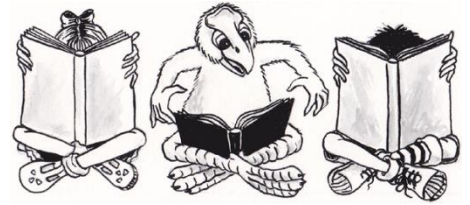


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## ***Bullrush! A Celebration of the Great New Zealand Game*** **by David Slack**

**Publisher: HarperCollins New Zealand**

**RRP \$24.99**

A good way to start a conversation with middle-aged Kiwis is to ask them if they have memories of playing Bullrush. It's surprising what people remember about their experiences of the invigorating game, mostly played on school fields.

The author has tapped into the memories of many well-known New Zealanders with this overview of the game with few rules except to barge your way through the lined-up opposition without getting caught.

Although plenty of ripped uniforms were the usual outcome, not many of the interviewees recalled serious injury. Yet, several years ago, safety-conscious schools and anxious parents led to an unofficial ban of the game. This resulted in few of today's children being given the chance to experience the exhilarating rush of bursting through the opposition line.

Published in slightly smaller than A5-size landscape, this little gem is alive with tales of exciting playground experiences. Some former All Blacks credit Bullrush with honing their rugby skills, while other interviewees consider the game taught them tactics that have been useful in their careers.

The many photos of kids at play add action and humour to the recounts. Line drawings and school-age photos of the interviewees make this soft-cover publication an enjoyable snapshot of Kiwi kids having fun.

**Reviewed by children's  
book author,  
Jean Bennett**

