

BAABAA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club Inc.
Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand.

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Our Barbarians Under 21s that flew the flag in Taupo during March.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



It's been all hands on deck for the club in the last couple of months. There's been so much happening, but we're really fortunate to have so many good people around us to make it all work.

Craig Carter helped facilitate the Barbarians match against the Manurewa HS First XV. We'd like to see more of these games around the region, as we did back in the day. The number of kids who stayed after school to watch this game was something to behold. One of the teachers told me that this fixture helped boost the numbers of those wanting to play First XV at the school. So that was very worthwhile.

The Barbarians played a Ponsonby Jubilee XV to help that great club celebrate its 150 years. I said in my after-match speech that it was good to beat five Ponies' teams – they had so many players! Very rare for Ponies to lose five times in a day. But the match was played in great spirit, as befitting the occasion. I lasted about 40 minutes before the old shoulder popped out, as it does.

Our Under 21s did us proud at the Super Rugby U20 tournament in Taupo in March. They won one game, could have been two, and Kenny Addison and Mark Hooper did a top job with a tight lead-in. We continue to try and give pathways to promising young players. We get some really good feedback around how some even want to play for us rather than some of the other franchise teams.

We had a very successful Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day in March. We would like it recorded that the team of the President and Madame Secretary beat Peter Tubberty's team. 'Tubbs' is a legend in bowls and a big driver of this event. We took a photo of the score for posterity!

We welcomed a clutch of new members to the club a few weeks ago. That's always a highlight of the calendar. We encourage these new members to come up to the club. It's your club and clubrooms. From my role as a custodian, I often emphasise, 'Don't be shy.' Even I was shellshocked when I was first made a member, but people like Sir 'Beegee' Williams and others encouraged me to come and use it. We have already seen new Baabaas come up with their family since the induction. They love it. Hopefully some will put their hands up for events like the Fun Day.

Speaking of which, that has come around very fast, this Sunday (May 19) at Bruce Pulman Park. Rick Johnston and Regina Sheck have done a fantastic job running the cutter. The Blues will be along. There are 26-28 teams, which is up from last year. Being my Ardmore-Marist club, I have connected all my Colts players to step up as referees. They had a taste of the Baabaas when they visited us for the Blues-Crusaders match.

The Blues are travelling well, so we expect to see a lot of members over the next month. Further on the horizon, we have two good Tests against England and Argentina, so heaps to look forward to at the club.

Craig Glendinning
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

'Rocky' Patterson (1942-2024)

Rocky Patterson, who was made a Barbarian in 1999, was a fine wing for the great Auckland team of the 1960s, scoring 45 tries in 77 games for the blue and whites from 1962-69.

He was also a New Zealand Colt and All Blacks trialist. In all, he ran in 55 tries in 89 first-class games. Rocky played his club rugby for Otahuhu during its greatest era and won several Gallaher Shields alongside the likes of Waka Nathan and Mackie Herewini.

Those of a slightly younger vintage will recall Rocky on radio during the 1980s-90s calling Auckland games at Eden Park through another great Ranfurly Shield era, often with John Graham as his comments man. He was a versatile broadcaster, and brought passion and colour to his tennis calling too.

His service to the game continued as the chief executive of the NZ Rugby Foundation from 1990-2007. In 2007, he was recognised for services to rugby and sports journalism with an MNZM, Member of the NZ Order of Merit.

Rocky lived in Cambridge in later life, where he lived out another of his passions, horse racing, as the stable foreman for Ritchie Racing.

Don Hewitt (1937-2024)

Don Hewitt was a 'fast and lively' flanker for North Auckland, as it was then known, from 1959-70 out of the High School Old Boys club.

His 121 games (yielding 15 tries) for the province has been bettered by just eight players. He was the union's second centurion and also appeared in five All Blacks trials from 1961-65. Out of Whangarei BHS, Don was also a talented rower, basketballer and athlete. He was a chartered accountant.

Brian Clarke (1936-2024)

Brian Clarke was one of 'the famous five' Clarke brothers who all played for the Kereone club and the Waikato union in the 1950s and '60s.

Graeme is now the sole survivor of that quintet. Brian was a fine lock/loose forward in 70 games for Waikato from 1960-66, scoring seven tries. He joined the NZ Barbarians club in 1999, but was a real stalwart of the Kereone club, for whom he was a life member and patron, as he was for the NZ Harlequins club. He was also a mentor for the Waikato NPC side in the 1990s, and played a small part in the famous 1992 triumph.

A farmer, like most of his family, Brian coached the Kereone seniors for several years.

Neil Thimbleby (1939-2024)

Neil Thimbleby was All Blacks number 684, playing 13 games, including one Test, on the 1970 tour of South Africa, as a hard-nosed prop.

But it was in the black and white hoops of Hawke's Bay that he made his name, scoring nine tries in 158 matches for the Magpies from 1959-71 out of the Taupo, Hastings HSOB, Napier Marist and Hastings Celtic clubs. That appearance tally remains a record for the Hawke's Bay province. He was omnipresent in the union's second great Ranfurly Shield era, from 1966-69, playing every minute of all 22 matches, often alongside some of the Magpie mainstays such as Kel Tremain, Bill Davis, Ian MacRae and Blair Furlong.

A gentleman and natural raconteur, Neil coached Hawke's Bay from 1979-81 and was later patron of the union.

Trevor Wynyard (1931-2024)

Long-time Barbarian Trevor Wynyard played 13 games as a five-eighths for Auckland out of the North Shore club from 1952-60, scoring four tries, plus another six first-class games for Auckland B.

Described by one rugby scribe as a "battle-scarred warrior," Trevor also kept in regular touch with his old schoolmates from the famous 1948-49 New Plymouth BHS First XV.

He was a proud Kerikeri-domiciled Barbarian who was cremated with a rugby ball and Barbarians jersey. There was no funeral but there will be a huge remembrance party where his ashes will be on a table alongside an old photo and huge scrap book, very yellow and well-leafed, full of news about his life.

WHAT'S ON IN 2024



Saturday May 18

Blues v Highlanders

7.05pm



Sunday May 19

Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park,

9am



Saturday June 1

Blues v Chiefs

7.05pm



Saturday July 13

All Blacks v England,

7.05pm



Saturday July 27

Gallaher Shield club final,

3pm



Friday August 9

NPC: Auckland v Wellington,

7.35pm



Saturday August 17

All Blacks v Argentina,

7.05pm



Saturday August 24

NPC: Auckland v Canterbury

4.35pm



September 6-8

Top 4 First XV tourney,

Palmerston North

TOP 4
1st XV



Saturday September 7

NPC: Auckland v

North Harbour, 2.05pm



Tuesday September 10

NZ Barbarians Area Schools

v Rangiora HS First XV



Saturday September 14

NZ Barbarians Area Schools

v Waitaha Under 18s



Sunday September 22

NPC: Auckland v Southland,

2.05pm



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2024 functions/events.



15 of the 21 new members on induction day in March.

NEW MEMBERS



Ben Afeaki: All Blacks #1119, 2013; also played for Maori All Blacks, Chiefs, North Harbour and NZ U20s; long coaching CV, now head coach of North Harbour

Greg Aldous: Former NZ Barbarians U21s coach; former Counties Manukau and Auckland B coach; coached Waitemata to 2003 Gallaher Shield; coached various North Harbour age grades and in USA and Japan; current Waitemata club manager

Kevin Boyle: Former hooker for Marist (over 300 senior games) and Auckland (54 games); coached extensively at Marist; said to have taught Sean Fitzpatrick how to throw the ball into the lineout!

Gary Bulog: Life member of Waitemata club; former chairman and President of club; current GM privacy commissioner

Jason Chandler: Former lock for Blues, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, Northampton and Ponsonby; now serves on Blues Alumni Advisory Board, Blues Charitable Trust and Blues Family Foundation

Dennis (Garry) Collier: Current chairman of Manurewa club; helped out with 2023 NZ Barbarians U18 girls; played for Manukau club, Victoria, Powerhouse club (Melbourne), North Shore, Pakuranga Presidents and Boroughmuir (Scotland)

Vanessa Cootes: Former Black Ferns wing 1995-2002 out of Waikato; 2x RWC champion; scored record nine tries v France 1996; long coaching CV including taking Taupiri to unbeaten 2023 season

Ron Cribb: All Black #994, 2000-01; also played for Maori All Blacks, Crusaders, North Harbour and Kobe Steelers; was on 2020 Match Fit TV show

Dave Dillon: Current Highlanders assistant coach; 2018-22 head coach Kobe Steelers; former NZ Barbarians U18s and NZ Barbarians v Heartland XV coach; former Thames Valley, Bay of Plenty and Waikato loose forward; former Sacred Heart College First XV coach; former Chiefs talent ID manager

Mike Elliott: Sport Auckland chief executive; refereed 13 fc games and over 150 premier club games in Auckland; now ARRA referees selector/coach; former Auckland RFU referees manager

Michael Fatialofa: Former Hurricanes, Southland, Auckland, Worcester and NZ Schools lock; captained MAGS to 2010 Auckland 1A and National Top 4 titles; made miraculous recovery from serious neck injury

James Iversen: Long-time All Blacks logistics manager; match manager 2011 RWC at NH Stadium and Okara Park; former NH player development manager

Brett Kingstone: Chair of Auckland SS Rugby executive; current teacher at St Peter's College; long history of coaching success at Kelston BHS, MAGS and SPC in both sevens and 15s, including winning four Condors national 7s titles

Bruce Mitchinson: Life member of East Coast Bays club; manager of NZ Barbarians Blues Cup side 2022; long-time involvement in both club and union level in NH; lock for Wairarapa-Bush 1978; grandfather, father and brother all played fc rugby; also played in Whanganui, Waikato, Wellington and Hawke's Bay

Darren Shand (ONZM): All Blacks manager 2004-23; former Crusaders and Canterbury manager; former NZU23 hockey rep

Ben Sherriff: Assistant manager of 2024 NZ Barbarians U21s and NZ Barbarians v Heartland XV 2021; current King Country Rams team manager; played in Manawatu and Poverty Bay

Peter Snedden: Played over 200 games for Auckland Marist seniors; Auckland B rep; helped set up North Harbour Marist club, where he's now a life member; coached at both NH and Auckland Marist

Karina Stowers (née Penetito): Former Black Ferns hooker 2005-13; 2x RWC champion; played for Marist and Auckland Storm; current coach of Auckland Girls' Grammar First XV; wife of new member Sherwin Stowers

Sherwin Stowers: Head of sport at Auckland's Holy Cross School; former NZ Sevens rep out of Counties Manukau and Ardmore-Marist club; also played for Blues; husband of new member Karina Stowers

Bill Wigglesworth: Former North Harbour No 8; played 167 premier games for East Coast Bays club; former NH Hibiscus women and ECB coach; former North Harbour RFU head of rugby engagement and participation; current NZR junior and youth participation lead

Simon Williamson (MNZM): Life member and current President of Northcote club; lifetime as player/coach/administrator; currently with NZ Customs Service

BARBAAS RUGBY REVIEW



As your President alluded to in his missive, the scarlet jersey of the Barbarians was very visible during March and April, with successful matches at Manurewa HS against the First XV and at Ponsonby to help that great club toast 150 years.

There was further TV exposure with our Under 21s playing in the annual Super Rugby Under 20 tournament in Taupo. Coaches Kenny Addison and Mark Hooper did another top job with short lead-in prep. The Barbarians placed seventh of eight, losing 43-22 to the Chiefs and 29-27 to the Fijian Drua before beating Moana Pasifika 36-15 on the final day. The side was very competitive for large periods of both defeats, and could well have taken the Drua clash.

Standouts were first five and vice-captain Jade Stewart, captain and openside Lucas Casey, No 8 and vice-captain Semisi Tupou Taeloa, halfback Cole Benson and tighthead prop Joel Lauvale. Conditions were variable but the team sought to play in the usual Barbarians' expansive style as much as possible.



Monalisa Codling, Peter Tubberty and Craig Glendinning after a hard-fought match at the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day.



Ron Cribb, left, and your President on induction day.



Two of Ardmore-Marist's finest, new member Sherwin Stowers with your President.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



***We congratulate Phil Gifford, who was honoured in the New Year's honours with an ONZM (Order of New Zealand Merit) for his 60 years of service to broadcasting and New Zealand sports journalism. Well deserved, Phil, one of several Barbarian rugby writers, historians and media people.**

***The Barbarians club is now on social media, via Facebook www.facebook.com/NZBarbarianRugby and Instagram www.instagram.com/nzbarbarianrugby so you can more swiftly keep up with all the club news. The website has a new look too.**

***The newsletter editor is also the editor of iconic monthly magazine Rugby News.**

There's plenty of provincial, sevens, grassroots and women's coverage in there to sink your teeth into, as well as All Blacks and Super Rugby content. The May issue is out now. Rugby News is available at all good magazine retailers and supermarkets or you can subscribe by calling 0800-77-77-10 or visit www.rugbynews.co.nz

***The 2024 subs notices were sent out several months ago. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a requirement of membership.**

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 Monalisa Codling 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. If you are moving or changing your email or contact number, please email secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz

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 Monalisa Codling 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 club secretary Monalisa Codling, who is at times based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

Monalisa's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

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Email addresses:

secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz or monalisa.urquhart@gmail.com



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