



Peter Thorp

Elected in 2011

A prominent lawyer around Auckland, Peter Thorp proved to be an extremely valuable addition to the club committee as soon as he joined – which happened as the club was undergoing its long battle for survival in the 1990s. Quickly showing out as someone who was prepared to get involved (and his legal expertise was by no means an ignored ability), he moved up to the point where he was Dr Peter Harwood's logical successor as Chairman shortly after the turn of the century.

Prior to that he had been involved in the technical, essential work around the restructuring and had been one of the leading figures in the 125th Jubilee, but it is his years as Chairman that will be remembered longest in the club annals; like Harwood, Thorp was an excellent delegator and almost invariably got the right people onto any jobs that needed doing, and he had the ability to cut through a mountain of detail at committee meetings quickly but without missing anything. Several significant projects, including overseeing the festivities surrounding the 2005 Lions tour and the 2011 World Cup fell under his remit, and he was one of the driving forces in the erection of the Dave Gallaher statue at Eden Park.

He spent a lot of time dealing with the City Council, and was responsible for much of the legal work that went into drafting the club's lease. Some of the safeguards he put in there were probably skimmed over at the time, but the wisdom of including them was seen when the thoughts of turning Western Springs into a test cricket venue were first proposed; the club's position is firmly entrenched, and the thought that went into that first lease has a lot to do with it.

He also played a significant, if understated, part in the club's growth to being the important part of the community that it now is, but which it wasn't when he joined. Proposed for Life Membership by his predecessor in the Chair and seconded by Williams – the two men with whom Thorp had worked with most closely for many years – his election was passed at the AGM where he tendered his resignation from the position he had held for more than a decade.

Thorp also served as the Chairman of Trustees, who have managed the club's major funds since the Blake Street sale, and was elected President in late 2019.