

Trust honours memory of local personality

Marisa King



Robert Algie was one of NZ's most popular wrestlers.

Wrestler Robert Algie, who died of cancer less than a week after his 33rd birthday, was hugely well-known in the Featherston community.

His career began in 1975 at the National Senior Wrestling Championships, a competition he competed in for many years. He won his first senior title in the 100kg division in 1980 before going on to win a string of North Island and national titles, followed by a Silver medal at the 1986 Edinburgh Commonwealth Games.

After Robert's death in 1989, the Featherston community turned out in force to support a huge fundraiser that enabled the Robert Algie Memorial Trust to be established. The goal of the Trust is to help all kids under 20 to participate in sport, with priority given to disadvantaged children.

Robert, who was deaf, first got into wrestling with the encouragement of his father, who was worried he would be subjected to bullying. But it wasn't an easy induction.

"He lost and lost and lost and lost," says Trustee Dannii Sargent, who is married to Robert's nephew, Jeremy. "And then as time went on, he got better."



Sponsors, trustees and parliamentarians celebrate at the Trust House Robert Algie Memorial Rugby Game. From left: Kelly Lockheed, Graeme Reisima, Barb Playle, Billy Weepu, Tom Roseingrave, Kieran McAnulty, Dean Goodin, Richard Carroll, Chris Hicks and Greg O'Connor.

Dannii was the brains behind the Trust House Robert Algie Memorial Rugby Game held last month, an event that was three years in the making after being cancelled due to COVID-19. The Trustees meet quarterly and regularly award up to 25 grants each quarter, returning a significant amount of money to young sportspeople in our community. It is grateful to the many local businesses who support its work.

"Although he didn't have children of his own, Robert had lots of nieces and nephews, and was really passionate about kids getting into sport," Dannii says.

The memorial game also coincided with the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Wairarapa Bush Rugby Football Union, which has provided significant support for the Trust.

If you have a fundraising idea for the Trust, or would like to make a donation, go to www.robortalgietrust.org.nz

**EVERYTHING YOU NEED
JUST 15 MINUTES
UP THE ROAD**

MARTINBOROUGH
37 - 39 Naples Street,
Ph: 06 306 5555

OPEN 7 DAYS:
Mon - Fri: 7.30am - 5pm
Sat: 8.30am - 5pm
Sun: 9am - 5pm

MITRE 10

MARTINBOROUGH