



BAABAA NEWS

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



Gavin Hastings, far left, and Stu Wilson and Sean Fitzpatrick, far right, were among the many revellers at the successful Rugby Ties dinner last month in Auckland.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

We can all reflect on a rugby extravaganza in the past couple of months, the likes of which we may not see again for some time.

Starting with our own NZ Barbarians Provincial XV performing outstandingly well against the Lions team in Whangarei in the opening match of the tour, then the Blues' victory at Eden Park, followed by the ups and downs of the test series with a few dinners and reunions thrown in along the way for good measure!

Our own Barbarians team was made up of a group of young men from the provinces who all stood up and grasped their opportunity with both hands to come pretty close to pulling off an historic victory over the Lions. Each player wore their own provincial socks and there were 14 different pairs of socks out there on the field, which was a great sight.

The people of Northland got in behind the game and the coaching and management group for the Barbarians, led by head coach Clayton McMillan from BOP and manager Chris Back from Wanganui, did a wonderful job. Our club was well represented in Whangarei by a large group of members spearheaded by our patron Bryan Williams and our vice-president Alan Whetton, who presented the team with their jerseys and players ties the night before the game and spoke to the team reinforcing the club's history and the traditions and spirit of the Barbarian way.

A few of us had the opportunity to catch up with players after the game in the changing sheds and it was wonderful to see how much this group had developed in just a week together and good to see them enjoy the occasion with the satisfaction of a job well done. It was a memorable occasion and a special weekend for this club.

I am extremely grateful to NZ Rugby for their work putting this match together. It's a large scale exercise and NZR did everything so well. I really take my hat off to Steve Tew and his dedicated staff for the way they operate and the support they give this club.

Also to Peter Thompson of Barfoot and Thompson – a huge thank you for your support of the Barbarians team.

On Thursday July 6, prior to the final test match at Eden Park, we held our Rugby Ties dinner at the Viaduct Events Centre. The idea for this dinner was to celebrate our rugby ties, have some fun as part of the build-up to the third test of the Lions tour, and raise some funds for our club as well as our charity partners, the New Zealand Rugby Foundation and Spirit of Adventure Trust.

The night was MCD by James McOnie and Barbarian Melodie Robinson, with special guest panellists club members Sir Graham Henry, Sean Fitzpatrick, Stu Wilson, Gavin Hastings, our patron Beegee Williams and

former Lion, Richard Hill.

Sponsors for the evening included Barfoot & Thompson, Heineken and Pernod Ricard.

It was a memorable night and great to listen to the stories of the panellists of the games of old and their views on the Lions series. A very good rendition of Tutira Mai by Beegee was followed by a Scottish ballad by Gavin Hastings! A big thank you to Barbarian Simon Johnston for all his hard work and efforts organising the dinner.

We also ran our 28th primary schools' fun day on Sunday June 25, which was a really good day despite the weather and well attended by 36 primary schools and many of our Baabaas members. A big thank you to Roger Moore, Terry O' Meara, Craig Glendinning, Michael Speight and Graeme Halse for their help putting it all together and all the other Baabaas that turned up to help on the day. Once again sponsored by club member Peter Thompson/Barfoot & Thompson and supported by Onsite Catering – Colin Davis, Auckland Rugby, Royal NZ Navy, Milo, Auckland Rugby Referees – and of course the Blues, who turned up in force and made the day for the kids.

On Thursday June 29, we had our new members' night where we inducted 28 new members, each with their own story to tell about their path to this club. It's been great to see some of those new members up at the club recently.

I have to mention Trina, Mereana, Dennis, Kate and the rest of the house team who have worked tirelessly during arguably the busiest two months in the club's history – they did a marvellous job and we sincerely thank them for their efforts.

Cheers,

Ron Williams
President
Barbarians RFC



Deaths Of Members

Sir John 'DJ' Graham (1935-2017)

They came from far and wide in their thousands for the funeral early this month of Sir John 'DJ' Graham, a great man of rugby and indeed an impressive allround man.

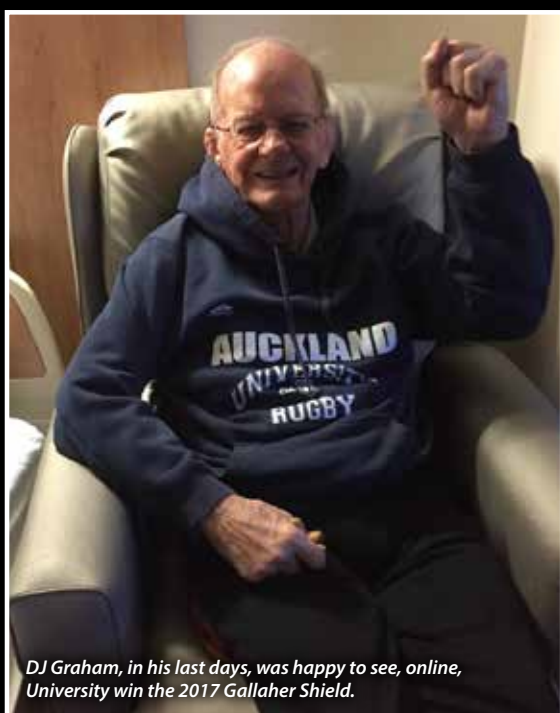
His list of achievements is too great to list in full here, but he did play 22 tests (out of 53 matches in all) for the All Blacks from 1958-64 as a light, but smart loose forward. That he scored no less than 42 tries in 180 first-class games is testament to his ability to be in the right place at the right time.

He played his early rep rugby for Auckland and NZ Universities, and latterly Canterbury, and an early example of his leadership was evident when, as the young 21-year-old skipper of University, he refused to be cowed into playing unscheduled extra time when the Gallaher Shield decider with Otahuhu was tied at 80 minutes.

A forthright, very black and white character, Graham brought discipline and high standards to his time as Auckland Grammar School headmaster from 1973-93, as he did to his work as Auckland assistant coach in 1974-76 and 1992-94. He filled many roles within education, rugby and sport in general, and was knighted in 2011. He served terms as President of both Auckland and New Zealand Rugby.

In latter years, he enjoyed getting back to grassroots rugby with his old Auckland University club and his old school ethos was exemplified with a superb after-match speech, at his accession as patron of that club in 2014, extolling the virtues of club rugby.

Graham's brothers, Sir Jim and Barbarian member Bob, also both played rep rugby, for Waikato and Auckland respectively.



DJ Graham, in his last days, was happy to see, online, University win the 2017 Gallaher Shield.

LIONS v BAABAAS



The Baabaas halves Jack Stratton and Bryn Gatland.

One of the highest profile matches in the club's 80-year history very nearly ended in an historic upset as the NZ Barbarians Provincial XV, who included club member Peter Rowe, played their hearts out before being edged 13-7 by the British and Irish Lions to kick off that long-awaited tour in Whangarei on June 3.

A host of Barbarians were among the throng of 20,000 who packed Toll Stadium to see the club's team do themselves proud. You will see many of them in action in the Mitre 10 Cup. Fourteen provinces were represented.

Check out the full match report by Campbell Burnes here: <http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/national.html>



The Barbarians match against the Lions was a marvellous night for the club and the players.

NEW MEMBERS



The club has welcomed 26 members this year, 16 of whom were present at the induction in late June. Two are based overseas, four are ladies and one – Louisa Wall – is a Member of Parliament.

Garry Allen: played for Waitemata and Massey clubs; Auckland age-grade rep 1960s-70s; has coached many teams at Massey and in North Harbour; Rugby Foundation stalwart

Graeme Bachop: former All Blacks (31 tests, 1987-95) and Japan halfback; coached in Japan, now coaching HSOB club in Canterbury

Mark Bateman: Chairman of Eden club; has coached and administered the game at many levels since the 1970s

Kevin Boroovich: former All Blacks prop (26 games, 3 tests, 1983-88); also played for NZ Maori, King Country, Wellington and North Harbour; six games for NZ Barbarians (1981-85)

Garry Chronican: Chairman of NZ Schools Rugby Council 2003-17; many admin and coaching roles in Otago and South Island Schools; played for Dunedin club and Otago B

Stu Conn: former All Blacks lock/loose forward (six games, 1976-80); played for Auckland and Hawke's Bay

Gerry Davidson: Extensive coaching, managing, admin roles in South Island schools rugby; chairman of South Island Schools Rugby; NZ Schools Rugby Council member; Coach of St Bede's First XV; No 8 for South Canterbury 1987-90

Gary Donovan: NZ Rugby volunteer of the year 2016 for unstinting work for Suburbs club and previously Bay Lynn as delegate to union and teams liaison man

Andy Earl: former All Blacks loose forward/lock (45 games, 14 tests, 1986-92); played for Canterbury and Wairarapa-Bush; still active with the Glenmark club and Canterbury union

Nick Evans: former All Blacks first five/fullback (16 tests, 2004-07); played for Blues, Highlanders, North Harbour, Otago and NZ Barbarians; Harlequins (UK) player of decade 2008-17; just retired

Dean Finlay: Played for College Old Boys (Manawatu) and Southern (Otago) clubs; assisted John Mayhew with programmes for injured players; director at CBL Insurance Ltd.

Isabella Ford (nee Gray): former Black Ferns loose forward (5 tests, 1999-2005); WRWC winner 2002; played for Wellington Pride; East Porirua deputy mayor; first woman appointed to Wellington RFU board in 2017

Victoria Grant (nee Blackledge): former Black Ferns and Black Ferns 7s wing (17 tests, 2006-13); 2008 NZ Rugby women's player of the year; NZ touch rep; BOP women's assistant coach 2017; physiotherapist

Martin Isberg: Chairman of Wellington RFU 2012-17; long-time Wellington and NZ Schools rugby administrator; has managed myriad teams at Wainuiomata HS

Richard Loe: former All Blacks prop (78 games, 49 tests, 1986-95); played for Crusaders, Chiefs, Canterbury, Waikato and Marlborough; farmer

Stu Mather: Auckland Rugby COD chairman 2016-17; played prop for NZ Universities, Waikato B, Auckland B, and in Scotland and USA; Auckland Rugby liaison officer 2007-15; coach and manager at club level in Auckland and North Harbour

Andrew Mehrtens: former All Blacks No 10 (70 tests, 1995-2004); played for Crusaders and Canterbury, plus Beziers, Toulon, Racing-Metro (France) and Harlequins (UK); domiciled in Australia

Geoff Moon: current Auckland assistant coach and coach of MAGS First XV; wealth of experience at school and club level in Auckland since 1988; one of just two men to win premier club and First XV titles as coach in the union

Kevin Pryor: former Waikato Maori rep, son of the late Alby Pryor; still playing Presidents grade for Marist; AUT business development manager

Kevin Reilly: College Rifles club president and life member; early pioneer of touch modules in 1989; Mahurangi club manager 1996-2000

Davida Suasua (nee White): former Black Ferns flanker (13 tests, 1993-2000) out of Auckland; 1998 WRWC winner; has coached Auckland and now Counties

Manukau women, winning 2016 FPC; deputy principal at Tangaroa College

Ivan Tasi: loose forward for Marist and Otahuhu in Auckland and extensive career in Italy; has coached Marist, Otahuhu and Samoa Colts

Karl Tenana: one of the great NZ Sevens players and former captain; scored 113 World Series tries; played for Chiefs, Highlanders, North Harbour and Wellington; 2014 Sigatoka Walk of Fame; now works in media for SKY TV and World Rugby

Karl Todd: former NZ Colts captain and loose forward; played for Suburbs and Manurewa clubs and Kobe Steel in Japan

Louisa Wall: former Black Ferns wing (15 tests, 1995-99) out of Auckland and Waikato; 1998 WRWC winner; Silver Ferns netballer 1989-92; NZ women's player of year 1997; Labour MP since 2008

Gary Wright: former Counties lock (1980-83); racked up 277 games for Pukekohe club; 2017 vice-president of Counties Manukau RFU



WHAT'S ON IN 2017



Saturday August 26
Auckland v Northland, 4.35pm
Auckland 1A/1B First XV finals, from midday



Wednesday August 30
Auckland v Waikato, 7.35pm



September 8-10
First XV Top 4 semis and final, Palmerston North



Saturday September 9
Auckland v Taranaki, 2.35pm



Thursday September 28
NZ Barbarians Schools v Tongan Schools, Palmerston North



Saturday September 30
Auckland v Bay of Plenty, 5.05pm



Monday October 2
NZ Barbarians Schools v NZ Maori
U18, Palmerston North



Friday October 13
Auckland v Canterbury, 7.35pm



October 20-21
Mitre 10 Cup semifinals
7.35pm, venue TBC



Saturday October 28
Mitre 10 Cup Premiership final
7.35pm, venue TBC



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2017 functions/events, including the AGM and the Christmas party.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



***Congratulations to Michael Jones for his knighthood in the Queen's Birthday honours. He is now a 'Sir' for services to the Pacific community and youth.**

Sir Colin Meads, one of a clutch of Barbarian knights, has been immortalised in bronze in his home town of Te Kuiti. The inauguration took place during the Lions tour and drew a large gathering of rugby people and Lions tourists.



Sir Graham Henry with Peter Thompson, a proud and very active Barbarian.

***Friday November 3 is the date for our golf day at Akarana GC to raise funds for the NZ Rugby Foundation. We will send out a flyer in due course.**

***Our member from Manawatu, Clive Akers, one of New Zealand's foremost rugby historians, 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 several months ago. 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 or khh@ryh.co.nz

Home number: 09-520-1638

Many Barbarians took in the unique atmosphere of the third Lions test at Eden Park.

