



Wednesday 21st February 2018 saw months of preparation come to fruition as the inaugural Physical Disability Rugby League NZ squad boarded the plane for Brisbane to participate in a Tri Series against Australia PD and the Commonwealth All Stars PD Team at the 2018 Rugby League 9's Commonwealth Championships. The team includes Salon Warehouse's Ray Greaves, who was Head Coach for the NZ team having coached the Vodafone Warriors to the inaugural PDRL Nine's title in Auckland last November."

Hosted by the Redcliffe Dolphins Rugby League Club, the 2018 Commonwealth Championships consisted of Eight Rugby League Commonwealth countries in a 2- day event along with 8 Men's teams from Australia, England, Tonga, Scotland, Wales, Fiji, Samoa and PNG and 6 Women's teams from Canada, Cook Islands, Australia, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji.



In 2018 participation was extended to include Women and Physical Disabilities RL adding to the inclusive and diverse nature of our sport.

As the only New Zealand team competing at the Commonwealth Championships it was an immense honour to take to the field. The intensity of the matches were nothing like PDRLNZ had ever played before but with every match the skills and confidence of each of our athletes lifting as they rose to the challenge and at the end of 5 games the entire team shone.



The Grand Final saw New Zealand meet Australia, the spine chilling haka setting the tone for the next 18 minutes of passion filled play. At the conclusion of play the score was locked at 0-0 requiring golden point extra time of play. The anticipation was high, we had only conceded one try the whole tournament.



Owing to time constraints, the final whistle blew after the first 5 minutes of golden point and Australia won on count back, securing them a gold medal and New Zealand slipped into second securing the silver medal after a magnificent battle. We couldn't have been any prouder of each and every one of our athletes who had just helped create history.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXJIV9Szlaw&feature=youtu.be>

For many, living with a physical disability brings its own challenges on a daily basis. Often excluded, discriminated, isolated and ignored ...and yet each one has the same desire to be included, accepted and respected as their non disabled peers.





Physical Disability Rugby League has been a life changer....not only for our athletes and thier families but for all disabled peoples globally and PDRLNZ are really excited about the future of our game.

Planning is now underway for PDRLNZ to participate in the 2018 PDRL World championships being held in Sydney later this year. We want as many people to have the opportunity to try out for the NZ squad, so we need more people with a physical disability to get involved in our local competition (about to begin), to be eligible for selection.

PDRLNZ is also about to embark on a massive recruitment drive and we need your help!! We need you to spread the word and help us to ensure as many people with a physical disability get to enjoy being included in an amazing sports, make lifelong friendships and have the opportunity to travel overseas to represent their country.

Physical Disability Rugby League NZ has so many people to thank for making this dream come true.

We would especially like to extend our enormous gratitude to Robin and Marie Bennett from Salon Warehouse for allowing Head Coach for the PDRLNZ 2018 Commonwealth Championship 9's squad Raymond Greaves time off to lead the team.



Ray is a highly esteemed member of our team. He led our athletes with much love, patience and respect. The team can't thank everyone enough for allowing such a humble and caring man to become a key member of our PDRLNZ whanau.



Please check us out on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/pdrlnz/>
If you want to be involved message us, we will get back to you ASAP



PDRLNZ GROWING MORE THAN THE GAME

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