



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



Your 2022 NZ Barbarians Under 18s team, coached by Dave Dillon, front left, and with the team's first All Black, Damian McKenzie, beside him.

Photo: Supplied

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

Greetings, including early season's greetings to all.
In this, my last Team Talk as President, I want to focus on three things:
First, the celebration of women's rugby culminating in the Rugby World Cup.
Second, a brief summation of what our club has been up to these past few months.
Third, a thank you to all who have contributed to the meaningful programmes we support and/or run.
You may recall the spontaneous visit to our clubrooms in May last year by the Blues and Chiefs Manawa women's teams after the first ever Super Rugby match. It was a night of spontaneity with song, humour and simple joie de vivre. Such continues to characterise the game as seen in the opening and middle stanzas of RWC, much to the delight of our former Black Ferns committee and club members. The club is appropriately welcoming past Black Ferns to our clubrooms and viewing boxes for the finals. We also had the Black Ferns team and management up to the club on Tuesday prior to the semi for their club night.
On the RWC opening day to a near full stadium, the Patea Maori Club with Poi E, the pois in the stands and Rita Ora singing made for simple but creative and connected entertainment we can learn from. Of the players, as someone said to our member Phil Gifford, "they seem to look like they're playing because they enjoy it."
In these past few months, we have been quite busy as a club in hosting or sponsoring: All Blacks v Ireland first test after-match; SHC and MAGS at the club (the only two schools continuously in the Auckland 1A); College Rifles' 125th; NZ Marist Colts visit; John Drake family visit; The Big Book of coloured SA rugby presentation;

Gallagher Shield/NPC/FPC triple-header at Eden Park; U85 Club Cup final as curtainraiser to Hamilton AB test vs Argentina; National First XV Top 4 champs in Palmie; Toro Mai awards might; Area Schools camp and games in Canterbury; ABs team and management up for Tuesday fun night pre-Bledisloe II; Waka Nathan tribute; RWC opening triple-header; NZ Barbarians U18s in Hamilton.
Finally, my presidency has been a challenging but immensely rewarding role. It has been made easier by the significant contributions and ongoing support over the past two years of our patron, life members, secretary and those on our highly functional committee, which just gets the job done, often on the front foot without being prompted.
Thank you also to our protected fund Custodians, house manager, club manager and valued team of custodians. Thanks also to our valued sponsors: Barfoot & Thompson, Canterbury Clothing, Morph Industries, Findex, and also for funding support from North South, Four Winds and of course Campbell Burnes of Rugby News for his support, including production of these newsletters.
The club is in good heart. It can be made even better if we see you as a member up here at your club to enjoy your company, as and when you have opportunity.

Bernie Allen
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Tom Johnson (1938-2022)

Tom Johnson was a real identity in a great era of Hawke's Bay rugby, captaining the side in 50 of his 84 games, though he did also play for Counties, Waikato and Auckland in a long career as a loose forward.

Johnson was also a President of Hawke's Bay's Saracens club and in 2011 was made a Member of the Order of NZ (MNZM) for services to rugby, having served from 1973-85 on the NZRFU council. He also helped drive the launch of Golden Oldies rugby in 1979.

He held the launch of his 2014 book *Legends in Black* at the Barbarians club and it was nice that he was again able to visit the club last year, albeit in a wheelchair.

Kevin Way (1944-2022)

Kevin Way was a regular and amiable presence behind the bar in recent years until illness took hold.

He was a good wing for Auckland University, winning a Gallaher Shield with that club in 1966, the same season he made two first-class appearances for the Auckland Colts.

Willie Los'e (1967-2022)

A fuller obituary of the colourful rugby life of Willie Los'e appeared in an earlier email newsletter.

The loose forward with a flamboyant personality played for NZ Schools, NZ Colts Auckland, North Harbour and Marlborough, but his career highlight was captaining Tonga at the 1995 Rugby World Cup.

He carved a 20-year career in media, both on TV and radio, and was always willing to help promote the Barbarians name.

Dick Littlejohn (1931-2022)

To distil Dick Littlejohn's achievements in rugby into a few short sentences is a challenge.

Though he did not have an extensive playing career, it was in administration and management that Littlejohn shone. He was the All Blacks manager in 1984-85 after doing years of service for the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union. He was one of the drivers for the establishment of the first Rugby World Cup in 1987, which led to his induction into the World Rugby Hall of Fame in 2011. A life member and patron of the Bay of Plenty union, he was made a life member of NZR in 2018. His service to NZR included a 1981-88 stint on the council. A Whakatane man, Littlejohn worked in his business well into his 80s.

Laurie Smith (1931-2022)

Dr Laurie Smith played 25 first-class games as a goalkicking threequarter from 1953-55, appearing for the NZ Barbarians, NZ Universities, South Island, Otago and Auckland, as well as winning an All Blacks trial. His two clubs were Otago University and Auckland University. One son, Richard, played for NZ Universities in the 1980s while another son, Jamie, was the Black Sticks hockey captain in the 1990s.

Colin McDonald (1931-2022)

Colin McDonald described, in this newsletter a few years back, one of his real career highlights as scoring two tries for the Barbarians against Auckland in 1955 at Eden Park: "It was a great thrill to be selected out of the blue."

He was good enough to be an All Blacks trialist and scored 23 tries in 57 games for Canterbury from 1954-59, part of which was in a fine Ranfurly Shield eras.

He had been a chairman of the Cantabrians club and in later years he lived in Wanaka.

Ian Begbie (1943-2022)

Though Ian 'Biggles' Begbie played 57 games as a loose forward for Waikato out of the Taupiri club from 1963-72, he was latterly a Northland rugby man, and was a member of the Vikings club in that province.

Begbie had an All Blacks trial in 1970, His son Mark played for North Harbour and the Vikings.

MEMBER PROFILE TONY SINKOVICH



Tony Sinkovich was made a Barbarian earlier this year, joining several other members from west Auckland's Waitemata club, among them Peter Tubberty, Sir Michael Jones, Brent Semmons, John Hart, Wally Jelichich and our President Bernie Allen.

"To be invited to join a club that many of my heroes from days gone by are in is actually quite an honour," says Sinkovich.

"The nice thing about it is that you don't have to be a top-line rugby player to be a member of the club. It's what you put into the game itself. I feel my membership has come from that area over 40-odd years. To me, the Barbarians' philosophy is about growing the game, so it's quite an honour."

Sinkovich, known as 'Sinky', was made a life member of the Waitemata club in 2012 after many years' service as, among other roles, coach of the Under 21s and through all the junior grades, manager, president, chairman. He is still involved boots and all in any fundraising events the club may pursue, and is looking forward to the club's centennial in 2027.

"I wouldn't have given up what I've done for anything," he says.

Not many Kiwi rugby people can say they helped grow the game in Peru, of all places, but Sinkovich can.

Despite limited Spanish, his work in the avocado business took him to the South American nation, better known for the round ball code, where the national team is ranked No 72. He spent four winters coaching the men's and women's teams at the Jaguares club in Trujillo, falling into the role quite by chance.

"All they needed was some good coaching and developing a game plan, getting them properly fit," he says. "I fell in love with the people."

The men won the North Peru championship three straight years, while Sinkovich helped out financially and with coaching the referees, while bringing kit and equipment over from Auckland and Waitemata. There were some huge travel hauls just to get to away games. We don't know how lucky we are here.

One of the highlights was taking some of the players to Argentina to watch an All Blacks training session when they were touring there.

Welcome to the Barbarians, Tony.



Tony Sinkovich on his induction night this year, flanked by Rocky Khan, left, and Rick Johnston.



Photo: Supplied

Dave Dillon talks strategy with the NZ Barbarians Under 18s.

OUR TEAMS

There was plenty of spring rugby action involving our Barbarians teams and tournaments.

It all kicked off with the return of the Top 4 First XV finals in Palmie after a three-year hiatus.

Hamilton BHS again took the boys' title, 17-15 in a tight final over Napier BHS, thus also defending the Moascar Cup. The girls' final was shared after Manukura and Christchurch GHS had a 19-all draw for the Hine Pounamu Trophy. Thanks to Regina Sheck who was on hand for the presentation.

The NZ Barbarians National Under 85kg Club Cup had its third and fullest edition this season, culminating in, from 47 teams,

a cracking final, won 21-19 by the Southern Bush Pigs over the Auckland University Debt Collectors. It was played as the curtainraiser to the All Blacks-Pumas test in Hamilton. President Bernie Allen was on hand for the presentation for this worthy and important competition.

The NZ Barbarians Area Schools had a successful camp in September. Again under the astute coaching of Justin Marsh, assisted by Hone Manuel and Ratu Mataira, and with Steve Beck and Barbarian Mike Smith in management, this unheralded rep team for boys in smaller, rural areas, won both their games, 36-22 versus North Canterbury Under 18s and 48-0 v Waitaha Under 17s.

The NZ Barbarians Under 18s, formerly known as NZ Barbarians Schools, were coached by Dave Dillon and managed by Chris Back, both Barbarians, last month in Hamilton. They beat Fiji Schools 50-14 and suffered a rare loss, 37-26, to the NZ Maori Under 18s.



Photo: Supplied

Your 2022 NZ Barbarians Area Schools.

BAABAAS BRIEFS



*Congratulations to Ron Palenski on his induction into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame, rich reward for the many thousands of words he has penned on several sports through his long writing career.

*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 November 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 2022 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.



OFFSET & DIGITAL PRINTERS

Cnr Boston Rd & Nugent St, Grafton
Auckland 1023, New Zealand

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Campbell Burnes • NEWSLETTER DESIGNER: Dave Burke

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 2022-23



Saturday November 12

WRWC bronze final
Canada v France
4.30pm



WRWC final
Black Ferns v England
7.30pm



Wednesday November 23
Club AGM
6pm



Friday November 25
ODI cricket:
Black Caps v India
2.30pm



Friday December 2
Club Xmas party
5.30pm



Saturday March 18
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm



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



*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 2022-2023 functions/events