

Photos from the **Mondiale Building Resilience Cure Kids Charity Dinner at Auckland Museum March 9th.**



ALEX MCKAY TWINS WHO LIVE WITH CYCTIC FIBROSIS WITH RICHIE MCCA

Photos by Carmen Bird Photography



THE MONDIALE AND CURE KIDS GODZONE TEAM



BRYAN WILLIAMS AND STEVEN LUATUA



SARAH FAIRMAID, IAN JONES AND RICHIE MCCA

PLAYERS PERSPECTIVE

PUSHING YOURSELF TO THE LIMITS OUTSIDE OF RUGBY

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW CURE KIDS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE GODZONE PURE ADVENTURE RACE IN APRIL WHEN FORMER BLUES PLAYER BEN MEYER, FORMER ALL BLACKS CAPTAIN RICHIE MCCA, NEW ZEALAND RUGBY PLAYERS ASSOCIATION CEO ROB NICHOL AND WANAKA ADVENTURE RACER SARAH FAIRMAID JOINED FORCES TO COMPETE IN ONE OF THE TOUGHEST ADVENTURE RACES ON THE PLANET.

The event has unsupported teams travelling approximately 550km across New Zealand's wilderness for up to seven days representing the most technically challenging adventure race in the World. Teams navigate across some of the most spectacular scenery and wilderness New Zealand has to offer to find a series of checkpoints using only a map and a compass with limited time to prepare their maps and strategy. Each team member must stay within 100 meters of each other the entire time while covering a number of disciplines including tramping, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking and rafting. The teams have up to seven days to complete the challenge.

Last year former All Black Ian Jones and experienced adventure racer Sia Svendsen were part of the Cure Kids team alongside Ben Meyer and Rob Nichol that completed the race in five and a half days. This year the 2016 team with two new faces will continue to support Cure Kids which raises money to fund the research to find cures for serious health conditions that affect many children. The team have already helped with the fundraising by

taking part in the Mondiale Building Resilience Charity Dinner held at the Auckland Museum in March.

WE CATCH UP WITH THE FORMER RUGBY PLAYERS BEN MEYER, RICHIE MCCA AND IAN JONES TO GET THEIR TAKE ON THE ADVENTURE RACE AND ASK THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BRUTAL MIND AND BODY TEST.



THE 2015 CURE KIDS TEAM

BEN MEYER

PO: WHY ARE YOU DOING THE RACE?

BM: Because I love it. The physical challenge is awesome, but it's also the mental challenge of breaking something massive like this down into small chunks and chewing through them. In some ways, I'm attracted to hard work! Added to this is the opportunity to help support an awesome organisation like Cure Kids and help grow some mental resilience with our kids.

PO: HOW DID YOU FIND THE TRAINING?

BM: I'm no expert but I just try to smash the legs at every opportunity. Often it's just getting up earlier than usual before work to train. It helps to train in the dark, given half the race will be in the dark. Basically I'm always feeling like I need to do more.

PO: WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED OVER THE PREVIOUS TWO GODZONE ADVENTURE RACES YOU COMPETED IN?

BM: You must keep moving forward and don't look too far ahead in terms of how much further you need to go. Set small targets and make decisions when you have to make them, not thinking too far ahead.... The mind loves a bit of uncertainty! And don't let your head torch stop working paddling down rapids in the dark! Being hydrated is a concern as last year my body swelled up quite a lot from lack of fluid and the body wanted to retain fluid. This year I need to make this more of a priority.

PO: WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN THE RACE?

BM: Your feet and looking after them. Basically if you are warm and getting enough food and drink in, you'll be surprised what you can accomplish with your body. Sleep needs to happen at some stage, but it's a bit like new years in your late teens, early 20s.... you can go for like a whole week on hardly any sleep.



ROB NICHOL, SARAH FAIRMAID AND RICHIE MCCA

RICHIE MCCA

PO: WHY ARE YOU DOING THE RACE?

RM: I have always been intrigued by the physical and mental side of adventure racing and I have always quizzed Rob Nichol about it. The entries came out and he said, 'Are you in'? It was a great opportunity to do it with people that had done it before and I wanted a challenge to take my mind off rugby, to keep me fit and get me out of my comfort zone. The Cure Kids fundraising adds another great component, making it doubly worthwhile.

PO: HOW DID YOU FIND THE TRAINING?

RM: The great thing is the training is fun. It is a variety of missions where you go to different places and it is more endurance training than I am used to where you are required to get in the zone and just keep going. I have had to change my outlook because it is not how fast you can get there it is how long you can go for.

PO: HOW HAS YOUR BODY ADAPTED?

RM: I was worried about how my body would adapt but it has. When I started training it was a push to do an hour but now I have built up to the stage where I can do hours. My body shape has changed a bit, when I last weighed myself I had dropped about 6 kg but I am conscious of making sure I eat enough. I was worried about how my knees would hold up with all the downhill work but so far they are okay.

PO: WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

RM: The finish! To be honest I am curious if I can actually do it and what my threshold is. I am looking forward to finding out what I am

capable of and if I can handle it. This is a massive test of mental and physical limits.

PO: WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN THE EVENT?

RM: Those moments when you know you have 12 hours on the bike after you have just been through a gruelling transition and are going without sleep. How you mentally and physically will cope in the times when you are battling real lows and hallucinations because of the limits you are pushing your body to. How to just focus on keeping moving rather than how fast you are getting to your next destination. Other people who have done it before know what they are in for, but for me it is a bit scary as I don't. You hope that having the experience of handling different situations helps but the reality is until you are in a situation you really just don't know how you will cope, so that in itself is a challenge.

IAN JONES

PO: WHY DID YOU DO THE RACE?

IJ: I competed in the race because of it's iconic status in adventure racing, the challenge and to raise money for Cure Kids. I had previously done 24 hour races and multi-sport events before but I had never done one of that length, so to go on an epic adventure was appealing and something cool to train for.

PO: HOW DID YOU FIND THE TRAINING?

IJ: I loved the training and getting outdoors but wished I had spent more time in Central Otago to train in the mountains because of the terrific terrain down there and had more time on my bike.

PO: WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE DOING IT FOR THE FIRST TIME?

IJ: The advice I would give is that it is achievable. Break it down, live in the now and enjoy the challenge. The rewards when you knock the bugger off are unbelievable.



IAN JONES GETS MEDICAL TREATMENT ON HIS HAND IN THE 2015 GODZONE ADVENTURE RACE

PO: WHAT'S YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE?

IJ: My next challenge is to bike the length of New Zealand, Bluff to Cape Reinga to raise money and awareness for Epilepsy Foundation at the end of November during Epilepsy Awareness month. My son Noah was diagnosed with Epilepsy at 12 years old so it is great to be able to help raise money and awareness.

To follow the 2016 Cure Kids team and see how they went visit:

www.facebook.com/godzoneadventure
<http://godzoneadventure.com/>
www.facebook.com/curekidscharity

To donate: text GODZONE to 933 to donate \$3 to Cure Kids.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PHOTOS FROM THE PLAYERS



AUCKLAND ACADEMY LEARNING HOW TO READ NUTRITIONAL CONTENT ON FOOD LABELS



BLUES MASTERCHEF



HAWKES BAYS TOLU FAHAMOKIDA DOING WORK NURSING EXPERIENCE



CHIEFS PROVINCIAL UNION ACADEMY PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY



HAWKES BAYS TOM STANLEY GETTING SOME RETAIL EXPERIENCE



HAWKES BAYS JONAH LOWE BAKERY EXPERIENCE



CRUSADERS ACADEMY COOKING CLASS



CRUSADERS CPR DEMO AT THE CLASSICAL SPARKS EVENT AT HAGLEY PARK



HIGHLANDERS ON MT VICTORIA IN HONG KONG



HIGHLANDERS PARTICIPATE IN A CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL AT THE RACES IN HONG KONG



HURRICANES WITH C2 CONSULTING



NORTH HARBOUR ACADEMY



SOUTHLAND JACK FALLOON AND MORGAN MITCHELL AT SOUTHPORT



SOUTHLAND ACADEMY DOING BUDGETING

Business partners



HOUSE OF TRAVEL



Preferential provider



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AWARD FINALISTS

AN AVERAGE RUGBY CAREER SPANS ONLY SEVEN YEARS SO PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER RUGBY FOR PLAYERS IS CRUCIAL. FROM ACADEMY THROUGH TO SUPER RUGBY LEVEL, PLAYERS ARE ENCOURAGED AND GIVEN THE ASSISTANCE TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LIFE PLANS OUTSIDE OF RUGBY THROUGH THE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME THAT IS RUN IN RUGBY ENVIRONMENTS THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND. HERE ARE THE FINALISTS FOR OUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS. THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

JAMES BROADHURST
HURRICANES



JAMES BROADHURST

James Broadhurst is working his way through his forestry degree from Canterbury University. He has recently purchased his first home which he and his partner have fully renovated in a short space of time with stunning results. In preparation for life after rugby James purchased a 20 acres Hass Avocado orchard in Kaitaia which produced its first crop for the market in 2015. The orchard will produce its first full crop next year and James is already developing plans to expand the operation. He planted it himself and set up the business structures to ensure the business runs smoothly while he is away playing rugby. James attributes his good planning for life after rugby to his good support network who encourage him about his life outside of football.

MICHAEL LEITCH
CHIEFS

Chiefs player and Japanese captain Michael Leitch knows rugby won't last forever and that he had to start establishing a plan for life after rugby. He had a dream to open up his own café in Japan. Through his Personal Development Programme at the Chiefs, Michael was able to get the business support he needed through Deloitte to learn the business side of owning a café. He met the boss at Momento Café to get some advice about opening a café and did some training at a local café. As part of his market research he would use his Super Rugby travel as an opportunity to visit different coffee houses around the globe and taste different products.



MICHAEL LEITCH

Michael started his own café named after the New Zealand international dialling code 'plus64' late last year in Fuchu the city where his team Toshiba

are based. He specialises in providing a taste of Kiwi to the Japanese. They serve the traditional kiwi big breakfast, Allpress coffees and even Afghan biscuits. While he is away he has some very good staff running his café but when he is back in Japan he likes to be as hands on as possible and when he is finished with his rugby he will step into the café full time.

LOTE RAIKABULA
ALL BLACK MEN'S SEVENS



LOTE RAIKABULA

Lote has put a huge amount of time and energy into his personal development over the past two years. He enrolled and completed an Exercise Science paper at Massey University before changing his mode of study to NetFit where he is on the verge of completing a level 4 Personal Training course. He is also in the process of completing his Level 3 Rugby certificate. Whilst completing these papers/

qualifications, he has been a full time sevens player and applying his learnings into part time personal training work. He has been running group classes in a number of environments for the past 12 months with great success. Lote is setting himself up well with an off field full time earning option while he has been transitioned out of the All Black 7's team. The time and direction that Lote has put into his Personal Development and the success he has had rivals most in the current game.

LUKE WHITELOCK
CANTERBURY & CRUSADERS
Whilst playing rugby Luke Whitelock graduated with a



LUKE WHITELOCK

Commerce Degree from Canterbury University. Not content with that, Luke continually seeks further opportunities to development himself off the field.

He completed his Class 2 Heavy Vehicle Licence and utilised work experience opportunities during the Mitre 10 Cup to gain a first-hand understanding about Rural Banking with BNZ. Luke is a natural leader both on and off the field and applied the tools he learned during his personal development sessions to his role within the team. Luke was awarded the Pat Vincent Outstanding Off-field Achievement award at the Crusaders and Canterbury Rugby Awards at the end of last year. He also took on the role of Player Representative with the New Zealand Rugby Players' Association.

THE **HIGHLANDERS** ARE LISTENING TO

Alan Jackson
Flume
Radio Top 50
Dicko's gym playlist from Spotify
Roses: Chainsmoker



ON FACEBOOK THE **HIGHLANDERS** ARE WATCHING

Newsfeed
Humorous memes
Hunting discussions
Fishing
Friends' activities



WHO IS REPRESENTING YOU AT THE NEW ZEALAND RUGBY PLAYERS ASSOCIATION?

THE NEW ZEALAND RUGBY PLAYERS ASSOCIATION IS GOVERNED BY A BOARD MADE UP BY PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS, AN INDEPENDENT MEMBER AND PRESIDENT DAVID KIRK. HERE WE PROFILE OUR INDEPENDENT MEMBER KERRY STOTTER WHO HAS A STRONG PROVEN FINANCIAL BACKGROUND WHICH IS CRUCIAL FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE.



KERRY STOTTER

Mr. Kerry Stotter was a Partner at KPMG. He retired from the firm in 1999 after 32 years, subsequently working in directorships, governance advisory and in governance of NGOs. Mr. Stotter is currently a director and chairman of two Board committees at The Hobsonville Land Company Ltd. He previously held directorships and was Chairman, at Waste Disposal Services, Stracon Holdings Ltd and

Sea+City Projects Ltd a subsidiary of Auckland Regional Holdings, where he was also a director. He was a director at Waterfront Auckland from 2010 to 2014. Mr. Stotter was a trustee and chairman of Presbyterian Support Northern, a former trustee of Choirs of Aotearoa NZ and is currently a Board member of the New Zealand Rugby Players Association.

OPINION PIECE
BY PAST PLAYER
IAN JONES

The LIVE experience – creating the memories.

Attending live sporting events creates memories and provides aspirations for generations to come. With live sport you just never know when those magical sporting moments are going to happen, just like Brendon McCullum's fastest world test century in Christchurch or the All Blacks Sevens team beating South Africa twice in overtime to win the tournament in Wellington earlier this year. Those are just two of many exceptional sporting moments that make it special to be the fan in the stand. To be a part of history and experience those truly unique sporting moments first hand in the stands creates memories that you hold onto for life and share with others for years to come which is why the live experience of sports can't be beaten. I can still recall the first day my dad took me to a test match. It inspired me. By taking kids to live sports we are fostering that enthusiasm and passion for sports for the next generation. The Wellington Sevens earlier in the year gained plenty of criticisms about low crowd numbers, however having been to the event for the past 12 years I want to point out that if you were actually there you didn't focus on the crowd number but how enjoyable the occasion was. Organisers did an impressive job and in my experience, the changes they made were positive - the atmosphere was brilliant. They provided family zones with plenty of giveaways and things for the kids to do. They had the players warming up right in front of the zone. The kids were able to get autographs and able to interact with the players after the matches which the kids and athletes loved. Importantly those kids went away with special memories that they could share and be inspired by. Where else do you get this close to the biggest stars in the game? The rugby was next level and highly entertaining, the stadium was amazing and the weather was great. Those in the party zone really enjoyed it, the rugby fans enjoyed it and there was a strong focus on the people. Savage and Jason Kerrison and all the bands who provided the fantastic entertainment made it rock and the fans truly made the atmosphere outstanding. The Fijian supporters were special and the New Zealand team really responded to the kiwi fans by digging deep and putting on some incredible performances. As with live events, the fans play a big part in a team's success and players feed off the energy and atmosphere they create. After big peaks in attendance at the Sevens if the numbers sit around where they are so be it. Don't knock the numbers, embrace the atmosphere. The numbers were still good enough to create a great atmosphere and the people in that stadium had an awesome weekend. Obviously there is a focus on the people at events and making the most of the experience, so it is a balancing act for the stadiums to deliver that with their functionality and performance. In an age where we are dominated by social media just remember that social media gives you instant gratification but it doesn't give you the true elation of watching the match-winning try live, or the same euphoria of sharing the thrill of winning with passionate fans beside you. So next time you think 'I can't be bothered going to a live match', think about it - you could be about to miss out on a truly magical sporting moment and the opportunity to create life-long memories for you your mates and your kids.

See you at the game, Ian Jones



"It's always fun to play in front of your friends and family. But it's pretty special to play in something like the Sevens in Wellington with all the Kiwi fans supporting us. We would warm up right beside heaps of young Kiwi fans and that was a lot of fun."
All Blacks Sevens player **AKIRA IOANE**

HUNTING DIARIES

WITH WHOPPA
the Highlanders props



MAORI ALL BLACK, HIGHLANDER AND HAWKES BAY PROP BRENDON EDMONDS CALLS HIMSELF THE 'APPRENTICE' WITH HIGHLANDERS AND MAORI ALL BLACKS TEAM MATE, PROP JOSH HONNECK THE 'MASTER' WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING.

Triple Super Rugby title winner Josh Honneck who plays his provincial rugby for Waikato, introduced Brendon (known as 'Doogie') to hunting last year and it has become almost a weekly ritual for the two front rowers.

The boys were in one of their local spots in Dunedin (called spot x as they don't want to reveal the location) a day after returning from South Africa last year. They went for a 'cruisy hunt' opting to leave at 11am in the morning, preferring the sleep-in over an early departure.

Josh and Brendon shared a four wheeler, which did struggle a bit under the weight of the two forwards with four dogs in tow.

Half-an-hour into the excursion, the dogs ended up getting onto a decent pig in what would become a two-hour pursuit.

The chase began in the middle of the farm, with three dogs heading down the river about 4km away from where they had initially picked up the pig scent. The boys followed the dogs using a GPS unit and tracked them down to a bottom of a gully where the sound was silent.

The fourth dog that the players had kept with them ended up jumping into a bush and started bailing (trapping the pig). The boys thought it must be something decent as the dog in the action typically would go and hold the pig and not bark, but on this occasion the dog was barking tenaciously.

The two props' adrenalin started picking up and the boys started crashing their way through the bush in the expected manner of forwards which consequently scared the pig off.

Two minutes later the boar popped

up on the other side of the gully revealing its big stature and tusks. Doogie had a crack at it with his rifle from the other side of the gully and managed to get the boar in the thigh. Meanwhile the fourth dog raced over to the pig and bailed it up again. Upon hearing the commotion the other three dogs went to assist.

Josh drove around to the other side with Brendon staying on the observing side of the gully in case the boar headed back.

Josh ran and tried to jump on the big boar in a bid to tackle it. The comical situation ended up with Josh straddling the neck of the pig and sliding 10 meters down the bank with the dogs going down with him as part of the ruckus.

Doogie was closely watching the performance through his binoculars hysterically laughing at the sight of Josh, the pig and the dogs slipping

uncontrollably down the bank. Much to his relief Josh finally managed to stick the pig. It took the hunters 45 minutes to get the heavy boar from the gully up to the motorbike which was only 50m away. The boys decided that due to their impressive efforts of getting the pig out of the gully that an upper body workout was not required in the gym the next day.

They took the pig back to the hanging scales at the dog kennels and it tipped the scales 215lb.

The boys were pretty stoked with that. They had nowhere to butcher the pig so took great delight in doing it at Highlanders HQ in front of the boss's offices the next day.

The pig had a visit to the taxidermist and now lives with Josh in pride of place on his lounge wall.

STONEY CREEK Send a hunting or fishing photo and you could WIN \$250 worth of Stoney Creek gear of your choice!

The good folk at Stoney Creek have given us a \$250 credit for someone to spend on any Stoney Creek merchandise of your choice. We know you like things simple, so send us your best high resolution (that means we can print it, so needs to be 300kb in photo size) hunting or fishing photo to kylie.sousa@nwrpa.co.nz and the best photo wins. Winner will be contacted by email to arrange your shopping trip and the picture published in the next magazine.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER NEW ZEALAND MAORI PLAYER WAYNE MCENTEE. HERE IS WAYNE MCENTEE WITH KEITH ROBINSON AND TWO MATES WITH THEIR 'GOOD PANNIES'. THE OTHER PHOTO IS OF WAYNE AND HIS 160LB PIG. WAYNE IS NOW A NATIONAL MANAGER FOR AGRIBUSINESS FOR HEARTLAND BANK.

