



OBU Holiday Program 2020 Report

Purpose

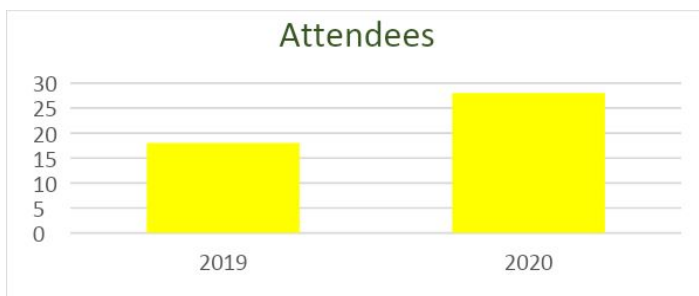
The purpose of the program was to provide the future generation with an opportunity to experience and engage in an OBU rugby environment.

These were core values for the program which set the culture in the holiday program experience:

- *Manaakitanga - which is showing respect, kindness and encouraging one another.*
- *Whānaungatanga - is making connections and creating a sense of belonging.*
- *Ako - is a relationship where the teacher learns from the student and the student learns from the teacher.*

The children were able to develop their rugby skills, learn how to work in a team environment and explore further their individual abilities.

Attendance



There was a 55% increase in the number of children attending the holiday program between 2019 and 2020.

The Program

This holiday programme consisted of three days of rugby madness. Children new to rugby were taught the basic rugby skills and the more experienced children developed their skills further. The goal was for everyone to enhance their rugby knowledge and skillset. The activities also provided the opportunity for the children to form new relationships through team-work.

Coaches who were influential in making this program successful included the Legendary Dave Loveridge AKA Trapper along with other members of the club (including our Academy Athletes) passing on their knowledge and experiences which was greatly appreciated by the children.



Different mediums of rugby were used for the children to gain as much knowledge in the most enjoyable way, this kept them engaged. For example, watching one Small Blacks TV episode each day. These episodes shared stories and basic coaching tips to put them in good preparation for the upcoming season. The Coaches created a learning environment to gain more interest for the game and give a better understanding of why our game is so unique. The engagement and commitment throughout was amazing thanks to our Coaches.

Highlights

The kids were fans of the “Ka Mate” haka, so the children learnt and practiced the haka, and you could see the pride and mana from each child as they performed. Another highlight was the OBU chants. The children did great justice to our chants and it developed the bond that the children had with each other and their Coaches.

“The environment was fun, bubbly and exciting each day. The coaches were kind and enthusiastic. I learnt core rugby skills like catch and pass and side stepping.” - Madilyn Palu 10 years old

“Both my children Josh and Chloe (Chloe who had not played rugby) absolutely loved the days. Feedback was so positive. On the second day, the first thing I saw was her looking to go grab a ball and start running with it. Drop off was very smooth with the team all there and ready to start the day well before start time. Kids were totally happy. If they wanted to do more days I think that would be great. Top marks” - Carl Grant (parent).

Throughout the 3 days I had in OBU, I thought it was great, the way you had organised it was perfect, and the way you treated the kids. All in all I didn't like it, I LOVED it!” - Phoebe Unwin.

A surprise guest was Marcelle Parkes, a current Black Fern who presented our kids certificates upon completion of the programme. The kids realised that Marcelle was a presenter on the Small Blacks TV show alongside Kendra Cocksedge and Sonny Bill Williams which was very exciting for them. She was happy to spend some time answering the children's questions, take photos and have a kick around with the kids - so a huge thank you to Marcelle.



Learnings

With the second year of running the OBU holiday program there are challenges and merits. There was a larger number attending the program compared to last year and I am excited about seeing it continue to grow. I am proud of what has been delivered throughout this programme which is essentially developing the grassroots. I would recommend the continuation of further investment into our junior rugby, with more resources for this programme such as better marketing and promotion to gain more interest and registrations; more funding/donations for prizes ie hats, drink bottles, mouthguards upon completion of the programme; a field trip (transportation) to attend a hurricanes training session. Having these resources will support the growth of the game and connection to our OBU community.

Overall it was a successful year and next year will be better. I would like to thank all who were involved, the children that participated, their parents and families, our Coaches and lastly the OBU club for the support to help grow the game we all care about!

Malo, Tomasi – Director of Rugby