

The Black Friday Trust Fundraising Dinner & Charity Auction for Ben Leia

sponsored by Orbit Corporate Travel and HOT Rugby

Join us, All Blacks players, sporting legends and host Oscar Kightley on Friday 13th for a 3 course dinner, live entertainment and charity auction to improve the quality of life for an admirable young man.



Ben Leia's Story

Ben was a very promising rugby player with the Marist Club in Samoa. He had recently been selected for the emerging Manu Samoa youth squad. In January 2010, during a training run for an up-coming Marist tour of New Zealand, Ben suffered a horrific neck fracture which left him as a life-long tetraplegic. His coach, rugby great Brian Lima has approached us to see if we can help Ben. He has no feeling below his upper chest, and can only move his neck and head. The Samoan Health service is not equipped to take care of a tetraplegic, they have no wheelchair or hospital bed available for him to take home. He recently had a short time at home, but contracted a severe infection from his catheter insertion and had to return to the hospital. One big danger is bed sores and other infections, with no proper electronic bed for his care, this danger is greatly increased. In the hot climate, once he contracts bed sores, they would be extremely difficult to heal, and can easily become septic. There is no Government or aid money of any kind available for someone in Ben's severe condition. There is no surgery available at this time that can make any appreciable impact on his condition or aid to take him off-shore for rehabilitation.



Ben is a very deserving young man. He has to fight off pits of despair, yet at the same time remains extremely grateful for any help that is given to him. When he was offered to be brought a radio to listen to, he politely declined, saying that he didn't want to be a burden to anyone.

The best way we can support him is by helping him return to his family, and have his family equipped to care for him. Ben's family and village are extremely poor, even by Samoan standards. Ben is the oldest of 7 children, and his father earns around \$80NZ per week. The family needs assistance to provide housing for his care and rehabilitation.

Do a good thing on a "bad" day

Ben needs a house with a concrete floor, his own place to sleep, a bathroom with privacy for toileting and washing, a clean dry sterile area for nursing care, a hoist and a wheelchair ramp up to the Fale. His family also need a vehicle, or he will be completely housebound. Max Diffey, the Habitat NZ Project Manager in Samoa, has described Ben's house and environs as the worst he has seen in Samoa. Max and his team are assisting in extending and modifying the house so Ben can go back home. All the labour has been donated. However, there are not enough funds to pay for the materials, so that's where the Black Friday Trust and all of us come in to support and raise funds for worthy sporting related causes.

All Blacks players support for Ben

Richie McCaw and some of the All Black players have offered their services to assist in a fundraising dinner/auction for Ben, including attending and donating memorabilia for the auction. We will also have some incredible and unique items to auction on the night from other supporters of Ben. Richie will be our guestspeaker sharing his views on INSIGHTS INTO LEADERSHIP. This will be an amazing evening and not to be missed.

Fundraising Goal: \$75,000

This will give us sufficient funds to adapt his home and provide some spare money for his on-going support in the years ahead. He is going to be in this condition for a long time so we want to have some funds available to continue to assist him.

Date: Friday 13 August 2010

Venue: Eden Park

Time: 6.30pm

Attire: Black Tie

TABLE OPTIONS

Gold Table 9 tickets plus Richie McCaw at your table \$5000

Silver Table 9 tickets plus a current All-Black player \$2500
9 tickets plus sporting legends \$2500

Corporate Table 10 tickets \$1500



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Tickets for the event can be purchased from your local Orbit Account Manager or online at hotrugby.co.nz and houseoftravel.co.nz