



BAABAA NEWS

AUGUST 2012

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



At the August 10 'Sleepy's Corner' dedication night; from left: Bryan Williams, his wife Lesley, Don Cameron, and John Mills.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Congratulations to the Chiefs on winning their first Super Rugby title.

They were the form team all year and played an attractive Barbarians, running style of rugby.

The Blues had a very unfortunate season with injuries which affected the side's confidence. In the tough Super Rugby arena you need to play with confidence.

I am sure the Auckland ITM Cup side will perform under the new coaches but I think the surprise package will be the Counties Manukau Steelers, coached by Barbarian Tana Umaga, this coming season.

75th Jubilee dinner

We are in the last throes of preparation for the big night on September 21 in the function centre of the south Stand. Tables (for 10) are selling well and our six rugby knights are confirmed for the evening. Messrs Deaker, Los'e and Herbert are providing the entertainment. Tickets are just \$120 each for a great night.

Club spirit

We have been having some great social nights at the club and it is in good spirit at the moment.

A very special night was held for the opening of Sleepy's Corner, a collection of sporting books donated by Don Cameron, several of which he had written. Neil Cullimore was in fine form, giving a speech on Don's life and

his contribution to sports journalism.

'Snow' White, Bryan Williams, Keith Nelson and Rob Fisher were all present, among others.

Strategic Plan

Richard Fry and Neil Cullimore have now completed our 3-5 year strategic plan.

It is an impressive document and will be available to all members online from late August.

It is a working document so we will continue to update it every year. The management committee look forward to your comments.

Secondary schools rugby

We are sponsoring the national Top 4 First XV playoffs again this year in Rotorua on September 7-9 for boys and co-ed

schools. With the big support and coverage from SKY TV, the First XV competitions have really hit the spotlight. For the first time, the two finalists for the boys will play off for the grand final on Saturday September 15.

We always invite a group of Auckland Baabaas to visit and catch up with the Bay of Plenty/Waikato Baabaas. Please join us if you can. It is a great weekend watching our future All Blacks.

Middleweight (U85kg) tournament

On the weekend of September 15-16 we are sponsoring a middleweight tournament in Auckland with five provincial teams on show: Auckland, North Harbour, Waikato, Thames Valley and, for the first time, Wellington. Watch out for this Wellington team. It has some top players and is my pick for the weekend.

Finally I would like to personally thank Dean Paddy for his great management of a very busy Barbarians bar over the last few months. Dean has recently had a successful hip operation, so we wish him all the best and a speedy recovery.

Kind regards,

Mike Mills

President, Barbarians RFC

WHAT'S ON IN 2012

Saturday August 25

All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm

Friday August 31

Marist club night, 6.00pm

Sunday September 2

Auckland v Manawatu, 2.35pm

September 7-9

Top 4 schools tourney, Rotorua

Saturday September 8

Auckland v Waikato, 2.35pm

Friday September 14

Patumahoe club night, 6.00pm

Saturday September 15

Middleweight tourney, College Rifles Rugby Club

Wednesday September 19

Auckland v Taranaki, 7.35pm

Friday September 21

75th jubilee dinner, 6.30pm

Saturday September 22

Auckland v Wellington, 5.35pm

Friday September 28

Auckland v Counties Manukau, 7.35pm

Saturday September 29

NZ Barbarians Schools v Australian Schools, Auckland

Saturday October 6

NZ Barbarians Schools v Samoa Schools, Auckland

Friday October 12

College Rifles/Eden club night, 6.00pm

Friday November 2

Northcote/North Shore club night, Rugby Club

*Other events/dates will be confirmed in due course. A full list of remaining Eden Park rugby fixtures in 2012 is to be found on the last page of this newsletter.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

Dave Harker (1933-2012)

Dave Harker was a fine, popular rugby man, a fine Grammar clubman, and a tough, old-school lock forward who played for both Auckland (16 games) and Wellington through the 1950s and '60s.

An accountant by trade, Harker was also a keen surfer. He won three Gallaher Shields with Grammar (1967, '70 and '72). The second of those saw him as captain/coach and he achieved the title using just 17 players through the season! He was still locking the Grammar scrum, often with future All Black John Fleming for the 1972, at the age of 38, ending a 20-year senior career.

Harker was also not far off making the All Blacks for the 1960 tour of South Africa. He is survived by four children and several grandchildren.

Ron Whetton (1930-2012)

A stalwart of the Ponsonby Rugby Club, Ron Whetton played one game as a loose forward for Auckland in 1955.

He won a Gallaher Shield with Ponsonby in 1954 and served as club captain from 1961-63, and was heavily involved in the building of the Blake Street clubrooms in the 1970s. Whetton's son Kerry was also a fine loose forward for Ponsonby and Auckland Sevens, and in lifting the Gallaher Shield, father and son achieved a feat that their more illustrious nephews and cousins – All Blacks Gary and Alan Whetton – narrowly failed to do.

75TH YEAR JUBILEE

The club is gearing up for the 75th jubilee celebrations, to be held in the south stand function centre of Eden Park on Friday September 21.

Many of you will recall with fondness the 70th birthday celebrations at Eden Park for the Barbarians club. That was back in 2007. The 75-year milestone has rolled around swiftly, and the Barbarians will be marking the occasion with a dinner prepared by head chef Julian Gill, wines by Glengarry Wines, and with musical accompaniment by one of the country's finest jazz bands 'The Nairobi Trio.'

One of the highlights will be a televised chat with the club's six rugby knights – Sir Colin Meads, Sir Brian Lochore, Sir Wilson Whineray, Sir John Graham, Sir Graham Henry and new Blues coach Sir John Kirwan. Murray Deaker will interview these esteemed gentlemen.

Barbarian and former Tongan international, the erudite Willie Los'e, will MC the event with former Wallaby midfielder Anthony 'Herbie' Herbert confirmed as guest speaker.

Tickets are selling fast but can still be purchased from John Cresswell, details below, or Mike Mills on mike@hakanz.co.nz or 021-890-949, or Cliff Lyon on cliff@cklyon.co.nz or 09-529-7305.

FUN DAY REVIEW

On Sunday May 27 the Barbarians club again held its iconic, annual fun day, a most popular and well-supported event on the club calendar.

The event, now into its 23rd year, was again held at the Navy grounds at Ngataranga Bay. Some 800 primary school kids had a great time, playing games, learning new skills and topping it off with a drink and a sausage sizzle.

Well done to Ron Williams and all his many Barbarians helpers.



Roger Moore, left, Phil Lindesay and Tony Aston enjoying the clubhouse atmosphere.

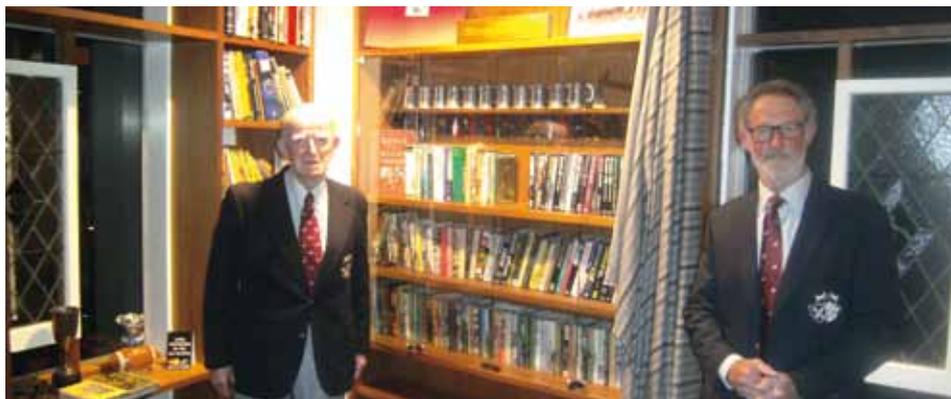
SLEEPY'S CORNER

Like any top sports journalist worth his salt, Barbarian Don Cameron has an extensive library. But space is often an issue, and so now Don/DJ/Sleepy has donated many of his rugby tomes to the Barbarians club, to be housed in the north-east corner of the clubrooms. The corner will be known as 'Sleepy's Corner.'

August 10 saw the dedication, which doubled as the Auckland University club night. Don was in fine form, and Barbarians club vice-president Neil Cullimore spoke with humour and warmth about Don's contribution to rugby and journalism, which

many of the members will have endorsed. "I was shifting books all over my bedroom and study when the Baabaas were starting the construction of the new clubrooms. And then I saw the vacant shelves along the left-hand wall. I mentioned to John Cresswell that if they wanted to start a library I would be happy to donate some. Next thing I know John Mills was saying they would like the books and would develop 'Sleepy's Corner' to house them," says Don.

"I'm very flattered at the way it's been done. And I was so pleased to see 'Snow' White. He greeted me warmly and we chatted." Don says it was 'Snow' who taught him much of what he needed to know about the dark arts of front-row play.



Don Cameron (left) and Neil Cullimore at the Sleepy's Corner dedication night.

MIDDLEWEIGHT TOURNAMENT

As highlighted in this week's edition of *Rugby News* magazine, the Barbarians are again sponsoring the Auckland regional middleweight (under 85kg) tournament to be held at the College Rifles club, with its all-weather artificial turf.

The tournament is set down for Saturday-Sunday September 15-16. No less than five teams will be playing this year – Auckland, North Harbour, Waikato, Thames Valley and Wellington. The latter is appearing for the first time, and is reflective of this popular, burgeoning grade in the capital's rugby ranks. Auckland had 22 teams in its Under 85kg club competition this year. Thames Valley will not be under 85kg and will be sending its genuine B side out of that smaller union.

Games will be 15 minutes each way (formerly 20-20) as each side will be playing up to three matches in a round-robin format in one day, as there is an extra team. IRB regulations prevent players appearing in more than 90 minutes of full rugby per day. So the action should be fast and frantic. A tournament team will be named at the completion of the weekend, and some of those players could be in contention for the New Zealand Barbarians middleweight rep side in 2013.

The artificial turf has proven a real hit since it was instituted several years ago, while the Auckland Rugby Union – Barbarian Dave Syms is a key driver – and College Rifles club always do a good job in helping run the event in conjunction with the Barbarians.

On the Saturday is a dinner at which the presentation of the plaque is made by the Barbarians, while on the Sunday evening the tournament winds up with the handing out of medallions.

NZ BARBARIANS SCHOOLS

Next month we will see a new Barbarians side do battle on the rugby field.

The New Zealand Barbarians Schools team will play two matches, in the famous scarlet strip, against Australian Schools (September

29) and Samoa Schools (October 6, both in Auckland). This side will represent those top schoolboys not in the New Zealand Schools squad, but will form a meaningful pathway into that top team for 2013. The coach is former Canterbury rep Mark Vincent, who is the coach of the First XV at John Mills' alma mater St Bede's College. The Barbarians will supply a technical advisor and assistant manager (Terry Horne) to the side.

SCHOOLS TOP 4 TOURNAY

Once again the Barbarians are gearing up for their sponsorship and strong presence at the national schools Top 4 tournament in Rotorua from September 7-9, just a week out from the middleweight event in Auckland (as detailed previously).

This event begins an intense period of rugby involvement for the club, which goes from the schools to the middleweights and then back to the schools in just 3-4 weeks.

The action kicks off on the Friday (September 7) with the co-ed schools competition, the First XV winner of the Blues region against the Chiefs champions from 12.15pm, followed at 2.45pm by the First XV winner of the South region against the Hurricanes champions.

Saturday sees two matches televised live on the Rugby Channel, which are the same fixtures with same kickoffs but involving the top boys' First XV's. On Sunday is the co-ed third v fourth match followed by the co-ed final, the latter of which will also be televised. In 2011 Auckland's St Kentigern College won this match – for the Barbarian Shield – but that college this year has thrown its hat in with the big boys, as it were.

The actual Top 4 final will be televised live on Saturday September 15 from 2.30pm in either Auckland or Hamilton. That will be for the coveted Barbarian Cup.

The club is calling on all Bay of Plenty, Waikato and King Country Barbarians, in particular, to come along to the grounds at Rotorua Boys' High School, support the club and witness some top schoolboy action.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Recognising the changing rugby environment we live in, the club has undertaken a thorough operating review resulting in a comprehensive Strategic Plan to take us forward for the next 3-5 years.

There are many significant challenges the club faces in the professional era, including player availability, project funding, membership involvement and operational costs. However the review clearly demonstrates the club is well positioned to capitalise on a number of opportunities to address these challenges whilst maintaining the core values the NZ Barbarians is built on.

Thanks to many years of work by many Barbarian members, the club has a healthy asset base to leverage off. These include a significant interest bearing consolidated fund, stylish new clubrooms at Eden Park, a property adjacent to Eden Park, growing national membership, strong Barbarian brand profile and solid relationships in the rugby fraternity.

The Strategic Plan is a living, breathing document that will form the basis of the club's direction. It will be available to view via a link on the club's website.

MEMBER PROFILE: PETER BURKE

In the first of a series on Barbarians members, we introduce Peter Burke of New Plymouth, one of nine Barbarians out of that proud rugby province, Taranaki.

The 84-year-old is a life member of both the Taranaki and New Zealand unions, and a member of the Taranaki sports hall of fame. His rugby career started back in 1942 at Edgcumbe Primary School and he went on to play provincially, at either lock or No 8, for Bay of Plenty, Auckland B and Taranaki, the latter out of the Stratford, Tukapa and Hawera clubs (between 1948-59). Burke played 12 matches, including three tests, for the All Blacks, from 1951-57. One of the *NZ Rugby Almanack* players of the year for 1955, he was the first Taranaki centurion. Immediately upon his playing retirement, he entered the coaching and selecting realm, taking Taranaki and the North Island, among others. By 1978 he was an All Blacks selector, and coached the national side in 1981-82. Though he stepped back from coaching, Burke continued to be heavily involved in the game, and in 1992-93 was manager of the New Zealand Under 19s. From 1994-95 he served as the NZRFU president. In 1997 he was awarded the Order of New Zealand Merit for services to New Zealand, a richly deserved honour for this man of rugby.



Photo: www.photosport.co.nz

CLUB DRESS CODE

To add to and maintain the high standard set by the design, layout and presentation of the Barbarians' clubrooms, the club expects a high standard of dress on all occasions. Please ensure the club's dress code is adhered to at all times.

Dress code: Jacket and tie or smart, casual clothing. No cutaway jeans, t-shirts or jandals. If a member brings a friend or visitor to the club, please ensure they are appropriately dressed, as above.

OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2012, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

*Thanks to some tireless work by Dean Paddy, the club now has an agreement with Glengarry Wines, which will provide all financial Barbarians with special benefits and discounts throughout their New Zealand retail and online operations. With this newsletter are further details of this tremendous offer.

*Congratulations to Gordon Tietjens for his induction into the IRB Hall of Fame. Titch's sevens exploits as coach of the New Zealand team (since 1994) are legendary – he guided the team to its 10th world series title in 13 seasons – and he becomes the first sevens coach to receive this honour. Now it is full steam ahead for Rio 2016.

EFTPOS AT THE CLUB

Yes, our own eftpos machine is installed and ready for use, bringing us into line with other modern modes of spending.

No longer will you have to traipse down to the end of the ASB Stand to withdraw your money from the hole-in-the-wall or hit your

*Congratulations too to Waka Nathan, who succeeds the late, great Sir Fred Allen as patron of the Auckland Rugby Union. Some of Allen's rugby memorabilia will also be donated to the club.

*Winter has seen plenty of visitors at the clubhouse enjoying the convivial surrounds. Dean Paddy files a full report to the committee after each social night, and a good time is had by all, as you can see from the odd photo dotted around the newsletter. As an example, Barbarian Ken Parry brought a group in from the Wairoa Rangers – a Counties junior club – on the same evening as the University club night earlier this month. They all had a whale of a time and were very impressed with the clubrooms fitout. Parry says there will be two vanloads next year!

mate up for cash at the bar. However, the machine is only available at the front of the bar, so you cannot make a transaction from the far side, as it were. Clubhouse manager Dean Paddy will be on hand to answer any queries relating to the eftpos machine use. Eden Park Catering will be in charge of food in the clubhouse on game days, and this has so far proven mightily popular.

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 John Cresswell to obtain additional 'visitor' cards. Please ensure any additional 'visitor' cards are returned before leaving the club at the end of the function/event.

FIXTURES: EDEN PARK

Test matches 2012

The Rugby Championship/Bledisloe Cup
Saturday August 25

All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm

ITM Cup 2012

Sunday September 2

Auckland v Manawatu, 2.35pm

Saturday September 8

Auckland v Waikato, 2.35pm

Wednesday September 19

Auckland v Taranaki, 7.35pm

Saturday September 22

Auckland v Wellington, 5.35pm

Friday September 28

Auckland v Counties Manukau, 7.35pm

*NB. The semifinals are down for October 19-20 and the final for October 27.

CLUB CONTACT

Your first port of call is our industrious club secretary John Cresswell, who is mostly based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

John Cresswell's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

Cellphone number: 021-703-904

Email addresses: sec@brfc.co.nz

jmccresswell@xtra.co.nz

Home number: 09-630-6425



There was a strong turnout of Barbarians at the fun day back in May.