

BAABAA NEWS

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



Photo: Terry Horne

Dean Paddy receives the Albert Storey Memorial Trophy for all his tireless work running the clubhouse bar.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

My wife Lesley and I attended the Halberg Awards on February 13 and what a wonderful night it was.

To be present in the same room as so many sporting champions, both past and present, was inspirational. The pride welled up when we saw the All Blacks win team of the year, Steve Hansen win coach of the year and then Richie McCaw win the leadership award. They make us all feel so proud, as rugby people, of what they have achieved.

We had the great joy of sitting beside Jonah Lomu and his wife Nadene and sharing their company along with Sarah Ulmer and her dad. I was honoured to be asked to induct Jonah into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame. He is truly an icon of our sport and remains so modest and humble.

Our club has set itself some goals this year. We want to continue to support secondary schools rugby and will again sponsor an NZ Barbarians Schools team. We will also continue to support the national Top 4 schools tournament.

We will continue to support primary schools rugby through our fun days. We hope to help Northland rugby organise a primary school fun day as we have done for so many years here in Auckland and in Bay of Plenty last year. The Blues will play a Barbarians team on June 13 in Whangarei so that seems the ideal opportunity to do that, involving those players in the fun day. Special thanks to our major sponsor of these events, Barfoot & Thompson.

We would like to do a fundraiser to assist the NZ Rugby Foundation, which supports our badly injured rugby players either through a golf tournament or a lunch/dinner. Watch this space. And we will

continue to support middleweight rugby (U85kg).

We still have the goal of obtaining bigger games and touring to other parts of the world. Access to players is a real challenge. We are liaising closely with the NZRU and the NZ Rugby Players' Association in that regard.

As you can see, we are supporting the game we love in a number of meaningful ways. But the other side of our club is the camaraderie and social side which we all enjoy. We have magnificent premises at Eden Park. I urge you to come and utilise them. We have club nights most Friday nights from 4.00pm. There are big Super Rugby games coming up. We also organise golf and bowls days and I urge you all to get involved and enjoy these fun events. Watch the newsletters and website for details. Who knows, we may even be on Facebook next!

Till next time, cheers.

Kind regards,

Bryan Williams
President
Barbarians RFC

WHAT'S ON IN 2014

Friday February 28
Blues v Crusaders, 7.35pm



Saturday March 15
Warriors v Dragons, 5.00pm
King of the Middleweights tourney
Northcote RFC, 12.00pm and 1.00pm



Saturday March 22
Blues v Cheetahs, 7.35pm



Saturday March 29
Blues v Highlanders, 7.35pm



Monday April 7
Golf: Barbarians v Eagles, TBC



Sunday April 13
Warriors v Bulldogs, 4.00pm



Friday April 25
Blues v Waratahs, 5.35pm



*Continued on back page

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of future functions/events in 2014.



Deaths Of Members

Murray Reid (1938-2014)

The Barbarians lost one of their great men when Murray Reid died in January, leaving behind a playing and administrative record stretching back to the late '50s.

A quick look at his playing career might indicate otherwise... 24 matches for Auckland from 1960-62 before injury took him from the playing field.

The tall and talented young fellow who left Whakatane to try his luck in Auckland in 1958 brought with him physical talent, eagerly measured by Freddy Allen and a way-out sense of contagious humour from his friendship with Terry Sheehan, the legendary spin-doctor from Devonport.

Allen was searching for a lock to replace Kel Tremain, due to tour South Africa in 1960. One favoured candidate was the Takapuna giant Don Bacon, perhaps more powerful than young Reid. But Bacon contracted the worst illness a lock could suffer – a big boil on the butt – and Allen had to call Reid into a squad with a three-match preparation for the Ranfurly Shield defences ahead. The second of these was away against Wanganui and very likely Allen wore a worried frown as his pack struggled against a modest Wanganui scrum and lineout. Then, 20 minutes or so after halftime, Reid grabbed the ball and with power and surprising speed he broke tackle after tackle and finished a 30-40 yard burst with a try between the posts. The old sweats reckoned Auckland must have a hard-core pack, and Reid had won his spurs – Lew Fell, Reid, Barry Thomas, Clive Currie, 'Snow' White, Geoff Perry, with Bob Graham and Waka Nathan as the rovers.

Reid did well with 10 matches in his first year, eight in his second, but only six in his third as a run of injuries – gaining him the nickname of 'Chalky' – finished his first-class career. Reid was such a regular caller at the Middlemore Hospital that they asked him to stay away; he had already filled one large cupboard with his injury reports.

When Terry Sheehan produced a menu for a special Barbarians dinner recalling the Ranfurly Shield win in Southland in 1959, he praised "Robert the Blue (Bob Graham) who would leave the wenching, singing, dancing and drinking at the campfire to go and visit brave little 'Chalky Reid' who always broke something in battle."

Fortunately, Reid did not turn up his Barbarian toes after so many injuries and setbacks, and instead worked his way up the Baabaas organisation from member to committee man, to chairman, to president and on to life member.
 – DJ Cameron

Barry Beazley (1927-2014)

Northland rugby has lost one its stalwarts and life members with the passing of 1948-58 wing Barry Beazley.

A long-time Barbarian, Beazley played his rugby out of the Old Boys club in Whangarei and emerged during a successful period for North Auckland, as it was then known. He was part of the side that won the Ranfurly Shield for the first time, with a 20-9 victory over South Canterbury in 1950, scoring a try, as did centre Johnny Smith. A big, fast wing with a long stride not dissimilar, it was said, to the late Auckland wing and Barbarian Lyn Russell, Beazley scored three more Shield tries and 19 in all from his 59 games for the union. He also appeared in the 9-8 defeat of Australia in 1958. Furthermore, he played 12 games on two tours for the New Zealand Maori in 1949 and '52, and his fellow wing in many games for both New Zealand Maori and North Auckland, Percy Erceg, believes with an ounce of luck he could have cracked the All Blacks, though he did appear for North Island and in All Blacks trials. He also scored three first-class tries for the Barbarians from 1952-54.

A quiet, family man, Beazley managed the North Auckland team from 1964-82, often under his old coach Ted Griffin.

Meet the incoming president of the North Harbour Rugby Union.

You'll recognise the name. Brad Meurant will assume the role next month after a lifetime of rugby within the union and when it was still part of the Auckland province.

The 61-year-old, who has lived on the North Shore for nigh on 50 years, has taken a step back from his coaching and astute radio comments these days but still keeps a close eye on the rugby scene, works as a plumber for 25-30 hours a week, and is a doting grandfather.

When we catch up with Meurant, he is laid up with a calf tear, but one of the characters of the game still has an endless array of stories from his time as a coach and rugby globetrotter.



His CV is extensive, starting as a prop with the Takapuna club, before racking up 144 premier games for rivals East Coast Bays, while gaining rep honours with Auckland B and C. Retired at 28, he dabbled in coaching and within a few years had achieved the probably unique feat of winning two premier North Harbour club titles at each of two different clubs – East Coast Bays (1985-86) and Northcote (1989-90), bookending a stint with North Harbour B. His tenure as head coach of North Harbour (1992-94) saw the union through arguably its greatest period, defeating France, Auckland (for the first time) and Transvaal in the 1994 Super 10. Meurant rates that 1994 side, with no less than 11 All Blacks, as the best in Harbour history, as the 15-4 record attests. Then followed two seasons with the Chiefs (1996-97), one more at North Harbour and stints coaching professionally in South Africa, Ireland and Japan. But helping coach the Georgia Under 19s in the late 1990s might just top the lot.

"Georgia was my watershed. I thought it was a state in the southern USA," he quips. His Georgian story is detailed in that very fine book *Rugby Nomads*, co-authored by Barbarian Bob Howitt, but it meant he was coaching with the rawest resources. The players had nothing and washed their jerseys in hand basins. But they won the second division of the FIRA Under tournament in France and were promoted.

"Dealing with a whole lot of kids whose only way of getting out of an ex-Soviet state was through rugby was amazing," says Meurant, proud that several went on to play for the Lelos national side, a team that now rates in the top 7-8 in Europe.

A Barbarian for more than 20 years, Meurant is a regular at the annual Fun Day, and last year his grand-daughter was in one of the school teams he was looking after. He helped

Bryan Craies a few seasons ago with middleweight rugby coaching.

"It's a great honour to be a member. The best thing about it is that you don't have to be a 'flash-harry' player to be a member, which I never was. It allows all sorts of rugby people to become members, for the right reasons."

AGM REVIEW

The 77th AGM last November saw a solid turnout of members (around one-tenth of the membership) hear about another very busy year for the club and its associated activities.

Bryan Williams moved into the role of Barbarians club president, succeeding **Mike Mills**, who has served his two years and done a sterling job. 'Beegee' needs no introduction, but he will be a busy man with a finger in many rugby pies and continuing his role as director of rugby at his beloved Ponsonby club.

Immediate past president **John Mills** has now stepped down from the committee, as has **Bryan Craies**, both after many years selfless dedication to the Barbarians club cause. **Ron Williams** has been elevated to the position of junior vice-president and will continue leading the charge on the annual and iconic Fun Day in May.

Two new committee members were elected: **Ken Parry** and **Terry Horne**.

Ken, 55, joined the Barbarians in 2008. A loosehead prop out of the Northcote and Ardmore clubs, where he played more than 100 premier games for both, he appeared 15 times for Auckland and 49 for Counties between 1979 and '87 and sat on the bench for the 1987 All Blacks trials before finishing his rep rugby in France for the Bordeaux club. Since his playing days, he served on the Ardmore club committee for a decade and was manager of the Counties Steelers NPC side in 2004-05. **Richard Fry**, an old Counties and Auckland teammate, read the citation for Ken.

Terry, 71, is the unofficial club photographer and you will see many of his snappy snaps in the newsletter and on our website. He joined the club back in 1972, having come off a successful coaching period with St Paul's College, where his teams won five championships, including two 1A titles. He took the Auckland Schools

team to an unblemished record from 1970-74 and filled coaching roles with North Harbour schools, Northern Region schools and the NZ Schools from 1980-86. From 2000-12 he was senior lecturer in sports science at AUT University. A trustee of the Auckland Rugby Union Supporters' Club Junior Rugby Foundation, Terry was also manager of the NZ Barbarians Schools side in its inaugural year of 2012. **Kevin Barry** read the citation for Terry.

At the AGM, it was noted that Barbarian **Maurice Trapp**, the Auckland coach in 1987-91 during a time when Auckland boosted a record the envy of the rugby world, is the new president of the Auckland Rugby Union, succeeding Barbarian **Lawrie Knight**, who in turn succeeded Barbarian **Don McKay**.

Last, but certainly not least, the club took great delight in bestowing life membership upon one of its tireless workers and unsung heroes, **Rodney Doidge**. Rodney, who played eight games as a halfback for Auckland from 1958-62, served 16 years behind the bar and 16 years on the club committee, often travelling long distances from his Pukekohe home to man the bar with his smiling face and phlegmatic demeanour. His wife Barbara was ever-present too, helping out with food and assisting where she could. Well done, Rodney, and well deserved.

*With respect to a query raised at the AGM, it was agreed to advise members of a correction to the membership subscriptions and bar takings' entries in the 2013 financial statements, as follows:

'Further to the 2013 Annual General Meeting and discussion regarding the level of subscriptions disclosed in the tabled accounts, the treasurer confirmed his discussion with the auditors and that it was their opinion and his that the subscriptions and bar transactions had been inadvertently entered incorrectly.

It was agreed by both parties to adjust the accounts to reflect members' subscriptions of \$13,800 for the year ended September 30, 2013.

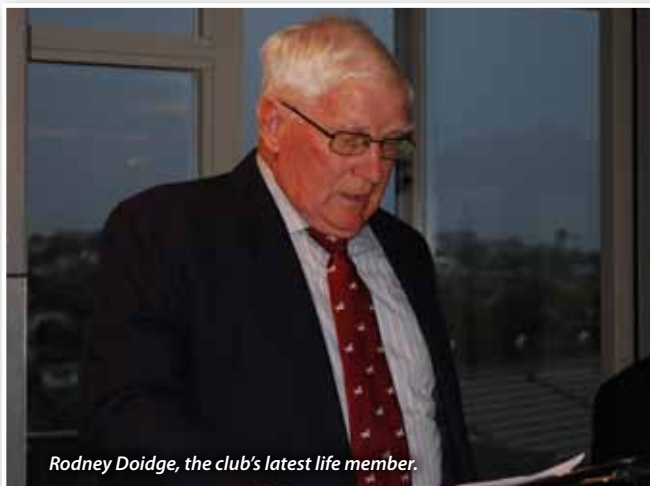
The auditors confirm that, for audit purposes, they are of the opinion that the accounts are materially correct.'

BLAST FROM THE PAST

A random glance through the pages of Peter Minogue's 1961 book *Champagne Rugby*, celebrating all that is good about a level of rugby of which the Barbarians hold dear, was this little gem, relating to NZ Barbarians founder Hugh McLean, who never won his rugby cap at Napier Boys' High School:

'When his playing career was over he was one of the main founders of the famed Barbarians club in Auckland. His association with the club showed he was a great stalwart and enthusiast for school football and he spent a considerable amount of time in arranging matches with college teams and coaching the players during and after the event.'

Many of those Barbarians who played in these types of matches over the years will find this paragraph evocative and typical of what the club stands for and has stood for since 1937.



Rodney Doidge, the club's latest life member.

BAABAAS BRIEFS

*The battle for the King of the Middleweights in the Blues franchise continues on Saturday March 15 at the Northcote Rugby Club. Kickoff times are at 12.00pm and 1.00pm. Competing teams in this Under 85kg tournament are Takapuna, Northcote and the College Rifles Raiders and Bombers. Check the website for further details.

*The awards keep coming for Lions and Wales coach and Barbarians member Warren Gatland. Warren, who was on hand at the top 4 schools weekend in Rotorua in September to watch his talented son Bryn at No 10 for Hamilton Boys' High School, won the BBC Sports Personality coach of the year, Wales Sports Awards coach of the year, UK coach of the year and High Performance coach of the year after a tremendous season where he guided Wales to another Six Nations title and took the Lions to a 2-1 series victory in Australia. His Wales contract, too, was extended until the end of Rugby World Cup 2019.

*Not to be outdone, Steve Hansen was named New Zealand Rugby coach of the year, IRB coach of the year, and took the Halberg Award for NZ coach of the year after a spotless 2013 record with the All Blacks.

*At the Steinlager Awards, former All Blacks captain and Barbarian Graham Mourie was awarded the Steinlager Salver for his extensive contribution to rugby in many guises over the years.

*At this month's Halberg Awards, two other Barbarians were recognised. Richie McCaw was given the Sport New Zealand Leadership Award, richly deserved, while the incomparable Jonah Lomu was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.



VP Ron Williams, wife Leanne and President Bryan Williams, at the club's Xmas function.

*The club bar is a very important part of the club and operates to very high standards, under the stewardship of Dean Paddy. With the ever increasing number of events and occasions where bar staff are required 'for duty', we would like to appoint another helper to assist Dean. While the role is unpaid, the club will pay for all costs associated with the requirement to gain a bar managers' licence. If you would like to be part of Dean's team, please contact the secretary. Dean will be readily available to discuss all aspects of the job.

*As you enter the clubrooms, take a moment to glance up at the plaque which adorns the top right of the foyer. It acknowledges the co-founders of the NZ Barbarians club in 1937, Ron Bush and Hugh McLean.

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

OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2014, and there are many of you out there, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club and is a requirement of membership. Thus far less than half of our members have paid their subs for 2014, a very disappointing number.

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 John Cresswell or Custodian on duty 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 industrious club secretary John Cresswell, who is mostly based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

John Cresswell's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

Cellphone number: 021-703-904

Email addresses: sec@brfc.co.nz or jmcresswell@xtra.co.nz

Home number: 09-630-6425

WHAT'S ON IN 2014



**Continued from front page*

Friday May 2
Blues v Reds, 7.35pm



Saturday May 10
Warriors v Raiders, 5.00pm



Sunday May 25
Primary Schools Fun Day, Ngataranga Bay, 8.00am



Saturday May 31
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



Sunday June 1
Barbarians v Ponsonby XV
Ponsonby RFC 140th jubilee, TBC



Saturday June 7
All Blacks v England, 7.35pm



Friday June 13
Northland Schools Fun Day, TBC
NZ Barbarians v Blues, Whangarei, TBC



Wednesday June 25
Bay of Plenty Schools Fun Day
Paengaroa, TBC



Friday July 11
Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm



Saturday August 23
All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm

