

MAY 2021

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



Your first NZ Barbarians Under 20 squad.

Photos: Susana Buckton

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



Greetings to all.

In my February newsletter I expressed a hope for more normality, which was immediately followed by a seven-day lockdown! Since then, for the most part, we have had a good run at 2021, although the Blues' results after a promising start disappointed again. There is a fine line between pleasure and pain in sport for sure.

Your committee has been active in the front end of this year on a number of fronts including:

On the administrative side: securing a naming rights and funding agreement for 2021 with Barfoot & Thompson, the hugely supportive company of Peter Thompson who is a valued club member; revisiting the protocols around access to and service within the viewing boxes and the adjacent lounge to enhance the experience for ticket-holding paying members; completing the major update of our Strategic Plan; negotiations with Eden Park over arrangements for the first concert with Six60 and what a night it was!

On the rugby field, we entered an Under 20 Barbarians team in the NZR Super Rugby franchise-based week-long tournament in Taupo last month. This consisted of players on the edge of selection from around the country, including two Heartland players. Our club provided the coaching and management team for the most part with Peter White as manager putting in a huge effort and leading a very professional group including Paul Feeney, Brent Semmons, Mark Hooper and Dean Allnutt, all club members, along with Jeff Jerome, Nathen Foulagi and Sars Flood. Ben Fisher of NZR was our liaison man. The week was a memorable one for all involved and the players learnt much and embraced the Barbarian ethos despite having some stiff challenges in their games.

I had the pleasure of attending the official launch of the NZ Barbarians National U85kg Club Cup with Sir Graham Henry and myself doing the draw at NZR HQ in Parnell. There are 44 teams signed up and it promises to be another great competition in a division the club sees

itself involved with as one pathway to restoration of rugby at the amateur level.

Preparations are also well in hand for the primary schools Fun Day to be held on May 23.

Hosting the Blues and Chiefs women's teams in our clubrooms after their history-making first female Super Rugby game prior to the Blues' May 1 match was a highlight of the year so far. Those present had a very special afternoon and evening concluding with a waiata from each team that was an expression of just how much they enjoy their rugby – and what a game it was!

Our club continues to be well served by VP Craig Glendinning and his custodians on match days and Trina and her bar staff team. We have a lot to be thankful for in that and generally, given we can watch and play sport freely, socialise and enjoy life's freedoms whilst many parts of the world still struggle with Covid-19.

Bernie Allen
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Ces Williams (1942-2021)

Ces Williams was older brother of our patron Sir Bryan Williams and, like Beegee, a life member of the Ponsonby club.

A prop, Ces played over 100 games for the senior reserves and filled myriad positions within the club, including President, coach, manager and mentor. Under his Presidency, Ponsonby won two Gallaher Shields (2010-11) in its run of eight, his son Brett, the club's leading points scorer featuring (he played an incredible 10 in all).

Ces Williams was made a Barbarian in 2015.

Don McCaskie (1938-2021)

Don McCaskie was the first man to raise a century of games for Manawatu.

In all, the farmer played 101 games for the province from 1956 to 1967 out of the Rangiwahia and Oroua clubs as a halfback, and was captain of the side in 1966-67.

McCaskie's brother John and son Robert also played for Manawatu.



Captain Jamie Hannah wins another lineout against the Blues.



Louis Bartley-Saena showcases his fend against the Highlanders.

NZ BARBARIANS UNDER 20s REVIEW



Our first NZ Barbarians Under 20s made its entry last month at the Super Rugby Under 20 tournament in Taupo.

Under the coaching of Paul Feeney, Brent Semmons, Mark Hooper and Jeffrey Jerome, the Barbarians showed flashes of good rugby, but were hampered by a very short preparation time of just 72 hours. Pete White and Deano Allnut fulfilled the managerial duties.

They were defeated 70-17 by the Highlanders, 50-19 by the Blues, and 69-28 by the unbeaten Chiefs, but did score nine good tries in the three encounters. Captain and lock Jamie Hannah, fresh out of Christchurch BHS, led by example and was consistently the best player.

There were signs of innovation by the Barbarians, such as a wall and 10-man lineout, by they could not gain an edge in possession or field position.

Others to impress were raw-boned blindside flanker Rowan Slater, nephew of Barbarian Andy Slater, who scored a fine try against the Chiefs, and utility back Louis Bartley-Saena. Vice-captains Jackson Rainsford and Joel Lam also had their moments.

Despite the scorelines, this was a worthy team and we hope it can go on to be more competitive at future tournaments.

BAABAAS NATIONAL UNDER 85kg CLUB CUP



The second edition of the NZ Barbarians National Under 85kg Club Cup is well underway.

Teams from as far north as Kumeu to as far south as Dunedin are battling to make it through to the knockout competition and reach the final, to be played some time in August as a curtainraiser to a Bunnings NPC match.

Many of you will recall how tremendous the 2020 final was, between the Auckland University Squids and the Eden Lizards, won by the latter.

So get to a game near you and your club over the next few weeks. The rugby is very good quality and is not social, though the after-match is.

Check out all the results and draw at www.nzrugby.co.nz



NZ Barbarians U20 first five and vice-captain Jackson Rainsford searching for space.

BOWLS & FUN DAY UPDATE

The Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day will be played on Sunday May 30.

It was set down for March 14 but was postponed due to the Covid-19 lockdown in Auckland earlier that month. The greens at Bridge Park Bowling Club will be a little slower than they were in March, but the bowls should still be compelling and competitive followed by a convivial after-match function, seafood included.

It's all in a good cause, of course, with proceeds going to the Maori Youth Sports scholarships, of which the late Patrick Timothy Walsh was so proud.

Contact our bowls man and former Auckland forward Peter Tubberty on 027-682-4670 for further information.

Exactly seven days before then will be the 32nd annual Fun Day at Papakura's Bruce Pulman Park, kicking off at 8.30am and running until early afternoon. It would have been the 33rd event, but the 2020 event was scrubbed due to Covid-19.

Organiser Rick Johnston reports that around 330-350 kids in 22 teams will be playing 10-a-side around the grounds that day, helped out by various Barbarians. The Blues players will be on hand, as will the Bledisloe Cup, which has not left NZ shores since 2003.

Get along if you are in the Auckland region, as this is always a highlight of the Barbarians calendar. A full review of the day will feature in the club's August newsletter.

BLAST FROM THE PAST



Your editor has just acquired several old Barbarians programmes and the 1987 club 50th jubilee booklet, which were donated to the club by Cameron Russell, son of former Barbarian Lyn Russell, who died in 2013.

Russell senior's 66 tries were the Auckland record for many years until the advent of Terry Wright.

The club played a lot of different types of matches, several of them first-class, or festival in nature, during the 1950s and '60s, at some diverse places, such as Onehunga's Waikaraka Park (against the NZ Universities in 1962) and Morrinsville's Campbell Park (against the Harlequins in 1957).

They even played against Rodney in 1968 at the Port Albert Domain, up past Wellsford. The programme costs 10 cents and Te Hana Stores are advertised on the cover. Te Hana is, of course, the stomping ground of Rene Ranger.

The programmes will be available for your perusal in the clubrooms in the coming weeks and are a fascinating insight into rugby in that bygone era and a veritable treasure trove of information.



BAABAAS BRIEFS



*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 May 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 2021 subs notices were sent out several 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 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

WHAT'S ON IN 2021

Thursday May 20
New members' induction night,
6pm



TRIPLE-HEADER

Saturday May 22
Super Rugby Trans-Tasman
Blues v Waratahs, 4.35pm



All Blacks Sevens and
Black Ferns Sevens
vs Australia,
3pm and 6.40pm



Sunday May 23
Baabaas Fun Day
Bruce Pulman Park, 9am



Saturday May 29
Super Rugby Trans-Tasman
Blues v Brumbies, 7.15pm



Sunday May 30
Pat Walsh Memorial Bowls Day
Bridge Park BC, 9am



Saturday June 12
Super Rugby Trans-Tasman
Blues v Force, 7.05pm



DOUBLE-HEADER

Saturday July 3
Māori All Blacks vs
Manu Samoa
kickoff TBC



All Blacks vs Tonga
7.05pm



Mt Smart Stadium
Auckland

**All events are at Eden Park unless otherwise specified.*

**Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of further 2021 functions/events*

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