

Western Australia alumni support Highlanders at alumni event



Perth was painted blue and gold when the Western Australia chapter gathered last month.

Organisers planned the event around The Highlanders match against the Western Force, with the 150-strong contingent descending on NIB Stadium in Perth to watch the Highlanders put the Force to the sword, winning the match by a score of 23-3 and celebrating Ben Smith's 100th Investec Super Rugby game.

"The Highlanders enjoyed the very vocal support and players spent half an hour after the game with our group warming down and sharing stories of Dunedin," says Grant Cheesman, who, along with fellow Otago law graduate, Danielle Thompson, organized the May 23rd gathering.

Not just for rugby fans, the celebrations started with a dinner at The Royal on the Waterfront in East Perth and continued there after the match as well.

This is just the second year the group has organised a University of Otago alumni event in Perth, increasing participation to 150, up from 60 alumni last year.

Grant says the Western Australia alumni group is also the core membership of the New Zealand Club of Western Australia, which now numbers approximately 8,000 Kiwis.

Anyone interested in future functions can join the University of Otago WA alumni's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/OtagoAlumniPerthWA.



Face painting the alumni attendees prior to the Highlanders game