



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

A classic loose forward shot from the NZ Barbarians Schools in their 37-19 win over an Auckland XV. Mungo Mason tries to slip the tackle, with support from James Blackwell, far left.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

After predicting the Wellington Lions would win the ITM Cup because of their great forwards, the Canterbury juggernaut proved me wrong again. As the finals near, Canterbury just lifts its game and plays faultless rugby every year.

Sad to hear of the recent death of Peter Fatialofa, one of the game's real characters and a proud Barbarian. Fats was a good guy and a very good player.

Schools Top 4 playoffs

At a great rugby weekend in Rotorua, Auckland's Tangaroa College took the national co-educational schools title with an emphatic display over Manurewa High School. Hamilton Boys' High School and St Kentigern then progressed to the national schools final hosted by the former on September 14.

Hamilton Boys' First XV had the whole school supporting, plus several past players. There was a crowd of around 5000 to watch a very tight match marred by heavy downpours. The hosts took the title with a drop goal from Bryn Gatland (Warren's son) in the last five minutes.

NZ Barbarians Schools team

The New Zealand Barbarian Schools team got together on Labour Weekend for a three-day training camp led by coach Dave Dillon.

Bryan Williams did the jersey presentation and a match was organised

against a combined Auckland Schools side, won by the Baabaas 37-19.

On Sunday they spent the morning with the All Blacks, who were about to leave for their northern tour, which was very special for the guys. Mick Byrne took the team for a skills session and Aaron Cruden and Sam Cane did a Q & A session on being All Blacks. The boys learnt a lot about professional rugby and new skillsets to develop their game.

Middleweight tournament

The middleweight tournament was this year won by Auckland. Cliff Lyon led a very good middleweight sub-committee which put together the tournament. Teams from Wellington, North Harbour, Waikato, Thames Valley and Auckland battled it out at the College Rifles club on their famed artificial turf.

Barbarians club committee

The hard-working committee has had another busy year, with everyone pulling their weight.

Bryan Craies is retiring from the committee at the end of 2013. Bryan has worked tirelessly for the middleweights along with Deano Allnutt. A special thank you to Craiesy, who continues to work hard behind the bar assisting Dean Paddy.

Christmas party

After last year's great end-of-year drinks function, we are holding the Christmas party on Friday December 6. Please make an effort to come along. It's a good, fun night. Don't forget, too, the AGM on November 27.

A special thank you to our main sponsors Barfoot and Thompson and Glengarrys.

Kind regards,

Mike Mills
President
Barbarians RFC

WHAT'S ON IN 2013



Sunday November 24

Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day, 9.30am

Wednesday November 27

AGM, 6.00pm

Friday December 6

Club Christmas function, 6.00pm

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

Deaths Of Members

Peter Fatialofa (1959-2013)

The bare record of Peter Fatialofa's career does little justice to the impact this remarkable piano-moving prop had on Samoan, Auckland and New Zealand rugby over a period of 30 years.

There were 70 games for Auckland from 1984-92 out of his beloved Ponsonby club, 18 games for Counties from 1994-96 out of Manurewa, and a test for the World XV in 1992 against the All Blacks. He was not far off cracking the 1988 All Blacks. But he is best remembered in 34 tests for Manu Samoa from 1988-96, in which he was at the heart of Samoa's rebirth as a rugby power, notably at RWC 1991 as skipper. His playing and ambassadorial skills were vital to the cause and contributed to his MNZM in 1996 for services to rugby.

In the coaching ranks, Fatialofa guided the East Tamaki club, King Country in the NPC and also the Manusina women's team. The eldest of his eight children Jeremiah also played for Counties Manukau as a prop.

Read Campbell Burnes' tribute to Fatialofa at www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/peterfatialofa

Ian Irvine (1929-2013)

Ian Irvine holds a special place in North Auckland rugby history.

He was the hooker when the province wrested the Ranfurly Shield off South Canterbury in 1950. Irvine played 31 times for the union from 1949-53 out of the Old Boys club and his one All Blacks test came in 1952 against Australia. He was following in the footsteps of his father Bill Irvine, a 1920s All Black and one of the 1924-25 Invincibles. His brother Bob was a noted rugby broadcaster. He stayed heavily involved in rugby after his retirement and helped in the formation of the Northland Vikings. In 2000, Irvine was awarded an MNZM for services to the disabled.

Peter McKay (1923-2013)

The death of Peter McKay on June 5, 2013, aged 89, was not recorded in our August newsletter.

McKay was a fine attacking centre good enough to play 20 first-class games from 1945-49, including 12 for Auckland, two All Blacks trials and one for the Barbarians. A good friend of the late Murray Menzies, McKay, whose given names were Robert Pallister, was a key cog in the 1948 Gallaher Shield-winning Ponsonby team. A compositor in the printing industry, even the amputation of a leg later in life due to his diabetes did not stop the McKay smile and quick repartee, not to mention his undying support for the Ponies club.

Jack 'Snow' Nuttall (1920-2009)

The death of Jack 'Snow' Nuttall on May 3, 2009, aged 88, has only just been brought to the attention of the club.

A real character who enjoyed a gin and tonic, Nuttall was a Ponsonby front-rower, supporter and team manager before and after the Second World War. He fondly recalled a Ponsonby club reunion held in Cairo during the war. He enjoyed surfing at Piha and was a friend of the late Tom Pearce. Nuttall was made a Barbarian in 1973.

NEW MEMBER

Vern Cotter (France)

Former Counties loose forward, also played for French clubs Lourdes and Rumilly; coached Bay of Plenty to its first ever Ranfurly Shield in 2004; assistant coach of the Crusaders in 2005-06 and current head coach of French club Clermont since 2006; won that club's first-ever French title in 2010 and took Clermont to the 2013 Heineken Cup final; will coach Scotland from June 2014.

We had left Vern's name off the August list of new members.

MEMBER PROFILE

COLIN McDONALD



Colin McDonald may split his time between Auckland and Wanaka these days, but he has no divided loyalties.

"I'll still be a Canterbury rugby man," declares the 82-year-old. "That won't change."

No issues there. He did, after all, play 57 games on the wing (or centre) for Canterbury from 1954-59, taking in part of a fine Ranfurly Shield era for the union. He might just have been unlucky to have missed the All Blacks, especially when you consider three other Canterbury wings from the era – Allan Elsom, Morrie Dixon and Ross Smith – were selected. McDonald himself is too modest to thrust himself forward, but he did appear in two All Blacks trials. It was a very strong Canterbury side – he was on occasion the sole non-All Black – but given the proclivity to 10-man rugby that plagued much of the 1950s, he did rather well to score 23 tries for the union, including a hat-trick against North Auckland in a Shield defence.



"On a couple of occasions I was interviewed and asked whether I enjoyed the game and I replied 'Well, I only saw the ball once!'"

He says one of his real career highlights was scoring two tries for the Barbarians against Auckland in 1955 at Eden Park: "It was a great thrill to be selected out of the blue."

McDonald believes he was made a Barbarian in the 1970s and describes membership as an honour. He was also chairman of the Cantabrians for a time.

After his playing days he coached at junior level for his Marist club, but a large family and business commitments took up most of his time. He took over the running of his father's grain and seed business. But he and his wife Judy were forced to uproot from his home near Hagley Oval

after the Christchurch earthquake of 2011.

"Now that we are living mostly in Auckland, I'll take the opportunity to get along to one or two of the Barbarians dos at the Eden Park clubrooms," he says.

McDonald has taken particular pride, though, in Canterbury's unprecedented run of six provincial titles.

"I still have acquaintances on the rugby union and they are a pretty devoted lot."

NZ BARBARIANS SCHOOLS REVIEW

As the President hinted in his Team Talk, the NZ Barbarians Schools side maintained its unbeaten record over two seasons with a 37-19 victory over an Auckland Schools selection at Auckland's St Peter's College.

Coaches Dave Dillon and Darren Larsen had the boys gelling swiftly over two days, despite the hindrance of losing three players late to injury. The team scored four fine tries and fullback Jordan Trainor had a field day with 22 points, including 17 points with the boot. Man of the match was industrious openside flanker Mungo Mason of Tauranga Boys' College, while his loose forward colleague James Blackwell, of Wellington College, led the side to good effect.



Barbarians always have a good time at the footy. From left: Mark Moore, Tom O'Hanlon, John Cresswell, Wally Jelcich and 'Beegee' Williams.

This top schoolboy rep side, second only to the full NZ Schools squad, and chosen mainly from year 12 boys, now sports a 3-0 record, and should have the chance to play two prime fixtures in 2014 against Fijian Schools and Australian Schools.

For a full report on the weekend, check out the website at www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/national

MIDDLEWEIGHT REVIEW

The sixth annual middleweight tournament, held in September at Auckland's College Rifles club artificial turf, was another real success.

Auckland reclaimed the title, after the Wellington Centurions took the 2012 honours, over the two-day

competition, in which five rep teams took part, four of them selected from solely Under 85kg players. Deano Allnutt, Cliff Lyon and Scott Bracey had things going smoothly, and there was plenty of running rugby. North Harbour was runner-up, followed by Wellington Centurions, Thames Valley and Waikato Cavaliers. A tournament team was again selected and photographed in full Barbarians kit.



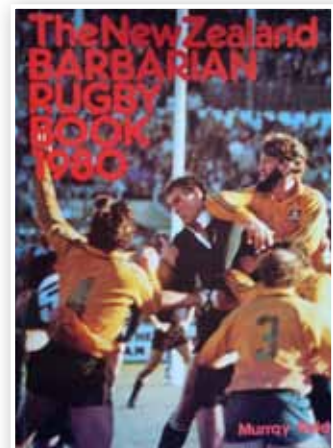
There was no holding back as North Harbour and Auckland clashed. Harbour won the match 8-3 but Auckland won the tourney.

For a full report on the tournament, check out the website at www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/middleweight

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Funny what you come across when you delve into your rugby library.

The editor came across the 1980 *New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Book* (pictured), penned by life member Murray Reid. It is a potpourri of all things rugby and includes a classic photo of the 20-year reunion of the 1960 Auckland Ranfurly Shield squad, held in the old 'House that Jack Built', the club's headquarters for nearly 40 years. Murray also wrote, presciently, of the increasing difficulty the club faced in arranging major first-class fixtures.



The *Rugby Annual* for 1979 was edited by Barbarian Bob Howitt, and was the usual fascinating review of the New Zealand season. Barbarians Dave Loveridge, Graham Mourie and Stu Wilson were three of the five players of the year while Poverty Bay hooker and captain, Barbarian Grant Allen, said of the Pumas, who had just beaten his side 26-3: "They are without doubt the biggest, strongest footballers I have ever encountered!"

Also notable was the comprehensive eight-page coverage

devoted to schools rugby by the late Arthur Reeve, a champion of this crucial level of the game, which the Barbarians continue to foster.

AGE IS NO BARRIER

I'm sure the following august gentlemen will not mind their inclusion in the following list of our 20 oldest surviving Barbarians. If we have left anyone off, please let the editor know at cmburnes@hotmail.com. Life members Allen Rogers (born 1921) and Bob Sorenson (1922) head the list, followed by, respectively, Ron Elvidge, Charlie Bancroft, George Bourke, Sherman Corser, Frank Rogers, Peter Fogarty, Peter Henderson, Fife McGuigan, Barrie Hutchinson, Peter Burke, Peter Hall, Dr Matt Marshall, John Pring, Kevin Skinner, Percy Erceg, Barry Bracewell, Jack Smith and Laurie Woodgate.

AGM 2013

Here is the agenda for the 77th Annual General Meeting of the NZ Barbarians RFC, to be held at the Eden Park clubrooms on Wednesday November 27 at 6.00pm. All members are welcome.

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of minutes of the 76th AGM (Tuesday November 27, 2012)
3. Obituaries
4. New members
5. President's report
6. Club captain's report
7. Treasurer's report and adoption of annual accounts
8. Election of officers
9. Presentation of Albert Storey Trophy
10. Life membership nomination: Rodney Doidge
11. General business

BAABAAS BRIEFS

**The annual Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day will be held on Sunday November 24 at 9.30am at the Bridge Park Bowling Club in Taylor Road, Mangere. This event is open to the first 32 teams and the entry fee is \$60 per team, which includes a lavish lunch. All proceeds go to Pat Walsh memorial scholarships to Maori youth in sport. Among several contacts are Barry Thomas (636-7282 or 0274-147-255), Mark Walsh, son of Pat (021-959-110) or Wally Jelicich (021-251-2927).*

**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.*

**Congratulations to committee member Richard Fry, who is*

the new manager of rugby for the Blues.

"This is my patch and like a lot of fans and the public, last season I saw a real turnaround in attitude from the Blues, and I want to be a part of it," says Fry, who has a wealth of experience in rugby, both on the playing and commercial side.

**The great Wallaby halfback John Hipwell, who died in September aged 65, played two first-class games for the NZ Barbarians in 1972 and '82.*

**The club made a reciprocal visit to the SAS base last month after delegates of the SAS conference in September visited the clubrooms for the Auckland-Counties Manukau ITM Cup match. Malcolm Hood was the intermediary. The SAS hosted members of the management committee at its Papakura base and a good time was had by all at this informative evening. Check the news section of the website for a photo and write-up.*

**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 2013, 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.

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 Dean Paddy or John Cresswell 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:

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