



**AUCKLAND  
RUGBY  
REFEREES**

**Tailevu 7's**

**Waitemata Park, January 30, 2010.**

Another successful Tailevu 7's tournament has been and gone. Played on a hard and fast track at Waitemata Park, in Henderson, the Marist Saints got up over Nadi Blue in the final with the Saints skill and precision proving to much for a gallant Nadi.

The Saints had competed the week before in Darwin as the Borneo Eagles and cleaned up that competition as well and that included matches against the Australian and South African national teams who were using the Darwin 7s as a warm up for the Wellington IRB event.

Now into its 11<sup>th</sup> season, the day started off on the wrong foot at the Tailevu competition, literally, as Neville Shirley popped a calf muscle in his first game of the day, leading to his withdrawal from the rest of day's proceedings. Chris Peoples' took over from Neville during his game, then refereed the game straight after. On completion of the second game it was hard to work out just where Chris's red AMI shirt ended as his face ended up the same colour.

Referees and Assistants on the day were Roger Drew, Glyn Jones (who both have officiated in all previous 10 seasons), Steve Piacun, Chris Peoples, Steve Salton, Dave Ferguson, Neville Shirley, Geoff Knight, John Jacka and Andrew Bailey.

Andrew, a second-year referee was at his first Tailevu 7s and performed admirably in his Assistant Referee's role and demonstrated his support of the competition for going the duration of the day.

A special mention should be for John Jacka. JJ not only stayed for the whole day and touch judged just about every second game but he also refereed a pool game. JJ was suitably knackered at the end of the day's proceedings and was looking forward to a good lie down when he got home.

Support for the teams was at a high level and most of the spectators got quite excited in their usual Pacific way when the “big hits” came in. For the state of the heat and the rock hard ground the players certainly never backed off in their matches and everyone gave their all.

The Referees of the day would like to extend their thanks to the organisers for their continual supply of water, fruit and nibbles throughout the day’s events.

The week before the inaugural Pakuranga 7s was competed for out at Lloyd Elsmore Park with 12 teams competing.

The ARRA officials on the day were Chris Peoples, Pete Willis, Steve Piacun, Roger Drew, Yashiro Takahashi, Sheldon Eden-Whaitari, Rob Ah Kuoi and Rodney Wood.



