

# 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



President Rick Johnston, with beanie, and AJ Whetton running the cutter at last month's Fun Day.

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



We're just coming into our busiest time of the season, but we can look back to some memorable Barbarians events in the last couple of months.

Chief amongst them was the 38th annual Fun Day, held on May 17 in Papakura. We had some 24 teams, over 300 young players and upwards of 50 Barbarians on hand to make it a memorable day. The photos throughout this newsletter will give a taster to what went down. It was a beautiful day at Bruce Pulman Park, probably the best we've had weather-wise for some years. Next year we really want to push this highlight of our calendar and crank up the number of teams. It was nice to see our Patron, Sir Bryan Williams, there as he makes his way back to full health. Go well, Beegee.

There was a nice turnout over King's Birthday in Wairarapa-Bush as a Barbarians team, with Craig Carter, Mark Gleeson and Dion Waller running the cutter – and nice to see new Barbarian and NZR President Erin Rush on hand too – helped the Greytown club celebrate its 150 years.

The new members' induction took place in April and we welcomed 16 into our ranks. It was a great day, good energy. We also hosted some of the Hurricanes' alumni after the Blues-Hurricanes game on April 11. Thanks to Tanner Vili and Daryl Williams for driving that, and Daryl and Alama Ieremia were presented with their Manu Samoa Test caps by Craig Glendinning, which was a nice touch.

In July, we have the Gallaher Shield club final and the All Blacks-Ireland Test. On August 2 an NZ Barbarians side will play a first-class

fixture against the King Country Rams in Taupo as part of the Rams' Heartland Championship prep (shout out to Ben Sherriff) and we'll have the NZ Barbarians Area Schools, likely based in North Harbour for their camp, and NZ Barbarians Under 18s in action during September/October as well. So there's plenty of good Baabaas action to come.

We'd also like to do a call to arms for more members to come along to Eden Park to catch up at Auckland games during the NPC and FPC. It's a good chance to catch up with old mates over a beer or wine and watch some provincial code in a more relaxed setting than we see for the Tests, which tend to pack out the clubrooms.

Rick Johnston  
President  
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



# Deaths Of Members

## **Mick Foy (1939-2026)**

Mick Foy was 86 and had been a member since 1984, serving as club secretary from 1992-96.

He was head prefect at Sacred Heart College in 1957, the same year he captained the First XV as a centre. He was a fine middle distance runner, often competing against the late, great Peter Snell. He then went on to play Under 21s and Premiers for the Auckland University club before taking up the coaching cudgels with both teams, taking the Under 21s to an Auckland title.

The Foy's were neighbours of the McCahills in Epsom for many years. Mick, a lawyer by profession, started the Foy Halse legal practice in 1981 in that suburb. His colleague and fellow Barbarian Graeme Halse said Mick was "a great man who left his mark on a generation."

Though plagued by ill health in recent years, Mick still showed a keen interest in rugby, especially his old teams. Mick is survived by his wife Heather, and his children Kylie, who played hockey for the Black Sticks, and Mark, who played soccer for the All Whites. His grand-daughter Milly Clegg plays soccer for the Football Ferns.

## **Kevin Reilly (1943-2026)**

Kevin Reilly was 82 and had been a Barbarian since 2017.

He was great mates with the late Kevin Gimblett and Bob Telfer, who were also Barbarians, helping manage Auckland Colts teams of the early 1990s.

'Reills' was a life member (since 2015) and former President of the College Rifles club, and was an early pioneer of touch modules in 1989. He also served as the Mahurangi club manager from 1996-2000. The Orakei local board honoured him with a community volunteer award for his service.



New member Craig McCarthy and club captain Craig Carter helped out with the Patumahoe kids.



The kids had a great time at the Fun Day.



Rugby is a contact game.

**Darren 'Lardy' Larsen:** Current Hurricanes pathways manager; two stints as coach of the NZ Barbarians Under 18s; former assistant coach of Wellington Lions; has coached over every age grade level at the Hurricanes over 17 years

**Tai Lavea:** Coach at Hanazono Kintetsu Liners in Japan; former St Kentigern director of rugby, winning five Auckland 1A and one national titles; was head coach of Counties Manukau and assistant coach of Auckland and Manawatu; has coached with Manu Samoa and at Toshiba Brave Lupus in Japan

**Tasesa Lavea:** Former Manua Samoa, Blues, Chiefs, Auckland, Counties Manukau and NZ Schools No 10; played league for Melbourne, Manly and the Kiwis; former King's College First XV coach, now with St Kentigern College as director of rugby; will coach NZ Barbarians Under 18 later this season

**Seilala Mapusua:** Matai title is Vaovasasamanaia; Former Manu Samoa and Pacific Islanders midfielder; also played for Highlanders, Otago, Counties Manukau, NZ Schools, NZ Colts and NZ Under 19s; has coached Manu Samoa and was 2024-26 Moana Pasifika assistant coach

**Rob Marshall:** Former Takapuna club premier player out of Westlake BHS First XV; member of NZ Parliamentary rugby team; former chairman of Takapuna club, 12 years on committee; established club community foundation



The Barbarians bowls team at the Mount; nice to see Sir Gordon Tietjens have a roll-up.

## NEW MEMBERS



**Bede Haughey:** Former Thames Valley lock, 5 games 1991-92; also played for NZ Combined Services, NZ Police, the Takapuna club and in England; former chairman at Mahurangi RFC; many other coaching and leadership roles in rugby, police and in education

**Russell Hilton-Jones:** Former Northland and North Harbour loose forward 1984-92; played over 170 games for North Shore RFC; long-serving coach at several levels and was North Harbour's director of rugby

**Sarah Hirini (née Goss, MNZM):** Black Fern #189; One of the greats of the women's game; long-time captain of the champion Black Ferns Sevens, two Olympics gold medals, two RWC 15s and sevens titles; multiple World Series sevens titles; 2021 Kel Tremain Memorial Trophy winner; 2x Tom French Cup winner; 2017 NZR women's player of year; 3x NZR women's sevens player of year; runs Hirini Rugby Academy

**Monique Hirovanaa:** Black Fern #56; 24 Tests 1994-2002; 2x RWC winner 1998 and 2002; World Rugby player of the year 2002; also played for the Auckland Storm and the Marist club

**Craig McCarthy:** Former player at the Auckland Marist and Thames clubs out of St Peter's College (Auckland); current Auckland referee; long-time coach and educator; former principal at St Heliers School; former liaison for international teams in Auckland

**Neil Murphy:** Former Hawke's Bay halfback; 13 games for Magpies 1978-84; over 300 senior games for Hastings Celtic club; life member of Hastings R and S club, Hastings RSA and Hawke's Bay Saracens; has been GM and President of NZ Marist; 35+ years in hospitality and gaming industry

**Gavin Roberts:** Premier centurion as a fine loose forward for the Takapuna club; won several North Harbour titles; also coached in the Netherlands at the Castricum club; more than 15 years coaching or on the Takapuna committee; works in real estate

**Michael Rodden:** Former Hawke's Bay rep at Under 19, 21, Development and sevens levels; huge contributor to the Mahurangi RFC as coach and team manager; most recently managed NZ Fijian Cavaliers Sevens tour to Fiji



The NZ Barbarians fly the flag in Greytown last month; good to see Craig Carter, Dion Waller, Mark Gleeson and Erin Rush on hand.



The NZ Barbarians Under 20s at their development camp in Taupo; several will feature in the NZ U20s at the Junior World Champs in the coming weeks.

**Joe Royal:** Still playing premier club rugby as hooker at 41 for Ponsonby; has played for Maori All Blacks, Classic All Blacks, Moana Pasifika, NZ Barbarians, Bay of Plenty, Counties Manukau, Auckland and Ngati Porou East Coast out of the Ponsonby, Patumahoe and Rotoiti clubs; works for Ngati Whatua Orakei

**Erin Rush:** Black Fern #113, 2 Tests 2003 as loose forward; current NZR President; captained Wellington Pride out of the Wellington and Oriental Rongotai club; first female President of the Centurions club; mother of Highlander and Wellington Lion Stanley Solomon; top real estate salesperson in Wellington for Harcourts

**Alando Soakai:** Former All Blacks Sevens and Junior All Blacks rep; played for Highlanders, Otago and Southland as loose forward and for NZ Barbarians in 2010; coached Wellington Lions to 2024 NPC title; has coached with Ikaile Tahi Tonga and most recently as Moana Pasifika assistant coach

## WHAT'S ON IN 2026

Saturday July 11  
Gallaher Shield club final,  
3pm



All Blacks v Ireland



7.10pm • Saturday July 18

Sunday August 2  
NZ Barbarians v King Country,  
Owen Delany Park, Taupo



Friday August 7  
NPC: Auckland v Wellington,  
7.10pm



Saturday August 15  
NPC: Auckland v Hawke's Bay,  
5.05pm



Friday August 28  
NPC: Auckland v Bay of Plenty,  
7.10pm



Saturday September 12  
FPC: Auckland v Counties Manukau,  
11.35am



NPC: Auckland v Counties Manukau,  
2.05pm



Friday September 25  
FPC: Auckland v Manawatu,  
5.05pm



NPC: Auckland v Manawatu,  
7.10pm



Saturday September 26  
NZ Barbarians U18s (boys)  
v Tonga,  
St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton



Wednesday September 30  
NZ Barbarians U18s (boys)  
v Australian U18s,  
St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton



Sunday October 4  
NZ Barbarians U18s (boys)  
v Samoa,  
St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton



All Blacks v Australia • Bledisloe Cup



7.10pm • Saturday October 10

*\*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 four of our Barbarians for their King's Birthday honours for services to rugby.*

*Life member Peter Thompson was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for rugby and philanthropy, Earle Kirton was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) and Lisa Kingi-Bon and Vania Wolfgramm were made Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM). Well done, all.*

*\*The Barbarians club has been on social media for some time, via Facebook [www.facebook.com/NZBarbarianRugby](http://www.facebook.com/NZBarbarianRugby) and Instagram [www.instagram.com/nzbarbarianrugby](http://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 June 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](http://www.rugbynews.co.nz)*

*\*The 2026 subs notices were sent out months 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 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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@barbarianrugby.co.nz)



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