

# 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: Terry Home

It was a Counties rugby reunion in March at the clubrooms to pay tribute to Paul Cochrane. From left: Andrew Roose, Michael Scott, Errol Brain and the Marsh twins, Glen and Tony.

## PRESIDENT'S TEAM TALK

The clubrooms have been well used in recent weeks and months.

We have had a busy time with the league 9s, and Super Rugby games featuring the Blues against the Crusaders, the Cheetahs, the Highlanders, the Waratahs and the Reds. The Super Rugby competition has certainly heated up with the NZ conference delicately poised. Only five points separate all five teams so the next few weeks are critical for all. Most teams are winning at home so those who are able to notch multiple wins on the road will come through. It is significant that the Crusaders were able to welcome back Richie McCaw and score a resounding victory over the Brumbies. And what a great effort from the Highlanders to gain seven points from their South African safari. Those two Smith boys, Aaron and Ben, are playing top footy. Great to see Ma'a Nonu play so well for the Blues. It augurs well for the All Blacks.

Anzac Day was a special day at the club for a number of reasons. We hosted a number of people from the North Shore and Ponsonby clubs as they watched their premier teams play a curtainraiser to the Blues-Waratahs game. They are the two oldest clubs in the Auckland region with histories dating back some 140 years. It was great to see club teams play again on Eden Park, celebrating 100 years since the first club rugby game was played there.

In days gone by, there used to be five club games every Saturday on Eden Park and consequently, there were many supporters who came to watch. It was not unknown for club games, particularly finals, to attract many thousands of fans. It was also poignant that the game was played on Anzac Day, as a number of players from both clubs made the ultimate sacrifice in losing their lives during WWI. The day also commemorated 100 years since the start of that terrible conflict.

Since the playing surfaces of the top stadia are so good, it seems to me that playing curtainraisers to Super Rugby games should be further explored, not only of top club games but also First XV games. That may well boost the crowds.

Club rugby still plays a huge part in the development of our top players. I see that as one of the roles of our club, to not only acknowledge, honour and celebrate the rich history and heritage, but also to assist the future of our game as well.

Kind regards,

**Bryan Williams**  
President  
Barbarians RFC

## WHAT'S ON IN 2014



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

**Sunday May 25**  
Primary Schools Fun Day, Ngataringa Bay,  
8.00am



**Saturday May 31**  
Blues v Hurricanes, 7.35pm



**Sunday June 1**  
Barbarians v Ponsonby XV  
Ponsonby RFC 140th jubilee, TBC



\*Continued on next page

**Saturday June 7**

**All Blacks v England, 7.35pm**

**Black Ferns v Manusina, 5.00pm**



**MEMBER PROFILE**

**BRUCE CAMERON**



**Friday June 13**

**Northland Schools Fun Day, TBC**

**NZ Baabaas v Blues, Whangarei, 6.30pm**



**Wednesday June 18**

**Bay of Plenty Schools Fun Day**

**Paengaroa, 8.30am**



**Friday June 20**

**Junior World Championship, finals from 2.30pm**

**NZ Barbarians v Highlanders, Invercargill, 6.30pm**



**Friday July 11**

**Blues v Chiefs, 7.35pm**



**Saturday August 23**

**All Blacks v Australia, 7.35pm**



**Sunday August 31**

**Auckland v Tasman, 4.35pm**



*\*Keep an eye on the website and your email for confirmation of future functions/events in 2014.*



## Deaths Of Members

### Frank Oliver (1948-2014)

Frank Oliver was a 43-match, 17-test All Blacks lock between 1976 and '81 and played for three provinces – Southland, Otago and Manawatu – in a 15-year first-class career.

Oliver captained the All Blacks in three tests against Australia in 1978 and was a key figure in the controversial 13-12 victory over Wales on the Grand Slam tour later that year. A no-nonsense, hard-nosed forward, he was part of the 1980-NPC winning Manawatu team.

From 1994-2001, he was a prominent coach in New Zealand rugby, taking the NZ Under 19s (1994), Manawatu and the Central Vikings. At Super Rugby level, he was at the helm of the Hurricanes from 1996-99 and the Blues in 2001.

Oliver died in Palmerston North in March. His son Anton, another former All Blacks captain, is also a Barbarian.

### John Pring (1927-2014)

John Pring was a top-class referee who took the whistle in eight All Blacks tests from 1966-72.

But his first-class career began back in 1955 with an Auckland v North Auckland appointment and finished at the age of 52 in 1980 after 77 games. That figure of 77 has been passed by just 17 Kiwi whistlers. He was referee in all four tests of the 1971 All Blacks-Lions series, a time he saw as his career highlight, saying the Lions were one of the most professional sides he had seen, under the captaincy of John Dawes and manager Doug Smith. Known as a quiet, intelligent man, Pring was widely liked and respected. A bank officer and accountant by trade, Pring was awarded an MBE in 1979 for services to sport and was the president of the New Zealand Rugby Referees' Association in 1988.



Not to be confused with the North Harbour Barbarian member of the same name, Bruce Cameron of the Bay of Plenty is still fully involved in rugby, well over two decades since he hung up his boots.

The 55-year-old is one of 17 Bay of Plenty Baabaas, and will be in the thick of it at next month's second annual fun day at the Paengaroa club, Cameron's old Eastern Districts club.

Great mates with Ray Reardon and the late John Drake, Cameron was made a Barbarian "about six or seven years ago" and says the honour came as something of a shock.

A Te Puke man through and through, Cameron played for East Coast in 1977 in his first year out of King's College before racking up 81 games for Bay of Plenty from 1978-88 as a prop who could play both sides of the scrum, often alongside All Black Hika Reid, and an occasional fill-in for the second-row.



"I was probably the shortest lock in the NPC," he quips. "I was a provincial hack."

Too modest by half, Cameron actually played for the New Zealand Juniors in 1980 and sat on the bench in a 1981 All Blacks trial. He had the distinction, almost impossible to imagine these days, of twice playing against the touring Lions, not to mention facing the Springboks and Wallabies for his union and playing for the Ranfurly Shield.

There is a famous old photo from 1983 which shows Cameron and his Manawatu foe Mark Shaw sorting out control of the ruck in, ahem, emphatic fashion. The zambuk is shown throwing ice and water over the pair!

Did that stop the stoush?

"It stopped real quick after that. You can imagine having ice cubes running down the back of your neck. They should always have a bucket of ice on the sideline now!"

Immersing himself in his myriad business interests, including growing kiwifruit, Cameron served as Steamers manager and on the union council as deputy chairman in 1993. Following a break from the game, he returned to help bail out the Bay of Plenty union, which was facing the wall financially in 2008. That led to his elevation to the NZRU board as its northern zone rep in 2012, work on which he thrives.

"If you were ever inclined to indulge in self-interest, you'd be found out as quick as lightning and would suffer the appropriate outcome! It's challenging and exciting. We're driven by the winning teams' philosophy and we cannot forget the community game, which is totally relevant to the



passion which the Barbarians have," he says, paying tribute to the club culture and its ability to connect with rugby people around the provinces.

"To me, going into the Barbarians clubrooms now, it's as warm and welcoming as going into my old Eastern Districts club."

Cameron had the honour of presenting another top Te Puke rugby man – Tanerau Latimer – with his greenstone mere for his 100th Super Rugby game earlier this season.

## BIG GAMES FOR BAABAAS

After a long wait of four years, the Barbarians have secured two meaningful first-class fixtures next month.

Many of you will recall with fondness the high profile game in 2010 when the New Zealand Maori narrowly defeated the Barbarians 37-31 to mark the opening of the renamed Toll Stadium in Whangarei. The Barbarians are returning to the Northland city on Friday June 13 to play the Blues. While the Blues will not have their All Blacks or New Zealand Under 20 reps, they will still field a strong team, while the Barbarians, to be coached by Northland ITM Cup coach and former All Blacks hooker Derren Witcombe, are sure to field a very competitive side. This match will follow the first Northland primary schools fun day, in which all the Blues players will be involved.



The club would love to see as many Northland members and others from the Auckland region as possible on this day.

Exactly a week later, on June 20, the Barbarians will head to the deep south to meet the Highlanders at Rugby Park Stadium, Invercargill. The Barbarians will be coached by new Stags coach Brad Mooar and will feature a good sprinkling of Southland, Otago and Canterbury talent, while the manager will be Barbarian and one of Southland's favourite rugby sons, Leicester Rutledge.

Both these high quality fixtures will be good exposure for the club in its push for more first-class rugby.

## MIDDLEWEIGHT REVIEW

The College Rifles Bombers shrugged off the tail of Cyclone Lusi to clinch the Bryan Craies Cup in March's tournament at the Northcote club. The Bombers beat Northcote 13-6 to cap a fine day of middleweight (Under 85kg) footy. Thanks to Deano Allnutt and his team for putting on a good show.

Please visit [www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/middleweight](http://www.barbarianrugby.co.nz/middleweight) for a full report.

## FUN DAYS

The club is bracing for a very busy time of year, which includes no less than three fun days in the next month.

The 25th annual primary schools fun day will be held on Sunday May 25 at the usual Ngataranga Bay venue. This is one of the club's most important calendar dates and is always a great chance for the Barbarians to catch up with old mates, as well as giving the kids a top day out.

Less than three weeks later will be the first Northland fun day, which will be held in Whangarei on the afternoon of Friday June 13 leading into the Barbarians-Blues clash at Toll Stadium (the old Okara Park).

Then on Wednesday June 18 we have the second annual Bay of Plenty fun day at Paengaroa. This proved most popular in 2013 and the club is hoping to see a good turnout of members and supporters from the region.

## NZ RUGBY FOUNDATION

The New Zealand Rugby Foundation is an incorporated society and a registered charity which does sterling work raising funds to support badly injured players and their families. Almost all the board of directors for the foundation are Barbarians, including patron Sir Colin Meads, chairman Maurice Trapp and president Sir John Graham.

Please visit [www.rugbyfoundation.com](http://www.rugbyfoundation.com) for more information and/or to make a donation.

## FUEL CARD FUNDRAISING OFFER

The club is pleased to announce a very generous Mobil fuel card discount offering for all members, families, friends and businesses.

The 8.5 cents per litre (cpl) discount is available at all Mobil service stations and a large number of Pak 'n Save and New World supermarkets.

Of the 8.5cpl available discount, the club will receive 2.0cpl and the member 6.5cpl. There is an option for those members who wish to give their full 8.5cpl discount to the club.

We encourage all members to take advantage of this generous fuel card discount by downloading (if you are reading this on the website) or completing the form which you should have with this newsletter. Please send direct to the Mobil SME agent at the address on the form.

The ongoing fuel rebate has the potential to generate some significant funds for the club and so we encourage ALL members to take advantage of this opportunity.

There is a one-off account application fee of \$10, card fee of \$6 and a \$0.005cpl transaction fee. Two other advantages are: your monthly account is payable by direct debit on the 20th of the month following purchase and each member will also receive a customer benefit card entitling them to discounts at a number of large retail companies.

Please act now to help the club with this income generating scheme and also to reduce your monthly fuel bill.

## FACEBOOK

The club is keen to explore how it can make use of social media, and in particular Facebook. If any of the (younger and/or tech-savvy) members can assist with the setting up of a Barbarians club Facebook page, please contact either the secretary or newsletter editor Campbell Burnes. The latter can be reached at cmburnes@hotmail.com or 021-717-150.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

The club uses email and the website for much 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 John Cresswell 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.

## QR CODES

If you have visited the clubrooms in the past few weeks you may have noticed small plaques have been affixed to a few of the photos hanging in the clubrooms.

For the technically-minded, these plaques are called QR Codes. QR stands for 'Quick Reference' and when read by a QR reader, provides instant access to information that is held on a website.

To read the QR code you need to have internet access and an iPhone (or Android) with an app that reads QR codes. The reader can be loaded from the app store and will enable you to access the many applications that are becoming accessible as QR codes gain popularity.

We have provided QR codes for photos of: Sir Fred Allen, Bob Scott, Kevin Skinner, Pat Walsh and Sir Brian Lochore that connect to the All Blacks website ([www.allblacks.com](http://www.allblacks.com)).

We also have a code on the cabinet in box 627 that has memorabilia donated by Robert Barnes, the son-in-law of JA Pym, who played for England against Wales and played

against the All Blacks early in the 20th century. His family decided that having Pym's rugby history on display in our clubrooms would be a fitting place for his cabinet and information to reside. So, if you want the full history, you can point your phone (with a QR reader turned on) at the plaque on the cabinet and you will be able to read a full history of the life of Mr Pym.

Thanks to Ken Baguley for: firstly, explaining to us what QR codes were all about and secondly, arranging for QR plaques to be attached to a selection of photos in the clubrooms.

## BAABAAS BRIEFS

*• The club bar is a very important part of the club and operates to very high standards, under the stewardship of Dean Paddy. With the ever increasing number of events and occasions where bar staff are required 'for duty', we would like to appoint another helper to assist Dean. While the role is unpaid, the club will pay for all costs associated with the requirement to gain a bar managers' licence. If you would like to be part of Dean's team, please contact the secretary. Dean will be readily available to discuss all aspects of the job.*

*• As you enter the clubrooms, take a moment to glance up at the plaque which adorns the top right of the foyer. It acknowledges the co-founders of the NZ Barbarians club in 1937, Ron Bush and Hugh McLean.*

*• 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 2014, 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. Thus far less than two-thirds of our members have paid their subs for 2014, a disappointing effort.

## 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 John Cresswell or Custodian on duty 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](mailto:sec@brfc.co.nz) or [jmcresswell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jmcresswell@xtra.co.nz)**

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