



Sir Peter Leitch

THE NEWS LETTER

VODAFONE



What a shocker the past 24 hours have been! It's bad enough we lost over the weekend but to find out today that the only home game we were gonna get this year has now been cancelled because of the current Covid situation in Australia.

Warriors Chairman Rob Croot, Chief Executive Cameron George, Coach Nathan Brown, and Captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck have sent out a letter to the fans explaining the unfortunate setback (read next page).

The latest outbreak is forcing the NRL to relocate 12 teams to Queensland including our own Vodafone Warriors.

But, life goes on and we get over it.

A big shout out to Lisa Dalton the Memberships and Ticketing Manager. She's been at the club for 10 years and what a great lady she has been a big help to me over the years.

In this newsletter I've included a special shout out to an old mate Kerry Pearce.

We have a news update from our old mates Ian and Marcia Carpenter - former season ticket holders and member of the Stacey Jones Lounge for many years. They have gone 'walk-about' in Australia.

Everybody have a great week stay strong and little share the love out there.

Your old mate..

Sir Peter Charles Leitch KNZM QSM

HOMECOMING GAME CANCELLED

Richard Becht & Photosport NZ



Sydney's Covid-19 outbreak has forced the Vodafone Warriors to cancel plans for their homecoming NRL match against Canterbury Bankstown at Mount Smart Stadium on Sunday, August 15.

In another development announced last night, the Vodafone Warriors are among 12 clubs being relocated to South East Queensland for a period of at least four weeks.

With 77 new community cases reported in New South Wales yesterday, Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George said the club and the NRL had no option but to abandon their return home to play the Bulldogs.

"We were all desperately looking forward to coming home for the game but the fact is we're in the middle of a new crisis which leaves us with no other decision but to call the game off," he said.

"The fact is we're in the middle of a new crisis which leaves us with no other decision but to call the game off."

Cameron George

Vodafone Warriors CEO

"While this is a huge blow for us as a club as well as for all our members, fans, families and sponsors there is simply too much risk and uncertainty.

"We appreciate the support the NRL gave us trying to make this game possible but we're committed to doing all we can to protect the competition and our players."

Mount Smart Stadium was close to sold out for the August 15 game which would have been the Vodafone Warriors' first match at Mount Smart Stadium in almost two years.

George said details would follow in the coming days about ticket refunds.

The game will still be played on August 15 at a yet to be confirmed venue.

LETTER TO THE FANS..

From the Warriors Chairman, Chief Executive, Coach, and Captain



Dear friends

It's with sadness that I'm writing to advise the cancellation of our Homecoming game in Auckland, scheduled for Sunday August 15.

The resurgence of the Covid-19 virus in Sydney continues to challenge the survival of our great game with strict measures in place to protect the competition and the safety of staff and players. .

We expect these restrictions and resulting uncertainty to remain for some time which has led to the club and NRL jointly agreeing to cancel our game in Auckland on August 15. Details on a new venue for where this match will be played will be advised in due course.

I acknowledge this will be disappointing for our members, fans and business partners; I assure you these same feelings are shared by everyone in the club.

We appreciate your support and understanding and as we prepare for a relocation to South East Queensland this week, please know that we remain absolutely committed to staying in the fight.

Please note that if you have purchased tickets for this game, Ticketmaster will automatically be processing refunds back to the credit card you purchased the ticket with. They will send out more communication in the next short while.

We will also be sending out more information to ticketed members on what this means for your active membership in due course.

Sincerely

Cameron George	CEO
Rob Croot	Club Chairman
Nathan Brown	Head Coach
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	Club Captain

WARRIORS LOSE TO SHARKS

The one that got away... an all too familiar cry in 2021 for the Vodafone Warriors as they go down to the Cronulla Sharks in another tight contest, and it was the “Once was a Warrior”- Shaun Johnson who kept the them on the back foot with his kicking game.

Continually forcing the Warriors in to back to back sets of defensive work with some deft touches off the boot meant the Warriors had to make around 12 more sets of tackles than their opposition. Whilst he may not be as quick as he once was, and less of a “big play” guy, he’s now a smarter veteran halfback who knows when to take a chance and pull the trigger.

Whilst there were some good individual performances it really was an old fashioned arm wrestle. Matt Lodge had a solid debut, getting around the park making 37 tackles and 116 run metres. He was backed up by Addin Fonua-Blake who carried for 166 metres and making 33 tackles, unfortunately he was placed on report twice - once for a high shot, and the second time a crusher tackle.

But it was the lack of attacking spark that hurt the Warriors, the combination of Sean O’Sullivan and Kodi Nikorima seemingly struggling at times to work cohesively to move the team down the park. At times both showed some good individual touches but they just couldn’t work together. Reece Walsh continued his try scoring feats - having returned from Origin II camp where he’d suffered a slight hamstring strain - to score his 6th try in 8 games.

The highlight of the game was the try celebration from the Sharks Braden Hamlin-Uele, where he emulated a WWF wrestling move from “The Rock” pretending to punch teammate Jack Williams knocking him to the ground and with some dramatic acting from Williams, Hamlin-Uele mimicked the “peoples-elbow” signature move earning \$10,000 for the Mose Masoe appeal thanks to Sportsbet.

The Warriors will have a chance to redeem themselves when they face the Sharks again in Round 21.



WARRIORS v SHARKS

Photos courtesy of Vodafone Warriors



SUPPORTING LOCAL SCHOOLS

Our old mate Gordon Gibbons (ex warriors & NZRL) is organising this fund raiser and asked me to share it with you all, get out there and support him and the Rosebank School.. Tickets available from Gordy see details at the bottom of the page.

ROSEBANK SCHOOL

FUND

SPORTING MEMORABILIA
AUCTION

RAISER

Hosted by



BROWNE ST!

Friday 6th August

Browne St Café, 50 Rosebank Rd, Avondale

Doors Open 6.30pm, welcome and first guest 7.00pm

ALL PROCEEDS TO ROSEBANK SCHOOL HALL STAGE

VERY SPECIAL SPORTING GREATS AS GUESTS INCLUDING:

Stacey Jones
Monty Betham

Joe Vagana
Richie Blackmore

Richie Barnett
Adam Blair

Ruben Wiki
Honey Hireme-Smiler

AND **Sir Wayne "Buck" Shelford**

Tickets \$60 each,
includes first drink
and finger food

**Door
Prizes:**

Night for two at SkyCity Grand Hotel
in a Grand King Room with Breakfast

Signed 2021 Vodafone
Warriors jersey

\$100 Browne St
Cafe Voucher

FOR TICKETS CONTACT: GORDY GIBBONS EML: GORDON@ROSEBANK.SCHOOL.NZ MOB - 021 912 927

CONGRATULATIONS LISA DALTON!

by Sir Peter Leitch

CONGRATULATIONS LISA...

MEMBERSHIPS & TICKETING MANAGER, Lisa Dalton reached a milestone this week having her 10 year anniversary working with the Vodafone Warriors.

"Lisa always has a smile on her face and nothing is ever an issue when the Old Butcher asks for her help"

Sir Peter Leitch

Mad Butcher - 19th Warrior



The Vodafone Warriors are again taking the ACC SportSmart message to schools this year. The programme is designed to incorporate many of the important aspects of wellbeing that are vital to our professional athletes for top performance and also how our children can include this into their daily routines.

Delivered in an assembly format, the programme is rolled out when we are on the road throughout the country as well as at locations around Auckland. These school visits have a special focus on proper hydration, sleep and encouraging a strong sense of belonging.

Sport and physical activity is good for us, providing a wide range of benefits. ACC SportSmart is all about teaching kids how to do sport well, so they perform well, have fun and avoid injuries. We want to help set kids up with the knowledge and skills they need for life-long participation in sport and recreation.

TAUNOA-BROWN ON LOAN

by Richard Becht - Vodafone Warriors Media Manager & Photosport NZ



Taunoa-Brown on short-term loan to Dragons

Terms have been agreed between both clubs for Vodafone Warriors front rower Jamayne Taunoa-Brown to join St George Illawarra on loan for three weeks.

The 24-year-old will be with the Dragons for their next three games against Manly, Gold Coast and South Sydney before returning to the Vodafone Warriors.

Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George said the short-term loan was beneficial for both clubs.

“With the latest Covid-19 outbreak we have an issue now where we’re not able to have our players appearing for Redcliffe in the Intrust Super Cup,” he said.

“Through this arrangement with St George Illawarra we’re able to ensure Jamayne will be playing football over the next three weeks to keep him match fit.

“It’s also a way for us to give back after clubs helped us with loan players when we were short of options last year.”

George said the terms of the agreement enable the Vodafone Warriors to recall Taunoa-Brown if the need arises over the next three weeks.

CATCHING UP WITH AN OLD MATE

by Sir Peter Leitch

When I opened the 'Sir Peter Leitch Sports Museum', Kerry (Pearce) was one of the first people to put his hand up and volunteer to help.

Guiding people through the museum and giving them an opportunity to see some of New Zealand's sporting treasures, were just some of the things he did for me.

Our friendship first began at the Warriors in 2001, where he worked with Warriors management on game days, volunteering as an events assistant, helping in various roles where required.



He continued to be involved with the Warriors until the 2002 Grand Final, but our friendship continues to this day.

"You might only have 12 months to live!"

Kerry works as a primary school teacher and has been teaching at his current school for over 5 years, a job he absolutely loves. So when he was feeling a bit tired, and noticed a few changes both physically and mentally, he went to see his doctor (in October 2020).

After a range of tests he was diagnosed with stage 3 brain cancer. A shock he wasn't expecting!

Since being diagnosed with cancer he has undertaken various treatments and continues to do so, hoping for a positive outcome. Not one to feel sorry for himself, he offered to help with a fund raising campaign for the Cancer Society, who have been a huge help during his treatment.

So to help Kerry and others dealing with cancer, if you could please click the link or cut and paste it in to your browser and complete the short survey. Each person that does, raises 50 cents for the Cancer Society.

Your crucial support for Cancer Society today will help provide practical services and fund life-saving cancer research. You'll join Cancer Society's mission to save more lives, improve treatment and increase the quality of life of all Kiwis living with cancer today. And thanks to you, those support services are all free.

By taking the 'ItAllCounts' survey, you help support Kiwis with cancer today and fight for a cure.

<https://www.itallcounts-cancersociety-nz.org/fight-brain-cancer>

CATCHING UP WITH OLD FRIENDS

with Ian & Marcia Carpenter

To all our lovely friends at the Museum, the Lounge, and the Game

You may remember us, former members of the Stacey Jones Lounge.

Unfortunately we had to relinquish our Warriors membership when we decided on taking this journey, but will certainly be back when we have "done Australia".

After 3 winters travelling between Australia and New Zealand and following the sun, we decided to purchase a property on the Gold Coast.

This gave us a temporary base to start our odyssey.

Christmas 2019 we departed Gold Coast, heading south eventually arriving in South Australia, then back to Queensland via Northern Territory when covid hit.

After spending the winter in Queensland's north, we again headed to South Australia and the glorious beaches there. Across the Nullabor to Western Australia and more free camps, fishing etc etc "life has been tuff"

We now have a lovely 20 ft caravan, a motel on wheels is the best description, and a Toyota Land Cruiser for towing, and with 10ft tinny and outboard motor on top

Touring with us is our lovely mascot Ben, our beautiful pussy cat, who travelled from NZ with us.

We mostly stay at freedom camps, evening and morning campfires are the norm, as is smoky toast and tea !Fishing where we can, we have had many excellent fish meals

We have travelled some 60,000 km over the past five years, have now been permanently on the road for past 81 weeks "and can't see the end of the bitumen yet!" To date we are in Western Australia and heading to Northern Territory, approx 1000km south of Darwin, where we should arrive end of July "no rush".

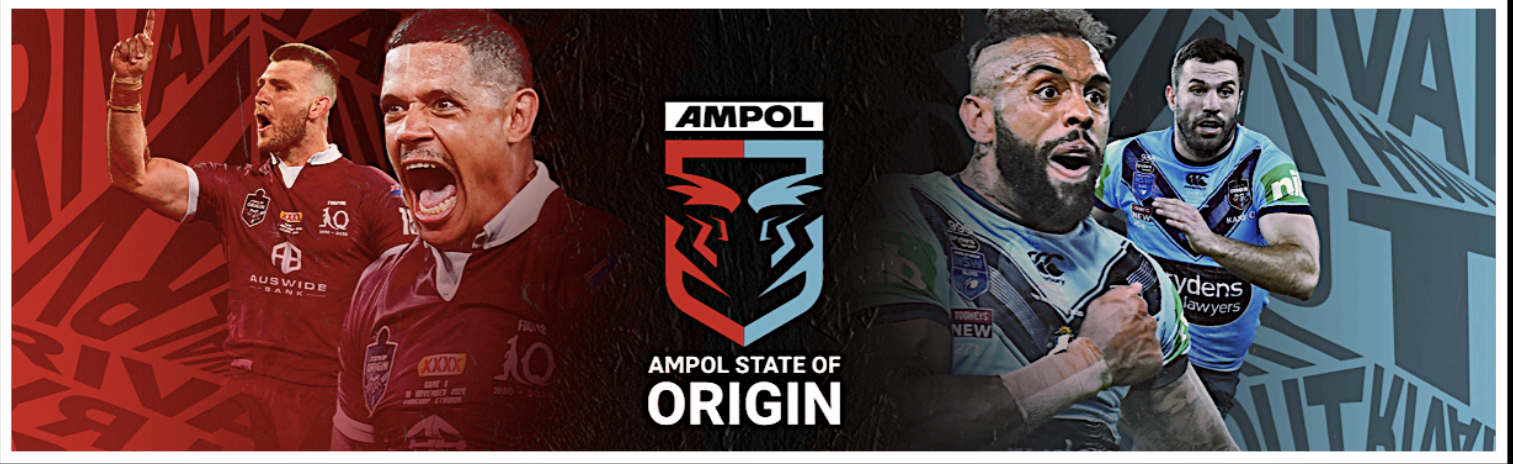
Then we head south down the East Coast via Cairns (stopping in to see Les) Townsville, Brisbane etc. and to Tasmania for Xmas. One big hole in our lives is Pete and all you guys up in the lounge, and the home games.

We thoroughly enjoy the newsletters from Butch with the interviews and photo's an absolute highlight.

Look forward to a "reunion" with you all when we are tired of this nomadic life style!

Love to you all
Ian, Marcia and Ben.





GAME III - 2021




TEAM LIST

1	KALYN PONGA
2	VALENTINE HOLMES
3	DANE GAGAI
4	HAMISO TABUAI-FIDOW
5	XAVIER COATES
6	CAMERON MUNSTER
7	DALY CHERRY-EVANS (C)
8	CHRISTIAN WELCH
9	BEN HUNT
10	JOSH PAPALII
11	KURT CAPEWELL
12	FELISE KAUFUSI
13	JAI ARROW
14	AJ BRIMSON
15	TINO FA'ASUAMALEAUI
16	MOEAKI FOTUAIKA
17	DAVID FIFITA
18	FRANCIS MOLO
19	KURT MANN
20	THOMAS FLEGLER
C	PAUL GREEN






TEAM LIST

1	JAMES TEDESCO (C)
2	BRIAN TO'O
3	LATRELL MITCHELL
4	TOM TRBOJEVIC
5	JOSH ADDO-CARR
6	JACK WIGHTON
7	MITCHELL MOSES
16	PAYNE HAAS
9	DAMIEN COOK
10	JUNIOR PAULO
11	CAMERON MURRAY
12	TARIQ SIMS
13	ISAAH YEO
14	API KOROISAU
15	ANGUS CRICHTON
17	LIAM MARTIN
18	DALE FINUCANE
19	NICHO HYNES
C	BRAD FITTLER



GAME 3 - WEDNESDAY 14TH JULY

Blues



10:10pm



Maroons

SPONSORS...

THANK YOU ALL FOR KEEPING IT GOING...



Feel free to forward the newsletter on to any of your friends and family that may be interested. We try to only print positive Rugby League news and share the love about our team - the Vodafone Warriors!!

I try to live by a couple of rules now:

1. *Remember - the greatest gift you can give anyone is your time!*
2. *Always listen to my wife*
3. *See rule number 2!*

God bless - and go the mighty Vodafone Warriors!!