

BAABAA NEWS

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



Five top rugby men, four of them Barbarians. From left: Greg McGee, Phil Kingsley Jones, Sir Bryan Williams, Eric Rush, MC Phil Gifford, at the May 10 luncheon in honour of 'Beegee.'

Photo: Peter Meecham

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

The loss of our club vice-president Dylan Mika in late March was felt by all of us.

Such a big part of our club, Dylan was at the forefront of so many of our activities and he has left his mark on many of the things we are involved with. He was always so positive and such a hard-working, quiet achiever and a great friend. He will be sorely missed.

Also sad to see the passing of another Barbarian, Fergie McCormick, one of rugby's characters, a man who commanded respect on the field and off the field enjoyed a beer and a yarn. He will be remembered by many of our members who played alongside him and against him.

Our luncheon held on Thursday May 10 was a very special afternoon and a wonderful tribute to our patron Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams to acknowledge his knighthood and the many years of support from Lady Lesley and the Williams family. Phil Gifford did a grand job as MC and auctioneer and speakers Phil Kingsley Jones, Greg McGee, Stu Wilson and Eric Rush all contributed so well to the day, each recollecting his time and experiences alongside Beegee. Nearly 500 people attended and a large proportion of funds raised at the lunch will be going to the NZ Rugby Foundation VIP Programme, a cause dear to all of our hearts. Our club manager Trina Seits, along with assistant manager Mereana Wynyard, did an outstanding job organising the day, supported by an organising committee that included life members John Cresswell, John Mills and Dean Paddy as well as club members Phil Gifford, Joe Stanley, and Gavin Williams.

Also a huge thank you to Julie Townsend for all her work on the day and the support of Eden Park Trust, Eden Park Catering, Pernod Ricard, Heineken, Auckland Rugby, the Blues and Ric Salizzo for helping us to make the day such a success.

Congratulations to both the Black Ferns Sevens and All Blacks Sevens for

bringing home gold at the Commonwealth Games in such fine fashion – both teams took their chances and put themselves well and truly in the rugby history books!

Coming up we have the annual Primary Schools Fun Day on Sunday May 27, this year at Bruce Pulman Park in Papakura. This is really worth coming along for a look and a great chance to catch up with fellow Baabaas. Once again a big thank you to club member Peter Thompson and Barfoot & Thompson for sponsoring the day, allowing over 700 children to enjoy a game of footy with their schoolmates along with a free sausage and a Milo. Magic!

Our President Neil Cullimore is making really good progress with his recovery from the serious cycling accident he had late last year. I know Glenys and he are very appreciative of all the support and thoughts from our membership and we look forward to seeing them up at the club later this year.

Hopefully we will see a few up at the club for the remaining Eden Park Super Rugby games and the test against France on June 9 as well as the All Blacks/Black Ferns double-header against Australia in August.

Cheers,

Ron Williams
Acting President
Barbarians RFC



Deaths Of Members

'Tiumalumanaia' Dylan Mika (1972-2018)

Like his old Manu Samoa captain Peter Fatialofa, Dylan Mika was taken too soon from us all.

One of the few to have played for both the All Blacks (1999) and Manu Samoa (1994-95) as a rangy, lineout-winning loose forward, Mika appeared in 102 first-class games, representing Auckland, Blues, Chiefs and NZ Barbarians, rounding out his career in Italy and Japan.

Made a Barbarian in recent years, such was his commitment to the club that he swiftly rose to be vice-president and was still very active on the committee, often behind the scenes, at his sudden death. Mika even had his own unofficial seat at the bar, and was always generous with his time and seeking to help those who looked lost or new to the club.

His funeral celebration at Eden Park on March 27 drew many emotional tributes, including those from Barbarians Sir Bryan Williams, John Hart, Tana Umaga and Alama Ieremia.

A successful businessmen with an endless book of contacts around the Pacific, Mika is survived by wife Tracy and young daughter Marley.

Fergie McCormick (1939-2018)

Fergie McCormick was a good All Black and one of the greats of Canterbury rugby.

His record 222 games for the union, from a durable 1958-75 career will, you can be sure under the current landscape, stand for all time.

As a goalkicking fullback out of his beloved Linwood club, McCormick played 16 tests out of 44 games for the All Blacks from 1965 to 1971. His 24 points against Wales in 1969 stood as the world record for an individual return in a test until 1982. Just 15 men have played more than his 310 first-class games and just nine have topped his haul of 2065 points.

In recent years, he helped coach the Canterbury and Linwood women and maintained close ties with rugby.

These quotes from McCormick's 1976 book Fergie, with Alex Veysey, will surely strike a chord with many Barbarians.

'You forget the All Blacks and you play every game for your club with everything you've got. The club is everything and any player who saves himself for something bigger is no player at all...'

'Any fullback, or any rugby player, who can't kick with both feet isn't even half a player.'

When we talk of the great rugby men of the Manukau club, we talk of, inter alia, 'Bear' Thomas, Mackie Herewini, Pat Walsh, Roger Whatman, Alby Pryor and Frank Bunce.

Jonathan Tukerangi is fit to rank in that august company.

The 56-year-old joined Rovers in 1972 and is now a life member and club vice-president, having just come off more than decade as the Manukau delegate to the Auckland Rugby Union. Living near Manukau's Williams Park base, Tukerangi is "the first one they ring if the alarm goes off."

He came through the junior grades, drawing inspiration from Manukau's last Gallaher Shield title in 1973, and entered the senior ranks after leaving Mangere College. A contemporary of Frank Bunce for both school and club, the pair would have won an Under 19 club title with Manukau in 1980 were it not for the fielding of an ineligible player. As it was, Tukerangi soon afterwards embarked on a long senior career (1982-96), which saw him rack up well over 200 games for the Manukau premiers as a fine attacking fullback. The 1980s was a fine era for Rovers, who could field the likes of the Lidgards, the Thomases, the Bunces and Nicky Williams, cracking the top four. Tukerangi himself was perhaps unlucky to be playing at a time where his competition for the Auckland team included Lindsay Harris, Matthew Ridge, Richard Sigley, Shane Howarth and Petaia Nee-Nee. He still played many times for the Auckland Colts, Bs, Maori, and once for an Auckland XV.



Jonathan Tukerangi in Manukau Rovers mode.

"Even when I played, it was standing room only at Rovers," he says.

He is grateful to patron Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams for his Barbarians nomination, having been inducted into the Barbarians club in 2015.

"He was my childhood hero, so to have him acknowledge me as deserving... I thought it was only for the sporting elite. He thought I had played for Auckland A at some stage, but I said, 'No, you never picked me, Beegee!' I joked that I needed to go to Ponsonby or Marist to get in," Tukerangi says.

He is keen to participate in the Baabaas bowls events, especially the Pat Walsh Memorial Day, perhaps with his old mate Bunce. Back in the day, he turned out for the Barbarians in those memorable fixtures against school First XV's.

"I haven't been able to fulfil my obligations to the club to the fullest, but I try and get across to the clubrooms when there are functions at the park."

An investigator for Metrix Info, where he handles power meter enquiries over a wide region, Tukerangi is married with four kids and three grandchildren. Both sons played for Rovers. Walter is now the director of

rugby at One Tree Hill College, whose First XV is newly promoted into Auckland's 1A grade.

Tukerangi has come a long way in rugby, but still holds fast to the hands up, not out, attitude espoused by 'Bear' Thomas and Alby Pryor.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



BLAST FROM THE PAST

We think the photo below is from an NZ Barbarians game of the mid-1950s. The gentlemen in club blazers are, of course, Fred Allen (left) and Hugh McLean (right). The latter co-founded the NZ Barbarians in 1937. Among the team are the likes of Bob Scott, Kevin Skinner, a youthful Kevin Barry and Colin Meads, 'Snow' White and Terry Lineen.

**Just to prove that some of our members are gifted in their fields outside of rugby and sport, congratulations go to Fred Graham, who was recently bestowed with the rare honour of an Arts Foundation of New Zealand Icon Award – Whakamama Hiranga. Furthermore, Graham, now pushing 90, last year received the Creative NZ TE Waka Toi supreme award for his contribution as one of the founders of the contemporary Maori arts movement. It was nice to see him recognised at the Sir 'Beegee' luncheon.*

**If you have any sort of interest in the history, statistics and minutiae of our great game, then pick up a copy of*



The NZ Barbarians circa 1955.



Photo: Peter Meecham

Fred Graham, left, who was recognised at the May 10 luncheon for his sterling work in the field of Maori art and sculpture, with Sir Bryan and Lady Lesley Williams.

the 82nd annual Rugby Almanack. For the first time, on page 65, is a write-up on the club, its history and activities in 2017, while page 312 details the fortunes of the NZ Barbarians Schools.

**Our member from Manawatu, Clive Akers, one of New Zealand's foremost rugby historians and co-editor of the Rugby Almanack, has put together, over some 35 years, no less, an impressive listing of all New Zealand first-class players from 1870-2015, entitled the New Zealand Rugby Register. Clearly, many Barbarians will feature among the 820 pages, so purchase your copy. It is available only via the NZ Rugby Museum. Please contact PO Box 36, Palmerston North 4440 or email info@rugbymuseum.co.nz*

**The subs notices were sent out before Christmas. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest*

convenience, as this is a requirement of membership.

*The club has a stack of fetching apparel in stock and this is available to members and non-members alike. Check the website for further information and prices, et cetera.



Five Barbarians adorn this photo at the colourful occasion of Monalisa Urquhart's belated 40th birthday at the clubrooms earlier this month. Can you name them all?

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 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 often 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 or khb@ryh.co.nz

Home number: 09-520-1638

WHAT'S ON IN 2018



Saturday May 19
Blues v Crusaders, 7.35pm



Sunday May 27
Annual Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park,
Papakura, 8.30am



Saturday June 2
Blues v Rebels, 5.15pm



Saturday June 9
All Blacks
v France
7.35pm



Friday June 29
Blues v Reds, 7.35pm



Saturday July 28
Club finals day



Saturday August 18
First XV finals day



Saturday August 18
Auckland v Counties Manukau
5.05pm



Saturday August 25
All Blacks
v Australia
7.35pm



Thursday August 30
Auckland v Waikato, 7.35pm



Friday September 7
Auckland v Tasman, 7.45pm



Friday September 28
Auckland v Otago, 7.35pm



Sunday October 14
Auckland v North Harbour
2.05pm



*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2018 functions/events.

*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.