

MYOB Advanced

Client Auckland Rugby Union | Location New Zealand
Product MYOB Advanced | Industry Sport & Entertainment



Power, speed and efficiency puts Auckland Rugby Union out in front

The Auckland Rugby Union (ARU) manages, administers, markets and provides resourcing across 19 rugby clubs for the Auckland province. For more than 20 years, it had been making do with a financial system that wasn't cloud based and needed a lot of manual input to generate reports. MYOB Advanced injected a speed, agility and efficiency matched only by the prowess shown on the field.

Problem

Poor support affects accountability

The ARU is behind Auckland's club, school and representative rugby competitions, and helps develop the game through schemes like the Auckland Rugby Academy, Pro-Sport Programme and many other coaching courses.

This complexity was not being well supported by its existing financial system. With no cloud hosting and a chart of accounts that was not flexible, the system made running reports, and accessing and inputting data, slow and labour intensive. That was beginning to affect accountability, reporting and transparency, says Warrick Nansett, Head of Business Support and Planning.

"It was definitely time for an upgrade. We needed to move with the times and start looking into the modern technology we could harness."

ARU considered updating its existing system, but on a recommendation from brother organisation The Blues, it landed ultimately on MYOB Advanced.

"They let me look at all their research and information," Warrick says. "They had gone with MYOB Advanced, and had done all the legwork to back up their decision."

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Solution

Setting up for an easy run

ARU had a comprehensive check-box of requirements – and MYOB Advanced met them all. It needed delegated authorities, automated approval of accounts-payable transactions and the ability to scan accounts-payable invoices. As Warrick explains, it needed a system that would take their processes almost entirely online. "We were looking for something paperless," he explains.

The MYOB solution did all that and delivered a reporting structure that impressed the ARU team. "We also liked the way we could set the general ledger up. It's really flexible, and that means you can pull more powerful reports," explains Warrick.

The simplicity of MYOB Advanced was also a strong selling point. "With some of the other options, you had to buy a lot of 'bolt-on' extras to get it to where you needed it to be. That wasn't the case with Advanced. It's all self-contained."

Working with their MYOB Business Partner was another key piece of the puzzle.

"They really stood out. They outlined a detailed implementation timetable, identified all the potential risks, and then helped us work out how to manage and mitigate those risks," explains Warrick.

They also re-designed ARU's general ledgers and built custom reports, which now deliver far more granular visibility of the business operation. The other benefit was easier consolidation at a company or divisional level.

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Outcome

Advanced takes ARU straight down the middle

Since go-live in November 2018, ARU has been working hard to ensure MYOB Advanced was being more widely used than the previous system – user numbers have jumped from 3 to 16. What struck Warrick immediately about the new system were the efficiencies in data input.

“Uploading invoices, copying and pasting, uploading journals, etc – a lot of the time we’d previously spent manually doing tasks like that is significantly reduced,” he explains.

As one example, month-end board reporting, which used to take several days to compile, can now be pulled together in a matter of hours. Budget managers are also able to run their own analysis reports, and they have full visibility into their own cost centres and events. The access to real-time information is also a major advantage.

For Warrick, the “power” of the MYOB Advanced general ledger system is essential to the team. “It dictates how much you can pull back out of the system from a report-writing perspective,” he explains. “The system enables you to have any combination of general-ledger accounts and sub-accounts, made up of as many segments as you need.”

By automating AP approvals and offering better spend-to-budget management down to an event level, MYOB Advanced is delivering the efficiency ARU has so sorely needed. “It’s going to really help us tighten things up with our accounts-payable procedures,” he says.

Looking ahead, the ARU can also see how Advanced can help them analyse data more efficiently, simply by making extraction simpler.

“We’ll be able to see how much we spend on certain types of costs, irrespective of which part of the business they relate to. That’s something we couldn’t do with the old system,” Warrick says.

“We’ll be able to run reports across the business. It’s going to be really helpful in terms of gaining insights into our expenditure.”

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Before	After
+ Complexity not supported online	+ Good support from an online system
+ Accessing data was difficult	+ Accounts-payable can be scanned
+ Reports were labour-intensive and very time consuming	+ Automated approvals, with drill down visibility to transactions and budgets
+ Accountability and sign-off processes were affected	+ Easy access to data reduces reporting times