



# 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)



Four Waitemata halfbacks at the clubrooms, from left: Bevin Allen, Josh Duffin, Gary Allen, Bryan Craies. Missing only John Hart?

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Summer has arrived and already we have kicked off 2017 with some busy days at the clubrooms with the NRL Nines and the international one-day cricket games.

Trina Seits and Mereana Wynyard, in conjunction with committee member Dylan Mika, have done a fine job with arrangements for each of these events.

The Blues' first home game at Eden Park on Saturday March 11 against the Highlanders is shaping up to be a tough battle and one worth getting to.

We have an exciting year ahead of us with our NZ Barbarians Provincial XV match against the British and Irish Lions on Saturday June 3 in Whangarei, followed by our special 'Rugby Ties' dinner on Thursday July 6, which is being organised by club member Simon Johnston. Tickets will be on sale in the next couple of weeks for this dinner.

Once again, we are looking forward to our involvement with secondary school rugby later in the year as well as our primary schools Fun Day, which we are planning to hold in mid-to-late June.

Several of our club members, spearheaded by Peter Tubberty, took part in the 25th annual Peter Johnstone Memorial bowls tournament in Mt Maunganui early in February, with plenty of laughs and some good results. A team of Mark Moore, Bernie Allen, Roger Whatman and Dean Paddy surprisingly won three of their eight games, while Peter Tubberty and Keith Nelson's team and 'Beegee' Williams' team also performed well.

On February 19, we had the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day

at Bridge Park Bowling Club, once again organised by Peter Tubberty, Barrie Thomas, Mark and Noeline Walsh. It was an excellent day, with over 30 club members and their partners in attendance, including Dean Paddy, Waka Nathan, Keith Nelson, Jack Ross, Bill Currey, Terry O'Meara, Bernie Allen, Ron Patten, Brian Wilsher and Graeme Hayhow.

In April, we will have a few of our members competing at the World Masters Games, including Roger Whatman, Bryan Williams, and Bernie Allen in bowls and Mark Moore and Mike Mills in touch rugby. We wish them all the best.

It is also a big year for women's rugby, with the Go for Gold programme and the World Cup in August.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we look forward to seeing you at the clubrooms for the first of the Super Rugby games in March and April.

Cheers,

**Ron Williams**  
President  
Barbarians RFC



## Deaths Of Members

**Ness Toki (1949-2016)**

*Ness Toki was a small but tigerish openside flanker whose career high point was probably his display for the New Zealand Maori against the 1971 Lions at Eden Park.*

*On that occasion, the first-class rookie played above himself, getting in Barry John's face and harassing the great No 10. The Maori lost, but Toki was noticed. He tackled low and was always a clean player, but did it with a smile, hence his nickname 'The Smiling Assassin.'*

*He went on to play 23 first-class games until 1978, including nine games for Auckland out of the College Rifles and Suburbs clubs, the latter with whom he featured prominently in their first Gallaher Shield triumph in 1977. Toki formed part of a loose trio that included the outstanding Glenn Rich.*

*His playing days effectively ended in Italy in the early 1980s at the Casale club, second home for several Suburbs players, when he was the victim of foul play.*

*Toki was soon giving back to the game via coaching. He took the MAGS First XV, with some success, in the late 1980s, and was the Auckland union's coaching co-ordinator to various rep teams, including this scribe's 1991 Auckland Schools team.*

*Toki's brother Leon also appeared for New Zealand Maori and Auckland.*

*Nessie Toki died in December near family in Kaikohe, having shifted from west Auckland due to a degenerative illness.*

*Ruscoe played 22 tests for the Black Ferns out of Canterbury, mainly as a skilled, accurate blindside. She had already acquired the nickname 'Fraggle' from her football days, but it is very much a term of endearment rather than any lack of respect for this leader.*



*"You always have that connection when you see the (rugby) girls again. You might not see them a lot, but it's like it is yesterday. Everyone still keeps in touch via Facebook," she says.*

*Whilst a long-time Canterbury resident, she hails from Taranaki, and the amber and blacks still command her support these days.*

*"You always support where you come from, so it's black and yellow, and the Chiefs, because I went to uni there. I'm not a one-eyed Cantabrian," Ruscoe quips.*

*The Blacks Ferns have a royal show of lifting their fifth World Cup this August in Ireland, and first since Ruscoe led them to glory in 2010.*

*"I think the girls will definitely be back up there. We didn't see ourselves as world champs when we entered the World Cup. You have to earn that right. I'm sure the girls will do us proud and they've got some exciting talent."*

## GLENGARRY

### MEMBER PROFILE MELISSA RUSCOE



*One of a clutch of Black Ferns who are now Barbarian members, Melissa Ruscoe has a long list of achievements, highlighted by the rare feat of captaining her country in two different sports.*

*The 40-year-old had 23 caps for the Football Ferns before switching codes at the age of 24, where she proceeded to master the intricacies of loose forward play, win two Rugby World Cups, the 2005 NZRU women's player of the year and the MNZM honour in 2011 for services to rugby.*

*Ruscoe says her nomination to join the Barbarians last year was an unexpected honour.*

*"I had to read the letter a couple of times. I'd heard of the NZ Barbarians, of course, and knew some women were members, but didn't think about it myself until the letter came through, which was exciting. You don't think about those kinds of accolades," says Ruscoe, a Christchurch teacher at Hillmorton High School.*

*She took the chance to catch up with some of her old Black Ferns teammates in the October 22 Bledisloe at the clubrooms, and was suitably impressed with our home base.*

### AGM REVIEW



November 30 saw the Barbarians club hold its 80th AGM at the Eden Park clubrooms.

Around 40 members, just under 10 percent of the full membership, heard from President **Ron Williams** and club captain **Mark Moore** on the club's many activities in 2016. Barbarian **Mike Donovan**, who is chairman of Auckland Rugby, gave an update on the union's 2016 season, making the salient point that over 100 players who came through the Auckland schools or academy systems, are dotted around the country. That is a sure sign of the professional times.

There was little change in the election of officers, with two notable additions.

Immediate past President **Bryan 'Beegee' Williams** was elected patron to replace the late **Bob Sorenson**, who died in 2016. Beegee needs little introduction, but he did become a Barbarian in the 1970s, before the age of 30, a rare occurrence. He has always espoused the Barbarian ideals and is a true man of rugby as indeed are many men (and women) in the club. In 2003 he coached the NZ Barbarians in their landmark clash with England at Twickenham, which helped set up the club financially. Beegee may be 66 now, but he is still active at his beloved Ponsonby club and serves on the Barbarians committee.

There is a new committee member, **Kevin Senio**, who only joined the club last year. The 38-year-old is All Black No 1058. The former halfback played one test in 2005,

and also appeared for the Junior All Blacks, New Zealand Sevens, Crusaders, Chiefs, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau and Canterbury. His active playing days only ended in 2015 after stints with French clubs Castres and Clermont. He now does important work for the NZ Rugby Players' Association in getting around schools explaining the pros and cons of professional rugby.

Last but not least, the sterling long-term work of **Dean Paddy**, who steps down as house manager after many years, was acknowledged. His successor as house manager is **Michael Speight**, while **Trina Seits** steps into the bar manager's role.

## BOWLS REVIEW



Four of the Maori athletes awardees with four Barbarian All Blacks at the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Days; front, from left, Keith Nelson, Waka Nathan, Adrian Clarke, Barrie Thomas.

The club entered teams in two bowls events in February, as touched on by our President.

There was plenty of good action and bowling talent on display on January 29 at Mt Maunganui for the 25th annual Peter Johnstone Memorials Bowls Day. Around a dozen Barbarians were on hand, while there would have been at least twice as many along for the February 19 Pat Walsh Memorial Day at Bridge Park BC, driven by Pat's widow Noeline and son Mark, both Barbarians. The likes of Adrian Clarke, Waka Nathan, Barrie Thomas, Keith Nelson and Frank Didovich were on hand. Funds were raised for the development of four young Maori athletes. Apparently Messrs Paddy, Cresswell and Bernie Allen were in prime and unbeaten form.

Peter Tubberty is sounding the clarion call for as many members to get along to Bridge Park BC in Mangere Bridge on Sunday March 26 for the annual Barbarians' club bowls day. It matters not whether you are Peter Belliss-like on the greens. It should be a fun, social occasion. Some of the ladies, such as Lesley Williams and Sheralynn Whatman, have entered a team as well.

## RUGBY TIES DINNER



Mark down Thursday July 6 in your diaries.

For on that day will be the Rugby Ties fundraising dinner at the Viaduct Events Centre.

Ticket sales for NZ Barbarian club members will be from mid-March, before we go to market. It's your chance to book tables with like-minded friends who will be touring for the 'Rugby Royalty' dinner of the year. Some of our UK Barbarian members will be keen attendees. We will shortly be confirming all the speakers, who will

## WHAT'S ON IN 2017

Saturday March 4  
ODI: Black Caps v  
South Africa, 2pm



Monday March 6-Thursday March 9  
Pink ball cricket trial: Auckland Aces  
v Canterbury (day/night)



Saturday March 11  
Blues v Highlanders, 7.35pm



Sunday March 26  
Barbarian club bowls day,  
Bridge Park BC, 8.45am



Saturday April 1  
Blues v Force, 6.15pm



Saturday April 15  
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



Friday April 21  
Opening ceremony: World Masters Games



Friday May 12  
Blues v Cheetahs, 7.35pm



Friday May 26  
Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm



Wednesday June 7  
Blues v British & Irish Lions,



Saturday June 24  
All Blacks v Lions  
(first test)  
7.35pm



Thursday July 6  
Rugby Ties dinner,  
Viaduct Events Centre, 6pm



Saturday July 8  
All Blacks v Lions  
(third test)  
7.35pm



\*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified. \*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of 2017 functions/events, including the annual Fun Day at Ngatara Bay.

partake in a Q&A panel from the various eras of Lions tours. Already secured are the 1993 series skippers Gavin Hastings (Lions) and Sean Fitzpatrick (All Blacks) captains.

Sponsorship packages are available. Please contact Simon 'Johnno' Johnston on [simonjohnston@xtra.co.nz](mailto:simonjohnston@xtra.co.nz) or 0274-736-327.

## PRIDE OF THE LIONS

We have been asked to assist the organisers of this July 1-July 8 event to seek participation from our past player members in all or part of a ride from Wellington to Auckland that is raising money for Cure Kids and Conductive Education.

<http://dynamoevents.co.nz/event/bdo-wellington-to-auckland-cycle-challenge-2017>

The organisers have put together a package of benefits (11 nights' accommodation, all meals, full physical and mechanical support, evening functions and tickets for both Wellington and Auckland Lions tests) at a cost of \$6950pp.

However, they need 25 guest Kiwi riders to join five ex-Lions and 20 other British riders to take part in all or some of the seven daily stages at no charge.

**Day 1: Wellington test match**

**Day 2: Wellington to Masterton, 127 km**

**Day 3: Masterton to Palmerston North, 114km**

**Day 4: Rest day, transit from Palmerston North to Taupo**

**Day 5: Taupo to Matamata, 149km**

**Day 6: Matamata to Thames, 90km**

**Day 7: Thames to Coromandel Town 54km (ferry to Auckland City)**

**Day 8: Auckland test match**

For more information, or if you would like to take part in all or part of the road please, contact Nathan Cox on 021-063-1777 or [nathan@dynamoevents.co.nz](mailto:nathan@dynamoevents.co.nz)

Identify yourself as a member of the New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club and discuss how you can help.

Dylan Mika is handling the Barbarian club's contact with the organisers, so don't hesitate to contact him at [dylan.mika@me.com](mailto:dylan.mika@me.com) or 021-666-988 if you would like to discuss any aspect.

## BAABAAS BRIEFS



**\*One of the biggest games in our club's rugby history will be taking place on June 3 in Whangarei with the NZ Barbarians Provincial XV providing the first opposition to the touring Lions. Bay of Plenty's Clayton McMillan will coach the side, which will be chosen largely from Mitre 10 Cup talent.**

**\*Our member from Manawatu, Clive Akers, one of New Zealand's foremost rugby historians, has put together, over some 35 years, no less, an impressive listing of all New Zealand first-class players from 1870-2015, entitled the New Zealand Rugby Register. Clearly, many Barbarians will feature among the 820 pages, so purchase your copy. It is available only via the NZ Rugby Museum. Please contact PO Box 36, Palmerston North 4440 or email [info@rugbymuseum.co.nz](mailto:info@rugbymuseum.co.nz)**

**\*Congratulations once more to Barbarian Steve Hansen, who picked up his fourth World Rugby coach of the year award and an unprecedented fifth straight New Zealand**

**Rugby coach of the year gong late in 2016.**

**Two sons of Barbarian Kevin Barrett won four honours between them at the NZ Rugby awards. Beauden, already World Rugby player of the year, and Jordie, look set to win a few more too, just quietly, in the years ahead.**

**\*The subs notices were sent out two 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.**



The annual Fun Day is set to do again in June at a date to be advised. Brad Johnstone, Colin Farrell and Jon McLachlan enjoy the event.

Photo: Terry Horne

## 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 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](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) or [khb@ryh.co.nz](mailto:khb@ryh.co.nz)**

**Home number: 09-520-1638**