

RLWC 2017

It's 10 days until the Kiwis play their first game of the 2017 RLWC

**Sir Peter
Leitch Club
Newsletter**

18th October 2017

#192

David's Guide To The World Cup

By David Kemeys

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



I'M GETTING excited as we inch closer to the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. Like everyone, I can't see anyone but Australia winning, although I have not given up on my Kiwis.

Getting your head around the format is a bit of a head-scratcher, but being a self-appointed league genius, I have decided to simplify things for you.

Three teams from Pool A and B go to the quarter-finals, but only the winners of Pool C and D do – giving you the eight teams you need, and eliminating six others.

Pool A: Australia, England, France, Lebanon: The Kangaroos have seven players from Melbourne's premier-ship-winning team, give or take, half the side.

They start against England on October 27, and the only question is how they cope without Johnathan Thurston, although they have Cameron Munster, James Maloney and Michael Morgan, so some pretty tasty players all round. They also have coach Mal Meninga.

England will be looking for their first ever World Cup. They have reached the semis every time, but have never gone all the way, so they will be desperate to make this year theirs.

They have another super-coach in Wayne Bennett, but he has thrown up some strange selections, and the British press have certainly fallen out of love with him.

The winner of that opening game will likely top the pool, and it will be Australia.

France and Lebanon make up the numbers, but whoever wins their game will advance. Lebanon have some established NRL players in Robbie Farah, Tim Mannah, Mitchell Moses and Michael Lichaa, but at least France are actually a team, and not just some cobbled together side made up of players unwanted by other nations. Qualifiers: Australia, England, France.

Pool B: New Zealand, Scotland, Tonga, Samoa: Being, as you know, a diehard optimist, I look at my Kiwis and believe Adam Blair will do a good job leading his side. We still have Roger Tuivasa-Sheck at fullback, and Shaun Johnson at halfback.

Where we might struggle is at five-eighth, but the Cowboys' Te Maire Martin was not exactly useless in the finals, and Kodi Nikorima could raise a few eyebrows.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

What we have going for us, is playing at home, and if we go through we will get the chance to play a semi at Mt Smart.

Would you look past Tonga after everything that has happened?

They have Jason Taumalolo, and all the other defectors, which no matter your viewpoint, means they have a pretty credible side, and we are told they are very keen to rub a few Kiwi noses in the dirt after the backlash and criticism some of the boys copped after the decision to swap the Black and White for the Tonga jersey.

They are low in the world rankings, but this side will be a very different kettle of fish.

The Kiwis v Tonga is going to be one hell of a match. The phrase no love lost is going to apply.

Their Pacific neighbours Samoa will offer plenty, but the Kiwis will beat them first up, and the Tongan juggernaut will roll over the top of them too. Scotland are no chance. Qualifiers: Kiwis, Tonga, Samoa.

Pool C: PNG, Ireland, Wales: PNG will be favourites to win their way to the quarter-finals with three pool matches at home. They are no show of going all the way, but I will still enjoy watching the Kumuls. There is something about the way they play that always brings a smile.

They had a good win over Fiji in their mid-year test, and they will be too much for Ireland, who had a tough pool in 2013 (England, Aussie and Fiji), and failed to win a game, to no one's surprise.

This time round they will fancy their chances of doing a little better, which is bad news for Wales, who have struggled to make an impact, and will again. Qualifier: PNG.

Pool D: Fiji, USA, Italy: If you are looking for a dark horse, take a peep at Fiji, semi-finalists in each of the last two cups. Fiji have two things going for them - Suliasi Vunivalu and Akuila Uate.

Given the number of NRL players in the squad, I expect to see them get out of pool play too.

USA surprised many in the 2013 tournament to advance to the quarter-finals before they ran into Australia.

And Italy did surprisingly well too, finishing with one loss, one win and a draw. They can look to some decent NRL talent that includes James Tedesco. Qualifier: Fiji.

Quarter-finals (According to me!): Australia v Samoa, England v PNG, Kiwis v France, Fiji v Tonga.

Semi-finals (According to me!): Kiwis v England, Australia v Tonga.

Final (According to me!): England v Australia (Nah, I can't tip against the Kiwis, or for Aussie, so Kiwis v Tonga).

Women Do Battle

And don't forget that at the same time as the men battle it out, six women's sides will be competing to be crowned world champions in the Women's World Cup.

The women's game has come a long way, and the standard is excellent. The fact that the final will be staged before the men's final, as a double-header, reflects the increasing acceptance of the importance of the event.

Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the Cook Islands, England and Papua New Guinea will go toe to toe, with the Jillaroos and Kiwi Ferns tipped to be the finalists.

Just like in the men's cup, it is hard to see past reigning world champions Australia, but it is great that this year's event features two more sides than last time out.

The game is gaining an increasing foothold and that has to be a good thing.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Australia, England and the Cook Islands make up Pool A, while New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Canada are Pool B.

The first of the games will be played on November 16, with the following two rounds on November 19 and 22. The semis will be held on November 26 with the final on December 2 at Suncorp.

Our Kiwi Ferns assemble mid-November but have been working hard for months to prepare for the tournament.

Coach Tony Benson said: "It has been exciting to see the lift in intensity at training and at the trials since we were able to commit more resources to the team. All the players have embraced the challenge and I am confident they will give the very best of themselves."

The squad, plays all its pool games in Sydney, and all those games are live on SKY.

Squad: Racquel Anderson *, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Sharlene Atai, Maitua Feterika, Teuila Fotu Moala,

Louisa Gago *, Georgia Hale (VC), Honey Hireme, Amber Kani, Bunty Kuruwaka-Crowe, Laura Mariu (C), Lilieta Maumau, Nita Maynard *, Raecene McGregor *, Krystal Murray, Kimiora Nati, Apii Nicholls-Pualau *, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Hilda Peters, Kahurangi Peters, Krystal Rota, Aieshaleigh Smalley *, Atawhai Tupaea, Shontelle Woodman. * Denotes Debutant

Blair Fires Up

Kiwis skipper Adam Blair, has taken aim at those who have questioned his three-year deal with the Vodafone Warriors, which will take him past the age of 34 into the 2020 season.

Blair says he's more than ready to step up. "I look after my body well. I've been lucky throughout my career and I do make a lot of sacrifices throughout the year. If I keep doing those things, then 100 per cent I've got that left in me."

Blair says he wants to help the Warriors progress, having not reached the NRL finals since 2011.

"Coming from here, it has been a part of me since I left, and I wanted to help them get back on the right track."

Looking for travel packages to go see RLWC 2017 games?

Visit: <http://www.rlwc2017.com/house-travel>

THE WORLD'S BEST ARE COMING ARE YOU?

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP 2017

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

FOR TICKETS & ALL YOUR RLWC2017 INFORMATION GO TO RLWC2017.COM
#RLWC2017 | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

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

FAMILY TICKETS FROM \$45

Message From Hon Dr Jonathen Coleman the Minister of Sport and Recreation

THE 2017 Rugby League World Cup is about to hit our shores later this month.

New Zealand is proudly co-hosting the competition with Australia and Papua New Guinea. 14 teams will play 28 games over five weeks, from 27 October 2017 until 2 December 2017. This year's Rugby League World Cup will be the most attended rugby league event in history, with a record 450,000 fans to attend the tournament.

Here in New Zealand we're set to host seven games in venues across Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton and Wellington. This includes all of the Kiwis Pool B matches - with the team set to face-off with Samoa, Tonga and Scotland on their home turf.

Ticket prices for these pool matches have been kept low to keep the games family friendly. Tickets start at \$10 for kids/concessions, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family.

It's estimated that over 6,000 international visitors will be heading to New Zealand for the tournament - with these fans expected to contribute around \$4.8 million to the economy. The tournament also provides the opportunity to showcase New Zealand to the world, with a broadcast audience spanning 110 countries.

The 2017 Rugby League World Cup will be the most competitive World Cup ever - get along and support the Kiwis!

Kia Ora

Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman

Minister for Sport and Recreation



Check out my interviews with the oldest living Kiwi - Ray Cranch, Simon Mannering, Jazz Tevaga, Tui Lolohea and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck on my Facebook page:



Facebook

Check out this Email I Received About The Upcoming League Greats Luncheon

Dear Peter

ILIVE UP north, Awanui Northland and read in your newsletter about the lunch that you are organizing. I was not going to come down from Northland for the game however when I saw the great offer you had for free tickets to the game and a buffet lunch and + drinks and all those legends of Rugby League, I will be coming down and I would like to order 5 tickets today. Thank you for what you do for Rugby League and I have sent this email on behalf of my dad (Valley Taylor) who played rugby league for many years and knows you very well.

Kind Regards

Eilleen Taylor

Get in quick! Only 9 days left to reserve your place and its selling fast because it's the best deal in town!

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: Friday 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.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MIX AND MINGLE WITH LEGENDS OF THE GAME!

Tickets: \$100

Which includes ticket to the Kiwis v Samoa game the next day, plus a buffet meal and drinks package. *Included category A ticket valued at \$52.50.*

\$1000 per table - Gets a former

Kiwi player on availability. Also includes an upgraded category A ticket to Kiwis v Samoa the next day. *Category A tickets are valued at \$52.50*

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



Jerry Seuseu - MC

Sponsors:



NZME.

So... get your table of 10 together and not only will you get an Ex Kiwi on your table but you will also receive upgraded category A tickets to watch the Kiwis take on Samoa the next day!

These are the former **Kiwis who are attending the luncheon...**

Together they have played over **1200 games for the **Kiwis**!**



Also included in this prestigious list are several former coaches.

**Fred Ah Kuoi
Richard Barnett
Richard Blackmore
Peter Brown
Nathan Cayless
Bruce Castle
Shane Cooper
Roy Christian
Murray Eade
Henry Fa'afili
Olsen Filipaina
Clayton Friend
Gordon Gibbons
Ben Henry
Louis Anderson**

**Stacey Jones
Stephan Kearney
Gary Kemble
Wairangi Koopu
Graham Lowe
Don Mann Senior
Duane Mann
Mike McClennan
Brian McClennan
Hugh McGahan
Tawera Nikau
Dane O'Hara
Lyndsay Proctor
Gary Prohm
Richard Bolton**

**Paul Rauhihi
Jerome Ropati
Jerry Seuseu
Ken Stirling
Logan Swann
Joe Vagana
Nigel Vagana
Lesley Vainikolo
Shane Varley
Brent Webb
Graeme West
Dennis Williams
Ray Williams
Jason Lowrie
Francis Leota**



Thomas Leuluai Admits He Was Surprised At Selection For Rugby League World Cup As He Reveals New Kiwis Jersey

VETERAN KIWI international Thomas Leuluai said his inclusion in the World Cup squad came as a shock as he helped unveil the new Kiwis jersey.

After featuring at the Four Nations tournament at the end of last season, Leuluai expected the pool play clash against Scotland – where he suffered a broken jaw midway through the match – would be his 36th and final Test for New Zealand.

But this week he spoke of his joy when coach David Kidwell confirmed he would be part of the 24-man squad despite the selection of UK-based Kiwi players being almost unheard in the current international environment.

"Yeah, I most probably felt like [my Kiwis career over]. Then halfway through the year [Kidwell] gave me a call and I knew I was in the mix there, and I was lucky enough to get the call towards the end of the season," Leuluai said.

"I was quite surprised if I'm honest, I'm very honoured, to go to the World Cup with the Kiwis is always a great honour."

While he played almost exclusively as a half for the Wigan Warriors this year, Leuluai is also vastly experienced at hooker where he has played at both NRL Telstra Premiership and Test level.

With Issac Luke a shock omission based on form, 32-year-old Leuluai shapes as the leading contender to wear the Kiwis' No.9 jersey with youngsters Danny Levi and Kodi Nikorima also in the mix.

"I think [I'll be used] more in the hooker role, obviously I can play both positions, so it's cover for both," Leuluai said.

"But predominantly [Kidwell] said focus on nine. I'm happy with that, I've done it my whole career.

Despite his Wigan side failing to make the play-offs, Leuluai's season stretched deep into September, leaving no issues with match fitness.

"It's the latest I have played for the last few years, so I didn't have to do too much training on my own before Kiwi camp," he said.

"We trained [on Monday] and it was tough, I haven't done too much, but I think I stopped playing four weeks ago so it's not too bad."

The Kiwis will depart for a camp in Ngaruawahia on Tuesday as they build towards their opening match of the World Cup against Samoa on October 28 in Auckland.

Tickets and information from rlwc2017.com.

Australian World Cup Hero

By Barry Ross



HARRY WELLS played in eight World Cup matches, scoring five tries, for Australia in three tournaments. At Stade de Gerland, Lyon on 31 October 1954, he played in Australia's first ever World Cup game. They were beaten by Great Britain 28-13 but Harry scored two of the Kangaroos' three tries. In his eight World Cup games, Harry was on the winning side six times. The very first World Cup was played in France, with this tournament kicking off with France playing New Zealand at Parc des Princes in Paris on 30 October 1954. With the legendary fullback, Puig Aubert captaining the locals, they defeated the Kiwis 22-13 before a crowd 13,240. New Zealand and Australia were at a disadvantage in this first World Cup, as they lacked match fitness because their locals competitions had been finished for around two months. Harry played in two of Australia's three games in 1954 and he loves to tell the story about how he met film stars, Johnny Weissmuller and Boris Karloff in Los Angeles on the way back to Australia. The Australians and New Zealanders played two exhibition games in Los Angeles on the way home. These were played in November 1954 and Weissmuller, who was Tarzan in the movies of those times, was assigned by an American Public Relations company to work in promoting the games. Weissmuller, who died on 20 January 1984 aged 79, won five Olympic Gold Medals for swimming at Paris 1924 and Amsterdam 1928, plus a Bronze Medal for Water Polo at Paris.

Karloff was known throughout the world for playing Frankenstein in the horror movies of those times.

Born at Wollongong, 80 kms south of Sydney, on 8 May 1932, Harry is now a healthy 85 and lives on the mid north coast of NSW. He joined South Sydney for the 1951 season and although the 19 year old only played seven first grade games that season, one of these was the Grand Final in which Souths belted Manly 42-14. The next season he returned to club football on the NSW south Coast with Wollongong but was still selected for the 1952/53 Kangaroo tour of England and France. On this tour he made his Test debut at Leeds, on 4 October 1952 when Great Britain beat Australia 19-6. He was selected to tour New Zealand in 1953, where he played in all three Tests and four other games.

The 1957 World Cup was held in Australia and Harry played in all three Australian games. They defeated

Great Britain 31-6, France 26-9 and New Zealand 25-5, with Harry scoring against the Kiwis and Britain. Australia easily won this first World Cup in the Southern Hemisphere without a final being necessary and so an extra game was arranged between the Aussies and a Rest of the World team. Five New Zealanders played in this match which was at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 29 June 1957. Although he did not score, Harry played a major role in the Australians 20-11 win. The five New Zealanders were Bill Sorensen, Vic Belsham, Jim Riddell, Henry Maxwell and Cliff Johnson.

In 1959 in the three Test series against the touring New Zealanders, Harry began a partnership with the Australian Immortal, Reg Gasnier. The two played in the centres for Australia in all three Tests against New Zealand in 1959, all six Tests with England and France on the 1959 Kangaroo tour and also in each of Australia's three 1960 World Cup games. Many rate this as Australia's best ever centre combination.

The last of Harry's 29 Tests was in the 1960 World Cup against Great Britain at Bradford on 8 October when the Australians lost 10-3.

In a non-Test international at Toulouse on 16 October 1960, after his last World Cup, Harry showed his versatility when he played lock and was one of Australia's best, in their 37-12 win over France. Altogether the big centre played 67 matches for Australia, including his 29 Tests and scored 32 tries. He also played 26 games for NSW, four for NSW Country Firsts and three for City firsts. In 1956 he joined the Western Suburbs Magpies and in six seasons, played 94 first grade games. He badly injured his knee in July 1961 and retired from first class football soon after. He did play in various NSW country centres until 40 years of age. His final two seasons, 1971 and 1972, were with the Port Macquarie club.

Both Harry's father and his grandfather were highly rated Australian boxers. The family name was Wills not Wells, but after a spelling mistake in a newspaper, early in his career, Harry continued to be known as Wells. He went with this and so one of Australia's Greatest 100 players, who were named in 2008, is Harry Wells not Harry Wills.

A keen breeder of birds and pigeons for many years, Harry still continues to do this.

Kiwis World Cup Milestones

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)



THE 14 previous Rugby League World Cups have been contested in various formats – either straight round-robins, tournaments culminating in a final, or home-and-away championships decided over one year or four-year cycles. While New Zealand has triumphed only once, at Australia's expense in the 2008 final at Brisbane, the Kiwis have been involved in many memorable and significant contests. On the eve of World Cup XV, here are 13 of them:

1954: France 22 New Zealand 13 at Parc de Princes, Paris. The French organised, hosted and started favourites to win the inaugural tournament. But it was Kiwis wing Jim Edwards who scored the first try in a World Cup, only four minutes into the opening match. Champion French fullback Puig Aubert then kicked the first field goal (9min) and penalty goal (12min).

1957: New Zealand 29 Great Britain 21 at Sydney Cricket Ground. Both teams scored five tries and Bill Sorensen's seven goals (to three by Lewis Jones) made the difference. The highlight was Kiwis stand-off George Menzies' solo try when he ran the blind side from a scrum, dummied to wing Tom Hadfield and carved through the bewildered British defence.

1970: New Zealand 16 France 15 at The Boulevard, Hull. The seeds of New Zealand's unique 1971 Grand Slam year were sown here as captain Roy Christian, John Whittaker, Mocky Brereton, Doug Gailey, John Greengrass, Gary Smith, Tony Krietich and coach Lory Blanchard took the Kiwis into second equal, only to miss the final on points differentials.

1975: New Zealand 27 France 0 at Addington Show Grounds, Christchurch. On a freezing, sleeting day when more tickets were sold than people attended, the sympathetic Kiwis sent their hot tea urn along to the French dressing room at halftime. Stand-off Bob Jarvis scored two of the home side's five tries and prop Dane Sorensen kicked six goals out of the mud.

1975: Wales 25 New Zealand 24 at Veitch Field, Swansea. Remembered for big Welsh prop Jim Mills stomping on the head of Kiwis try-scorer John Greengrass in the closing minutes. By the time the French referee sorted out the ensuing melee it was fulltime and Wales had won by one point. The incident led to the introduction of the seven (now eight) point try rule.

1985: New Zealand 18 Australia 0 at Carlaw Park, Auckland. World Cup qualifying points were allocated to the third Test of every series through to 1988. After two narrow losses, the Kiwis struck back with an unprecedented whitewash of the Kangaroos. Olsen Filipaina dominated Wally Lewis and Clayton Friend ran through a scrum for one of his two tries.

1986: Papua New Guinea 24 New Zealand 22 at Lloyd Robson Oval, Port Moresby. One of the biggest shocks in World Cup history, it was only the Kumuls' second Test victory. The Kiwis later claimed the Australian referee was intimidated by the crowd but the home side matched the visitors' four tries and Dairi Kovae kicked four goals to Peter Brown's three.

1988: New Zealand 12 Great Britain 10 at Addington Show Grounds, Christchurch. The Lions had escaped with a dodgy home draw against the Kiwis three years earlier, and their return match – on a very heavy field – had become a virtual semi-final. Gary Freeman came off the reserves' bench to score the two tries which propelled the Kiwis into their first final.

1995: New Zealand 25 Tonga 24 at Wilderspool, Warrington. In its World Cup debut, Tonga led 24-12 with seven minutes to go and a capacity crowd roaring it on. The Kiwis responded with tries to Hitro Okesene and Richie Blackmore, two wide-angled conversions by captain Matthew Ridge and a Ridge field goal. At fulltime the crowd stood to applaud both teams.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

(extra time) at McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield. Down 6-20, the Kiwis surged back through tries to Richie Barnett and the Iro brothers to level up at 20-20 in the 78th minute. But Matthew Ridge was astray with a sideline conversion and just missed a field goal. Extra time gave the Kangaroos a chance to regroup and reach the final.

2000: New Zealand 49 England 6 at Reebok Stadium, Bolton. Having swept through pool play, the Kiwis roared to a record margin at England's expense in a one-sided semi-final. Henry Paul kicked eight goals and a field goal and was involved in five of the eight tries. But hopes of a first World Cup dissolved in the last quarter of the final against the Australians.

2008: New Zealand 34 Australia 20 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane. The ultimate triumph for coach Stephen Kearney, captain Nathan Cayless and a team which recovered from a 10-point deficit to handsomely win the final. The Kiwis applied extreme pressure to a Kangaroos side rated by many as the finest of all time, finishing with six tries to four in a pulsating encounter.

2013: New Zealand 20 England 18 at Wembley Stadium, London. Most of the 67,545 fans were already celebrating England's advance to the World Cup final as their team clung to an 18-14 lead into the last minute. But Kiwis scrum-half Shaun Johnson broke their hearts by side-stepping through for a brilliant solo try and then slotting the match-winning conversion.

No doubt there will be more sensational moments and matches during the fifteenth World Cup, which kicks off between Australia and England at Melbourne on October 27. The Kiwis make their entry against Samoa at Mount Smart Stadium a day later and also face Scotland at Christchurch and Tonga at Hamilton in their pool. Brisbane hosts the final on December 2.

ON SUNDAY I went to the ARL volunteers awards function. When I walked into the room I was blown away to see Hayden Rehua in this fantastic RLWC Jersey. Now I've seen a lot of World Cup jerseys but I hadn't seen this one. So first thing Monday morning I put on my detective cap to see if I could find it. I finally tracked it down to Rebel Sport. It must be the best kept secret of the 2017 RLWC. I bought myself one plus a hat. If you're looking to get behind the RLWC then make a trip into rebel sport or check it out online.



Check out the gear here: <http://bit.ly/2gHcyeS> and here <http://bit.ly/2zr76V6>



Legends Of New Zealand Rugby League To Be Honoured At Games During Rugby League World Cup

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

A SPECIAL GROUP of New Zealand Rugby League's greats are to be honoured during the Rugby League World Cup.

Kiwis legends Olsen Filipaina, Kevin Tamati, Tawera Nikau, Brendon Tuuta and Duane Mann, former coach Frank Endacott and tireless servant of the game Sir Peter Leitch will present the match balls for the seven games to be held in New Zealand.

Filipaina is an ideal candidate to present the match ball for the opening match in New Zealand between the Kiwis and Samoa at Mt Smart Stadium on October 28 having represented both nations.

Famous for his blood and thunder clashes with Kangaroos legend Wally Lewis, Filipaina played in 29 tests for the Kiwis between 1977 and 1986 at five-eighth and centre. The Mangere East product played 103 combine matches for Balmain, Eastern Suburbs and North Sydney in the then New South Wales Rugby League.

"The World Cup is going to be a fantastic occasion for rugby league in New Zealand and I'm really excited to be back in the country during the tournament. It's going to be really special to be there as the two international teams I represented face off at Mt Smart Stadium," Filipaina said.

Nikau, a favourite son of nearby Huntly, will present the match ball in Hamilton on November 4 before the Samoa-Tonga match to mark the first rugby league test ever in the Waikato region.

Nikau, an NRL premiership winner with the Melbourne Storm, played 19 tests for the Kiwis between 1989 and 1997.

"That fortnight in Hamilton is going to be historic for rugby league and the Waikato region. The large Pacific Island communities across the upper North Island are going to generate an incredible atmosphere and I can't wait to be there."

On the same day in Christchurch, Endacott will present the match ball ahead of the Kiwis-Scotland match at Christchurch Stadium as test rugby league returns to the city for the first time since 2006.

The proud Cantabrian was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2007 for his services to the sport after a long and distinguished career in rugby league that included coaching the Kiwis in 35 tests including two World Cups.

"It is going to be a great occasion to be there in Christchurch as test rugby league returns to the city for the first time since 2006 and I look forward to the great turnout as the locals get behind the team," Endacott said.

Mann was a classy hooker who racked up over 300 club appearances for Glenora, the New Zealand Warriors and Warrington. He also played 29 tests for the Kiwis and captained Tonga at the 1995 and 2000 World Cups.

Continued on next page...

Fittingly, Mann will present the match ball for the blockbuster match between the Kiwis and Tonga at Hamilton's Waikato Stadium on November 11.

"Being there at what is going to be one of the biggest World Cup clashes ever is going to be incredible for me and my family. I'm confident the game will live up to the hype and be as good a game as the New Zealand-Tonga match I played in during the 1995 Rugby League World Cup," Mann said.

One of the toughest forwards of his – or any – generation, Tamati played 22 tests for the Kiwis between 1979 and 1985. The uncompromising prop began his career at the Petone club and also played for Upper Hutt and Randwick before moving to the United Kingdom to play for Widnes.

Tamati notched 52 matches for Wellington. He will present the match ball at the quarterfinal to be held at Wellington Regional Stadium on Saturday, November 18.

"It will be a moment to treasure to be in the stadium as Wellington - the city where I played most of my career – hosts a World Cup match," Tamati said.

"Hopefully the Kiwis get through their group so all the Wellingtonians can get behind the team."

Tuuta played 16 tests for the Kiwis between 1989 and 1995. The Cantabrian also forged a successful career in England after a two-season spell with Western Suburbs in the New South Wales Rugby League. He was renowned for his fearsome defensive presence that belied his relatively slight stature.

Originally from the Chatham Islands, Tuuta is a member of the Featherstone Rovers Hall of Fame. Now a painter and decorator in Kaiapoi, he will present the match ball at the quarter-final at Christchurch Stadium on November 18.

"It has been a long time since I have been in front of a big crowd so it will be exciting," Tuuta said.

"It will be fantastic to see test match footy back in Christchurch for the proud Canterbury rugby league community to enjoy."

For the semi-final in Auckland on November 25, Chief NZ Ambassador for RLWC2017 Sir Peter Leitch will be recognised for his lifelong service to rugby league as he delivers the match ball.

The full list of match ball presentations for matches in New Zealand:

Match	Date	Venue	Ball deliverer
New Zealand v Samoa	28 October	Mt Smart Stadium	Olsen Filipania
New Zealand v Scotland	4 November	Christchurch Stadium	Frank Endacott ONZM
Samoa v Tonga	4 November	Waikato Stadium	Tawera Nikau
New Zealand v Tonga	11 November	Waikato Stadium	Duane Mann
Quarter final	18 November	Christchurch Stadium	Brendon Tuuta
Quarter final 1	8 November	Wellington Regional Stadium	Kevin Tamati
Semi final	25 November	Mt Smart Stadium	Sir Peter Leitch KNZM QSM

Tournament tickets and information available rlwc2017.com.

**Goodluck to the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns
for their RLWC 2017 preparation!**





By John Coffey

Tonga Tilts The World Cup

Tonga's Konrad Hurrell, Tonga v Scotland 29/10/2013
Photo www.photosport.nz

WHETHER YOU see it as Tonga's Time (to reclaim its heritage players) or Tongan Treachery (at undermining months of New Zealand planning), the eleventh-hour defections of Jason Taumalolo, David Fusitu'a, Sio Siua Taukeiaho and Manu Ma'u have thrown World Cup seedings completely out of kilter. Tonga was ranked eleventh when the draw was made but who would not now include them among the top four or five?

The group most affected, of course, is Pool B, the one comprising New Zealand, Samoa, Scotland and Tonga. A couple of weeks ago the Kiwis were hot favourites to emerge as the leading qualifiers. From there they would have advanced to a quarter-final (possibly against France) at Wellington and on to a semi-final (probably with England) at Auckland. The winner of that semi-final would take on the Kangaroos in the final at Brisbane.

Not that the Kiwis were ever certainties to be unbeaten in their pool, for Samoa and Tonga were already beefed up with NRL players. It took a late try for the Kiwis to beat Samoa 14-12 in the 2014 Four Nations, a tournament they went on to win. Scotland famously held New Zealand to an 18-18 draw at last year's Four Nations and Tonga all but caused one of the biggest upsets in World Cup history when losing 25-24 against the Kiwis in 1995.

Three of the four teams in New Zealand's pool will advance to the knock-out stages, meaning the Kiwis would have to lose all three games to be eliminated so early. However, the draw was clearly designed to give them further home matches beyond the pool stage and to attract larger crowds at the Wellington quarter-final and Auckland semi-final. But what would happen if the Kiwis drop one, or even two, of their games?

The runner-up in Pool B faces a quarter-final in Christchurch, against the winner of the pool involving Fiji, United States and Italy. The Fijians are seeded above the two qualifiers and will benefit from having world class players such as Jarryd Hayne and Suliasi Vunivalu. At least the Kiwis would still have home advantage and South Island supporters would receive a bonus. But the Kiwis would be on course for a Brisbane semi-final against the Kangaroos.

The Kiwis would definitely not want to stumble twice in their pool. The third place-getter in Pool B faces a quarter-final showdown against the Kangaroos in Darwin. Suffice to say, if the Kiwis (or anyone else) have already lost twice in pool play and only limped through in third position their chances of upsetting the Kangaroos after an exhausting trip to the Northern Territory would be regarded as somewhat less than nil.

We are already aware the November 11 pool match between New Zealand and Tonga at Hamilton has become a greater drawcard, with Taumalolo, Fusitu'a, Taukeiaho and Ma'u pitted against their former Kiwis team-mates. But so has the Christchurch quarter-final on November 18. It was always likely that Fiji would be one of the teams; now they could be playing the Kiwis or one of their fierce Pacific rivals Tonga or Samoa.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

The pools are:

Pool A (three to qualify): Australia, England, France, Lebanon.

Pool B (three to qualify): New Zealand, Samoa, Scotland, Tonga.

Pool C (one to qualify): Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Wales.

Pool D (one to qualify): Fiji, Italy, United States.



The quarter-finals are:

Quarter-final 1 (at Darwin, November 17): winner of Pool A v third placing in Pool B.

Quarter-final 2 (at Christchurch, November 18): winner of Pool D v runner-up in Pool B.

Quarter-final 3 (at Wellington, November 18): winner of Pool B v third placing in Pool A.

Quarter-final 4 (at Melbourne, November 19): runner-up in Pool A v winner of Pool C.

The semi-finals are:

Semi-final 1 (at Brisbane, November 24): between winners of quarter-finals 1 and 2.

Semi-final 2 (at Auckland, November 25):) between winners of quarter-finals 3 and 4.

The final is at Brisbane on December 2, along with the final of the Women's World Cup.

Looking for travel packages to go see *RLWC 2017* games?

Visit: <http://www.rlwc2017.com/house-travel>

RUGBY LEAGUE
WORLD CUP
2017

THE WORLD'S BEST
ARE HERE IN
9 DAYS

AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND v SAMOA
FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER

KIDS/STUDENTS
TICKETS FROM **\$10**

ADULT
TICKETS FROM **\$20**

FAMILY
TICKETS FROM **\$45**

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT *RLWC2017.COM*

Clash Of The Codes

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)



NEW ZEALAND Football (Soccer) chief executive Andy Martin is looking for the support of every citizen to help his national team rebuff Peru in next month's home and away World Cup qualifying matches.

"We need all of New Zealand behind the All Whites as they look to create history and qualify for the World Cup," Martin said. He and other soccer folk were thrilled that the first leg will be at Wellington on Saturday, November 11, with a 4.15pm kick off.

Normally I would take a passing interest on how our 113th ranked All Whites perform against the 12th ranked Peruvians. Not that they can "create history" because New Zealand played in the 1982 and 2010 finals -- whereas I believe Peru has not been there since 1982.

But Martin lost me as soon as he announced the date, then the time. You see, the Kiwis and Tonga are colliding in their blockbusting Rugby League World Cup match at Hamilton, also on November 11, and at 5pm -- starting about halftime in the soccer.

Even self-absorbed folk in other codes must have noticed the furore when Jason Taumalolo, arguably the world's most damaging rugby league forward, redirected a bunch of players about to be named in the Kiwis squad to belatedly join him in the Tongan team.

The clash between Kidwell's Kiwis and Taumalolo's Tongans immediately became the most appealing of all the World Cup pool fixtures -- and a boost for the city of Hamilton, for the tournament as a whole, and for Sky Sport television ratings.

Even if Martin and his mates were living in their own world, surely someone at Sky might have checked what else was happening on that date and at that time. Not that anyone else in the mainstream media twigged that there was a clash of codes either.

Why could the soccer not kick off at 2.30pm to make it possible for general sports fans throughout the country to watch both events? That way Martin would at least have had "all of New Zealand" available to back the All Whites.

Sorry Andy, but I will be watching the Kiwis against Tonga at 5pm, Samoa against Scotland from Cairns at 7pm and Australia against Lebanon from Sydney at 10pm. Sometime in between games I'll check the soccer result from Wellington. Good luck.

Running 4 Waikato Hospice

SAMUEL WALSH is running a marathon to raise funds for Waikato Hospice.

Check out his youtube video and support him and Waikato Hospice at:

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJTpAjNdgPE>

Give a little:

<https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/running4waikatohospice>





By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Still Hope For Huddleston

JUBILANT CHAMPS: The Bridge Pa women's rugby league team which beat Tamatea 24-6 in the Hawke's Bay grand final.

THERE MUST be some talent in the Kiwi Ferns team if Hawke's Bay utility Chanel Huddleston can't make the final cut for the World Cup.

That was the talk in the Hawke's Bay rugby league fraternity after the 24-strong Kiwi Ferns squad was announced on Friday. Huddleston, 33, who played for the Kiwi Ferns as a substitute in their 12-8 win against the Aussies in November 2014 and at the Auckland Nines in 2015, was back to her best form this year.

The Henry Hill school teacher in Napier was a key architect in the Central Vipers third placing at the June national women's tournament in Auckland and many pundits believed her versatility would have given her the nod. However Huddleston could still get the call for the November-December tournament if there are injuries when the Kiwi Ferns take on the New Zealand Maori team in Hamilton on November 4 in their sole hit out before the World Cup.

Huddleston must be considered a certainty for the New Zealand Maori team and this game, which will be played as a curtainraiser to the Samoa-Tonga men's World Cup clash, will be the perfect opportunity for Huddleston to remind Kiwi Ferns coach Tony Benson what she can deliver for the side should there be any late withdrawals.

A former Hawke's Bay Tuis women's NPC rugby team player-coach, Huddleston, is no stranger to major international events. Earlier in her career she played for the Aotearoa Maori Sevens team at three Hong Kong Sevens tournaments and also in Twickenham.

Huddleston captained the Bridge Pa women's team which in their first season won the recent Hawke's Bay grand final with a 24-6 win against Tamatea at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings. The team was coached by former Hawke's Bay Unicorns stand-off Alan Mason and included two other Vipers Te Aroha Papanui-Hunt and Jaimee Robin as well as former New Zealand touch rep Candis Timms.

Samantha-Lee Ware was one of several first-time league players in the side. She was thrilled to play alongside the likes of Huddleston and co.

"They were all amazing players who helped pass their knowledge to us newbies to get us through this season."

"We didn't have a clean sweep. We lost to Tamatea in the first round when they came out hungry and annihilated us and we also lost to Dannevirke by two points but when it came down to the crunch we performed."

Several of the Bridge Pa players were members of the MAC team which won the title last year but decided to play under the Bridge Pa name this season. Mason coached the MAC team last year.

His father, Waka Leonard, coached the Maraenui team which beat Bridge Pa 30-12 in the reserve grade grand final.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

The biggest sporting attraction in Hawke's Bay at the weekend was the national long distance waka ama championships which attracted 800 paddlers from throughout the country. Hawke's Bay Olympian Anne Cairns was the best of the locals with two gold medals – one from the open women's ruddered singles 16km race and the other was won with the Haeata Ocean Sports Club's open women's six strong crew which won their 28km race by five minutes from a Gisborne-based crew.

Cairns, who represented Samoa in kayaking at the Rio Olympics, flew in from Japan two days before the nationals after paddling for the New Zealand open women's whitewater rafting crew which finished second to Japan at their world championships.



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](#) | [i](#)

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

FAMILY TICKETS
FROM
\$45



GT'S - RAROTONGA FISHING LODGE

"FISH, RELAX, INDULGE"

If you're a keen fisherman then check this place out! Not a fisherman and just want to chill out in Rarotonga then check it out! It's run by mates of mine.



Fishing & Accommodation Package (4 to 6 people only)

- * 7 Nights accommodation
- * 1 Free half day charter onboard Blue Water Tours
- * Free courtesy vehicle
- * Free return airport transfers
- * Fresh tropical breakfast every morning
- * Free use of golf clubs
- * Free use of snorkelling gear
- * Free GT'S Lodge shirt for each guest

\$995.00 per person

Contact us at:
www.rarotongafishinglodge.com
hookem@rarotongafishinglodge.com

Canada Ravens Women's Squad Named for World Cup

AFTER INITIALLY putting together an extended squad of 32, the Canada Ravens have now announced their final squad of 24 to travel to Australia for the Rugby League World Cup in November.

Choosing the final squad was a difficult process and was only made more challenging after the Ravens produced two strong performances against Australian side, the Corrimal Cougars, last weekend.

Head Coach, Mike Castle, admitted the decision was an arduous one, but can now look forward to the Ravens first World Cup match on November 16 against New Zealand.

"I get the feeling that this is the start of something very special!"

"The squad of 32 all made our job extremely difficult in selecting this team which is testament to their enthusiasm, and performances over the entire weekend against the Corrimal Cougars," Castle said.

The Ravens will travel to Australia prior to the World Cup to acclimatise and prepare, with a triam match against the Queensland NGA Hau e Wha Maori side on November 10 in Southport, Queensland.

Congratulations from Canada Rugby League to all the Ravens that will be participating in the World

Cup, it is an enormous step for Rugby League in Canada!

The Canada Ravens inaugural Rugby League World Cup squad will consist of:

Maira Acevedo	Wealtha Jade Menin
Gillian Boag	Naglis
Nina Bui	Fedelia Omoghan
Andrea Burk	Megan Pakulis
Christina Burnham	Irene Patrinos
Mackenzie Fane	Stevi Schnoor
Kathleen Grudzinski	Natasha Smith
Janai Haupapa	Elizabeth Steele
Michelle Helmeczi	Natalie Tam
Natalie King	Tiera Thomas-Reynolds
Kelcey Leavitt	Barbara Waddell
Mandy Marchak	Petra Woods
Sabrina McDaid	



SKY SPORT Pop-up 3 (Channel 57) will be running a Rugby League World Cup channel exclusively playing matches from the 2008 Rugby League World Cup and re-runs of No Regrets. Below is the play schedule for No Regrets:

Monday - 23/10/2017 - 2.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Monday - 23/10/2017 - 11.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Tuesday - 24/10/2017 - 2.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Wednesday - 25/10/2017 - 12.00am - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Wednesday - 25/10/2017 - 11.40pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Thursday - 26/10/2017 - 4.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Thursday - 26/10/2017 - 11.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Friday - 27/10/2017 - 2.00pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Friday - 27/10/2017 - 9.30pm - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)
Saturday - 28/10/2017 - 5.00am - SKY Sport Pop-up 3 (Channel 57)

Watch the New Zealand take on Samoa at a Waka competition Wednesday 25 October at Karanga Plaza, Wynyard Quarter from 12 - 4pm



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](#) | [i](#)

*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

Lebanon Announce RLWC2017 Squad

THE LEBANESE Rugby League Federation have announced their squad for the upcoming Rugby League World Cup, with an exciting mix of players selected by Head Coach Brad Fittler for the campaign.

The Cedars will come up against Australia, England and France in their pool matches, with experienced South Sydney Rabbitohs hooker Robbie Farah set to captain the squad.

Parramatta Eels playmaker Mitchell Moses has been named vice-captain for the Cedars' first Rugby League World Cup appearance since 2000.

Former Eels, Raiders and Broncos fullback Reece Robinson will make his return to Rugby League after spending the last two seasons with the NSW Waratahs in Super Rugby.

Other players with NRL experience include Parramatta skipper Tim Mannah, Bulldogs hooker Michael Lichaa, Wests Tigers prop Alex Twal, Ray Moujalli and Travis Robinson – while the remainder of the squad is made-up of a host of young Lebanese talent who will get to showcase their skills on the world stage.

The local Lebanese Rugby League competition will also be represented with Raymond Sabat from Lycans FC selected in the final squad, while four other players from that competition will travel with the team throughout the tournament with an aim to take their experiences back to Lebanon.

Fittler said he was pleased with how the squad has come together, with preparation well underway ahead of Lebanon's first match of the tournament against France in Canberra on October 29.

"It was tough selecting a final squad for the Rugby League World Cup," Fittler said. "I think one of the hardest but most gratifying things is watching how disappointed some players were for not making it.

"If the love of this game is any guide to how we will play, then we will be very competitive in this tournament.

"These players have a great passion for the game of Rugby League and it's a quality squad that we have assembled.

"Most the team are either playing first grade, NSW Cup or Ron Massey Cup, so they have a good level of fitness and that's going to be important that they are able to last and concentrate for the whole tournament.

"Looking at the squad, we have two front rowers who are regular NRL players so that will be a huge benefit for us.

"We just have to get it right in these tough pool matches, we won't get any second chances and that has been the message the team.

"The fact is that only half a dozen of our squad are full-time professionals, so we need to make every opportunity count."

Lebanon will play Niue this Saturday, October 14 at Leichhardt Oval in a warm-up match for the RLWC.

The Cedars recognise the continued support of their corporate partners, with Chalouhi the major sponsor of the Lebanese team for the RLWC 2017.

Other partners of the Cedars' World Cup campaign include Holdmark, Dental on Evaline, Victor, Zahli, PTC, Jasara Constructions and Speedway Petroleum.

Lebanon Cedars Memberships, Team Gear and Jerseys are available to purchase now from the Official Website: <http://lebanonrl.com/products/>

Lebanon Cedars' RLWC 2017 squad:

Robbie Farah
Mitchell Moses
Danny Barakat
Jamie Clark
Adam Doueihy
James Elias
Ahmad Ellaz
Nick Kassis
Andrew Kazzi
Anthony Layoun
Michael Lichaa
Mitchell Mamary
Bilal Maarbani
Abbas Miski
Tim Mannah
Ray Moujalli
Reece Robinson
Travis Robinson
Chris Saab

Raymond Sabat
Jaleel Seve-Derbas
Elias Sukkar
Alex Twal
Jason Wehbe



Seven Newcomers Among Familiar Bravehearts

SCOTLAND HAVE named seven uncapped players in their World Cup squad including brothers Kane and Andrew Bentley of Toulouse Olympique.

They are joined by a clutch of Super League stars including Warrington three-quarter Matthew Russell, Wigan winger Lewis Tierney, St Helens prop Luke Douglas, and Scotland's most-capped player, Danny Brough of Huddersfield. They are among 14 players who retain their places from last year's successful Four Nations squad.

With injuries ruling out NRL Grand Finalists Lachlan Coote, coach Steve McCormack has turned to a clutch of up and coming talents from the NRL and stalwarts of the Scotland scene.

Forward James Bell of NZ Warriors, Sydney Roosters' Jarred Anderson, and Penrith Panthers' centre or wing Lachlan Stein are included for the first time, as are Bradford Bulls' youngster Brandan Wilkinson and Shane Toal - who scored 28 tries for Barrow in their promotion campaign - both of whom came through the Scotland Under-19 pathway.

"It's just reward for those players," said McCormack. "Brandan has played nearly every week in the Championship for Bradford in difficult circumstances this year and has developed massively. And Shane has been a stand-out in League One and topped it all by scoring the try that got Barrow promoted last week. They are proof that there is talent coming through our pathway."

It will be the youngest squad Scotland have sent to a World Cup, with three 20-year-olds, 21-year-olds Stein and Toal, and three more players aged 23 or under.

"It is a young squad but that's exciting, too," admitted McCormack. "When we took our youngest ever team to play in France two years ago, I said some of them would be on the plane to Australia and a lot of them will be on Sunday. Alex Walker was one of Catalans' best players in their big games at the end of the season."

Although only six players are into double figures in appearances, McCormack has retained the core of the Scotland side that reached the 2013 World Cup quarter-finals, won the 2014 European Championships and held New Zealand to a draw in the Four Nations last autumn.

Among them are Ben Kavanagh and Danny Addy from promoted Hull KR, London Broncos' centre Ben Hellewell and experienced Batley full-back David Scott, who started playing league at Easterhouse Panthers.

"We've got a big group of players - the likes of Brough, Douglas, Addy, Matty Russell, Kav - who I know well and trust," says McCormack. "They have always been there for Scotland and given it their all. I know they will do that again and their experience is going to be vital to help the young lads. We're under no illusions how tough it's going to be, but I also know it's going to be fantastic."

Scotland are also without centre Joe Wardle, who is remaining in the UK for family reasons after joining Castleford from NRL club Newcastle Knights, and Adam Walker, who is serving a drugs ban.

The Bravehearts fly to Brisbane on Sunday, play New South Wales Country on 20 October before heading to Cairns for their opening Pool B game against star-studded Tonga on 29 October.

For more details and Scotland merchandise, visit Scotlandrfl.com

Scotland RLWC2017 squad:

Alex Walker	Johnny Walker
Andrew Bentley	Kane Bentley
Ben Hellewell	Kieran Moran
Ben Kavanagh	Lachlan Stein
Brandan Wilkinson	Lewis Tierney
Callum Phillips	Luke Douglas
Dale Ferguson	Matthew Russell
Danny Addy	Oscar Thomas
Danny Brough	Ryan Brierley
David Scott	Sam Brooks
Frankie Mariano	Shane Toal
James Bell	
Jarred Anderson	



Attention Kiwis and Samoa Fans!

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



RUGBY LEAGUE
WORLD CUP
2017

Get your tickets now at:
www.rlwc2017.com

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

POOL D

SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER	FIJ V USA	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM
SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER	ITA V USA	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM
SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER	FIJ V WAL	TOWNSVILLE TOWNSVILLE STADIUM
FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER	FIJ V ITA	CANBERRA CANBERRA STADIUM

QUARTER FINAL 1

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER	? V ?	DARWIN DARWIN STADIUM
--------------------	-------	-----------------------

QUARTER FINAL 2

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER	? V ?	CHRISTCHURCH CHRISTCHURCH STADIUM
----------------------	-------	-----------------------------------

SEMI FINAL 1

FRIDAY 24 NOVEMBER	? V ?	BRISBANE BRISBANE STADIUM
--------------------	-------	---------------------------

FINAL

SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER	? V ?	BRISBANE BRISBANE STADIUM
---------------------	-------	---------------------------

SEMI FINAL 2

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER	? V ?	AUCKLAND MT SMART STADIUM
----------------------	-------	---------------------------

QUARTER FINAL 3

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER	? V ?	WELLINGTON REGIONAL STADIUM
----------------------	-------	-----------------------------

QUARTER FINAL 4

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER	? V ?	MELBOURNE RECTANGULAR STADIUM
--------------------	-------	-------------------------------



Southern Zone Under 19S Tournament Christchurch October 13-15

By Phil Campbell

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS from Tasman, West Coast, Canterbury and Southland participated in this annual Tournament held in Christchurch.

West Coast and Canterbury both had comfortable wins in the end against Southland and Otago on the Saturday, but not before both teams were tested in the early exchanges.

Coast eventually winning 50-6 against Tasman after being up 14-6 at halftime, and then wearing down Southland 42-10 after being up 18-6 at halftime

Canterbury beat Tasman 48-14, but were restricted to twelve points in the second half, and then the Cantabs defeated Southland 46-12 after being held to 12 all at one stage in the first half.

On the Sunday morning Southland edged Tasman 32-22 in the decider for 3rd and 4th spot.

The battle for 1st and 2nd spots was a beauty. Two sizeable forwards didn't lack in the early physical exchanges. Despite an even opening stanza, Canterbury looked to have the upper hand when getting out to a handy 10 nil lead.

The Coasters weren't about to go away though and tries to winger Ben Whitmore from a flowing back-line movement and a darting run close to the line by classy half Brad Campbell.


The scores were even at halftime 10all. Canterbury led by NZ 18yrs Prop and new warriors signing Seth Tauimati punched ahead straight after the break to lead 14-10, but once again the coasters wouldn't give in and displayed a resilient attitude. Tough Second rower Cameron Graham scored after a set play close to the line and Brad Campbell put the coasters further ahead with a clever cross field kick for winger

Ethan Campbell, Going into the final 20mins and the Coasters were up 20-14. Canterbury stormed back with a well put together try that went seventy metres to narrow the score to 20-18

But the Coasters held on with outstanding on the line defence and repelled wave after wave of attacks from Canterbury. In an enthralling game of league, between two evenly matched teams, it was the Coasters who held on and were jubilant at the final whistle, winning their first age group tournament in recent memory

Campbells general play, in particular his kicking game were instrumental in the win and Despite being amongst one of the the smallest players on the field his defence inspired his team with his ability to knock over the big Canterbury forwards. The Coasters were also well served by forwards, George Watson, Joe Lunn, Cameron Graham and Riley Gibbens who muscled up and took the game to their more fancied opponents and worked well as a unit going forward on attack. Grahams effort was very brave, given he carried a shoulder injury for most of the game. Iraia De Goldie, Corbin McMillan and Jeremy Green were useful contributors. Finn Stanbridge Hammond, Mason Hunt and Fullback Navare Jacobs were also impressive in a courageous display by a West Coast team that defied most pre match predictions.

Campbell was awarded the MVP for the overall Most Valuable player of the Tournament.



East Coast Bays, Thomas Heard.

Auckland Rugby League Clubs Give Thanks To Loyal Volunteers

*By Talei Anderson
Auckland Rugby League*

THE AUCKLAND Rugby League (ARL) held their annual Volunteer's Recognition Awards at the Mount Richmond Hotel on Sunday October 15, to recognise the devoted volunteers who willingly and continuously give their time to support the sport we all love, rugby league.

Auckland Rugby League life members Richard Bolton, Taffy Tewheoro, Evelyn Brooker and official kuia Cathy Friend QSM were in attendance. Sir Peter Leitch QSM – who inspired the conception of the volunteer awards five years ago – was also present to commend all those who continue to give to our great game.

Rugby league clubs from across Auckland each nominated a loyal volunteer to acknowledge their hard work and efforts towards their club.

Host and special projects manager Selwyn Pearson said the event is always incredibly special.

"The recipients are selected by their own clubs which is very significant because they are being chosen by their peers as their clubs stand out and special voluntary person."

"A special mention to ARL competitions manager Pat Carthy who after speaking with Sir Peter Leitch about how valued our volunteers are, thought it appropriate to give them the recognition they deserve."

Award recipients were each presented with a certificate, an Auckland Rugby League history book and a custom-made polo shirt. ARL board member Shane Price also gifted a car-cleaning package to each of the nominees.

Having been with the club for over 40 years, Nedaleen Taylor and Jim (Jimmy) Doolan were jointly awarded Otarā's Volunteer of the Year award.

Both have played a major role in highlighting disabled rugby league in Auckland. Jimmy recently represented NZ playing for the Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand (PDRLNZ) side, and together they organised the Otarā Scorpions disabled rugby league team – the only disabled rugby league team at club level – which competed in the Masters competition this season.

Manurewa awarded their Volunteer of the Year award to Craig Rutter for his impeccable work ethic.

Manurewa chairman Darrell Woodhouse said Craig goes above and beyond for the club and is a Marlin at heart.

"Craig has been a key part of the financial structure of our club," he said.

"He looks after the accounts and helps with setting up registrations on LeagueNet."

Continued on next page...

“He can go from strapping our senior teams, to ground announcing, running the gear shop and packing down the field on any given game day.

“He also volunteers outside of the club assisting the ARL and NZRL with a number of events,” he added.

Meanwhile in east Auckland, Denie and Maria Allen were named Volunteers of the Year for the Howick Hornets Rugby League Club.

As parents of three mini mod Hornets, the pair have been actively involved with the club since 2014. Denie and Maria juggle a number of roles at the club from player and manager of the Masters team to club treasurer. They also coach and help with maintenance of the club.

Shane Lipsham was awarded top honors for his invaluable contribution to the Northcote Tigers who were named ARL's Club of the Year this season, while Emma Tobia of the Waitemata Seagulls was commended for the number of hats she has worn in support of the club this year.

“It is always inspiring to see our volunteers come together and to be acknowledged for all their hard work,” said Pearson.

“Our sport just wouldn't function without these dedicated group of people. The support they continue to give to their clubs, the children and the sport is just wonderful.”

Club Nominated Volunteer of the Year Recipients: Bay Roskill – Una Sili, East Coast Bays – Thomas Heard, Ellerslie – Don Marginson, Glenora – Phil Moore, Hibiscus Coast – Stuart Beauvais, Howick – Denie and Maria Allen, Mangere East – Lui Tia, Manurewa – Craig Rutter,

Marist – Wayne and Annie Johnson/ the Laiman family, Mt Albert – Bevan Thomas, Mount Wellington – Brendon Toopi, New Lynn – Bob O'Brien, Northcote – Shayne Lipsham, Otara – Nedaleen Taylor and Jim Doolan, Pakuranga – Hillary Skelton, Papakura – Phil Pauro, Papatoetoe – Sally Ponting, Pukekohe – Eva Tautari, Richmond – Kyla Kaiser-Day, Tuakau – Hera Ruka, Waiuku – Hayden Rehua, Waitemata – Emma Tobia.



Ellerslie, Don Margison.



Glenora, Phil Moore.



Hibiscus Coast, Stuart Beauvais.



Howick Denie and Maria.



Mangere East Lui Tia.



Manurewa Craig Rutter.



Marist, The Laiman Family..



Mt Albert, Bevan Thomas.



Mt Wellington, Brendon Toopi.



New Lynn, Bob O'Brien.



Northcote, Shayne Lipsham.



Otara Nedaleen Taylor and Jimmy Doolan.



Papatoetoe, Sally Ponting.



Sir Peter Leitch with Waiuku Nominee Hayden Rehua.



Tuakau, Hera Ruka.



Waitemata, Emma Tobia.



Waiuku, Hayden Rehua.



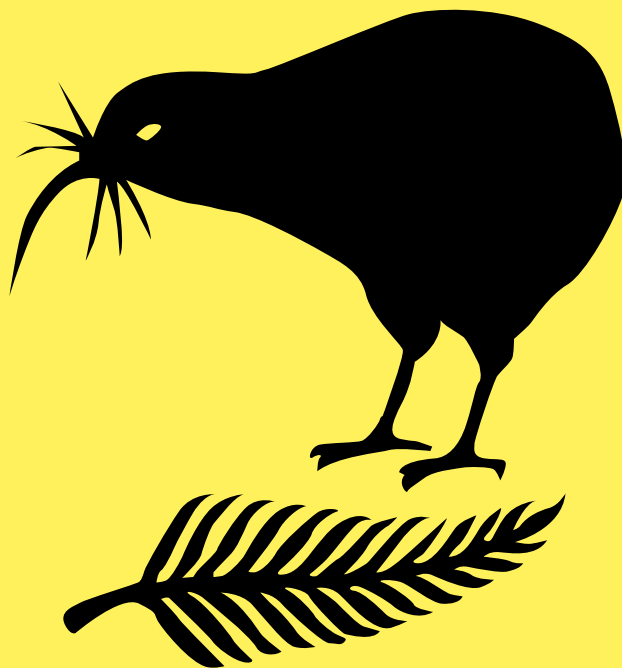
Goodluck to the All Blacks facing Australia this Saturday



**The Kiwis are in camp
now so...**

**Get Behind
the Kiwis!**

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



**NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE™**

Reader Mail



Hi Sir Peter,

THANK YOU an CCC for the jersey an hat I much appreciate it. Here's a pic of my niece Jorja wearing the gear as im a bit shy lol

Cheers Aaron Tallott



Hi Sir Peter

IBIG THANK you for the Warriors cap & jersey prize from the recent Canterbury competition in your newsletter. It was a great surprise and really made my day. Thought I'd flick you a pic of me in the gear.

Cheers

Glenda Berry

Hawera



Dear Sir Peter

THANKS SO much for the warriors shirt and hat bloody legend!!!!

go the boys!! Warrior nation for life!!!

I've been riding the roller coaster since 95 and will never get off!!!

THANK YOU SIR PETER AND THE MIGHTY WARRIORS

Paul Fallon



Dear Sir Peter Leitch,

THANK YOU very much for my Warriors Home Jersey and Training Cap. I am grateful I entered the Canterbury competition.

Keep up the great work. Look forward to reading your news letter and column in the Manukau Courier.

Yours sincerely,

Maile Pesamino

HERE'S A pic of me in the warriors gears - feeling super stoked to have won in the Canterbury Comp!

Thanks heaps!

Raffaele Colucci, 6yrs, Gisborne



Hi Peter

THOUGH I'D send some pics of my 6 month old son Kodi. These were when he was 3 months and as you can see I have been teaching him from week one who the best team to support from the best sport is. We still keep the faith.

Have Fun Sarah



MURRAY EDMONDS is a real Vodafone Warriors fan. That's the biggest Warriors tattoo on a person I have ever seen - Sir Peter Leitch

If you wish to **subscribe** to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTING BRANDS!

Without the help of these brands the Sir Peter Leitch Club and Newsletter wouldn't be as fantastic as it is. If you do get the opportunity please support them whenever you can.



The Newsletter Team

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.

Sir Peter Leitch - Editor
David Kemeys - Editor at Large
Hayden Woodhead - Graphic Designer

John Deaker - Correspondent
John Coffey - Southern Correspondent
Barry Ross - Australian Correspondent
Ben Francis - Northern Correspondent
John Holloway - Correspondent
Miles Davis - Correspondent
Shane Hurndell - Correspondent