



GREEN ISLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB
SUBMISSION TO THE DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL
9 YEAR DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025 – 2034

The Green Island Rugby Football Club (GIRFC) wish to submit their priorities and projects for consideration and inclusion into the Council's Annual Planning process. The GIRFC Management Committee have reviewed our planning arrangements and have identified the replacement of our field lights on Miller Park 3 and 4 with the financial assistance from the DCC as a priority.

Whilst we appreciate this is a 9-year draft plan, we urge the council to consider this replacement project to be of extreme urgency and consider replacement to be done during the summer months of 2025 – 2026.

Background

GIRFC is a non-profit incorporated society, and registered charity and is the largest rugby club by membership in the Otago and Southland region. As of April 2025, we have 565 registered players across 28 junior and senior teams, the majority of which require lights for training in the winter months. As only 2 of our 4 grounds are designated as training fields not only does this cause logistical issues but also significant safety issues due to the inadequate field lighting.

With 565 registered players, and hundreds more registered supporters and volunteers, this number would include a significant pool of DCC rate payers who are continually frustrated by the lack of co-operation and assistance from DCC personnel on this matter.

Health and Safety Concerns

Several occasions over recent years we have had players suffer injuries due to contact caused by players not being visible to each other to avoid unplanned and dangerous contact.

Obviously, the risk of injury to the 300 registered junior players is of a major concern to the GIRFC Management Committee. We can appreciate children play rugby for the enjoyment and are not yet developed to sustain the impact that can be caused from unintentional and accidental collisions on DCC owned fields.



These incidents have been brought to the attention of DCC personnel and Otago Rugby Football Union.

Loss of Revenue

In 2025 alone our club was scheduled to have 10 night home games (9 Friday night games for under 20 and under 21 grades and 1 premier game over the Easter break). All these games will need to be played at other venues resulting in the clubrooms not being open and vital revenue being lost. With the ever increasing cost of managing a sports club the lack of revenue is having a major impact of the GIRFC meeting these associated expenses. This occurred in 2024 and will continue to do so until the fields are match adequate.

Other Concerns

Particular frustration has risen from the assistance, either full or partial, given to other sports clubs/fields for replacement or upgrade of field lights and yet GIRFC (incidentally New Zealand Rugby Club of the Year for 2024) receive continual setbacks from the DCC saying there will be no funding assistance at all. The majority of those lighting projects that have received assistance would not have anywhere near the use required by Miller Park.

Conclusion

While the club will continue our own private fundraising for this project. We foresee the best case scenario being we reach our target in 2/3 years therefore prolonging the health and safety concerns, we implore the DCC to consider assisting the club as a future priority to ensure we can maintain our club membership.

On behalf of the Management Committee of the GIRFC we thank the DCC for its consideration of our submission.

Yours sincerely

Rob Bain

PRESIDENT

Jason Bezett

CLUB CAPTAIN

GREEN ISLAND RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



**INTRODUCING
OUR LIGHTING
UPGRADE
PROJECT FOR
2025/26**

**2024 PREMIER
LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS**

EIGHT'S

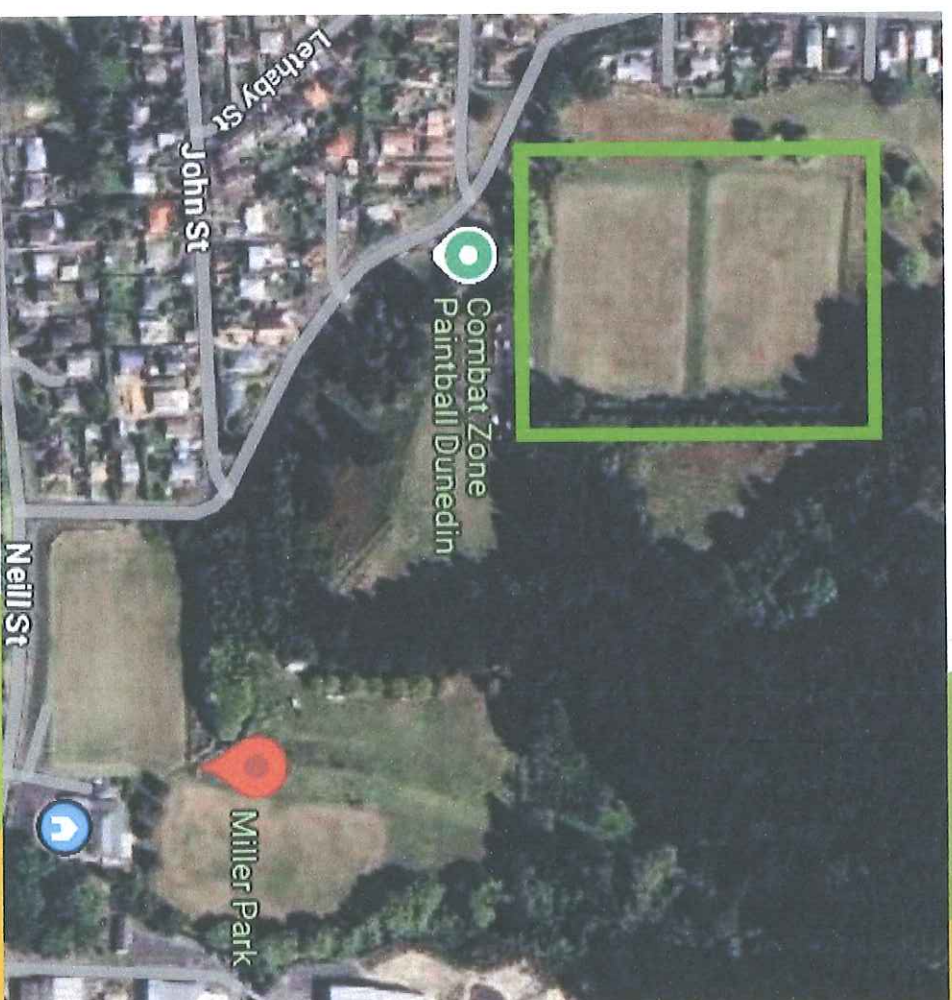
LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT 2025

Our call for Support

- ▶ Numerous times, we have reached out to the Dunedin City Council, who we lease four rugby fields annually, for financial assistance to upgrade our outdated and unsafe field lighting on **fields three and four**. But we were declined due to budget constraints. While other grounds in Dunedin have received upgrades despite being used less.
- ▶ We continue to face health and safety risks for players, including 300+ children and 200+ senior players who train nightly during the week.

Our focus in 2025: delivery in 2026

- ▶ In 2025, we'll look for donations and financial support, reaching out to our loyal members, our community and grant funders. At the same time, we'll team up with contractors and suppliers to build strong partnerships and make sure the project runs smoothly.





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LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT 2025

New lights on fields three and four are a game changer for our community.

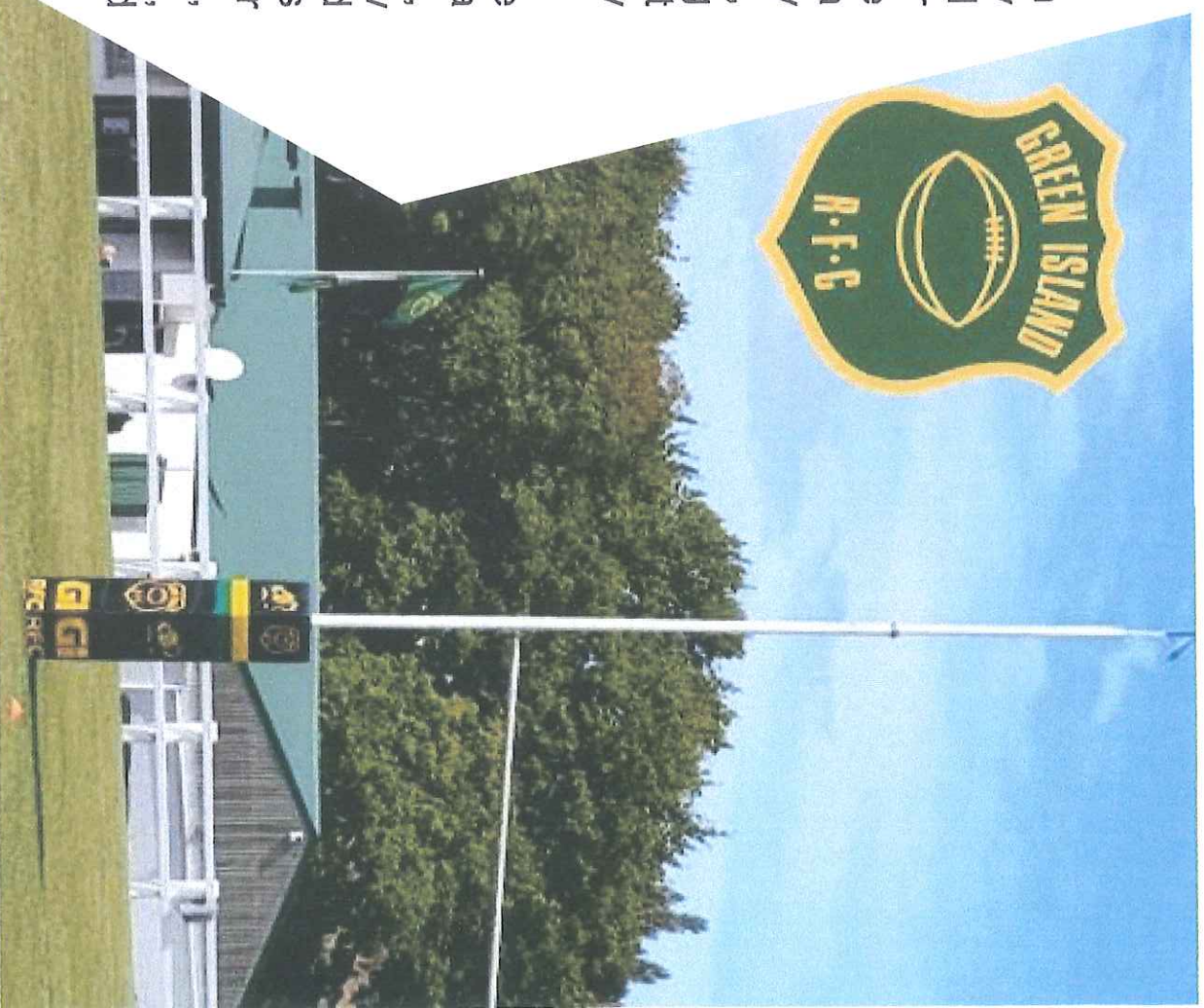
- ▶ **Safety First:** Right now, the poor lighting is causing collisions and injuries. Better lights mean safer games and training sessions for everyone out there.
- ▶ **Helping Our Juniors Shine:** We've got over 300+ junior players practicing after school, and during winter, good lights are a must for them to train safely and have fun.
- ▶ **Backing the Women's Team:** Safer, brighter conditions will make a big difference for our women's team, giving them the support they deserve.
- ▶ **Friday Night Lights for 3x Colts Teams:** The fields could be home turf for our three Colts teams who sometimes play on Friday nights. Great lighting would guarantee home games, help the players play their best, and keep them safe.

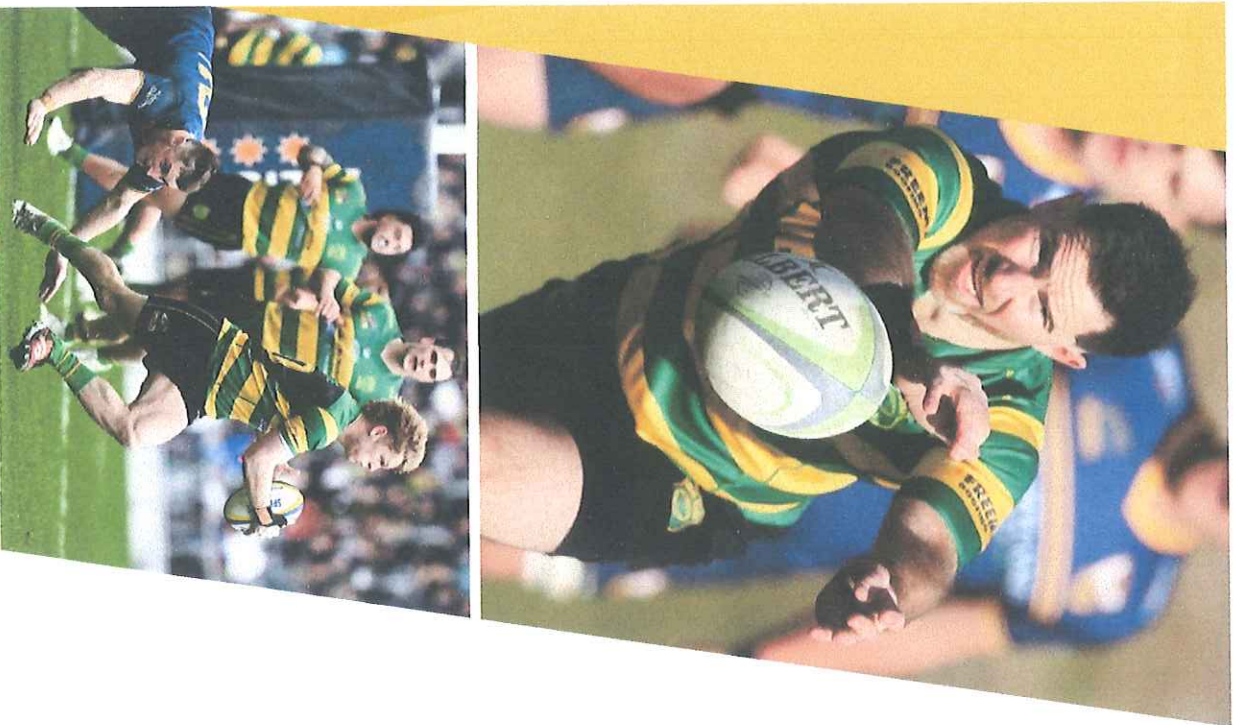
PLEASE READ ON TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US.
INCLUDING 'A DECADE OF TRIUMPH'

ABOUT US

We, the Green Island Rugby Football Club, proudly known as "The Grizzlies," have been a vital part of our community since 1884. Operating under the Otago Rugby Football Union, our club colors—green, gold, and black—reflect our heritage and unity. With Miller Park as our home ground, we place family at the heart of everything we do, offering a variety of events and activities that cater to every family member. We're proud to have loyal supporters of all ages, many of whom live in Green Island and neighboring suburbs. With over 5,000 followers on Facebook, we've built a strong online presence that strengthens our community ties both on and off the field.

In recent years, we've made exciting upgrades to enhance our clubhouse and facilities. Our improvements include a commercial-grade kitchen, new carpet and curtains, modernised restrooms, in-ceiling heat pumps, a new outdoor seating area, guest Wi-Fi, and an upgraded sound system. We've also refurbished the players' changing rooms and installed a new gym to better serve our members. Our clubhouse continues to be a popular venue for weddings, birthdays, corporate events, and community gatherings, showing our commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone.





.....ABOUT US

Vision

Our vision is to elevate rugby within the greater Green Island community, setting the highest standards both on and off the field. We aspire to be a club that fosters pride among our players, members, and supporters. Through a commitment to excellence and inclusivity, we aim to cultivate a strong club culture that preserves our rich heritage for future generations.

Objectives

Our mission is to establish Green Island Rugby Club as a premier rugby institution, providing a competitive and rewarding environment for all players and members. We are dedicated to long-term sustainability through professional management, well-resourced teams, and a winning mindset, ensuring our facilities remain a cornerstone of the community for generations to come.

Our commitment to excellence, community, and the future of rugby remains at the heart of everything we do.



.....ABOUT US

Our Club...

We are not just any old club; we are well entrenched in the local community and one of the most welcoming rugby clubs you will find on the planet. We love our footy and the camaraderie.

We have a rich club culture; our players are humble and share a tight bond. Off the field, we have a great social environment. We also have an amazing band of loyal supporters, and it is common to see hundreds on the sidelines for home games at Miller Park.

A Family Club...

We have a strong family focus and a thriving junior club, one of the largest in Otago. People describe our club as being one extended family. The players are humble and share a tight bond. Our Senior-Junior inclusivity is second to none, with excellent Junior mentorship and making us easily the best Junior Club going!



Club Plan 2025

Green Island Rugby Football Club Volume 141

Vision:

"To foster a vibrant rugby culture within the greater Green Island community, through positive promotion and active engagement."

Mission Statement:

"We aim to future-proof our club through professional management, well-resourced teams, and a winning attitude ensuring enjoyment for generations to come."

Ongoing Goals:

- Provide a warm and welcoming family-friendly environment
- Invest time and resources into our Junior programme
- Deliver a "return to club" rugby pathway for young players
- For our Grizzly brand to be widely recognized and embraced everywhere
- Offer Senior players high-quality coaching and mentorship
- Explore and secure new revenue streams
- Organise an engaging and high-quality social events calendar

2025 Goals

- Grow our junior/senior club relationship; support our new coaches/parents
- Establish a solid foundation of Women players; ensure they have fun together
- Secure the Ainge Shield
- Upgrade field 3&4 lighting
- Increase transport capability
- Consolidate our finances
- Develop outdoor hospitality space (thanks Bunnings \$s)

2024 Delivered!

- WiFi capability for the VEO camera
- GPS technology for Premier Colls.
- Bar upgrade, new carpet & curtains
- Celebrated in style our 140th
- A VERY SPECIAL 2024!!!!



"Great things happen when good people come together."

A DECADE OF TRIUMPH

Over the past decade, we have evolved from a passionate local team to a leading force in New Zealand Rugby. Our journey—defined by vision, determination, and excellence—reached a major milestone with recognition from the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU).

In 2024, we proudly received the prestigious **NZRFU NZ Rugby Club of the Year award**, a testament to our commitment both on and off the field. The NZRFU video, *The Future of Rugby Clubs: A Plan in Action*, further highlights our growth and achievements.

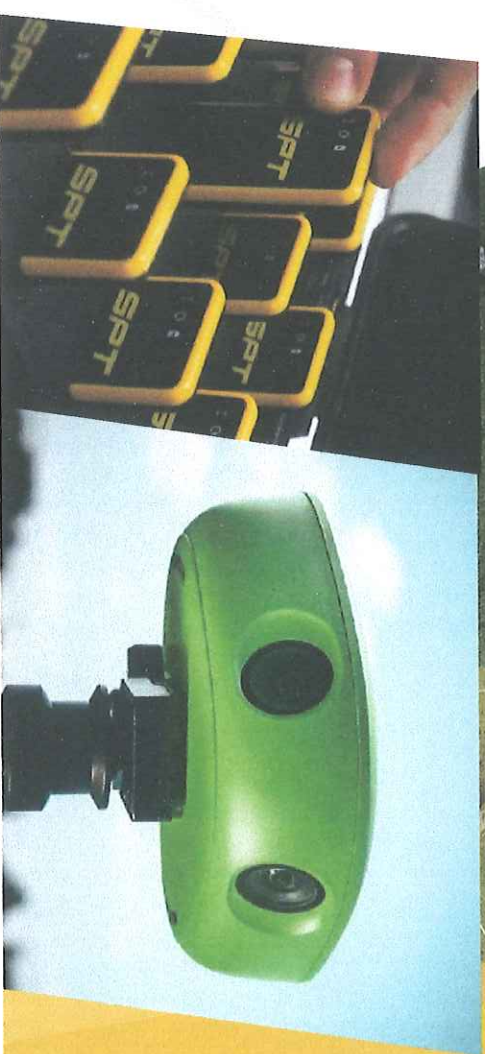
2024 also marked a historic triumph for our Premier Men's team, who secured the 2024 Banner—a victory that reflects their skill, dedication, and the unwavering support of our committee, community, and strategic leadership.

These accomplishments symbolize the collective effort of our players, coaches, and supporters, reinforcing our status as a flagship club. As we move forward, we remain committed to sustaining our legacy and inspiring the next generation of rugby talent.

OUR INNOVATION:

We're all about pushing boundaries and using the latest tech to help players grow, improve coaching, and build a strong club vibe. By investing in performance insights, modern training gear, and digital tools, we're creating a rugby setup that's full of energy and driven by data. This way, players, coaches, and club members can tap into the newest innovations, boosting success both on and off the field.

- ▶ LIVE SRUM MACHINE.
- ▶ GPS PERFORMANCE TRACKING.
- ▶ VEO CAMERA (live streaming of games).



For more info check out our website

www.girugby.co.nz

or

Look us up on



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



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