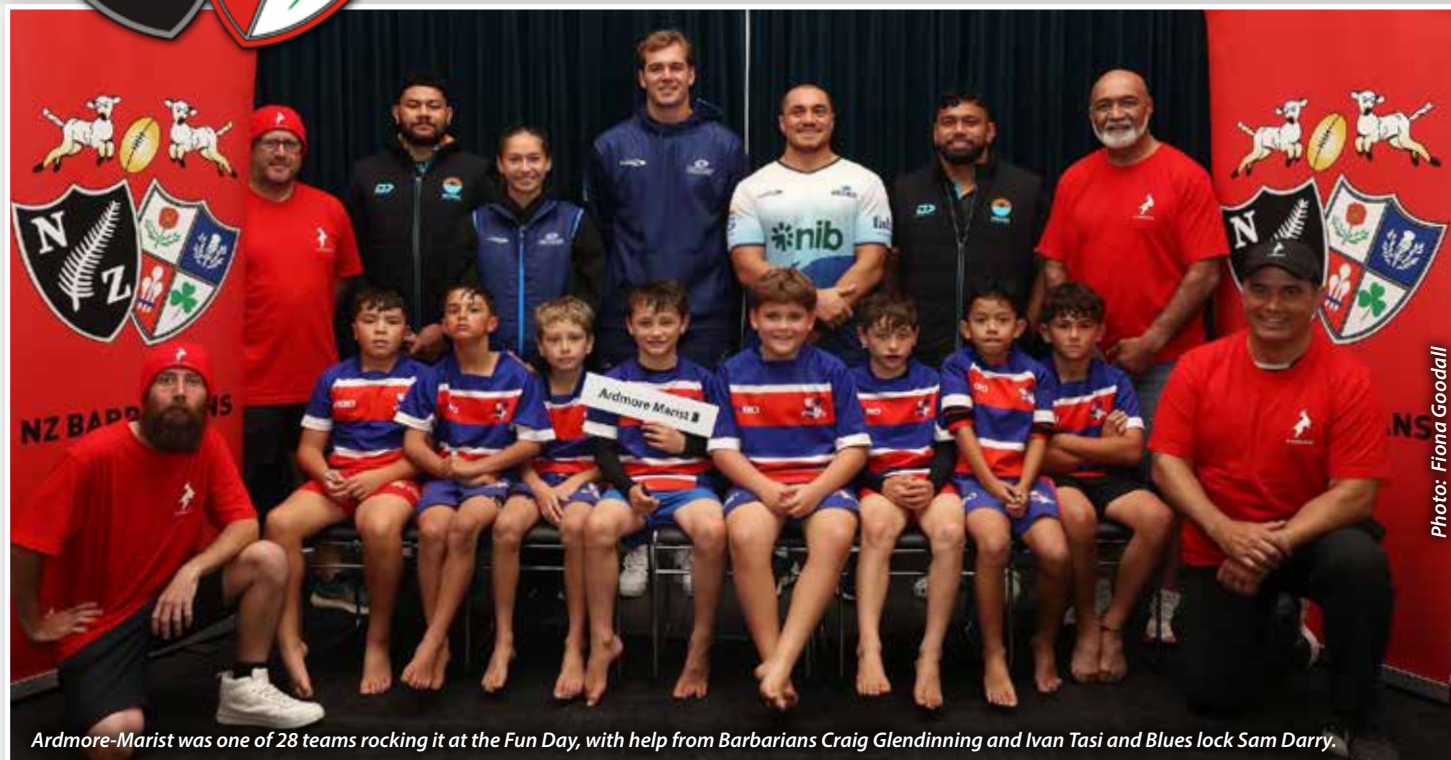


AUGUST 2025

BARBAA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club Inc.
Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand.

www.barbarianrugby.co.nz • FB: @NZBarbarianRugby • Insta: @nzbarbarianrugby



Ardmore-Marist was one of 28 teams rocking it at the Fun Day, with help from Barbarians Craig Glendinning and Ivan Tasi and Blues lock Sam Darry.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



It's been a busy old time for the Barbarians lately, but it's only going to get even busier over the next two months.

One of the major highlights was our annual Fun Day, held in May. We had 28 teams, upwards of 300 kids and at least 50 Barbarians on hand, plus the Blues men and women, so it was a really good day with good weather. We're pushing to get back up to our pre-Covid numbers.

We also welcomed a clutch of new members to the club in April. Some of the new, younger ones have certainly lowered the average age of the membership!

We also poignantly remember fondly some of those older members who have left us in recent months, including the likes of Stu Wilson, 'Grizz' Wyllie, John Mayhew and 1990-91 President Peter Fogarty. We acknowledge their passing at each committee meeting. Full obits can be found further in this newsletter.

I was privileged to be at the jersey presentation at Karaka Rugby Club to the New Zealand U85kg team before they left for their Sri Lanka tour. Also there were Sir 'Ted' Henry and Keven Mealamu. I was also at the draw for the National U85kg Club Cup at Pakuranga RFC. That comp has just kicked off and the Barbarians have played a big part in driving this grade.

We had a good turnout for the Manu Samoa-Scotland Test last month. It looked like a lot of our Samoan members were on hand! The committee is working on a new Strategic Plan for 2025-29, so we'll have full details in the next couple of months.

Coming up we have our NZ Barbarians playing the NZ Marist Colts at Bruce Pulman Park (August 9). The Marist team will be coached by our very own Craig Glendinning.

We have our midwinter Christmas party after the Auckland v Taranaki NPC game on August 16, so we encourage as many members as possible who are in the region to come along and enjoy some fellowship.

Next month we'll have the NZ Barbarians Area Schools back in action. The Barbarians Under 18 boys will be flying the flag, followed in early October by the Barbarians Under 18 girls. The September 6 All Blacks-Boks Test will be huge, the biggest game of the year, the ABs putting their 50-match unbeaten Eden Park streak on the line, followed by the Bledisloe Cup clash on September 27. We just remind members to please come along and use your clubrooms. Catch you there.

Rick Johnston
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Alex 'Grizz' Wyllie, MBE (1944-2025)

Alex 'Grizz' Wyllie was All Blacks number 688, playing 40 games for the team, including 11 Tests, from 1970-73 as a tough loose forward.

He also, it may not be widely known, played for the first New Zealand Sevens team, in 1973.

He was All Blacks assistant coach at the 1987 Rugby World Cup and head coach from 1988-91, his winning record one of the best of all time. Grizz later coached Argentina and Marlborough and myriad other teams around the rugby globe.

Revered in Canterbury, Grizz played 187 games, which differs from some estimates, for the red and blacks from 1964-79, the last seven years as captain, winning the NPC and Ranfurly Shield. That tally for Canterbury has only been bettered by the late Fergie McCormick. There were also 27 first-class games for Canterbury Country, as he played all his club rugby out of his beloved Glenmark in North Canterbury.

In all, Grizz played 279 first-class games and scored 57 tries, but also kicked 19 goals.

As coach of Canterbury from 1982-86, he guided the team to the 1983 NPC title and the Ranfurly Shield, won in 1982 off Wellington, setting in train one of the great Shield tenures, which lasted 25 successful challenges and three years.

In 1986, Grizz was honoured with an MBE for services to rugby. He shifted to Tasman for the last few years of his life.

Dr John Mayhew, ONZM (1954-2025)

Dr John Mayhew was one of New Zealand's finest sports medicine practitioners, and touched the lives of many players and rugby (and league) people over many years.

He was the All Blacks doctor for 15 years, from 1988-2003 and the long-time Warriors doctor. A Rosmini College old boy, John played nearly 200 games for his Northcote club as a hard-working lock, and was life member of that club and the North Harbour union, for whom he was the match-day doctor for nearly 40 years.

In 2016, he was appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to sports medicine. John's sons Michael, Richard and Nic all played first-class rugby for North Harbour. Richard currently helps coach the Rosmini First XV. John's brother David is a Barbarian, as are his brothers-in-law AJ and Gary Whetton.

John Cresswell (1940-2025)

John Cresswell was a life member of the Barbarians and the club secretary from 2000-14.

He had been a Barbarian since 1998. Out of Mt Albert Grammar School, John was a tough five-eighths, mainly No 12, who represented three provinces – Otago out of the Zingari-Richmond club, Waikato out of the Hamilton Old Boys club and Bay of Plenty out of the Rotorua HSOB club, scoring 10 tries in 49 first-class appearances from 1964-68. He won a Ranfurly Shield with the Mooloos in 1966 when defeating Auckland at Eden Park.

John was a humble, widely liked and highly regarded secretary through seven Presidential tenures and was often to be found at the club with his late wife Mary, another smiling and genial

presence. He was a key man in management in the important 2003 fixture for the NZ Barbarians versus England at Twickenham, and was in the thick of the robust negotiations with Eden Park over the transfer to the new clubrooms. In 2017, he was awarded the Albert Storey Trophy by the club.

Fred Graham, CNZM (1928-2025)

Fred Graham was 96 and had been a Barbarian since 2014. A wing, Fred played 41 first-class games from 1951-57, appearing thrice for the 1955 Maori All Blacks in their internal tour alongside the likes of Pat Walsh and Albie Pryor. He also appeared for Bay of Plenty out of the Waikite club, North Auckland out of Dargaville Old Boys and Rarawa, and Manawatu out of the Old Boys club. In all, Fred ran in 16 tries.

He coached school and club teams after his retirement but won wider fame as one of New Zealand's finest sculptors and artists, specialising in Maori art.

Fred was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2025 New Year's Honours list for services to Maori art, which he was due to receive late in May, and was preparing for the opening of his latest exhibition, Fred Graham: Toi Whakaata/Reflections, at Christchurch Art Gallery.

Stu Wilson (1954-2025)

Stu Wilson was 70 and had been a Barbarian since 1983.

He was All Blacks number 772, playing 85 times, including 34 Tests, for his country from 1976-83, and was skipper of the 1983 All Blacks to England and Scotland.

A very fine, resourceful wing, Stu scored 50 tries for the All Blacks, 19 in Tests, which was, for a time, the national record. In 87 games for his beloved Wellington (out of the College Old Boys club), he scored 43 tries. He was a two-time NPC first division champion (in 1978 and '81) and winner of the Ranfurly Shield in 1981. There were also six first-class games for the NZ Barbarians club from 1977-84.

In all, Stu scored 106 tries in 202 first-class matches. He's amongst a select group of 42, the latest of which is Barbarian Beauden Barrett in 2025, to have passed 100 tries at this level.

Stu's partnership on the wing for Wellington and the All Blacks with Bernie Fraser is enshrined in rugby folklore and dealt with in the 1984 book by Alex Veysey, *Ebony and Ivory*, a classic of the genre, detailing how rugby could and should be fun.

Stu enjoyed a colourful life after rugby. Amongst other occupations, he was a TV pundit/commentator, bar owner and, latterly, an orderly at Tauranga Hospital.

Peter Fogarty (1925-2025)

Peter Fogarty was 99, probably our oldest member, had been a Barbarian since 1966, and was President of the club in 1990-91.

A halfback in his playing days, Peter was a life member of the Takapuna club in North Harbour, for whom he gave long service as treasurer and club President. In later life, he enjoyed playing bowls at the Takapuna BC.

Rest in Peace

WHAT'S ON IN 2025

Saturday August 9
NZ Barbarians v NZ Marist Colts
Bruce Pulman Park, 1pm



Saturday August 16
Auckland v Taranaki,
4.35pm



Saturday August 16
Club midwinter Xmas party,
6.30pm



Saturday August 23
Auckland v BOP,
4.35pm



Saturday August 23
Auckland v Northland,
7.05pm



September 1-6
NZ Barbarians Area Schools camp,
Northland
(Two games TBC)



Saturday September 6
All Blacks
v South Africa (RC),
7.05pm



Sunday September 14
Auckland v Canterbury,
11.35am



Sunday September 14
Auckland v Manawatu,
2.05pm



Saturday September 20
NZ Barbarians U18 v NZ Schools,
St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton, 2pm



Thursday September 25
NZ Barbarians U18 v NZ Maori U18
St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton, 2pm



Saturday September 27
All Blacks
v Australia (RC/BC),
5.05pm



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2025 functions/events.

NEW MEMBERS



Twelve of the 17 new members were at the April induction event the club.

John Afoa: All Blacks #1062, 2005-11, 36 Tests as prop; RWC champion 2011; also played for Auckland, BOP, Blues, Crusaders, Vannes (France) and Bristol/Gloucester/Ulster (UK); now GM of Auckland University club and Steelers assistant coach

Mana Ashford: Former NZ and Auckland Sevens rep; Waitemata RFC centurion; current business owner and national partnership manager for I am Hope charity

Eloise Blackwell: Former Black Ferns lock, 2011-21; 2017 WRWC champion, Blues Aupiki champion and Storm NPC champion; captain of champion Ponsonby Fillies; teacher at EGGS

Roger Drew: Head of referee coaching for Auckland Rugby Referees' Association; played for Mt Wellington/Otahuhu/Suburbs clubs; former HP coaching for World Sevens circuit; over 200 premier games as referee; life member of ARRA; project manager at Auckland Zoo

Gilbert Enoka: Mental skills coach for All Blacks 2000-23 in over 300 Tests; has also worked with myriad national and international sports teams such as Crusaders, Black Caps and Silver Ferns; has just released book *Becoming Unstoppable*.

Rob Grindlay: Former North Harbour and Hong Kong prop out of the East Coast Bays club; coached in NZ, Hong Kong, Dubai and Spain; played for NZ Barbarians in 2024; currently board director and CFO

Tony Hewin: Counties Manukau RFU finance, risk and audit committee; played for St Kentigern College and for Manurewa and Waikato University clubs; previously on committee, managed and coached at Auckland University club; Sky City Group GM capital markets and business analytics

Emma Jensen: Former Black Ferns halfback, 2002-15, 49 Tests; 3x WRWC champion; played 189 fc games 1999-2022 (national record); multiple FPC champion with Storm; DP at Hastings GHS; Hawke's Bay RFU board member

Ala Leavasa-Bakulich: Former Manusina front-rower; went to three WRWCs; also played for Auckland and Counties Manukau; physiotherapist

Alan Linstrom: Chairman of Glenfield RFC; played 237 premier games for the club; former North Harbour RFU President; company owner/director

Warrick Nansett: Managing director of North South Trust; former head of business support and finance manager at Blues and Auckland Rugby; former Eden RFC treasurer

Aleisha-Pearl Nelson: Former Black Ferns prop, 2012-21, 39 Tests; 2017 WRWC champion; multiple FPC champion with Storm; also played for Blues in Aupiki; nurse

Andrew Ritchie: Former chairman of Northland union; founding member of Rugby for Life charity; strong supporter of NZ Rugby Foundation; director of Auckland Transport

Trina Seits: Long-time club/bar manager since 2010; organises much of behind the scenes/events for the club; 2023 joint winner of Albert Storey Trophy

Mulipola Darryl Suasua: 2x WRWC champion as Black Ferns coach; former Steelers coach, Manu Samoa assistant, coached myriad sevens and 15s sides in NZ, Asia and Pacific; husband of Barbarian Davida Suasua

Sam Whitelock: All Blacks #1104, 2010-23; 153 Tests as lock, most capped AB ever; 2x RWC champion, multiple Super Rugby and NPC champion; 2025 ONZM; now farming in Hawke's Bay

Milan Yelavich: Played for Western United and Takapuna; coached Takapuna to 3x North Harbour premier club titles; Croatia head coach 2011-19; assistant coach of 2006 Harbour side that won Ranfurly Shield; self-employed businessman

RUGBY REVIEW



Several Baabaas teams have been in action since our last newsletter. The most prominent side was our Barbarians U21 side that placed sixth at the Super Rugby U20 tournament in Taupo. Under the coaching of Barbarians Guy Lennox and Dion Waller, and with minimal lead-in time, the boys lost 19-59 to the Chiefs, beat Fijian Drua 36-14 and went down 36-54 to the Highlanders, scoring some cracking tries on the three match-days. Players to watch include No 8 Marshall Blakely, opensider Max Ratcliffe, lock Jai Knight, who will see NPC game time with the BOP Steamers, Wellington hooker Leon Tuiloma, who has already debuted for the Lions, and wing Adam Morrison, who ran in three tries versus the Drua. This team continues to throw out prime young talent. In 2024, No 8 Semisi Tupou Ta'eiloa was a Baabaas U21 standout. This season he starred for Moana Pasifika. The famous scarlet jersey will be in full visibility over the next two months, in particular the Area Schools and the Barbarians U18 boys and girls, so watch out for updates.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



**Congratulations to Ross Cooper, who was awarded the KSM in the King's Birthday honours for his long service to rugby nationally and in Thames Valley.*

**The Barbarians club has been on social media for some time, via Facebook www.facebook.com/NZBarbarianRugby and Instagram www.instagram.com/nzbarbarianrugby so you can more swiftly keep up with all the club news. The website is looking good too.*

**The newsletter editor is also the editor of iconic monthly magazine Rugby News.*

There's plenty of provincial, sevens, grassroots and women's coverage in there to sink your teeth into, as well as All Blacks and Super Rugby content. The August issue is out now. Rugby News is available at all good magazine retailers and supermarkets or you can subscribe by calling 0800-77-77-10 or visit www.rugbynews.co.nz

**The 2025 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.*



What the Fun Day is all about.

EMAIL ADDRESSES



The club uses email and the website for most 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 Monalisa Codling 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. If you are moving or changing your email or contact number, please email secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz

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 Monalisa Codling 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 Monalisa Codling, who is at times based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

Monalisa's details are:

Club office number: 09-846-7241

Cellphone number: 021-426-354

Email addresses:

secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz



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