

Jeff Robb - Head of Rugby

We are extremely excited to introduce Jeff Robb as our new Head of Rugby. Jeff will be looking to inspire our community through the empowerment, unity, passion and strength of the Barbarians Rugby Program. His mission is to develop Barbarians Rugby into the leading provider of rugby development, performance and coaching within the Bay of Plenty public school system.

Jeff will continually challenge and inspire our players/coaches through a variety of quality experiences within the sport of rugby and strive for increased participation, improved skill development and performance.

We asked Jeff a few questions.

What is your previous coaching experience?

I have coached rugby for the last 25 years. During that time I have coached both boys and girls teams from club and school age groups as well as age group representative teams. I have also had the privilege of coaching Premier Men's teams. The representative teams I have coached have won the Tai Mitchell and Roller Mills Tournaments numerous times as well as many of the club and school teams winning their respective competitions. These schools include Tauranga Boys College (TBC) and Tauranga Girls College (TGC).

With regards to the girls teams I have coached, they have won Bay of Plenty (BOP) titles in XV a-side and Sevens as well as the North Island Sevens tournament. They have also made the top 8 at the prestigious Condors Sevens tournament multiple times.

In 2018 the Premier Men's team I coached won the Baywide title.

In 2018 I coached three teams to the finals of their respective grades winning two out of the three titles

- TBC U14 - BOP premiership grade
- Te Puke Sports - Premier Men's Baywide title.
- TGC U18 - BOP finalist

In 2016 I was named the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union Secondary School Coach of the Year.

What excites you about this role here at ŌTC and the Barbarians Rugby Program?

I like the idea of growing people, developing a culture of success and watching young people become better versions of themselves where they gain the enjoyment and enrichment of being involved in a team sport.

Through your coach development input, what's the dream and vision for Barbarians rugby?

I like to see people succeed. I have a philosophy of coaching where the *PERSON* is greater than the *PLAYER*. This means I try to develop the *person* and that *person* will take care of the player. When trying to build a culture of success I focus on personal characteristics. Success does not necessarily mean winning. Winning is a by-product of getting things right within the rugby program. There is an old story of a coach being asked by a reporter after winning a competition what he thought about his team. His reply was "I will tell you in 20 years." This sums up my philosophy.