



# BAABAA NEWS

MAY 2012

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)



Mike Cormack and some of his family at the dedication of the Mike Cormack Suite last week.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are now well into the Super Rugby season.

While the news has not been good for the Blues supporters, we have seen fine returns to form by the Chiefs and Hurricanes. Confidence plays a big role in today's professional rugby and if it's lacking, your team will always struggle. But we hope to see all our New Zealand sides up the ante in the closing weeks of the competition.

### The Mike Cormack Suite

Last week was a happy and sad one for the Barbarians club.

A function was held at the clubrooms on Tuesday May 8 to celebrate the naming of the main corporate box as the 'Mike Cormack Suite'.

It was a great night supported by the large Cormack family including young grandchildren and a lot of Mike's friends

and fellow Barbarians. Mike's input into the successful relocation into the ASB Stand has been invaluable for the club. His perseverance, great negotiating skills and sharp legal mind ensured we now have a lounge and corporate suites that you would do well to better in any rugby stadium in the world.

Despite his illness, Mike gave a brilliant acceptance speech and was very honoured to be recognised in the club. Less than three days later came the sad news that Mike had passed away. All club members will mourn his passing.

### Sir Fred Allen

Mike's first Auckland coach, the great Sir Fred Allen, passed away just days beforehand, on April 28.

The funeral was held at the ASB Lounge and the Barbarians club hosted the family and close friends for coffee before the funeral. Legendary stories about Sir Fred were movingly told by three of our rugby knights, Sir Wilson Whineray, Sir Colin Meads and Sir Brian Lochore.

Sir Fred was very well respected for his knowledge and passion for rugby as a player, coach and later mentor. Barbarians, Sir Fred's family and rugby greats shared a drink or two at the club afterwards.

The passing of Mike and Sir Fred follow the earlier deaths of two great rugby men and members of this club - 'Tiny' White and Jock Hobbs.

### Barbarians middleweight team

The unbeaten Barbarians middleweight team visited Wellington to play the U85kg Centurions in late March.

After a close first half the Baabaas ran away with the game 21-7.

Great hospitality was shown by the Centurions at the after-match function and later at the Centurions club at Westpac Stadium.

I would like to thank Wayne Underhay and Gary Cunningham for coaching the team to an unbeaten record, and Bryan Craies, Dean Allnutt and Roger Moore for the great management of this proud and successful side. >>

## Barbarians Fun Day

The 23rd annual Barbarians Fun Day will be held at the Naval Base in Ngataringa Bay on Sunday May 27. If members are not involved with school teams, please come along and help. It's a wonderful chance to have a coffee and catch up with old playing mates and see future All Blacks in the making.

Kind regards,

## Mike Mills

President,  
Barbarians RFC

## WHAT'S ON

### Friday May 18

Teachers-Eastern club night, 6.00pm

### Tuesday May 22

Fun Day instruction night, 6.00pm

### Saturday May 26

Blues v Highlanders, Super Rugby, 7.35pm

### Sunday May 27

Annual Fun Day, Ngataringa Bay

### Friday June 1

Grammar-Carlton club night, 6.00pm

### Saturday June 9

All Blacks v Ireland, 7.35pm

### Friday June 15

Waitemata/Waitakere City club night, 6.00pm

### Friday June 22

Roller Mills reunion, 6.00pm

### Friday June 29

Onewhero/Maramarua club night, 6.00pm

### Saturday July 7

Blues v Force, Super Rugby, 7.35pm

### Friday July 13

Bombay/Pukekohe club night, 6.00pm

### Friday July 27

Takapuna club night, 6.00pm

### Friday August 10

University club night, 6.00pm

### Friday August 17

Papakura/Manurewa club night, 6.00pm

### Saturday August 25

All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm

### Friday August 31

Marist club night, 6.00pm

### Friday September 14

Patumahoe club night, 6.00pm

### Friday September 21

75th jubilee dinner

### Saturday September 29

NZ Barbarians Schools v Australian Schools,  
Hamilton

### Saturday October 6

NZ Barbarians Schools v Samoa Schools,  
Auckland

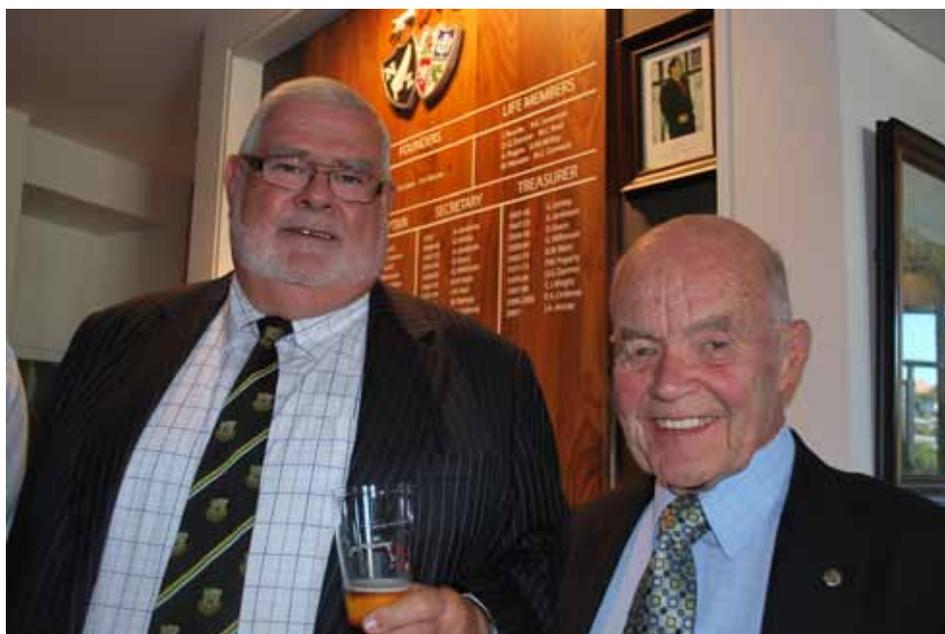
### Friday October 12

College Rifles/Eden club night, 6.00pm

### Friday November 2

Northcote/North Shore club night, 6.00pm

\*Other events/dates will be confirmed in due course. A full list of Eden Park rugby fixtures in 2012 is to be found on the last page of this newsletter.



Mike Donovan (left) and Gerry Rea after Sir Fred Allen's funeral.

## THE MIKE CORMACK SUITE

As mentioned by President Mike Mills, the evening of Tuesday May 8 saw the unveiling and dedication of the Mike Cormack Suite, which takes in the Barbarians box which overlooks Eden Park. The club boxes were key planks of Mike's desire for the Barbarians clubrooms to have an area overlooking the park, and he fought long and hard to make this vision a reality. The end product speaks for itself and is a fitting tribute to Mike, who was President of the Barbarians from 2006-07, and was integral in the transition from 'The House that Jack Built' to where the

club is now situated.

There was a large turnout to see Mike, testament to the wide respect with which he is held and the friendships he has made in the game. Sadly, it was to be his last public outing as he passed away just three days later after his long illness.

The club remembered him again this week at his funeral and subsequent 'wake' in the clubhouse.

\*NB. There will be a 'Sleepy's Corner' dedication evening, to be announced in due course. DJ 'Sleepy' Cameron has generously donated many books from his extensive library and these will be housed in the north-east corner of the clubrooms, where some of the club books are already housed.

## BAABAAS FUN DAY

On Sunday May 27 the Barbarians club again brings you the annual fun day, a most popular and well-supported event on the club calendar.

The event, now into its 23rd year, will once more be held at the Navy RFC grounds at Ngataringa Bay. For further information, or to volunteer your services, contact Ron Williams at 09-415-837 or email [ron@gibbonscontractors.co.nz](mailto:ron@gibbonscontractors.co.nz)

## ROLLER MILLS REUNION

Friday June 22 sees a unique evening to be hosted by the club.

We are calling all former Roller Mills players, coaches and manager to come to the club to enjoy some hospitality, tell some old tales, and catch up with old teammates and foes.

The Roller Mills tournament for primary schoolboys has maintained iconic status since it began in 1925. Many Barbarians have earned their rep spurs at Roller Mills level.

Feel free to bring any team photos or memorabilia.

For further information on Roller Mills rugby, visit [www.rollermillsrugby.co.nz](http://www.rollermillsrugby.co.nz)

## DEATHS OF MEMBERS

### 'Tiny' White (1925-2012)

One of three Poverty Bay Barbarians, Richard 'Tiny' White was a true giant of rugby. A 23-test All Blacks lock forward whose career at the top was ended by an act of foul play by a Springbok in 1956, White had a genuine love of the game and his High School Old Boys club in Gisborne. He was always proud to present the Tiny White Medal for the outstanding player on the opening day of every Poverty Bay club rugby season. From 1977-83 he was mayor of Gisborne.

White's sons Chris (Olympic bronze rowing medallist) and David (Canterbury and Wairarapa Bush lock) both excelled in their sport.

### 'Jock' Hobbs (1960-2012)

The passing of Jock Hobbs in March reverberated around the rugby world.

He was very ill from leukaemia, which forced him from his role as NZRU chairman, but his time as a rugby administrator, former All Blacks captain, and coach of the New Zealand Universities will never be forgotten.

Hobbs played a central and vital role in bringing the All Blacks back to the fold when rugby went pro in 1995 and the WRC was threatening to buy many of the top players, but he was also integral to the awarding of the 2011 Rugby World Cup hosting rights to New Zealand, and the introduction of the popular All Blacks capping evenings, which ran from 2009-11.

Hobbs' brother-in-law is Barbarian and current Wallaby coach Robbie Deans. Concussion ended Hobbs' career before its time and now cancer has claimed a decent bloke and a sterling rugby man well before his time.

### Sir Fred Allen (1920-2012)

Sir Fred Allen was one of six NZ rugby (and Barbarians) knights and his career needs little in the way of extensive review, suffice to say he was a revolutionary coach of Auckland (1957-63) who then forged an unbeaten record at the helm of the All Blacks (1966-68).

One of only three who have captained and coached the All Blacks (along with Sir Brian Lochore and John Mitchell), Allen was a proud Barbarian and a regular visitor to Eden Park. He was still an astute observer of the game late into his long life. The clubrooms held a 'wake' for Allen after his funeral – which brought close to 800 mourners – at the ground.

\*Check out [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz) for a *Rugby News* tribute to Sir Fred Allen.



### Mike Cormack (1938-2012)

A life member of both of the Barbarians and Auckland University clubs, Cormack played 45 games for Auckland from 1960-66 as a fearless, dependable fullback. He is perhaps remembered best in his playing days for converting Waka Nathan's famous try in the 1960 Ranfurly Shield defence at Eden Park against Canterbury to ensure Auckland retained the Log o' Wood. In 1966 he was part of the Gallaher Shield-winning University side, and he went on to coach the Varsity premiers in the late 1970s, also serving as president in 1987-88.

A lawyer by profession, Cormack's negotiating skills were central to the successful transition into the current clubhouse we enjoy today, and it is entirely fitting that the boxes looking out onto Eden Park have been named the Mike Cormack Suite.



Three knights and a dentist; from left: Sir Brian Lochore, Earle Kirton, Sir Colin Meads and Sir Wilson Whineray.

## 75TH YEAR JUBILEE

Many of you will recall with fondness the 70th birthday celebrations at Eden Park for the Barbarians club. That was back in 2007, marking three-score and 10 years since the New Zealand chapter of this famous club was founded by messrs Ron Bush and Hugh McLean.

The 75-year milestone has rolled around swiftly, and the Barbarians will be marking the occasion on Friday September 21 with a dinner and suitable celebration at the ground. Past president Phil Lindesay is chairing the organising committee. Barbarian and former Tongan international Willie Los'e will MC the event with former Wallaby midfielder Anthony Herbert confirmed as one of the guest speakers.

## NZ BARBARIANS SCHOOLS

Later in the year we will see a new Barbarians side do battle on the rugby field.

The New Zealand Barbarians Schools team will play two matches, in the famous scarlet strip, against Australian Schools (in Hamilton) and Samoa Schools (in Auckland). This side will represent those top schoolboys not in the New Zealand Schools squad, but will form a meaningful pathway into that top team for 2013. The coach is former Canterbury rep Mark Vincent, who is the coach of the First XV at John Mills' alma mater St Bede's College.

The Barbarians will supply a technical advisor and assistant manager to the side. The club will continue its backing of the national top four schools competition, which will be held a few weeks before the international matches.

## GOLF V EAGLES

The annual tournament against the Eagles, this time at the Manukau Golf Club in April, proved to be another tightly contested clash, though on this occasion the Eagles prevailed, to regain the trophy.

Organiser Bryan Craies is apparently already plotting his revenge for 2013!

## OUTSTANDING SUBS

Those of you who have yet to pay your subscriptions for 2012, please do so at your earliest convenience. The money goes toward the running of the club.



Bryan Craies and Bryan Williams at the Baabaas' match v Kanto Districts in April.

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS ON TOUR

The NZ Barbarians' support of middleweight (under 85kg) rugby continues to be as strong as ever.

This burgeoning grade has really taken off in the wider Auckland region and the Barbarians rep side out of this region has represented the club with pride and honour in the last few seasons. The latest match was against the Wellington Centurions last month in the capital. The Barbarians won the clash 21-7 (see image below) with tries to Gerrard MacInnes and Joel Murphy, Scott Thomson adding the extras.

It was a hit and run trip, with the side, plus senior Barbarians management, in Wellington for less than 24 hours. As ever,

former Auckland coach Bryan Craies was the selection convenor, with former All Blacks wing Gary Cunningham and Wayne Underhay as coaches and Deano Allnutt as manager. Initial feedback suggests the players take great pride in wearing the scarlet jersey and digging in as representatives of the club.

The next big date for the Barbarians middleweight programme will be the Auckland tournament in September, which will feature regional rep sides. In the meantime, the clubs will all play in their respective Under 85kg competitions.

\*A Barbarians selection lost 0-21 to a strong Japanese touring side from Kanto Districts at Onewa Domain in April. The Barbarians included a sprinkling of ITM Cup and club players from around the Auckland region.

## CLUB DRESS CODE

To add to and maintain the high standard set by the design, layout and presentation of the Barbarians' clubrooms, the club expects a high standard of dress on all occasions. Please ensure the club's dress code is adhered to at all times.

**Dress code: Jacket and tie or smart, casual clothing. Not cutaway jeans, t-shirts or jandals.**

If a member brings a friend or visitor to the club, please ensure they are appropriately dressed, as above.



The Barbarians middleweights in Wellington.

## 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.



From left: Patron Bob Sorenson, Terry Dunleavy and Keith Davis.

## FIXTURES: EDEN PARK

### Super Rugby 2012

Saturday May 26  
Blues v Highlanders, 7.35pm  
Saturday July 7  
Blues v Force, 7.35pm

### Test matches 2012

**Steinlager Series**  
Saturday June 9  
All Blacks v Ireland, 7.35pm

### The Rugby Championship/Bledisloe Cup

Saturday August 25  
All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm

### ITM Cup 2012

**Sunday September 2**  
Auckland v Manawatu, 2.35pm

**Saturday September 8**  
Auckland v Waikato, 2.35pm

**Wednesday September 19**  
Auckland v Taranaki, 7.35pm

**Saturday September 22**  
Auckland v Wellington, 5.35pm

**Friday September 28**  
Auckland v Counties Manukau, 7.35pm

\*NB. The semifinals are down for October 19-20 and the final for October 27.

## CLUB CONTACT

Your first port of call is our industrious club secretary John Cresswell, who is now 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**

**jmccresswell@xtra.co.nz**

**Home number: 09-630-6425**