

JOHN DRAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Newsletter - October 2010

Dear Donors and Friends

It is now a year since the John Drake Memorial Scholarship was launched in September 2009. The purpose of this Newsletter is threefold: to celebrate the success of the Scholarship to date; to acknowledge those who have generously given their financial support to date; and to highlight the financial challenge the Scholarship faces if it is to survive in perpetuity as was originally intended.

2011 Recipient Announced at Memorable Function

On 29 September, The University of Auckland hosted an outstanding event in the Alumni Marquee in the grounds of the Old Government House.

The evening featured three highlights; the first being the announcement of the John Drake Memorial Scholarship recipient for 2011; the second being an interview with former Auckland University Rugby Football Club, Auckland and current All Black coach, Graham Henry ; and the third being the announcement of the University of Auckland all-time Alumni XV- the latter selected from all those who had attended (for at least two semesters) or had graduated from the University, whether or not they had played for the AURFC.

Despite the fact the evening clashed with another major rugby event in Auckland, over 270 alumni and rugby enthusiasts were treated to a very special evening.

The Vice Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon welcomed all present with a very positive reflection on the strength of the relationship between the University and the AURFC.

Following that, Daniel Wein spoke on behalf of both the AURFC and the JDMS Trust about the purpose of the Scholarship, and gave a brief overview of the Club's 2010, noting that the Club had the largest number of lower grade teams in Auckland. He especially outlined the exceptional performance of the inaugural recipient Matthew Matich, both on and off the field.

Matthew then spoke very amusingly about his experiences as a player for both the Under 21s and Premiers, and the challenge of juggling his engineering studies, his rugby commitments and his sleeping patterns!

John Taylor, Director of External Relations at the University, a Trustee of the JDMS, and former HM of King's, had the pleasure of announcing that for the second year in a row, a very promising Mt Albert Grammar School product, Sean Brookman, had been selected as the second recipient of the Scholarship. After being presented with his award by John's Drake widow, Cathy, Sean spoke movingly and impressively about his rugby career to date and his hopes for the future

Peter Montgomery, who created an excellent atmosphere as MC for the event, then conducted a most frank, informative and enjoyable interview with All Black Coach, Graham Henry. This was followed by an entertaining Q&A session, including one query as to whether or not the recent World Cup winning performance of the Black Ferns had helped the AB's to focus on doing the same in 2011!



Above: Graham Henry and Peter Montgomery.



Above: John Taylor, Matthew Matich, Cathy Drake and Sean Brookman.

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI XV TEAM

Former All Black coach John Hart then announced an all time UoA Alumni XV as follows, noting that while many had in fact graduated, the “attendance criteria for some of those selected was very interesting...”

Fullback:	Gerald Kember
Wings:	Bryan Williams, Malcolm Dick
Centre:	Grahame Thorne
2nd 5/8:	Tony Davies
1st 5/8:	Nicky Allen
Halfback:	David Kirk (Honorary Alumnus of UoA)
No 8:	Lawrie Knight
No 6 & 7:	John Graham, Michael Jones
Locks:	Peter Whiting, Andy Haden
Props:	Wilson Whineray (Captain), John Drake
Hooker:	John Mills

The Bench

Backs: Ben Atiga, Victor Butler, Ken Carrington, Graham Delamore, Doug Howlett, Greg Kane, Robert Lendrum, Matthew Ridge, Jeremy Stanley, Eric Rush.

Forwards: Liam Barry, Olo Brown, Antony Boric, John Buchan, Daniel Braid, Mark Carter, John Drake, Kees Meeuws, Stephen Surrige, Neville Thornton, Des Webb, Ron Williams.



Photo; Graham Henry, Dr Lawrie Knight, John Graham, John Hart, Wilson Whineray, Grahame Thorne, Bryan Williams, Gerald Kember, John Mills, Daniel Braid and Ron Williams.



JOHN DRAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2010 - Matthew Matich

Studying: Engineering

Positions: Blindside or Openside Flanker. Likes to think he is a second five-eight too.

Teams 2010 :

- AURFC Under 21 and Premier.
- Auckland Under 20s

Rugby Progress:

Matthew has had a dynamic rugby season wearing the AURFC jersey and is now wearing the blue and white hoops of the Auckland Under 20 team. He participated in the AURFC Sevens team in tournaments from December to January. His work ethic, club spirit and rugby potential talent emerged very quickly

He went on to play a number of pre-season games for the Premier team, playing so well that he became a regular member of the side. One memorable Saturday, Matthew played for both sides against Grammar Carlton. He helped the Under 21 side win the inaugural John Drake Shield, then came off the bench to be part of the Premiers' victory at Cornwall Park.

He also participated in the University match against Stanford University this year, scoring the winning try during injury time.

He has really come on leaps and bounds in his rugby. He was selected midway through the season to join the Auckland Rugby Football Union High Performance Academy. At the end of the club season he was selected for the Auckland Under20 Reps.

Student Life:

He has been living in a central student apartment. Like a typical student Matthew has been living off baked beans and toast and any leftovers from rugby events.

He reports that he is enjoying putting more time for his studies as the rugby season slowly comes to an end.

2011 - Sean Brookman

Studying: Law

Position: Lock

Teams 2010:

- Mount Albert Grammar 1st XV
- Blues Under 18
- New Zealand Under 17

Curriculum Vitae:

Sean was born in Pukekohe and spent his early life there. When his family moved to Sydney for several years, he attended the prestigious King's School in Parramatta. He returned to New Zealand in 2005, enrolling at Mount Albert Grammar School, becoming a key member of their victorious Auckland Secondary Schools and National Championship winning team of 2010.

Sean will be easily spotted around University as he is a big lad for a seventeen year old, 6'5"ins tall and weighing 108kg.

The Selection Committee noted that of the very able seven students who were chosen for the short list interviews, it was felt that Sean was the most likely to proceed to higher honours.



Above: Matthew on attack against Ponsonby Premiers. AURFC went onto win the match and claim the Fred Allen Trophy.

Below: With the Patron of the Scholarship John Graham CBE.



Above: Sean in full flight for Mount Albert Grammar.

JOHN DRAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - DONORS

The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Trustees would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following donors, listed below.

The AURFC has generously agreed to support one Scholar per year in future, given the hugely catalytic impact the Scholarship has already has in attracting larger numbers of talented school leavers to the Club.

However, as is outlined in the attached letter from the Patron, John Graham, unless we can quickly build the endowment fund, ideally to at least \$100,000 by the end of 2010, the Trust's ability to maintain and support more students of Matthew's and Sean's calibre in the years ahead will be severely compromised.

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How to support the Scholarship

New and renewed donations are most welcome and can be deposited into:

The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund

ASB a/c no. 12-3209-0432959-50

Please post the enclosed donation form to:

The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund

P O Box 18-213 Glen Innes

Auckland 1743

Contact: Bruce Waddel

Email: info@johndrakescholarship.org.nz

Website: www.johndrakescholarship.org.nz



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