



BAABAA NEWS

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



The bustling style of Scots College midfielder Thomas Umaga-Jensen was a feature of the Barbarians-sponsored Top 4 schools tournament in September.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

We have certainly had a busy time in the past few months.

We played in three matches in June. On Queen's Birthday weekend, we put out an over-35 team against a Ponsonby Invitation XV to celebrate that club's 140th jubilee. A fortnight later, we put out a team to take on the Blues in Whangarei. The team was largely comprised of players and coaching and management staff from Northland. And a week after that we put out a South Island-based team against the Highlanders in Invercargill. One of our Southland-based members, Leicester Rutledge, capably managed that team. All of these games upheld the club's traditions of enterprising rugby and good sportsmanship.

In August, we were involved in organising a reunion of the 1960s All Blacks and Wallabies. It was wonderful to see Wallabies like Dick Marks, Peter Johnson, Jules Guerassimoff, David Crombie (Australian President) and mates alongside Sir Colin Meads, Ian MacRae (NZRU President), Keith Nelson, Chris Laidlaw, Earle Kirton and mates. The club hosted a number of functions for the reunion.

In September and October, we were involved in our secondary school programme. We supported the NZ Area Schools team, which played against a Harlequins selection team as curtainraiser to an ITM Cup game. Those players are from far-flung country areas of New Zealand. They expressed their delight and gratitude to our club for giving them an experience of a lifetime. In early September, we sponsored the Top 4 schools and co-ed schools championship in Rotorua. The tournament culminated in a great final between Scots College of Wellington and Hamilton Boys' High, which produced a 26-26 stalemate and a shared title.

In early October, the secondary schools international tournament took

place at Porirua Park in Wellington. We were very well represented by the NZ Barbarians Schools team, which opened its account with a convincing win over Australian Schools and then defeated Fiji narrowly on the final day. This team displayed a lot of talent and the players and management expressed their delight at being given this opportunity to play at this level. Instead of just having 24 players and one coaching and management team involved in the NZ Schools team, our sponsorship allows another 24 players and coach and management team to gain international exposure as well. In late October, we organised a golf tournament alongside the NZ Rugby Foundation with all proceeds going to the foundation. A great day resulted in about \$20,000 being raised to support our severely injured rugby family members, who will spend the rest of their lives in a wheelchair. Thanks particularly to Ben Sturmfels (Jarmo) and golf professional Marcus Wheelhouse and his wife, our member Melodie Robinson (who MCD the after-match prizegiving).

All this activity requires a lot of work behind the scenes. Thank you to our committee for all your hard work. To our sponsor, Barfoot and Thompson, thank you sincerely for supporting our initiatives, particularly the fun days and the Northland game. To the community trusts listed elsewhere in the newsletter, thank you sincerely. I would particularly like to thank two people. Firstly, our hardworking and efficient secretary, John Cresswell, for his invaluable work to assist all of these initiatives. John has indicated his intention to retire from the role at the end of this year. A huge thank you, John, for your dedicated service to the club. Secondly, to mine host Dean Paddy, who goes way beyond the call of duty to make all our members and visitors so welcome at the club. These two epitomise what being a Barbarian is all about.

Cheers,
Bryan Williams
President
Barbarians RFC





Deaths Of Members

Kevin Barry (1936-2014)

Kevin Barry was more than just a great man of rugby.

He was a great man and all of the many who attended his large funeral would concur.

The following is a transcript of the eulogy delivered at his funeral by one of his sons and fellow Barbarian, Mike Barry. It is worth reproducing in full, with thanks to Mike.

KE Barry and his rugby philosophy

To Kevin Barry, the game of rugby was all about life and through the playing of this great game, the development of one's character. It was never about ability, rep teams or higher honours. It was about how the solid values of a team sport could mould and develop a person: self-discipline, co-operation, loyalty, modesty, selflessness, friendship, dignity, leadership, respect, courtesy and courage. These were qualities Dad possessed in abundance and that he developed in everyone who was fortunate enough to be coached or taught by KE Barry.

Those values would materialise into a series of simple instructions:

Never swear on the field or at training.

Never gloat.

Forwards don't kick.

There's no room for show-offs, nor any room for bangles, earrings, necklaces, coloured boots or silly hair-dos.

Forwards don't kick.

The referee is to be addressed as Sir, and don't you ever talk back.

You may smile, pat your mate on the back after a try, but never a fist-pump or a melodramatic display of excitement.

Never sulk.

If you ever play away from home, always be polite and take flowers for the ladies in the kitchen.

Don't be late.

There's no place for high-fives. Shake a man's hand firmly and look him in the eye.

Forwards don't kick.

The team always come first and you are a very distant second

And if I'm talking, don't fidget, listen.

Barry was the son of an All Black – Ned – and the father of an All Black – Liam. His provincial days are best remembered for the fact he played for three provinces – Auckland, Counties and Thames Valley. For the latter, he was part of the greatest day in that small union's history, when in 1962 it beat Australia in Te Aroha. A loose forward/lock, Barry played 23 matches for the All Blacks from 1962-64, firstly out of the Paeroa West club, but with no tests.

A proud and active Barbarian who taught at Rosmini College (though his schooling was at Sacred Heart), Barry was president of the club from 1986-87, and he was the manager of the famous 1987 touring side to the UK, who wowed the crowds with their open, Barbarian rugby.



All Black, scrum coach, TV pundit, builder, real estate agent, pig hunter, artist, father and husband.

Such are the many strings to the Kees Meeuws bow. The 40-year-old former All Blacks prop, who played 42 tests from 1998-2004 and scored no less than 10 tries, was made a Barbarian just last year, but was very proud to receive his letter of nomination, and swift to accept.

"I played a few games for the Barbarians early in my career. What I like is how the club gives back to the community. In Auckland, those Barbarians-schools games gave back to the grassroots," says Meeuws, who is gearing up to head to Bermuda with the Classic All Blacks.

A qualified builder, Meeuws has now entered the real estate world with Metro Realty in Dunedin. He knows what to look for in houses and can advise vendors on what work they should be doing.

Rugby, after 20 years when it has been a large chunk of his life, is going on hold, while he sinks his teeth into his new line of work. Four of his six children live in Dunedin with he and his wife Juanita.



He says he would like to perhaps coach again, at either club or ITM Cup level, one day. He has been scrum coach with Otago and the Highlanders, helping his old mate Tony Brown out with the former.

"I need to take a step back from rugby. I need to just enjoy watching rugby for awhile."

That means keeping tabs on his old French club Castres, who won the Top 14 last year, and following his Southern club, Otago, the Highlanders, Auckland, the Blues and, of course, the All Blacks. If pressed, he says Otago and Auckland are his favourite teams, but when they play each other, he roots for the underdog, invariably Otago.

He thoroughly enjoyed his time as a scrum coach, not to mention talking rugby on the box, but he had to suck it in when hanging the boots up.

"I could have carried on, but we had a lack of front-rowers in Otago and I thought I would be holding up younger guys."

After several seasons in France (and Llanelli) after his All Blacks days, there is little Meeuws does not know or has not seen in the dark place that is the front-row.

"I couldn't implement too many of them in New Zealand or I'd get sent off!" he quips.

One of 10 Otago-based Barbarians, Meeuws still runs into several of them around the traps, including old colleagues Adrian Cashmore and good mate John Leslie, along with coach of the victorious 1998 Otago NPC side, Tony Gilbert.

"Rugby is a small world and even smaller in Dunedin, so we always bump into each other," says Meeuws.

TOP 4 TOURNAMENT

As your President Bryan Williams has alluded to, the annual Top 4 schools tournament in Rotorua went off again with a bang in September, some sparkling rugby matched by the weather.

The big winners were: Scots College of Wellington and defending champion Hamilton Boys' High, who shared the Barbarians Cup with a 26-all draw in the final. Two days earlier, Scots had won the Moascar Cup off Auckland Grammar in superb style in the semifinal; and Feilding High, who beat Cambridge High 43-10 to win the co-ed title and the Barbarians Trophy.

Full a full report of the weekend, check out:

<http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/secondaryschools.html>

NZ BARBARIANS SCHOOLS

October was international schools rugby time.

The NZ Barbarians Schools team, in its third year of existence, again showed its class with two wins from two, taking the record to 5-0 since 2012.

In Porirua, the Darren Larsen-coached side beat Australian Schools, as they did in 2012, 39-21 with some fine tries, and then backed it up four days later with a 22-16 defeat of Fiji Schools.

For a full report of the international schools games, check out: <http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/national.html>

NZ BARBARIANS AREA SCHOOLS



The Barbarians, for the second year, sponsored the NZ Barbarians Area Schools side, for those promising players who appear in rural areas provinces and therefore not in the big First XV competitions.

Four players returned from the 2013 side, and there were 10 provinces represented in this unique group. The squad was chosen after July's annual area schools tournament, held in Nelson, and won by the home Top of the South region.

On August 27, the side played the curtainraiser to the Waikato-Taranaki ITM Cup match at Waikato Stadium, wearing for the first time the Barbarians scarlet strip. But up against a slick, well-drilled Waikato Harlequins unit, all of whom had played at a higher level of rugby, the side went down 68-0, somewhat of a reverse from last season's 12-6 victory.

The NZ Barbarians Schools side was coached again by Bob Telfer and managed by new Barbarian Mike Smith with help from Marie Relph.

The squad was: Uto Tuipulotu (Akaroa Area School, Canterbury), Kieva Littlejohn (Collingwood Area School,

Tasman), Tyler Relph (Mercury Bay Area School, Thames Valley), Keegan Grey (Amuri Area School, Canterbury, c), Barlow Wakefield (Amuri Area School, Canterbury) Te Ahiwaru Cirikidaveta (Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Kawakawa mai Tawhiti, East Coast), Brendon James (Karamea Area School, Buller), Jonathan Nokolaison (Cheviot Area School, Canterbury), JJ Parr (Mercury Bay Area School, Thames Valley), Will Shmetz (South Westland Area School, West Coast), Tama Karewha (Broadwood Area School, Northland), Maui Hakaraia-Pourini (Mercury Bay Area School, Thames Valley), Fabyan Kahaki (Ngata Memorial College, East Coast), Rayven Son Betham Ngapo (Te Wharekura o Manaia, Thames Valley), Charles Ngamoki (Te Whanau-a-Apanui Area School, Bay of Plenty), Jimmy Clarke (Whangamata Area School, Thames Valley), Rhys Middleton (Whangamata Area School, Thames Valley), Jachai Graham (Patea Area School, Taranaki), Matthew Hickey (Amuri Area School, Canterbury), Sam Rendel (Amuri Area School, Canterbury), Josh Brittenden (Akaroa Area School, Canterbury), Gaige Rouse (Onewhero Area School, Counties Manukau).



Photo: courtesy of Marie Relph.

The NZ Barbarians Area schools side, resplendent in their club jerseys, after their match against the Harlequins at Waikato Stadium in August.

BOOK REVIEW

On August 28, the Barbarians clubrooms played host to a book launch for the first time.

Our esteemed member from Hawke's Bay, Tom Johnson, has penned a fine book, entitled Legends in Black: New Zealand Rugby Greats on Why We Win.

Those who were present bought their copies, which were duly signed by Tom, who has been a galvanising force for our Hawke's Bay members.

In the book, which received wide media coverage, Tom interviewed 11 big names of New Zealand rugby, all of them, it should be noted, Barbarians: Sir John Graham, Sir Colin Meads, Sir Brian Lochore, Sir Graham Henry, Ian Kirkpatrick, Andy Haden, Andy Dalton, Wayne 'Buck' Shelford, John Hart, Laurie Mains and Wayne Smith.

The individual chapters dealt with various issues pertaining to the All Blacks, such as rites and rituals, values and beliefs, leadership, political influence, society and culture, professionalism and the future. Wayne Smith's chapter, in particular, was most enlightening, from a man whose playing days were in the amateur era and

whose distinguished coaching career has come during the professional landscape, not to mention a long involvement with the All Blacks in at least four different capacities.

Published by Penguin, this would be a tremendous addition to your rugby library and should be essential reading for anyone who follows the game (and the All Blacks) closely and has an interest in its history.

Tom Johnson's work is not the only book that has been put out by a Barbarian in 2014. Robbie Deans has released his story – Red, Black and Gold – penned by Matt McIlraith.



Andy Haden, Tom Johnson, Ken Parry and Ron Williams at the August book launch.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

**Congratulations to Wanganui member Peter Rowe who, in his 99th match for the union, led them to a 14-12 Lochore Cup victory over North Otago in the final in Oamaru. Rowe, who we profiled in our August newsletter, was also named again in the New Zealand Heartland XV, meaning he is one of the best amateur players in the country.*

**Congratulations too to our President Bryan Williams, who was last month honoured with the Ash Edwards Memorial Trophy for his long and dedicated contribution to Auckland rugby.*

**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 and are also online in the news section of the website.*

**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.*

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.

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 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 jmcresswell@xtra.co.nz
Home number: 09-630-6425

WHAT'S ON IN 2014



Thursday November 13
John Drake Memorial Golf Day, Hauraki Golf Club, from 9.30am

Friday November 21
Memorial night for Sir Wilson Whineray and Kevin Skinner, 6pm

Tuesday November 25
Club AGM, 6pm



Friday December 5
Club Christmas night, 6pm

*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of 2015 functions/events.

Super Rugby kicks off on February 13, but due to the ICC Cricket World Cup, the first match at Eden Park will not be until Friday April 10, Blues v Brumbies. The NRL Nines will be played at Eden Park on January 31-February 1.