



Dressed and ready: Napier's Ross Shield team is competing in this week's tournament at Lindsfarne College in Hastings. Back row: Josh McNeil, Jack Byrne, Duff Penetito, Grayson Ewart, James Atkins, Tim Farrell, Connor Gillies. Middle row: Bailyn Sullivan, Josh North, Richard Powell, Christian Leopard, Liam Batt, Tyla McNeil, Charlie Balle. Front row: Wirihana Raihania, Callum Williams, James McNatty, Jarrod McLeod (vice captain), Sam Pomana (captain), Lochlainn Tait, Sam Hiha, Bradley Graham.

ISO backs Napier in bid for Ross Shield

Waterfront logistics company, ISO Limited, is getting behind Napier's quest to reclaim the Ross Shield in 2010.

As well as signing up to be one of the team's major sponsors, ISO has a personal link to the Napier XV - the team's vice-captain Jarrod McLeod is the son of Roger McLeod, Napier Port Manager for ISO, and grandson of legendary All Black hooker Bruce McLeod.

"ISO has been operating in Napier for 15 years now and we employ more than 30 local people, more than a few of whom are passionate rugby fans. Add in Roger's close connection to the team and it was only natural that we should get behind the effort to bring the Ross Shield back to Napier," says Greg Dickson, Managing Director, ISO.

In 2008, the Napier Ross Shield rugby team achieved its goal of winning the shield at all five competition venues. But after having won the tournament for five consecutive years (with a record 339 points for and eight points against in 2008), in

The team has a great competitive spirit, as do the many people who support it.

ISO director Greg Dickson

2009 the team narrowly relinquished the shield to Hastings East.

Another reason ISO was attracted to supporting the Napier Ross Shield team is the high value it places on doing well in the prestigious tournament.

"The team has a great competitive spirit, as do the many people who support it. There's an obvious pride in being the one to hold the shield, which we think is fantastic," he says. Napier team coach Steve Woods says the team's experience in the 2009 tournament means the side is highly motivated to succeed this year.

"Losing the shield after having been so successful up to that point was tough," Mr Woods admits. "On the up side, we had a young team, and seven

of our players were eligible to compete again in 2010. As a result we have an experienced team that's very determined to win."

Mr Dickson began the Napier team's 2010 Ross Shield campaign by presenting players with their kits at a capping ceremony at the Napier mayoral chambers recently, along with Deputy Mayor Kathy Furlong. In a first for the Napier team, players' jerseys will feature ISO's logo as the team's major sponsor. The team tracksuits will feature the logo of construction company McNatty Construction, which is also a major sponsor.

Mr Woods is thrilled with the way businesses have rallied behind the team.

"It has become increasingly difficult to obtain funding and grants from community funding commissions and trusts for most of what we need to fit out our teams and provide the best possible pre-tournament competition to our players. But thanks to ISO and other sponsors we have everything we need, and we will be well prepared."

MP goes on tour

Napier MP Chris Tremain is on a Speaker's Tour to Spain, Turkey and Israel.

Highlights of the trip include meetings in Spain with King Juan Carlos I, in Israel with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a visit to a refugee camp on the West Bank.

The annual Speaker's Tour is part of the parliamentary calendar, which takes members to meet foreign parliaments and learn about different parliamentary

systems. This year's tour is led by Lockwood Smith, and includes Labour MP and Senior Whip Darren Hughes, and Labour MP David Shearer.

"It is a real privilege to be a member of the

delegation," said Mr Tremain.

"I'm particularly looking forward to comparing New Zealand's economic fortunes, post-recession, with those of Spain, Turkey and Israel."

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