blood a lot of new talent this year and the fact that his team actually made the top four was credit in itself.

Of the thirteen Marist players who took the field last Saturday, five made their debut in Premier football this season. The bleeding that these young players have had this year coupled with the return to Marist next year of some of their experienced hands, should see them back close to the top'.

Yes! although Marist fans were naturally disappointed that the Green's championship bid had been terminated, they, like Neville Denton, were not unduly surprised by the result.

Sensation occurred this day in the second semi-final when Ponsonby fullback Mike McLennan, scored a sensational hotly-disputed last-minute try which on being converted by Vic Yates gave the Blue and Blacks victory over Glenora by 19 points to 17.

In the final Mt Albert defeated Glenora by 9 points to 7 thence the following Saturday captured the Fox Memorial Shield when they vanquished Ponsonby by 12 points to 7 in the grand final.

On September 14th, Tony Kriletich wore the Blue and White jersey when Auckland outplayed Wellington by 28 points to 4 in the final of the Rothman's interprovincial tournament.

The 1968 Roope Rooster competition commenced the following day and Marist, in somewhat shaky fashion, accounted for Pt Chevalier by 26 points to 20.

At Cornwall Park on September 21st, the season's biggest upset eventuated when the Senior team Southern Districts proved superior to Marist and deservedly triumphed by 15 points to 13. Missed tackles, silly fundamental mistakes and a negative approach to the game put the Greens out of the 'Rooster'. John Mihaljevich a promoted Third Grader gave a fine defensive display.

Relegated to the Phelan Shield for the first time since 1965, Marist downed Pt Chevalier 25-13, thence succumbed 21-27 to Mt Albert. In the latter match promoted Juniors Glen King and Jeff Binning, together with John Mihaljevich, Paul Schultz and Bill Harford, demonstrated to the remainder of the team the art of tackling.

On Sunday, October 6th, Bing Gascoigne was a member of the Auckland Maoris XIII which was trounced 14-33 by the visiting Sydney champions, South Sydney.

The previous day Ellerslie had defeated the Roope Rooster when they defeated Southern Districts by 23 points to 18. The Red, White and Blues then captured the Stormont Shield by accounting for Mt Albert 16-13.

Tony Kriletich brought distinction to the Club when he was adjudged "Player of the Year" by the A.R.L. and awarded the City - Newton Trophy, donated by Mr E Rothville.

The Eighth Graders were the only Marist team to "bring home the bacon" in 1968. This grand side was successful in both the championship and knock-out.

Grant Nixon and Jim Hodgetts gained selection in the Auckland under 17 Rothmans tournament team while Jim Dudley was a member of the Auckland 11th Grade side which retained the Amalgamated Theatres Shield in the tournament staged at Huntly. The brilliant Dudley was afterwards chosen as captain of both the Northern Zone and New Zealand teams and led the national side in its grand 16-5 victory over the touring New South Wales Catholic under 15 team.

No trophies were won by our Schoolboy section. Representative honours were attained by D. Deegan and T. Hetherington of our Sixteenths.

On Sunday, September 22nd, 1968, at the residence of Mr and Mrs Fergie Kirwan, the following people met to discuss the planned formation of an Old Boys' Association: Mesdames C. Macsfield and A. Ryan; Messrs W. Feek, P. Young, J. O'Kane, D. Richardson, E. Hale, T. Hyland and F. Kirwan. This organisation, for so many years an intriguing thought became an exciting reality, at the Auckland Lawn Tennis Association Pavilion on Sunday, October 13th, when the following foundation members were elected: President, R. Tanner; secretary-treasurer, R. Lipscombe; committee, F. Kirwan (chairman), E. Hale, W. Feek, A. Ryan, M. Brockliss, J. O'Kane, D. Barchard, J. Baigent and D. Mason. As in 1919 the seed has been sown; diligent propagation will reap a rich reward.

As a prelude to the Golden Jubilee, nearly 300 Old Boys and their wives experienced a wonderful evening at a Reunion held on Saturday, March 9th, at the incomparable Trillo's Cabaret, Westhaven.

Twenty weeks later, on Saturday, July 27th, at the Mt Albert War Memorial Hall, 260 people enjoyed the Marist Ball.

On Monday, February 17th, 1969, the fiftieth annual general meeting was conducted in the Marist Brothers School Hall, Vermont Street, Ponsonby, when the following officers were elected for Golden Jubilee Year: Patron, His Grace Archbishop Liston; president, A. Blake; secretary, D. M. Richardson; treasurer, Mrs B. D. Mitchell; management committee, C. G. Mitchell (chairman), N. D. Munro, A. Ryan, J. O'Kane, C. Morris, J. Hopkins; club captain, R. Boswell; senior officer's delegate, A. Frost; junior control board delegate, F. Hodgetts.

This gathering completes the story of the Club's activities and accomplishments during the first half-century of its existence. It is a period of fifty years on which Marist can reflect with the greatest pride and satisfaction, because of the immense part it has played in the fostering and development of this wonderful sport — Rugby League Football.

What of 1969 and the questions that will surely be asked? Is the Club as strong today as it was thirty years ago; are the players of yesterday superior to those of the present vintage; are the grounds better or worse? The author will not attempt to answer these questions as he prefers to leave them to readers to debate amongst themselves, for are they not posers that are the subject of eternal argument in the realm of sport?

Yes! fifty years have truly elapsed, what will the ensuing half-century bring; will the Marist Brothers Old Boys Rugby League Football Club progress to record heights? The answer lies only in the deeds of the

players and administrators of present and future years.

No matter what eventuates, the Club could never forget the administrative achievements of men like Con McDewitt, Bill Glover, Senior, Charlie Russell, Dick Fogarty, Dan McCarthy, Ken and Harold Lipscombe, Jack Kirwan, Pat Fletcher, Joe Ball, Reg de Thierry, Alf Blake, Dick Grantley, Vic Barchard, Pat Young, Bill and Len Schultz.

To the ladies who, across the years inspired these gentlemen the Club owes an enormous debt of gratitude: Mesdames Olive de Thierry, Morvern Kirwan, Elsie Schultz, Grantley O'Sullivan, Marge Schultz, Glover,

Muriel McLeod, Marie Schultz, Viola Lipscombe, plus others of the fair sex too numerous to mention.

In respect of its supporters the Club honours the memory of those that have passed away since its inception, and expresses sincere thanks to the fine people who, today so enthusiastically follow Marist fortunes.

To the Auckland Rugby League and the Referees' Association, the Club is appreciative of the cordial relations that have always existed between our three bodies.

In conclusion, let all Marist adherents do their utmost to make this Golden Jubilee season, one of many magnificent memories.

At the request of the Author, three prominent Old Boys: Messrs Fergie Kirwan, Evan Hale and Don McLeod, have each selected a Post Second World War Auckland Marist Team. The Author has also selected an ALL-TIME Auckland Marist Team based on what he has heard, read and seen.

	F. Kirwan's Team	E. Hale's Team	D. McLeod's Team	T. Hyland's Team
Full Back	B. Reidy	B. Reidy	R. McKay	Norm Campbell
Left Wing	N. Denton	N. Denton	N. Denton	Neville Denton
Outside Centre	J. Fisher	J. Fisher	C. Harris	Jack Kirwan
Inside Centre	R. McKay	L. Rae	F. Kirwan	Hec Brisbane (Capt.)
Right Wing	J. Edwards	J. Edwards	J. Edwards	Jim Edwards
Stand-Off Half	L. Rae	F. Kirwan	L. Rae	C. "Pope" Gregory
Scrum Half	D. Barchard	D. Barchard	D. Barchard	Wilf Haasan
Lock	W. Goulin	W. Goulin	W. Goulin	Ron McKay
Second Row	A. Kriletich	A. Kriletich	A. Kriletich	Arthur Singe
Second Row	B. Curran	R. McKay	P. Dormer	Jim Laird
Blind Side Prop	S. Edwards	D. McLeod	D. McLeod	Bill Stormont
Hooker	G. Edwards	G. Davidson	G. Davidson	G. "Stump" Campbell
Open-Side Prop	O. Danielson	O. Danielson	C. Hoett	Jim "Offside" O'Brien
Reserve Back	P. Schultz	E. O'Leary	F. Schultz	Claude List
Reserve Forward	C. Harris	C. Harris	A. Reichelmann	Des Barchard
Reserve Forward P.	McLeod	S. Edwards	S. Edwards	George Davidson
	Dormer	C. Hoett	V. Barchard	Nelson Bass

**THE 1907-08 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA, ENGLAND, WALES AND CEYLON**

Captain: H. R. WRIGHT (Wellington)

August	17	1907	v	New South Wales	Won 12- 8
	21	1907	v	New South Wales	Won 19- 5
	24	1907	v	New South Wales	Won 5- 3
September	12	1907	v	Colombo	Won 33- 6
				(Under Rugby Union Rules)	
October	9	1907	v	Bramley	Won 25- 6
	12	1907	v	Huddersfield	Won 19- 8
	16	1907	v	Widnes	Won 26-11
	19	1907	v	Broughton Rangers	Won 20-14
	23	1907	v	Wakefield Trinity	Drew 5- 5
	26	1907	v	Leeds	Won 8- 2
	30	1907	v	St Helens	Won 24- 5
November	2	1907	v	Merthyr Tydvil	Won 27- 9
	5	1907	v	Keighley	Won 9- 7
	9	1907	v	Wigan	Lost 8-12
	13	1907	v	Barrow	Lost 3- 6
	16	1907	v	Hull	Won 18-13
	20	1907	v	Leigh	Lost 9-15
	23	1907	v	Oldham	Lost 7- 8
	27	1907	v	Runcorn	Lost 0- 9
	30	1907	v	Dewsbury and Batley	Won 18- 8
December	4	1907	v	Swinton	Won 11- 2
	7	1907	v	Rochdale Hornets	Won 19- 0
	10	1907	v	Bradford	Lost 2- 7
	14	1907	v	Halifax	Lost 4- 9
	18	1907	v	Yorkshire	Won 23- 4
	21	1907	v	Warrington	Lost 7- 8
	26	1907	v	Hunslet	Drew 11-11
	28	1907	v	Salford	Won 9- 2
January	1	1908	v	Wales	Lost 8- 9
				(Aberdare)	
	4	1908	v	Hull Kingston Rovers	Won 6- 3
	8	1908	v	Cumberland	Lost 9-21
	11	1908	v	An England XIII	Lost 16-18
				(Wigan)	
	18	1908	v	Lancashire	Lost 4-20
	25	1908	v	England	Lost 6-14
				(Leeds)	
	29	1908	v	York	Lost 3- 5
February	1	1908	v	Ebbw Vale	Won 3- 2
	8	1908	v	England	Won 18- 6
				(Chelsea, London)	
	15	1908	v	England	Won 8- 5
				(Cheltenham)	
	22	1908	v	St Helens	Won 21-10

**1907-08 Tour (cont.)**

April	22	1908	v	Newcastle	Won 53- 6
				(Under Rugby Union Rules)	
				Won 34- 8	
May	25	1908	v	Newcastle	Lost 10-18
	2	1908	v	New South Wales	Lost 10-13
	6	1908	v	New South Wales	Won 11-10
	9	1908	v	Australia	(Sydney)
				Won 34-12	
	16	1908	v	Queensland	Won 43-10
	20	1908	v	Brisbane	Drew 12-12
	23	1908	v	Queensland	Won 24-12
	30	1908	v	Australia	(Brisbane)
June	6	1908	v	Australia	Lost 9-14
				(Sydney)	

Played (R.L. Rules) 44; Won 24, Lost 17, Drew 3. Points For 601. Points Against 403.  
(R.U. Rules) 5; Won 5, Lost 0, Drew 0. Points for 122. Points Against 28.  
TOTAL: 49; Won 29, Lost 17, Drew 3. Points For 723. Points Against 431.

**THE 1909 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain B. KING (Wellington)

June	5	1909	v	New South Wales	Lost 21-26
	7	1909	v	New South Wales	Lost 20-27
	9	1909	v	Sydney	Lost 18-28
	12	1909	v	Australia	Won 19-11
				(Sydney)	
	16	1909	v	Newcastle	Won 6- 3
	19	1909	v	Queensland	Won 40-25
	23	1909	v	Queensland	Won 27-19
	26	1909	v	Australia	Lost 5-10
				(Brisbane)	
June	30	1909	v	New South Wales	Won 20- 8
July	3	1909	v	Australia	Lost 5-25
				(Sydney)	

Played 10: Won 5, Lost 5, Points for 181, Points Against 182.

**THE 1910 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: J. Lomas (Salford)

July	20	1910	v	New Zealand Maoris	Won 29- 0
				(Victoria Park)	
	23	1910	v	Auckland	Won 52- 9
				(Victoria Park)	
	27	1910	v	Rotorua	Won 54-18
	30	1910	v	New Zealand	Won 52-20
				(Domain)	

Played 4: Won 4, Lost 0, Points For 187, Points Against 47.



### THE 1911 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: C. DUNNING (Auckland)

June	22	1911 v New South Wales	Lost 10-35
	24	1911 v New South Wales	Lost 10-26
	28	1911 v Hunter River Districts	Won 21-20
July	1	1911 v Queensland	Won 23-10
	5	1911 v Queensland	Lost 13-24
	8	1911 v Queensland	Lost 13-23
	12	1911 v Hunter River Districts	Won 40-8
	15	1911 v New South Wales	Lost 7-39

Played 8: Won 4, Lost 4, Points For 142, Points Against 175.

### THE 1912 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: A. R. H. FRANCIS (Auckland)

June	22	1912 v New South Wales	Lost 8-27
	24	1912 v New South Wales	Won 12-7
	29	1912 v Queensland	Won 15-8
July	3	1912 v Queensland	Won 16-10
	6	1912 v Australia	Lost 10-13 (Brisbane)
	10	1912 v Northern New South Wales	Won 20-4
	13	1912 v New South Wales	Lost 3-14

Played 7: Won 4, Lost 3, Points for 84, Points Against 83

### THE 1912 NEW SOUTH WALES TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: P. A. McCUE

August	24	1912 v Wellington	Won 45-13
	29	1912 v Taranaki	Won 24-0 (New Plymouth)
	31	1912 v Auckland	Lost 3-10 (Victoria Park)
September	4	1912 v Rotorua	Won 39-13
	7	1912 v New Zealand	Won 18-10 (Domain)
	11	1912 v Hawkes Bay	Won 42-9
	14	1912 v Canterbury	Won 28-15
	19	1912 v Wanganui	Won 52-26
	21	1912 v Auckland	Won 25-2 (Domain)

Played 9: Won 8, Lost 1, Points For 276, Points Against 98.

### THE 1913 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: H. HAYWARD (Thames)

June	7	1913 v New South Wales	Lost 15-17
	9	1913 v New South Wales	Lost 12-31
	11	1913 v Newcastle and District	Lost 17-40
	14	1913 v Queensland	Won 39-5
	16	1913 v Ipswich	Won 29-12
	18	1913 v Queensland	Won 32-6
	21	1913 v New South Wales	Won 17-11
	23	1913 v New South Wales	Lost 10-34
	25	1913 v Orange	Won 28-5

Played 9: Won 5, Lost 4, Points For 199, Points Against 161.

### THE 1913 NEW SOUTH WALES TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: P. A. McCUE

August	23	1913 v Canterbury	Won 45-5
	27	1913 v Taranaki	Won 16-5 (Hawera)
	30	1913 v Auckland	Won 27-2 (Domain)
September	3	1913 v Rotorua	Won 53-5
	4	1913 v Waikato	Won 20-14
	6	1913 v New Zealand	Won 33-19 (Domain)
	11	1913 v Wanganui	Won 44-9
	13	1913 v Wellington	Won 34-18
	17	1913 v Hawkes Bay	Won 31-12
	20	1913 v New Zealand	Won 58-19 (Wellington)
	24	1913 v Nelson	Won 66-2

Played 11: Won 11, Lost 0, Points For 427, Points Against 110.

### THE 1914 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: H. WAGSTAFF (Huddersfield)

July	11	1914 v Wellington	Won 14-7
	18	1914 v Hawkes Bay	Won 30-7
	23	1914 v Taranaki	Won 43-11 (Eltham)
	25	1914 v Auckland	Won 34-12 (Domain)
	30	1914 v Wanganui	Won 57-12 (Domain)
August	1	1914 v New Zealand	Won 16-13 (Domain)

Played 6: Won 6, Lost 0, Points For 194, Points Against 62.

**THE 1919 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: W. J. MITCHELL (Canterbury)

June	7	1919	v	New South Wales	Lost 18-23
	9	1919	v	New South Wales	Lost 9-20
	11	1919	v	Tamworth	Won 21-13
	14	1919	v	Newcastle	Won 11- 8
	21	1919	v	New South Wales	Lost 31-39
	23	1919	v	New South Wales	Lost 19-22
	28	1919	v	Queensland	Lost 13-26
July	2	1919	v	Ipswich	Won 11- 8
	5	1919	v	Queensland	Lost 13-16
	9	1919	v	Rockhampton	Won 23- 0
	12	1919	v	Toowoomba	Won 42-12
	12	Played 11: Won 5, Lost 6, Points For 211, Points Against 187.			

**THE 1919 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: A. HALLOWAY (New South Wales)

August	23	1919	v	New Zealand	Won 44-21 (Wellington)
	30	1919	v	New Zealand	Lost 10-26
September	6	1919	v	New Zealand	(Christchurch) Won 34-23
	13	1919	v	New Zealand	(Domain) Won 32- 2
	18	1919	v	Waikato	(Domain) Won 58- 5
	20	1919	v	Auckland	Won 32- 8
	27	1919	v	Hawkes Bay	(Domain) Won 67- 4
	29	1919	v	Hawkes Bay	Won 73- 7
October	4	1919	v	Wellington	Won 93- 5 (Domain)
		Played 9: Won 8, Lost 1, Points For 443, Points Against 101.			

**THE 1920 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: H. WAGSTAFF (Huddersfield)

July	24	1920	v	Auckland	Lost 16-24 (Domain)
	27	1920	v	Rotorua	Won 58-15
	28	1920	v	South Auckland	Won 49-10
	31	1920	v	New Zealand	Won 31- 7 (Domain)
August	3	1920	v	King Country	Won 47- 3
	4	1920	v	North Island XIII	Won 46- 5 (Napier)
	7	1920	v	New Zealand	Won 19- 3 (Christchurch)
	9	1920	v	Canterbury	Won 29-14
	11	1920	v	West Coast	Won 55-13
	14	1920	v	New Zealand	Won 11-10 (Wellington)
		Played 10: Won 9, Lost 1, Points For 361, Points Against 104.			

**THE 1921 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: H. E. TANCRED (Auckland)

June	4	1921	v	New South Wales A	Lost 9-56 (S.C.G.)
	6	1921	v	Queensland	Won 25-12 (S.C.G.)
	11	1921	v	Queensland	Lost 16-21
	18	1921	v	Queensland	Lost 3- 8
	23	1921	v	Toowoomba	Lost 18-30
	25	1921	v	Ipswich	Lost 5- 6
	27	1921	v	New South Wales (with Q'land)	Lost 24-36
July	2	1921	v	Newcastle	Won 27-14
		Exclusive of Combined N.Z.-Queensland Match with N.S.W.:			
		Played 7: Won 2, Lost 5, Points For 103, Points Against 147			

**THE 1922 NEW SOUTH WALES TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: H. CAPLES

September	16	1922	v	Auckland	Won 40-25 (Domain)
	20	1922	v	Auckland Province	Won 21-20 (Domain)
	26	1922	v	Bay of Plenty	Won 29- 5 (Rotorua)
	27	1922	v	Waikato	Won 17-12
	28	1922	v	King Country Combined	Won 87-16 (Taumarunui)
	30	1922	v	Hawkes Bay-Auckland	Won 39-14 (Napier)
		Played 6: Won 6, Lost 0, Points for 233, Points Against 92.			
		Exclusive of September 23rd 1922 when the Kangaroos of team with Bert Laing (Auckland) encountered a XIII composed of Aucklanders and the remaining members of the New South Wales side. The Kangaroos won 65-27.			

**THE 1924 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: J. PARKIN (Wakefield Trinity)

July	23	1924	v	South Auckland	Won 28-16
	26	1924	v	Auckland	Won 24-11
	28	1924	v	Lower Waikato	Won 30-12
	30	1924	v	Auckland Province	Won 28-13
August	6	1924	v	New Zealand	Lost 8-16 (Auckland)
	9	1924	v	New Zealand	Lost 11-13 (Wellington)
	9	1924	v	New Zealand	Won 31-18 (Dunedin)
	13	1924	v	West Coast	Won 65- 8
	16	1924	v	Canterbury	Won 47-10
		Played 9: Won 7, Lost 2, Points For 272, Points Against 117.			

**THE 1925 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: H. B. LAING (Auckland)

July	11	1925 v New South Wales	Lost 4-7
	15	1925 v Australia Universities	Lost 13-15
	18	1925 v Newcastle and Maitland	Won 29-11
	23	1925 v New South Wales	Won 21-13
	25	1925 v New South Wales	Won 17-10
		(Newcastle)	Won 21-20
August	29	1925 v Lismore	Lost 19-43
	1	1925 v Queensland	Lost 21-22
	5	1925 v Ipswich	Lost 20-29
	8	1925 v Queensland	Lost 14-16
	12	1925 v Toowoomba	Won 19-18
	15	1925 v New South Wales	Lost 25-26
	19	1925 v Cootamundra	

Played 12: Won 5, Lost 7, Points For 223, Points Against 230.

**THE 1925 QUEENSLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: N. POTTER

September	5	1925 v New Zealand	Lost 24-25 (Auckland)
	9	1925 v Auckland	Drew 18-18
	12	1925 v New Zealand	Won 35-14 (Auckland)
	16	1925 v South Auckland	Won 57-24
	19	1925 v A New Zealand XIII	Won 44-20 (Wellington)
	23	1925 v West Coast	Won 27-10
	26	1925 v Canterbury	Won 57-15
October	1	1925 v South Canterbury Combined	Won 88-34 (Timaru)
	3	1925 v Otago	Won 63-2
	7	1925 v Canterbury	Won 58-10
	10	1925 v Auckland Province	Won 54-14

Played 11: Won 9, Lost 1, Drew 1, Points For 525, Points Against 186.

**THE 1926-27 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND AND WALES**

Captain: H. AVERY (Auckland)

September	11	1926 v Dewsbury	Won 13-9
	15	1926 v Leigh	Won 23-16
	18	1926 v Halifax	Lost 13-19
	21	1926 v Rochdale Hornets	Won 11-9
	25	1926 v Barrow	Won 19-16
	29	1926 v Widnes	Won 15-5
October	2	1926 v England	Lost 20-28 (Wigan)

**1926-27 Tour (cont.)**

6	1926 v York	Won 19-11	
9	1926 v Warrington	Lost 5-17	
13	1926 v Bramley	Won 35-12	
16	1926 v Hull	Won 15-13	
20	1926 v Bradford North	Won 38-17	
23	1926 v Oldham	Lost 10-15	
26	1926 v Leeds	Won 13-11	
30	1926 v St Helens Recs	Lost 14-28	
November	3	1926 v Salford	Won 18-10
6	1926 v Huddersfield	Lost 10-12	
13	1926 v England	Lost 11-21 (Hull)	
17	1926 v Wigan Highfield	Won 14-2	
20	1926 v Batley	Lost 17-19	
23	1926 v Keighley	Won 21-3	
27	1926 v Swinton	Lost 14-16	
December	4	1926 v Wales	Lost 8-34 (Pontypridd)
9	1926 v St Helens	Lost 12-22	
11	1926 v Wigan	Lost 15-36	
15	1926 v Yorkshire	Lost 16-17	
18	1926 v Hunslet	Lost 12-13	
25	1926 v Pontypridd	Won 17-8	
27	1926 v Broughton Rangers	Won 32-8	
28	1926 v Wakefield Trinity	Won 29-24	
January	1	1927 v Hull Kingston Rovers	Lost 15-20
3	1927 v Lancashire	Lost 3-28	
8	1927 v Cumberland	Won 18-3	
15	1927 v England	Lost 17-32 (Leeds)	

Played 34: Won 17, Lost 17, Points For 562, Points Against 554.

**THE 1928 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: J. PARKIN (Wakefield Trinity)

August	1	1928 v South Auckland	Won 31-5
	4	1928 v New Zealand	Lost 13-17 (Auckland)
	8	1928 v Auckland Province	Won 14-9
	11	1928 v Auckland	Won 26-15
	14	1928 v Buller	Won 72-3
	15	1928 v West Coast	Won 62-13
	18	1928 v New Zealand	Won 13-5 (Dunedin)
	22	1928 v New Zealand	Lost 26-27 (Exhibition Invercargill)
	25	1928 v New Zealand	Won 6-5 (Christchurch)

Played 8: Won 7, Lost 1, Points For 237, Points Against 72. Exclusive of Exhibition Match

### THE 1930 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: C. E. GREGORY (Auckland)

July	5	1930 v New South Wales	Lost 5-16
	9	1930 v Western New South Wales	Won 20-14
	12	1930 v New South Wales	Lost 2-29
	16	1930 v North-Western New South Wales	Won 34-19
	19	1930 v Queensland	Lost 11-14
	23	1930 v Ipswich	Lost 3-10
	26	1930 v Queensland	Lost 6-32
	30	1930 v Brisbane	Won 19-17
August	2	1930 v Sydney	Lost 22-39
	4	1930 v Sydney	Lost 22-34
	6	1930 v Southern New South Wales	Won 24-20
	9	1930 v Newcastle	Won 25-22
	13	1930 v Australia Universities	Won 18-12

Played 13: Won 6, Lost 7, Points For 211, Points Against 278.

### THE 1932 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: J. SULLIVAN (Wigan)

July	27	1932 v Northland	Won 56-5
	30	1932 v New Zealand	Won 24-9 (Auckland)
August	4	1932 v South Auckland	Won 64-11
	6	1932 v Auckland	Won 19-14
	10	1932 v West Coast	Won 32-8
	13	1932 v New Zealand	Won 25-14 (Christchurch)
	17	1932 v A New Zealand XIII	Won 59-8 (Wellington)
	20	1932 v New Zealand	Won 20-18 (Auckland)

Played 8: Won 8, Lost 0, Points For 299, Points Against 87.

### THE 1935 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: D. BROWN (New South Wales)

September	21	1935 v Auckland	Won 16-8
	25	1935 v Southern Provinces	Won 45-31 (Wellington)
	28	1935 v New Zealand	Lost 14-22 (Auckland)
October	2	1935 v New Zealand	Won 29-8 (Auckland)
	5	1935 v New Zealand	Won 31-8 (Auckland)
	9	1935 v Auckland Province	Won 36-18

Played 6: Won 5, Lost 1, Points For 171, Points Against 95.

### THE 1936 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: J. BROUGH (Leeds)

July	25	1936 v Auckland	Won 22-16
	29	1936 v Wellington	Won 48-8
August	1	1936 v South Island	Won 17-3
	4	1936 v Taranaki	Won 35-4
	6	1936 v South Auckland	Won 21-6
	8	1936 v New Zealand	Won 10-8 (Auckland)
	13	1936 v Northland	Won 34-0
	15	1936 v New Zealand	Won 23-11 (Auckland)

Played 8: Won 8, Lost 0, Points For 210, Points Against 56.

### THE 1937 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: W. PRIGG (New South Wales)

August	7	1937 v New Zealand	Won 12-8 (Auckland)
	11	1936 v New Zealand Maoris	Lost 5-16 (Auckland)
	14	1936 v New Zealand	Lost 15-16 (Auckland)

Played 3: Won 1, Lost 2, Points For 32, Points Against 40.

### THE 1938 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: W. McNEIGHT (Auckland)

June	11	1938 v New South Wales	Lost 12-25
	13	1938 v New South Wales	Won 37-18
	15	1938 v New South Wales North Coast	Won 23-2
	18	1938 v Queensland	Lost 11-31
	22	1938 v Toowoomba	Won 12-11
	25	1938 v Queensland	Lost 12-21
	29	1938 v Northern New South Wales	Won 26-15
July	2	1938 v Newcastle	Won 30-19
	6	1938 v Sydney	Drew 19-19

Played 9: Won 5, Lost 3, Drew 1, Points For 182, Points Against 161.

### THE 1939 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND

Captain: R. K. KING (Canterbury)

September	2	1939 v St Helens	Won 19-3
	9	1939 v Dewsbury	Won 22-10
	13	1939 v Dewsbury	Won 22-10
	13	1939 v Dewsbury	Won 22-10

Played 2: Won 2, Lost 0, Points For 41, Points Against 13.  
Outbreak of Second World War Necessitated Cancellation of Remainder of Tour.

### THE 1946 ENGLAND TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: A. J. RISMAN (Salford)

July	27	1946	v	South Island	Won 24-12
	29	1946	v	West Coast	Lost 8-17
	31	1946	v	New Zealand Maoris	Won 32-8
August	3	1946	v	Auckland	Won 9-7
	7	1946	v	South Auckland	Won 42-12
	10	1946	v	New Zealand (Auckland)	Lost 8-13
	12	1946	v	Auckland	Won 22-9

Played 7: Won 5, Lost 2, Points For 145, Points Against 78.

### 1947-48 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND, WALES AND FRANCE

Captain: P. A. SMITH (Canterbury)

September	25	1947	v	St Helens	Won 11-5
	27	1947	v	Swinton	Lost 6-8
October	1	1947	v	York	Won 29-0
	4	1947	v	Great Britain	Lost 10-11 (Leeds)
	8	1947	v	Castleford	Won 17-3
	9	1947	v	Hull Kingston Rovers	Lost 7-13
	11	1947	v	Bradford Northern	Won 17-7
	15	1947	v	Leigh	Won 10-5
	18	1947	v	Wales	Won 28-20 (Swansea)
	22	1947	v	Wigan	Won 10-8
	25	1947	v	Oldham	Won 18-8
	29	1947	v	Hunslet	Lost 10-18
November	1	1947	v	Hull	Lost 7-13
	5	1947	v	Batley	Lost 18-19
	8	1947	v	Great Britain	Won 10-7 (Swinton)
	12	1947	v	Leeds	Won 23-16
	15	1947	v	Warrington	Lost 5-7
	20	1947	v	Halifax	Won 21-5
	22	1947	v	Huddersfield	Lost 7-12
	27	1947	v	Widnes	Lost 0-7
	29	1948	v	Dewsbury	Won 24-5
December	4	1947	v	Workington Town	Won 12-7
	5	1947	v	Barrow	Drew 2-2
	6	1947	v	Wakefield Trinity	Won 30-3
	10	1947	v	Bramley	Won 31-3
	13	1947	v	Belle Vue Rangers	Won 19-3
	20	1947	v	Great Britain	Lost 9-25 (Bradford)
December	28	1947	v	France	Won 11-7 (Paris)

### 1947-48 Tour (cont.)

January

1	1948	v	Catalans	Won 10-7
4	1948	v	Languedoc-Pyrenees	Lost 0-15
11	1948	v	Centre Lyonnais	Lost 10-20
12	1948	v	Provence	Won 36-7
15	1948	v	Antibes	Won 54-7 (Exhibition)
18	1948	v	France B	Won 41-20 (Marseilles)
24	1948	v	Basques	Drew 3-3
25	1948	v	France	Lost 7-25 (Bordeaux)

In England and Wales: Played 27: Won 16, Lost 10, Drew 1, Points For 391, Points Against 240.  
 In France (Exclusive of Exhibition Match): Played 8: Won 4, Lost 3, Drew 1, Points For 118, Points Against 104.  
 Total: Played 35: Won 20, Lost 13, Drew 2, Points For 509, Against 344.

### THE 1948 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: P. A. SMITH (Canterbury)

May	22	1948	v	New South Wales	Lost 17-23
	23	1948	v	Southern New South Wales	Won 30-16
	29	1948	v	Australia	Won 21-19
June	2	1948	v	Northern New South Wales	Won 13-7
	5	1948	v	Queensland	Won 11-10
	6	1948	v	Central Queensland	Won 12-2
	12	1948	v	Australia	Lost 4-13
	14	1948	v	Newcastle	Won 10-9

Played 8: Won 6, Lost 2, Points For 118, Points Against 99.

### THE 1949 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: G. K. FROOME (New South Wales)

September	14	1949	v	South Auckland	Won 33-7
	17	1949	v	New Zealand	Lost 21-26 (Wellington)
	21	1949	v	West Coast	Won 39-14
	24	1949	v	South Island	Won 38-8 (Christchurch)
	26	1949	v	Southern Provinces	Won 17-15 (Wanganui)
	28	1949	v	New Zealand Maoris	Won 33-0 (New Plymouth)
October	1	1949	v	Auckland	Won 36-18
	4	1949	v	Northern Provinces	Won 39-9 (Whangarei)
	8	1949	v	New Zealand	Won 13-10 (Auckland)
	10	1949	v	Auckland Colts	Won 30-16

Played 10: Won 9, Lost 1, Points For 299, Points Against 123.

### THE 1950 GREAT BRITAIN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: E. WARD (Bradford Northern)

July	26	1950 v Wellington	Won 40-15
	29	1950 v New Zealand	Lost 10-16 (Christchurch)
	31	1950 v West Coast	Won 21-15
August	5	1950 v Auckland	Won 26-17
	8	1950 v South Auckland	Won 51-5
	12	1950 v New Zealand	Lost 13-20 (Auckland)

Played 6: Won 4, Lost 2, Points For 161, Points Against 88.

### THE 1951 FRENCH TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: R. CAILLOU

July	25	1951 v West Coast	Won 5-2
	28	1951 v Canterbury	Won 13-7
	30	1951 v Wellington	Won 26-13
August	4	1951 v New Zealand	Lost 15-16
	6	1951 v Auckland	Won 15-10
	9	1951 v South Auckland	Won 25-7
	11	1951 v Taranaki	Won 23-7

Played 7: Won 6, Lost 1, Points For 122, Points Against 62.

### THE 1951-52 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND, WALES AND FRANCE

Captain: M. H. W. ROBERTSON (Auckland)

September	18	1951 v Rochdale Hornets	Won 13-9
	22	1951 v Halifax	Lost 12-18
	24	1951 v Workington Town	Won 17-15
	29	1951 v Oldham	Lost 18-21
October	3	1951 v Castleford	Won 10-9
	6	1951 v Great Britain	Lost 15-21 (Bradford)
	10	1951 v Huddersfield	Won 34-12
	13	1951 v Warrington	Won 19-13
	16	1951 v Batley	Won 20-13
	17	1951 v Bramley	Won 24-20
	20	1951 v St Helens	Won 33-10
	24	1951 v Leigh	Won 31-5
	27	1951 v Barrow	Lost 5-9
	31	1951 v Bradford Northern	Lost 8-13
November	3	1951 v Wigan	Won 15-8
	7	1951 v York	Won 15-12
	10	1951 v Great Britain	Lost 19-20 (Swinton)
	14	1951 v Wakefield Trinity	Won 26-18

### 1951-52 Tour (cont.)

17	1951 v Leeds	Won 19-4
22	1951 v Lancashire	Lost 12-13
24	1951 v Belle Vue Rangers	Lost 5-7
29	1951 v Hull	Won 28-8
December		
1	1951 v Salford	Won 27-12
5	1951 v Yorkshire	Won 10-3
7	1951 v Wales	Won 15-3 (Bradford)
12	1951 v Cardiff	Won 18-10
15	1951 v Great Britain	Lost 12-16 (Leeds)
December		
23	1951 v France	Lost 3-8 (Paris)
25	1951 v Bearn-Gascogne	Won 32-12
27	1951 v Villeneuve	Drew 5-5
30	1951 v France	Lost 7-17 (Bordeaux)
31	1951 v Lanquedoc	Won 23-15
January		
1	1952 v Catalans	Won 20-10
6	1952 v Carcassonne	Lost 7-9
7	1952 v Montauban	Won 20-3
10	1952 v Guyenne	Won 13-0
13	1952 v Lyons-Paris	Lost 7-9
14	1952 v Provence	Won 18-0
20	1952 v Marseilles	Won 26-5
23	1952 v A British Empire XIII	Lost 2-26 (London)

In England and Wales: Played 28: Won 18, Lost 10, Points for 482 Points Against 348.

In France: Played 12: Won 7, Lost 4, Drew 1, Points for 181, Points Against 93.

Total: Played 40: Won 25, Lost 14, Drew 1, Points For 663, Against 441.

### THE 1952 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: T. HARDWICK (South Auckland)

May	28	1952 v Riverina and Western Division	Won 22-5
	31	1952 v New South Wales	Won 26-15
June	4	1952 v Monaro and Southern Division	Won 21-8
	7	1952 v Newcastle	Lost 7-9
	9	1952 v Australia	Lost 13-25
	11	1952 v North and South Coast (N.S.W.)	Won 55-12
	14	1952 v Queensland	Won 20-5
	15	1952 v Central Queensland	Won 35-4
	18	1952 v Central Western Queensland	Won 66-7
	22	1952 v North Queensland	Won 25-10
	25	1952 v Toowoomba	Lost 10-15
	28	1952 v Australia	Won 49-25
July	2	1952 v Australia	Won 19-9

Played 13: Won 10, Lost 3, Points For 368, Points Against 149.

**THE 1953 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: C. B. CHURCHILL (New South Wales)

June	24	1953	v	West Coast	Won 17-11
	27	1953	v	New Zealand	Lost 5-25 (Christchurch)
	30	1953	v	South Island	Won 66-9
July	4	1953	v	New Zealand	Lost 11-12 (Wellington)
	6	1953	v	Taranaki	Won 62-3
	8	1953	v	South Auckland	Won 63-11
	11	1953	v	Auckland	Won 26-4
	15	1953	v	Northland	Won 98-7 (70 minutes only)
	18	1953	v	New Zealand	Won 18-16 (Auckland)
		Played 9: Won 7, Lost 2, Points For 366, Points Against 98.			

**THE 1953 UNITED STATES TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Leader: M. DIMITRO (Los Angeles)

August	1	1953	v	Auckland	Lost 26-54
	5	1953	v	Taranaki	Won 21-18
	8	1953	v	Wellington	Won 17-8
	11	1953	v	West Coast	Lost 10-27
	15	1953	v	Canterbury	Lost 8-39
	19	1953	v	Northland	Won 26-5
	22	1953	v	Auckland Maoris	Lost 23-40
	24	1953	v	South Auckland	Won 22-19
		Played 8: Won 4, Lost 4, Points For 153, Points Against 210.			

**THE 1954 GREAT BRITAIN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: R. WILLIAMS (Huntslet)

July	21	1954	v	Auckland Maoris	Won 14-4
	24	1954	v	New Zealand	Won 27-7 (Auckland)
	27	1954	v	Wellington	Won 61-18
	31	1954	v	New Zealand	Lost 14-20 (Greymouth)
August	4	1954	v	South Island	Won 32-11
	7	1954	v	Canterbury	Won 60-14
	9	1954	v	North Island Colts	Won 42-7
	11	1954	v	South Auckland	Won 26-14
	14	1954	v	New Zealand	Won 12-6
	16	1954	v	Auckland	Lost 4-5 (Auckland)
		Played 10: Won 8, Lost 2, Points For 292, Points Against 106.			

**THE 1954 NEW ZEALAND WORLD CUP TEAM IN FRANCE**

Captain: C. A. EASTLAKE (Auckland)

October	31	1954	v	France	Lost 13-22 (Paris)
November	7	1954	v	Australia	Lost 15-34 (Marseilles)
November	11	1954	v	Great Britain	Lost 6-26 (Bordeaux)
		Played 3: Won 0, Lost 3, Points For 34, Points Against 82.			

**THE 1955 FRENCH TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: J. MEROUEY

July	27	1955	v	West Coast	Won 18-12
	30	1955	v	Canterbury	Lost 13-24
August	2	1955	v	Wellington	Won 19-14
	4	1955	v	Taranaki	Won 46-17
	6	1955	v	New Zealand	Won 19-9 (Auckland)
	10	1955	v	New Zealand Maoris	Lost 20-28 (Huntly)
	13	1955	v	New Zealand	Lost 6-11 (Auckland)
	15	1955	v	Auckland	Lost 15-17
		Played 8: Won 4, Lost 4, Points For 156, Points Against 132.			

**THE 1955-56 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE**

Captain: T. O. BAXTER (Auckland)

September	10	1955	v	Blackpool Borough	Drew 24-24
	14	1955	v	York	Lost 16-20
	17	1955	v	Halifax	Lost 17-18
	21	1955	v	Yorkshire	Won 33-17
	24	1955	v	Wigan	Lost 15-17
	26	1955	v	Hull	Won 17-12
	29	1955	v	Barrow	Lost 13-17
October	1	1955	v	Workington Town	Won 26-16
	8	1955	v	Great Britain	Lost 6-25 (Swinton)
	12	1955	v	Lancashire	Won 17-15
	15	1955	v	Leeds	Won 18-16
	19	1955	v	Featherstone Rovers	Won 7-6
	22	1955	v	Huddersfield	Lost 16-25
	26	1955	v	St Helens	Lost 8-16
	29	1955	v	Oldham	Won 15-13
November	2	1955	v	Leigh	Lost 13-14
	5	1955	v	Warrington	Lost 15-22
	12	1955	v	Great Britain	Lost 12-27 (Bradford)

1955-56 N.Z. Team in England—Cont.

16	1955	v	Castleford	Won 31-7
19	1955	v	Rochdale Hornets	Won 17-16
23	1955	v	Bradford Northern	Won 11-6
26	1955	v	Salford	Won 21-5
December				
3	1955	v	Wakefield Trinity	Won 27-16
7	1955	v	A Rugby League XIII	Lost 11-24
10	1955	v	Keighley	Drew 11-11
12	1955	v	Castleford	Won 28-15
			(Benefit Match)	
17	1955	v	Great Britain	Won 28-13
			(Leeds)	
22	1955	v	Paris	Lost 6-12
25	1955	v	South West France	Won 19-11
29	1955	v	Bordeaux	Won 29-11
January				
1	1956	v	French Army	Won 10-7
5	1956	v	Bigorre	Drew 11-11
8	1956	v	France	Lost 7-24
			(Toulouse)	
9	1955	v	Provence	Lost 11-14
12	1956	v	Marseilles	Won 22-11
15	1956	v	France	Won 31-22
			(Lyons)	
16	1956	v	Lyons	Lost 18-30
21	1956	v	France	Lost 3-24
			(Paris)	

In England (Exclusive of Benefit Match) Played 26; Won 13, Lost 11, Drew 2, Points For 445, Points Against 418.

In France: Played 11; Won 5, Lost 5, Drew 1, Points For 167, Points Against 177.

Total: Played 37; Won 18, Lost 16, Drew 3, Points For 612, Against 595.

**THE 1956 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: T. O. BAXTER (Auckland)

May	30	1956	v	Western New South Wales	Won 19-16
June					
2	1956	v	New South Wales	Won 26-17	
4	1956	v	Newcastle	Lost 5-20	
9	1956	v	Australia	Lost 9-12	
			(Sydney)		
11	1956	v	Brisbane	Won 26-8	
13	1956	v	Toowoomba	Won 33-25	
16	1956	v	Queensland	Won 40-26	
17	1956	v	Central Queensland	Won 60-22	
20	1956	v	North Queensland	Won 53-8	
23	1956	v	Australia	Lost 2-8	
			(Brisbane)		
24	1956	v	Wide Bay and Burnett	Won 29-5	
27	1956	v	Northern New South Wales	Won 15-14	
30	1956	v	Australia	Won 31-14	
			(Sydney)		
July	1	1956	v	Southern New South Wales	Lost 10-25
4	1956	v	Cootamundra and District	Lost 11-16	

Played 15: Won 10, Lost 5, Points For 369, Points Against 236.

**THE 1957 NEW ZEALAND WORLD CUP TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: C. R. JOHNSON (Auckland)

June	15	1957	v	Australia	Lost 5-25
				(Brisbane)	
17	1957	v	France	Lost 10-14	
				(Brisbane)	
22	1957	v	Great Britain	Won 29-21	
				(Sydney)	

Played 3: Won 1, Lost 2, Points For 44, Points Against 60.

**THE 1958 GREAT BRITAIN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Acting Captain: P. JACKSON (Barrow)

Tour Captain: G. A. PRESCOTT (St Helens) Sustained a severe injury in Australia.

July	23	1958	v	North Island Maoris	Won 59-7
				(Huntly)	
26	1958	v	New Zealand	Lost 10-15	
				(Auckland)	
28	1958	v	Taranaki	Won 67-8	
30	1958	v	Wellington	Won 62-20	
August					
2	1958	v	Canterbury	Won 41-21	
3	1958	v	West Coast	Won 19-2	
5	1958	v	A North Island Provinces XIII	Won 72-3	
				(Palmerston North)	
9	1958	v	New Zealand	Won 32-15	
				(Auckland)	
11	1958	v	Auckland	Won 24-17	

Played 9: Won 8, Lost 1, Points For 386, Points Against 108.

**THE 1959 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: C. R. JOHNSON (Auckland)

May	27	1959	v	Western New South Wales	Won 51-3
30	1959	v	Newcastle	Won 25-6	
31	1959	v	Northern New South Wales	Won 26-11	
June					
3	1959	v	Riverina	Won 37-13	
6	1959	v	New South Wales	Won 23-22	
7	1959	v	Southern New South Wales	Won 27-10	
13	1959	v	Australia	Lost 8-9	
			(Sydney)		
15	1959	v	Brisbane	Won 36-8	
17	1959	v	Toowoomba	Won 21-19	
20	1959	v	Queensland	Won 34-19	
21	1959	v	Central Queensland	Won 48-19	
23	1959	v	Wide Bay and Burnett	Won 62-0	
27	1959	v	Australia	Lost 10-38	
			(Brisbane)		
28	1959	v	Ipswich	Won 52-16	
July	4	1959	v	Australia	Won 28-12
				(Sydney)	

Played 15: Won 13, Lost 2, Points For 488, Points Against 205.



### THE 1960 FRENCH TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: A. JIMINEZ Villeneuve

July	20	1960	v	Waikato	Won 32-2
	23	1960	v	New Zealand	Lost 2-9 (Auckland)
	25	1960	v	Taranaki	Won 30-21
	27	1960	v	Wellington	Won 41-3
	30	1960	v	Canterbury	Won 15-8
	31	1960	v	West Coast	Won 29-5
August	3	1960	v	New Zealand Maoris	Won 23-12
	6	1960	v	New Zealand	Lost 3-9
	8	1960	v	Auckland	Lost 5-14
		Played 9: Won 6, Lost 3, Points For 180, Points Against 83.			

### THE 1960 NEW ZEALAND WORLD CUP TEAM IN ENGLAND

Captain: C. R. JOHNSON (Auckland)

September	24	1960	v	Great Britain	Lost 8-23 (Bradford)
October	1	1960	v	Australia	Lost 15-21 (Headingley)
	8	1960	v	France	Won 9-0 (Wigan)
		Played 3: Won 1, Lost 2, Points for 32, Points Against 44.			

### THE 1961 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: B. P. CARLSON (New South Wales)

June	17	1961	v	North Island Maoris	Won 25-13 (Rotorua)
	21	1961	v	Wellington	Won 66-3
	24	1961	v	N.Z. National Training School	Won 9-4 (Christchurch)
	25	1961	v	West Coast	Won 27-7
	28	1961	v	Taranaki	Won 34-0
July	1	1961	v	New Zealand	Lost 10-12 (Auckland)
	5	1961	v	Waikato	Won 26-8
	8	1961	v	New Zealand	Won 10-8
	10	1961	v	Auckland	Lost 8-13
		Played 9: Won 7, Lost 2, Points For 215, Points Against 68.			

### THE 1961 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

Captain: R. D. HAMMOND (Auckland)

August	18	1961	v	Widnes-Liverpool	Lost 6-9
	23	1961	v	Salford-Swinton	Lost 7-19
	26	1961	v	Castleford-Featherstone Rovers	Won 31-20
	28	1961	v	Leeds City	Won 24-9

### 1961 Tour cont.)

September	4	1961	v	Oldham-Rochdale Hornets	Lost 8-10
	6	1961	v	Yorkshire	Lost 11-21
	9	1961	v	Barrow	Won 36-11
	13	1961	v	Lancashire	Lost 13-15
	16	1961	v	Huddersfield-Halifax	Won 31-11
	20	1961	v	A Rugby League XIII	Lost 20-22
	23	1961	v	Warrington	Won 21-9
	30	1961	v	Great Britain	Won 29-11 (Leeds)
October	4	1961	v	Hull-Hull Kingston Rovers	Lost 6-17
	7	1961	v	Wigan	Lost 6-28
	9	1961	v	Cumberland	Won 10-9
	14	1961	v	St Helens	Lost 10-25
	21	1961	v	Great Britain	Lost 10-23 (Bradford)
	25	1961	v	Leigh	Won 15-4
	28	1961	v	Wakefield Trinity	Lost 7-20
November	4	1961	v	Great Britain	Lost 19-35 (Swinton)
	11	1961	v	France	Drew 6-6 (Bordeaux)
	12	1961	v	Villeneuve	Won 8-2
	16	1961	v	St Gauden's Racing Club	Won 38-8
	19	1961	v	France	Won 23-2 (Perpignan)
	23	1961	v	Toulouse	Lost 14-16
	26	1961	v	Languedoc	Won 15-8
	27	1961	v	Southern France	Won 13-6
December	4	1961	v	Roanne	Won 28-4
	9	1961	v	France	Drew 5-5 (Paris)

In England: Played 20: Won 8, Lost 12, Points For 320, Points Against 328.  
 In France: Played 9: Won 6, Drew 2, Lost 1, Points For 150, Against 57.  
 Total: Played 29: Won 14, Drew 2, Lost 13, Points For 470, Against 385.

### THE 1962 GREAT BRITAIN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Acting Captain: D. TURNER (Wakefield Trinity)

Tour Captain: E. ASHTON (Wigan) Sustained an injury in Australia

July	25	1962	v	Waikato	Won 59-20
	28	1962	v	New Zealand	Lost 0-19 (Auckland)
	31	1962	v	New Zealand Maoris	Won 35-5 (Wellington)
August	2	1962	v	Canterbury	Won 26-5
	4	1962	v	A New Zealand XIII	Won 31-17 (Christchurch)
	5	1962	v	West Coast	Won 66-8
	7	1962	v	Bay of Plenty	Won 81-14
	11	1962	v	New Zealand	Lost 8-27 (Auckland)
	13	1962	v	Auckland	Lost 13-46
		Played 9: Won 6, Lost 3, Points for 319, Points Against 161.			

### THE 1963 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA

Captain: M. L. COOKE (Canterbury)

May	22	1963	v	Western New South Wales	Won 36-11
	25	1963	v	New South Wales	Won 5-2
	26	1968	v	Southern New South Wales	Won 14-8
	29	1963	v	Riverina	Won 29-10
June	1	1963	v	Newcastle	Won 24-6
	2	1963	v	New South Wales North Coast	Won 28-2
	8	1963	v	Australia	Lost 3-7 (Sydney)
	10	1963	v	Brisbane	Won 16-15
	12	1963	v	Toowoomba	Won 22-0
	15	1963	v	Queensland	Won 14-10
	16	1963	v	North Queensland	Won 18-12
	22	1963	v	Australia	Won 16-13 (Brisbane)
	23	1963	v	Central Queensland	Lost 10-15
	25	1963	v	Wide Bay-Burnett	Won 16-10
	29	1963	v	Australia	Lost 0-14 (Sydney)
July	2	1963	v	St George	Lost 7-22
		Played 16: Won 12, Lost 4, Points For 258, Points Against 157.			

### THE 1963 SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Acting Captain: F. GRIFFITHS (New South Wales)

Tour Captain: D. ACKERMANN (Transvaal) Sustained injury in Australia

August	1	1963	v	Wellington	Won 21-12
	3	1963	v	South Island	Lost 8-12 (Christchurch)
	7	1963	v	An Auckland XIII	Lost 4-10
	10	1963	v	New Zealand	Won 4-3 (Unofficial, Auckland)
		Played 4: Won 2, Lost 2, Points For 37, Points Against 37.			

### THE 1964 FRENCH TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: B. FABRE (Albi)

July	22	1964	v	North Island Maoris	Lost 5-7 (Whangarei)
	25	1964	v	New Zealand	Lost 14-22 (Auckland)
	28	1964	v	Wellington	Won 18-12
August	1	1964	v	New Zealand	Lost 8-18 (Christchurch)
	2	1964	v	West Coast	Won 9-6
	5	1964	v	Taranaki	Won 25-6
	8	1964	v	Auckland	Won 13-10
	9	1964	v	Waikato	Won 22-16
	12	1964	v	Bay of Plenty	Won 41-16
	15	1964	v	New Zealand	Lost 2-10 (Auckland)
		Played 10: Won 6, Lost 4, Points For 157, Points Against 117.			

### THE 1965 AUSTRALIAN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND

Captain: I. J. WALSH (New South Wales)

June	9	1965	v	Wellington	Won 34-16
	12	1965	v	Canterbury	Won 19-4
	13	1965	v	West Coast	Won 16-6
	15	1965	v	Taranaki	Won 29-11
	19	1965	v	New Zealand	Won 13-8 (Auckland)
	23	1965	v	Waikato	Won 25-4
	26	1965	v	New Zealand	Lost 5-7 (Auckland)
	28	1965	v	Auckland	Won 18-2
		Played 8: Won 7, Lost 1, Points For 159, Points Against 58.			

### THE 1965 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN ENGLAND AND FRANCE

Captain: W. L. SNOWDEN (Auckland)

August	18	1965	v	A British Commonwealth XIII	Won 15-7
	21	1965	v	Bradford Northern	Lost 15-28
	25	1965	v	Warrington	Won 14-7
	28	1965	v	Halifax	Won 24-12
	31	1965	v	Oldham	Won 5-2
September	4	1965	v	Wigan	Won 17-12
	6	1965	v	Widnes	Lost 3-8
	11	1965	v	Hull Kingston Rovers	Won 21-11
	15	1965	v	St. Helens	Lost 7-28
	18	1965	v	Leeds	Won 28-13
	20	1965	v	Yorkshire	Lost 8-15
	25	1965	v	Great Britain	Lost 2-7 (Swinton)
	29	1965	v	Leigh	Won 10-5
	30	1965	v	Barrow	Won 20-10
October	2	1965	v	Whitehaven	Lost 7-12
	6	1965	v	Castleford	Won 7-6
	9	1965	v	Hull	Won 11-8
	13	1965	v	Lancashire	Won 21-10
	16	1965	v	Rochdale Hornets	Won 10-4
	23	1965	v	Great Britain	Lost 9-15 (Bradford)
	27	1965	v	Swinton	Lost 7-14
	30	1965	v	Wakefield Trinity	Lost 4-16
November	6	1965	v	Great Britain	Drew 9-9 (Wigan)
	11	1965	v	Provence	Won 16-11
	14	1965	v	France	Lost 3-14 (Marseilles)
	18	1965	v	Languedoc-Roussillon	Won 23-10
	21	1965	v	Audoise	Won 11-2
	28	1965	v	France	Lost 2-6 (Perpignan)

**1965 Team in England and France (cont.)**

December  
 2 1965 v Rouergue-Pyrenees Lost 5-7  
 4 1965 v France Colts Drew 2-2  
 12 1965 v France Lost 5-28  
 (Toulouse)  
 In England: Played 23: Won 13, Lost 9, Drew 1, Points For 274,  
 Points Against 259.  
 In France: Played 8: Won 3, Lost 4, Drew 1, Points For 67,  
 Points Against 80.  
 Total: Played 31: Won 16, Lost 13, Drew 2, Points For 341,  
 Points Against 339.

**THE 1966 GREAT BRITAIN TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND**

Captain: H. Poole (Leeds)

August  
 3 1966 v Waikato Won 47-8  
 6 1966 v New Zealand Won 25-8  
 (Auckland)  
 9 1966 v Wellington Won 28-9  
 11 1966 v West Coast Won 27-5  
 13 1966 v Canterbury Won 53-6  
 15 1966 v Taranaki Won 51-17  
 20 1966 v New Zealand Won 22-14  
 23 1966 v Auckland Won 12-11

Played 8: Won 8, Lost 0, Points For 265, Points Against 78.

**THE 1967 NEW ZEALAND TEAM IN AUSTRALIA**

Captain: B. E. CASTLE (Auckland)

May  
 27 1967 v Newcastle Lost 7-14  
 28 1967 v Riverina Won 21-19  
 31 1967 v Western New South Wales Won 22-6  
 June  
 3 1967 v New South Wales Won 15-14  
 4 1967 v Southern New South Wales Won 15-9  
 10 1967 v Australia Lost 13-22  
 (Sydney)  
 14 1967 v Brisbane Won 31-10  
 15 1967 v Wide Bay Won 19-6  
 17 1967 v Queensland Lost 6-15  
 18 1967 v Toowoomba Won 35-9  
 21 1967 v Central Queensland Won 33-0  
 24 1967 v Far North Queensland Won 45-3  
 25 1967 v North Queensland Won 22-10  
 27 1967 v Ipswich Won 37-8  
 July  
 1 1967 v Australia Lost 22-35  
 2 1967 v Northern New South Wales (Brisbane) Lost 17-23  
 8 1967 v Australia Lost 9-13

**THE 1968 NEW ZEALAND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM IN AUSTRALASIA**

Captain: J. A. BOND (Canterbury)

May  
 25 1968 v France Lost 10-15  
 (Auckland)  
 June  
 1 1968 v Australia Lost 12-31  
 (Brisbane)  
 8 1968 v Great Britain Lost 14-38  
 (Sydney)  
 Played 3: Won 0, Lost 3, Points For 36, Points Against 84.

**AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE TROPHY WINNERS 1910 - 1968**

Year	Champion-ship	Rooper	Rooster	Champion of Champions
1910	City	---	---	---
1911	City	---	---	---
1912	Newton	---	---	---
1913	North Shore	---	---	---
1914	North Shore	---	---	---
1915	Gratton	---	---	---
1916	City	North Shore	---	---
1917	City	City	---	---
1918	Ponsonby	Ponsonby	---	---
1919	Ponsonby	Newton	---	---
1920	Ponsonby	Newton	---	---
1921	Maritime	City	---	---
1922	City	City	---	---
1923	City	Ponsonby	---	---
1924	City	Ponsonby	---	---
1925	Marist Bros	City	---	---
1926	City	Ponsonby	---	---
1927	Newton	Richmond	---	---
1928	Devonport	Marist Bros	---	---
1929	Ponsonby	Marist Bros	---	---
1930	Ponsonby	Devonport	---	---
1931	Marist Bros	Devonport	---	---
1932	Devonport	Marist Bros	---	---
1933	Devonport	Marist Bros	---	---
1934	Richmond	Richmond	---	---
1935	Richmond	Richmond	---	---
1936	Manukau	Manukau	---	---
1937	Richmond	Manukau	---	---
1938	Richmond	Marist Bros	---	---
1939	Mt Albert	Richmond	---	---
1940	Richmond	Marist Bros	---	---
1941	North Shore	Manukau	---	---
1942	Manukau	Manukau	---	---
1943	Manukau	Manukau	---	---
1944	City	Manukau	---	---
1945	Otahuhu	North Shore	---	---
1946	Richmond	Marist Bros	---	---
1947	Mt Albert	Mt Albert	---	---
1948	Marist Bros	Mt Albert	---	---
1949	Richmond	Richmond	---	---
1950	Richmond	Mt Albert	---	---
1951	Richmond & Mt Albert	Pt Chevallier	---	---
1952	Mt Albert	Ponsonby	---	---
1953	Ponsonby	Ponsonby	---	---
1954	Pt Chevallier	North Shore	---	---
1955	Richmond	Ellerslie	---	---
1956	Richmond	Ellerslie	---	---
1957	Ellerslie	Otahuhu	---	---
1958	Ponsonby	Marist Bros	---	---
1959	West United	Ellerslie	---	---
1960	East United & St. Distr.	Glenora	---	---
1961	East United	Eastern United	---	---
1962	East United	Eastern United	---	---
1963	East United & Glenora	Eastern United	---	---
1964	Otahuhu	Eastern United	---	---
1965	Otahuhu	Mt Albert	---	---
1966	Marist Bros	Otahuhu	---	---
1967	Marist Bros	Marist Bros	---	---
1968	Mt Albert	Ellerslie	---	---

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