

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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Your successful NZ Barbarians team that won a first-class fixture in Whanganui earlier this month.

Photo: Shoosh Creatives

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



The past few weeks and months have been as busy as I can remember for our club, both on and off the field.

Shout out to our coaches and management who guided the NZ Barbarians to a decent win over the NZ Heartland XV in Whanganui earlier this month. Milton Haig, Dion Waller and Ben Sherriff headed up a very good staff and tremendous to see the likes of Pete White, Craig Carter and the tireless Trina Seits on hand to fly the club flag down there.

We've put out several teams in recent times in our trademark jerseys. I travelled down to Canterbury in September to see our Area Schools team in action. It's such a great concept and that was a season highlight. Ron Williams has spearheaded our involvement in this important youth rep side. Our Under 18 boys played last month in Hamilton against Australia and Samoa Schools, and the week went well. Our Under 18 girls, under the coaching of committee member Anna Richards and the management of secretary Monalisa Codling, had a successful week with their group, culminating in a good win over the Maori Under 18s. That is the second year for this team, and is an important step on the pathway for some of these talented young girls. Everything just clicked, and everyone pitched in to make it a success. Some players will be sighted in our Global Youth Sevens team next month and some filtered through to last month's Under 20s development camp.

Further to pathways, how good is it to see the likes of Josh Jacomb play for the All Blacks XV? Just three years ago, he was in our Barbarians

under the coaching of Warren Gatland that faced the Heartland XV in Taupo. Others to rise swiftly from being noticed in our colours are lock Tahlor Cahill, who was in our Under 20s in 2022 and is now a Crusader, while No 8 Nikora Broughton, in that same team under Steve Jackson, has been in top form in the NPC for Bay of Plenty and is in the Highlanders. I always tell people, too, it's not just our players, but our coaches and managers who get a chance to shine.

The two big Baabaas events coming up are our AGM on Wednesday November 27 at 6pm and the annual Christmas party, from 4pm on Friday December 6. Let's get along in numbers. We have a new band for the party and I'm told they'll play a nice musical mix from back in the day and some of today's hits.

My two-year term as your President draws to a close at the AGM. I have thoroughly enjoyed the privilege and opportunity, though I probably didn't quite understand the time commitment involved! It's tough to balance it all, and fly the flag every time we hold a club event, while coaching, working and finding time for family. But it's been satisfying and I tip my hat to our outstanding, industrious committee for helping make it all work. They just keep putting their hands up.

Craig Glendinning
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

'Sir 'Tony' O'Reilly (1936-2024)

Sir Anthony 'Tony' O'Reilly was one of the great Ireland and Lions wings, and made a huge impression on the 1959 Lions tour of New Zealand, where he scored 17 tries, a record at the time, on the end of an often brilliant backline.

This was his second Lions tour. He was just a teenager when he went to South Africa in 1955. His 37 Lions tries are unmatched and superseded his output in 29 Tests for Ireland from 1955-70 out of the Old Belvedere club and the Leinster province. Furthermore, he made at least 30 first-class appearances for the UK Barbarians club.

Tony cut a dashing and charismatic figure both on and off the field. He won wider fame as a businessman, his company Independent News and Media owning the New Zealand Herald from 1996-2008, and he was the chairman of Heinz, among many other positions.

In recent years, Tony, who was knighted in 2001 for services to Northern Ireland, lived in France and the USA.

Fife McGuigan (1926-2024)

Fife McGuigan was one of our oldest members, at 97, and had been a Barbarian since 1968.

He was a rarity in first-class rugby in that he appeared for five different provinces and seven clubs during his career as a lock/loose forward. His work in the NZ Forest Service took him to Bay of Plenty, which he represented in 1946 (out of the Rangiora club), 1948 (out of Rotorua HSOB) and 1953 (out of Pukehina), Canterbury in 1947 (out of the Christchurch club), King Country in 1949 (out of Waitete), Auckland from 1950-52 and 1954 (out of Ponsonby), and Wanganui (out of Kaierau) in 1955-56.

In 1954, he lived in Rotorua but would drive a truckload of timber up to Auckland on Friday nights, then play for his Ponies club the next day before heading back home.

He also appeared for the NZ Barbarians in 1954, the North Island in 1950-51 and was an All Blacks trialist in 1948, '51 and '56.

In all, Fife scored 12 tries in 66 first-class games.

FUN DAY REVIEW

It seems a while back now, but the club put on another very successful annual Fun Day, the 35th by my count, at Bruce Pulman Park back in May.

Team numbers were around 30, so we are getting back to the pre-Covid levels and, as you can see by the photos, there was fun action across the fields from all the primary school kids who took part.

Thanks to Rick Johnston and Regina Sheck for driving this, the Blues for pressing the flesh and signing autographs, and some of the Ardmore-Marist club Colts who helped on the day with refereeing and other duties.

Special thanks, as ever, to Peter (and Fiona) Thompson and Barfoot & Thompson for all they do towards making this day happen.

WHAT'S ON IN 2024-25



Wednesday November 27
Club AGM, 6pm



Friday December 6
Club Xmas party, 4pm



December 13-15
Global Youth Sevens
Dilworth School, Auckland
9am-5.30pm daily

GLOBAL YOUTH
SEVENS

Saturday February 15
Blues v Chiefs
7.05pm



Friday March 7
Blues v Brumbies
7.05pm



Saturday March 22
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm



Saturday April 5
Blues v Hurricanes
7.05pm



Saturday April 12
Blues v Moana Pasifika
4.35pm



Friday May 2
Blues v Western Force
7.05pm



Saturday May 31
Blues v Waratahs
7.05pm



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2024-25 functions/events.



All the kids enjoyed the footy at the Fun Day.



Gibson Popoali'i, in his Patumahoe club socks, on the burst for the Baabaas in Whanganui.

BAABAAS TEAMS REVIEW

As Mr President mentioned, our teams in the traditional red of the Barbarians have been in the thick of it over the past couple of months.

The NZ Barbarians won a first-class fixture over the NZ Heartland XV in Whanganui by 40-21, despite the wet weather. Under the coaching of Milton Haig, members Dion Waller and Guy Lennox and Kingi Matenga, who was previously with the NZ Barbarians Area Schools, the side included some prime 2024 NPC performers, such as lock Jesse Parete of Taranaki, Counties Manukau midfielder Gibson Popoali'i, No 10 Callum Harkin of Wellington, who kicked the winning goal in the NPC final, and centre James Tofa of Manawatu. Popoali'i was called into training by Moana Pasifika, which shows you how crucial these pathways are.

This was the third time we have seen this fixture since inception in 2021 (for three Baabaas wins, we might add), and we have seen the likes of Josh Jacomb move up the national ratings from 2021. Lock James Thompson was Steelers captain in 2024 and an integral part of the Blues. Last year's Baabaas wing Josh Gray was one of the Rugby Almanack's promising players of the year.

The Barbarians Under 18 boys gave two good displays in

Hamilton, falling 57-47 to Australia U18 and beating Samoa Schools 102-10. The side was coached by Darren Larsen, Tasesa Lavea and Greg Feek and managed by James Kumate. This team is hugely important and well entrenched in the New Zealand system, having been established in 2012.

The Barbarians Under 18 girls, in just their second season, enjoyed a fine week in camp last month, winning both their games, 71-0 versus a PIR U18 girls' selection and 29-15 against the NZ Maori U18 girls in Pukekohe. This team, which features in the latest *Rugby News* mag, had a high-powered coaching and management staff of Anna Richards, Emma Jensen, Ella Blackwell and Aleisha-Pearl Nelson, with your club secretary Monalisa Codling doubling as manager and oxygen-deprived AR on the first match day. Many of the team has already played Farah Palmer Cup and were identified in the national Under 20 camp. Some will surely be Black Ferns of the future.

The NZ Barbarians Area Schools, established in 2013, had a productive week in camp in Hanmer Springs, pulled together by member Steve Beck. Whilst defeated by Canterbury Maori U18 45-17, they made big strides from their first match, where they were outclassed by Rangiora HS First XV, a slick outfit that had won the Championship section of the Miles Toyota competition.

On the horizon is the Global Youth Sevens in Auckland next month. The club has entered a girls team, to be coached by member Sherwin Stowers, himself a former All Blacks Sevens rep.



Members of the Ardmore-Marist Colts helped out on the day with their coach and club President Craig Glendinning.



AJ Whetton, left, as MC, with Fiona and Peter Thompson and President Craig Glendinning at the Fun Day.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



***Congratulations to our club captain, Peter White, who was made a life member of the North Harbour union. Few deserve the honour more than Pete, who was, for many years, the manager of the North Harbour NPC team, a job he executed expertly. He was awarded the Albert Story Trophy by our club in 2021 for his sterling service to the Barbarians.**

***The Barbarians club is 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 November 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 many moons 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

Cellphone number: 021-426-354

Email addresses:

secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz

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