



# BAABAA NEWS

The newsletter of The Barbarian Rugby Football Club Inc. Level 6, ASB Stand, Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand. [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)



Photo: courtesy of Marie Reiph

Masashi Sumino of the NZ Barbarians Area Schools crashes over for the decisive try in their Hamilton clash against the NZ Harlequins. In support is lock Keeghan Grey.

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

*Congratulations to the Chiefs; a great team effort to back up last season and without Sonny Bill Williams and Richard Kahui in the midfield; top coaching from Dave Rennie and his support crew. With a tremendous team spirit and culture, the Chiefs will be hard to beat in 2014.*

*Now that all the club finals have finished, it's time for the ITM Cup. Looking at the forward pack that Wellington has this season, I think the Lions will be hard to beat in the finals, but in the early part of the season look for the teams with the sharp backlines like Counties Manukau and Hawke's Bay.*

### Historic moment for the club

For the first time in the Barbarians' 76-year club history, three ladies have been inducted as new members into the New Zealand Barbarians:

- \*Anna Richards, winner of four women's Rugby World Cups
- \*Dr Farah Palmer, winner of three women's Rugby World Cups
- \*Melodie Robinson, winner of two women's rugby World Cups

These three ladies have all achieved tremendous milestones in women's rugby. We are delighted to have them as new members.

### Secondary schools

We began our secondary schools programme with a match in Hamilton on August 23 between the New Zealand Barbarians Area Schools team and the Harlequins. This was a new initiative for the Baabaas, and we have taken over the Area Schools sponsorship from the Rugby Foundation which is focusing on supporting injured players.

The side is chosen from the 42 country schools from Taipa in the north to the Catlins in the south. We are aiming to provide a pathway to the top for all secondary schoolboys at every level. Mike Smith and Bob Telfer did a great job bringing the boys together from around New Zealand for a week in Hamilton, culminating in a 12-6 win over the Harlequins. There certainly is talent in the team so hopefully some of you got along to the match.

The national Top 4 secondary school playoffs are in Rotorua from September 6-8. Come and watch the best of New Zealand schools players, our future All Blacks. This is a great weekend for Barbarians comradeship and watching quality First XV rugby.

### Bay of Plenty Fun Day

Ron Williams, along with John Cresswell, put together our first fun day out of Auckland. It was at Paengaroa in the Bay of Plenty, at Bruce Cameron's local club. Twenty primary school teams around the Bay had a great time and the Bay of Plenty RDO Kane Hames ran the event very well with a lot of Barbarians support.

### General

Please have a look at the upgraded website. Campbell Burnes and David Levin have done a great job getting it updated and looking good. Check it out at [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz)

With the ITM Cup starting and the All Blacks playing over the next few months in the Rugby Championship, please get along to our clubrooms and enjoy the great atmosphere and comradeship. The rugby season will be over before you know it.

Don't forget, too, to get along if you can to our middleweight tournament at the College Rifles club on September 14-15.

Thanks again to our sponsors, especially Barfoot & Thompson and Glengarrys.

Kind regards,

**Mike Mills**  
President  
Barbarians RFC

## WHAT'S ON IN 2013



**Friday August 30**  
Club night: Takapuna

**Friday September 6-Sunday September 8**  
National top 4 First XV playoffs in Rotorua

**Saturday September 14-Sunday September 15**  
Regional middleweight tourney at College Rifles RFC

**Saturday September 14**  
Top 4 schools final for Barbarians Cup, venue TBC

**Labour Weekend**  
Tairua RFC 125 jubilee match, TBC

**Friday December 6**  
Club Christmas function

*\*Further functions/dates will be confirmed in due course. Keep an eye on the website and your email.*

## Deaths Of Members

### **Pat Sheahan (1927-2013)**

Marist Rugby Club and the Barbarians formed the cornerstones of 'Red' Pat Sheahan's rugby life.

Sheahan, schooled at St Peter's College, played for Marist as a prop, winning a Gallaher Shield in 1950, and made his sole appearance for Auckland as captain against Waikato in 1954. He was integral in the Marist 1960s shift to what became known as Liston Park, and he also helped donate the Dave Grace Memorial Trophy, played for between the Marist and University clubs. Sheahan served as president of the Marist club and was subsequently awarded life membership. In 1975 he was invited to join the Barbarians club, for whom he always had the highest regard. It was fitting that a large wake was held for him in the Barbarians clubrooms.

Away from rugby, he was an outstanding rower, being part of an Auckland Rowing Club eight that won a national title in 1946. He was also a generous host of the old Globe Hotel.

### **Laly Haddon (1939-2013)**

Laly Haddon had the misfortune to be showing his wares as a speedy, tough No 8 at the same time as Brian Lochore was in his pomp for the All Blacks.

Haddon played 77 games for North Auckland from 1963-73 and made his mark in 23 matches for New Zealand Maori from 1964-73. He had just one All Blacks trial, in 1966. His 8-9 combination at the scrumbase with Sid Going was a key cog in the rugged North Auckland sides of that era.

Haddon started his career as a wing, and moved into the pack with no loss of speed. A farmer, he led a very full life after rugby, serving as a Rodney county councillor, and kaumatua for the Leigh and Pakiri areas. It was said he was the "self-appointed mayor of Pakiri." His conservation work earned him a QSM. Haddon died in July after a long battle with cancer.

### **Ross Nicholson (1922-2013)**

Rugby players of today, and indeed back in the day, owe a debt of gratitude to the sterling, ground-breaking work done by Ross Nicholson, regarded as one of the founders of modern orthopaedic medicine in this country.

Nicholson played for the Grammar club after he left Auckland Grammar School, but he was to make his greatest mark as the honorary medical officer for the New Zealand and Auckland unions. If any prominent player had a shoulder, knee or joint problem from the 1950s to the '80s, there was a high chance Nicholson would have had a hand in the surgery or rehab. Dedicated to his craft, he was often the doctor on duty at Eden Park rep and test matches, and mentored top sports physicians such as fellow Barbarian Barry Tietjens. Racing was Nicholson's other great passion, and he regularly gave medical advice at the Auckland Racing Club in Ellerslie.

*We have a bumper crop of 27 new members in 2013. Congratulations and welcome to you all. Ten were on hand for our new members' induction night on July 24.*

### **Mark Adam (Auckland)**

Former Auckland, Manawatu and NZU halfback; recently NZRU commercial manager

### **Clive Akers (Manawatu)**

One of NZ's foremost rugby historians; co-edited *NZ Rugby Almanack* since 1994; NZ Rugby Museum founder; stud sheep farmer

### **Daniel Braid (England)**

Former All Blacks flanker (six tests); Auckland centurion and long-time Blues and Queensland Reds rep; NZ rugby player of the year 2007; now at UK club Sale Sharks

### **Frank Bunce (Counties Manukau)**

One of the great All Blacks centres (55 tests from 69 games); also played for Manu Samoa, Auckland, North Harbour and the Chiefs; now coaching Manukau in Auckland club rugby

### **Teina Clarke (Counties Manukau)**

Former NZ Maori, Counties and Bombay loose forward; customs officer

### **Te Rau Clarke (Counties Manukau)**

Younger brother of Teina Clarke; former NZ Maori, Counties and Bombay loose forward; now works for Government Maori affairs department

### **Henk Habraken (Counties Manukau)**

Counties centurion and former All Blacks trialist; farmer and current president of Counties Manukau RFU

### **Carl Hoelt (Waikato)**

Former All Blacks prop (30 tests from 31 games); played for Thames Valley, Otago, NZ Colts, Highlanders and for French clubs Castres and Toulouse; now Chiefs scrum coach and Waikato assistant coach

### **Richard KaPa (North Harbour)**

Former NZ Maori, North Harbour and NZ Police wing; holder of Harbour try-scoring record (63); Policeman

### **Mike Leach (Counties Manukau)**

Former Counties and Manurewa loose forward; Counties Manukau RFU board member

### **Walter Little (North Harbour)**

One of the great All Blacks No 12s (50 tests from 75 games); joint holder of North Harbour appearance record (145); has coached his Glenfield club premiers

### **Dick Littlejohn (Bay of Plenty)**

One of key drivers of Rugby World Cup 1987, former chairman of Bay of Plenty RFU, now patron and life member; former NZRFU councillor and All Blacks manager; owns agricultural machinery business

### **Ian MacRae (Hawke's Bay)**

Former All Blacks (17 tests from 45 games) second five; new president of NZRU; former Hawke's Bay RFU chairman; life member of Marist club in Napier; NZOM for services to rugby

### **Kees Meeuws (Otago)**

Former All Blacks prop (42 tests from 45 games); played for NZ Maori, NZ Colts, Auckland, Otago, Blues, Highlanders, UK club Llanelli, and French clubs Agen and Castres; qualified builder and Highlanders/Otago scrum coach

### **Mils Muliaina (Japan)**

Former All Blacks fullback/threequarter (100 tests from 102 games) and captain; RWC winner 2011; Commonwealth Games 7s winner 2002; played for Auckland, Waikato, Blues, Chiefs; now playing trade in Japan

### **Rob Nichol (Counties Manukau)**

Chief executive of NZ Rugby Players' Association; played for Southland BHS First XV and age group sides

### **Dr Farah Palmer (Manawatu)**

Former Black Ferns captain and hooker; three-time RWC winner; 2002 Maori sportswoman of year; serves on several boards; senior lecturer at Massey University

### **Neil Pennington (Taranaki)**

Chief executive of Taranaki RFU; former Taranaki age group rep

**Trevor Prendergast (North Harbour)**

Former Marist and Auckland fullback; co-founder and life member of North Harbour Marist in 1988; coached at club; investment manager

**Anna Richards (Auckland)**

Arguably the greatest women's player of all time; 49 tests as No 10 for Black Ferns from 1990-2010; four-time RWC winner; NZOM 2005; coaches Auckland women's 7s; programme co-ordinator for Books in Homes

**Melodie Robinson (Auckland)**

Former Black Ferns flanker (18 tests); two-time RWC winner; SKY TV rugby presenter

**Eric Rush (North Harbour)**

One of the finest sevens exponents of all time; RWC 7s winner and Commonwealth Games gold medallist 1998-2002; former All Blacks wing (nine tests from 29 games); played for Auckland, North Harbour and Chiefs

**Richard Skelly (Auckland)**

Game development manager for NZRU; former Auckland Grammar School First XV coach; heavily involved with Auckland RFU coaching and development; Loughborough University graduate

**Rodney So'oialo (Wellington)**

Former All Blacks loose forward (62 tests from 63 games) and captain; Hurricanes centurion and played for Wellington and in Japan; Commonwealth Games 7s winner 2002

**Steve Tew (Wellington)**

Chief executive of NZ Rugby Union; former Canterbury and Crusaders chief executive; played senior rugby in Wellington

**Lindsay Thomson (Taranaki)**

Chairman of Taranaki RFU; former Taranaki lock and centurion; Tukapa club life member; financial advisor

**Mike Turner (Auckland)**

Former Auckland hooker; coached Thames Valley; now helping coach King's College First XV

## FUN DAY REVIEWS

The Barbarians club pulled off two fun days in the space of a month... and did not miss a beat.

Ron Williams and his large team of helpers put on another superb day of rugby and fun for close to 800 primary school kids at the usual Navy RFC venue on May 26. This popular Auckland region fun day has run since 1989. The weather was fine, though the fields were muddy, which the kids loved. Good to see the Blues along in numbers to help out too.

On June 26 we held, in conjunction with the Bay of Plenty union, our first fun day in Paengaroa. There was a pleasing turnout of Barbarians to assist with 20 teams and over 300 kids. We received some good media coverage in the local press. This all bodes well for future BOP fun days.

## MEMBER PROFILE JOHN LESLIE



John Leslie is one of nine Barbarians residing in Otago and is the latest to join the club father-son list with his father, former All Blacks captain Andy Leslie.

The 42-year-old has been retired from active play for almost a decade, but these days keeps his hand in as coach of his son Jack's Southern club Under 13 side and club captain of the junior section. That followed several seasons coaching the University premiers and colts in tandem with his good mate Josh Kronfeld.

He heads the Leslie Rugby operation – [www.leslierugby.co.nz](http://www.leslierugby.co.nz) – which supplies rugby product (balls, jerseys, etc.) to clubs and schools as befitting their grassroots focus. Leslie Rugby is the official ball of 13 unions round the country and has given away over 100,000 balls over the years. He also helps run coaching clinics which are high on fun and skills, involving current and former stars of the game.



*John Leslie passing on his vast rugby knowledge to the Southern RFC Under 13s in Otago.*

Leslie carved out a fine career, playing 173 games in New Zealand first-class rugby for the Highlanders, Otago, New Zealand Universities and the South Island from 1991-2004 with an hiatus from 1999-2002 when he appeared for Scotland, alongside brother Martin, and the Newcastle and Northampton clubs in England. Close to the top of his highlight reel would be the 1998 NPC, where he helped Otago to glory, and the 1999 Five Nations, which Scotland won, and in which Leslie registered one of the fastest tries in international history, a 10-second job from the kickoff against Wales.

Made a Barbarian last year, Leslie is fully cognisant of the club's storied history and ideals. He played one game for the NZ Barbarians, a non first-class fixture against the All Blacks in the mid-1990s. "I've been a Barbarian for two years and whilst living in the south it can be a bit removed, I really appreciate the information. I enjoy being part of the club and I would love to strengthen my involvement there," he says.

"The Barbarians and what they stood for always appealed to me... I do love the culture of the club to give the ball some air. These days a lot of game plans are mirrors of each other. That's where the Barbarians are wonderful. They encourage daredevil rugby, but also open up innovation and opportunity, especially through school and club rugby."

Leslie is married to Carmel and, along with Jack, is father to 10-year-old Amaya.

## NZ AREA SCHOOLS

The New Zealand Area Schools team played this year under the Baabaas banner and did the club proud, winning both its matches (for the first time since 2007) – 39-5 over Thames Valley Under 18s in Paeroa and 12-6 against the NZ Harlequins, effectively a Waikato Under 17 team, in Hamilton. Barbarian Matthew Cooper presented the jerseys and the NZ Barbarians Area schools went out and defended tenaciously to secure the victory. Well done to the coaching and management team, led by former North Auckland and Thames Valley prop Mike Smith and former Southland No 8 Bob Telfer. Visit our website, under the Barbarian Rugby link, for a fuller report, the squad list and more pics from the team's week in Hamilton.

## KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Never let it be said that the Barbarians are not a family affair. After new Barbarian Daniel Braid followed his dad Gary into the club this year, it got us thinking and we came up with an interesting list of (living) Barbarian father and son combinations and Barbarian brothers. Please let us know if we have omitted anyone.

### Father and sons (10 instances):

Kevin and Liam and Mike Barry  
Nick and Frano Botica  
Gary and Daniel Braid  
Bob and Campbell Burnes  
Bryan and Brett Craies  
Bruce and Fraser Gemmell  
Andy and John Leslie  
Kevyn Male and Todd Male  
Frank and Anton Oliver  
Peter and Glenn Wahlstrom

### Brothers (13):

David and Iain Abercrombie  
Liam and Mike Barry  
Marty and Robin Brooke  
Teina and Te Rau Clarke  
Greg and Matthew Cooper  
Bruce, Doug and Ian Gemmell  
Sir John and Bob Graham  
Ivor and Rod Jones  
Sir Colin and Stan Meads  
Ron and Wayne Peters  
Andrew and Gordon Slater  
Dave and Graeme Syms  
Alan and Gary Whetton

## BAABAAS BRIEFS

*\*Congratulations to Warren Gatland for his 2-1 series victory over Australia as head coach of the British and Irish Lions. The Lions were the superior team in the third test in Sydney but it was a close-run affair against the Wallabies of Robbie Deans. The Lions lost only one other tour match for an 8-2 record and Gatland can add this to his CV along with two Grand Slams and the 2013 Six Nations title with Wales.*

*Well done too to Wayne Smith, assistant coach of the Chiefs, who have won back-to-back Super Rugby titles.*

*\*Not to be outdone is Peter Rowe, one of our Wanganui (and younger) members, who scored the sole Ruapehu try, between the posts, as this club clinched the Wanganui premier club title for the second year on the bounce with a narrow 16-13 victory over Pirates. Rowe is the two-time, and reigning, Heartland player of the year.*

*\*North Shore is the oldest rugby club in the Auckland region and the Barbarians helped this North Harbour institution with its Queen's Birthday weekend 140th jubilee celebrations by putting out a competitive side, which included the likes of Craig Dowd, Ian Jones and Slade McFarland up against a North Shore President's XV, in a festival match. We can happily report that the Baabaas won and everyone had a fine old time. Staunch North Shore Barbarians include Simon Gundry, Frano Botica and Wayne 'Buck' Shelford.*

*\*It's funny what nuggets of info surface if you watch enough rugby on the box. During the coverage of the Polson Banner fixture on August 7, Richard Turner mentioned that he was billeted with one BJ Lochore when Napier Boys' High School was playing Wairarapa College in 1985. 'POD' Turner must have listened well, because a year later he was playing for Hawke's Bay, still in his teens! Keith*

*Quinn, another proud Barbarian, added that Jonah Lomu was billeted with the Meads family in 1990, at the northern region Under 16s tourney in Te Kuiti. Sir Colin Meads, many years later, quipped that he had seen plenty of players the same size as Lomu, but none of them played on the wing. He may recall that Jonah was a lanky lock in that tournament, as a 15-year-old!*

*Funny how these Barbarians first run into each other...*

*\*The club has a stack of fetching new apparel in stock and this is available to members and non-members alike. Check the website for further information and prices, et cetera.*

## OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2013, and there are many of you out there, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club and is a **requirement** of membership.

## 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 Dean Paddy or John Cresswell 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 industrious club secretary John Cresswell, who is mostly based at Eden Park in the clubrooms' office.

*John Cresswell's details are:*

*Club office number: 09-846-7241*

*Cellphone number: 021-703-904*

*Email addresses: sec@brfc.co.nz or jmcresswell@xtra.co.nz*  
*Home number: 09-630-6425*

## EDEN PARK FIXTURES:



*The Rugby Championship*  
*Saturday September 14*  
*All Blacks v South Africa, 7.35pm*



*Saturday August 31*  
*Auckland v Bay of Plenty, 2.35pm*



*Wednesday September 4*  
*Auckland v Counties Manukau, 7.35pm*



*Thursday September 19*  
*Auckland v Northland, 7.35pm*



*Saturday September 28*  
*Auckland v Canterbury, 7.35pm*



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