

Talent recognised with awards

EASTERN Bay rugby players were among those recognised at the Bay of Plenty Rugby Awards last week.

The awards evening was held at the ASB Stadium lounge last Wednesday.

Waimana's Baden Wardlaw led Rotoiti to the Baywide premier division final this year and was named male club player of the year.

Edgecumbe Rugby Club received the highly commended club team of the year award.

Among the representative awards, Te Teko's William Warbrick was named the Te Waiariki player of the year.

He played in the Te Waiariki Tane side that won the Te Hiku o te Ika Northern Region Maori Rugby Tournament two weeks ago.

The team was also awarded the team of the tournament trophy. Te Waiariki beat Te Raki Paewhenua, North Harbour, 42-15 in the final.

Other Eastern Bay players in the side included Edgecumbe's Strauss Rininui, Te Teko player Anaru Potae and Ruatoki's Tawhai Black, Rangitane Harawira and Nika Temara. The team was coached by Whakatane's Paddy Wana.

Opotiki player, and Trident High School student, Tynealle Fitzgerald was named under-18 female player of the year and was also named Wasps emerging representative player of the year.

Tom Franklin's debut season with the Bay of Plenty Steamers earned him



TOP AWARD: Te Teko's William Warbrick was named Te Waiariki player of the year at the Bay of Plenty Rugby Awards last week. File photo D5740-111

three awards.

He claimed the player's player, forward and player of the year titles.

The Opotiki lock, who will continue his tenure with the Highlanders in the 2018 Super Rugby competition, has played most of the season at blindside for the Bay.

Humble in his acceptance speeches, Franklin acknowledged the support from the Steamers' management, in

particular coach Clayton McMillan for the opportunity to return home to have the privilege of playing in the blue and gold.

The Volcanix were named representative team of the year as they play the Farah Palmer Cup final this weekend.

Opotiki loosehead prop Luka Connor has been instrumental in the Volcanix success in the national women's competition.

Whakatane's Elijah Nicholas was presented the community service award for his contribution to making a change among young men within the community with his Man Up initiative.

The supreme award was given to Te Puke's Deborah Keenleyside and Ashley Peat.

The two are life members of the club and have given 21 years as president and club administrator.

Summer races roll on

THE Whakatane Cycle Club ran a 20-kilometre race last week that included 32 riders tackling the course.

First time racers, Jayden Kaempfe and Emily Crum placed first and second place in the D grade with super veteran rider Bryan Wells placing third.

The C grade had a big field of 15 which mostly stayed together to set up an exciting sprint led out by 15-year-old Maxwell Humpherson.

First to cross the line was Matt Fredrickson from Corrie Smit and Kevin McComb.

The A and B grade started together which gave them a field of 12 riders. First across the line was Jeremy Anderson from Alex Coventry and Blair McComb.

The B grade managed to stay with the A grade with Greg Jones crossing the line for the win from Rex Humpherson and George Westerman.

Thursday's 27km race from Paroa School to the end of Rewatu Road and back included 21 riders across three grades.

The A grade was won by Phil McIlroy Bisley from Anderson and Brad Jones in 40 minutes 40 seconds.

Westerman, Greg Jones and Rob Donald moved up to the A grade for this race which left nine B graders.

Andrew Blair won the B-grade sprint in this grade from Kevin McComb and Maxwell Humpherson who was right on McComb's wheel for third place.

Corrinne Smit did the hard turns at the front of the bunch.

The C grade rode with this group with Glynn Hay taking the win from Franz van der Merwe and Gary Humpherson.

This Thursday's race will start at Awahou Road, Taneatua at 6pm.

Ferns up for fast action

OPOTIKI netballer Monica Falkner and the rest of the Fast5 Ferns arrived in Melbourne yesterday for the Fast5 Netball World Series.

New Zealand have games against England, South Africa and Australia on Saturday. The Ferns will play Jamaica and Malawi on Sunday with play-offs on Sunday night.

Defender Storm Purvis

will captain the Ferns and the side will be coached by gold-medal winning New Zealand under-21 coach Kiri Wills for a second year.

Wills coached Falkner and the New Zealand under-21 side to a world title earlier this year.

The Ferns have won six of the seven tournaments with England the only other team to claim the title.

Competition showcases skills



THE Eastern Bay Gymnastics Club held its spring competition on Saturday. Pictured is Eastern Bay competitor Sophie Growden performing her floor routine.

The event included 100 gymnasts as well as Eastern Bay gymnasts, with competitors from Gisborne, Waitara, Napier, Tauranga and Te Puke clubs.

Of the Eastern Bay competitors, Tayah Prince placed first on the vault in the step one overs division while Emma Cloke was equal runner-up in the step two overs division for the her vault.

In the step three overs division, Alexandra Kay was runner-up on the beam and placed third overall while Isabel Sandifer was third equal for her bar routine.

Step four overs division competitor Kayla Forsyth placed first on the vault and third on the beam to place third overall.

The Eastern Bay step three team of Alexandra, Isabel, Sarah Cook and Alison Elliffe placed third while Kayla was part of a combined clubs team that placed first in step four.

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