

RLWC 2017

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Sir Peter
Leitch Club
Newsletter

4th October 2017

#190

Attention Kiwis and Samoa Fans!

Catch the New Zealand Kiwis take on Samoa on the 28th of October at Mt Smart Stadium!

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RUGBY LEAGUE
WORLD CUP
2017

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2017

POOL A

FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER	AUS V ENG	MELBOURNE RECTANGULAR STADIUM
SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER	FRA V LEB	CANBERRA CANBERRA STADIUM

FRIDAY 3 NOVEMBER	AUS V FRA	CANBERRA CANBERRA STADIUM
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER	ENG V LEB	SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER	AUS V LEB	SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM
SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER	ENG V FRA	PERTH RECTANGULAR STADIUM

POOL B

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER	NZL V SAM	AUCKLAND MT SMART STADIUM
SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER	SCO V TON	CAIRNS BARLOW PARK

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER	NZL V SCO	CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTCHURCH STADIUM
SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER	SAM V TON	HAMILTON WAIKATO STADIUM

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER	SAM V SCO	CAIRNS BARLOW PARK
SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER	NZL V TON	HAMILTON WAIKATO STADIUM

POOL C

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER	PNG V WAL	PORT MORESBY
SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER	IRL V ITA	CAIRNS BARLOW PARK

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER	PNG V IRL	PORT MORESBY
SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER	FIJ V WAL	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER	WAL V IRL	PERTH RECTANGULAR STADIUM
SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER	PNG V USA	PORT MORESBY

POOL D

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER	FIJ V USA	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM
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SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER	ITA V USA	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM
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FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER	FIJ V ITA	CANBERRA CANBERRA STADIUM
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QUARTER FINAL 1

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER	? V ?	DARWIN DARWIN STADIUM
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QUARTER FINAL 2

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER	? V ?	CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTCHURCH STADIUM
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SEMI FINAL 1

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER	? V ?	BRISBANE BRISBANE STADIUM
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FINAL

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER	? V ?	BRISBANE BRISBANE STADIUM
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SEMI FINAL 2

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER	? V ?	AUCKLAND MT SMART STADIUM
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QUARTER FINAL 3

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER	? V ?	WELLINGTON REGIONAL STADIUM
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QUARTER FINAL 4

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER	? V ?	MELBOURNE RECTANGULAR STADIUM
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Build-Up To Rugby League World Cup Goes Into Overdrive As Squads Including The Kiwis Get Named This Week

*By Daniel Fraser
New Zealand Media & PR
Manager RLWC 2017*

UP TO 10 countries are set to announce their squad for the Rugby League World Cup next week, including host nations Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Kiwis coach David Kidwell will name his squad on Thursday, October 5 in Auckland with Australian coach Mal Meninga to have announced his 24-man Kangaroos squad two days earlier at a press conference in Sydney on Tuesday, 3 October.

The announcements of the Kiwis and Kangaroos pave the way for Tonga coach Kristian Woolf, Samoa's Matt Parrish, Italy's Cameron Ciraldo and Lebanon's Brad Fittler to name their squads as some players have dual eligibility for Australia, New Zealand or England.

The Papua New Guinea squad, which will be coached by PNG Hunters mentor Michael Marum and feature many of the players from the Queensland Cup winning team playing NSW Cup champions Penrith in the curtain-raiser to Sunday's NRL Grand Final, is due to be named on Wednesday, 4 October.

Under international Rugby League eligibility rules, players who qualify for more than one country can play for a tier-two nation if they are not chosen by one of the three tier-one nations.

To be eligible, a player must have been born in the nation he represents or qualifies if he had parents or grandparents born there, or has been a resident of that country for 60 months.

Fiji coach Mick Potter will choose his squad after the Battle of the Bati in Suva on 7 October between Fiji Residents and an Overseas Fiji Bati team to be coached by former World Cup representatives Wes

Naiqama and Daryl Millard. Another former Fiji international Joe Daku itoga is coach of the Residents team.

Wayne Bennett's England squad will be announced on Monday, 9 October, following the Super League Grand Final.

Wales coach John Kear and Scotland's Steve McCormack are set to name their squads on Tuesday, 10 October.

No changes will be permitted after 13 October, when the final squads for the tournament are due to be officially announced by RLWC2017.

The 15th instalment of the Rugby League World Cup will kick off in Melbourne on 27 October with Australia playing England.

New Zealand meet Samoa in Auckland on 28 October and the Kumuls will host Wales on 29 October in the first of three pool matches played at Oil Search National Football Stadium in Port Moresby.

Tickets and information from rlwc2017.com or from the Ticketek outlets listed above/below.





THE WORLD'S BEST ARE COMING ARE YOU?

AUCKLAND

NZ V SAMOA
28 OCTOBER
SEMI-FINAL
25 NOVEMBER

CHRISTCHURCH

NZ V SCOTLAND
4 NOVEMBER
QUARTER-FINAL
18 NOVEMBER

HAMILTON

SAMOA V TONGA
4 NOVEMBER
NZ V TONGA
11 NOVEMBER

WELLINGTON

QUARTER-FINAL
18 NOVEMBER

FOR TICKETS & ALL YOUR RLWC2017 INFORMATION GO TO RLWC2017.COM

#RLWC2017 | [f](#) | [t](#) | [@](#)

*NZ pool matches only, subject to allocation selling out. Transaction & booking fees may apply.

FAMILY TICKETS
FROM
\$45



GET YOUR RLWC2017 TICKETS IN PERSON FROM THESE TICKETEK OUTLETS ACROSS NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Birkenhead	Highpoint Temptation Lotto, Highbury Shopping Centre, Birkenhead Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm and Sat-Sun 10:30am-4pm
Auckland, Henderson	The Trusts Arena, 65-67 Central Park Dr, Henderson Hours: Daily 8:30am-8pm
Auckland, Mangere East	Mangere East Post Shop, 353 Massey Road, Mangere East Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Hamilton	i-Site, Garden Place, Hamilton Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm and Sat, Sun & Public Holidays 9:30am-3:30pm
Hamilton	Take Note Dinsdale Shopping Centre, 44A Whatawhata Road, Hamilton Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
Hawera	South Taranaki i-Site, 55 High St, Hawera Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm and Sat, Sun & Public Holidays: 10am-3pm
Lower Hutt	Paper Plus, Lower Hutt, 228 High Street Hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm
New Plymouth	TSB Showplace, 92-100 Devon Street Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm and Sat 10am-1pm
Palmerston North	Regent Theatre, 64 Broadway, Palmerston North Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Porirua	Helloworld Porirua, 16 Hartham Place, Porirua Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:30pm and Sat 9:30am-12:30pm
Stratford	Stratford i-Site, 56 Miranda Street, Stratford Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm and Sat-Sun 10am-3pm
Waikanae	Waikanae New World (Lotto Counter), 5 Parata St Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm and Sat 9am-4:30pm
Wellington, City	Wellington i-Site Visitor Information Centre, 111 Wakefield Street Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm, Sat-Sun 9am-5pm
Wellington, City	Railway Metro New World, 2 Bunny Street Hours: Mon-Sun 8am-7pm
Blenheim	ASB Theatre Marlborough, 2 Hutcheson Street, Mayfield Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm
Christchurch, Shirley	The Palms Shopping Centre, Customer Services Booth Hours: Mon-Wed 9am-6pm, Thu & Fri 9am-9pm, Sat & Sun 10am-5pm
Nelson	Beggs Music Works, 246 Hardy St, Nelson Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm
Timaru	Newmans MusicWorks, 117 Stafford Street, Timaru Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-12pm



A Flashback to 2008

When the Kiwis won the RLWC

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Nathan Cayless captain of the 2008 Kiwis embraces the Rugby League World Cup trophy. He will be one of the special guests at the League Greats Luncheon.



Stephan Kearney coach of the 2008 team. He will also be at the luncheon.

Final Kiwi Ferns World Cup Trial This Weekend

By Brooke Hurndell - NZRL

AT 12PM on Sunday, the Kiwi Ferns will be playing at Cornwall Park in their final Rugby League World Cup trial.

If last week is anything to go by, the second and final trial promises to be a physical encounter as those in the Kiwi Ferns wider squad hope to win a spot in the final 24-women World Cup squad.

The team that is named in the second week of October will face-off against the New Zealand Maori Rugby League Wahine Toa team in the curtain-raiser game on Saturday November 4 at 4.45pm before the Samoa v Tonga Men's Rugby League World Cup match at Hamilton's Waikato Stadium.

This game against New Zealand Maori Wahine Toa will give the squad the best possible preparation for this year's Women's Rugby League World Cup as well as providing the opportunity to play in front of family and friends. It is also an opportunity to give the Kiwi Ferns a taste of the Rugby League World Cup atmosphere before they head across to Australia.

RLWC2017 New Zealand General Manager Andrea Nelson said: "It's great to be able to give the Kiwi Ferns the opportunity to play on home soil in front of the New Zealand public before they travel across the Tasman for the Women's Rugby League World Cup."

"With ticket prices starting from \$45 for a family of four, it will be a great chance for fans to watch two games for a very affordable price," she concluded.

The Kiwi Ferns have been drawn in Pool B of this year's Women's Rugby League World Cup and will play Canada (November 16), Cook Islands (November 19) and Papua New Guinea (November 22) in the pool stages.

Chairman of New Zealand Maori Rugby League John Devonshire said: "It's a fantastic opportunity for the New Zealand Maori Wahine Toa team to be playing on such a huge occasion with a great atmosphere.

"It's also a great chance for our players to test themselves and help the Kiwi Ferns prepare for the Women's Rugby League World Cup."

Previously part of the user-pays Festival of World Cups, this year's tournament will be the first time the Women's Rugby League World Cup has been held as a standalone event, with the pool matches to be played at Southern Cross Group Stadium in Cronulla (Sydney) as triple-headers on November 16, 19 and 22 with the semi-finals to be played as a double-header on November 26.

The tournament will see both the men's and women's finals played as a double-header in Brisbane on 2 December 2017 – the first time two World Cup winners will be crowned on the same day, on the same stage.

Australia, Canada, Cook Islands, England, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea will be the six teams to contest this year's tournament.

Australia are the reigning champions with the Kiwi Ferns vying to win back the trophy they won in 2000, 2005 and 2008.

Kiwi Ferns Wider Squad:

Akarana: Alexandra Elizabeth Cook, Anettta-caludia Nuuausala, Annabelle Hohepa, Crystal Tamarua, Georgia Hale, Kailey Faye Thompson, Madison Bartlett, Sharlene Atai, Shontelle Woodman, Tesha-Lee Leka, Va'anessa Molia-Fraser; Auckland Vulcans: Kerehitina Matua; Canterbury: Bunty Alyce Kuruwaka-crowe, Masuisuimatamaalii Tauasa-Pauaraisa, Stacey Michelle Hildreth; Counties: Amber Kani, Apii Nicholls, Atawhai Tupaea, Eesha Smalley, Hilda Peters, Kahurangi Peters, Krystal Murray, Krystal Rota, Lanu langi Veainu, Laura Mariu, Lilieta Maumau, Louisa Gago, Maitua Feterika, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Sarina Fiso, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Jocephy Daniels, Kimiora Nati; Mid Central: Chanel Huddleston; Wai-Coa-Bay: Racqual Anderson; NSW: Raecene McGregor, Nita Maynard; QLD: Rona Peters

Kiwis Line Up For Lunch

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



VOLUNTEERING TO do a Kiwis lunch when Sir Pete has always done them is maybe one of the silliest things I could have done, but as ever, along comes Pete and offers to give a hand, and we have a confirmed list of Kiwis now that includes some of the finest players of all time.

The lunch is on October 27 at the Ellerslie Events Centre and all the details are in the newsletter – but it's staggering that the former Kiwis who have confirmed can boast more than 500 test matches between them.

Where else would you get the chance to mingle with some of the greats of our game?

Confirmed are Fred Ah Khoi with 28 tests, Richie Barnett on 26, Richie Blackmore with 25, Nathan Cayless on 38, including being captain of the 2008 World Cup winning side.

Also signed up are the oldest living former Kiwi Ray Kranch, Murray Eade with 16 tests, Tony Iro on 25, James Leuluai on 29, George Mann on 9, and Lyndsay Proctor on 13.

Gary Prohm, 24 tests, Paul Rauhihi, 17, Jerome Ropati, 11, and Jerry Seuseu, 11, will all be there too.

Former captain and 22 test veteran Ken Stirling has confirmed, as have Logan Swan, 26 tests, Nigel Vagana, 37, Graeme West, 18 tests, and one of the best of all time and a pioneer of Kiwi players entering the NRL in Olsen Filipaina, 29 tests.

Tawera Nikau with 19 tests, and who is of course now on the NZRL board, will be there, as will former teammate Stephan Kearney, 45 tests, and who coached the Kiwis when they won the World Cup in 2008, and Stacey Jones, 46 tests.

Ex Kiwis Attending the League Greats Luncheon

Friday the 27th October, See the Next Page for Details

THIS IS a list of the ex-kiwis that have confirmed they are coming to our luncheon on Friday the 27th of October. Together they have played over 500 test matches for the kiwis. This luncheon is a chance for the public to mix and mingle with some of the greats of our great game!

Fred Ah Kuoi (Kiwi Number 522) 8 Tests For Kiwis And Captained

Richard Barnett 664 26 Tests For The Kiwis And Captained

Richard Blackmore 628 25 Tests For The Kiwis

Nathan Cayless 673 38 Tests For Kiwis And Captained The 2008 Kiwi That Won The RLWC

Ray Cranch 341 The Oldest Living Ex Kiwi

Murray Eade 491 16 Tests For Kiwis

Tony Iro 606 25 Tests For Kiwis

James Leuluai 547 29 Tests For Kiwis

George Mann 620 9 Tests For Kiwis

Lyndsay Proctor 507 13 Tests For Kiwis

Gary Prohm 542 24 Tests For Kiwis

Paul Rauhihi 696 17 Tests For Kiwis

Jerome Ropati 716 11 Tests For Kiwis

Jerry Seuseu 692 11 Tests For Kiwis Plus 4 For Samoa

Ken Stirling 489 22 Tests For Kiwis And Also Captain

Logan Swan 669 26 Tests For Kiwis

Nigel Vagana 672 37 Tests For Kiwis Plus 2 Games For Samoa

Graeme West 517 18 Tests For Kiwis Also Captained

Olsen Filipaina 529 29 Tests For Kiwis

Tawera Nikau 614 19 Tests For Kiwis And Now On The Board Of Nzrl

Stephan Kearney (Onzm) 640 45 Tests For Kiwis Also Coached & Captained And Coached The 2008 Kiwis That Won The RLwc

Stacey Jones (Onzm) 665 46 Tests For Kiwis



RUGBY LEAGUE
WORLD CUP
2017

THE PATRON OF NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE SIR PETER LEITCH
INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM AND OTHER LEAGUE FANS AT...

RUGBY LEAGUE GREATS LUNCHEON

DATE 27TH OCTOBER 2017

LOCATION ELLERSLIE EVENT CENTRE NEWMARKET ROOM

DOORS OPEN 11.30AM

BUFFET LUNCH 12.15PM

INCLUDES BEVERAGE PACKAGE UNTIL 3.00PM



**Jerry
Seuseu
MC**

JOIN former Warrior and Kiwi great Jerry Seuseu as your MC and a host of former Kiwi legends as we kick off the 2017 Rugby League World Cup in style and join us the next day at Mt Smart as we support the Kiwis when they take on Samoa in the opening game. There will be interviews with former Kiwi legends and a number of fantastic items up for auction.

Special guests include: Tawera Nikau, Stacey Jones, Nathan Cayless, Stephen Kearney, Graeme West, Olsen Filipaina and Nigel Vagana just to name a few.



**Stacey
Jones**



**Tawera
Nikau**



**Stephen
Kearney**



**Logan
Swann**



**Jerome
Ropati**



**Olsen
Filipaina**

TICKETS

\$100 per person - Includes ticket to Kiwis v Samoa the next day
\$1000 per table - Gets a former Kiwi player on availability

TO PURCHASE TICKETS WHICH INCLUDE A
TICKET TO THE GAME THE NEXT DAY
VISIT WWW.ELLERSLIE.CO.NZ/TICKETSTORE
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SPONSORS





By John Coffey

PNG Challenge For Kiwis Fans

PNG Captain David Mead poses for a photo
Photo www.photosport.nz

NOW THE NRL Grand Final hype is fading, it is time for fans on both sides of the Tasman to embrace the World Cup which begins later this month. New Zealanders tend to lose focus when the Warriors are eliminated and the Aussies, including their media, are notorious for switching off when club football ends. But our fans have two good reasons to clamour for tickets. The Kiwis are at home for the first time since they won the 2014 Four Nations and these will be the last World Cup games in this country until at least 2029.

But no matter how enthusiastic supporters on both sides of the Tasman become leading up to the Cup tournament you can absolutely bet that the three matches allocated to Port Moresby will be the first to sell out. Rugby league is currently on an ever bigger high than normal in Papua New Guinea thanks to the deeds of the PNG Hunters in winning the Queensland Cup and playing in Sydney on NRL Grand Final Day. The Hunters have captivated their eight million countrymen; a nation of 700 languages was cheering with one voice.

There has never been a shortage of passion in PNG. Visiting teams are mobbed every time they show themselves in public. Some villagers walk for days to attend big matches. Police have frequently used tear gas to repel hordes of fans attempting to scale the fences around already overcrowded stadiums. An ill wind has sometimes blown the gas back across the field, forcing players to throw themselves onto the ground. World Cup tickets will be the hottest property in Port Moresby.

The Hunters fairy tale ended in Sydney last Sunday when NSW Cup champion Penrith, a side not short on first grade experience, raced in seven tries to lead 38-2 at halftime. Only late in the game did the visitors shake off their stage fright to score the last three tries for a more respectable 42-18 loss. They went home as heroes again. In the wake of the Queensland Cup success there had been a chorus of support for a future Port Moresby-based NRL club. Sunday's result showed there is still much groundwork to be done first.

PNG is unique in having rugby league as its national sport. But its history is much shorter than those of its counterparts in Britain, Australia and New Zealand. The game was founded by northern England clubs in 1895 and the 1907-08 New Zealand All Golds spread it to Australasia. PNG's initial contact in the 1930s was short lived, played among Australian miners during the gold rush. It was not until after the Second World War that it became established and much later before it boomed.

After the war rugby league was played by Australians and New Zealanders working in the armed forces or government agencies. By the time the PNGRL was formed in 1949 it was fast becoming the most popular spectator sport in the land. But it was not until the 1970s that the playing numbers mushroomed at both senior and junior levels as the islanders themselves left the grandstands to dominate the playing ranks -- and schools adopted rugby league in a way we have never enjoyed in New Zealand.

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PNG became a member of the Rugby League International Federation in 1974 and played its first official Test match a year later, losing 40-12 to England at Port Moresby. The national team, nicknamed the Kumuls (birds of paradise), enjoyed a maiden Test victory in 1977 when overwhelming a stunned French side 37-6. The Kumuls and Kiwis first clashed a year later at Port Moresby, with the Kiwis holding on to win 30-21. PNG's second Test win was to be at the expense of the 1986 Kiwis, 24-22, again at Port Moresby.

Traditionally the Kumuls have been acknowledged as tough opponents at home but poor travellers. They added Great Britain to their victims with a 20-8 triumph at Goroka in 1990. Their first away success was 16-14 over Fiji at Lautoka in 1998 as emerging Pacific islands provided more competition. PNG's best World Cup was in 2000 when the Kumuls played their pool matches in France. They beat the home side 23-20, South Africa 16-0 and Tonga 30-22 before losing a quarter-final to Wales by 22-8 at Widnes.

It is estimated there are 10,000 senior and 5000 junior players in PNG. World Cup exposure has led to players being signed by British and Australian clubs. Australia has sent its Prime Minister's XIII to Port Moresby since 2005, while the Hunters joined the Queensland Cup in 2014. During the World Cup PNG will play Wales (October 28), Ireland (November 5) and United States (November 12) at Port Moresby's new stadium. In front of capacity crowds, it would surprise if the Kumuls do not advance to the quarter-finals.

RLWC Squads Announcements - Put these dates in your diary!

AUSTRALIA, FRANCE and the United States have already named their squads and Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and Italy have scheduled squad announcements this week. Tonga and Samoa are preparing to name their squads after New Zealand, with details to be confirmed.

Today at 10.30am (PNGT) - Papua New Guinea squad announcement

Thursday 5th:

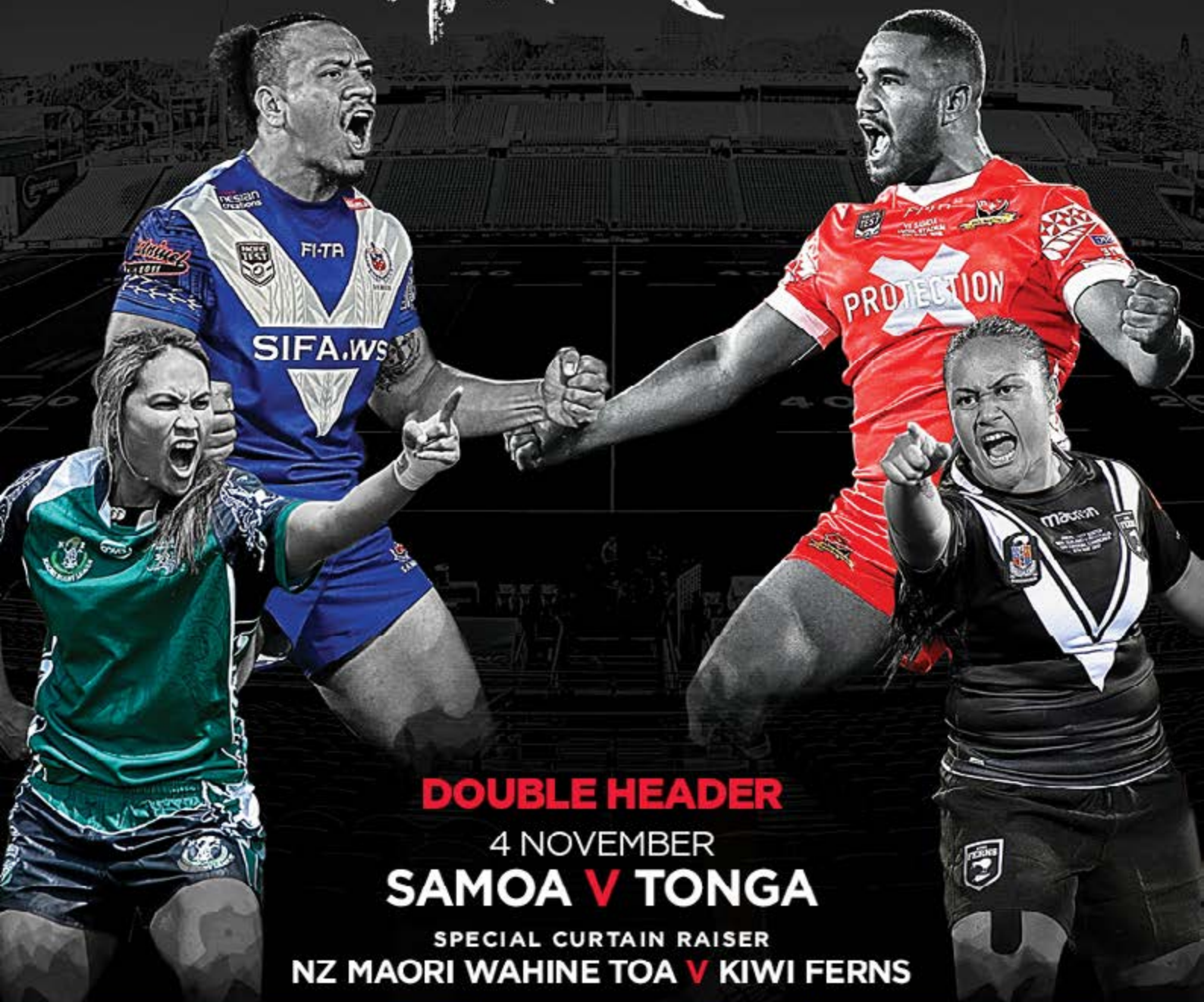
- **11am (AEDST) - Italy Squad announcement**
- **1pm (NZT) - Kiwis Squad announcement**



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THE WORLD'S BEST ARE COMING TO HAMILTON



DOUBLE HEADER

4 NOVEMBER

SAMOA V TONGA

SPECIAL CURTAIN RAISER

NZ MAORI WAHINE TOA V KIWI FERNS

KIDS/STUDENT TICKETS **\$10***

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GET YOUR TICKETS NOW RLWC2017.COM

*For Hamilton matches only, subject to allocation selling out. Transaction & booking fees may apply.

Original World Cup

By Miles Davis



RATHER THAN the modern day powerhouses of rugby league, Australia and New Zealand, it was the French who were responsible for the initiation of a World Cup.

They had long been pushing for such a competition for over 2 decades but it took until 1951 for their calls to gain real traction. That year the President of French Rugby League, Paul Barriere, once more put forward a proposition to the International Rugby League Board that such a tournament be held.

Barriere was an interesting character. Originally a rugby union player who had spells with Esperaza and Carcassonne. It was World War II that introduced him to rugby league. He had joined the French Resistance and during his time with them had met with many of the top men of French rugby league. The game had been banned by the Vichy government which gave it greater status in the eyes of resisters.

After the war Barriere set about reviving the game and was elected President of French Rugby League in 1947. In 1952 his proposal for a World Cup picked up the support of Rugby Football League secretary Bill Fallowfield (the man who initiated the limited tackle rule in rugby league) and the board finally accepted the idea. The following year it was agreed that the initial tournament would be hosted by France in 1954 (33 years before rugby union was to hold their first World Cup). The French donated a trophy worth 8 million francs. The trophy was presented to the winners of the first 4 World Cups before being stolen from the Midland Hotel in Bradford prior to the 1970 World Cup. It was put on display by the reigning champion Australians who were staying at the hotel. The trophy remained missing until 1990 when Steven Uttley and his wife Elizabeth discovered it amongst some rubbish dumped in a ditch near Bradford and Bingley Rugby Club. Uttley made some enquiries with both union and league clubs in the area but was unable to find anyone who owned it. He then turned the trophy into the police and after 28 days was returned it for keeps as no-one had come forward to claim it. He subsequently donated it to a friend, Terry Fawthrop who owned the White Rose Health Club in Bradford. Initial plans were for it to be used as a body-building trophy until it was spotted by Kiwi Gary Mercer who was a member of the club. Mercer contacted the Telegraph and Argus newspaper who ran an article on it which was spotted by Trevor Delaney who contacted both the RFL and police. On June 1st 1990 it was presented to Roger Millward of the RFL outside the White Rose Health club before being taken to RFL Headquarters in Leeds. The trophy began being presented to the winners again in 2000 and will be presented again to this year's winners.

Four teams were to contest the 1954 World Cup – France, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain. The group stage saw the teams play each other in a round robin with games played at 6 venues dotted all over France (Paris, Nantes, Toulouse, Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux). After the group games the top two teams would advance to the final.

The teams were captained by names that are as big as any in the history of the game. Clive Churchill led the Australians. A man played 37 tests for his country and won 5 Premierships in the NSW competition as a player and a further 3 as a coach.

New Zealand were skippered by Cyril Eastlake who played 79 games for the Kiwis including 28 tests and was also to play in the 1960 World Cup. He was a key member of the Kiwi sides that defeated the Aussies in a test series in 1952 including the memorable 49-25 demolition in Brisbane.

Great Britain were captained by Scotsman Dave Valentine who before he turned to league had won two caps for Scotland in rugby union. In 1953 he had been part of the St Helens side that won the Challenge Cup Final 15-10 against Huddersfield.

Host nation France were led by Puig Aubert, arguably one of the most colourful characters to grace a sporting field. So colourful that he will be getting his own story in the Mad Butcher Newsletter next week.

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Australia were slight favourites for the tournament although at that time any of the four sides was capable of beating the other on their day. Great Britain however were hit by injuries and players making themselves unavailable so entered a largely untested squad.

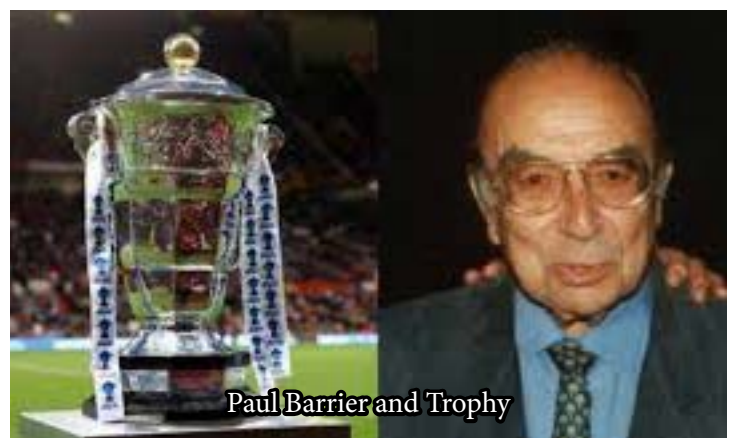
New Zealand didn't have a great tournament, losing all 3 games and finishing bottom of the pile. Great Britain and France finished 1st and 2nd respectively with both side winning 2 games and drawing the match between them 13-13.

The final was held at Paris' Parc des Princes on 13th November 1954 in front of a crowd of over 30,000. The entire game was broadcast live by the BBC which was a rarity at the time.

Great Britain led 8-4 at half time and managed to maintain that lead in an even 2nd half with the final score being 16-12. Man of the Match was Don Robinson, a Wakefield Trinity 2nd rower (In 1957 he was to play to play for Leeds in the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley with a broken wrist, scoring a try in his side's 9-7 win over Barrow). His earnings for the tournament was \$50 (which would equate to about \$3000 today). He passed away on 15th June this year at the age of 84.

In recognition of Paul Barriere's role in establishing a Rugby League World Cup the trophy has now been named in his honour. This had been suggested while he was alive and he refused that honour. So to a brave, humble and visionary man I would just like to say – Merci beaucoup Monsieur Barriere.

1954 World Cup Final <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwUV2Y30JVM&t=23s>



NO ADVERTS ARE PAID FOR IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Kangaroos World Cup Squad



THE AUSTRALIAN Rugby League Commission has today selected the following players to represent the Kangaroos in the 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

Seven members of the Premiership-winning Melbourne Storm outfit have been selected in the Kangaroos squad, which will open its World Cup campaign against England on October 27.

The 24-man squad also includes six debutants; Dane Gagai (Newcastle Knights), Wade Graham (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks), Felise Kaufusi, Jordan McLean, Cameron Munster (Melbourne Storm) and Tom Trbojevic (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles).

"This squad has the right mix of youth and experience, as well as an overall balance across the positions for a World Cup campaign," Kangaroos Coach Mal Meninga said.

"It was selected based on form, performances in the State of Origin series as well as previously in the green and gold jersey.

"We have a number of players who can play multiple positions and that will be an advantage over the course of what we hope will be six matches."

Fourteen players from the inaugural Kangaroos Origin Merit Team have been selected in the World Cup Squad.

Premiership-winning skipper Cameron Smith will captain the squad, while Sydney Roosters' Boyd Cordner has been endorsed as Vice-Captain by Australian Rugby League Commission Chairman John Grant.

The full Kangaroos World Cup squad will travel to Fiji for an exhibition match against both Fiji and PNG on October 14.

For updated player profiles of the 2017 Kangaroos squad, please click [here](#).

For a fact pack on the 2017 Kangaroos squad, please click [here](#).

The squad, listed alphabetically, is as follows:

Player	NRL Club	Junior Club
Darius Boyd	Brisbane Broncos	Mudgeeraba Redbacks
Will Chambers	Melbourne Storm	Nhulunbuy, NT
Boyd Cordner (vc)	Sydney Roosters	Old Bar Pirates
Cooper Cronk	Melbourne Storm	Souths Acacia
Josh Dugan	St George Illawarra Dragons	South Tuggeranong Knights/Valley Dragons
Andrew Fifita	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Griffith Waratah/St Patricks Blacktown
Tyson Frizell	St George Illawarra Dragons	Corrimal Cougars
Dane Gagai	Newcastle Knights	Souths Sharks
Matt Gillett	Brisbane Broncos	Bribie Island Warrigals
Wade Graham	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Blacktown City
Valentine Holmes	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Western Lions/Townsville
Ben Hunt	Brisbane Broncos	Blackwater Crushers
Felise Kaufusi	Melbourne Storm	Bundaberg Brothers
David Klemmer	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	All Saints Toongabbie
Josh McGuire	Brisbane Broncos	Aspley
James Maloney	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	St Edwards, Gosford
Jordan McLean	Melbourne Storm	Young Cherrypickers
Michael Morgan	North Queensland Cowboys	Townsville Brothers
Cameron Munster	Melbourne Storm	Norths Knights
Billy Slater	Melbourne Storm	Innisfail
Cameron Smith (c)	Melbourne Storm	Logan Brothers
Jake Trbojevic	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Mona Vale Raiders
Tom Trbojevic	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Mona Vale Raiders
Aaron Woods	Wests Tigers	Leichhardt Juniors

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France Name 24-man Squad for RLWC2017

FRANCE COACH Aurelien Cologni has announced his squad for the upcoming 2017 Rugby League World Cup campaign.

The 24-man squad contains a mix of players from the English Super League and the domestic competition.

In total, there are eight players from the Perpignan-based Catalan Dragons, six from English Super League teams and 10 from the French Premier Division.

Theo Fages, the St Helens halfback, has been named as the team's captain, with William Barthau from Toulouse Olympic and Benjamin Garcia from the Catalan Dragons as co vice-captains.

The team is a mix of experienced and up-and-coming players, with Jason Baitieri (15 Tests) Julian Bousquet (10), Benjamin Garcia (10) and Eloi Pelissier (14) leading the squad.

The Director of the French National team, Matthieu Khedimi, said that he is looking for a considerable improvement in this year's World Cup, given the success of the Catalan Dragons in the Super League over the past decade, as well as the pathway the Dragons have provided for local players to sign with other English clubs.

This additional experience should stand France in good stead in Pool A, which sees them up against Australia, England and Lebanon.

"This pool will give us a true indication of the French team's progress, as we are playing the world's best Rugby League teams," Khedimi said.

The full squad is:
Bastien Ader
Olivier Arnaud
Lucas Albert
Jason Baitieri
William Barthau (VC)
Guillaume Bonnet
Julian Bousquet
Clement Boyer
Damien Cardace

Nabil Djalout
Theo Fages (C)
John Boudebza
Benjamin Garcia (VC)
Maxime Herold
Benjamin Jullien
Thibault Margalet
Anthony Maria
Hakim Miloudi
Mark Keirallah

Romain Navarette
Eloi Pleissier
Mickael Rouch
Gadwin Springer
Fouad Yaha



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SAMOA V TONGA
4 NOVEMBER
NZ V TONGA
11 NOVEMBER

WELLINGTON
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Kenny Bromwich

Kenny Bromwich. ANZAC test match. 5 May 2017.
Photo www.photosport.nz

THE UPCOMING World Cup could offer Kenny Bromwich yet another chance to move out of his brother's shadow.

The younger Bromwich has enjoyed the best year of his career. He became a vital part of the Storm machine in their incredible 2017 campaign, which was capped by their emphatic grand final win last Sunday.

He averaged more minutes (48) per game than at any time in his career, as well as career best figures for runs (8.9) and tackles (22.5). Perhaps the most impressive was his mistake rate; just seven errors across 27 matches, many of them high stakes games with intense pressure.

It's meant that Kenny is no longer seen as Jesse's sibling, but a valuable NRL player in his own right.

The 26-year-old is not an outright certainty for the World Cup – as the Kiwis have plenty of choices across the forward pack – but his club performances should be enough to gain a spot in David Kidwell's side, and add another chapter to a Kiwis career that began in May 2015.

"I still have to get picked so we will see what happens," said Bromwich. "Of course I would love to play for my country but if it happens, it happens. But there is no doubt it would mean heaps to me, especially with the year I have had so far.

"I'd had my son, he was born on Anzac day, to Jesse and what happened there, to playing in a grand final and getting a ring.

"I'm just trying to ride this wave so hopefully I get picked because I would really like to do my country proud and play for everyone back home."

If Kenny's name is included in the 23-man squad, he'll be the only Bromwich, with Jesse serving a suspension for his involvement in the off field drama the morning after this year's Anzac test.

"It will be a bit different not having him there but that's the way it is," said Kenny. "I have tried to be there for him since the incident, to be someone that he can talk to when he needs to."

It must have been difficult not to be overshadowed by Jesse in the last few years, with Jesse recognized as one of the premier props in the NRL. But Kenny has carved his own niche. He topped 80 running metres 10 times this year, on five of those occasions exceeding 100 metres, which is impressive for an interchange forward. He also made more than 30 tackles on six different games, and started the first eight matches of the year while compatriot Tohu Harris was out injured.

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Looking ahead to the World Cup, Bromwich admits the Kiwis will face a daunting journey, particularly with the physicality and patriotism of Samoa and Tonga to face in the group stages.

“It is always going to be a big challenge,” said Bromwich. “All of the other sides are coming along really well. Especially the Pacific sides; they are picking some quality players and I think they are developing really well. If I play it would be great to play against them, a really good test.”

For now though, Bromwich is determined to bask in the celebrations of the Storm's first premiership since 2012, made all the more sweeter after the narrow loss to Cronulla in last year's decider.

“It's pretty crazy,” said Bromwich. “We have had a pretty good year...so to come here, on the biggest day of the year and dish out what we did is pretty amazing. It's was an awesome night, and to share it with my brother has been unreal. It was amazing having our families there watching as well. There were a lot of emotions for me and I don't really want this to end.”

SHARE YOUR TRY CELEBRATION!

SHARE WHAT you'd do to celebrate a try ahead of the Rugby League World Cup 2017 and win a spot in a waka race alongside Kiwi or Samoan league stars.

Players from the New Zealand and Samoan teams will race each other as part of the Rugby League World Cup 2017 Team Welcome at the Viaduct Harbour on Wednesday, 25 October.

Your best photo or video of your own try celebration could see you sitting right beside the league stars in the waka.

Flava radio network and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) are calling for entries to win one of the 24 waka spots up for grabs. You can submit them at <http://bit.ly/Wakachallenge> - entries close on Friday, 13 October.

The race will be part of the Team Welcome, at the Viaduct Harbour and Karanga Plaza from noon to 4pm, which will feature free, family-friendly fan activities, haka and siva tau, and opportunities to meet the league stars, get autographs and selfies – keep up to date about the day at <https://www.facebook.com/events/637861249671623/>

The welcome takes place three days before Auckland hosts New Zealand's opening match against Samoa at Mt Smart Stadium, on Saturday, 28 October. Mt Smart is also the venue for the RLWC2017 semi-final, on Saturday, 25 November.



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A photograph of Jason Taumalolo, a rugby player for the New Zealand national team (Kiwis), in action. He is wearing a white jersey with 'TOYOTA' and 'NRL' logos, and dark shorts. He is running with a yellow and green rugby ball in his hands, looking forward with determination. Other players are visible in the background, slightly out of focus.

Jason Taumalolo

Jason Taumalolo of the Cowboys makes a run against the Storm during Day 1 of the NRL Auckland Nines Rugby.
Photo www.photosport.nz

JASON TAUMALOLO is excited about the upcoming World Cup, though first he is looking forward to a break.

The Kiwis lock had an extraordinary season in 2017, one of the key figures in the Cowboy's unlikely run to the grand final.

For the second half of the campaign it felt at times like the 24-year-old was carrying the North Queensland team on his back, an (almost) unstoppable force as he constantly provided momentum with his line bending runs.

Taumalolo carried for more than 5,000 metres this season, the first forward in NRL history (and only the second player, after Roger Tuivasa-Sheck) to break the mythical mark.

So no one would blame him for feeling a little weary, even as he looks ahead to the important quadrennial tournament.

"If I get picked [for the World Cup] then we will go from there," said Taumalolo. "We have a few games in New Zealand and it will be a great opportunity to play at home. But at the moment I am looking forward to having a few days off before we head into camp, and to make the most of it."

Taumalolo has yet to play in a World Cup. He missed out on the 2013 squad, which on reflection seems like a strange decision. Taumalolo had been in the Kiwis frame in 2012 – picked in the squad for the end of year test in Townsville – but didn't make the final 17. He then had, by his standards, a poor 2013 season, spending part of the year in reserve grade, which influenced the New Zealand selector's decisions.

But everything clicked the following year. Taumalolo finally made his debut in the first game of the 2014 Four Nations in Brisbane, and was a key figure in the Kiwis' unbeaten campaign.

"It was a clean sweep then and a pretty amazing moment," said Taumalolo. "It will be harder this time around with the quality players still in the Australian team. But whoever does get picked for New Zealand will do a great job."

Taumalolo is wary of the challenge ahead for the Kiwis, especially the group matches against Samoa (Auckland, October 29) and Tonga (Hamilton, November 11)

"[They are] two up and coming nations who have been great in league in the last few years," said Taumalolo. "They are known to be both physical sides and they will be great battles, so it should be good."

Though Taumalolo was shattered by the 34-6 grand final defeat at the hands of the Storm last Sunday, he was also proud of the Cowboys against-all-odds effort to reach the NRL decider.

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"I'm pretty disappointed with the way things ended [on Sunday] night, said Taumalolo. "[But] a lot of people didn't think we would make it this far in the competition so for the boys to go out there and prove it over the last three weeks has been great. We have always had that culture in us, where we don't give up until the 80th minute."

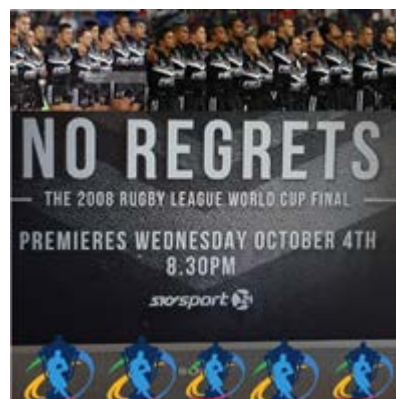
Taumalolo also revealed that even as the Cowboys suffered a spate of injuries across the season, including prop Matt Scott and future immortal Johnathan Thurston, he never lost faith that the North Queensland out-fit could do something significant.

"[We] used 32 players but everyone stepped up," said Taumalolo. "That shows a lot about the quality of players and the depth that we have. Had to wait until the last round of the regular season to see if we made the finals and when we did, we made the most of it."

Taumalolo will attend the Cowboy's end of season ball this Friday night, before having a few days 'R and R' ahead of the World Cup.

"I need to take my mind away from my footy for a while," said Taumalolo. "Then I'll come back refreshed and ready to go again for the World Cup."

Make sure you're watching Sky TV tonight as they take a look back at the Kiwis 2008 RLWC win. This is a must watch!



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Ownership Back in the News

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



FIRST IT was the bloke whose name I have already forgotten, although that sounded like a pile of crap from day one. Then it was one-time Warriors skipper Monty Betham whipping up public support for a fan-based ownership takeover, and now it is the Auckland Rugby League, which has, predictably, divided the public.

In one camp are those who say it was not exactly a sensational success the first time round, when the ARL had a stake.

In the other are those who think it is a good idea and will provide a pathway for players.

ARL chairman Cameron McGregor reckons it is all about rejuvenating the game in Auckland.

That seems to me all good and well, but as much as I am fond of local league, I don't attend matches, but I do front at Mt Smart. I'm not about to suddenly start attending Manukau Magpies games because the ARL owns the Warriors.

I did read that the ARL wants a new semi-professional tournament as part of its bid. That puts the Warriors at the top, with some kind of second-tier comp under it. Anyone remember the Bartercard Cup?

Did not exactly pack the crowds in did it?

We are told that hundreds of players leave Auckland every year for a chance at higher honours across the ditch, or further afield. Who am I to say a second tier comp would not keep them here. It's certainly true there is a big gap between the Glenora Bears and the NRL.

McGregor had this to say: "We want to be able to take some of the Warriors' money and that will be good for Auckland league and the Warriors because instead of having one halfback in the reserve grade, they'd have 10 in a competition below them."

One thing I would admit is that the ARL is in a much better financial position this time round, simply because it is sitting on wedges of cash generated by the sale of Carlaw Park.

Meanwhile Betham has welcomed the ARL bid. Monty's lot are supposedly doing due diligence on the club, so working with the ARL does not seem a big stretch.

"I've been a proud supporter of Auckland Rugby League, representing the colours over the years and I think the people at that level should be able to buy into what they love and believe in."

McGregor hopes to know soon whether the ARL can agree to a sale but has not ruled out working with Betham.

Blair Saga Drags On

I'm getting a bit over news that the Vodafone Warriors are "about" to sign Adam Blair.

It is pretty much a done deal, but there is still endless guessing about the length of the deal, and the price, with the current speculation that it's three years at \$650,000 a year.

If that is right, that means he will still be on our books in 2021, and three years is a long time in the life of a front row forward in the NRL.

Can we just get it done please.

How Much Cash Do We Have?

Without access to the Warriors' books, who knows what we have in the war chest.

But it must be a decent amount with the number of players exiting, Ben Matulino to the Tigers, Jacob Lillyman to the Knights, Ryan Hoffman has gone, Bodene Thompson too, Manu Vatuvei left during the year, Charlie Gubb is headed to Canberra, and then are still others, like Matt Allwood,

On the other side of the coin, there is (or isn't) Blair, Tohu Harris is on his way, and Peta Hiku and Gerrard Beale are in.

Is it on more, or less, who would know?

Frankly Speaking

I do not know Melbourne Storm football director Frank Ponissi from a bar of soap, but it is fair to say he is not my biggest fan, emailing to say I had had another crack at the Storm in the newsletter, and was an "A1 tosser!"

Let's be fair to him, I did, and frequently do, given that I hate the Storm.

But I did email back to point out it was nothing personal, and that plenty of people would agree with his assessment of me as an A1 tosser.

I had to concede that I only hate the Storm out of abject jealousy, because they are so bloody good, and that, choke me as it did, I was in the Storm camp on Grand Final night because they had been so good all year.

Much to his credit, Frank emailed me back, perhaps a little sheepishly, saying he was very protective of his players.

Good on him. It was a nice exchange and by the time it ended he probably thought I was, well, still an A1 tosser, but I thought he was actually quite a good bloke.

Bugger it, last thing I need is someone I like at the Storm.

Dig Of The Grand Final

What can you do but laugh? League great legend Ryan Girdler singled out Tohu Harris as a star of the Grand Final during his radio call. "Tohu Harris is playing like he's in his last ever grand final, and considering he's off to the Warriors next year he probably is."

Up yours Girds.

WAS GREAT to get this email from former Kiwi and Warrior (29 games for the Kiwis & 49 games for the warriors) Logan who bought a whole table. - Sir Peter Leitch

Good afternoon mate!

Just wanted to let you know I've purchased a table for the 2017 RLWC Luncheon.

Looking forward to catching up with yourself, plus past and present legends of the game!

It'll be an awesome afternoon - Can't wait!!

Best regards, Logan Swann

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Castleford's 91-Year Wait For Glory

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years),
NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



If Warriors fans think they have waited too long to celebrate a premiership then consider the case of their Castleford Tigers counterparts in the British Super League. Castleford is going to Old Trafford on Sunday to take on the mighty Leeds Rhinos in a bid to win its first tier-one championship in 91 years! Founded in 1926, the Tigers won Challenge Cup knock-out finals at Wembley four times between 1935 and 1986 but have arguably surpassed those deeds this year by claiming their maiden League Leaders (minor premiership) Trophy.

During the regular season Castleford won 20 games and lost only three, clearing out by 10 competition points over nearest rivals Leeds, with Hull and St Helens also reaching the top four from the qualifying series. Perhaps it was the enormity of the task attempting to rewrite history, but Castleford was taken into golden point time by St Helens before clinching their semi-final 23-22 at home last Friday. A day later, Leeds won the second semi-final 18-16 at Headingley, overcoming an equally strong Hull challenge.

Lively scrum-half Luke Gale was Castleford's hero after few people even gave him a chance of playing. Remarkably, Gale had undergone surgery to have his appendix removed only 16 days earlier. Although St Helens scored five tries to three, Gale's personal haul of one try, five goals and the match-winning field goal made the difference. His cool temperament was vital as Castleford tumbled from a 20-10 lead to concede three unconverted tries between the 70th and 77th minutes and fall behind by 20-22.

St Helens should have held on but one of its players could not resist obstructing a chaser as Gale put through a desperate grubber kick with only 28sec remaining. Gale kicked the penalty goal to tie the totals and send the match into golden point. Both Gale and rival half Matty Smith were astray with field goals before Gale slotted the match-winner. Castleford is only the seventh club to reach a Grand Final in 21 years of Super League. Of them, only Wigan, Leeds, St Helens and Bradford have won at Old Trafford.

Former Kiwis backs Jake Webster and Ben Roberts have been prominent in Castleford's rise. The Melbourne-born and Brisbane-raised Webster (33) debuted with the club in 2013 after previously playing for the Storm, Titans and Hull Kingston Rovers. The 32-year-old Sydney-born Roberts played for the Bulldogs, Eels and Storm prior to joining Castleford in 2015. Webster was in the Kiwis team which beat the Kangaroos 24-0 in the 2005 Tri-Nations final and he and Roberts were team-mates for the 2007 Anzac Test.

While long-suffering Castleford supporters were rubbing their eyes in near-disbelief at how dominant the Tigers have been this season, Leeds fans felt giddy from riding a roller-coaster in recent years. In 2015 the Rhino claimed all three major trophies – Challenge Cup, League Leaders and Grand Final – before losing three experienced forwards and crashing into the relegation play-offs in 2016. But they have now reached their tenth Grand Final (equalling St Helens' record) and have won seven of their previous nine.

Hull was attempting to achieve a unique double, having successfully defended the Challenge Cup at Wembley in August. But the omens were not good. It is 34 years since Hull was acclaimed champion back in pre-Super League days, its only Grand Final appearance had been in 2006 and it had not beaten Leeds at Headingley for a decade. But when former Kiwis forward Sika Manu scored to make it 16-12 after 56 minutes it seemed Hull might be Old Trafford bound. Leeds, however, regained the lead just seven minutes later.

So the season ended in disappointment for Manu, former Warriors centre Carlos Tuimavave and Auckland-born wing Feleti Talanoa, as well as retiring forward Gareth Ellis. There will be no New Zealanders in the Leeds Grand Final line-up. Queenslanders Joel Moon played for the Warriors from 2009 until 2011 after three seasons at the Broncos and has found his niche during five years with Leeds. The Grand Final will mark the retirements of veteran halfbacks Danny McGuire and Rob Burrow after 880 club games between them.

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On Sunday, former Warriors assistant coach Steve McNamara's Catalans Dragons team came from a 4-10 deficit to beat Leigh Centurions 26-10 in the promotion-relegation match at Leigh. The Perpignan-based Dragons will remain in the 14-team Super League and Leigh drops back to the Championship after only one season in the top competition. Leigh will be replaced by the Tim Sheens-coached Hull Kingston Rovers, who are swapping places with the Centurions for the second consecutive season.

Footnote: Congratulations to Waikato for making the NZRL provincial final after a strong win over Counties-Manukau. Waikato was only promoted to the top tier this year and will line up against the unbeaten Akarana Falcons on Saturday night. There was a topsy-turvy tussle for the second final position with Counties beating Canterbury, Canterbury beating Waikato and then Waikato upsetting Counties to finish second on points differentials. The final will be played at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday night.

Reader Mail



Ki Ora, Talofa, Sir Peter Leitch,

I WOULD LIKE to thank you for being the person that you are, and a friend to all. My children look up to as one of their role models and look forward to reading your weekly news letters. We are excited for next year 2018 to support The Vodafone Warriors and to continue with our Vodafone membership again. This year has been a ball for us, full of enjoyment and just being apart of this years journey, which even lead us to take a family trip to experience the NRL GRAND FINALS, Stoms vs Cow-boys. My two kids Nytram and Central would like to pass on their thanks to you also, and look forward to seeing you hopefully at the world cup. Here are a few of the kids favourite photos from this year 2017 so far.

Kind Regards, Mum and kids

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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By Barry Ross



Melbourne celebrate victory
Photo www.photosport.nz

Travelling Cowboys

THE MELBOURNE Storm had few problems in winning this year's Grand Final. They have been the dominate side for most of the season and they continued in this vein on Sunday night. The Storm went into the match as strong favourites and that is how things turned out with their 34-6 win. The loss of forward, Shaun Fensom, after just three minutes with a badly broken leg, was a real blow for the Cowboys. Fensom broke his Tibia and his Fibula and I believe he has already had an operation. After Te Maire Martin scored his team's only try nine minutes into the second half, the Cowboys fired up and for the next 10 minutes or so, held their own. But the Storm were not flustered and soon took control again.

Many fans were hoping the dream would continue for the Cowboys after their dramatic effort to reach the Grand Final but this did not happen. The Cowboys have been travelling from Townsville to Sydney and back for four weeks now and that is very demanding. The Storm, however, had not left Melbourne for seven weeks, and this was a big plus in their team's preparations. Coach Craig Bellamy made sure his players were ready and they were. He is a brilliant and methodical coach and he must be given credit for a lot of Melbourne's success over many years. We all know he has players such as Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and Billy Slater to call on and this certainly is a bonus, but the team environment and culture has been created by Bellamy.

The Cowboys should benefit from their experiences this year, but as their coach, Paul Green, emphasised after the Grand Final, nothing is guaranteed for 2018. Green said making this year's decider means nothing in 2018.

The two other games on Grand Final day created plenty of interest. It was good to see the Papua New Guinea Hunters get a chance to play on the big stage in the State Championship but they were overpowered by a bigger Penrith team. The game was over at halftime when the Panthers led 38-2. The occasion could have caused some problems for the Queensland champions, but they did play better in the second half. Penrith centre, 24 year old Tony Satini, scored four of his team's eight tries.

While the Cowboys did not finish with the fairytale ending, the Manly under 20 team certainly did. After finishing equal eighth on the ladder with South Sydney, they scrapped into the final series with a better for and against than the Rabbitohs. Manly's for and against was plus 113, just seven better than Souths 106. In the first round of the final series, they defeated the fifth placed Cowboys 30-16. Next, they beat minor premiers, Cronulla, 42-22 and then they were too good for third placed St. George/Illawarra, winning 34-18. After 15 minutes of the Grand Final, Parramatta led 14-0 and appeared to be cruising, but the Sea Eagles hit back. First centre Tevita Funa scored and right on the stroke of half time, winger Bilal Maarbani crossed for Funa to convert. This saw the teams go to the dressing rooms with the momentum in Manly's favour and the Eels now leading by just 14-10. Parramatta were in front 18-14 with a minute or so remaining. Then 17 year old replacement forward, Keith Titmuss, crashed over next to the posts in the final play of the match.

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Funa landed the pressure goal to give Manly the Premiership. Titmuss was a late inclusion in the Sea Eagles 17 man team and was named as a non playing reserve in the official match day programme, which was printed several days before the game. This Grand Final was the last under 20 National Youth Championship game, which began in 2008. Next year, there will be state based competitions in NSW and Queensland. The Warriors have been the most successful club in the under 20 Toyota Cup competition, winning in 2010, 2011 and 2014.

As has become the custom on Grand Final Day, several retiring players were farewelled. These included Michael Ennis (273 NRL first grade games), Brett Stewart (233), David Shillington (215), Matt Ballin (220), Steve Matai (230), Isaac De Gois (225), Josh Starling (80), Rory Kostjasyn (126), Ray Thompson (111), Jeff Robson (176) and Jeff Lima (127).

The NRL season may now be over but we have the World Cup just in front of us. This tournament will provide plenty of excitement in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, when it begins in Melbourne on Friday night, 27 October. Australia will meet England at the Melbourne Rectangular Stadium and then on the next day, Saturday 28 October, New Zealand will play Samoa in Auckland, while Papua New Guinea will take on Wales at Port Moresby. There will be 28 mens World Cup matches, while in the womens World Cup, there are 12 games. The Womens World Cup will begin at Cronulla's Southern Cross Group Stadium on 16 November with a triple header. New Zealand play Canada, Australia meet the Cook Islands and England play Papua New Guinea.

It was interesting to see that former Melbourne storm winger, Marika Koroibete, score two tries for the Wallabies in their 27-all draw with South Africa in Bloemfontein on Saturday. While it was 25 year old Koroibete's second Test for the Wallabies, it was his first run on start. In the same Test match, Australian five eighth, Bernard Foley, playing his 50th Test, scored 12 points (2 penalties, 3 conversions) to take his total to 511 Test points and move into fourth place on the Australian all-time ladder behind Michael Lynagh, Matt Burke and Matt Giteau.

In India the Aussie cricketers suffered a 4-1 defeat in the five match ODI (50 overs) series against the locals. There were a few positives for the Australians, but not many and there will need to be an improvement, particularly in the middle order batting, before the Ashes Tests with England begin in about two months.

Australian Basketball fans will be glued to their TV over the next few days. Three Australian teams will take on NBA sides and these matches will be televised in Australia on ESPN. On Tuesday 3 October, the Sydney Kings oppose the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City, on 8 October, Melbourne United play the Oklahoma Thunder in Oklahoma City and on 13 October, the Brisbane Bullets will meet the Phoenix Suns in Phoenix.

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2017

THE WORLD'S BEST ARE COMING ARE YOU?

AUCKLAND	CHRISTCHURCH	HAMILTON	WELLINGTON
NZ V SAMOA 28 OCTOBER SEMI-FINAL 25 NOVEMBER	NZ V SCOTLAND 4 NOVEMBER QUARTER-FINAL 18 NOVEMBER	SAMOA V TONGA 4 NOVEMBER NZ V TONGA 11 NOVEMBER	QUARTER-FINAL 18 NOVEMBER

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By John Deaker

The Storm's 'Crusader- Like' Culture Will Live On Without Cronk

Cameron Smith celebrates
Photo www.photosport.nz

THE 2017 NRL Grand Final won't go down as one of the greats, but as Andrew Johns mentioned at half time, fans had an opportunity on Sunday night to witness one of the great combinations the sport has ever seen playing together for their club for the last time.

It was a privilege to watch Cronk, Smith and Slater perform for one last time and the three even combined to create a try with one of their pet-plays late in the game to put the icing on the cake of their win.

The Melbourne Storm have been in a class of their own all season. They're so dominant in rugby league currently that it's natural for people to compare their 2017 side to other great club teams we've seen in the past. Rugby union definitely has a team worth comparing to them : this year's Super rugby winner, the Crusaders.

Both teams are renowned in their respective codes for the quality of their cultures that help each individual player to become the best they can possibly be. Strong leadership from key players and their coaching staffs have ensured that over long periods of time both these teams have been 'consistently consistent' and the envy of their rivals.

Their competitors have analysed both these teams extensively in attempts to replicate the success they have on the field. However, like so many great cultures in business and in sport there is never just one or two factors that makes their cultures great – it's a combination of dozens of little things that add up to produce sporting greatness. Both teams recruit well based as much on the character of individuals as their ability with the oval ball in hand. These teams are like families and it's clear that if players are capable of fitting in to that system smoothly their 'family' will support them through thick and thin.

The Melbourne Storm have always had a lot of travel to

do but as much as ever they embraced that challenge this year. Similarly, the 2017 Crusaders team never complained about the flawed and unfair competition structure they encountered. They embraced the additional challenges and travelled to South Africa to convincingly beat the Bulls on their home turf in the final.

The coaches Craig Bellamy and Scott Robertson are equally passionate characters whose team's clearly love the ability of their coaches to show their 'human-side'. Fans admire it just as much: from Bellamy going crazy in the coach's box to Robertson break-dancing cheered on by his team in celebration of their momentous victory.

The quality leadership that Cameron Smith shows is still something that Kieran Read is working on, but through Richie McCaw (and even before him via Rueben Thorne and Todd Blackadder) the Crusaders were able to clearly establish and maintain the standards on and off the field that have made them the greatest franchise world rugby has ever seen.

When Andrew Mehrtens moved on Dan Carter was already playing alongside him and smoothly stepped in to win matches and competitions for the Crusaders. Richie Mo'unga is no Dan Carter but he really stepped up this year, feeding off the confidence and reliable systems that players like Kieran Read and Ryan Crotty were able to provide around him.

Cameron Munster displayed a willingness to take more control this season and will undoubtedly take even more ownership when Cooper Cronk is gone next season. Other key players are also leaving but unfortunately for all NRL teams it won't be enough to shake up the culture the Storm have built ; they'll almost certainly be the team to beat again in 2018 come finals time, just like the Crusaders will be in Super rugby.



By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Harris' Grand Final Exploits Saluted

TAKE THAT: Dannevirke Tigers utility Waka Petera is smashed by a Bridge Pa defender during their semifinal at the weekend. PHOTO/HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

NEIGHBOURS OF the Melbourne Storm's New Zealand base, the Tamatea Rugby League Club at the Waipatu Marae in Hastings, were warned there might be a bit of noise on Sunday night.

There was and the neighbours didn't mind at all. Most of those neighbours are relatives of Storm and Kiwis utility Tohu Harris who was outstanding as the Storm demolished the North Queensland Cowboys 34-6 in Sunday night's NRL grand final in Sydney.

For many of the Tamatea club Harris was just one of several of the Storm players they are on a first-name basis with as the Storm used the club as their base when they were in Hawke's Bay in 2015 preparing for their match against the Dragons at Napier's McLean Park. However it was Harris who attracted the most yells as he became the first Hawke's Bay-raised player to capture an NRL grand final winner's ring.

"We all know quality ferocious defence wins titles and Tohu was the top tackler with 43. Add to that his 113 metres on the carry and he had a bomb game," Harris' former Hawke's Bay age group coach and former Tamatea premier team coach Adrian Rowlands said.

Rowlands, who had a playing stint with Souths in 1985, was the bloke who told Harris' father Paul back in 2007 his son would be an NRL player.

"It was definitely Tohu's best game. The whole team performed well right across the park. There are no I's in team when you talk about that Storm outfit. They all do it for each other," Rowlands said.

"I knew the Storm were going to pump. At the same time it would not have been like that if the Cowboys had Thurston and the Cowboys were unlucky to have that early injury. I have to take my hat off to Bellamy [Storm coach Craig Bellamy]. It doesn't matter who the player is who turns up at the Storm. He changes the whole mentality of them and takes them to the highest level."

"Now Tohu has an NRL grand final winner's ring. I think they are worth around \$10,000. I know it's hamburger money compared with an NFL one but they are still pretty special."

"Tohu is a chip off the old block. His old man tackled like that when Tamatea won the Maddison Trophy in 1982," he said referring to the most prestigious piece of silverware on the Hawke's Bay club rugby scene.

Harris' mother Dale agreed it was her Warriors-bound son's best NRL performance.

"He was awesome and it was a pretty good team performance all round. It was just an amazing match and Tohu would have been among the next four or five players after Billy Slater in the battle for the player-of-the-match," she added.

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Harris' success was the ideal form of consolation for the Tamatea premiers who lost 44-26 to Kahuranaki in their Hawke's Bay competition semifinal at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings on Saturday. Kahuranaki have the opportunity to win the premier title a year after they won the reserve grade title.

They will take on defending champions Bridge Pa in the final after Bridge Pa recovered from a 16-6 halftime deficit to pip Dannevirke Tigers 24-22 in their semifinal.

Former Magpies rugby speedster Shannan Chase was outstanding in the scrumhalf and standoff roles for Kahuranaki. Centre Jimi Harris, a cousin of Tohu, scored three tries for Tamatea.

Fullback Jarome Mareikura was the hero for Bridge Pa with two late tries. Former Magpies rugby halfback Isaac Paewai and centre Nathan Ramsay were others to shine in the Bridge Pa backline while hooker Colin Hokianga and backrower Ramiha Smiler impressed with their composure and direction in the winning pack.

Utility Waka Petera was the Tigers man-of-the-match. Former Magpies rugby fullback Jearrad Stephenson had a couple of stints off the subs bench alongside his son Jacob Stephenson in the centres.

This weekend's reserve grade final will see the unbeaten Waka Leonard-coached Maraenui side take on Bridge Pa while in the women's grade Bridge Pa will meet Tamatea.

LIVESTREAM

NZ Secondary Schools Team v New South Wales Combined HS

Wednesday 4 October
6pm at Puketawhero Park, Rotorua

**Tonight! Learn more
here:**

<http://bit.ly/2yk9waO>





New Zealand 18s out-classed by Australian Schoolboys 40-8

By Brooke Hurndell
NZRL

THE NEW Zealand 18s were out-classed by a slick Australian Schoolboys side, 40-8, in their match-up at Trust Arena in Auckland this afternoon.

In a game that promised to be a physical one, the boys from across the ditch snatched their second victory of the week, but this time, blew the scoreboard wide open.

Auckland's wet conditions came to the party bringing countless knock-ons to both sides and handling errors that made for a slow start.

It was looking like the New Zealand 18s would score 20 minutes into their encounter after a knock-on from an under pressure Australian team, but the over-eager New Zealanders came up short inches from the try-line.

After 27 minutes of painstaking back and forth, the Australian Schoolboys came up with the first try of the match when a missed tackle from the New Zealanders cost them. A conversion to Zac Lomax, the Australian centre who went into the game with a 100 percent success rate at goal from Tuesday night's clash, took the Australian Schoolboys out to a 6-0 lead.

The sheer speed of the visitors' play the balls had them gaining 40 metres with a tackle count of only three, and it was that quick pace which brought in the Australian second-rower, David Fafita, for his first try of the match. The score would remain at 10-0 – Zac Lomax' first and only missed conversion of their two-match campaign.

Just as halftime was looming, the NZ 18s scored their first try with winger, Mawene Hiroti, crossing the line on the right wing – the NZ 18s go into the changing rooms trailing by 10-4.

Refreshed and ready for another 40 minutes, the New Zealanders came out firing. Their second try came when they capitalised on their opposition's dropped ball with captain, Dylan Tavita, scoring just right of the post. However, the captain didn't manage to convert his own try falling short of levelling the scoreboard – 10-8.

The New Zealand 18s may have closed the gap, but give the Australians an inch and they'll take a mile. That's exactly what they did as Tanah Boyd went in for his second try of the game which was then converted by Zac Lomax extending their lead to 16-8. Boyd would go on to earn himself MVP of the Australian Schoolboys side.

Then came David Fafita's second try. NZ found themselves struggling to read the play as Fafita received a fantastic cut from Boyd slipping through an absent defense taking the score to 22-8 after another successful Lomax conversion.

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Australia's next try went much the same way set up by an outstanding grubber from the classy, Tanah Boyd which was taken across the line by Jesse Cronin. Lomax converting the try to make it 28-8.

As the New Zealand missed tackle count increased, the Australians took full advantage with a further three more tries on the board, all successfully converted by Zac Lomax.

Rewarded for their never-ending forward momentum, the Australian Schoolboys took home an impressive win with seven tries to two and a score of 40-8. Australian co-captains, Zac Lomax and Campbell Graham, credited their successful camp for their victory.

"We've had a really good camp with incredible coaching staff which put us in an ideal place,"

"It was a tough game, their line speed was fast and aggressive but all credit to our boys – we got the job done," they said.

New Zealand 18s captain, Dylan Tavita, said "it was a great arm wrestle in the first 40 minutes but in the second half, fatigue really got to us and we lacked discipline."

The Australian Schoolboys return home with two wins to nil over New Zealand 18s and New Zealand 18s Select.

MVP New Zealand 18s: Dylan Tavita

MVP Australian Schoolboys: Tanah Boyd

New Zealand 18s 8 (Mawene Hiroti, Dylan Tavita tries) Australian Schoolboys 40 (Campbell Graham, Bronson Xerri, Tanah Boyd 2, David Fafita 2, Jesse Cronin tries; Zac Lomax 6 goals)

Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:



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Did You Know Monty Betham Has His Own TV Show?

THE #INTHERINGNZ series featured 10, 30 minute episodes with guests like Dame Valerie Adams, Sonny Bill Williams, Dai Henwood, Roger Tuivasa Sheck, Israel Dagg, Art Green and Matlida Rice.

You can go to his facebook page www.facebook.com/montybethamofficial there you will find all 10 episodes in the video section.

This is a pic from his autobiography 'Baring my soul' he used it as a throw back and tribute to his dad Monty Snr who turned 65 on the 27th of September. Monty Snr was a great boxer himself I had the pleasure of watching many of his fights.





NZ KIWIS ASSOCIATION

REUNION REMINDER:

Sunday 8th October 2017

11.00am AGM

11.30am – Mix and Mingle

1.00pm Lunch

Remuera Club (formerly known as The Commerce Club, 27 – 33 Ohinerau Street, Remuera)

**\$25 per person includes Luncheon and Tap Beer.
Cash Bar available.**

**Please RSVP to Juanita by Monday 2nd October,
5.00pm for catering purposes.**

**This is opened to past and present Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns staff and
players only.**

**You can pay direct to the Association Account:
BNZ 02 0248 0226345 050 or cash at the door.**

**Please use name as reference when making online payment
and advise Juanita on 09 571 2000 / 021 444 385 or email**

Juanita.w@aucklandleague.co.nz



Stu Wilson with former teammates Joe Stanley and Bernie McCahill prepare to ride in Pedal 4 Prostate

Join Former All Black Captain Stu Wilson Riding for Prostate Cancer

STU WILSON, a former All Black captain is hopping on his bike to raise awareness of the huge toll prostate cancer takes on Kiwi men every year.

Stu is pulling together a team to take part in the inaugural Pedal 4 Prostate event, run by the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand on 8 October.

The event will see teams of four ride around the famous track at Hampton Downs, in relay fashion, for four hours. This event is ideal for a group of workmates or riding buddies to get together for a great ride, and to support a great cause. This is the final event in what has been a very successful Blue September prostate cancer awareness and fundraising month.

[Read more about it here.](#)

There are heaps of great prizes, including a 4-day holiday with airfares in Hawaii courtesy of Hawaiian Airlines!

If you haven't already, what are you waiting for? Grab your mates, hop on your bike and help support the fight against Prostate Cancer. [Sign up here.](#)

Get involved - Watch the youtube video here: <https://youtu.be/mZP49F01j7U>



IF YOU THINK CYCLING ROUND A RACE TRACK FOR FOUR HOURS WOULD BE A PAIN, IMAGINE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE PROSTATE CANCER!

Grab your team mates and head to www.pedal4prostate.org.nz to find out more

Cameron Smith Wins Dally M Medal

MELBOURNE STORM skipper Cameron Smith has won his second Dally M Medal – 11 years after his first. Just days away from captaining the Storm in the 2017 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final, Smith (33 points) won the prestigious Dally M Medal by a remarkable eight points - following his first win in 2006.

His opponent in Sunday's Grand Final, North Queensland Cowboys halfback Michael Morgan (25 points), finished runner-up, while St George Illawarra's Gareth Widdop (24) was third. Sydney Roosters five-eighth Luke Keary and Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks captain Paul Gallen finished equal fourth, on 22 points.

Smith was also awarded Captain of the Year honours as well as Hooker of the Year, while his Melbourne teammate Billy Slater won the Fullback of the Year award. Storm Coach Craig Bellamy also won Coach of the Year.

At a glittering event at The Star Event Centre, the Rookie of the Year award was taken out by Canberra winger Nick Cotric. His Raiders teammate Jordan Rapana was crowned Winger of the Year.

The prestigious Provan Summons People's Choice award was won by Parramatta Eels player Clinton Gutherson, while the Dally M Female Player of the Year was Simaima Taufau.

Smith's honour was the first under a revised voting process and structure of the Dally M Awards, including a new voting panel of former players.

A number of new awards were handed out, including Interchange Player of the Year (Penrith's Reagan Campbell-Gillard), Tackle of the Year (Parramatta's Nathan Brown) and Try of the Year (North Queensland's Kyle Feldt).

The full list of winners is:

Dally M Player of the Year: Cameron Smith (Melbourne Storm)

Captain of the Year: Cameron Smith (Melbourne Storm)

Coach of the Year: Craig Bellamy (Melbourne Storm)

Peter Moore Award for Rookie of the Year: Nick Cotric (Canberra Raiders)

Fullback of the Year: Billy Slater (Melbourne Storm)

Winger of the Year: Jordan Rapana (Canberra Raiders)

Centre of the Year: Dylan Walker (Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles)

Five-eighth of the Year: Gareth Widdop (St George Illawarra Dragons)

Halfback of the Year: Michael Morgan (North Queensland Cowboys)

Lock of the Year: Paul Gallen (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)

Second-rower of the Year: Matt Gillett (Brisbane

Broncos)

Prop of the Year: Aaron Woods (Wests Tigers)

Hooker of the Year: Cameron Smith (Melbourne Storm)

Interchange Player of the Year: Reagan Campbell-Gillard (Penrith Panthers)

Tackle of the Year: Nathan Brown (Parramatta Eels)

Try of the Year: Kyle Feldt (North Queensland Cowboys)

Top Point Scorer: Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers)

Top Try Scorer: Suliasi Vunivalu (Melbourne Storm)

Provan Summons People's Choice Medal: Clinton Gutherson (Parramatta Eels)

Holden Cup Player of the Year: Jake Clifford (North Queensland Cowboys)

Female Player of the Year: Simaima Taufau

Peter Frilingos Headline Moment: Mitchell Pearce (Sydney Roosters)

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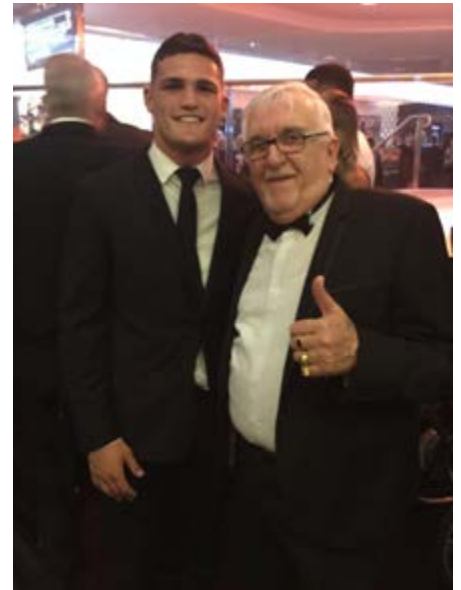
LAST WEDNESDAY I was lucky enough to go to the Dally M Awards in Sydney these are a few photos I took you can see many more on my [Facebook page](#). It was a fantastic night!



Clowning around with Daly Cherry Evans one of the nice guys in the NRL



Nathan Cleary receiving his award at the Dally M Awards.



Was great catching up with Nathan Cleary who was a ball boy for the Warriors and is now a poster boy for the NRL.



Ex kiwis Gary Freeman with the Big Man Darryl Brohman now a star of the NRL FOOTY SHOW.



Bev (Darrl Brohman' THE BIG MANS wife) Julianne Freeman (ex kiwi Gary Freeman's lovely wife) at the Dally M awards night last Wednesday in Sydney

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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE SEASON REVIEW ISSUE...

All the wash-up from the 2017 NRL Grand Final, including:

- Grand final minute-by-minute
- Player ratings
- News and features from inside the sheds
- Reviews and scores from the State Championship and Holden Cup grand finals

PLUS... Comprehensive season reviews for all 16 NRL clubs and a Rugby League World Cup preview

INSIDE

- **Cameron Munster** clinched a premiership, Origin jersey and now Australian selection this season – but the five-eighth told the club he'd rather play reserve grade than move to the halves in 2017. With some coaxing and mentorship from **Matthew Johns** and **Brett Finch**, the 23-year-old finally feels confident in his position.
- The grand final was the game where **Jason Taumalolo's** rampaging run was finally stopped – but the 24-year-old still had one of the best seasons of his short career. But in the sheds after the game, he said he still wasn't satisfied. "I can't be satisfied with my year, so I'll work on a few things and hopefully come back better and still improving," he says.
- After winning the last ever Holden Cup premiership on the bell, Manly under-20s coach **Wayne Lambkin** says he hopes the incoming new junior system will be as impactful as the NYC.
- Storm winger **Suliasi Vunivalu** reflects on finally getting the chance to play with his childhood idol **Billy Slater**.



SEASON REVIEW

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