

RLWC 2017

Only 3 weeks until the first game!

**Sir Peter
Leitch Club
Newsletter**

5th October 2017

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C'mon the Kiwis

By David Kemeys

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



NO POINT beating around the bush, and yes I have heard all about Jason Taumalolo, David Fusitu'a and Manu Ma'u, but the Kiwis are my team and you have to get on with it, so onwards and upwards.

It's not like the Aussies aren't suffering the same thing, with Andrew Fifita opting for Tonga ahead of the Kangaroos.

As I drove home last night Radio Sport was going off, with all sorts of opinions about the North Queensland Cowboy's decision to play for Tonga ahead of the Kiwis, and then of course with Thursday's defections, many are arguing the Kiwis are a shambles.

Well if they are, they are my shambles, and come October when the ball gets kicked off at Mt Smart I will still be in the stand, and I will still be cheering for the boys.

I have had the pleasure of meeting our coach David Kidwell many times, and he is a great bloke, but simpler than that, he is the coach and I will back him to do the best job he can.

There are still some real positives for me in the Kiwis side.

Simon Mannering is named, and there had been plenty of talk that he would not make it, with the Kiwis opting for a rapid-fire game that might not suit his style.

But his would have been the first name on my list, so I am delighted the hard-working forward will pull on the Black and White because you know he will leave nothing out on the field.

Brad Takairangi is included and while he has been attached to Kiwis camps before, he has yet to debut, and I thought he was quality whenever he played, so there's another I'm delighted to see in our line-up.

If you need a trifecta, I'll throw in Melbourne Storm giant Nelson Asofa-Solomona, another who has been in camp but not played a test. He was magnificent for the Storm all year and if he can replicate that kind of form he is going to leave a few bruised defenders in his wake.

Actually, why stop at three, Adam Blair, who the Vodafone Warriors have finally announced has signed, adds steel to any pack, and it's also good to see a recall for Russell Packer, who has looked menacing at the Dragons all year.

We will get a chance to look at new Warrior Gerard Beale, and Shaun Johnson will be reunited in the halves with Thomas Leuluai, so that is a strong pairing – and it will need to be.

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Jordan Rapana is no slouch, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Marty Taupau would be snapped up by any international coach you offered them to, and Dean Whare is a player who in my view never lets you down, and is much better than many give him credit for.

Bronco Kodi Nikorima will trouble any defence and has a silky skills and I haven't even mentioned Joseph Tapine or Dallin Watene-Zellezniak. So don't tell me all is lost.

There is plenty of backbone in the side, attacking threats all around and some emerging talent.

Would I have wanted to see Tohu Harris and Taumalolo named, sure. But there's enough there to keep me interested and we all know that at the end of the day, it is 13 v 13.

They also say when the going gets tough the tough get going, so the crowd could make a difference.

Don't turn your backs on the boys and become a keyboard warrior or radio whinger. Pack the park and show the world the Black and White still means plenty!

Kiwis Squad

Nelson Asofa-Solomona
Gerard Beale
Adam Blair
Addin Fonua-Blake
Peta Hiku
Shaun Johnson
Kenny Bromwich
Thomas Leuluai
Danny Levi
Isaac Liu
Simon Mannering
Te Maire Martin

Elijah Taylor
Jason Nightingale
Kodi Nikorima
Russell Packer
Jordan Rapana
Brad Takairangi
Joseph Tapine
Jared Waerea-Hargreaves
Martin Taupau
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak
Dean Whare



Peter Urlich on the Kiwis News

IAM SADDENED by what has taken place for the Kiwis over the last few days. I'm a passionate League supporter, be it Warriors or the Kiwis and I'm very proud to be an ambassador for what is shaping up to be a memorable Rugby League World Cup campaign. These unfortunate circumstances I hope will only galvanise the boys to form a truly strong bond and defy the odds and their critics over the next 2 months. Quite frankly, this is their only option - a great team, playing for each other, with a lot to prove.

The key is the 'We'.

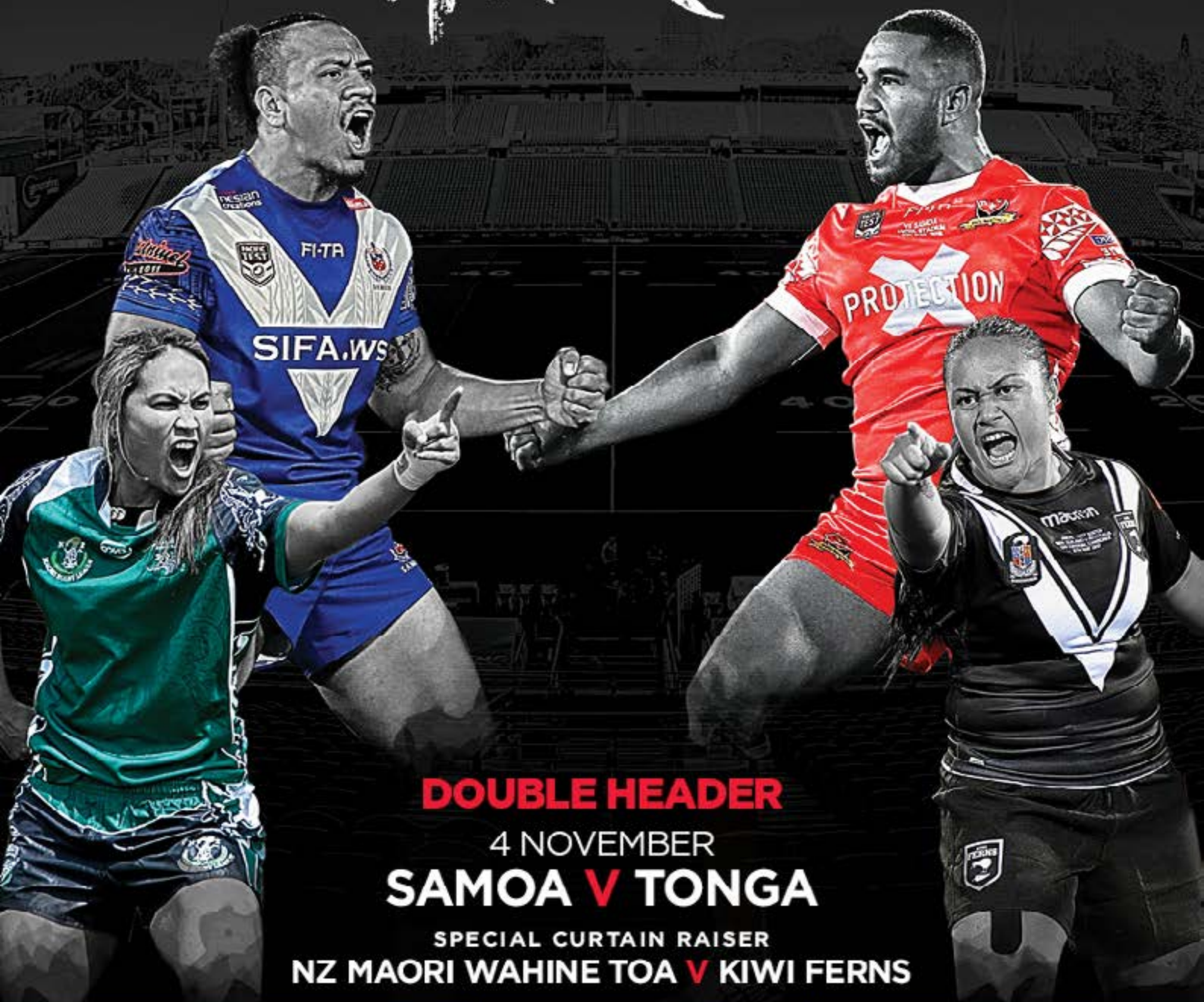
Peter Urlich,
Musician
RLWC 2017 Ambassador



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PNG Kumuls Name Rugby League World Cup squad

PNGRFL CHAIRMAN Sandis Tsaka today announced the PNG LNG Kumuls squad for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup in the presence of ExxonMobil PNG Managing Director Andrew Barry and National Gaming Control Board CEO Imelda Agon.

Ten SP PNG Hunters including Boas bothers Ase and Watson have been included in Michael Marums squad along with Wartovo Puara, Wellington Albert, Willie Minoga, Stargroth Amean, Nixon Putt, Stanton Albert, Moses Meninga and Enock Maki.

Gary Lo makes a welcomed return to the national side along with James Segeyaro.

The captain is David Mead with Ase Boas as vice captain.

Tsaka congratulated the selected players and urged them to play their best in front of the home crowd.

"Riding on the back of the successful SP PNG Hunters season in the Queensland Intrust Super Cup, the support of our nation's 8 million plus people will turn to the PNG LNG Kumuls in the 2017 World Cup campaign," Tsaka said.

"With three home games, the expectations of our people is there for you to perform well. All we ask of you is to play every game with pride and passion. We will be right behind you."

He said ExxonMobil PNG is the operator of PNG LNG the naming rights sponsor to our national rugby league team – PNG LNG Kumuls.

"We value the partnership with PNG LNG and other sponsors for their continuous support especially at this time when PNG, for the first time, will host three Rugby League World Cup pool games in Port Moresby," Tsaka said.

ExxonMobil PNG Managing Director Andrew Barry said PNG LNG has been a very proud sponsor of the national team for the last 5 years.

"From the start of the sponsorship, we had a shared goal with PNGRFL and the national government to support and develop the sport in PNG and to help get the national team to the Rugby League World Cup.

It is very exciting that we have now arrived at our destination and for the first time, PNG will play host

to three matches in Port Moresby," said Mr Barry. He added that the PNG LNG Kumul players have an important leadership role to play as ambassadors and role models, to have a positive influence on Papua New Guinea youth in particular.

"On behalf of the entire PNG LNG family, congratulations to the players that have been selected to represent their country, Papua New Guinea, in the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. We wish the players, coach Michael Marum and team management all the best for the warm up tri nation series in Fiji and the penultimate tournament, the Rugby League World Cup," said Mr Barry.

Coach Michael Marum said the squad will assemble in Port Moresby on tomorrow (Thursday) October 5 and undergo medical and fitness tests. "We will have our first training run on Friday," he said.

The team leaves for Fiji next Wednesday October 11 for the Tri Nations series against Australia and Fiji at the ANZ Stadium in Suva on October 14. They return on October 16 and have a few days break before assembling into camp on October 20.

The PNG LNG Kumuls play their first game on October 28 against Wales. The second match is a week later on November 5 against Ireland and the final home pool game is against USA on November 12. All games will be played at the Oil Search National Football Stadium in Port Moresby.

The squad in alphabetical order is:

1. Ase Boas – SP PNG Hunters
2. David Mead – Brisbane Broncos
3. Enock Maki – SP PNG Hunters
4. Gary Lo – Sheffield Eagles
5. James Segeyaro – Cronulla Sharks
6. Justin Olam – Melbourne Storms
7. Kato Otio – Canberra Raiders
8. Kurt Baptiste – Canberra Raider
9. Lacklan Lam – Sydney Roosters
10. Luke Page – Burleigh Bears
11. Moses Meninga – SP PNG Hunters
12. Nene McDonald – St. George Illawarra Dragons
13. Nixon Put – SP PNG Hunters
14. Paul Aiton – Catalans Dragons
15. Rhys Martin – Canterbury Bulldogs
16. Rod Griffin – Canterbury Bulldogs
17. Stanton Albert – SP PNG Hunters
18. Stargroth Amean – SP PNG Hunters
19. Thompson Tete – Redcliffe Dolphins
20. Wartovo Puara Jnr – SP PNG Hunters
21. Wellington Albert – SP PNG Hunters
22. Watson Boas – SP PNG Hunters
23. Willie Minoga – SP PNG Hunters

Brisbane Finals Fest to Celebrate RLWC2017 Finale

BRISBANE'S KING George Square will be the venue for a massive celebration of the Rugby League World Cup on the weekend of the final, with music, food, an interactive children's zone and a live site to watch the 2 December decider.

The two-day Finals Fest will be held from 8am to midnight on 1 and 2 December and caters for everyone, with free events and a Finals Eve party headlined by Australian dance music band, Sneaky Sound System.

The finals of the men's and women's Rugby League World Cups will be shown live on the big screen at King George Square on Saturday, 2 December.

Tourism and Major Events Minister Kate Jones said hosting the Grand Final and a Semi-Final of the Rugby League World Cup would help to showcase the state's appeal as a major sporting events destination.

"Hosting two Rugby League World Cup events at Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane is an exciting addition to an already world-class calendar of sporting events in Queensland," Ms Jones said.

"Not only will fans have the chance to see the world's best players battle it out for World Cup glory, but Finals Fest will also give visitors, spectators and locals the chance to soak up the atmosphere of this spectacular event.

"The two-day festival is a true celebration of Rugby League, with the World Cup expected to inject millions of dollars into the local economy and showcase Brisbane as more than just a place to live, work and relax.

"I encourage the tens of thousands of Rugby League fans to discover Brisbane and Queensland and experience

what we have to offer."

Brisbane Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said the eyes of the sporting world would be on the Queensland capital as it hosts the Rugby League World Cup Finals and he encouraged everyone to get behind the event.

"The World Cup final in Brisbane will be held just a week after a semi-final and both events at Suncorp Stadium are expected to attract very large crowds with many international visitors creating an enormous buzz throughout our city," he said.

"These events are on top of the Ashes cricket Test in late November and Brisbane's hotels, restaurants, coffee shops and retail outlets will benefit from the large numbers of visitors for these major sporting events."

Among the free Finals Fest activities are:

- Food trucks and pop up bars
- Interactive children's zone
- World Cup highlights shown on the big screen
- Merchandise outlets
- QRL and RLWC2017 sponsorship activations.

The Finals Eve event, starting at 4pm, includes:

- Sneaky Sound System
- The Voice's Rennie Adams
- Kangaroos greats on stage
- A DJ playing until late.

Tickets for the Finals Fest are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. For more information go to www.rlwc2017.com/finalsfest

For tournament information and ticket details, RLWC2017.com

Blair Deal Finally Done

Someone must have been reading when I moaned earlier this week that I was over the Adam Blair saga, and the deal is finally done - a three-year contract from next season.

Blair has played 266 NRL games and our new boss Cameron George says he's "critical" to our chances of improvement.

"He's a proven leader who sets the kind of example we want all our players to aspire to, the epitome of

the professional athlete who demands the highest of standards, highlighted by an ultra-competitive attitude."

He is our fourth signing after Tohu Harris (Storm), Leivaha Pulu (Titans), and Gerard Beale (Sharks).

Blair played all 27 games for the Broncos this year and has averaged 24 games a season in his last 10 campaigns, missing just 15 of a possible 257 games, and of course will lead the Kiwis at the World Cup.

Get Behind the Kiwis!



**NEW ZEALAND
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**Email your message of
support to:
nadene@nzrl.co.nz**

Here's another way to support the Kiwis and get a ticket to watch them take on Samoa!

The patron of New Zealand Rugby League, Sir Peter Leitch, invites you to join him and other league fans at...

Rugby League World Cup 2017

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

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 as we raise funds for "League for Life"

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

Tickets:

\$100 pp - Includes ticket to
Kiwis v Samoa the next day

\$1000 per table - Gets a former
Kiwi player on availability



Jerry Seuseu - MC

To purchase tickets, which include a ticket to the game the next day, visit:

www.ellerslie.co.nz/ticketstore

For other enquiries contact:

Charlotte - 09 522 3824



**Tawera
Nikau**



**Olsen
Filipaina**



**Jerome
Ropati**

Special Guests



**Stephen
Kearney**



**Logan
Swann**



**Stacey
Jones**

Sponsors:



Thanks to everyone who entered our Vodafone Warriors giveaway. We had over 1000 entries! Sorry we can't give everyone a prize, but we are going to make 50 of you very happy.

Hayleigh Barrett Hamilton
 Russell Johnson Victoria Australia
 Ursula Poolock Hamilton
 Vikki Thomson Onehunga
 Tamihana Thompson Baldivis Australia
 Renee Auckram Waipukurau
 Kevin Tehau Christchurch
 Robert Thompson Mt Eden
 Pharrell Veniale Porirua Wgtn
 Trevor Bailey Henderson
 Hokitika Rugby League Club
 Mike Godkin Takapuna
 Reece Knight Christchurch
 Rob Hayden Glendowie
 Paul Fallon Waikanae
 Alexis Gundry Nelson
 Peyton Leota
 Brisbanedean Tucker Gisborne
 Tammy Mckernan
 Ashburtonwade Faapo Huntly
 Caroline Goodall Hibiscus Coast

Wally Gillum New Plymouth
 K Osten Dunedin
 Bob Mcrae Pakuranga
 Zara Ashley Weymouth
 Billy Davis Pakuranga
 Jack Stantiall Marton
 Mark Boon Christchurch
 Sheldon Pastars Conifer Grove
 Bobbee Sutton Queensland
 Peter Sigley Epsom
 Myra Nelson Papatoetoe
 Arron Tallott Christchurch
 Kate Magness Otahuhu
 Brad Burnett Auckland
 Margaret Tepania Warkworth
 Sieumuoi Hancock Auckland
 Danielle Pita Pakuranga
 Ben Rzosha Beach Haven
 Shayne Kyles Christchurch
 Pat Cations Patumahoe
 Pam Barrett South Canterbury
 Raffaele Colucci Gisborne

Sandra Kelly Hamiltom
 Jennie Beale Beachlands
 Jonnah Rowe Queensland
 Maile Pesamino Papatoetoe
 Franbces Whata Rotorua
 Kirsty Wilson Hokitika
 John Hickman Te Atatu
 J Hansen Chrichurch
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 Glenda Barry Hawera
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Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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