Copyright is owned by the Author of the thesis. Permission is given for a copy to be downloaded by an individual for the purpose of research and private study only. The thesis may not be reproduced elsewhere without the permission of the Author.
TRYING RUGBY LEAGUE

Early Attempts to Establish Rugby Football's Other Code in the Central Provinces of New Zealand, 1908 - 1915

A Thesis presented in part fulfilment of the requirements for the Master of Arts Degree (History) at Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

William Greenwood
2002
I would like to thank my supervisor James Watson for his support, encouragement and helpful criticism of my work. And also for our intellectually stimulating conversations. Thanks also to Donna Todd, Wanganui District Library reference librarian, for the trouble she went to to obtain microfilms copies of all the newspapers that I needed to consult. And finally thanks to my wife Irene for her forbearance of my preoccupation with my research during the past two years.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements ii
Map of Central New Zealand Showing Towns involved in Rugby League 1908-1915 iii

Table of Contents

ONE : LAUNCHING LEAGUE
1. Introduction 2
2. Getting Started 7
3. Forming Clubs 10

TWO : CLASS DIVISIONS
4. Rugby League and Class 23
5. Players and Class 26
6. Officials and Class 32

THREE : UNION OPPOSITION
7. Amateur / Professional 39
8. Grounds 52
9. Schoolboys 61

FOUR : PLAYING THE GAME
10. Attracting Players 66
11. Expansion 73
12. Representative Football 82
13. Maori Involvement 90

FIVE : FALLING APART
14. Falling Apart 94
15. Conclusion 100

Appendix A Occupations of Rugby League Officials 105
Appendix B Taranaki Rugby League Fixtures and Results 1908-1914 106
Appendix C Nelson Rugby League fixtures and Results 1909-1913 107
Appendix D Wanganui Rugby League fixtures and Results 1910-1914 109
Appendix E Hawke's Bay Rugby League Fixtures and Results 1910-1915 111
Appendix F Marlborough Rugby League Fixtures and Results 1912-1914 117
Bibliography 118