



International Rugby Academy
NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

IRANZ News

June 2006

Greetings All

Please visualise this coaching scenario:

Week 1: Former Springbok coach Nick Mallett facilitating and the coaching panel headed by the All Black's attack specialist Wayne Smith.

Week 2: Wallaby World Cup winning maestro Eddie Jones facilitating and the coaching panel led by All Black boss Graham Henry.

Then add into that coaching mix the specialist knowledge of World Cup winning Wallaby skipper John Eales working alongside former All Blacks Richard Loe, Ian Jones, Josh Kronfeld, Jamie Joseph, Dave Loveridge, Grant Fox, Stephen Bachop, Frank Bunce, Marc Ellis and Jeff Wilson and you have the strongest line-up of rugby coaches and tutors ever assembled anywhere in the world.

These are the coaches and position-specific specialists IRANZ put in front of participants on our recent High Performance Players' and Coaches' Courses. The vision has become a reality!

It's a scenario that the IRANZ Board had always hoped was possible. I was sure that the combination of this level of personnel would create an inspiring and thoroughly enjoyable environment, and so it has proved to be. It was also a delight to see, and be a part of this mix of top-notch rugby intelligence when they relaxed together at dinner, or over a beer, with no agendas or international rivalry as we all enjoyed a straight-up sharing of rugby knowledge.

The standard has been set and the IRANZ challenge is ongoing. We wish to build on our illustrious array of clients from different continents to enable us to bring the best of the best together for our High Performance Courses, and to continue to provide a superior level of expertise for all other courses.

Murray Mexted

Quote From Rugby News May 24, 2006 Interview with Nick Mallett "A Beautiful Mind"

RN With the increase in shared rugby information worldwide, does South Africa need a set up like IRANZ? Were there any Western Province players involved in the time you were at IRANZ recently?

NM South Africa definitely does need a similar coaching concept like IRANZ. Western Province had a lock by the name of Nico du Plessis taking part in the course that I was involved in.



Nick Mallett in action at IRANZ



AIR NEW ZEALAND



IRANZ Highlights

IRANZ GRADUATES IN SUPER 14

JASON EATON has continued to grow since returning from the All Black Tour and was in outstanding form for the Hurricanes. He now becomes a serious test candidate, such are his all-round skills which we like to think we contributed to. What is most pleasing, is that Jason has had a taste of the big time and not only does he want to stay there, but he wants to excel at the highest level. This is a sign of an enduring All Black.

TIM BOYS is now making a regular contribution at Super 14 level for the Highlanders. He's cut in the mould of Richie McCaw, and in fact comes from the same farming valley. There's more to come from Tim.

ANTHONY BORIC, who attended IRANZ on an ADIDAS scholarship, is now a regular squad member for the Blues and at 2-metres tall, has been playing at flanker and lock. Congratulations to Anthony on his call up to the Junior All Blacks.

NPC

We have had a large number of IRANZ graduates who've gone on to play for their provinces throughout New Zealand, in fact 14 teams in last year's NPC. We look forward to seeing them join the fully professional ranks in due course.

SEVENS

COREY JANE must be the Sevens rookie of the year, firstly starring with Wellington and then New Zealand. He continues to grow in confidence and accomplishment. Look for him to make his mark in fifteens.

RUDI WULF (North Harbour) has just been named in the NZ Sevens squad for the final two IRB sevens tournaments in Paris and London. The team departed on 21 May. This has been a tremendous comeback following a serious neck injury. Well done Rudi.

AGE GRADE INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to IRANZ graduate **ADRIAN BARONE**. Barone won selection in the NZU19 team for the 2006 IRB Under 19 World Championships in Dubai.

NICK ABENDANON was an unknown English applicant, who returned from IRANZ to make the England U19, U21 and Sevens training squad. At 19 years of age and playing regularly for Bath under Brian Ashton, I'm sure we will hear more of this talented wing/centre.

ENGLAND U21s

Congratulations to IRANZ graduate **Mark Lambert**, a prop sent to IRANZ by Harlequins, who has been selected in the England U21's. The team is coached by **Jim Mallinder** who is a graduate of our first IRANZ High Performance Coaches' Course.

SCOTLAND U21s

Congratulations to **David Young, James Eddie, Scott Newlands and Ben Addison** who have all been selected in the Scotland U21 team.

SOUTH AFRICA U21s

IRANZ graduates **Sangoni Mxoli** and **Ashley Johnson** have been named in the South Africa U21 team. Well done guys.

New Zealand U21s to Tour France 1-28 June 2006

IRANZ is delighted to see five of our graduates selected in the recently named New Zealand U21 team to tour France. Congratulations to **DAVID ARDEN, SERGE LILO, ALBERT MATHEWSON, JEREMY THRUSH** and **RYAN WILSON**. Good luck for the tour, I'm sure you will make us proud. We're sure if you continue to dedicate training time to your mental exercises you will provide yourself with the greatest opportunity to maximise your potential. We look forward to watching your progress from here.

The tournament starts on 9 June 2006. Check out their progress on the IRB website www.irb21.com.

2006 Course Dates

High Performance Players' Course:
25 June - 14 July

High Performance Coaches' Course:
3 - 15 July

Students' Course:
12 - 18 August

Advanced Coaches' Course:
12 - 18 August

We're always interested to hear about the achievements of our IRANZ graduates. If you attended an IRANZ course and went on to achieve representative honours make sure you drop us a line at admin@iran.co.nz to let us know.

Action from the Students' Course



Dan Kirkpatrick, Jeff Wilson, Dave Rennie



Air New Zealand Scholarship Recipient Lewis Marshall in action

IRANZ Partners

MAORI TELEVISION

Three players' scholarships were provided by MAORI TELEVISION to attend our February High Performance course. One of their documentary crews followed the fortunes of the players during their time at IRANZ. Graham Ralphs and his film crew were exposed to the inner workings of IRANZ and we're all looking forward to viewing the programme, which highlighted a cultural presence for our overseas participants. This was particularly evident on the night of the hangi where all the players replied to the powhiri in four different languages - Maori, Afrikaans, Japanese and English. Recipients of the Maori Television scholarships were: **Michael Stack** - Palmerston North, **Jody Allen** - Gisborne and **Moeahu Flavell** - Rotorua.

AIR NEW ZEALAND

It has become apparent that rugby can become a career and AIR NEW ZEALAND is providing this opportunity for our most promising young rugby players at student level.



The availability of these scholarships is being profiled on Sky Sports high-rating programme "Reunion", and we have been overwhelmed with the number of applications from all over New Zealand. Four of the 10 scholarships were awarded to participants on our April Students' course. They went to **Lindsay Cresswell** - North Canterbury, **Samuel Crompton** - Waihi, **Lewis Marshall** - Wainuiomata and **Brian Burrige** - Porirua. The remainder will be announced in our next newsletter in August.

TANALISED

TANALISED New Zealand is sponsoring three players to be selected from around the country to participate in the June/July High Performance Course. The competition to win one of these scholarships began this month, again on the Sky Television show 'Reunion'.



In South Africa, last year's successful programme has continued through the Tanalised sales outlets S.A, with a national competition profiled on the South African Broadcasting Corporation's 'All Out Rugby' television programme. The competition offered two players and a coach to attend our June/July High Performance Courses, courtesy of Tanalised. Congratulations to the successful candidates from South Africa, players **Frans Steyn** (Natal), **Davon Raubenheimer** (Spears) and coach **Stanley Raubenheimer** (Western Province).

For the first time this year, Australia introduced a Tanalised scholarship format along the lines of those being run in New Zealand and South Africa. The competition has been profiled on Australia's rugby show 'Inside Rugby' by former Wallaby and now top TV commentators, Greg Martin and Greg Clark. Congratulations to the successful candidates players **Lachlan Rosengreen** and **Brady Engert**.

ADIDAS

ADIDAS is also providing a player scholarship for a carefully identified player of promise to attend an IRANZ High Performance course. Previous recipient, **Anthony Boric**, has indeed been successful and made the most of what he learnt from Martin Johnson, John Eales and Ian Jones. Anthony debuted this year for the Blues at both lock and blindside flanker and he is now a Junior All Black. Adidas and IRANZ will follow Anthony's career with interest. The competition for this year's scholarship began on Reunion this month and will also be promoted through the provincial unions.



NZRU

We continue to work closely with the NZRU, our alliance partner, who has provided scholarships to our High Performance Coaches' and Players' courses since the inception of IRANZ. This year they are also contributing with scholarships to our Students' Course and our new one-week Advanced Coaches' Course, which runs in tandem with the Students' Course.



Students nearing the end of the 1500m fitness test on the recent Students' Course



NEWS FLASH RUGBY NEWS SCHOLARSHIPS

Rugby News Magazine in partnership with Radio Sport will be providing two scholarships to the August 2006 Advanced Coaches' and Students' Course. Details are in the next issue of Rugby News.

BISHOP STORTFORD'S COLLEGE, ENGLAND

We receive some wonderful feedback, such as this letter from Bob Kisby, Master in charge of Rugby at Bishop's Stortford College, England.

The letter began.....

"In October 2004, I brought Bishop's Stortford College, to IRANZ for a week's course. I believe that we were the first British school team to take up your customised rugby course for schools. We had an incredible time and learnt vast amounts about your coaching methods. Despite getting hammered by Palmerston North Boys' School, we felt that our young players gained enormously from the experience. What surprised us all was just how much they learnt. Our training sessions were performed with real purpose and intensity. Our rucking technique improved out of all recognition. The result was that the College won all 17 of their inter-school matches this season, scoring 593 points and only conceding 51.

Murray might remember coaching a powerful No 8, Rupert Cooper. Not only has he been our Captain this year, but his outstanding play has brought him the award of 'Schoolboy Player of the Month' in the February 2006 edition of the Rugby World magazine. The school team is also short-listed for the award for 'Team of the Month'. As one of our coaches said: 'Just think what we could have achieved if we had spent TWO weeks at IRANZ!!'

Bob Kisby

FOOTNOTE...Murray Mexted remembers this English school of modest rugby pedigree well. It is fantastic to hear that they returned home after a customised course at IRANZ and proceeded to an unprecedented success. This is becoming common for those teams that invest in making their overseas tour a rugby development opportunity for both their coaches and players, rather than just a cultural experience.

ROSS BATTY, ENGLAND

Batty, a hooker from Newcastle Falcons Academy, England noted:

"It's been a life-changing experience. I've learnt a lot of new things. I'm really glad I came. As a frontrower, having Richard Loe and Paul Mitchell one-on-one was really helpful.

I'd heard stories about Loe before coming to the course and he taught me a few tricks of the trade to keep me ahead of the opposition. Nick Mallett, Eddie Jones, Wayne Smith and Graham Henry have taught me a lot. It's amazing to have seen them coaching internationally on the telly; you don't think you'd ever get the chance to be coached by them. It fills you with confidence and gives you a psychological edge.

There's been no trouble with interpretation from the various nationalities of the coaches and players. In fact, that's one of the great things about the course, meeting new people and their ideas. The accommodation and the food are great - top notch. Food is important for front rowers!

It's an experience and a half!"

OVERSEAS

The response to IRANZ has been very positive in the Northern Hemisphere with several English clubs, The RFU, the Scottish Rugby Union and the Irish Rugby Union sponsoring players since the Academy began. This interest has just continued to grow!

Overseas participants from South Africa, Australia and Japan can apply for TANALISED scholarships to attend IRANZ.

CARL HOGG, SCOTLAND

CARL HOGG, a professional coach with the Edinburgh Club in Scotland:

"It's cutting-edge stuff and pushing the boundaries for coaching development. We've had the likes of Nick Mallett, Graham Henry, Wayne Smith and Eddie Jones who obviously are at the cutting edge of our profession and it's very interesting to share their knowledge and experiences.

It's a very intensive couple of weeks, with some very interesting and stimulating guests. It's certainly impacted on my thinking and there are a lot of new ideas kicking around inside my head.

You see the level of intelligence and intensity with which these top coaches work, and it's quite awesome.

It's a unique opportunity to probe and share their knowledge. There'd be no other environment in the rugby world in which you could do that. You get massive benefit from that as an individual.

I'm on the course thanks to a scholarship from the Scottish Rugby Union, who has sent coaches previously and sees the worth of the course.

I'm coaching Edinburgh at the moment and the aim is to coach internationally. I'm like a kid in a sweet shop!"



Carl Hogg learning from All Black Attack Coach, Wayne Smith at IRANZ.

Student Scholarships



Air New Zealand Scholarship Recipients 2006

April Students' Course

- Lindsay Cresswell, Amberley RFC, North Canterbury
- Samuel Crompton, Waihi College
- Lewis Marshall, Hato Paora College
- Roger Newton, Te-Aute College

NZRU Scholarship Recipients 2006



April Students' Course

- Anthony Studer, Rotorua Boys High School
- Sam Biggs, St Patrick's College, Silverstream

April Advanced Coaches' Course

- Milton Going, Northland RFU
- Chris Wilton, Horowhenua College, Horowhenua-Kapiti RFU

High Performance Players' Course, February

- James Wilson, Southland RFU

High Performance Coaches' Course, February

- John Walters, Waikato RFU

Action from the recent Students' Course



*The battle of the front row:
Anthony Studer (NZRU Scholarship recipient) and Laurent Simutoga*

Feedback—closer to home

JAMES WILSON, NEW ZEALAND

Southland NPC player JAMES WILSON, who attended our February High Performance Players' course, commented:

"The learning in these two weeks would have taken three years under normal circumstances!! It's just been one of the greatest things, an experience all rugby players, everyone aspiring to succeed in pro rugby, should have.

Of the coaching staff, Nick Mallett was great! He taught a lot about defence and the passion of the game.

Wayne Smith and Graham Henry were also fantastic. There were a few nerves working with them to start with. It was kind of daunting, but it only took half an hour to get over that and tap into all their ideas.

Smith's pointers on reading the game and taking attacking options were very interesting. Grant Fox and Shane Howarth also helped out with option-taking and the little things that are absolutely crucial in the game. John Eales' pointers on leadership were wonderful. I'll keep what I've learnt from them forever.

I came to the course on a scholarship offered by the NZRU and the Southland RFU and had heard a lot about IRANZ from others who'd attended previous courses, so I didn't hesitate to grab the chance. My goals now are very much centred on making the Super 14, and I honestly couldn't have asked for any more from attending this course."

News from United States

United States Rugby Football Foundation (USRFF) Grant Recipient Featured on April Cover of Rugby, USA

Conrad Bontrager, one of the two high school players who received USRFF grants to attend the International Rugby Academy of New Zealand, was featured on the cover of the April issue of the US rugby publication, Rugby.

"Making the Junior Eagles and traveling to Dubai was one of the best experiences of my life, along with going to International Rugby Academy of New Zealand," said Bontrager. The competition was great and all my teammates were awesome to play with."

"Going to the IRANZ camp last year changed my rugby career. Not only did it help me make the Junior Eagle squad, but it showed me the level of rugby I could be playing. I learnt so much about the game while in New Zealand, it was nearly impossible to soak it all in during the week. The coaches are former All Blacks and very knowledgeable coaches who spend their time improving both your individual skills and your ability to play a team game."

The USRFF will once again be awarding two players with IRANZ grants at this year's National High School Championships and Bontrager has words of advice for the recipients. "At IRANZ you should expect to work very hard and have an open mind. It's a lot of work but the payoff is invaluable."

May 25 2006—Scott Lavalla and Taylor Mokata are the most recent USRFF Academy Grant recipients.

"The Foundation is once again pleased to award these grants to two of the country's up and coming players" said USRFF Executive Director Brian Vizard. "Having seen first hand the quality of the facilities and instruction at IRANZ, I can guarantee that these two young men will be enriched by the experience. Not only will they improve as individuals but they will be able to bring back those things that they learned to their clubs and team-mates."

IRANZ Specialists

In the previous newsletter we announced a new service we are providing to schools and clubs featuring our specialist coaches - Dave Rennie, Dave Ellis and Wayne Taylor. We are delighted that this has proven popular and our specialists have started their assignments.

For more details on this please contact Jo Murray on jo@iranz.co.nz or go to our website www.iranz.co.nz and click onto the tab "Specialists Available".

IRANZ SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

There continues to be growing interest from corporate organisations, individuals and trusts to be associated with high performance by providing scholarships for players and coaches to join the game's elite.

New Zealand players and coaches can currently apply for scholarships provided by AIR NEW ZEALAND, TANALISED, ADIDAS, the NEW ZEALAND RUGBY UNION and RUGBY NEWS MAGAZINE.

Tanalised scholarship are also available to players and coaches in South Africa, Japan and Australia.

If you are seeking to apply for a scholarship please contact us on admin@iranz.co.nz

SPORT AND RUGBY INSTITUTE



We're absolutely delighted that we have been able to increase the number of courses we run from the Sport and Rugby Institute in Palmerston North. This is truly a world class facility purpose-built by NZRU and Massey for rugby high performance development.

WHAT'S UP AT IRANZ H.Q.

It's time that we introduce ourselves and show our faces, for those of you we haven't yet met. Please feel free to contact the IRANZ team at anytime.



The IRANZ Head Office Team

From left: Bev Moody, Jo Murray, Murray Mexted, Esther Martin, Steve McHardy

COURSE ENQUIRIES

We continue to receive enquiries to run our courses overseas. To date we have resisted this temptation, preferring to keep our eyes strictly on the ball, establishing ourselves firmly in the eyes of the recognised rugby world. We do think that the all-consuming rugby environment in New Zealand is still an integral part of what we are able to offer to players, coaches and teams. It is apparent however, that there is demand in many rugby countries for an outside provider that specialises in player, coach and team development. We will consider these options as we continue to grow.

David Thorne

It is with great sadness that we learnt the news of David's serious injury recently. David was a player on our June 2003 High Performance Players' Course, which was the first course that we ran at the Institute of Rugby in Palmerston North.

At that time he was a young 17 year old who had exceptional ability and all the skills necessary to play anywhere in the backline.

He scored all four tries in the first of the two games on the course which is still a record for an IRANZ player.

Graham Thorne tells us that amazing messages of goodwill for David have been flowing in.

"The support we have had is tremendous from all around the world. People we don't know have offered us accommodation and gifts for David. The power of the internet is amazing.

David seems to be able to acknowledge people and still has his sense of humour. His mates have been tremendous coming from Nelson, Blenheim and Dunedin to see him I get very emotional when I see them with David !! The doctors and nurses have been great too."

From everyone associated with IRANZ, we send David and his family our thoughts and very best wishes for recovery to full health.



David Thorne and Grant Fox at the June 2003 High Performance Course