

Rugby is the national sport of New Zealand.



It has been celebrated many times by the New Zealand Post Office.



Settlers brought the game to
New Zealand in the 1870s.

The New Zealand Rugby
Football Union was established
on 16th April 1892.

NEW ZEALAND TEAM, 1884.



O'DONNELL, UDY, ROBERTSON, ALLAN, E. MILLTON, RYAN, WILSON,
TATAHOA, CARTER, DUMBELL, BRADDON, HELMORE, WEBB, SLEIGH, *Manager*,
DAVY, W. MILLTON, *Captain*,
LOCKY, WARRICK, ROBERTS.



The Health issue of 1967 was the first to show rugby.



Children playing rugby on the 2016 Health issue

The Centenary of Rugby League in New Zealand was marked in 1995.



Rugby League Test and World Cup matches were played at Carlaw Park stadium, Auckland, from 1924 to 1999.

The Centenary of New Zealand Test Rugby was marked in 2003.

The stamps show the All Blacks:

- * v South Africa 1937 6-17
- * v Wales 1963 6-0
- * v Australia 1985 10-9
- * v France 1986 19-7
- * v England 1997 30-19



The Centenary of the Maori Football Rugby Union was marked in 2010.

50c



100 YEARS OF
MAORI RUGBY

AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND

\$1.80



RAU TAU

100 YEARS OF
MAORI RUGBY

AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND

**100 YEARS OF
MAORI RUGBY**
1910 - 2010



MAORI FOOTBALL RUGBY UNION REPS 1910

Super 12 and Rugby Sevens are also popular formats.



The teams taking part in the 1999 U-Bix Rugby Super 12 tournament were:

- * Auckland Blues
- * Wellington Hurricanes
- * Otago Highlanders
- * Waikato Chiefs
- * Canterbury Crusaders

The stamps were issued in booklets and this composite miniature sheet.



In 2004 New Zealand and Hong Kong held a Rugby Sevens tournament.

The New Zealand women's Rugby Sevens team won the Silver medal at the Rio Olympics in 2016 ...



... and they competed again in Tokyo in 2021 and won GOLD.

Tours of New Zealand by the British & Irish Lions Rugby team



The 2005 tour was marked
by shirt-shaped stamps!



A sheet with stamps at each match
venue marked the 2017 tour.

Miniature sheets for Philatelic Exhibitions include rugby stamps



Overprint on existing
miniature sheet for
PhilaNippon '91, Tokyo



Customised miniature sheet for
PhilaNippon 2011, Yokohama

THE ALL BLACKS

The New Zealand rugby team became known as the “All Blacks” (possibly a derivation of “All Backs”) in 1905. In their first overseas tour in 1905-06, mainly in the UK, they won all their games, including 5 Test matches, with an aggregate score of **976-59**.



The All Blacks “Originals” touring team of 1905-06



George Nepia, an All Black in the 1920s, appeared on a 1990 Health stamp.

THE ALL BLACKS COLLECTION



2012

2010

2014



A 2019 miniature sheet shows how the Silver Fern logo has evolved.



An All Blacks jersey – lenticular printing for a 3D effect

RUGBY FOLKLORE

Did he run with the ball...? The popular view is that rugby was born in 1823 when 16 year-old William Webb Ellis:

“with a fine disregard for the rules of football as played in his time, first took the ball in his arms and ran with it”.

Enshrined in rugby folklore, his name is now immortalised in the Webb Ellis Cup – presented to the winners of the Rugby World Cup.



William Webb Ellis (1806-72)
from *Illustrated London News* 1854



The Cup is 38 cm high, made of gilded silver and weighs 4.5 kg.

THE RUGBY WORLD CUP

The 1991 Rugby World Cup was played in Europe.

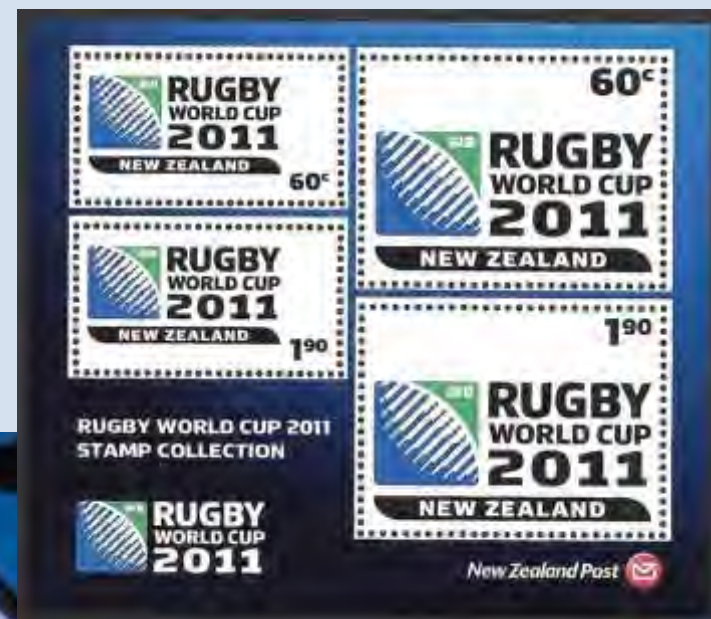


Semi-finals		Final	
26 October – Murrayfield		2 November – Twickenham	
Scotland	6	England	6
England	9	Australia	12
27 October – Lansdowne Road		Third place	
New Zealand	6	30 October – Cardiff Arms Park	
Australia	16	Scotland	6
		New Zealand	13

Preparations for the 2011 Rugby World Cup in New Zealand



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Sheet with
Team logos



Show your support!


New Zealand
RUGBY UNION
**OFFICIAL
LICENSED
PRODUCT**



RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011
CHAMPIONS

ALL BLACKS®

Rugby World Cup 2011 Champions



RUGBY WORLD CUP 2011
CHAMPIONS



NEW ZEALAND 8 - FRANCE 7

Eden Park Stadium, Auckland, New Zealand - 23 October 2011



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LICENSED
PRODUCT**



New Zealand Post

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ALL BLACKS®

WORLD CHAMPIONS 2015



NEW ZEALAND 34

AUSTRALIA 17

31 OCTOBER 2015, TWICKENHAM, LONDON

New Zealand Post 

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Rugby World Cup winners

1987	New Zealand	2007	South Africa
1991	Australia	2011	New Zealand
1995	South Africa	2015	New Zealand
1999	Australia	2019	South Africa
2003	England	2023	South Africa

and there
is always the Haka





The Post Office has even provided the final whistle!