

# BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc. Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)



Mike Mills was awarded the 2015 Albert Storey Memorial Trophy for service to the Barbarians.

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

*I trust everyone is having a good summer, enjoying the balmy weather and soaking up the many sporting events that have already come our way.*

*The clubrooms have seen their fair share of activity already, opening up for the NZ vs Australia ODI on February 3 and then for the NRL Nines on February 6-7.*

*Dean, Trina and Mereana have continued on from where they left off last year, doing a fine job making sure everyone coming into our clubrooms for these events has been well and truly looked after, fed and watered.*

*They are now planning for the Super 18 with Eden Park hosting the opening game of the competition on February 26 between the Blues and the Highlanders.*

*On March 11, Eden Park hosts the Blues vs Hurricanes and then, on May 28, the Blues vs Crusaders.*

*These are big games with plenty at stake and I would urge our members from all over New Zealand who are in town for these matches to make a point of visiting your clubrooms. They really are a great place to meet up pre and post-match and you never know who you might run into while you are there!*

*These past few weeks it has been wonderful to see the NZ Sevens team with Baabaa Sir Gordon Tietjens at the helm pull off some stunning finishing plays to take out both the Wellington and the Sydney sevens events.*

*The sevens team is building well for the Rio Olympics later this year which will be a very tough competition. It has also been good to see young stars such as Rieko and Akira Ioane, Joe Webber, Ardie Savea, Augustine Pulu, Gillies Kaka and Dylan Collier performing so well on the world stage.*

*Early in February two teams of Baabaas, spearheaded by Peter Tubberty, participated in the 24th annual Peter Johnstone Memorial bowls tournament in Mount Maunganui with mixed results and much enjoyment.*

*On February 21 we had a big turnout for the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day in Mangere – Peter Tubberty, Barry Thomas and Mark Walsh organised a good day.*

*I would like to welcome Michael Speight, Dylan Mika and Richard Turner onto the new club committee along with Vice-President AJ Whetton, and say a big thank you to departing committee members Richard Fry, Campbell Burnes, Ken Parry and Terry Horne for all the work they have done over the past few years for the club.*

*Enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to an action-packed winter ahead.*

Cheers,

**Ron Williams**  
President  
Barbarians RFC





## Deaths Of Members

### Mark Vuksich (1938-2015)

Mark Vuksich was a noted pharmacist and rugby man who died in October.

An old boy of St Peter's College, where he skippered the First XV, Vuksich was the strapper cum masseur cum doctor for the great Auckland team of 1982-86 under the coaching of John Hart.

Hart, who was a pallbearer at his funeral, recalls a top bloke and a great servant of the Waitemata club and Auckland rugby.

"Guys acknowledge that he played a pretty important role in the evolution of the game in Auckland," says Hart.

Vuksich was a hooker at the Grammar club before joining Waitemata where he coached in the junior grades. His late brother Ray, also a Barbarian, was Waitemata premier team manager in the 1970s.

Vuksich's funeral drew many rugby people from all over Auckland, and Sean Fitzpatrick and David Kirk sent messages from abroad for a popular figure in their team.

His son Michael played second five for Marist and Auckland Colts.

### Jonah Lomu (1975-2015)

Jonah Lomu was one of the true greats of the game.

It is not an exaggeration to say that his exploits on the left wing at the 1995 RWC in South Africa, when he was just 20, changed the game just as it was going professional. Some of his tries, that season, in particular, defied belief. He battled a kidney disorder through much of his career – in which he played for Counties Manukau, Wellington, North Harbour, the Blues, Hurricanes and Chiefs, plus the NZ Sevens – but he still scored 126 tries in 203 first-class outings and 37 tries in 63 All Blacks tests. Lomu's feats at Wesley College, in the athletics sphere, as much as in rugby, are still talked about.

Some Barbarians still talk about an amusing event outside 'The House that Jack Built' some years ago in which Lomu helped Sir Wilson Whineray with a flat tyre.

He died suddenly in Auckland in November, leaving behind his wife and two sons and a towering rugby legacy. Tributes flowed freely from all over the rugby world.

### Murray Tanner (1925-2015)

Rugby rep, premier club cricketer, talented musician, lawyer.

Such were the many strands to the full life of Murray Tanner.

A fullback or midfielder out of Auckland Grammar School, Tanner played 19 first-class games for Auckland B, North Island Universities and NZ Universities from 1945-52 and was perhaps unlucky not to win a cap for Auckland. He played his premier club rugby for University and his premier club cricket for Cornwall.

There is a story that he left his honeymoon to answer an SOS to go and play for the NZU.

He won national renown as a jazz musician, where his work on the trumpet was highly regarded.

Tanner was the older brother of 1950s All Black John Tanner.

Bevan Holmes may be in retirement up in Northland's Parua Bay, but he is still enjoying life and rugby to the full.

The 1970-73 All Blacks loose forward, now 69, was made a Barbarian in 2015 after a long involvement in rugby. He played 90 games for North Auckland out of the Kamo club from 1966-78 and he appeared 31 times for the All Blacks on four tours, though without gaining a test cap, a record which still stands. Not that Holmes himself harbours any regrets about the record.

"Put it this way, I don't worry about it very much. I played with some legends. I was reserve a few times in tests on the 1972-73 tour. You just about needed a doctor's certificate to get on the field then! But I had a wonderful time. Rugby was my life in those early days. I travelled the world and was very lucky," says Holmes.



He wasn't so lucky on the 1970 tour of South Africa. After playing two games in one day in Western Australia to mark his All Blacks debut – with two tries, no less – he was struck down with pleurisy, often being forced to sleep standing up in the Republic. That severely curtailed his playing time, though he did gain the nickname 'Beaver.'

"I can always tell young boys that Colin Meads passed me the ball for my first try for the All Blacks!" Indeed, Holmes scored 11 tries for the All Blacks.

He won two Ranfurly Shields with North Auckland and still gets along to the ground which he knows and loves as Okara Park to support the Taniwha. He admits, though, it was odd scoring a try for the All Blacks against North Auckland in 1973, and legendary provincial coach Ted Griffin was far from amused!

Holmes first wore the Barbarians colours in 1969, but "stuffed" his cruciate in a Sunday match, one of two serious injuries he suffered. He also played for the Vikings and Centurions.

"The Barbarians are rugby gentlemen. I have friends in the club like Frank Colthurst and Don Hewitt, whom I played with years ago. I know (new member) Terry O'Meara well. I've been twice to the Barbarians clubrooms. It's a wonderful spot and it oozes rugby. I look forward to getting down when the rugby season starts again."

There is no shortage of people with whom to yarn about rugby. His neighbour calls him 'Mr Holmes' and is always keen to gauge reaction to the latest news or game.

When Holmes hung up his boots, he threw himself into his teaching and ran a marathon, breaking three hours, if you please. He helped out Sid Going with some technical advice with the North Auckland side. Now he keeps himself fit with cycling, loves his yachting and gardening and is right into his calligraphy, a passion of 40 years or more. Holmes does medieval scripts and works closely with NZ Calligraphers. He can do fancy birth certificates and the like. That and family fills his day quite nicely.

## AGM REVIEW



The club's 79th AGM saw over 40 members hear about another very busy year for the club and its many associated activities, plus paying tribute to some fine Barbarians, who were suitably honoured.

President **Bryan Williams** made his closing address after two years in the role, one which he fully embraced. He passes the baton to **Ron Williams**, the former All Blacks prop who steps up from the vice-presidency after 15 years as a member and seven serving on the club committee. The new president will continue his hands-on and highly effective work on the annual fun days and is full of rugby tales from the dark arts of the front row, so he is a man well worth having a beer with at the clubrooms.

**Phil Lindesay** was accorded life membership of the Barbarians.

His history with the club is a long and full one, having been made a member back in 1980.

As a player, Lindesay, known as 'Lizard', played for Auckland, Counties and NZ Universities, chalking up 94 games for the blue and whites (though with just one try, proving he had his head down in the tight!) from 1964-73. He was renowned as an uncompromising lock or prop and he also won three Gallaher Shields from 1966-74 with Auckland University, for whom he is also a life member. Lindesay went on to coach the University seniors from 1978-80, alongside the late **Mike Cormack**. His accountancy skills were used to good effect, along with Cormack's sharp legal brain, in the Barbarians' club relocation from Cricket Avenue about 200m to their prime venue high in the ASB Stand. He served as Barbarians treasurer in 2005-06 and president in 2008-09, as well as stints as custodian. His service to the club was first officially recognised with the 2011 Albert Storey Memorial Trophy. Lindesay swells the ranks to eight life members of the Barbarians. Secretary **Ken Baguley** red the citation for his old teammate.



Phil Lindesay, here with the 2011 Albert Storey Memorial Trophy, is the latest life member of the Barbarians.

2012-13 President **Mike Mills** was awarded the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy for 2015 in recognition of his tireless work, over several years, on the club's link with schools rugby, which is becoming more prominent and well received and remains a key cog in the club's Strategic Plan. Mills is also a key driver in the club's production of fetching apparel, which can be found for sale in the clubrooms. His own background in the apparel industry with the Haka brand makes him an expert in this field.

There was further change on the club's management committee, with **Richard Fry** and **Campbell Burnes** stepping down after several years and **Terry Horne** and **Ken Parry** after two years' sterling work.

Their replacements are **Michael Speight**, **Richard Turner**, **Dylan Mika**, while the new Vice-President is **Alan 'AJ' Whetton**, All Blacks all.

Turner and Mika are recently inducted members who bring business acumen along with impeccable rugby pedigree.

## WHAT'S ON IN 2016



**Friday March 11**  
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



**Friday April 15**  
New members' induction night, 6pm



**Saturday April 16**  
Blues v Sharks 7.35pm



**Monday April 18**  
Golf vs Eagles, Pakuranga GC



**Saturday April 30**  
Blues v Rebels, 7.35pm



**Saturday May 28**  
Blues v Crusaders, 7.35pm



**Sat June 11**  
All Blacks  
v Wales,  
7.35pm



**Sunday June 19**  
Annual fun day, Ngataranga Bay, 9am



**Friday July 8**  
Blues v Brumbies, 7.35pm



**Friday July 15**  
Blues v Waratahs, 7.35pm



**Sat Oct 22**  
All Blacks  
v Australia  
(BC) 7.35pm



\*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



***\*The subs notices were sent out several weeks 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.***

***\*Around a dozen Barbarians played in the annual bowls tournament in Mt Maunganui in early February, among them Sir Colin Meads, Keith Nelson, Adrian Clarke, Bill Currey and club bowls skipper Peter Tubberty. A very social occasion it was too among the 44 teams. The Barbarians fielded two sides, bolstered by a couple of 'ring-ins.'***

***A full report of the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day will be in the May newsletter.***

***\*It's awards time of the year again and our members were right in the thick of it. Richie McCaw won the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year for leading the All Blacks to a second Rugby World Cup on the trot, while he had the satisfaction of seeing the All Blacks clinch the Team of the Year at the Halberg Awards. Steve Hansen won the Coach of the Year gong.***

***McCaw was also recognised in the New Year honours, appointed an Ordinary Member of the New Zealand Order (ONZ), joining 18 other living members holding that honour.***

***Keven Mealamu was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM), while John Mayhew was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to sports medicine.***

***At the December Steinlager Awards, Hansen won the Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive time. Barbarians Brent Anderson, Andy Leslie and Graham Mourie were among the judging panel.***



*You will likely see this trio of gentlemen at the 2016 fun day on June 19.  
From left: Ron Peters, Alex Bing and Terry Horne.*

## EMAIL ADDRESSES



The club uses email and the website for much 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 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 new 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***