

NOVEMBER 2023

BAABAA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New Zealand Barbarian Rugby Club Inc.
Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand.

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The NZ Barbarians played some cracking rugby to beat the Heartland XV earlier this month.

PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK



As you can imagine, it's been a very busy last few months for rugby, the club and your committee.

I had the privilege of helping with the jersey presentation for our NZ Barbarians before their game against the NZ Heartland XV in Oamaru earlier this month.

It was a fantastic occasion. We had Dave Dillon and Carl Hoefl on the coaching team, with Pete White and Nick Sheppard helping out in Oamaru. Dave did a top job on comms. They had a WhatsApp page, for example. They all did a phenomenal job in bringing that group together in just three days and then putting out a winning performance on the field. They played outstandingly well and scored a try from their own goal-line. So, in all, they flew our flag really well. There was plenty of knowledge around what the club is about imparted on the players, and names like the late Dylan Mika, Jonah Lomu and Andy Haden were remembered.

Hopefully we can get more first-class fixtures. This was our first since 2021 against the Heartland XV in Taupo and first time for many years that we'd played in the South Island. It ticked all the boxes of what the Baabaas are all about.

Last month we had our NZ Barbarians Under 18s girls in action for the first time against NZ Maori Under 18s in Pukekohe. Members Mark Hooper and Kendra Cocksedge were on the coaching team. Barbarian Kere Maihi, a staunch Counties

Manukau and Manurewa man, was the manager and ran an enjoyable ship. We are giving more exposure to more players and 12 of them made the NZ Under 20s training camp squad. We also had the NZ Barbarians Under 18s boys and NZ Barbarians Area Schools in action during September and October. These teams are all about opportunities.

We've got two teams (boys and girls) entering the Global Youth Sevens at King's College Auckland next month (December 16-17). That should be good to watch some prime young sevens talent.

The other two big events in the coming weeks are our AGM on Wednesday November 22 at 6pm, when we will look to welcome two new life members to join the 11 surviving life members. The club Christmas party is down for Thursday December 7 from 4pm.

Catch you soon at the club.

Craig Glendinning
President
NZ Barbarian Rugby Club



Deaths Of Members

Bruce Robertson (1952-2023)

Bruce Robertson was one of the great centres.

He racked up 102 games for the All Blacks from 1972-81, scoring 34 tries in all, while he appeared in 123 games for Counties from 1971-82 (winning the 1979 NPC), scoring 47 tries. There were also four first-class outings for the NZ Barbarians club.

In all, he scored 85 tries in 250 first-class matches with an eye for a gap, the ball in two hands and invariably with a crisp, accurate pass for his grateful wing.

In later years, he was a successful coach and coaching coordinator with the Auckland Rugby Union – alongside other late Barbarians Ness Toki and Roger Whatman – the NZ Colts and Counties Manukau. The highlight of Bruce's coaching career was probably assisting the Blues to the 2003 Super Rugby championship.

Made a Barbarian in 1979, Bruce was liked by all who crossed his path. His brother Bill, son-in-law Dion Kingi and grandson Jadin Kingi all played for Counties Manukau.

Bruce had battled illness for several years. His large funeral was held at Pukekohe's Navigation Homes Stadium.

Ray Reardon (1936-2023)

In recent years, Ray Reardon had often made the call to arms for Barbarians in the Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions for fun days and bowls events.

He was, in particular, for many years a staple of the Barbarians team at the Peter Johnstone Memorial Bowls tournament in Mt Maunganui, where he lived in later life.

As a hooker/prop, Ray played 31 first-class games from 1960-66, including two for New Zealand Maori, 10 for Counties and 11 for Waikato. He was great mates with the likes of Fred Graham and the late Pat Walsh, both Barbarians.

As a coach, he had success with Manurewa – with whom he was a life member – during its golden era of the 1980s and with Hutt Old Boys seniors in Wellington. Ray was an adept administrator, too, and managed Counties and other teams within the union.

Ray worked for the Hurricane Wire and Pel Electric companies. He was a member of the Waikato-based Harlequins club, and the Centurions club when he lived in Wellington.

"I'm a staunch advocate of the role the Barbarians and those clubs play in the community. I do whatever I can to assist in the development of the game at large. Our game is much bigger than simply bursting with pride at what the All Blacks have achieved," said Reardon in a profile piece for the club newsletter several years ago.

His son Russell is a Barbarians member.

Tane Norton (1942-2023)

Tane Norton was All Blacks number 694, playing 61 games, including 27 tests, from 1971-77, captaining the side to a series victory over the 1977 Lions.

The hooker also appeared on 26 occasions for the Maori All Blacks – winning the Tom French Cup in 1973-74 – and 82 times for Canterbury in a first-class career that spanned 198 games and 16 years.

A horticulturist and then publican, and always a good, keen Linwood club man, Tane was a genial presence for all Baabaas and rugby visitors to Christchurch. He joined the Barbarians club in 1988.

President of New Zealand Rugby in 2003-04, he was made a member of the NZ Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2006 for services to rugby and in 2008 was awarded the Steinlager Salver.

The crowd observed a minute's silence for Tane before the August Bledisloe Cup test in Dunedin and before all round one NPC matches.

John Murphy (1933-2023)

John Murphy was a hooker who played nine games for Auckland in 1961 under Fred Allen during the great Ranfurly Shield era of the time, as well six other first-class games for Auckland B in 1960 and '63.

A former construction project manager, John joined the Barbarians in 1972, still in his 30s.

At club level, John was in the heart of the Waitemata scrum and won a Gallaher Shield in 1962 under the coaching of the late Barrie Hutchinson and the captaincy of Barbarian Adrian Clarke.

In 1963, he was part of 'one of the giant packs of all time' in the Baabaas team versus Counties to fundraise for injured Counties players. In 1974, John Hart invited John to be assistant coach, looking after the forwards in the Waitemata seniors. That team narrowly missed winning the championship but clinched the Gallaher Shield the next year in 1975.

Ron Palenski (1945-2023)

Ron Palenski, a Barbarian since 2015, was one of New Zealand's foremost rugby historians and authors and was prolific in his field, though he also dabbled in military and general history.

His last book was the 2021 Brutal on the storied rivalry between the All Blacks and Springboks. The launch for his 2015 book Rugby: A New Zealand History, was held at the Barbarians clubrooms.

Ron was a former chairman of the Otago Rugby Union and was the chief executive of the Dunedin-based New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

Ken Eglinton (1939-2023)

Ken Eglinton was a life member and former President of the Barbarians and had been a member of the club since 1980.

This was penned soon after he was made a life member at the 2012 AGM:

'In his playing days, Ken was a fine, tenacious wing who represented Otago University, Otago (27 games from 1960-62) and New Zealand Universities, while he was also an All Blacks trialist. Often during Otago v Auckland clashes, he would mark fellow Barbarians Don McKay or John Sibun.

'After he headed north, he joined the Takapuna club, and his work as a coach and administrator led to life membership of that successful North Harbour club.

'Ken served as Barbarians secretary from 1997-99 and President from 2002-03. He went to England with the Barbarians tourists of 2003, a tour which yielded a financial windfall for the club, and was active and indefatigable in his work on behalf of the club.'



The Baabaas claiming lineout ball in Oamaru.



The Baabaas loosies line up after a fine victory.

BAABAAS RUGBY REVIEW



The club is pausing for breath after a busy last few months with no less than four national Barbarians teams strutting their stuff around New Zealand.

Most recently in action, earlier this month, were the NZ Barbarians in a first-class fixture (the first since 2021) against the NZ Heartland XV in Oamaru. Dave Dillon led a coaching team that oversaw a 49-26 win, the seven tries highlighted by a brace to Amanaki Savieti. Captained by the most capped Tasman Mako Quentin MacDonald, the team adhered to the Baabaas' ideals of running rugby and made a good impression. Several players with NPC and Super Rugby experience were sprinkled through the group.

The NZ Barbarians Area Schools had a successful two-match campaign in rural Waikato in September.

Under the coaching of Justin Marsh, Hone Manuel and Ratu Mataira, the NZBAS made swift progress in a short few days to beat Te Awamutu College First XV 34-7 and then King Country Under 18s 22-17. This important team continues to do us proud.

The NZ Barbarians Under 18 boys, under the coaching of Dave Dillon, Rocky Khan (both Baabaas) and Matt MacDougall, were defeated 57-22 by a powerful NZ Schools combination in Hamilton but bounced back to trounce the NZ Maori Under 18s 41-5, led by a four-try haul by Nathan Salmon of Northland's Old Boys-Marist club. There is some prime young talent in this team, some of whom will be back at school in 2024.

The first NZ Barbarians Under 18 girls' side – and hopefully this is the first of many – took the field last month in Pukekohe under a coaching team that included Barbarians Mark Hooper and Kendra Cocksedge and managed by Kere Maihi. Many of the team had already played Farah Palmer Cup and, though the result went against them, several made the cut for this month's national Under 20 camps in Wellington and Christchurch.

Cocksedge made special mention of captain and openside Mele 'Taufa' Bason, wing Angelica Mekemeke Vahai, centre Sarah Jones and halfback Abigail Paton.

After Canterbury's HSOB Light Bears won the National Under 85kg Club Cup 45-17 over Takapuna Bombers in an open final, the club chose a paper selection.

NZ Barbarians Team of the Cup:

Forwards: Liam Bernet (Tukapa Bantams), Lewis Craik (Morrinsville Majestic Pukekos), Jeandre du Toit (Pakuranga Panthers), Luke Eyre (Massey Rock and Rumble), Jayden Ford (New Plymouth OB Half Pints), Josh Gellert (Auckland University Slugs), Frazer Harrison (Auckland University Squids), Kasey-Joe McIndoe (Ponsonby Hustlers), Morgan Jones (Southern Bush Pigs), Logan Kinnear (Pakuranga Panthers), Tyler Konning (Waihora Longhorns), Brodie Lilley (NPOB Half Pints), Matt McCutcheon (Southern Bush (Pigs), Ridgley Paxton (Karaka Razzlers), Tom Rowland (Eden Lizards), Jordan Roylance, Shaan Waite (NPOB Half Pints)

Backs: Campbell Busby (AU Squids), Taine Cordell-Hull, George Coull (HSOB Light Bears), Jackson Ephraims (Takapuna Bombers), Matt Fowler (Old Boys-University Scallywags), Freddie Gibson (HSOB Light Bears), James Guthrie-Croft (Grammar TEC Old Boys), Mackenzie Haugh (Southern Bush Pigs), Kees Jansen (OBU Scallywags), Ben Megson (Grammar TEC Old Boys), Jarred Percival (HSOB Light Bears), Reece Plumtree (OBU Scallywags), Tom Rance, Eamon Reily (Ponsonby Hustlers)



The NZ Barbarians Under 18 girls had some fun during their campaign.



The NZ Barbarians Area Schools look tired and happy after beating King Country Under 18s.

BARBAAS BRIEFS



• *Arise Sir Smithy: congratulations to Wayne Smith for his knighthood in the King's Birthday honours, a tribute to his lifelong service to rugby; we pass on our congratulations, too, to Andy Leslie, who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his long and unstinting service to the game.*

• *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 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 2023 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 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

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 new 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

WHAT'S ON IN 2023-24



Wednesday November 22
Club AGM, 6pm



Thursday December 7
Club Xmas party, 4pm



Saturday March 23
Blues v Crusaders
7.05pm



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



Saturday June 1
Blues v Chiefs
7.05pm



President Craig Glendinning, left, Tony (or is it Glen?) Marsh and Michael Scott at the Fun Day back in May.



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

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Campbell Burnes • NEWSLETTER DESIGNER: Dave Burke