

Kaipaki 'State Of The Nation' Speech By Kent Currie

Kaipaki Cricket has been built on a simple philosophy –*'to keep people involved in cricket'*. This year we have had 108 players represent the Baggy Green and Golds through different levels of cricket.

108 people playing for a small country club like ours is a tremendous achievement and it justifies John Parkers vision of *'build it and the people will come'*.

How have we been able to achieve what we have in such a small amount of time?

When building a club or a team I have always stuck to 4 simple Pillars.

Material Symbols: Symbols that are unique to Kaipaki

- Op Shop Blazer
- Kaipaki Cricket Badge
- Retro One Day Uniform
- Baggy Green & Gold Cap
- The Yellow Hand Band
- Media Back Drop
- Light Hearted Promotional Emails

Rituals: Rituals that are unique to Kaipaki

- 10 game Cap presentation
- Running out onto the field
- Bum taps instead of high fives
- Clapping in the opposition captain
- Bringing plates to home games
- Miniature bats after 100 and mounted balls after 5 wickets
- Weekly match reports
- Press conferences
- Names out of a hat to decide the batting order

Events:

Having events that people can look forward to is very important in creating culture and at the moment we have:

- Waitangi Day 6 A Side
- Past v Present
- Kaipaki Christmas at the Cricket – Kaipaki v Ngahinapouri
- Annual tours – this year we went to Australia and Hawkes Bay next year we will head to Queenstown.

- The Seddon Park Cup

People:

Getting the right people involved that represent our values and standards is crucial – we are very lucky to have some wonderful people involved with Kaipaki. Many friends have been created and developed over the last 3 years.

If you get these 4 Pillars right then you have the makings of a sustainable club. We've tried to develop something that people can be proud of. I think we've achieved this and already people are looking forward to next season. Once a few more seasons pass then the stories that we have already developed will be the stuff of legend in the future. We may not know it but everyone in this room is creating Kaipaki history at the moment and we may not appreciate what we are achieving until our kids start playing for the Baggly Green & Golds.

Although there are many things that are good about Kaipaki there are many things we can enhance. Next year I would like to create more local community involvement. To do this I'd like to see a quadrangular junior cricket competition between Ohaupo, Kaipaki, Ngahinapouri and Patarangi Primary Schools. Junior cricket will help our sustainability. I would also like to create a competition called the Kaipaki Cricket Classic – which will be a 20/20 competition played amongst 4 teams that are made up of 75% locals.

At the moment there seems to be a little resentment towards Kaipaki Cricket especially within Waikato Valley. This is to be expected as over a short period of time we have achieved a lot and the tall poppy mentality of people kicks in. I don't think we should be embarrassed by what we have achieved but we should be humble. I would like to think that other clubs follow our lead and try and lift their own standards - this will ultimately be good for country cricket as a whole.

I want to thank the following people for their contribution to Kaipaki.

Ray Walker – continuing to mow the field and maintain the up keep of the Oval.

Geoff Foster – for being instrumental in the development of the Colts Team and also putting together the Sunday Social Team, The Kaipaki Pioneers

Graeme Hurren – for keeping our stats up to date

Darin Armstrong – for continuing to be the back bone of the senior c team

The WAGS – Great to see you all here tonight and thank you for your support.

To the cricket guys that sponsor Kaipaki – Taz & Simon, Michael Clayton, Dan Fenwick, Darin Armstrong, Graeme Hurren, Dean Busch & Ryan Preston, Martin Bradley,

Michael Clayton – this year he has really lifted his contribution to Kaipaki Cricket and his passion, dedication and vision for Kaipaki is a real asset to us moving forward.

And of course last but not least John Parker, the Godfather, if it wasn't for his vision to randomly build a cricket field 3 years ago we wouldn't be here today. John isn't in our faces he just sits back and empowers us all to create something that we can be proud of. His support and words of wisdom to all of us is always very much appreciated – John over the years you have done a lot of good things for community sport and this is just another successful venture that you have developed from nothing.

In summary 2013/14 has been a fantastic year – as you have noticed I haven't mentioned results of any of the teams – results go in cycles and some years we'll win some and others we won't. The thing that should never go in cycles are the 4 Fundamental Pillars that make Kaipaki great. If we nail those pillars each year then results and sustainability will look after itself. Thank you to everyone that is part of Kaipaki Nation. Thank you for making the Kaipaki concept a great one, thank you for your passion, your dedication and your willingness to make this work. We have tried to create something you can be proud of and I hope all of you are proud to be part of Kaipaki Cricket. Thank You.

Kent Currie