



FEBRUARY 2020

# BAABAA NEWS

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



Craig Glendinning, left, President AJ Whetton and bar manager Trina Seits seem to be in their element at the club Christmas party.

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

I hope you've all had a relaxing summer thus far and are gradually getting back into rugby mode, despite the heat and humidity.

We must firstly cover off the news out of November's AGM. Congratulations to Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams and Neil Cullimore on their life memberships of the club. Both richly deserved.

'Beegee's elevation was a no-brainer for the work he does for rugby and the club, his profile around the country and his role with the NZ Rugby Foundation. What's more, he's just a great guy.

Cully has recovered from his bad cycling accident and this is acknowledgement of the work he has done with and for the club over many years. He's back on the path to fitness, which is tremendous to see. Both men just have a passion for the game and its people.

Roger Moore has stepped down after more than 20 years' service on the committee and we must recognise his contribution in all areas of Barbarians activities. We certainly appreciate the time Roger has devoted to the club since the 1990s.

The rugby season has kicked off earlier than ever in January. It was a shame the Blues couldn't get across the line against the Chiefs in the Super Rugby opener, but the Baabaas club itself was in fine form and good to see Barbarians turning up in numbers after the holidays. Great to see several of the new members enjoying the conviviality. I can tell you the club was still humming when I left, and the atmosphere is very welcoming.

Our bowls teams enjoyed themselves by all accounts at the Mount earlier this month, both on and off the greens. The Barbarians flag flies high down at that annual tournament. We

look forward to the Pat Walsh Memorial Day on March 15.

Mark down Sunday May 24 as a call to arms for our annual primary schools fun day, our third at Bruce Pulman Day. Peter Thompson of Barfoot & Thompson helps us out so much to make this great day happen, and the kids and all the members on hand love it.

Some of our teams that play under the Barbarians banner will be on show in the coming months in various matches. We are just awaiting confirmation of those fixtures and then we will have full details for you.

In the meantime, enjoy all the footy and the Barbarians activities.

**Alan Whetton**  
President  
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



# Deaths Of Members

## **Sam Strahan (1944-2019)**

**Just last year, Sam Strahan, one of a clutch of Manawatu Barbarians, helped present the jerseys for the NZ Barbarians Area Schools team and was an active presence in any Barbarians activities in the region.**

**All Black number 657, the lock played 45 games, including 17 tests, from 1967-73, and 70 games for Manawatu from 1965-76. The big farmer went on to serve as Manawatu union president from 2003-06 and was a life member of his Oroua club.**

**In an article published in Rugby News after his sudden death just before Christmas, he advocated the return of rucking.**

## **Owen Gleeson (1932-2019)**

**Another elder statesman of Manawatu rugby died at the end of last year.**

**Owen Gleeson played 24 games for Manawatu as a loose forward from 1954-57, and went on to be a coach, selector, president and life member of the union.**

**His brother was the 1976-78 All Blacks coach Jack Gleeson, who also played for Manawatu from 1947-55. His son Mark serves on the Manawatu board, while his father William played for Marlborough and Manawatu-Horowhenua from 1922-30.**

## **Tony Aston (1938-2020)**

**A pacy wing, Tony Aston played for North Island Universities and NZ Universities (1960-62), scoring four tries at first-class level.**

**He played for the Auckland University premiers from 1960-63 before giving the game away early and giving great service to his club. He was president in 1982-83 and helped start up, with Mike Cormack, the Keystone Foundation, which established a sound financial position for the club.**

**An old boy of Mt Albert Grammar and contemporary of Peter Snell, Aston was a gifted middle-distance runner who was said, along with Mike Macky, to have persuaded Snell to give away rugby and pursue athletics, also introducing Snell to Arthur Lydiard. We know what came of that partnership.**

## **Peter Hall (1927-2020)**

**Peter Hall was a hard-nosed, no-nonsense, loose forward in 32 games for Auckland from 1952-57 out of the Otahuhu and Grafton clubs.**

**His nickname was, appropriately, 'Concrete.' Hall was made a life member of the Otahuhu club in 1980 and the Auckland Rugby Union in 1995, serving as the Otahuhu delegate to the union for some three decades.**

**His brother Ken was a prop for Auckland and Taranaki in the 1940s-50s, while his father 'Con' played for West Coast (also in league) and Buller around the time of the First World War.**

## BOWLS UPDATE



Rugby may have kicked off but we are also nearly at the height of the Barbarians bowls season.

Earlier this month some 12 or 13 Barbarians headed to Mt Maunganui for the annual Peter Johnstone Memorial Bowls tournament.

Our bowls point man Peter Tubberty tells me that there was some decent bowls played and that the hospitality was first-rate. The likes of Ian Begbie from Northland and Adrian Clarke from Waikato made appearances, which were most welcome. Teams came from as far south as Taieri, Johnstone's old club. He himself was a Barbarian before his 1997 death.

Dame Noeline Taurua was a guest speaker, not long before scooping the coach of the year at the Halbergs, while her Silver Ferns deservedly won the big gong.



Dame Noeline Taurua, with Sheralynn Whatman. The Silver Ferns coach was a guest speaker at the bowls tournament at The Mount.



The successful bowls team of, from left, Roger Whatman, Sheralynn Whatman, Mark Moore and Steve Watt.

Now our attention turns to the March 15 11th annual Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day, always a highlight of the Baabaas calendar. Bridge Park Bowling Club in Mangere is again the venue and 8.30am is assembly time.

There is a further tournament on March 29 at Glendowie BC, in which the club will face off against the Carbine and Equiplage clubs.

To book your places in these events, which are sure to be fun-filled occasions, please contact Peter Tubberty on 027-682-4670.



A fine body of Baabaas bowlers, plus Sheralynn Whatman, at The Mount earlier this month.



Bernie Allen (left), Peter Tubberty, Keith Nelson and John Mills look especially happy with their efforts.



AJ Whetton delivers his sermon at the Baabaas/Rugby Foundation golf day in December.

## UNDER 85KG TOURNEY



The Barbarians have supported Under 85kg/middleweight rugby for nigh on a decade now and that continues with sponsorship (along with Speight's) of the April 4 middleweight club 10-a-side tournament at Colin Maiden Park, home of the Auckland University Rugby Club.

Up for grabs is the Ladore Trophy, which used to go to the top NZ Barbarians middleweight player, but will on this occasion go to the championship team winner, along with prizemoney totalling \$5000 which can go towards a team trip.

This offers a prime chance to engage Under 85kg players before the season proper kicks off and is set to attract teams from all over the region and as far south as Waikato.

New Zealand Rugby is inaugurating a national Under 85kg club competition from May and this will lead into that competition nicely.

All Barbarians are welcome to come along, support and have a beer on April 4.

## AGM REVIEW



November 27, 2019 was the date for the 83rd Barbarians' Annual General Meeting, and roughly one-twelfth of the club (around 40) was on hand.

The highlight was the life membership accorded to both **Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams** and **Neil Cullimore**, both recent past Presidents of the club.

'Beegee,' of course, needs little introduction, as our patron and a great man of rugby. He's been a member since 1974, when he was just 23!

'Cully' wasn't much older when he was made a Barbarian in 1972, having won the Ranfurly Shield three times with Auckland. He was our President in 2018, and is still on the mend from an horrific cycling accident, but his quiet wisdom and knowledge of the rules mean he remains an integral part of the Barbarians.

**Roger 'Mad Dog' Moore** has retired from more than 20 years' service on the committee and was awarded a Club Shield. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes at the clubrooms and in most of our rugby operations since the turn of the century.

Into his place on the committee comes **Peter White**, a member since 2016. He is the manager of the North Harbour Mitre 10 Cup team and was the trainer for the 1996 NZ Barbarians tour to the UK. Pete, as he is known, is also a long-time liaison officer for a host of touring teams to New Zealand.

Another extremely busy year for the Barbarians yielded a net surplus of \$108,190.

## BAABAAS BRIEFS



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

There's plenty of provincial, grassroots, women's and sevens coverage in there to sink your teeth into, as well as All Blacks' content. The next issue is out on March 9.

*Rugby News* is available at all good magazine retailers or you can subscribe by calling 0800-77-77-10 or visit [www.rugbynews.co.nz](http://www.rugbynews.co.nz)

\*Congratulations to Gary Donovan on his life membership of the Auckland Rugby Union, joining 16 other (living) Barbarians to have been accorded that honour. He is a life member of the Suburbs club and the old Bay Lynn club and does a heap of unsung work at both club and union level.

\*Well done to Jim Lonergan and Alex Bing, who received, respectively, the Champion of School Sport and Service to School Sport awards last month. Both men have worked tirelessly over more than four decades in Auckland school sport, especially in rugby.

\*Steve Tew and Josh Blackie were among those recognised at the NZR rugby awards before Christmas. Tew received the Steinlager Salver, which has gone almost exclusively to Barbarians since its 1999 inception. Blackie was one of three recipients of the NZRPA Kirk Award for his sterling work in helping set up the Pacific Rugby Players' Association.

\*The 2020 subs notices were sent out just before Christmas. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a **requirement** of membership.

## 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 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 [khb@ryh.co.nz](mailto:khb@ryh.co.nz)**

## WHAT'S ON IN 2020

Saturday March 14  
Blues v Lions, 7.05pm



Sunday March 15  
Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day,  
Bridge Park BC, 8.30am



SATURDAY MARCH 21 • DOUBLE HEADER



Warriors v Raiders, 5pm



Blues v Brumbies, 7.05pm

Friday March 27  
T20I cricket:  
Black Caps v Australia,  
7pm



Sunday March 29  
Bowls: Baabaas v Carbine and Equiplage clubs,  
Glendowie BC



Saturday April 4  
Baabaas middleweight tourney,  
Colin Maiden Park



Saturday April 11  
Blues v Hurricanes, 4.45pm



Saturday May 9  
Blues v Reds, 7.05pm



Sunday May 24  
Annual Fun Day,  
Bruce Pulman Park, 8am



Friday May 29  
Blues v Highlanders, 7.05pm



Saturday July 4  
All Blacks v Wales,  
7.35pm



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