



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



Kevin McQuoid, left, Dean Sheppard and Rick Johnston catch up at the AGM.

Photo: Terry Horne

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Welcome all to the 2023 rugby season.

In some ways, I'm blown away to be here as your President, having become a member as recently as 2015. I've always been a doer, head down, bum up, and have enjoyed serving on the committee for the last few years. What I do know is that we have an incredibly industrious committee full of good rugby people. We welcome Regina Sheck and James Parsons onto the committee. I'm sure they will offer a lot. The wise heads, former Presidents Bernie Allen and AJ Whetton, were smart in ensuring we had good people working with us.

Myself and new secretary Monalisa Urquhart are quite young but we try and be smart in how we work too. My background is HR (I'm the HR manager for One World Resourcing) and I'm a people person. My mantra with the Barbarians is getting members back to the club and engaged. I've stood at the front door as a custodian over the last few years and felt that engagement. Custodians get to meet people and know their club better.

Some members may have felt it was a bit of an old boys' club a few years back, but even our more mature members are now loving the fact we provide a safe environment in our superb clubrooms. I tell my Ardmore-Marist clubmates to come down for a beer.

We welcome 18 new members to the club in the coming weeks. They are all good rugby people, some really interesting characters, active in the game, and we know they will contribute in tangible fashion to this club. That's why we are getting more and more people helping in the club.

The Barbarians are again involved in a heap of rugby this year and first off the cab rank is our NZ Barbarians Under 20 team,

which is playing in next month's Super Rugby U20 tournament in Taupo. They won the competition last year and the MVP was lock Tahlor Cahill, who was not even wanted by the Crusaders. He went on to play for the New Zealand Under 20s out of our team. This shows the importance of our team in this competition, which is in line with our strategy around player development.

Just a quick overview of my playing career as a loose forward for those who may not know: I played 22 Tests for Manu Samoa from 1999-2001, faced the All Blacks twice and went to the 1999 RWC. In New Zealand, I played for the Māori All Blacks, Counties Manukau, Northland and Southland and, in Italy, for Benetton Treviso, JK's old club. I'm an Ardmore-Marist club man and still live not that far from Bruce Pulman Park, where we hold our annual Fun Day.

Look forward to catching many of you at the club in 2023!

Craig Glendinning
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Roger Whatman (1946-2023)

Roger Whatman was a fine, reliable, fullback for Auckland Grammar School First XV, the Manukau Rovers club, with whom he won two Gallaher Shields in 1968 and 1973, the 1967 NZ Juniors, and for Auckland in 61 games from 1968-73, winning a Ranfurly Shield and impressing with his accurate boot and solid allround play.

He became a very good coach and was an astute thinker of the game. In later years, he bemoaned the demise of the spiral punt. In more recent times, he was a fixture, along with wife Sherralyn, on the Barbarians bowls team for the annual pilgrimage to Tauranga for the Peter Johnstone Memorial tournament.

His stepson Bevan Overend and brother-in-law George Duncan are both Barbarians.

Bill Currey (1944-2023)

All Blacks No 671 Bill Currey was a threequarter who played eight games for his country, scoring seven tries, on the 1968 tour of Australia.

The highlight was a hat-trick on debut against Tasmania.

A product of Auckland Grammar School's First XV, he played his club rugby for Grammar in Auckland and Opunake and NPOB in Taranaki, racking up 31 tries in 81 first-class games, mainly for the 'Naki. He also appeared for the NZ Juniors in 1967.

A teacher by profession, he was later an insurance agent. His father Leslie Currey played for Auckland in the 1930s.

MEMBER PROFILE PITA ALATINI



Pita Alatini joined the Barbarians club amongst some good company in the 2014 new members' intake.

There were fellow international midfielders in Sean Lineen and Kurt Sherlock, more recent All Blacks Stephen Donald and Kieran Read, and then Chiefs coach Dave Rennie.

Alatini, who himself racked up 17 Tests for the All Blacks and one for Tonga, following in the footsteps of his father and brother, was proud of the honour but was unsure of the criteria at the time.

"I thought when you had a game for the Baabaas, any game, that you were automatically in! But I had not long been back from Japan and I connected with 'Beegee,' played some club celebration games and that led into the invite to join. Knowing all the current and previous members, it's a great honour as a rugby player," says the 46-year-old.

He did play in some of those famous schools First XV games for the Barbarians and for Auckland Schools against the club in the 1990s.

Alatini jumped into hands-on involvement with the club, firstly with Pigeon Mountain Primary for the annual Fun Day, prompted by the late Roger Whatman.

"Not a bad shift to be on, to be honest!" he quips.

He loves the club and enjoys showing it off to his mates on match days. Extra wristbands, please!

"That's one of the great things about the club, too, being able to reconnect with past and current players."

Alatini had a colourful playing career, appearing for four franchises (and four provinces) though not for the one (the Blues) where he grew up. He was a sharp-stepping fine distributor at No 12 whose career at the top was sandwiched by Alama Ileremia and Aaron Mauger. He was probably unlucky that Wayne Smith was cut as All Blacks coach in 2001 as he was just starting to thrive under 'The Professor.'

He recalls with fondness the famous 2000 'Game of the Century' Bledisloe in Sydney, having a hand in a try and scoring one of his own.

His favourite team as a pro was the Highlanders, for whom he played 48 straight games from 1998-2001, edging out fellow Barbarian John Leslie in Rugby News mag's Greatest Highlanders XV, named in 2020. For nearly a decade he plied his trade in Japan, avoiding the deadly 2011 tsunami with the Kamaishi Seawaves. Then it was back home as player/coach at Pakuranga, learning heaps off Paul Feeney and Wayne Pivac before guiding the club to its first and, so far, only Gallaher Shield success, in 2013.



Pita Alatini was director of rugby at Auckland's Pakuranga club for several years.

"That was unreal. That was my first year coaching. I thought this gig is easy!"

He helped Tonga as a technical advisor while at the helm of Pakuranga but these days just dabbles in coaching, content to watch his son Trey play. He's a promising 10/15 who has a touch more toe, dare we say it, than his dad.

Alatini's day job is at the south Auckland charitable trust The Cause Collective, where works in movement around sport with Pasifika people, looking at activations and solutions.

"It's a bit different. It's got me thinking a bit more. It's not just game plans. But a lot of transferable skills from rugby have come in handy working with the community."

That's Pita Alatini, giving back, very much part of the Barbarians' ethos.

AGM REVIEW



The club held its second AGM of 2022 on November 23.

The first, for the 2021 year, was held last February, and had been delayed due to the Covid-19 outbreak in late 2021.

There were changes to several officers at this, the 86th AGM of the club. Bernie Allen's two-year tenure as President was up and he passed the baton to **Craig Glendinning**, aka 'Dundee'. Glendinning, a former Manu Samoa loose forward, becomes, at 50, the youngest President since Iain Abercrombie in 2000-01 and the second of Pasifika descent after his old Manu Samoa coach and current Patron **Bryan 'Beegee' Williams**. **Nick Sheppard** moves from club captain to junior Vice-President, and the indefatigable **Pete White** moves up to club captain. The two new members of the committee are former Black Ferns prop and two-time WRWC winner **Regina Sheck** and former All Blacks hooker **James Parsons**.

Monalisa Urquhart succeeds **Ken Baguley** as club secretary. She is well known from her playing days as a Black Fern and committee work in recent years.

Baguley was accorded life membership of the club as a nod to his 43 years of sterling service as a member and eight as secretary. He helped tweak the constitution with Bernie Allen and he played a key role, along with Mike Cormack, in the club relocating to Eden Park's North Stand in 2009. His statement about the Barbarians is apt: "It's the greatest sporting club of its kind in the world."

Despite the challenging landscape out there, the club continues to be in a sound financial position with regards to both its assets and revenue. Your hard-working committee has lined up plenty of rugby events for the club to support this season.



Photos: Terry Horne

Regina Sheck's rehab from her knee op has not stopped her joining the committee.



The bar is in safe hands with this duo, Trina Seits and AJ Whetton.



Allan Faull, left, and Garry Walters, talking code at the club.



Bernie Allen signing off on his two-year tenure as President.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



*Congratulations to the following members who were honoured in the last few months for their services to the game or their club: Dr Farah Palmer who was made a dame in the New Year's honours list; Fiao'o Faamausili, who was the first Pasifika woman to be inducted into World Rugby's Hall of Fame; Cheryl Smith (née Waaka), who is now a Member of the NZ Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to the game, especially in Kaikohe and Northland; Bernie McCahill and Brian Wilsher, who were both made life members of Auckland Rugby; Wayne Smith who won the coach of the year at the Halberg Awards for his rugby miracle at the Women's Rugby World Cup; Anna Richards, who was made a life member of the College Rifles club; and Ron Peters, who was made a life member of the Auckland University Rugby Club.

*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 has, as you will have seen, been upgraded.

*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 February 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 2023 subs notices were sent out several 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 Monalisa Urquhart 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 notify 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 Urquhart 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 new club secretary Monalisa Urquhart, 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 or monalisa.urquhart@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON IN 2023



Saturday March 18
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm



Sunday March 19

Super Rugby U20 tourney: Owen Delany Park, Taupo
Match-day one: NZ Barbarians v Crusaders, 2.45pm



Wednesday March 22

SR U20 tourney, Owen Delany Park, Taupo
Match-day two, kickoff TBC



Saturday March 25

ODI cricket: Black Caps v Sri Lanka, 2pm



Saturday March 25

SR U20 tourney, Owen Delany Park, Taupo
Match-day three, kickoff TBC



Sunday March 26
Blues v Force
3.35pm



Saturday April 22
Blues v Waratahs
7.05pm



Saturday May 6
Blues v Moana Pasifika
7.05pm



Saturday May 27
Blues v Hurricanes
7.05pm



Sunday May 28

Annual Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park, 8.30am



*All events are at Eden Park No 1 unless otherwise specified. *Keep an eye on the website, Facebook and your email for confirmation of further 2023 functions/events

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