

FEBRUARY 2024

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



Karen Sutton and Phil Gifford catching up at November's AGM at the clubrooms.

Photo: Terry Horne

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



Welcome to all Barbarians as we gear up for another big year in rugby.

There will be some normality returning with two All Blacks Tests at Eden Park to look forward to in July and August. The Blues are back at home next month. I know members enjoy catching up with old rugby friends at those occasions.

To cover off our November AGM, where there was a good turnout, congratulations to our joint recipients of the Albert Storey Trophy, Trina Seits and AJ Whetton. They form a great partnership behind the bar and are always helping behind the scenes too. For example, they helped organise some of Don McKay's funeral after-match last week. As a President, it's just nice knowing that those two are there. They are the rocks of the club.

We welcome Craig Carter to the committee. Carts is a former first-class player and a recent chairman of the Counties Manukau union. He's a champion of the grassroots game, which is what the Barbarians are all about. So he's a good fit. We're trying to build committee members to add real value. It reconnects that Counties flavour, too, with myself and Nick Sheppard already on the committee!

There's a call to arms for the annual Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day on St Patrick's Day. Further details are below, but we'd be keen to see a big turnout of Baabaas and friends, whether

you are a seasoned bowler or new to the game. It's always a fun day.

Speaking of fun days, our annual Fun Day is down for Sunday May 19 at Bruce Pulman Park. That's always a highlight of the calendar.

Next month our Barbarians team are in action in the annual Super Rugby Under 20s tournament in Taupo. Mark Hooper is driving the boys as head coach with Kenny Addison as assistant and this is always a good chance to see the young talent coming through whilst they wear our colours. I said it last year, but in 2022 Tahlor Cahill starred for this team. He's now in the senior Crusaders squad, so the pathway is clear from this always competitive team to the fulltime pro ranks.

Also a reminder that if you want to sign up for Eden Park season tickets in the Barbarians boxes via our ballot, then contact secretary Monalisa Urquhart or myself.

Stay safe and we'll see you very soon around the club.

Craig Glendinning

President

NZ Barbarians Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Paul Shorter (1947-2023)

Paul Shorter died in late October, but the club was only alerted to that news after the November newsletter had gone to print.

Paul had been a Barbarian since 1974. At King's College, he was a gun tennis player and indeed allround sportsman. A loose forward out of the College Rifles and Teachers clubs, Paul played 14 games for Auckland from 1971-74 and had a NZ Juniors trial in 1969.

He was a company director in later years and was a quiet, sincere, humble man. Paul was survived by his wife Jenneymae, two children and five grandchildren.

Peter Bush (1930-2023)

Peter Bush, known to many, though not all, as Bushy, was one of the great rugby photographers, a top bloke and a man with an endless fund of stories from a lifetime, or at least 70+ years, immersed in his craft.

From 1949, he gained the trust and respect of many All Blacks through his days roving the sidelines and on many long tours. Starting with the box brownie and finishing with the digital camera now in vogue, Peter was, in 1999, given a special gold bib by New Zealand Rugby to wear at home All Blacks Tests, meaning he could rove almost where he pleased to capture his images.

He penned, with Paul Thomas, a biography in 2009, entitled Peter Bush: A Life in Focus, but his 1989 book The Game for All New Zealand should be required reading for all rugby fans. It captures beautifully the essence of what rugby in New Zealand is all about through his stark images from grassroots to the All Blacks.

Peter joined the Barbarians club in 2001. His close mate Keith Quinn, also a Barbarian, alerted us to the news of his death. Peter's uncle Ron Bush, a 1931 All Black, was one of the founding fathers of the club in 1937.

Jack Ross (1932-2023)

Jack Ross was a life member of Auckland's Waitemata club, with whom he won two Gallaher Shields in 1958 and 1962 and played around 250 premier games from 1949-65, said to be a club record.

A loose forward who operated mainly on the openside, he played two games for Auckland in 1960 and a further six first-class games for Auckland B in 1961-62.

Jack became a Barbarian in 1974, and was a regular presence in bowls tournaments over the years. In his youth, he was a fine athlete and cricketer, representing Auckland at Brabin Cup level. He was a staunch advocate for the Waitemata club maintaining its identity.

Don McKay (1937-2024)

Don McKay's active Barbarians involvement stretched back to 1966, when he was made a member. He was President of the club from 1998-99 and was always fiercely proud of the Barbarians and his membership.

Don was also a life member of his beloved North Shore club and the Auckland Rugby Union, the latter of which he served as President from 2008-10.

A stockily built, speedy winger, Don was All Blacks number 618, playing 12 games, including five Tests, from 1961-63. He scored a try with his first touch of the ball on Test debut at Eden Park in 1961 against France in a blindside move involving Des Connor and Neil Wolfe.

For Auckland, he scored 32 tries in 85 games from 1958-66, through all the great Ranfurly Shield era of the blue and whites. In all, he ran in 62 tries in 114 first-class games.

A pharmacist by profession, Don was always a welcome and cheerful presence around the club until recent times when he suffered from ill health.

WHAT'S ON IN 2023-24



Saturday March 16

Super Rugby U20 tourney

Owen Delany Park, Taupo

NZ Barbarians v Chiefs, 11.05am



Sunday March 17

Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day

Bridge Park BC, 9.30am



Tuesday March 19

Super Rugby U20 tourney

Owen Delany Park, Taupo

NZ Barbarians v TBC



Saturday March 23
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm



Saturday March 23

Super Rugby U20 tourney

Owen Delany Park, Taupo

NZ Barbarians v TBC



Sunday March 31

NZ Barbarians v

Ponsonby 150th Jubilee XV

Western Springs Stadium, 2pm



Friday April 5
Blues v Force
7.05pm



Saturday April 20
Blues v Brumbies
7.05pm



Saturday May 11
Blues v Hurricanes
4.35pm



Saturday May 18
Blues v Highlanders
7.05pm



Sunday May 19

Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park, 9am



Saturday June 1
Blues v Chiefs



Saturday July 13
All Blacks v England
7.05pm



*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.

*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2024 functions/events.

BAABAAS AGM REVIEW



The club held its 87th Annual General meeting on November 22 and welcomed a decent turnout of members, certainly well in excess of the requisite quorum.

There was just the one change to the committee, with **Craig Carter** replacing **Simon Johnston**, who has stepped down after four productive years chasing/liaising with the trusts and other sponsors.

Many of you will know 'Carts', a champion of the grassroots, who has been active in the game most of his life. He is a former Counties Manukau union chairman and was a Manawatu, Counties B, Vikings B, Northland B and Northland XV flanker; he was also player-coach at the Patumahoe club, taking Patty to its first ever McNamara Cup in 2006; he was a Counties union board member for over a decade and has previously served on the NZR appointments and remuneration committee. We know Carts will be an asset to the club and the committee.

The major highlight was the joint award of the Albert Storey Trophy for exceptional service to the club. We think you will all agree that Trina Seits and Alan 'AJ' Whetton form an exceptional team behind the bar, Trina as club manager and AJ as house manager. They are both willing to go above and beyond in organising the bar and other club activities, often at very short notice.

Financially, the club recovered well from a tough 2022, posting a small surplus after the challenges of the previous season. With the return of two Tests to Eden Park in 2023, the hope is that this trend continues.

The rugby committee has plenty more rugby lined up for teams bearing the club colours this year.



Trina Seits and AJ Whetton with the Albert Storey Trophy as joint winners.

Photo: Terry Horne

BAABAAS RUGBY



Our boys' team placed fifth at the Global Youth Sevens in December.

First off the cab rank is the NZ Barbarians team to compete in the Super Rugby Under 20 tournament in Taupo next month. Match-day details can be found in What's On.

Then we'll be fielding an eclectic team of former internationals and youngsters to face Ponsonby on Easter Sunday, March 31, to help that Auckland club blow out 150 candles on its birthday cake.

The final 2023 outings for teams in our colours came in December at the Global Youth Sevens event in Auckland. The Barbarians fielded a boys' team, coached by Matt Howling and Iggy Costa, and a girls' team, coached by John Cocker and Tutu Tairea.

Both teams placed fifth in very competitive fields – the girls losing just once – which was meritorious given the short lead-in to the event. Good to see several Barbarians on hand at King's College and Regina Shek providing expert comments on the TV coverage. All good exposure for our name and club.

Big thanks to Mark Hooper for helping pull it all together.

BAABAAS BOWLS



Just around the corner, to coin a rugby phrase, is the 14th annual Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day.

All Barbarians, friends and family, are welcome to the Bridge Park Bowling Club in Auckland's Mangere Bridge. It so happens to fall on St Patrick's Day, March 17. The late Patrick Timothy Walsh quipped that it was his second birthday.

There will be a three bowl triples format, with a continuous BBQ, cash prizes and a smorgasbord lunch. All proceeds are going to a worthy cause, the Pat Walsh Maori Youth Scholarships.

For further info, please contact Mark Walsh on 021-959-110 or our bowls driver Peter Tubberty on 027-682-4670.

Peter did another top job of organising our Barbarians into a couple of teams for the annual bowls pilgrimage to 'The Mount' earlier this month. Others to join him were Sir 'Beegee' Williams, Tony Sinkovich, John Mills and the Bay of Plenty-domiciled Mark Moore and Jon McLachlan, both of whom were in sharp form with their wit as much as on the greens.

Other Baabaas were sprinkled through other teams, including Sir Gordon 'Titch' Tietjens. One of the more keenly contested games was on the final day when both Baabaas fours played each other. Another highlight was the Thursday dinner at the Mt Maunganui Fishing Club. This well-run bowls tournament continues to be a social highlight of the calendar for our club.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



**Congratulations to Sir Wayne Smith for his leadership award at the Halbergs earlier this month. Smithy spoke superbly on his long journey to become a better leader after he was sacked as All Blacks coach in 2001. He won last year's coach of the year at the Halbergs for his feat in helping the Black Ferns win the Rugby World Cup. The Black Ferns Sevens, who again hit the high notes in 2023, won the team of the year gong.*

**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 a new look 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 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 2024 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.*



Some of our bowls contingent who represented earlier this month in Mt Maunganui.



Members at the 87th AGM.

Photo: Terry Horne

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 email secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz



Two stalwarts of the club and Auckland Rugby: Brandon Jackson and Sir 'Beegee' Williams.

Photo: Terry Horne

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 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

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