Dong Lai

he Hawke's Bay Rugby Union is already getting a healthy response from clubs, schools, charities and other groups to which it is offering up to 2500 free tickets for the Magpies' home national championship and Ranfurly Shield matches over the next two months.

The tickets, for seats in the Graeme Lowe Stand at Napier's McLean Park, are being made available at up to 500 a match by arrangement with the Rodney Green Foundation, starting with the Friday night Ranfurly Shield defence against Counties Manukau on August 12.

Other home games, all scheduled as Ranfurly Shield challenges as long as the Magpies remain the holders, are Saturday afternoon games on August 27 and September 10, and night games on September 17 and September 30.

September 30.

The union will discuss match preferences with applicants and how to accommodate children's attendance with families, and applications are now open to the clubs, schools, charities and other groups through a link on the Magpies website www.sporty.

co.nz/magpies/FAN-ZONE-

1/magpies-for-all-tickets

Union commercial manager Dan Somerville said sponsor Rodney Green and the union want to spark the interest and dreams of children with opportunities to be at the games and to meet the Magpies players.

"Rodney Green has generously supported this initiative with the goal to provide an opportunity for all kids to attend a game, meet Magpies players and provide an experience which may inspire our children," Somerville said.

The Magpies will that day run out



Packing McLean Park in Napier for a Hawke's Bay-Counties Manukau match in 2018. The unions meet at the park on August 12 in the Magpies' first home NPC game of 2022.

## Free Magpies game tickets for children

Match jerseys to be auctioned for Cranford Hospice fundraiser

in a jersey produced just for one game, the focus of Hawke's Bay's support for chosen 2022 charity Cranford Hospice.

The jerseys will be auctioned on

Trade Me and these will be listed for bidding as they are uploaded this week, all proceeds being donated to the hospice.

Replica jerseys are also now avail-

able in Stirling Sports' Napier and Hastings stores with \$25 from each purchase also being donated to Cranford Hospice.

Magpies players on Saturday will

be at Cranford Hospice stores in Napier and Hastings **cranfordhospice.org.nz**/supportus/hospice-shops.

Beaten in the semifinals in Bunnings NPC's seven-team premiership last year, after claiming the No 1 spot in a round-robin hit by Covid-19 difficulties that stopped Auckland from completing its programme, the Magpies open the 14-team 2022 competition with an away game against Waikato in Hamilton on Saturday.

The TAB has the Magpies as sixth-favourite to win the championship, paying \$11, and has Waikato as favourite for Saturday, paying \$1.62 to the Magpies' \$2.35.

Meanwhile women's representative side the Tui, with a 44-22 home loss to Otago and a 32-5 away win over North Harbour behind them, have another away game on Saturday, against Northland in Whangarei.

• The Hawke's Bay Bunnings NPC draw 2022 is: Aug 6 (Sat 4.35pm), v Waikato, Hamilton. Aug 12 (Fri 7.05pm) v Counties Manukau (Ranfurly Shield), Napier; Aug 17 (Wed 7.05pm), v Otago, Dunedin; Aug 21 (Sun 4.35pm), v Manawatu, Palmerston North; Aug 27 (Sat 2.05pm), v North Harbour (Ranfurly Shield), Napier; Sept 4 (Sun 2.05pm), v Canterbury, Christchurch; Sept 10 (Sat 2.05pm), v Southland (Ranfurly Shield), Napier; Sept 24 (Sat 2.05pm), v Wellington (Ranfurly Shield), Napier; Sept 24 (Sat 2.05pm), v Bay of Plenty, Tauranga; Sept 30 (Fri 7.05pm), v Tasman (Ranfurly Shield), Napier: The NPC quarter-finals will be on October 7-9, the semifinals are on October 14-15, and the final on October 22.

The remaining Hawke's Bay Tui Farah Palmer Cup championship division draw is: Aug 6 (Sat 4.35pm), v Northland, Whangarei; Aug 13 (Sat 2.05pm) v Taranaki, Napier; Aug 20 (Sat 2.05pm) v Tasman, Nelson. Finals will be on September 9.



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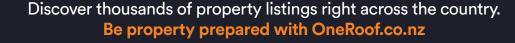
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