

George Mahuri V

Class of 1983-ish

The Legend



George's Story

This is the story of George Mahuri V, as recalled by Mr Kevin O'Connor, Kevin Frewen, John Bull and Brian Sparrow. Where is George though? Did he ever get married? Does he have a son called George? Has he returned to Orepuki?

To fully understand the legend of George Mahuri, we must go back to where it all began - to Orepuki in 1882. The first George Mahuri born in New Zealand grew up there and was a gifted gold panner and axeman. Kevin Frewen's mum lived in Orepuki, and knew Mrs Poppell, long time owner/operator of the drapery store.

Fast forward to 1967, and George V was born and grew up in Ellerslie with his three sisters and two brothers. As a kid, he played league for the Eagles and attended the local convent school run by the mission sisters. 1979 saw George start at Sacred Heart College. At that time, his dad, George IV, worked at the wharfs in the specialised area of banana bending. George also worked there in his holidays, as a seagull (temporary worker), bending bananas - bananas grown in the Pacific are straight and require skillful bending to allow for better packing!

In 1982, he followed family friend Brother Kevin Frewen to St John's College in Hamilton. It was the same year, Brother Bosco and Mr John Bull introduced Commodore computers to St John's.

Mr Frewen and Mr Kevin O'Connor reportedly looked after George V. He had excelled at sport and academia, but the lure of following the family tradition to fossick for gold in Raglan and Kawhia saw him occasionally absent from school. He was also successfully involved in junior woodchopping.

At the age of 17 he dropped out of sight. However, Mr Frewen seemed to have an understanding with George V, for over the years, cards from all corners of the world arrived for 'Frewen' c/o St John's College, Hamilton, New Zealand. The varying handwriting on the cards was questioned but later explained by woodchopping aficionado, Mr Brian Spaarou: George had been selected to compete for NZ in the world woodchopping championships in Hayward, Wisconsin, USA in 1994. However, he had a terrible accident in a practice run for his speciality the springboard chop, and smashed both hands! Following the chopping disaster, George continued his O.E. playing in pubs and clubs. This good looking guitar playing singer was picked as an opening act for comedian Peter Cook (a star at the time) in London. Through this connection, George got to know Jimmy Doyle, an Irish hurling rep from Tipperary. Jimmy D. owned a pub in Cashel and it wasn't long before George was performing in Jimmy's pub.

The day arrived when George and Jimmy D. were sampling the product, with George praising its quality. Jimmy bemoaned the fact that the brew did not travel well. This led to George getting involved with the introduction of widgets, an addition which allowed the product to travel long distances. So, this is how Guinness was introduced to the world!