

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 • FB: @NZBarbarianRugby • Insta: @nzbarbarianrugby



The 2021 NZ Barbarians, victors over the NZ Heartland XV in Taupo last December.

Photo: Susana Buckton

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



Greetings all.

One would think that ongoing constraints would mean that there is little to report on – to an extent that is true, but much effort by club members continues to go into teams and the tournaments we are involved with. Thank you all.

January saw the World Schools Sevens televised tournament with young Barbarians women's and men's teams entered; the women's team acquitted itself well, winning all three first round matches. In the grander scheme of oval ball things, our member DJ Forbes applied his high-end skills in coaching a Warriors team, entered for the first time.

After much advance planning, the Blues Cup Baabaas team took the field in February against a North Harbour U20 development team, then the following week against a similar Blues U20 development team. Sadly, the third game versus Northland was cancelled due to a Covid-19 occurrence, but already the lads in our group had much enjoyed entering our culture and wearing the jersey. We hosted them on the Saturday night of the Blues game for an enjoyable gathering – most had never been to the clubrooms. I invited them back to visit us some time and said "Just tell them out front you've worn the jersey."

As with the now deferred U20 tourney, a number of our club members are stepping up to fill coaching and management positions with these teams, which receive a very professional preparation.

To finish on some positives: the deferred AGM was held on February 16 and was the first ever hybrid with remote access for those who couldn't be there; Anna Richards and Simon Johnston joined the committee with Rick Johnston as Junior Vice-President and Nick Sheppard as your Club Captain; Past President Ron Williams was made a life member of the club to warm acclaim; hard-working Peter White was presented with the Albert Story trophy for outstanding club service.

In December, former Black Fern Richards received the NZR Steinlager Salver to follow our patron; Keith Nelson was made patron of the ARU life members; Alan Whetton was made a life member of ARU and Seiuli Fiao'o Faamausili has been elected as President of ARU. Congrats to all.

Next up is the Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day on March 20 at Bridge Park Bowling Club in Mangere. This is always a tremendous occasion.

May we find some diamonds amongst the rocks with completed events in our upcoming season as this divided country finds a way back to where it needs to be. Remember we are called to love our neighbour – even if we don't particularly like them at the time.

Go well.

Bernie Allen
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Dr Dave Caughey (1932-2022)

Known as a real gentleman of the game, Dave Caughey was a lock for Otago, Auckland, and NZ Universities during the 1950s.

A cousin of Sir Harcourt 'Pat' Caughey, the younger Caughey played in the famous NZ Universities' victory over the Springboks in 1956, the greatest day in NZU history. He was also an All Blacks trialist in 1959. In 1956-57, he was a double Gallaher Shield champion with Auckland University. In 1966 he added to his Varsity laurels as assistant coach of the 1966 Gallaher champs, and then took the premis as head coach in 1967-68. Later in the 1970s, he was President of the club and was a welcome presence sideline until recent years.

Caughey was a rheumatologist by profession.

Former President **Ron Williams** was accorded life membership, and a very popular decision it was too. Since he joined the club in 1999, the former All Blacks and Fiji prop, who jointly holds the North Harbour appearance record of 145 matches, has done sterling work across several of the club's activities. A member of the committee since 2008, he has driven the annual Fun day for several years and is in the thick of the organisation for the NZ Barbarians Area Schools and NZ Barbarians Schools teams. His old All Blacks teammate and provincial foe AJ Whetton gave the citation at the AGM.



Ron Williams deservedly joined the club's life member ranks at the AGM.

AGM REVIEW



There were plenty of firsts at the club's 85th Annual General Meeting, which was held on February 16, having been postponed from its usual November time slot.

For starters, it was recorded on Zoom (by Craig 'Dundee' Glendinning) for a clutch of members to tune in, plus the 25-odd who were on hand. It was also completed in less time than it takes to play a game of rugby. Seventy-five minutes is the new mark.

President **Bernie Allen** and new club captain **Nick Sheppard** gave their reports, in condensed fashion, while **Ricky Johnston** stepped in for treasurer **Grant McCurrach**, to report that, despite the challenging Covid-19 landscape, the club posted a profit of a touch over \$201,000.



Peter White receives the Albert Story Trophy from President Bernie Allen at the AGM.

Another North Harbour man who has proven he possesses an unquenchable work ethic is **Peter White**, winner of the Albert Story Trophy, the first recipient since **Mark Moore** in 2017. Pete sends his emails later at night because he packs in plenty during the day. He was the driver behind several of the club's key initiatives in 2021, including the NZ Barbarians v Heartland XV clash, even though he was not allowed to travel south due to Covid restrictions at the time.

There was not a lot of movement amongst the election of officers. **Rick Johnston** replaces **Joe Stanley** as Junior Vice-President, while **Sheppard** replaces **Kevin Senio**, who is rather busy with his Moana Pasifika work, as club captain.

Anna Richards and **Simon Johnston** join the committee. The former is a World Rugby Hall of Famer, a four-time WRWC champion and is currently the women's development manager for Auckland Rugby. Johnston is a life member of the Auckland University club and a long-time veteran of club and rep team management and administration, plus recently doing a lot of work for the Barbarians with the trusts.



Anna Richards, left, and Monalisa Urquhart each won four Rugby World Cups.

NZ BARBARIANS v HEARTLAND XV



This inaugural full first-class fixture took place in December 5 at Taupo's Owen Delany Park after much toing and froing with the changeable Covid situation.

No Auckland region player or management could be involved due to the regional lockdown, so Barbarian **Warren Gatland** took the coaching reins, while halfback **Connor Collins** of Wellington was

named captain. Most of the players were chosen from the central North Island unions, though those on full Super Rugby contracts were ineligible. The Baabaas won 36-24 in pleasing style after just two training runs.

Centre Tanielu Filimone impressed with a brace of tries, as did replacement wing Leroy Carter, while Waikato No 10 D'Angelo Leulia looked the goods and later won a call-up to the Moana Pasifika squad. No one played better, however, than Wellington No 8 Keelan Whitman, who will find himself in Super Rugby before long. Taranaki and former Ireland prop Michael Bent played his final first-class game in the Baabaas No 1 jersey. The big Baabaas scrum and an expansive mindset formed the bedrock of their game, while we saw a tremendous finish for a try from wing Vereniki Tikoisolomone, who was soon afterwards whistled up by the Highlanders.

Coming off the bench for the Baabaas was Hawke's Bay's Frank Lochore, grandson of one of our most esteemed former members, the late Sir Brian Lochore.

This match was well worthwhile and priceless exposure for the club and the players.

NZ BARBARIANS U85kg NATIONAL CLUB CUP REVIEW



The second edition of the NZ Barbarians National Club Cup for Under 85kg did not go off without a hitch.

After the highlights of 2020, the Auckland region teams were shut out from going deep into the 2021 competition due to the regional restrictions. It all came down to the November 20 final between the Tukapa Bantams and the Carisbrook Bush Pigs in Inglewood, played as the curtainraiser to the Taranaki v Otago NPC Championship final.



The Carisbrook Bush Pigs were winners on a bright day in Inglewood.

2021 NEW ZEALAND BARBARIANS UNDER 85KG CLUB CUP


Kevin 'Smiley' Barrett was on hand, while waiting for his son Scott to become a father again, to present the trophy to the Bush Pigs, who came home with a wet sail to the tune of 32-23. Barbarian John Leslie was technical advisor for the Bush Pigs – son Jack looked a chip off the old block at No 12 and set up a nice try.



'Smiley' Barrett flew the flag for the club at the national U85kg Club Cup final.

WHAT'S ON IN 2022

Sunday March 20
Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day,
Bridge Park BC, 8.30am



Saturday April 2
Blues v Moana Pasifika,
7.05pm




Friday May 6
Blues v Rebels,
7.05pm




Saturday May 14
Blues v Reds,
7.05pm




Sunday May 15
Annual primary schools fun day,
Bruce Pulman Park, 8.30am, TBC




VP Craig Glendinning did the first Zoom recording of the AGM.

*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified. Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2022 functions/events

BAABAAS BRIEFS



*The Barbarians club is now on social media, 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 also in the process of being upgraded. We'll keep you all posted.

*Congratulations to former Black Ferns skipper **Seiuli Fiao'o Faamausili**, who succeeds **Saveatama Eroni Clarke** as President of Auckland Rugby, the first woman to hold the post.

*Congratulations to **AJ Whetton** for his life membership of Auckland Rugby, joining his twin brother Gary with that honour. **Keith Nelson** was appointed patron of the ARU life members after the passing of Waka Nathan. Also at the Auckland union AGM in December, **Tom O'Hanlon**, life member of both the union and the Eden club, was awarded the Ash Edwards Memorial Trophy for outstanding contribution to Auckland rugby. Few would quibble with that gong for our very own Tom, one of the great men of rugby.

*A further congratulations to **Anna Richards**, who won the Steinlager Salver at the ASB Rugby Awards, the first woman to be so honoured in the 23-year history of this gong for outstanding service to rugby. Her old Black Ferns mate **Melodie Robinson** won the NZRPA Kirk Award for her post-playing days work in media and at board level.

*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 content. The February/March 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 2022 subs notices were sent out weeks ago. 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 at times 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 khb@ryh.co.nz



Paul Reidy and Sir Bryan Williams deep in conversation.



Bob Burnes, left, Sir Bryan Williams, Paul Harrop and Dave Hendl, all Gallaher Shield winners, strut their stuff at the club's Xmas party in December.

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