



The first official NZ Barbarians women's team, which gave the Black Ferns a stern workout in November.

Photo: Bruce Jarvis Photography

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



Greetings to all as we enter a year with hope of more normality.

First, let me say what a privilege it is to be your President and chair of a committee with competence and a work ethic many organisations would wish for.

Thank you, Alan Whetton, for your two years of strong and colourful leadership and helping us to not take ourselves too seriously. For those not at the AGM, your committee includes myself, AJ as past President, Hon. Secretary Ken Baguley, Craig Glendinning as senior Vice-President, Joe Stanley as junior Vice-President, Sir Bryan Williams our Patron, Kevin Senio as Club Captain, Ron Williams, Monalisa Urquhart, Ricky Johnston, Grant McCurrach, Nick Sheppard, Peter White and Neil Cullimore. Trina Seits continues as house manager with her team.

The committee carried out a searching revision of the club's strategic plan last year and it is near completion. We look to build on our strengths, carry on with what works as detailed in the plan but be open to innovation and change. Serving the rugby community with a focus on youth continues to be our mission. This we do from our Auckland hub but with an increasing national reach. Already this year we are engaged in dialogue with NZ Rugby on a full youth programme including the U85kg National Club Cup and the U20 tournament in April involving teams associated with the five Super franchises – the sixth team will wear the Barbarians jersey. It also looks a possibility that our Barbarians women's team will again play against the Black Ferns in July. We will keep you informed of upcoming on/off field club events as the year progresses.

Eden Park has a full list of games planned, including two tests, so come up to the club before, during or after any game and enjoy the atmosphere and social interaction. In that regard, whilst we are excited at the worthy projects on our slate, we are first and foremost a club – a society of invited members each with a common interest in rugby and each bringing histories and memories of their era in the game. Members need to meet at our clubrooms as they are able to

according to their circumstances to keep the valuable lifeblood of fellowship flowing.

The recent Baabaas bowls teams' efforts in Mt Maunganui (televised by Crowd Goes Wild) was a wonderful example of that for me. The Auckland front-row of 1974-75 was there in All Black Brad Johnstone, Steve Watt and myself. Fifty years or so on from playing we had a fun time sharing memories made possible by our common membership of this club. Brad was a first-time bowler down there, as was All Black Jonny McLachlan, also a member of those '70s teams, along with fellow winger Sir 'Beegee'.

AJ used to say 'Come and see me, I might even buy you a drink.' Feel free to ask me also and introduce yourself if we aren't well acquainted. Look forward to seeing you and enjoy all that the year offers.

**"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it but what they become by it" – John Ruskin**

**Bernie Allen**  
President  
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



## NZ BARBARIANS WOMEN REVIEW



Plans are afoot for another outing in 2021 for the NZ Barbarians women after the success of the 2020 team, which pushed the Black Ferns hard in two ultra-competitive outings in November.

Following on from a practice match against the Black Ferns in 2019, the team assembled after the Farah Palmer Cup for two full first-class matches with live TV coverage. Monalisa Urquhart, herself a four-time Rugby World Cup winner, was the club's liaison with the team and she reports that it was a good group that performed strongly.

Under the coaching of Rodney Gibbs and Chad Shepherd and the captaincy of Alana Bremner of Canterbury, the Baabaas were defeated 34-15 in Auckland and 19-17 in Nelson, showcasing the growing second-tier of talent in the women's game. There was some great theatre in the Nelson clash when the Baabaas advanced on the haka.

There's a Women's Rugby World Cup on these shores in September, so the likes of first five Patricia Maliepo, blindside flanker and skipper Alana Bremner, and lock Joanah Ngan-Woo could well feature then for their country.

Also on the Baabaas coaching team was Whitney Hansen, daughter of Baabaa Sir Steve Hansen, who has joined the Black Ferns as an intern coach. She is clearly on the way up, as is this relatively new and important team in our women's game.



The Barbarians challenged the Black Ferns aerially and all over the park last November.

## BAABAAS NATIONAL UNDER 85kg CLUB CUP



The second edition of the NZ Barbarians National Under 85kg Club Cup is set to kick off in May.

The 2020 Club Cup, which was won by Auckland's Eden Lizards in a superb final against Auckland University Squids at Eden Park, was open to clubs from only five selected provincial unions due to Covid-19.

Former All Blacks coach and Barbarian knight Sir Graham Henry, a long-standing advocate for the grade, says: "2021 will see another step upward in ensuring the Under 85s are a very important group of players in New Zealand rugby. Hopefully we are not too far away from selecting a New Zealand U85kg team. Can you imagine the spectacle if

there was an international under 85kg game between New Zealand and a rival nation?"

With a full community rugby calendar lined up for 2021, NZR is anticipating a large number of entries to a competition that has captured the imagination of clubs across the country.

President Bernie Allen watched last year's final with Alan Whetton, and they agreed that it was one of the best games of rugby in all formats the pair had seen all year.

Allen says: "Restricted weight rugby is rightfully on the up as it keeps players in the game and grows resources for rugby clubs longer term, with a lot of the Under 85kg players also being club volunteers, coaches, managers and referees. This year's competition is looked forward to with great anticipation and we can't wait for it to begin."

Registrations close on March 31. Check out <https://www.nzrugby.co.nz/teams-and-competitions/national/under-85-club-cup> and your PU website.

## AGM REVIEW



Bernie Allen is going to be a busy man in 2021.

Not only is he your new President, the 36th in the club's 84-year history, but he continues as the honorary solicitor and the unofficial club photographer.

Allen continues the tradition of Baabaas Presidents from the front-row (tighthead prop), though he is the first out of the Waitemata club since Iain Abercrombie in 2000-01. At his investiture, he spoke of his Mt Albert Grammar and west Auckland roots. The need to build relationships was highlighted, as was AJ Whetton's 'tact' in his 2019-20 tenure in the hot seat.

His playing days included 15 games for Auckland from 1970-75 and a Gallaher Shield with Waitemata in 1975.

There was little other movement on the committee, other than Whetton replacing Neil Cullimore as immediate past President.

The AGM saw a turnout of some 30 members, including seven of the 11 life members, who heard about the club's 2020 season, an active one, even allowing for Covid-19's widespread disruptions.

## MEMBER PROFILE IAN KIRKPATRICK



Everyone knows of Ian Kirkpatrick.

But not that many realise he is the current patron of New Zealand Rugby. Not many also realise he was made a Barbarian when he was just 27, one of the youngest members in the club's history. At the time, in 1974, he was the captain of the All Blacks.

One of the finest men in black during his 1967-77 career, in which he scored 50 tries in 113 appearances, and a then All Blacks record 16 tries in 39 tests, the man they call Kirky is still held in the highest regard in rugby circles.

He is, along with his old provincial teammate Grant Allen, one of two Baabaas residing in Poverty Bay. At 74, he has retired, but keeps fit playing golf, walking and cycling and lives about 5km out of Gisborne.

Last year, he was due in Auckland for the September Sacred Heart versus King's First XV match for the Kirkpatrick-Fitzpatrick Cup. Covid scuppered that. No problems, he shot up to Te Araroa with another former All Black from the region, Andy Jefferd, to watch the East Coast club final.

But never fear, when Kirkpatrick is at home during the winter, you'll find him at Patutahi Domain watching his beloved club Ngatapa or at Rugby Park watching Poverty Bay. He soaks up plenty of code on the box too in



between seeing his eight grandchildren growing up.

Kirkpatrick played five first-class games (for five tries) for the NZ Barbarians from 1972-77. He always loved his time in the famous scarlet jersey. The first occasion was in 1972 when he scored a try on Eden Park in a 31-16 victory over Auckland in a Commonwealth Games benefit match. His teammates that day included Wallabies Russell Fairfax and John Hipwell, Springboks Piet Greyling and Jan Ellis, and one Wilson Whineray in his final first-class appearance. There was a 1973 Baabaas tour of Fiji to savour too.

"It was an honour to play for the Baabaas. They were big games too, often in front of a big crowd on Sundays after club rugby (on Saturdays)," says Kirkpatrick.

"There was no 'knock your head off' stuff in those days. We wanted to run the ball."

He enjoyed the conviviality at 'The House that Jack Built' through the 1970s and has made the pilgrimage to the new clubhouse on several occasions in the last decade.

"Since the pro era, the Baabaas have found it difficult to operate like they did in the past, so you have to give them credit for hanging in there and continuing to foster the game at the grassroots level," says Kirkpatrick.

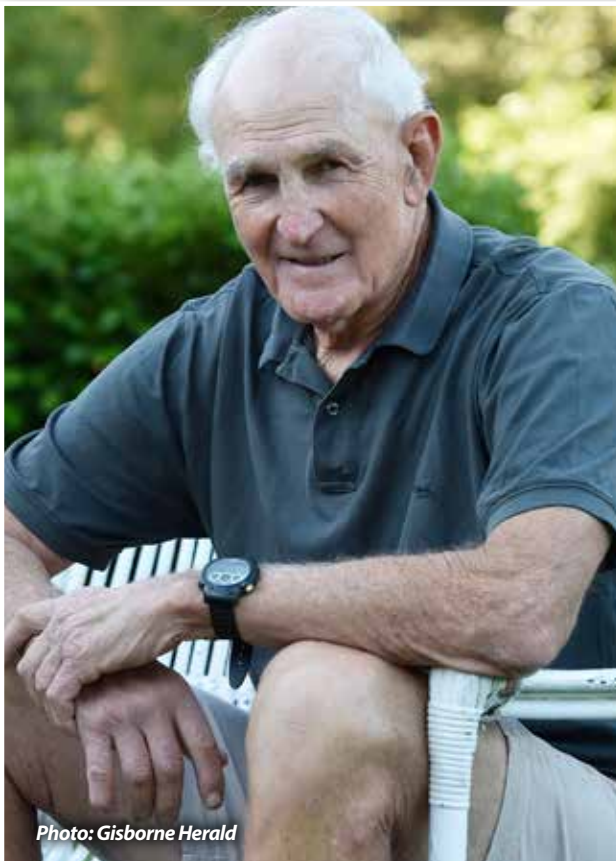


Photo: Gisborne Herald

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



Club members are sought to join the Barbarians Under 20 team management group for the NZR tournament at Taupo from April 10-17, the five other teams being Super Rugby-based.

Coaches, manager, physio, trainer, and analyst positions are available for us to fill.

Will be a great week. Expenses paid. Call Pete White if interested on 0274-778-485.

# WHAT'S ON IN 2021

## T20 International Cricket:

Friday March 5  
T20 international cricket:  
White Ferns v England, 3pm



Friday March 5  
T20 international cricket:  
Black Caps v Australia, 7pm



Sunday March 14  
Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day,  
Bridge Park BC, 8.30am



Sunday March 14  
Super Rugby Aotearoa  
Blues v Highlanders, 3.35pm



Sunday March 21  
Super Rugby Aotearoa  
Blues v Crusaders, 3.35pm



## T20 International Cricket:

Thursday April 1  
T20 international cricket:  
White Ferns v Australia, 3pm



Thursday April 1  
T20 international cricket:  
Black Caps v Bangladesh, 7pm



Saturday April 3  
Super Rugby Aotearoa  
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.05pm



Saturday May 1  
Super Rugby Aotearoa  
Blues v Chiefs, 7.05pm



Saturday May 22  
Super Rugby  
Blues v Waratahs, 4.35pm



Sunday May 23  
Baabaas Fun Day  
Bruce Pulman Park, 9am



Saturday June 12  
Super Rugby  
Blues v Force, 7.05pm



\*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified. \*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2021 functions/events

## BAABAAS BRIEFS



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

There's plenty of provincial, grassroots and women's coverage in there to sink your teeth into, as well as All Blacks' and Super Rugby content. The February/March 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](http://www.rugbynews.co.nz)

\*Congratulations to Grant Fox and Gary Whetton, the latest life members of Auckland Rugby. Both were huge contributors to the great 1980s-90s Auckland rugby era. Fox remains the highest points scorer for the union, with 2746 from 189 games, while Whetton racked up 178 games. The late, great 'Snow' White holds the union record of 192 games.

\*Congrats, too, to our patron, Sir Bryan Williams, for his long overdue recognition of the Steinlager Salver for his mighty contribution to rugby. By my count, 19 of the 22 recipients of the award since 1999 have been Barbarians.

\*Another Ponies Baabaa, our esteemed treasurer, Grant 'Scurrah' McCurrach, was made a life member of the Ponsonby club. Over more than 40 years' involvement, he won five Gallahers as a player, three of those as captain, and four as coach, a rare feat, not to mention being one of the drivers in keeping the club afloat during tough times in the 1990s.

\*Not to be outdone, Ross Cooper was awarded life membership of the Thames Valley union early last year. This honour was only just brought to our attention. Cooper, of course, is a former Chiefs coach and All Blacks selector who resides in Waihi, but he cut his teeth coaching the Swamp Foxes and is a regular presence on our screens through *Sky Sport Grassroots Rugby*.

\*The 2021 subs notices were sent out several weeks 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 Ken Baguley 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 Ken Baguley 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



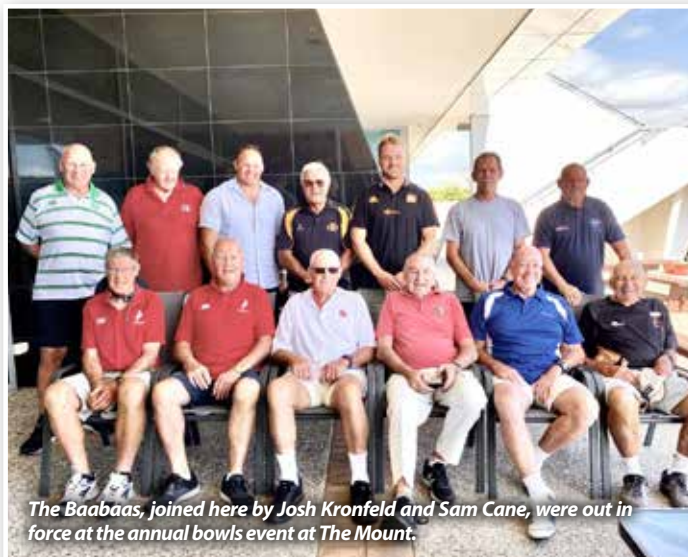
Your first port of call is our club secretary Ken Baguley, who is at times based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

*Ken Baguley's details are:*

*Club office number: 09-846-7241*

*Cellphone number: 027-246-0615*

*Email addresses: [sec@brfc.co.nz](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) or [khb@ryh.co.nz](mailto:khb@ryh.co.nz)*



*The Baabaas, joined here by Josh Kronfeld and Sam Cane, were out in force at the annual bowls event at The Mount.*



*Four great men of rugby in 1964, former All Blacks captains Cliff Porter, Jack Manchester, Bob Stuart and Wilson Whineray.*

**BARFOOT  
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