

BAABAA NEWS

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



Some of the new Barbarians with assorted life members and office holders at the induction night last month.

Photo: Terry Horne

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

I was disappointed to hear recently that the format for the Roller Mills tournament had been changed.

This tournament for intermediate school players (aged 11-12) has been an institution for many years in the upper North Island and was the inspiration for so many boys to try and achieve the heights. The previous format was a week-long tournament played in two sections culminating in finals at the end of the week. Teams came from Northland, North Harbour, Auckland (2), Counties, Thames Valley, Waikato (2), King Country and Bay of Plenty. The venue was rotated year by year. The players were billeted by the locals of the town where it was played. Both my two sons, Gavin and Paul, and I played in the tournament and have lifelong memories. Getting to know your teammates and opponents and the social interaction among all the parents, coaches and managers were a wonderful by-product of the Roller Mills.

When I first played for Auckland North in 1961, I was billeted along with three other boys on the farm of Vic and Heather Hinton at Waiuku. We had a memorable week staying on the farm and played some good rugby along the way. Vic was in his late 30s and was still playing senior rugby for Waiuku, alongside his sharemilker Joe Hickey. Both of them had distinguished careers as administrators in the Counties province. I was invited to go back to the farm during the Christmas school holidays for a week. We maintained contact and would run into each other at rugby functions as my playing career gathered momentum. Vic went on to become both chairman and president of Counties and then went on to achieve the distinction of being elected as president of the NZRU. I, too, had that great honour bestowed upon me in 2011. Vic died a year or two ago and when I contacted Heather to pass on my condolences, she asked if I would speak at his funeral. I was honoured to be asked as I respected Vic a great deal. When I researched my speech, I found out that Vic and I shared some special things in common as well as our early contact. We had both played, coached and administered the game. We both had the honour of being elected president of the NZRU. But here's the crowning glory: I was able to tell the gathered congregation that we were both presidents when the All Blacks won their only two Rugby World Cups in 1987 and 2011.

The Roller Mills tournament has now been changed so that it takes place over a number of weekends, requiring teams to travel to various places for games with a finals day later in the season. The history and heritage of the tournament is being tampered with. Why fix it if it ain't broke?

Kind regards,

Bryan Williams
President
Barbarians RFC



WHAT'S ON IN 2014



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

Saturday August 23
All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm



Wednesday August 27
NZ Barbarians Area Schools v Harlequins,
Waikato Stadium, from 5pm

Thursday August 28
Tom Johnson's book launch, 6pm

Friday August 29
Northcote club night, from 4.30pm



Sunday August 31
Auckland v Tasman, 4.35pm



Friday September 5
College Rifles club night, from 4.30pm



*Continued on back page



Deaths Of Members

Allen Rogers (1921-2014)

Allen Rogers was the oldest Barbarian at the time of his death.

He was the club president (1974-75) when the club moved into The House that Jack Built, and also served as secretary, being a trained accountant. Rogers' playing days were in Wellington, where he played for the province out of the Hutt club, and for Auckland B out of the Grammar club as a side-row forward. He played a first-class game for the Barbarians in 1954. Highly respected and liked by all Barbarians who knew him, he is no relation of fellow Barbarian Frank Rogers.

Barry Bracewell (1929-2014)

Barry Bracewell was one of the great coaches in Counties rugby history.

It was his blueprint for the game as coach of Counties in two separate stints ending in 1975 that paved the way for the union to clinch the 1979 NPC, its first and last first division title. He was also a first-rate selector who had the foresight to switch Bruce Robertson and Peter Goldsmith to their rightful positions. Bracewell started out as a prop who played 26 games for Auckland out of the Marist club from 1950-54. A family man (having six children) with very strong values, Bracewell owned a construction business which he then sold to one of his sons.

Kevin Skinner (1927-2014)

Kevin Skinner was regarded by many as one of the finest All Blacks props over 63 games and 20 tests from 1949-56.

He played his rugby for Otago out of the Pirates club and for Counties out of the Waiuku club, and was the New Zealand heavyweight boxing champion in 1947, a fact which contributed strongly to his status as "a hard man." Skinner was famously recalled to the 1956 All Blacks who needed a more physical presence in the front-row against the Springboks.

Peter Devlin (1933-2014)

The extent of Peter Devlin's rugby-playing days was for his Christian Brothers' High School in Dunedin.

But he made his mark on the game through his rugby journalism and writing, both for the Otago Daily Times and the now defunct Auckland Star, and was made a Barbarian in his 60s. In his latter days, he could often be found at the regular Auckland University Rugby Club Thursday evening 'choir practice' along with fellow Barbarians Bob Burnes, Don Cameron and Bruce Gemmill.

Eric Anderson (1931-2014)

Eric Anderson played 10 games as a prop for the 1960 All Blacks to Australia and South Africa, but was mainly a lock for Bay of Plenty in 26 games from 1956-61.

One of the founders of the Wasps club in Bay of Plenty, Anderson was a BOP selector in the 1970s and coached the union to the inaugural NPC title in 1976. A meat buyer and farmer, Anderson was also president of the BOP union in 1993-94.

Peter Rowe is one of just two Barbarians based in Wanganui and one of just a clutch of club members who have not yet hung up the boots.

The 32-year-old may also be the youngest Barbarian, being a matter of months younger than Richie McCaw and more than two years younger than Keven Mealamu.

Rowe has racked up 89 games for Wanganui and is the heart and soul of the Heartland Championship union's pack. He is the quintessential openside who leads by example. On a wider stage, he has captained the national Heartland XV and twice won the Heartland player of the year gong.

Inducted as a Barbarian in his late 20s, Rowe was always aware of some of the club's history.



"My father and uncle knew Jack Bourke well. I grew up listening to all the stories about 'The House that Jack Built.' So it was a great honour when the invite came and I jumped on it," says Rowe, who adds that he would love to come up and sample the unique ambiance of our clubrooms in Auckland.

The sheep and beef farmer from Raetihi plays his club footy for Ruapehu, for whom he has won several Wanganui premier titles, not to mention three Meads Cups for his union. He gets busy towards the end of the rep season, when docking takes hold. There isn't a lot of time to indulge his pig-hunting passion, when he has the farm work, constant training and being a husband to Emma and father to three kids under the age of seven.

Rowe has his sights set on reaching a century of games for Wanganui, so he is not done just yet.

"I'm still enjoying it and fronting, so if the body holds out I'll see how it goes. You're a long time not playing!"

But he does reflect on what has been a fine career.

"It goes fast. I remember when I first came on the scene as one of the young fellas and then I slowly became one of the old fellas!"

Richard Hurn is the other Wanganui Barbarian. Rowe knows the Marton rugby stalwart. Bill Osborne, one of the greats of Wanganui rugby, is Wellington-domiciled.

FUN DAYS REVIEW

The club held two successful fun days in May-June.

The 25th annual primary schools fun day was on Sunday May 25 at the usual Ngataranga Bay venue, and again made possible with the generous sponsorship of Peter Thompson's Barfoot and Thompson company.

Wednesday June 18 saw the second annual Bay of Plenty fun day at Paengaroa. This again proved most popular and received some positive press in the local *Bay of Plenty Times* newspaper.



Barbarians at the annual fun day; from left: Kevin McQuoid, Kere Maihi, Ron Williams, Willie Los'e, Peter Goldsmith, Ken Parry.

NEW MEMBERS



The club has welcomed some 26 new members, all of them top rugby people who have served the game at many levels as either player, coach or administrator.

Pita Alatini: former All Blacks midfielder (17 tests from 1999-2001); played for Counties, Southland, Otago, Wellington, Crusaders, Chiefs, Highlanders, Hurricanes; coached Pakuranga to the 2013 Gallaher Shield

John Bell: former Counties second five (1992) out of the Ardmore club; coached Waiuku to the 2011 Counties premier club title and 2012-13 Counties B coach

Alex Bing: long-time administrator of schools rugby; master i/c of rugby at Auckland Grammar School; former MAGS First XV and Auckland Schools coach

Tom Coventry: former Waikato flanker; coached NZ Schools 2005-06; assistant coach of Hawke's Bay 2007-11, Manu Samoa RWC 2011 and Chiefs 2012-14

Stephen Donald: former All Blacks No 10 (23 tests from 2008-11); played for Counties Manukau, Waikato, Chiefs, Bath and now in Japan; main subject of *The Kick* movie

Terry Dunleavy: long-time servant of the game in Samoa, Hawke's Bay and Auckland; co-founder Friends of Eden Park and original member of Auckland RFU Supporters' Club

Fred Graham: former Maori All Black; played for North Auckland, Bay of Plenty, and Manawatu; coached at club and school levels for many years; talented sculptor, some of whose work adorns the club

Rick Johnston: former Auckland flanker (1982) out of the Marist club; coached and managed at Marist

John Kennedy: former Counties rep (51 games from 1980-86); his family has an extensive history in Counties rugby

Rod Ketels: former All Blacks prop (16 games, five tests from 1979-81); played 173 games for Counties; also NZ Colts, NZ Juniors and World XV

Lee Lidgard: former long-serving provincial and franchise prop with Counties (100 games), Highlanders, Chiefs, Blues and NZ Maori

Sean Lineen: former Counties midfielder (64 games from 1983-87); played 29 tests for Scotland and won the Grand Slam in 1990; coached Glasgow Warriors 2006-12; now coaches Scotland Under 20s and is head of player acquisition for SRU

Glen Marsh: joins twin brother Tony in the Barbarians; former Counties, NZ A, NZ Maori and Chiefs openside flanker; also played and coached at Japanese club NEC

David Mayhew: former Otago and North Harbour lock (1988-94) who was also an All Blacks trialist; has fulfilled several board member roles; joins brother John in the Barbarians

Murray Mexted: former All Blacks No 8 (72 games, 34 tests from 1979-85); played for Wellington and North Island; former TV comments man; founding director of IRANZ

Dylan Mika: former All Blacks (1999) and Manu Samoa (1994-95) loose forward; also played for Auckland, Blues and Chiefs; chief executive of Samoan Water

Scott Pierce: former North Harbour midfielder (1985-98) and All Blacks trialist who also played for North Harbour and New Zealand 7s; coached extensively in Japan

Kevin Putt: former Otago and Waikato halfback who played for the Springboks out of the Sharks; coached Counties Manukau and King's College First XV; now director of rugby at King's

Kieran Read: current All Blacks No 8 (62 tests); reigning Kel Tremain Memorial player of the year and IRB player of the year; 66th ABs test captain; plays for Crusaders and Canterbury; 2011 RWC winner

Dave Rennie: former Wellington and Cook Islands midfielder; coached Wellington to 2000 NPC title; coached Manawatu 2005-11; coached NZ Under 20s to three world titles 2008-10; coach of Chiefs 2012-14, including two titles

Jason Rutledge: former Highlanders hooker (59 games) and Southland rep (130 games); joins father Leicester in the Barbarians

Kurt Sherlock: former All Blacks second five (three games in 1985); also played for Auckland (1983-86) and North Island; played league for the Kiwis

Mike Smith: former North Auckland and Thames Valley prop; has coached club and school sides; current manager of NZ Barbarians Area Schools team

Greg Somerville: former All Blacks prop (66 tests from 2000-08); also played for Crusaders, Canterbury and Melbourne Rebels

Joeli Vidiri: former All Blacks wing (two tests in 1998); also played for Counties and Blues; still coaches at club and rep levels for Pukekohe and Counties Manukau

Brian Wilsher: long-time administrator for both Pakuranga club and Auckland union; member of ARU strategic committee

BIG GAMES FOR BAABAAS

The Barbarians were pleased to have two good fixtures, if not carrying first-class status, in the June window where Super Rugby was on a break.

In Whangarei, the Blues were given a stern first half test by the Barbarians, who scored a brilliant try. Trailing just 14-19 at the break, the Barbarians could not hold the franchise, eventually falling 48-21 in an entertaining spectacle.

In Invercargill seven days later, the Highlanders defeated the Barbarians 40-19 before close to 2000 at Rugby Park. Barbarian Leicester Rutledge acted as manager. Former All Blacks wing Rico Gear, now working for the Poverty Bay union, scored two of the three Baabaas tries. The match received good media coverage in the *Southland Times*.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/rugby/super-rugby/10168327/Rico-Gear-to-face-Highlanders-for-Barbarians>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/rugby/super-rugby/10184469/Tough-trial-for-Highlanders-against-Barbarians>



The NZ Barbarians team that played the Highlanders on June 20.

The Barbarians have rep teams appearing at schools level over the next seven weeks. The NZ Barbarians Area Schools, for whom the club is into its second year of sponsorship, faces the Harlequins in their annual clash on August 27 as curtainraiser to the Waikato-Taranaki ITM Cup clash.

The NZ Barbarians Schools, the second tier national schools team, have two big clashes against Australian and Fiji Schools on September 30 and October 4 in Porirua.

FACEBOOK

The club is keen to explore how it can make use of social media, and in particular Facebook. If any of the (younger and/or tech-savvy) members can assist with the setting up of a Barbarians club Facebook page, please contact either the secretary or newsletter editor Campbell Burnes. The latter can be reached at cmburnes@hotmail.com or 021-717-150.

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 John Cresswell 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.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

*We hope many of you have taken up the Mobil fuel card discount offering for all members, families, friends and businesses. The details were sent out with the May newsletter.

*Tom Johnson, one of our Hawke's Bay members, has penned

a fine book entitled *Legends in Black*. He has interviewed several key New Zealand rugby people on why the All Blacks win 76 percent of the time. The book launch will be held at the club on Thursday August 28 from 6pm. Stand by for further notice on how club members can obtain/purchase copies.

*Via the intermediary of former Manu Samoa liaison office in Scotland Dougie Lee, the club has been donated a Heriot's Rugby Club jersey, signed by the four Lions out of that club – Ken Scotland, Andy Irvine (a Barbarian) and Iain & Kenny Milne.

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

OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2014, and there are many of you out there, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club and is a **requirement** of membership. Thus far less than two-thirds of our members have paid their subs for 2014, a disappointing effort.

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 John Cresswell or Custodian on duty 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 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 or jmccresswell@extra.co.nz

Home number: 09-630-6425

WHAT'S ON IN 2014



Friday-Sunday September 5-7
National schools top 4 finals, Rotorua BHS

Saturday September 6
Auckland v Wellington, 2.35pm

Friday September 12
Bombay/Pukekohe club night, from 4.30pm

Saturday September 20
Auckland v North Harbour, 5.35pm

Tuesday September 30
NZ Barbarians Schools v Australian Schools, Porirua Park, 1.10pm

Thursday October 2
Auckland v Waikato, 7.35pm

Saturday October 4
NZ Barbarians Schools v Fiji Schools, Porirua Park, 1.10pm

Saturday October 11
Auckland v Northland, 7.35pm

Thursday October 23
Golf day with NZ Rugby Foundation, Akarana GC

Tuesday November 25
Club AGM

Friday December 5
Club Christmas night

NB. ITM Cup semifinals and finals will be held on the weekends of October 17-18 and October 24-25 respectively.

