



Rodney and his Randwick team in jubilant mood after winning the 1983 Wellington premier grade grand final. Rodney clutches the league shield. Brother Finley, the team coach, in street clothes on extreme right.

finals opponent, Mt Albert. We had only lost to Mt Albert in the 1984 final in the last 10 minutes when I was adjudged to have elbowed in a tackle which not only cost us a certain try but gave Mt Albert two points from the penalty.

"We had the wrong game plan against Manukau but the situation wasn't helped when I went off after only 10 minutes in the second half."

Rasmussen was heavily concussed and suffered a fractured skull. He spent a week in the Auckland hospital and six weeks at home trying to regain his balance. He has been left with a deaf right ear from the fracture.

I've had a bad trot of injuries over the last five years. Quiet honestly, if I knew I would get all these injuries I would never have played the game at all. I had always intended the 1985 Tusk Cup final to be my last game but I am really frustrated in not having achieved a Tusk Cup win.

"I have been most annoyed with the Auckland linesmen in each of our finals. They have influenced the result. It is time the linesmen are neutral or the final is played elsewhere. But it

cannot be taken away from Randwick that over the last four years we have been one of the strongest and entertaining league teams in New Zealand and it will be a long time (if ever) that another team makes four successive finals.

"We have also been a good disciplined team off the field. We are the only sports team allowed at the South Pacific Hotel in Auckland.

"I am not retiring on a good note because I would like to have achieved more. The club will not be satisfied until they win the Tusk Cup."

Rasmussen intends to take up league coaching in the future and there has already been some pressure put on him to coach Randwick and Wellington next season.

Rodney married English-born Kathy Yeats in 1972. Two of their three daughters, Meccedes and Ebonee have been part of the Randwick premier side cheer leader team since 1983.

Kathy's father, Geoff is president of the Randwick Club.

Another achievement of Rodney is in renovating a cottage into a fine modern home (complete with a tower) in the ex-

pensive beach-side suburb of Eastbourne.

Rasmussen said Lowe has a lot to do with the great NZ team successes over the past few years.

"Graham lets the players use their flair. A big difference from other years is this current NZ side is largely professional. It is only been a recent international ruling that all overseas-based players must be given the opportunity to play for their country."

Of the 26-strong NZ team, Rasmussen thinks only five or six are pakeha.

"The Maori and polynesian are more gifted to the running style of play league has to offer. But in Wellington it is becoming a polynesian game and this is not a good thing for league. We are losing the dedicated administrators because of it.

"Everyone of the clubs around Wellington are 90 percent polynesian. When I first started playing premier, the teams were predominantly pakeha apart from Petone. The lack of good coaches and administrators is holding Wellington league back from progressing to the extent where it should be."