

BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club Inc. Level 6,
ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. www.barbarianrugby.co.nz



The Barbarians' annual Fun Day in June again proved to be one of the highlights of the calendar.

Photos: Trina Seifts



PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

We have been treated to some outstanding rugby by the New Zealand Super Rugby teams these past couple of months and it was great to see the Hurricanes deservedly take out their first title – congratulations to them for the quality rugby they produced to get there.

It was wonderful to see our NZ women's sevens team take our first ever Olympic rugby medal. The girls played well to win that silver medal and stake their place in NZ rugby history – inspirational stuff.

Sadly, things just didn't seem to go their way for the men's sevens team – right from the outset the boys battled, but amazing for Fiji to take the gold in such a commanding way and win its first ever Olympic medal – it all made great watching and put rugby on the world stage in a way that had never been done before.

On a sad note, our patron Bob Sorenson passed away in May, and then last month Hallard 'Snow' White also passed away. Bob was a real gentleman and character from a solid rugby background. His presence will be sorely missed at the club. 'Snow' was also a treasured long-standing member of our club, and played a record number of games for Auckland as well as 16 matches for the All Blacks. He always gave freely of his time with advice for young front-rowers.

On Sunday June 19 we held our annual primary schools Fun Day at Ngataringa Bay. Now into its 27th year, we had over 600 kids attend, plus teachers and supporters. It was a great day, sponsored by Peter Thompson of Barfoot & Thompson, a member and loyal supporter of our club.

A couple of things really stood out to me – firstly, the Blues squad, who are regular attendees at our fun days – what a fine bunch of young men who really got into the spirit of the day and touched the hearts and minds of all those kids and parents who came along that day.

Secondly, our member Monalisa Urquhart, who has won four Rugby World Cups as a member of the Black Ferns in a playing career spanning 1998-2010 – a quiet achiever, she brought her World Cup medals along, giving many of the kids an opportunity to see and wear them in the school photos, which I thought was something really special and a great thrill for them.

The following week, in conjunction with Northland Rugby, we arranged for the Blues to visit four Whangarei primary schools. The visits were once again sponsored

by Barfoot & Thompson, and here too the Blues again showed their positive enthusiastic attitude and gave the kids, teachers and parents at these schools a great experience. Each of the players I was with addressed the school we went to and each one in their own way came across with sincerity and an appreciation of the role models they had become. Following these observations it was interesting to see how the Blues developed as a team over the last few weeks of the Super Rugby season.

Some dates to note: the Top 4 secondary schools tournament in Palmerston North on September 2-4, of which we are the principal sponsor. This is the showcase of our top echelon of schoolboy rugby – if you can get down there it will be well worth watching these teams in action.

On September 3, the NZ Barbarians Area Schools side, of which we are principal sponsor, takes on a Harlequins Under 18s in Hamilton.

On October 3 and 8 in Auckland the NZ Barbarians Schools will face the Australian Schools and Fiji Schools teams.

Once again thanks to Trina, Mereana, and the house team for looking after us these past couple of months and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the club for the Mitre 10 Cup games from August 26 at Eden Park and the Bledisloe Cup test on October 22.

Cheers,

Ron Williams
President
Barbarians RFC





Deaths Of Members

Bob Sorenson (1923-2016)

Bob Sorenson was our popular club patron, succeeding Jack Bourke in that role.

At the time of his death in May, he was one of the oldest Barbarians and a life member of the club. He was, in addition, the oldest surviving club President, having served his term in 1969-70, while he was club captain from 1954-59.

A regular in the clubrooms up until 2014, Sorenson was a gentleman, a real rugby character, and a selfless servant of the game. Out of the Marist club, he played 40 games as a fullback for Auckland from 1942-49, scoring 176 points, including seven tries, and also played two first-class games for the Barbarians in the early 1950s.

In 1964-66, he was selector/coach of Auckland, succeeding the late, great Sir Fred Allen, and took the union to Ranfurly Shield victory over Taranaki and a win over the 1965 Springboks.

The next club patron will be elected at November's AGM.



Bob Sorenson (left) was a popular club patron.

Snow' White (1929-2016)

Another legend of our game, Hallard Leo White, known to most as 'Snow', played a record 196 games for Auckland from 1949-63 as a prop, a mark that will likely never be bettered.

Born, raised and educated in Kawakawa, he was also an All Black in 16 games (including four tests) from 1953-55 and racked up 235 first-class matches.

A legendary front-row exponent, he was a tough, uncompromising, fit and skilful player. He went on to be assistant coach of Auckland, club coach at Northcote, life member of both the Northcote club (from where he was its first All Black) and Auckland union, President of the Auckland RFU and also President of the NZRU.

The word is he was not averse to having the odd crack at goal from a mark too.

"'Snow' White was a man with a huge heart who loved rugby and always gave his time freely whenever asked to coach or help out," recalls Barbarians President Ron Williams, himself a former All Blacks prop out of Northcote.

Tanner Vili was made a Barbarian last year and has since involved himself fully in club activities as one of the 'younger' brigade.

The 40-year-old former Manu Samoa, Hurricanes and Counties Manukau No 10/fullback is now making his mark in coaching, helping out with the Auckland Storm women and wherever else he is needed in the Auckland region.

His playing career only came to a halt relatively recently with the Grammar-Carlton club. Out of Tamaki College, he had previously starred for Teachers-Eastern when that club won its only Gallaher Shields in 1998-99. In fact, his solo try in the 1998 decider was one of the finest tries ever seen in a Gallaher decider. From 1996-2006 he appeared in 35 tests, and two Rugby World Cups, for Manu Samoa as a fine allround first five with a good rugby brain. In 2003, then playing for the Borders club in Scotland, he came off the bench for the NZ Barbarians in their landmark clash with England at Twickenham. Domestically, he also appeared for King Country after a stint with Japanese club Kintetsu.

In 2008 two pieces of Vili magic, in the form of a try and a massive drop goal, led Counties Manukau to a stirring win over Auckland in Pukekohe.

"It's great being a member and promoting the Barbarians club. I enjoy the networking and the ongoing friendships made throughout the years of playing footy. Connecting with old mates made during rugby, catching up with them, seeing where life has taken them, and meeting their partners and kids. The family culture is what I enjoy the most and everyone sharing their stories of the good ole days," says Vili, who you will often find at the clubrooms on match days.

"For me, the Barbarians means promoting all that is good in rugby, friendship, inspiration, respect, enjoyment and all that comes with being an allround rugby player on and off the field."



Vili with Hurricanes captain Dane Coles after the Hurricanes' Super Rugby triumph.

He especially enjoyed seeing live his old Hurricanes franchise break their Super Rugby drought on August 6.

"That was so sweet and what an occasion! It was a last minute trip and well worth it. It was a Hurricanes' reunion, so caught up with lots of mates that I hadn't seen for years. I coached the Auckland Storm that afternoon and then raced to the airport to catch the 6pm flight to Wellington and made it to the Cake Tin right on time for kickoff. The weather was atrocious but the atmosphere was awesome. There was no way we were going to lose that game!"

A family man, Vili has two children, daughter Tiella and son Keaton. Outside family and coaching, he has a number of projects on the go, including his latest role with Qualified Building Solutions Limited.

BAABAAS SCHOOLS



Over the next six weeks, the Barbarians will be front and centre of some compelling schoolboy rugby as part of our sponsorship and fostering of this vital, and growing in profile, area of grassroots footy.

The annual Top 4 national schools finals weekend, containing champion teams from the respective zones for both single sex and co-ed schools throughout New Zealand, will be held from September 2-4 in Palmerston North at the Massey University Rugby Institute, with semifinals on Friday September 2 and finals on Sunday September 4. SKY TV are covering this via the Rugby Channel. The Barbarians Cup will be up for grabs for the national boys' First XV title, while the Barbarians Trophy goes to the national co-ed First XV winners.



The NZ Barbarians Area Schools are back in action soon.

Photo: Martie Heph

This year we are delighted that the **Four Winds Foundation** are supporting us with a contribution of \$12,000 towards the costs to host the tournament. We take the opportunity to thank Four Winds for their generosity.

In Auckland on October 3 and 8, the NZ Barbarians Schools, established in 2012 and having lost just one match since then, will play Australian Schools at MAGS and Fiji Schools at Auckland Grammar School, both games kicking off at 1.10pm. This is the second national schools and is regarded as an important cog in NZ Rugby's high performance wheel.

This year we are delighted to announce that the **Infinity Foundation** is assisting us with a \$10,000 contribution towards the team requirements over their two weeks together. Thank you Infinity Foundation for your generosity to the club.

Not forgetting the NZ Barbarians Area Schools side, now into its fourth season with the club sponsorship. This side will play its annual fixture with the Harlequins Under 18 on September 3 at St Paul's Collegiate. All Barbarians in the Waikato region and beyond are encouraged to lend their support. Team manager Mike Smith is a Barbarian.

Read more from Campbell Burnes' recent article in the *Herald*:

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?cid=4&objectid=11682995>

OUR NEW NAME



After a couple of years' work by Neil Cullimore, 'Beegee' Williams, Alan Montgomery, Mike Donovan and Bernie Allen, we held our Extraordinary General Meeting on May

11 and the new rules were adopted.

There are a number of tidy-up type rules that have been addressed but as from now we are known as the New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club Inc.

We have the same purpose – just a different name – and it enables the club to formalise its relationship with The Barbarian Football Club Ltd. in the UK, whose birth pre-dates ours by some 47 years.

BAABAAS v LIONS



In what could prove to be the highest profile home Barbarians' fixture ever, the club will play the touring Lions on June 3, 2017 to kick off an eagerly awaited tour.

This will be a prime chance to impart some knowledge about what the club does and stands for. There was a feeling that, after the Barbarians' well merited 34-17 win over the Maori All Blacks at Eden Park last year, the club deserved its moment in the sun, and this has come to fruition.

Read more from Campbell Burnes' article in the *Herald*, which broke the story:

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=11605608

WHAT'S ON IN 2016



Friday August 26
Auckland v Northland, 7.45pm



Friday September 2 & Sunday September 4
Top 4 tournament, Palmerston North

Saturday September 3
NZ Barbarians Area Schools
v Harlequins U18,
St Paul's Collegiate, 1pm



Sunday September 11
Auckland v Waikato, 4.35pm



Sunday September 18
Auckland
v Counties Manukau, 2.35pm



Saturday October 1
Auckland v Otago, 7.35pm



Monday October 3
NZ Barbarians Schools v Australia
MAGS, 1.10pm



WHAT'S ON IN 2016



Saturday October 8
NZ Barbarians Schools v Fiji
Auckland Grammar, 1.10pm



Saturday October 22
All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm



Saturday October 29
Mitre 10 Cup Premiership final,
7.35pm, venue TBC



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of 2016 functions/events.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



**All Barbarians will, I am sure, wish Sir Colin Meads and Barry Thomas well in their battles with illness. The collective club is thinking of you, gents.*

**Congratulations to Pat Lam on coaching the Irish province Connacht to the PRO12 title in the Northern Hemisphere. You will see in our red booklet that Lam is the sole NZ Barbarian resident in Ireland, and he is doing great things with one of the historically less fancied sides in the Emerald Isle. Let us forget, Lam was also the last coach to take the Blues to the Super Rugby semifinals, in 2011.*

**The subs notices were sent out several months ago. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a requirement of membership.*

**The club has a stack of fetching apparel in stock and this is available to members and non-members alike. Check the website for further information and prices, et cetera.*

EMAIL ADDRESSES



The club uses email and the website for most of its communication and dissemination of information these days.

Some of you may not have an email address, but can you please let us know a possible email address for a family member or friend that could expedite our communications to you. This would also help reduce the cost of postage. Please contact secretary Ken Baguley if you wish to take this route. You will then be able to keep up with the club activities on a far more regular basis.

VISITORS TO THE CLUB



Eden Park security will only allow members and/or visitors into the ASB Stand and our clubrooms by

showing your membership/visitor cards. If you need more than one visitor card to bring friends or family to the club, especially on 'game days', please contact Dean Paddy or Ken Baguley to obtain additional 'visitor' cards. Please ensure any additional 'visitor' cards are returned before leaving the club at the end of the function/event.

CLUB CONTACT



Your first port of call is our club secretary Ken Baguley, who is often based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

Ken Baguley's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

Cellphone number: 027-246-0615

Email addresses: sec@brfc.co.nz or khb@ryh.co.nz

Home number: 09-520-1638

