

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



Albert Storey Trophy recipient Ben Sherriff, right, with his wife Lisa and Barbarians President Rick Johnston at the November AGM.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



Welcome, fellow Barbarians.

We're all back into the swing of things at the club and there is a lot to look forward to in 2026. The committee has already been underway with its first meeting, having summered well and come back refreshed for another big year at the club.

To cover off November's AGM, we did the soft launch of our Strategic Plan and will look to have all the details nussed out by the second quarter of the year. There was no change to the committee, and some commented on how short my Presidential Report was, but the detail was there and we like to keep it short and sweet! Great to see Ben Sherriff, one of our King Country members, winning the Albert Storey Trophy for his tireless work as manager with Barbarians teams over the last few seasons. We're not just an Auckland-centric club and Ben is a real exemplar of that. It was good to be back in black to the tune of 47k with our financials, helped by the investment fund, which is working well for us. We've had to tweak some of our club rules, most of which are pretty standard, but a reminder of our attire policy. In general, we are looking to move to smart casual.

We'll have our next new members' induction event in early April, so keep your eyes peeled for confirmation of that.

Box tickets are still available. Eden Park is beefing up its events calendar, so box tickets give you first right of refusal to non-rugby events, such as concerts. Please contact Trina Seits at manager@brfc.co.nz for more info. She is also looking to tee up Barbarians, and not just in the Canterbury region, who may wish to go to the Super

Round on Anzac Weekend in Christchurch for the opening of the new stadium. Vice-President Nick Sheppard has a posse travelling down for that, so this should be a top weekend.

We have two key bowls events coming up on March, as noted in the What's On, so it would be good to see a decent turnout of members at The Mount and in Mangere.

Mark down the annual Fun Day on Sunday May 17 at Bruce Pulman Park. It's always one of the biggest events on our calendar. The Blues will be along on the day too to help out.

And last but not least, our patron Sir Bryan 'Beegee' Williams reports that he's making good progress after his recent health issue. He's grateful for all the best wishes and support he has received.

Catch you at the club or around the traps.

Rick Johnston
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Bob Telfer (1951-2025)

Bob Telfer, who had a short battle with cancer, was 74 and had been a Barbarian since 2015.

He played club rugby in Southland, Otago and Auckland as a rugged loose forward, reaching sub-union rep levels. But he made his name as a coach, guiding Southland in the 1998-99 NPC, as well as taking the helm at the NZ Barbarians Area Schools from 2000-15. He took the Auckland Colts from 1991-94, coaching several current Barbarians. He took the East Coast Bays club premiers in 1997 and also had a stint as coach of the Northcote club prems, while also having stints in Japan and USA and taking the Sweden women's team.

A great mate of the late Kevin Gimblett, Bob in later years developed a passion for bowls and proved a keen and competitive bowler at the Takapuna BC, where he held his wake.

Ian Stevens (1930-2025)

Ian Stevens, who was 94, died in his home town, Dunedin.

He had been a Barbarian since 1986. Ian was a fine hooker in 43 games for Otago from 1953-60, including a stint with the Ranfurly Shield in 1957, out of the Southern club, to which he was a life member and patron. He won the banner with his beloved Southern in 1958. Not far off full national honours, Ian made an appearance for a New Zealand XV in 1955.

In the 2000s, Ian was living in Auckland and often attended the Thursday night 'choir practices' with his old mates, the late Alec Magee and Don Cameron, along with the likes of Bruce Gemmell and Bob Burnes, at the Auckland University RFC. In more recent times, Ian relocated back home and was a regular at Southern and Otago games.

Dean Paddy (1942-2026)

Dean Paddy was a life member of the club and had been a Barbarian since 1999.

He was a regular presence at the club until recently when his health declined. For many years he was the cheerful face as the bar manager, firstly at 'The House that Jack Built' in Cricket Avenue until 2009 and then in the early years of the current premises. Dean's annual wisteria parties were legendary. He was awarded the Albert Storey Trophy in 2013 for his unstinting service to the club.

A dentist by profession, like Keith Nelson and Earle Kirton before him, Dean played 10 first-class games during the 1960s as a prop for Otago, NZ Universities, Otago B and South and North Island Universities out of the Otago University and Auckland University clubs.

He spent the 1970s and the first half of the '80s in London – playing for the London Irish club and coaching London New Zealand – with his large family before returning home. He coached the Auckland University club premiers in 1988-89.

Some of his close friends, including Trina Seits and Mereana Wibrow, were able to spend time with Dean just before his passing. His public funeral service was held at Eden Park and drew around 500 friends and family, followed by further tributes in the Barbarians clubrooms.



Dean Paddy, with his old mates from the Barbarians bar, Bryan Craies, left, and Kevin Way, right.

AGM REVIEW



The 89th Annual General Meeting of our club took place back in the clubrooms after the plumbing issues of 2024.

There were no changes on the committee, in keeping with the stability at the club these days, while it was remarked that President Rick Johnston's President's Report was the shortest ever delivered, albeit with all the important detail covered off.

Club captain Craig Carter spoke to all the Barbarians teams that the club had fielded in 2025 – and there were several – while also reading the citation for the winner of the Albert Storey Trophy, Ben Sherriff.

Ben has worked tirelessly for the game for several years, often at the Super Rugby Under 20s tournament in Taupo, and doubles as the King Country Rams manager in the Heartland Championship. He was previously manager of the NZ Barbarians in the 2021 match against the national Heartland XV. Ben, who is one of three Barbarians domiciled in the King Country, and his wife Lisa were visiting the clubrooms for the first time.

Vice-President Nick Sheppard spoke to the Strategic Plan review and there is more detail to come on this, which will set up the club's aims and goals until 2029.

The four key pillars of the Strategic Plan are:

1. **Defining the strategic role of the NZ Barbarians**
2. **Membership, engagement, growth and effective communication**
3. **Campaigns and events strategy**
4. **Financial sustainability**

WHAT'S ON IN 2026



Club captain Craig Carter in full flight at the AGM.



Alex Bing, left, and Allan Faull, might be recalling great Auckland Grammar First XV days.



From left, John Mills, Phil Lindsay, Chris Laidlaw and Terry Horne at Dean Paddy's wake.



AJ Whetton, left, and Gary Howarth, all smiles at the AGM.

March 4-5
Peter Johnstone Memorial Bowls tourney,
Mt Maunganui



Saturday March 7
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm




Sunday March 15
Blues v Moana Pasifika
3.35pm




Sunday March 22
Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day,
Bridge Park BC, 9am



Saturday March 28
Blues v Fijian Drua
7.05pm




Friday April 17
Blues v Highlanders
7.05pm




Saturday May 16
Blues v Hurricanes
7.05pm




Sunday May 17
Fun Day, Bruce Pulman Park,
9am



Saturday July 18



All Blacks v Ireland, 7.10pm

Saturday October 10



All Blacks v Australia (BC), 7.10pm

*All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.
*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2026 functions/events.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



**Congratulations to Grant Dickson and Bryce Bevin, who were both made life members of the Auckland University RFC at November's club AGM, while congrats are in order to another Varsity man, Stu Mather, was made a life member of the Auckland union, along with Sir John Kirwan. Rob Fisher, ONZM, another Varsity man (!) was elected patron of Auckland Rugby. Well done, too, to Sam Whitelock, who won the NZRPA's Kirk Award, with Les Elder, at the NZR Awards in December.*

**Congrats to Saveatama Eroni Clarke, who was made an MNZM in the New Year honours for services to the Pacific community and rugby, and then, with son Caleb, won the Halberg Awards' NZ sporting moment of the year for his stirring rendition of the anthem at the Eden Park Bledisloe. John Mitchell was given an OBE in England for services to rugby after coaching the Red Roses to the Women's RWC crown. Richie McCaw was inducted into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame at the Halberg Awards this month, and made a fine speech in doing so.*

**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 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 2026 subs notices were recently sent out. Please pay your subs, if applicable, at your earliest convenience, as this is a requirement of membership.*



From left, Mark Moore, Nick Sheppard and Terry Horne at Dean Paddy's wake.

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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