

About The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund -

John Drake created his own legend with an exceptional rugby career and a distinguished service in the media related to rugby. He was a great credit to Auckland University Rugby Football Club fulfilling all its best hopes for player performance.

A Memorial Scholarship is an honour befitting such an outstanding individual and is the most appropriate way to focus his example in the minds of young, aspiring players toward emulating these outcomes.

The core objective for the Scholarship is to support a young promising individual

who displays the potential to develop the attitude and success of John Drake. The Scholarship will be awarded on an annual basis. Former All Black Captain and University player John Graham will act as the Patron to the Scholarship.

The Scholarship will support the winner's tuition at the University of Auckland while the individual will play in John's footsteps at the University club. The combination of these powerful influences will contribute to the rounding of the individual, to mirror success on the rugby field, with a personal standing in the community.

The club invites you to financially support this notable and enduring initiative.

- All Donations will be kindly received -

Donations can be made directly to the **ASB Bank**, details below:

'The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund'

account number **12-3209-0432959-50**

Cheques can be made to -

'The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Fund'

And sent to -

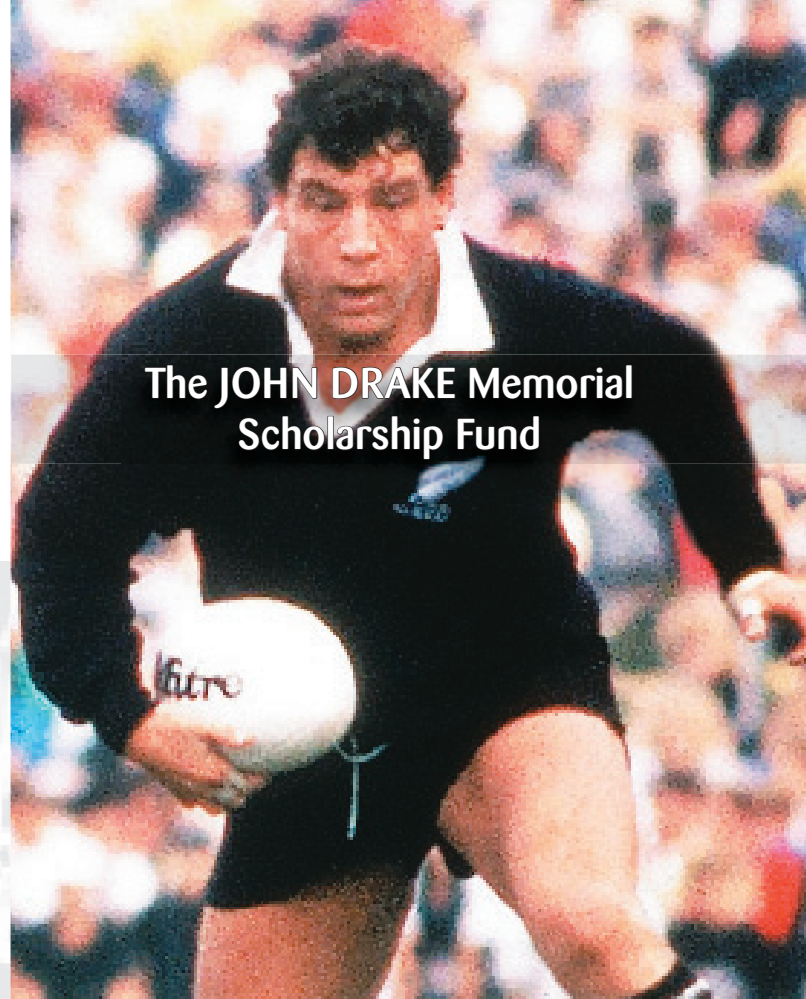
Auckland University Rugby

Football Club Inc.

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Auckland University Rugby
Football Club Inc
Established 1888



THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

John Drake 1959-2008



John Drake or 'Drakey' as he was affectionately known by his friends was one of four Varsity club men who can say they were Rugby World Cup winners. (Sean Fitzpatrick, Grant Fox and David Kirk)

Like his father Laurence, John played rugby for Auckland Grammar, Auckland University, New Zealand Universities, Auckland and the Barbarians. John went on to become one of the 50 Auckland Grammar All Blacks. Laurence and John both graduated with a B.Com at the University of Auckland. John captained the Grammar School championship winning fifteen, which included the Whetton brothers, Grant

Fox and Nicky Allen, in a team that Graham Henry said was the best in his time at Grammar.

After a year at the University of Otago, John returned to Auckland and joined the Auckland University Club, where he honed his natural footballing skills and special talents as a scrummager. Sean Fitzpatrick who joined him a little later and was an All Black with him, said recently "John was the best tight head prop I played with and the most destructive" and that John had "taught him a few tricks". John enjoyed three off-seasons playing for the French rugby club, Bourg-en-Bresse where he made lasting friendships. It was from France that he was called in

1985 to join the injury stricken All Blacks who were in Argentina at the time. He became Auckland University's 12th All Black. He went on to play 12 games including 8 tests as a rock solid tight head prop from 1984-1987 after which he retired from representative rugby along with his great friend David Kirk. John Hart said recently, "that in my mind John was without doubt one of the finest tight head props ever to play in New Zealand."

John was part of two Auckland University Gallaher Shield winning teams (1984 and 1987)

John's Auckland representative career spanned seven seasons (1981-1987) during which he played 85 games. This coincided with the start of one of the greatest Ranfurly Shield eras of all time. He is remembered, apart from his skills in the front row, for scoring a rumbling try down the right flank as the 'Auks' wrested the 'Log o' Wood' off Canterbury in 1985.

In retirement from playing the All Blacks in 1987 aged 28, he played only social rugby. He joined the Barbarian Committee and later became the Club Captain. He continued his business interests. He married Cathy in 1991 had three daughters and was a devoted family man. He was actively involved in the community in supporting rugby, life-

saving, netball and in programmes for youth at risk. John entered the media through radio commentary. He joined the 'SKY' team and became an expert and popular commentator, known for his fairness and perceptive assessments of the games, the players and for his analysis of the breakdowns. He featured on the Reunion programme and wrote weekly columns for the Herald. He was still contracted to SKY Television at the time of his tragic, sudden death in December 2008, at his Mt Maunganui home.

John's friends described him as a smart man, witty, sociable, a raconteur, ever willing to spend time with friends over a glass of red wine, a superb footballer and one of the good guys.

