

MAY 2019

# BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc. Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)



President AJ Whetton with five of the new Barbarians. From left: Chris Ujnovich, Murray Wright, Rick Tagelagi, Andy Roberts and Brent Semmons.

Photo: Campbell Burnes

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Last week we enjoyed one of the highlights on the Barbarians calendar, the induction of new members.

It's always quite emotional to see them on board. The years of hard work and service around rugby are rewarded and you could see it on the faces of the six who attended on the night. I had a personal connection with the likes of Rick Tagelagi and Murray Wright and others I have met through the game.

The Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls event was another good day out. Thanks to Peter Tubberty, Mark and Noeline Walsh for the organisation of this important and enjoyable day, raising money for Maori youth scholarships. It's also about getting Barbarians together to have a laugh and chew the fat. Great to see a good turnout of Barbarians and their better halves. It's nice to sit down with all ages and have a laugh about some of the bowls on offer. We had bowls going the wrong way. But it was all good fun for a good cause.

Last week's annual golf match against the Eagles saw Kere Maihi put together a four. We like to support the Eagles and what they do in raising money for their charity the Halberg Disability Sports Foundation. My group was with Terry Wright, old 'Chicken Legs', but your President carried him with a superb front nine.

This Sunday (May 12) is Mother's Day but it is also our 30th annual primary schools Fun Day, always one of the most well supported and popular events on our calendar. This is the second year it has been held at Bruce Pulman Park in Papakura after the success of 2018.

This day does not happen without the continued support of Peter

Thompson and Barfoot & Thompson. He is hugely influential in the Fun Day.

All Barbarians are welcome, but we especially encourage those in the greater Auckland area of North Harbour, Auckland and Counties Manukau to get along. We may not have seen some of you for a long time, but this is a prime opportunity to get together, talk about the past, how good we were and how bad we look now, and mix with the kids, hundreds of them, and their parents, doing fun rugby activities. We might have future All Blacks and Black Ferns among them. We get as much out of it as the kids.

Ron Williams and Craig Glendinning have driven the event from the Barbarians side, and they have done sterling work in making this happen again.

**Alan Whetton**  
President  
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



# Deaths Of Members

## Barrie Hutchinson (1926-2019)

John 'Barrie' Skilbeck Hutchinson – 'Hutch' to all – was a great rugby man of the Auckland Rugby Union, the Auckland University Rugby Club and Varsityes rugby in general.

Hutchinson was made a life member of the Auckland University club at the 2005 AGM and was also accorded life membership of the Auckland Rugby Union. Along with a stint as NZU selector, he was the Varsity club president from 1974-75 and filled the same role with the Auckland union from 1979-80.

As a player, Hutch was a solid prop or lock (a la Phil Lindesay) good enough to appear in four All Blacks trials in the 1950s. He debuted at first-class level for Auckland B in 1949. Auckland rep #819, he played 21 games for the union from 1954-59, scoring two tries for six points.

Much of the 1950s was spent travelling back and forth to Wellington, where he gained his MA from Victoria University and played for Wellington on 32 occasions out of that club. But he did find time to win at least two Gallaher Shields with Auckland University.

His playing highlight was surely the epic 1956 NZ Universities' 22-15 win over the Springboks at Athletic Park.

He delved into coaching and led Waitemata to the 1962 Gallaher Shield title before rejoining Varsity. From 1969-72 he coached the seniors, winning the 1971 Gallaher Shield, thus cementing the rare achievement of winning a Gallaher as a player and then as coach at two different clubs.

He was said to bring a cerebral, erudite approach to coaching rugby, regularly quoting poetry and Shakespeare, a forerunner to the one and only Bryce Bevin.

## Ian Eliason (1945-2019)

All Black No 706, Ian 'Legs' Eliason played a record 222 matches for Taranaki between 1964-81, along with 19 non-test matches for his country in 1972-73.

A stalwart of the Kaponga club, which spawned the famous Crowley clan, Eliason, a farmer, played in as many as 10 All Blacks trials, and may have been unlucky not to have won more All Blacks jerseys, though he was not tall for a second-rower.

It was said he left the field injured just once in his long Taranaki career for whom he gave full commitment, not the least of which was the long commute to and from rep training in New Plymouth.

Eliason was a life member of the Taranaki union and served in various administrative posts, including patron and president.

## Keith Davis (1930-2019)

Halfback Keith Davis was All Black No 546, appearing on 25 occasions, including 10 tests, from 1952-58.

He was the No 9 in the Sacred Heart College First XV of the Century, named in 2003, and won a 1A title with SHC in 1948 (shared with King's) when he was head boy. Davis, who played 54 games for Auckland out of the Marist club, toured the Northern Hemisphere with the 1953-54 All Blacks alongside his cousin and fellow halfback Vince Bevan.

A strong involvement with the Maori All Blacks helped Davis to three Tom French Cup awards from 1952-54. In 1967 he helped coach and select the Maori team. In 1954-55 Davis played five first-class matches for the Barbarians club.

## Denis Harding (1935-2019)

Denis Harding led a full and interesting life.

While in later years, he was a keen President's grade cricketer with Auckland's Cornwall club, a useful golfer, senior member of the Carbine (racing) club, and a keen petanque and 500 card player, Harding was also a highly regarded ear, nose and throat surgeon.

In rugby, his high-water mark came in 1958 when, as a halfback out of the Otago University club, he played seven times for Otago, South Island Universities and won an All Blacks trial. Harding played in a strong Otago University team, which included All Blacks 'Tuppy' Diack and Mark Irwin, that shared the Otago club title that year.

Harding was a long-time Barbarian and something of a character around the traps, as befitting most halfbacks.

## Ron Elvidge (1923-2019)

Ron Elvidge had been the oldest surviving All Black (No 454) until his death at the age of 96.

The Otago midfielder played 19 games, including 10 tests, from 1946-50, but is most famously recalled for his gutsy try, scored while badly injured and as captain, to help the All Blacks win the third test against the 1950 Lions at Athletic Park. He never played again. Elvidge also captained Otago, playing 30 games for that union, during one of its finest eras, out of the University club.

He found further renown as one of New Zealand's foremost gynaecologists. His grandson Andrew Elvidge played for Canterbury, South Canterbury, Wellington, Wairarapa-Bush and NZ Universities.



## NEW MEMBERS



Ten new members were inducted on May 2, six of whom attended on what is always one of the highlights of the Barbarians' calendar.

**Craig Carter:** current Counties Manukau union chairman; former Manawatu, Counties B, Vikings B, Northland B and Northland XV flanker; player-coach at Patumahoe club, took Patty to first ever McNamara Cup in 2006; Counties union board 2011-19; NZR appointments and remuneration committee 2019

**Fiao'o Faamausili:** former Black Ferns skipper/hooker, four-time WRWC winner, 57 tests for 17 tries 2002-18; 22-year senior career; multiple NPC titles with Auckland Storm 1999-2018 out of Marist club; first woman to 100 NPC appearances for one province; first woman to adorn Rugby Almanack cover (2018); Order of New Zealand Order of Merit; recently retired from international play but turned out for UK Barbarians last month; police officer

**Linda Itunu:** former Black Ferns flanker, 39 tests 2003-18; three-time WRWC winner; also played for Black Ferns Sevens 2009-14; multiple NPC titles with Auckland Storm out of Ponsonby club; recently retired from international play but turned out for UK Barbarians last month

**Chris Jujnovich:** former Takapuna and NZ Police player; premier club referee in North Harbour; president and chairman of Mahurangi club; police officer

**Gus Leger:** former Tonga midfielder 2003 RWC; NZ Under 17s 1991; played for East Coast and Counties Manukau; also for Suburbs and Manurewa clubs; recipient of AJ Bell Trophy for services to rugby; experienced First XV coach with Wesley and, since, 2014, Sacred Heart; former NZ softball rep and played baseball in USA

**Guy Lennox:** former Manawatu, NZU, NZ Colts and Wanganui five-eighths; 105 games for Butcher Boys; has coached Wanganui and Heartland XV; more than 200 senior games for Waverley/Border; has filled almost every position at Border club; farmer

**Andy Roberts:** director Barworks Hospitality Group Operations; former Auckland University and Paris University player; team liaison officer for France at RWC 2011; current director of Auckland Rugby

**Brent Semmons:** former North Harbour hooker 1985; also played for Auckland Maori and Bs; extensive coaching career at rep, club and schools levels; former director of sport at Kelston BHS; coached Waitemata and Massey club prems to titles; Cook Islands assistant coach 2014; Level 3 World Rugby educator; head coach of Getxo (Spain) in 2014-15; North Harbour Under 20s 2010-13; Auckland Under 19 B, Auckland B; current Auckland Rugby International Academy (ARIA) manager

**Rick Tagelagi:** former Navy player; coached Manukau and Weymouth club premiers; advisor to Niue union; coach of Niue 7s and 15s; TA to USA Combined Services team; coached various club sides in Counties Manukau 2016-18; highly qualified coach; bar owner

**Murray Wright:** Former Auckland Rugby chief executive; long-time NZ rep at Sanzar and Super 10; managing director Carnegie Sports; national sales manager TechFront Monstavisision Australia and NZ

## PAT WALSH MEMORIAL BOWLS DAY



The 10th annual Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day was another hit.

Held at Bridge Park BC on St Patrick's Day, there was a good turnout of 26 Barbarians, said to be the highest ever, with four teams. In all, there was a record 30+ teams. Our patron Bryan 'Beegee' Williams helped with the scholarship presentations.

The rugby recipient – for a certificate and \$1000 worth of sports goods – was Ollie Parkinson, a flanker and athlete of real promise who has played for the New Zealand Maori Under 18 (beating the NZ Barbarians Schools in 2018) and the Auckland Grammar First XV, among other sides. Ollie has a Sir Wilson Whineray Scholarship to the Grammar TEC club and is in the 2019 Auckland Rugby high performance academy. As he was on athletics duty, his father Matt Parkinson received the scholarship on his behalf.

There was no shortage of food – the oysters and beetroot were most popular – and there was Guinness and Irish coffees on hand to quench thirsts.



## BAABAAS BRIEFS



\*Good to see Alex 'Grizz' Wyllie, now a noted lawn bowler, being accorded life membership of the Canterbury Rugby Union for his long service as player and coach. Wyllie played 187 games as a rugged loose forward for the union from 1964-79, and coached the top team from 1982-86, famously leading the great Ranfurly Shield era of 1982-85 and winning the 1983 NPC title.

\*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](mailto:info@rugbymuseum.co.nz)

\*Akers has continued to be busy, his latest book – *Continuing in Jacob's Shadow* – is a walk through 125 years of Horowhenua Kapiti rugby – and follows his centennial book for that union, *In Jacob's Shadow*. It can be purchased for \$20 at Paper Plus Levin, Paper Plus Paraparaumu, NZ Rugby Museum and the Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby Union office.

\*The 2019 subs notices were recently sent out. 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.

## 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](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) or [khh@ryh.co.nz](mailto:khh@ryh.co.nz)**

**Home number: 09-520-1638**

## WHAT'S ON IN 2019



**Sunday May 12**  
**Annual Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park**  
**8.30am**



**Saturday May 18**  
**Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm**



**Friday May 31**  
**Blues v Bulls, 7.35pm**



**Friday August 9**  
**Auckland v North Harbour**  
**7.35pm**



**SATURDAY AUGUST 17**  
**(DOUBLE HEADER)**

**BLACK FERNS**

**v Australia, 5.05pm**

**ALL BLACKS®**

**v Australia, 7.35pm (BC)**

**Saturday August 24**  
**Auckland v Bay of Plenty**  
**2.35pm**



**Sunday September 8**  
**Auckland v Canterbury**  
**2.05pm**



**Sunday September 22**  
**Auckland v Wellington**  
**2.05pm**



**Saturday October 5**  
**Auckland v Southland**  
**5.05pm**



**\*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.**

**\*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2019 functions/events.**



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