

Introducing NZ's only gay and inclusive rugby team



Tackling inequality on the field...

In 2015 the first international study on homophobia in sports, 'Out on the Fields' highlighted the homophobia faced by the LGBTI+ community in New Zealandⁱⁱ on the sports field.

Breaking down stereotypes, the NZ Falcons RFC is an inclusive rugby union club with the goal of enabling players who may have felt alienated from the sport due to their sexuality to come together to participate and enjoy rugby in an open and supportive environment, along with others who are just passionate about the game.

- Based in Auckland with players and supporters throughout New Zealand and abroad
- Established in 2013 the Club has participated in the 2014 and 2015 Auckland Rugby Union club competitions
- Current trans-Tasman champions and winners of the Purchas Cup tournament held in September 2015
- Participated in the Bingham Cup ('World Cup of Gay Rugby') August 2014 and won third tier of the competition taking home the Bingham Bowl
- Gay, bi, trans and straight members/supporters

As a club we have grown quickly from a small group of eight passionate people to a player base of more than sixty and another seven in our team management.

The club is run by an elected committee of seven which operate under our constitution as a registered not for profit incorporated society.

We currently have one team competing in the Auckland club rugby Presidents grade with the potential to expand for upcoming tournaments and seasons.

What is the Purchas Cup?

This 2015 Trans-Tasman gay and inclusive rugby tournamentⁱⁱⁱ weekend is being held from 9-11 September in Sydney.

- 140+ players
- 40+ support staff
- 1000+ supporters
- 8 rugby teams
- 5 events
- 5 supporting organisations
- 1 day long tournament



What is the Bingham Cup?

Bingham^{iv} is essentially the 'Gay Rugby World Cup.' The event is named in honour of Mark Bingham, who was fundamental in the establishment of two premier gay rugby clubs and is also internationally recognised as one of the heroes of 9/11. The next Bingham Cup is being held in Nashville, Tennessee, USA in May 2016.

Captain Jeremy Brankin holds the Bingham Bowl, won by the team at the 2014 Bingham Cup in Sydney

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What's coming up for the NZ Falcons?

To help raise the funds required to get to Sydney for the Purchas Cup in September 2016 and further afield for the Bingham Cup 2018, the team will be working hard on a range of initiatives

Where can I see the NZ Falcons Play here in NZ?

The NZ Falcons participate in the Auckland Presidents game and their weekly draw can be found on their [facebook page](#).



A few inclusive, dedicated, progressive, and passionate organisations currently support the NZ Falcons so thanks to our existing sponsors: ASB, Love Your Condom, and GABA.

How can I support the NZ Falcons?

Anyone is more than welcome to come and over their support on the sidelines each Saturday with weekly drawers posted on our facebook page.

If you would like to make a financial contribution, we thank you for visiting our givealittle page:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/nzfalconspurchas2016#>

For any further information please contact:

www.facebook.com/NZFalcons | nzfalcons@gmail.com | www.nzfalcons.org.nz

ⁱ <http://www.outonthefields.com/>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/68333212/prejudice-begins-in-the-pe-class-survey-finds>
<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/new-zealand-gay-athletes-most-likely-hide-their-sexuality-6310399>
<http://www.qrd.nz/2015/05/new-zealand-gay-athletes-the-most-likely-to-hide-their-sexuality-world-first-study/>
<http://www.3news.co.nz/nznews/nz-rugby-to-tackle-homophobia---labour-2015051010>
http://www.gaynz.com/articles/publish/2/article_15399.php
<http://www.95bfm.co.nz/default,221325,discrimination-out-in-the-fields.sm>
<http://www.maoritelevision.com/news/sport/more-focus-needed-tackle-homophobia-team-sports>
http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=11446085

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/665431186901846/?fref=ts>

^{iv} <http://binghamcup.com/>