



BAABAA NEWS

NOVEMBER 2012

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



Alan Whetton, with President Mike Mills, presents a NZ Barbarians Schools jersey to fullback Bram Egli of King's College in Auckland.
Photo: Terry Horne

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

It has been a very busy year for the club but I would first like to acknowledge the passing of two great Barbarians, our patron Jack Bourke, and Sir Wilson Whineray. They were great contributors to our club and will be sadly missed.

75th Jubilee dinner

I am sure everyone present would agree the 75th Jubilee was a great night. I would like to thank Phil Lindesay and the organising team for putting together a special evening. There were some great speeches from our rugby knights and plenty

of rugby comradeship and fellowship from all present.

NZ Barbarians Schools team

What a great side we had.

There are certainly several players from the team destined for higher honours. We beat Australian Schools 24-5 and Samoan Schools 70-6. The boys played with true Barbarian spirit and flair, were very well coached by Mark Vincent (St Bede's) and Dave Dillon (Sacred Heart) and managed by Darrin Armstrong (Waikato). A special thank you to Terry Horne for assisting the management in the first week and John Mills for his overall liaison work.

Middleweight tournament

The middleweight tournament was a big

success.

We had five provincial teams this year: Waikato, Wellington, Auckland, Thames Valley and North Harbour. The Wellington Centurions won the title for the first time and on their first visit. They are keen to return next year. Dave Syms and Cody Neilson from the ARU did a great job on the organisation and running of the tournament, supported by Dean Allnutt and Bryan Craies.

ITM Cup

Congratulations to Canterbury for winning its fifth title in a row.

The Cantabs were a real juggernaut in the latter part of the season. Maybe if the penalty try was given to Auckland at that crucial part of the final, the result may have been different. Well done to new club members

Wayne Pivac and Paul Feeney for restoring some real pride back in the Auckland team. Remember, in the August newsletter, I picked Counties as the surprise packages. Well done to the Counties Manukau union for a great return to top-line rugby.

Barbarians committee and sponsors

Successful clubs need a good committee.

I would like to thank all the committee members for the hard work everyone has put in in the last few months. It has been a very busy period and everyone has made an effort. Thank you.

Can I also thank all our sponsors, including Barfoot and Thompson, Glengarrys, the Four Winds Trust, and the North and South Trust.

Christmas Party

We decided it was time to have a Christmas party, with a special wine-tasting hosted by Glengarrys. Please bring your wives or partners on December 7 for some festive fun. Don't forget, too, the AGM on Tuesday November 27.

Summer well.

Kind regards,

Mike Mills

President, Barbarians RFC

WHAT'S ON IN 2012

Wednesday November 14

John Drake Memorial golf day, Hauraki GC, from 9.15am

Friday November 16

Jack Bourke Memorial evening, 6.00pm

Sunday November 25

Barbarians bowls day, Mangere BC

Contact Barry 'Bear' Thomas' on 09-636-7282

Tuesday November 27

76th BRFC AGM at clubrooms, 6.00pm

Friday December 7

Club Christmas function, 6.00pm

*The club Christmas function will be a chance to catch up with past members' wives, and will incorporate a wine-tasting evening, with a wide selection of product from Glengarry Wines.

DEATHS OF MEMBERS

Sir Wilson Whineray (1935-2012)

The second Barbarian rugby knight to pass away in 2012, Sir Wilson Whineray was, as the title of Bob Howitt's book suggests, *A Perfect Gentleman*.

Not just one of the finest All Blacks captains of all time, and racking up 32 tests and 77 matches in black, Whineray was also a captain of industry, and was knighted in 1998 for his services to sport and business. In 2007 he was inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame. The 1965 New Zealand Sportsman of the Year also enjoyed success coaching at club level after the last of his 240 first-class games. He was Barbarians President from 1976-77. There was a memorable moment outside 'The House that Jack Built' several years ago when Jonah Lomu helped change the tyre on Whineray's car.

Jack Bourke (1920-2012)

Jack Bourke was many things to many rugby people.

Barbarians life member and patron, his name was synonymous with the club's headquarters from 1973-2009 on Cricket Avenue, adjacent to Eden Park. He grew up in the Auckland suburb of Herne Bay, where he acquired the nickname 'Naughty Jack Bourke.'

He played six games at prop for Auckland from 1941-47 out of the Ponsonby club, alongside his brother George, before shifting to the North Shore, where he coached extensively at the North Shore club. Serving on the Barbarians committee, his dream was for the club to have a home base. With hard work and drawing on his resources and those of some of the committee, an HQ was established in 1973 which became known as 'The House that Jack Built'. He was given an unusual third year of presidency to see the club safely installed into its new premises. After Ron Bush's death in 1996, Bourke was elected patron, a position he jointly served for several years with his close friend Bob Sorenson. In his retirement, Bourke was based near Taupo where he indulged his love of fishing and became the unelected mayor of the small town of Kuratau.

The club is holding a memorial night this Friday (November 16) at the clubrooms.



Jack Bourke



Glenn Wahlstrom, Peter Thompson and Mike Mills at the jubilee dinner.

75TH YEAR JUBILEE

The club blew out 75 candles at a highly successful, popular 75th jubilee dinner at Eden Park on September 21 before more than 300 guests.

An ailing Sir Wilson Whineray was a notable absentee, but the other five rugby knights all spoke eloquently and with humour, while Willie Los'e MC'd the affair and former Wallaby Anthony Herbert provided the finishing touches with his brand of story-telling.

MIDDLEWEIGHT TOURNAMENT

Wellington, for the first time, won the Live Sport Radio Barbarians Middleweight (Under 85kg) tournament, held at the artificial turf at Auckland's College Rifles club on September 15-16.

The Wellington side, playing under the Centurions banner, won all four games, beating North Harbour 29-6 in the final. Third-placed Auckland suffered its first defeat in four years. Thames Valley was fourth

and Waikato fifth.

A tournament team of 22 was named, including seven from the victorious Centurions: Colin Faulkner, Ben Claxton, Steve Kitchener, Bobby Taivoni (all Auckland), Cam Larnder, Jesse Muir, Peter Stirrat, Texas Ngarongo-Porima, Hezekiah Bowlin (North Harbour), Curtis Hall, Cam Taylor (Thames Valley), Ben Speake, Simon Rea, Richard Burns, Jason Young (Waikato), Mike Wilson, Tony Natoli, Jared Hammington, David Rice, Corey Draper, Bill Drummond, Pat Houghton (Wellington Centurions).

A Bryan Craies Cup is to be inaugurated for competition between Auckland and North Harbour middleweight club sides in this burgeoning grade.

NZ BARBARIANS SCHOOLS



NZ Barbarians Schools hooker Ezekiel Sopoaga on the charge against Samoan Schools.

Photo: www.photosport.co.nz

SCHOOLS TOP 4 TOURNEY

In 2011, St Kentigern College won the Barbarians Shield for the nation's top co-ed First XV. In 2012, the charges of Tai Lavea and Josh Syms (son of Barbarian Dave Syms) won the national top four competition for the Barbarians Cup. On the back of an undefeated 20-match season, St Kent's won through to the final after repelling Hamilton BHS in the semi at Rotorua

October 6 saw the culmination of one of the busiest periods in recent Barbarians club history.

On that windy Saturday, we saw the first New Zealand Barbarians Schools side play its second match in a week. Decked out in the familiar scarlet jersey, this side did the club proud, winning both games convincingly, and adhering to the famed Barbarian style of rugby, whilst not neglecting the basics of the game.

In the space of just six days, coaches Mark Vincent and Dave Dillon moulded their 23-man squad into a fine unit, which took to Australian Schools, upsetting them 24-5 at Sacred Heart College. Those who were there would contend that the Barbarians could have put another 20 points on the tourists had their handling been more precise.

The following week, the Barbarians kept their discipline to hammer Samoan Schools 70-6 at Auckland Grammar School, scoring 12 tries to none in the process and unearthing several future stars, some of whom will surely be involved with the full New Zealand Schools squad in 2013.

A healthy smattering of Barbarians were on hand for both days to see their side go so well.

Full match reports of both games, penned by Campbell Burnes, are available at the Barbarians website:

www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/reports

BHS, and was then too good for the hitherto unbeaten Otago BHS 31-5 at home in Auckland. A large crowd, including many Barbarians, gathered to watch schoolboy rugby at its finest, and the east Auckland school was a thoroughly deserving winner.

The Barbarians Shield, for co-ed First XV competition, went to Auckland's Onehunga HS.

The Barbarians are proud to continue their association with schoolboys rugby, which now enjoys a very high profile after three seasons of Rugby Channel TV coverage.

address these challenges whilst maintaining the core values the NZ Barbarians are built on.

Thanks to many years of work by many Barbarian members, the club has a healthy asset base off which to leverage. 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 is now available to view via the members' link on the club website.

NEW MEMBERS

Wayne Pivac (North Harbour)

Auckland ITM Cup coach, former coach of Fiji (15s and 7s), Auckland (15s and 7s), Northland and North Harbour; former North Harbour loose forward

Lindsay Knight (North Harbour)

One of New Zealand's most prolific and respected rugby writers/historians; has authored or co-authored close to 30 rugby books; a staunch advocate of Ranfurly Shield and club rugby; played rugby up to Under 20 level in Christchurch

John Leslie (Otago)

Former Scotland, Highlanders, Otago and NZU midfielder; captained Otago to the 1998 NPC title; now manages rugby equipment supplies company Leslie Rugby

Slade McFarland (North Harbour)

Former North Harbour centurion, New Zealand Maori, Blues and Crusaders hooker; premier coach of East Coast Bays, for whom he had a senior career spanning 22 seasons

Warwick Taylor (Canterbury)

Former All Blacks and Canterbury second five; Canterbury RFU vice-president; PE teacher at Burnside HS; radio rugby comments man

Paul Feeney (North Harbour)

Former North Harbour and NZ Combined Services fullback/first five; has coached in Fiji, Poverty Bay, North Harbour, and Bay of Plenty; current Auckland ITM Cup assistant coach

Richard Turner (North Harbour)

Former All Blacks, Hawke's Bay and North Harbour No 8; also played in Italy and Japan; marketing manager for North Harbour RFU; TV rugby comments man

Grant Nolan (Counties Manukau)

Former Counties and NZ Emerging Players wing out of the Weymouth and Bombay clubs; has coached Ardmore and Karaka

Kere Maihi (Counties Manukau)

Former Counties and Manurewa prop; 289 games for Manurewa; has managed Manurewa Under 21s and helps run the club

Bernie Allen (Auckland)

Former Auckland forward out of the Ponsonby and Waitemata clubs; has served as an administrator on the boards of Auckland and North Harbour rugby, and coached at Massey RFC

Bob Oliphant (Auckland)

Former chairman of NZRFU JAB; former coach of New Zealand Under 17s (unbeaten v Australia); coached 35 All Blacks from Nicky Allen to Andrew Hore; life member of Auckland Primary Schools RFU and former Steelers selector

Nick White (Auckland)

Former Auckland, Northland, Blues and Crusaders prop; now Auckland ITM Cup assistant coach, specialising in set-pieces

Ean McRobbie (Counties Manukau)

Former Counties first five and centurion, North Island rep and multiple All Blacks trialist; toured with 1978 NZ Barbarians

Peter Corlett (Auckland)

Former Auckland midfielder; son of Buddy Corlett and Yvette Williams; extensive coaching record, especially at U21 level; top junior basketballer



Nine of the new members with some of the club management committee.

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



Over 30 years of Auckland coaches; from left: Nick White, Bryan Williams, Bryan Craies, Paul Feeney and Wayne Pivac.

MEMBER PROFILE TOM JOHNSON

Not to be confused with the current England and Exeter Chiefs flanker of the same name, Tom Johnson is the glue that binds those Barbarians based in Hawke's Bay.

There is not enough space to detail all of what Tom has accomplished in his 74 years, so we will stick mainly to his rugby.

A fine loose forward who many feel was unlucky to miss All Blacks selection, he turned out for four provinces – Counties, Waikato, Auckland and Hawke's Bay. His 84 games for the Magpies (1959-68) came during a golden era for that union, when it last held the Ranfurly Shield. Upon his playing retirement, Tom took up the coaching cudgels, assisting his old union in 1969 before a 12-year stint on the NZRFU board. In the 1970s he was inducted into the Barbarians club (he is also a member of the Hawke's Bay-based Saracens club) and was one of the drivers for the start of Golden Oldies rugby.

In 2010 he received the insignia of a Member of the Order of New Zealand Merit for services to rugby, a proud moment he describes as "humbling." Not one to be idle, up until recently he was lecturing in business studies at EIT, and has just completed a PhD, his thesis looking at All Blacks culture over the last 60 years, a "fascinating" project for which he interviewed several All Blacks captains. He loves being part of the Barbarians club – he is a great mate of Bryan Craies – and has high praise for our clubrooms: "It is the most magnificent facility. If they are not the best clubrooms in the world, then they must be pretty close!"

Tom is no relation of fellow Hawke's Bay Barbarian Michael Johnson, another loosie, though his eldest son is another Michael Johnson. With wife Judy, he has four sons in all, and nine grandchildren.



Photo: Hawkes Bay Today

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.

*Winter has seen plenty of visitors at the clubhouse enjoying the convivial surrounds. Dean 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 and website.

*Following in the footsteps of Bob Scott in 2011, our patron Bob Sorenson's 90th birthday was toasted at the clubhouse in September. It was remarked that Bob does not look a day over 75. John Mills made a warm tribute to Bob and presented him with a birthday cake.

*The club hosted a ARU junior awards function last month, at which Sir Colin Meads, who was in the middle of the wake for his old All Blacks skipper, gave an impromptu speech to the young lads. They were apparently buzzing at Pinetree's address.

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, and there are still too many of you out there, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club.

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 (09-846-7241 or sec@brfc.co.nz) 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
jmccresswell@extra.co.nz
Home number: 09-630-6425

FIXTURES: EDEN PARK

Test matches 2013 Steinlager Series

Saturday June 8
All Blacks v France, 7.35pm

The Rugby Championship/ Bledisloe Cup

Saturday September 14
All Blacks v South Africa, 7.35pm

Super Rugby 2013

*At the time of print, the home venues for the New Zealand franchises had not been finalised, but the Friday March 1 fixture between the Blues and Crusaders should be at Eden Park. The Blues, now coached by Barbarian Sir John Kirwan, have eight home matches, the last on Saturday July 13 against the Chiefs.



The inaugural NZ Barbarians Schools squad and management.