

## **Kenneth William Stewart**

Born: Gore 3 January 1953. Died:

Side-row forward

Represented N.Z. 1972-76,79,80, 53 matches (11 Internationals)

Points for N.Z. 24 (6 tries)

Provincial record: Southland 1971-76, 79, 80 (Balfour Club), South Island 1973, 74, 79, N.Z. Trials 1972-76, N.Z. Juniors 1972

Educated Balfour Primary School and Otago Boys' High School, 1<sup>st</sup> XV 1968-70. Made an immediate impression playing for Southland in his first year out of school and was selected for the 1972-73 All Black tour of Britain and France appearing against New York in his All Black debut while aged 19. Ken Stewart played in 12 of 32 matches on this tour, scored two tries in the 1973 trials, appeared in all four games on the internal tour of that year and then made his international debut in Tests against England. Toured Australia in 1974, playing in all three Tests, and continued to hold his place in the All Black scrum for the 1974 Irish tour and in home internationals vs Scotland 1975 and Ireland 1976. On the 1976 South African tour Stewart was troubled with a back injury but appeared in 11 matches including the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tests. He missed the next two seasons before making a comeback in the series against the 1979 Argentinian team and then the two internationals in England and Scotland late in that year. He was not available for selection in the 1980 season.

Weighing about 15 stone and standing just over 6 feet, Ken Stewart was described in the 1974 DB Rugby Annual as 'the self-sacrificing type who pursues the ball relentlessly and fearlessly charges in at every breakdown to get it back. Champion tackler with a giant sized heart'. A farmer.