

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

# Newsletter #200

**Ho ho  
ho.....  
Merry  
Christmas**





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# A Pretty Fair Old Effort

By David Kemeys

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



**B**LOODY HELL. When Pete asked however long ago it was for a bit of a hand with a newsletter I did not imagine we would hit 30 issues, let alone over 300, before he got bored and moved on.

Being wrong is not something I am unaccustomed to, so here we are at a milestone.

The Butch is not an easy man to say no to, but had I known the newsletter would take on the kind of momentum it has, I'd have told him to stick it where the sun don't shine - but only from a distance.

Sadly in the years we have been doing this there have been way too few highlights, and this year was a doozy, even by the standards of the Vodafone Warriors.

So it would be remiss not to publish my What I Want From Santa list.

1. The old Issac Luke please. The one you delivered a few years back was faulty.
2. A prop who can go forward and actually break the line would be nice.
3. A stand-off to play outside Shaun Johnson, if only to stop the poor bugger having to be to blame every week.
4. A centre, two if you have them.
5. A new Manu Vatuvei, the old one was busted and I had to throw it out.
6. A defensive coach.
7. An offensive coach.
8. A bomb to put under Radio Sport so I don't have to listen to them bag my Warriors endlessly.
9. A reason to hope - I'll take anything, doesn't have to be flash.
10. Some new gags to insert in the rubbish I serve up every week in Pete's newsletter.



Is that too much to hope for? I don't think so, but I also know what I'll actually get, socks and scorched almonds.

Maybe we do have just that glimmer of hope.

Ata Hingano had a great Rugby League World Cup, Blake Green, Gerard Beale, Peta Hiku - in truth, not stellar, but probably more reliable than the lot we have now.

In good old Warriors fashion we have already lost Beale for a good chunk of the year after the injury he sustained in the World Cup. If it weren't for bad luck we would have none at all.

Tohu Harris will add a bit of steel to the back row, but poor Adam Blair might have a job on his hands winning any fans after his World Cup, and especially the things he had to say. He is not much of a go forward merchant either, but James Gavet could do even more than he has already.

I regret to say it but Sam Lisone and Albert Vete don't inspire a lot of confidence, and Agnatius Paasi and former Titan Leivaha Pulu don't either.

That said, I am wrong so often I will be delighted to be so again, and see any of them have great years.

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Green's signing too is a bit of a curly one because he is 31 and must surely be there to pass on a few things to Hingano, who has not been shy – or more particularly his manager hasn't – about discomfort at Green being brought in.

I said last week that Brian Smith coming in as general manager of football was smart, and we do have a number of players who have that star quality, or at least reliability – stand up Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Simon Mannering.

The only question anyone asks: Will we make the eight? We should be harder to beat, but no, sorry. I just can't see it.

### **Stating The Bleeding Obvious**

Interesting story online this week that rugby and league both face a threat over player eligibility.

This all comes about after the defections to Tonga.

An Auckland University wallah named Damon Salesa, and given that I left school by invitation, so have zero right to doubt him, says rugby could easily lose Pacific support if all the old duffers – of which there are more than enough – take a different eligibility stance to league.

Salesa was on radiko at the weekend saying both codes had to look at eligibility.

“What we have seen [is going to pose a real threat.”

You don't have to be a genius to know that a lot of players must be looking at what happened and wondering why they haven't done it yet too.

Maybe the answer is simple of course – money.

We are already hearing Charles Piutau wants to play for Tonga at the next Rugby World Cup. I for one would cheer him on, particularly after the shafting he took in rugby circles.

He should get in the ear of Malakai Fekitoa and Vaea Fifita.

Rugby, and to a lesser degree league, both seem to have worked on the belief New Zealand would always be the team of choice.

Not sure that is true now.

It also gets right up my nose how rugby treats the Pacific. It's bloody shameful. We are happy to take their players, but can't be bothered to play there and do next to nothing for the game.

### **How Are We Still No 2?**

If you wanted any more evidence after the debacle of the Rugby League World Cup, that the international game is a bit of a joke, here it is.

The Kiwis are second in the world rankings.

I am almost tempted to stop writing, given you have probably fallen off your chair laughing.

Yes, we have remained second in the international rankings.

Beaten by Tonga, beaten by Fiji, knocked out in the quarter-finals but still, god alone knows how, ranked No 2.

Tonga are up to fourth, which is good, but still questionable, given they did for the Kiwis.

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Australia are top after beating England 6-0 in the final, and England are third.

Fiji are in at five.

The problem with the rankings is that they make it easier for the big guns to put off including Tonga and Fiji, and stick to the same old thing.

Test rankings: Australia, New Zealand, England, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, Scotland, France, Lebanon, Papua New Guinea.

### **Contract For Havili**

Former Vodafone Warrior Siliva Havili, who was great for Tonga at the World Cup, has been snapped up by Canberra.

Now I am not going to claim he is anywhere near as good as the injured Englishman he is replacing in Josh Hodgson, but it gladdens the old heart to see such a good effort rewarded.

It's only a one-year deal, but it's a deal all the same.

For those with long memories he made regular appearances for us in 2014 and 15, and was good enough to get the Kiwis call-up, even it was for only one test.

He went to the Dragons when Issac Luke arrived but never made first grade.

### **JTS Joins RTS**

Brotherly love will reign supreme with Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck joining his brother Roger at the Warriors for 2018.

Before you get too excited, Johnny is not on a player contract, but in a fan engagement role.

Our skipper's younger brother did play under-20s star at the Roosters, but has been hired for his connections, given he already has a reputation and following because of his video skits, and can boast 130,000-odd Facebook followers and 80,000 Instagram fans.

Even Pete would be impressed.

He is actually available to play InTrust footy, and is a decent outside back, having scored 29 tries in two seasons in the NYC at the Sydney outfit.

### **Go Girls!**

We have expressed interest in having a team in the NRL's new elite women's premiership.

NRL chief executive Todd Greenberg revealed plans for a competition in 2018 of up to six teams. It would run during the finals series of the men's premiership.

It's a brilliant idea because with only six teams we could make the eight at last.

The NRL is accepting bids for licenses, and our CEO Cameron George says he has had talks, and believes it presents a big opportunity for us.

"Participating would be fantastic for the Vodafone Warriors, our fans, our commercial partners and most importantly be great for league in New Zealand. If we can help accelerate the growth of league in New Zealand then we'd love to play our part."

### **Merry Christmas One And All**

So for 200 issues you have soldiered through endless bad jokes, more whinging and whining than anyone should have to cope with, and apart from the odd e-mail calling me unpleasant things, but mostly from tossers who support Melbourne anyway, remained true to the cause.

You deserve a merry Christmas, and thanks for reading.

## **THIS IS OUR LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2017!**

**We'll be back January 25th 2018!**





By Barry Ross

# Cricket

Ashes 2nd Test - Australia v England Day 2, 3  
December 2017. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**T**HE FOCUS of most Australians is now very much on the Ashes Test Cricket series. After their impressive wrap up of the second Test in Adelaide last Wednesday, Australia holds a two-nil lead with three Tests to play. The third Test begins in Perth tomorrow (Thursday 14 December) at the WACA. With the completion of the new Perth Stadium scheduled for 2018, this could be the last Test played at the WACA. The fourth Test begins at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Boxing Day, 26 December, while the fifth and last Test is at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 4 January. Crowds have been excellent at the first two Tests and this will continue at Perth. A first day record crowd of 55,317 was in attendance at Adelaide to see English captain, Joe Root win the toss and then send Australia in to bat. Altogether more than 172,600 fans attended the first four days in Adelaide with a total attendance for the five days of around 200,000. As it was in Brisbane for the first Test, fans were allowed to witness the fifth and last day by paying just a gold coin. This money went to charity so an official attendance figure for the fifth day was not recorded.

Next week on Tuesday 19 December in Sydney, the 2017/2018 Big Bash cricket competition begins for the men when the Sydney Thunder take on the Sydney Sixers. The Big Bash has become very popular, especially with TV viewers, as many people are in wind-down mode for the holiday season. New Zealander, Brendon McCullum, will again captain the Brisbane Heat this season.

The Women's Big Bash began last Saturday, 9 December, at North Sydney Oval with a double header. The women's competition also rates well on TV and no wonder, if we see what was on show last Saturday. Coming in for the Sydney Sixers after the loss of the first wicket, 20 year old Ash Gardner, belted 114 runs from just 52 balls, including 10 sixes, against the Melbourne Stars. She reached her century in 47 balls which is a new women's Big Bash record. The Sixers ended up with a total of 4 for 242 runs from their 20 overs and this is another women's Big Bash record. The Stars could only manage 7 for 156 in reply. In the other match at North Sydney, the Sydney Thunder beat the Melbourne Renegades, while in Adelaide, the Adelaide Strikers 3 for 183, defeated the Hobart Hurricanes 9 for 138. New Zealander, Sophie Devine, was the Adelaide star, scoring 46 not out from 21 balls and then taking two wickets for 20. West Indian Chris Gayle, now 38, continued the cricket entertainment over in Bangladesh last Friday. I didn't see the innings but he smashed 126 from 51 balls, including 14 sixes, playing for the Rangpur Raiders in the Bangladesh Premier League. In this innings he became the first player to pass 800 sixes in T20 cricket. He passed 10,000 T20 runs last April and has scored 19 centuries in this form of cricket. Love him or hate him, he is an entertainer.

With four codes of football from which to choose, Australians generally rate cricket as their national sport. Crowd figures this year show Aussie Rules and Rugby League as the top two football codes and this has been the case for many years. With Australia now confirmed as a starter in the Football (soccer) World Cup in Russia beginning in June, this sport is certainly on the rise as it has been for a few years now. There is a problem in the background however, with the world governing body FIFA, concerned about how the game is controlled by the FFA (Football Federation Australia).

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FIFA and the AFC (Asian Football Conference) will visit Australia early in the New Year to examine this situation. With the success of the Australia's Women's Football team, who are now ranked sixth in the world, FFA has plans to bid for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

It is interesting to analyse the best attendances in 2017 for Australia's four football codes. At the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 30 September, 100,021 fans saw the Richmond Tigers win the Aussie Rules Premiership against the Adelaide Crows on Grand Final day. In Sydney on 21 June, a crowd of 82,259 saw Queensland win the second State of Origin Rugby League game, 18-16 against NSW at ANZ Stadium. At the same venue for the NRL Grand Final on 1 October, there were 79,722 fans in attendance to see the Melbourne Storm defeat the North Queensland Cowboys 34-6. There is no doubt that Aussie Rules attracts bigger crowds than the NRL but it must be pointed out that the Melbourne Cricket Ground holds more people than ANZ Stadium. If the capacities were the same or similar, I have no doubt the NRL crowds for their big games would be similar to Melbourne.

Football or soccer is popular throughout Australia and the crowds at the bigger stadiums for the important games, illustrates this. When Australia met Honduras at ANZ Stadium in Sydney on 15 November, 77,060 happy people saw Australia win 3-1 and qualify for Russia. Rugby Union crowds however have fallen over the past few years. At ANZ Stadium on 19 August this year, the All Blacks beat the Wallabies 54-34 in front of 54,846 people. This is the lowest attendance at a Bledisloe Cup game in Sydney since these matches have been held at ANZ. The first Bledisloe Test was held at ANZ in 1999 and the crowd was 107,042. The next year, 109,847 saw Jonah Lomu score a try to give the All Blacks victory in what many have described as the greatest Test match ever. In 2003, work was done to allow the stadium to become rectangular and this reduced the capacity of ANZ to around 83,500. But since these times Bledisloe crowds in Sydney have gone backwards. An even worse statistic for Rugby Union is that in July this year, at Canberra, only 9,771 fans turned up to see the Brumbies play the Hurricanes in a Super Rugby Quarter Final. The fact that none of the five Aussie sides could defeat a New Zealand Super Rugby team in 26 games in 2017, did not help improve the Canberra attendance figure.

There is plenty of Rugby League news in Sydney. Just last Friday, Jonathan Thurston was awarded the Australian Human Rights Commission's 2017 HUMAN RIGHTS MEDAL. This is a great honour and well deserved. Jonathan is committed to improving the life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Everyone knows now that Mitchell Pearce has joined Newcastle and Jarryd Hayne has moved to Parramatta. I have no confirmed knowledge of what Pearce will be paid by the Knights but if the figure of more than a million dollars a season being mentioned in some quarters is correct, he has done well. Already Pearce has been mentioned as a possible Knights captain in 2018, along with this year's skipper, Jamie Buhrer. Manly are said to be interested in signing Todd Carney for 2018. I hope this doesn't happen. They are also showing interest in out of favour Newcastle half, 29 year old Trent Hodkinson. Many Manly fans have taken to social media to express their anger if Hodkinson joins the Sea Eagles. South Sydney have added 22 year Melbourne Storm forward, Vincent Leuluai to their roster. Injury problems and lack of form saw Leuluai play just two first grade matches for the Storm this year. Ricky Stuart has signed Tonga's world cup hooker Siliva Havili on a one year contract to cover for their talented hooker, Josh Hodgson, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament while playing for England in the World Cup. I am pleased to see that the Broncos have confirmed they will play a trial match at the New Guinea National Stadium on 24 February next year. They will meet the PNG Hunters who won the Queensland Cup competition this season.

I would like to send a big thank you to Sir Peter for giving me the privilege of having a page in his newsletter each week and to Hayden Woodhead for patiently putting it together in the first class manner he does. I would especially like to wish all of our readers a happy holiday season. Keep following and enjoying the Greatest Game of All.





Photo NRL Photos



By John Coffey

## The Women Are The Winners

**M**AYBE THE real 2017 World Cup winners were not the Kangaroos, but women's rugby league. While NRL chief executive Todd Greenberg was quick to reject comments by Cameron Smith and Mal Meninga that there should be more Test matches (resulting from a shorter club season), he was all positivity in announcing a series of competitions and representative fixtures to further promote the women's game in 2018.

Within 24 hours of Greenberg's announcement there had been widespread approval on this side of the Tasman – from NZRL chief executive Alex Hayton, Warriors boss Cameron George, Kiwi Ferns coach Tony Benson and prolific-scoring wing Honey Hireme. Though Hireme had announced her retirement after the Ferns were nudged out 23-16 by the Jillaroos in their World Cup final, she said she is now reconsidering.

Dual international Hireme, 36, recalled the valuable experience of developing her skills in a semi-professional environment as a member of the New Zealand Sevens squad. She was even more pleased for the younger Kiwi Ferns who thrived during their World Cup campaign and might now see a career path through their sport. While the 2018 NRL club competition will only be a short one, the intention is for future expansion.

The plan includes six clubs playing over four weeks during the men's play-offs; the women's grand final to also be on Grand Final Day; current NSW and Queensland competitions to continue and their grand finals played in conjunction with NRL Women in League round 22; a stand-alone State of Origin match on Friday night, June 22; Jillaroos Test matches in the Pacific and New Zealand; and the NRL to pay players.

Geography will be a major factor in deciding which NRL clubs are granted women's team licences. Most of the 16 clubs have shown an interest but the best placed geographically are the Warriors (New Zealand), Broncos (Queensland), Cronulla (the first club to offer women's contracts), St George Illawarra (Wollongong has a strong women's competition), Canberra and Newcastle (regional NSW). Melbourne is a possibility.

The one-off women's Origin on Friday, June 22 will be the rugby league highlight that night. The NRL has already announced its men's Pacific programme (Tonga v Samoa, Papua New Guinea v Lebanon, one to be added) for the next day, while the men's State of Origin II is scheduled for Sydney on Sunday, June 24. The women's game will be at a suburban ground such as Cronulla or Kogarah in the hope of filling it to capacity.

It seems unlikely the Warriors will be allowed to field a full strength Kiwi Ferns team, even though almost all of the New Zealand players live in or near Auckland. Nor will the Broncos be permitted to have the entire Queensland state side on their roster. The dreaded draft system, for so long shunned by the men's game, is likely to come into reckoning to spread the elite players throughout the six teams.

That could cause problems for New Zealand players, especially those with young families, if they are assigned to Australian clubs. Greenberg said there would be 40 centrally-contracted "Jillaroos" players, with match payments being earned by all other players.

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The question has to be asked whether only Australians will be centrally contracted or whether he meant a group of 40 elite players from both countries

Greenberg hoped the majority of Jillaroos and Kiwi Ferns would be involved. In addition to geography, clubs must provide training facilities to lift more women players to the elite level. The long-term plan is for a full-season competition similar to that of the men. Broadcasters Channel Nine and Fox Sports have expressed interest, not surprising after an average 225,000 viewers watched the women's World Cup final on rival channel 7Mate.

Tenders will commence next month and the format is expected to be finalised about the time the NRL men's competition starts in early March. Clearly, there needs to be plenty of trans-Tasman communication to establish whether New Zealanders can first play in the NSW and Queensland club competitions, and decisions made as to what effect this would have on New Zealand's own domestic programme.

Footnote: Another bleak week for New Zealand sports journalism, with Fairfax NZ – owner of the Stuff website and many newspapers – making regional sports reporters redundant. No longer will towns such as Invercargill, Nelson, Blenheim, Timaru and Palmerston North have local sports covered by a specialist. Such decisions are made by faceless management with no feel for their readers and no clue why newspaper circulations are falling.



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**11-GAME KIDS' MEMBERSHIPS**

# Looking Into The Future

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)



**T**HE THREE rugby league nations still rated as tier-one obviously completed their 2017 World Cup campaigns with very different feelings. For Australia there was satisfaction at retaining their title and emphasising their top ranking, perhaps tinged with some relief to win a tighter than expected final. Once England shakes off the understandable disappointment of that 6-0 defeat at Brisbane its players will undoubtedly celebrate having reached their first final in 22 years and look towards the future with increased confidence.

New Zealand players and fans, on the other hand, have been left in a state of confusion. Was it only two years ago that we were trumpeting our world number one ranking after beating the Kangaroos in three consecutive Tests? We were then looking for more conquests, especially with pesky Australian pensioners Cameron Smith, Billy Slater, Cooper Cronk and Jonathan Thurston on the brink of retirement. We had the measure of the English, and random Pacific islands were not even being considered as serious rivals.

Somehow New Zealand is still ranked second and England third. Maybe our 2018 three-Test series in England will confirm or reverse that order. I can't say I am looking forward to it, even less so because it is being preceded by a potentially deflating October Test against the Kangaroos. What I am forever wondering is how come the most recent three-Test series against England (or Great Britain) in this country was in 1996. Since then we have dutifully trudged over there four times and lost the last three!

In his fine speech after the World Cup final, England acting captain Sam Burgess told his fans he was already looking forward to seeing them again in 2018 – at Hull on October 27, Liverpool on November 3 and Leeds on November 11 when the Lions plan to feast on the sacrificial Kiwis. Burgess' bruise brother, James Graham, told reporters in no uncertain manner what wearing the England jersey meant to him and his mates, while wing Jermaine McGillvary pleaded for Wayne Bennett to stay on as coach.

Burgess turns 29 on December 14. His brother Tom is 25. Other Australian-based forwards Elliott Whitehead and Josh Hodgson are both 28, as is backline star Gareth Widdop. Only the 32-year-old Graham should be slowing with age. But, like the aforementioned Kangaroos quartet, the years seem to fall from him when he steps up to representative football. Who would be prepared to bet that Graham will not still be bristling with British bulldog belligerence at the 2021 World Cup in his homeland?

England officials have reverted to holding all three Tests in their northern heartland, despite a record crowd for a New Zealand Test match in Britain of 44,393 at the Olympic Stadium in London for the second 2015 fixture. Significantly, it was the only one of the three the Kiwis won, and it was the only one of the three with a neutral referee (Gerard Sutton of Australia). The home side won at Hull (attendance 23,526) and Wigan (24,741) with Ben Thaler, the pride of British rugby league refereeing, on the whistle.

That Kiwis team, coached by Stephen Kearney with David Kidwell assisting, was without Kieran Foran (then at Manly), Warriors Shaun Johnson, Thomas Leuluai, Simon Mannering and Manu Vatuvei, and a couple of other players withdrawn by their clubs before selection. Soon after the team was announced Jason Taumalo's Cowboys club medics found he had a dicky knee and pulled him out. With their Kangaroos playing only one Test in 2018, will NRL clubs willingly release their valuable Kiwis for another tour?

While Australia has unearthed suitable replacements for Slater, Cronk and Thurston, and England is riding high after the World Cup, New Zealand seems destined to stand still for the next few months while an investigation is carried out (by two people named Castle) as to why the Kiwis crashed so badly. They will probably come to the conclusion that we went into the World Cup with an underpowered forward pack and a squad wondering why so many recent team-mates decided to remember their Tongan heritage.

Meanwhile, there has been considerable speculation who and where the Kiwis will play next June 23, the stand-alone State of Origin weekend free of NRL games. Denver, Colorado, was even mentioned as the venue for a possible clash between New Zealand and England. The NZRL confirmed it was one of several options. Another away game? In a country where even the All Blacks can lose a century-old unbeaten record? Let us hope that if it comes to pass it does not require a later investigation to find what went wrong!





By Shane Hurndell  
Hawke's Bay Today  
Sports Reporter

## World Cup An Experience To Treasure

New Zealand's Teuila Fotu-Moala is tackled during the women's Rugby League World Cup final between Australia and New Zealand  
Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**I**N A couple of hours I return to work for the first time after a five-week holiday spent taking in Rugby League World Cup fixtures.

I'm dreading the flak I'm going to receive from colleagues who will accuse me of wasting time and dollars on the event because the Kiwis under achieved by failing to progress beyond the quarterfinal segment of the tournament. I intend to be totally honest with them and will agree the Kiwis were a huge disappointment.

But I intend to tell them I have no regrets about the tournament ... it was an experience to treasure. To be among the spectators in Hamilton when Tonga upset the Kiwis 28-22 in pool play on November 11 and at the semifinal in Auckland when England pipped Tonga 20-18 on November 25 will rank among my most memorable sporting experiences of all time.

True it would have been better if the Kiwis had reached the December 2 final in Brisbane. But both finals, the men's between Aussie and England and the women's between our Kiwi

Ferns and Aussie were crackers.

I certainly didn't expect England to keep the Kangaroos to 6-0 in their final. The defence from both teams was outstanding in a clash which had intensity levels to match State of Origin proportions.

Kangaroos captain Cameron Smith definitely deserved his player of the tournament award.

While at the final whistle the Jillaroos deserved their 23-16 win against the Kiwi Ferns it was pleasing to hear both Jillaroos players and their parents afterwards acknowledge how fortunate they were. Several said the defending champions didn't win the final ... the Kiwi Ferns lost it. They were bang on too.

A couple of uncharacteristic spills at crucial times from outstanding Kiwi Ferns secondrower and female player of the tournament Teuila Fotu-Moala were costly. But fans should not forget her contributions earlier in the tournament as the Kiwi Ferns crushed Canada 50-4, the Cook Islands 76-0, Papua New Guinea 38-0 and England 52-4 in their semifinal on the way to the final.

The concept of playing the men's and women's finals on the same day must be retained. The women's game needs to continue to have this exposure and the introduction of a women's comp between NRL clubs next year is another step in the right direction.

The most memorable moment for me from the men's final was Kangaroos centre Josh Dugan's ankle tap on England centre Kallum Watkins in the 65th minute. It saved Australia's night.

The key moment in the women's final came in the 57th minute when the Jillaroos substitute forward Elianna Walton crashed over for a try which gave the hosts a 22-10 lead.

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Yes the Kiwi Ferns produced a late fightback but it was Walton's try and ignorance of surrender as she carried three Ferns defenders across the line which proved decisive.

With the World Cup experience over attention now turns to 2018. Prominent on my list of league wishes for next year are:

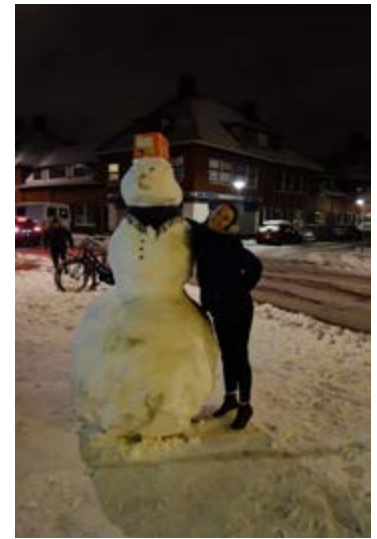
the Kiwis to restore their reputation as an international force with a test series win against England in the northern hemisphere, the Warriors to reach the NRL semifinals, the Hawke's Bay Unicorns to play more than one rep match and be more competitive and the Hawke's Bay club competitions to be played during the winter and on Sundays instead of during the spring.



I caught up with Father Christmas today and put an order in for a premiership for the mighty Vodafone warriors in 2018.



Just caught up Razor, (Scott Robertson) the coach of the Crusaders who won the Super Rugby this year, at Stony Ridge.



My granddaughter Kristin sent me these photo from Amsterdam looks like she's gonna have a cold Christmas.



My grandson Vincent getting in some training so we can take me out kayaking over Christmas lovely young man.







Me and Santa are good mates

Had lunch at baduzzi restaurant today with these 2 knights Sir Graham HENRY & Sir John Kirwin Two fantastic guys had a fantastic meal You can't beat good company and good food.

## A blast from the past. A newsletter from 2012!

**Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club at Mt Smart Stadium**  
**NEWS 2012** Newsletter NO 91  
 YOU CAN CHECK OUT MY BLOG on <http://play.vodafone.co.nz/vodafonewarriors>  
**Here's to a great 2012!**

Well 2012 has arrived, leaving behind a year that many of us would probably rather forget. But this year has started pretty well for me. The knee operation I had last year that touched me all year and caused me all sorts of grief has at last started to come good. I have much more movement in the knee and I'm walking well and have even been able to get on my bike and out in the kayak. If only things were progressing that well for our friends in Christchurch, where the shakes just keep on rumbly-ing in.

I am off down there on January 23 to have a bit of a barbecue with the police, ambulance and fire staff, and the again on the 30th with old mate the Rugby World Cup-winning former All Blacks coach Sir Graham Henry.

We are off to see police, fire service and ambulance staff, who are still doing such a magnificent job. Graham was chuffed, I can tell you, to receive a knighthood and I could not be more pleased for him. He is a real bloke and when I asked him if he would join me on my grand old visit he did not hesitate. I am personally right behind and connected with the people of Christchurch because they still need our support. So if you're reading this and you're from Christchurch, keep on going and do not give up the fight. And if you live elsewhere in the country and have friends in Christchurch don't hesitate to give them a ring and ask them how they're doing - they really do appreciate your support! I know some people are getting very down, and that is something I know a lot about because I got very depressed when things wouldn't go well for me with the knee operation last year.

I bounced back with the love and support of some very good people, including those from Christchurch, who had plenty of other things to worry about. To be honest I'm very fortunate not only to have a wonderful wife and family but also to have very, very good mates - and to all of you a huge THANKS for your support - it's very much appreciated.

I know it is easy to say when you are in Auckland, but chin up and keep on going. Don't let those quakes beat you. There is an old saying that there is always someone worse off than you and that was brought home to me this week when I was in my local chemist. A bloke came up to me and said, "You're the Mad Butcher aren't you? I go to the same doctor you do, and I have just been diagnosed with prostate cancer." Then he said what was really on his mind, "I'm scared."

I told him, "Mate when I got diagnosed with a rare kind of bladder cancer, I was more than scared." Truth be known I might have even used language a bit more colourful than that.

I'd rather have an earthquake than he told I had cancer again I can tell you. I was able to chat to him a little bit and give him some advice and the names of a couple of people I know who have battled the disease, and I'm pleased to say I've heard from that bloke again and he is in a much more positive frame of mind, just from having someone to talk to. So if you are feeling alone and frightened in Christchurch reach out to a mate, a loved one and talk. It helps.

I had a good break out on Waiheke Island and even managed to read my first book in 60 years, since my dyslexia has always made it virtually impossible. And what a story it was. Hugh Green: The Story of an Irish Immigrant Who Never Left Home.

It is the story of an Irishman who arrives in New Zealand and makes his fortune, then repays the country that welcomed him by working tirelessly in many charities and helping all sorts of people and groups. Some are quick to tell me that I have done a bit but Hugh Green is a cuss here who few people will know about. It's a mammoth story but you can't buy the book in the shops, you have to ring (021) 522-5880 to order it. The price is a donation to the Society of St Vincent de Paul just one of the many charities Hugh has supported over the years.

On the rugby league front, my old mate the Little General Ewan Jones has just started a new job, coaching and development officer with the Auckland Rugby League. I have to say that the league has done a terrific job developing the game at a local level and I'm already looking forward to another season following the Mighty Mergers East Hawks.

Of course I'm also excited about March 4. Bet your mortgage on seeing me at Eden Park that Sunday when the mighty Vodafone Warriors open their NRL campaign in a repeat of last season's grand final - up against the champions Manly.

**GRAND FINAL REMATCH**  
**GET EVEN AT EDEN**  
**VODAFONE WARRIORS VS MANLY SEA EAGLES**  
 SUNDAY 4 MARCH 2PM AT EDEN PARK

**Please forward this newsletter to all your mates**

The Sea Eagles will arrive under new coach Geoff Toney who was a legend at the club as a player, clocking up an impressive 236 first grade games for the club. And of course we're fronting up with our new coach too so either Brian "Blury" McClellan or Toney is going to have a perfect NRL record after the final whistle. Blury is enjoying his time and well he should. He is a classic tale of local boy makes good. He started his playing career with the Mt Albert Lions and went on to coach very successfully at several clubs. And of course he was in charge of the Kiwis when they won the Four Nations 24-0 over Australia. He has succeeded in England too and the buzz around the Warriors is that things are tracking very nicely. We also have another big date at Eden Park to look forward to. Lock and load April 20 because on that day Eden Park is the only place to be. The Kiwis will take on Australia in an Anzac test and we won the last Anzac test we hosted in this country. So don't say you weren't told. Lock the date in and get your tickets as soon as you can.

**And if you need any NRL gear, pay a visit to [www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz](http://www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz) and just click on shop. Your purchase will help keep the museum going. Just a few weeks to go before it all kicks off again can't wait. Bring it on!**

**The Mad Butcher Waiheke Island Kayaking Club**  
 Here's some great pictures of our Kayaking Club meeting at my house on Waiheke Island where we paid tribute to one of our members who had become a Knight and is now affectionately known as Sir Graham Henry. This club is possibly the only Kayaking Club in the world with TWO Knights peddling in it!

**Please forward this newsletter to all your mates**

**VODAFONE WARRIORS - 2012 NRL TRIALS**

**Saturday, February 4 - Kick Off 6.00pm** : Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast - North Harbour Stadium, Albany  
 Ticket information on [www.stadium.co.nz](http://www.stadium.co.nz) soon (children free).

**Saturday, February 11 - Kick Off 7.00pm** : Vodafone Warriors v South Sydney - SCU International Stadium, Coffs Harbour

**Saturday, February 18 - Kick Off 5.00pm** : Vodafone Warriors v Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles - Toll Stadium, Whangarei

Tickets available from Ticket Direct ([www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) or (0800 4 TICKET)) Forum North box office and Toll Stadium reception. Ticket costs are Grandstand: \$15 Adult, \$10 Child or Seniors and Embankment: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child plus applicable booking fees. There are also hospitality options available for corporate and public guests by contacting Toll Stadium.

**VODAFONE WARRIORS**





**Sir Peter's SPORTS MUSEUM**  
23 Holmes Rd, Manurewa  
Entry by gold coin donation



**The Peoples Museum**

The museum is open  
**EVERY SATURDAY MORNING**  
From 10am - 1pm

We also have a great NRL retail shop  
check out our website on  
[www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz](http://www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz)

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS





Roger Tuivasa-Sheck scores for the Kiwis during the Kiwis v Tonga game. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

Sir Peter Leitch's **Mad-Butcher Club** at Mt Smart Stadium



# News Flash!

## Coming to the game on Saturday? Make a night of it!

We have a nice roast meal available at half time - Beef Carvery, with gravy and horseradish sauce and mustard, roast kumara, pumpkin & potato, minted peas, bread roll, tossed green salad - for only \$18.00 per person.  
If you want to pre-order yours now, please contact **Adeline** at 571 1690 or 021 241 3910  
And after the game we'll be beaming the Super Rugby final into the Lounge.

## Plus! Go into the \$5 Donation Draw and you could win one of 14 GREAT PRIZES...

Including **A WEEKEND AWAY FOR 2 IN NAPIER** - with return tickets flying with grabaseat, staying at the fantastic Bluewater Hotel and a complimentary meal for 2 at the excellent Hawkes Bay Seafoods Café.





There's also a **return trip to WAIHEKE ISLAND**  
with **Sealink** on offer, as well as  
**12 OTHER GREAT PRIZES!**




**SPECIAL GUESTS IN THE LOUNGE THIS SATURDAY: STACEY JONES plus TONI and RAWDON from TV ONE's Breakfast Show, and others!**



I have to say I'm loving the 2018 Vodafone Warriors gear I might get a job as a model. Well done Canterbury New Zealand



# End of Year Awards

## By Miles Davis



**A**T THIS time of year there is always argument about the Hallberg nominations so in the interest of peace, harmony and goodwill to all men I have decided to make a few of my own awards so that you can argue about those and leave those named after Sir Murray alone for a while.

### Nice Guys Don't Always Finish Last – Joseph Parker

In sport there are many obnoxious individuals that believe their talent gives them license to behave like twats and boxing is no exception. Look at the Fury clan for instance. Drug dealing, sexist attitudes and a determination to always find the lowest common denominator. And that is their good points. Mike Tyson and Floyd Mayweather are another couple who instantly spring to mind. On the other hand we have Joseph Parker. A young athlete who has made it to the top of his profession whilst still managing to be considerate, polite and maintain his humility. Just the other day I personally witnessed evidence of this. Parker was due to play in Wynton Rufer's charity golf tournament. He was forced to pull out of playing due to surgery on his elbow but still made the effort to come down to the course and mingle with the rest of the players, sign multiple autographs and pose for plenty of selfies.

It is impossible not to warm to Parker and what a boost it would be for New Zealand and World Boxing if he takes the next step and unites the World Heavyweight Boxing crowns. Word is that he will face Anthony Joshua in Cardiff on March 31st. Maybe this good guy is going to spread his charm across the sporting world as the undisputed Champion of the World.

### Best Supporters In New Zealand – The Tongans

The Warriors have their hard-core of support who turn up every game no matter how poorly their side may be going and so do the Wellington Phoenix but surely there can be no doubt that the Tongans take support to another level. Who can forget how they ignited the 2011 Rugby World Cup when they brought Auckland traffic to a standstill as they flocked to the airport to greet their team. That display of passion however paled by comparison to their support of the Tongan team at the Rugby League World Cup.

They took over the grounds where their team played and filled it with red and white flags and non-stop noise. They outnumbered the Kiwis and Samoans in their group encounter and totally dominated Mt Smart in their semi-final against England. Even as a Pom I would not have begrudged them a dramatic win had their final effort to cross the line been confirmed as a match-winning try.

There is no doubt they lifted their team to another level and they also may have inspired future athletes of Tongan heritage to represent the Island Kingdom rather than higher profile nations. What sportsman wouldn't want that level of committed support on his side every game?

### Putting New Zealand on the World Stage Award – Brendon Hartley

New Zealand has always had an amazing record for producing stars in the world of motor sport on both two and four wheels. Burt Munro, Graeme Crosby, Ronnie Moore, Ivan Mauger, Barry Briggs, Shaun Harris, Possum Bourne, Chris Amon, Bruce McLaren, Aaron Slight, Greg Murphy, Robert Holden. That list is just a few of those who have excelled. Now we can add Brendon Hartley to that list. After securing two Formula 1 drives last season he has earned a drive for the Toro Rosso team for the 2018 season. This has been as a result of hard work and a never say die attitude. There are only a couple of dozen positions open at this level of racing so for Hartley to have secured one is phenomenal. His level of success will likely depend on the quality and reliability of his car but you can be assured that he will get the best out of it. How cool it would be to pop over to Melbourne to see him kick off the 2018 season at the Australian Grand Prix. (I wonder whether Sir Peter Leitch might be going over and need someone to carry his bags?)

*Continued on next page...*



## The Own-Goal Award – New Zealand Football

Football in New Zealand, like many other sports, has to battle with Rugby for support, funding and positive media attention. Any slight failing will be amplified and consequently cause greater damage to the image of the sport. As a lover of the game you can imagine my dismay when I heard that New Zealand Football had nominated the All Whites in the Team of the Year category for the Hallberg Awards. This is a side who has played 12 games winning 3 (twice against Fiji and once against the Solomons) drawn 2 and losing 7. Now even the most ardent fan would not look at that record as one worthy of a nomination let alone an award. I have already been ribbed by many staunch Rugby fans about the farcical nature of this nomination. There is no doubt it has made the game a laughing stock and re-ignited debate about the All Whites victory in that category after their 2010 World Cup efforts. That win was more than legitimate in my book. To take on the World Champions and hold them to a draw on the sport's biggest stage was a superb effort and one which was probably underestimated by the followers of the oval ball. I was fortunate enough to be at every All White game at that tournament and interviewed several well-respected football personalities in South Africa who all marvelled at New Zealand's achievements at the tournament.

I can only assume that the powers that be at NZF opened the Xmas cheer early and made the nomination after over-indulging in the egg-nog. I suggest that when they sober up they call the Hallberg committee and withdraw the nomination.

As this is the last newsletter of the year I would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to catching up with you when we kick off the new season of sport in 2018.

---

### **If you're in Queenstown make sure you pop in and see Dave at the Lone Star**

Hi Sir Peter,

Hope you and Janice are having a good break in Waiheke Island.

Very warm in Queenstown gearing up for hopefully a bustling festive season in paradise.

Had Simon and Anna in for a meal they are a lovely couple can't speak highly enough of them or David Kidwell and his lovely family.

Thanks mate

Dave Gardiner



---

The Vodafone Warriors offices will be closed from 3pm on Friday, December 15 and will open again at 9am on January 8, 2018. For any membership enquiries, the membership team will continue to work through until 5pm on Wednesday, December 20. They can be contacted on 0800 839839 or [memberships@warriors.kiwi](mailto:memberships@warriors.kiwi). From everyone here at the Vodafone Warriors, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



By Barry Ross

**Bulldogs CEO Raelene Castle.** Vodafone Warriors v Canterbury Bulldogs, Round 16 of the 2017 NRL Rugby League Premiership season at Mt Smart Stadium. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

# Raelene Castle

**C**ONGRATULATIONS TO Raelene Castle, who was officially appointed as the boss of Australian Rugby Union on Tuesday 12 December. Raelene takes over the CEO's role from Bill Pulver, who has held the job since early 2013 when he replaced John O'Neill. Born at Wagga in the Riverina region of NSW, Raelene moved to New Zealand as a small child, with her father, Bruce Castle, who had been playing Rugby League in Australia, as captain/coach of the Turvey Park club. A New Zealander, Bruce played two Rugby League Tests for New Zealand, the first at Bradford in 1961 against Great Britain and the second as Kiwi captain at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1967 against Australia.

Now 42, Raelene has an impressive CV. She was CEO of the Canterbury Bulldogs from July 2013 until announcing her resignation in May this year and before that, she was CEO of New Zealand netball for six years. Earlier she had plenty of success in the corporate world. She is a former head of business marketing for Telecom NZ, communications manager at the Bank of New Zealand and a marketing manager for Fuji Xerox.

A successful sports woman, Raelene has played netball, tennis and lawn bowls at representative level.

She will begin her position with the Australian Rugby Union in January and before that will be part of a two person panel to review the reasons behind New Zealand's early exit in the recent World Rugby League Cup.

"Having followed Rugby closely for over 30 years and having worked in the New Zealand and Australian sporting environments for the past 10 years, there is no doubt Australian Rugby has a clear international and domestic offering for both male and female athletes that can be further developed and strengthened," she said minutes after her appointment.

Raelene will become the first woman to lead the governing body for rugby and in doing so, will become the first female Chief Executive across all the major unions in the world.

Sir Peter Leitch has been a long term supporter and friend of Raelene's. He has recognised her ability for many years and would love to see her control the New Zealand Rugby League.

In 2015, she was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to business and sport.

The Official Warriors Superstore at Mt Smart has launched its Trade Me site. You can now purchase all Warriors merchandise through the Trade Me Store. It is a one-stop shop for all your Vodafone Warriors merchandise needs! The Trade Me store features Warriors Jerseys, T-shirts, Hats, Sweatshirts, Jackets, and more! With something for everybody from new-borns to adults, the Warriors Trade Me Store has it all. The store link is <https://www.trademe.co.nz/stores/warriors-super-store>





# Courage

By Jenny Noble

**C**OURAGE AND determination shows itself in many different forms from time to time. Hayden Noble was born with a degenerative genetic condition called Mucopolidosis, first diagnosed at the age of 5. His is a very rare disease. He is one of only two people in New Zealand with this condition, the other being his younger sister Sarah. At the age of 18 Hayden was given 6 months to live such was the debilitating effect of this condition. That was 18 years ago. Two things then happened in his life that changed the course of his life forever. Firstly, Sir Peter Leitch made him and Honorary Auckland Warrior – a team he has been passionate about since their first game. Secondly his mother Jenny collaborated with a group of medical professionals to use an old treatment to fight back against the worst symptoms of this disease and create a lifestyle for Hayden going forward.

Since then he has become more involved in the community and despite being wheelchair bound and weighing only 42 kilos wringing wet, he spars at his local gym in Tauranga, belongs to the Tauranga Pistol Club and his real passion is Special Olympics Indoor Bowls. He recently competed in his third NZ Nationals competition in Wellington in the B Grade pairs and Fours as skip of the team. He came away with a Gold Medal in the Pairs and a Gold Medal in the Fours. Despite being in significant pain on the first day of competition he showed great courage and determination in making sure he maintained his concentration to achieve the win.

Special Olympic contestants have a motto that is read out before every competition – “Let me win but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt”. Hayden is pictured here with his team mates and two gold medals.



This morning I caught up with me mate Motu Tony you may remember him, he played 55 games for the Vodafone warriors and has been living in England for the last few years and is now back in town so go to my Facebook page you'll be up to see an interview done with him this morning. He is a pretty special young man and I think you'll enjoy the interview! <https://www.facebook.com/sirpeterleitch/>





## Kidz First Christmas Party

**S**KYCITY ONCE again hosted the Kidz First Children's Hospital Christmas Party with Vodafone Warrior players making an appearance to make sure the kids got their fill of all the yummy food, met up with Santa for special presents and even guest starred as face painters.



## Mangakino Community Trip

**L**ATE NOVEMBER a contingent of Vodafone Warriors players and staff boarded a bus headed for Mangakino, the dam town on the Waikato River south-west of Tokoroa.

The locals were hit when a fire destroyed training gear and equipment at the Mangakino Hawks Rugby League Club in late August.

























After receiving an approach from the Hawks through Vodafone Warriors 19th man Sir Peter Leitch, the Vodafone Warriors were keen to provide support through the club's Harvey Norman Community Warriors arm by visiting the town.

The players and staff stayed on Pouakani marae co-hosting with the Hawks and locals for a fund-raising dinner and quiz night.

The Vodafone Warriors were then on the go from early providing some cheer by joining local kids at a community carnival and also helping to build a BMX track before heading back to Auckland.



# 2018 NRL DRAW

RD	DATE	LOCAL TIME		OPPONENT	VENUE
1	Sat 10 Mar	4:00pm	AT	 Rabbitohs	Perth Stadium
2	Sat 17 Mar	5:00pm	VS	 Titans	Mt Smart Stadium
3	Sat 24 Mar	3:00pm	AT	 Raiders	GIO Stadium
4	Sat 31 Mar	5:30pm	AT	 Roosters	Allianz Stadium
5	Sat 07 Apr	7:30pm	VS	 Cowboys	Mt Smart Stadium
6	Sat 14 Apr	5:00pm	VS	 Broncos	Mt Smart Stadium
7	Fri 20 Apr	8:00pm	VS	 Dragons	Mt Smart Stadium
8	Wed 25 Apr	7:00pm	AT	 Storm	AAMI Park
9	Sat 05 May	7:30pm	VS	 Tigers	Mt Smart Stadium
10	Sat 12 May	5:00pm	VS	 Roosters	Mt Smart Stadium
11	Fri 18 May	6:00pm	AT	 Eels	ANZ Stadium
12	Sat 26 May	7:30pm	VS	 Rabbitohs	Mt Smart Stadium
13	Bye				
14	Sat 09 Jun	5:00pm	AT	 Sea Eagles	AMI Stadium
15	Fri 15 Jun	6:00pm	AT	 Cowboys	1300SMILES Stadium
State of Origin stand-alone weekend					
16	Fri 29 Jun	8.00pm	VS	 Sharks	Mt Smart Stadium
17	Fri 06 Jul	7:50pm	AT	 Panthers	Panthers Stadium
18	Sun 15 Jul	2.00pm	AT	 Broncos	Suncorp Stadium
19	Sun 22 Jul	4.00pm	VS	 Storm	Mt Smart Stadium
20	Sun 29 Jul	2:00pm	AT	 Titans	Cbus Super Stadium
21	Sat 04 Aug	3:00pm	AT	 Dragons	WIN Stadium
22	Fri 10 Aug	8:00pm	VS	 Knights	Mt Smart Stadium
23	Sun 19 Aug	2:00pm	AT	 Bulldogs	ANZ Stadium
24	Fri 24 Aug	8:00pm	VS	 Panthers	Mt Smart Stadium
25	Fri 31 Aug	8:00pm	VS	 Raiders	Mt Smart Stadium



Over the years i've had many great supporters, one of whom is Chris Smith owner of Sentra Print. Chris and Sentra are moving and merging with McCollams Print and will be continuing to support me. Here is a tribute made for him by his team...



*Thanks for the  
memories, it's been  
a great ride!*

## **SENTRA PRINTING COMPANY** **1989 - 2017**

**Christopher John Smith - Managing Director**  
(Alias Smithy, Christo, Chrissy,  
Sir Christopher Quim)

Eater of all that is Gluten Free

Drinker of all that is Pinot

Speaker of foreign languages c\*nt-on-tongue

Wearer of dubious sunglasses

Award for most courses attended in a year.

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Order of the Blow up Doll in the Merc Brigade

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PLUS FREE SHIPPING  
UNTIL 22 DECEMBER 2017**



## X'MAS ONLINE CLEARANCE SALE

Why not grab some sporting equipment for X'mas presents and save! With our annual end of year clearance sale you can select any equipment or balls online and save 20% when you enter the code XMAS17 at the checkout - it is as simple as that! All netballs, rugby union balls, rugby league balls, footballs and fun beach rugby balls are discounted along with training equipment, protection gear and accessories. The offer is valid until Friday 22 December or while stocks last!

**[ENTER VOUCHER CODE "XMAS17" AT THE CHECKOUT TO SAVE!](#)**

[BUY ONLINE NOW AT www.rhinoaustralia.com](http://www.rhinoaustralia.com)

## TEAM WEAR, BALLS & EQUIPMENT - ORDERS FOR 2018

Planning ahead for 2018 or applying for grants? [CLICK HERE](#) to see our full range of Rugby Union training, playing and sports medical equipment as well as balls for match and training and custom branded balls. Bulk orders for balls and other equipment can be placed now to ensure delivery for 2018 season! Discounts apply for bulk orders. Contact us on 1300 556 112 or email [sales@rhinoaustralia.com](mailto:sales@rhinoaustralia.com)





# *SilverFans*

## *pre-sale ticket offer*

### TAINI JAMISON TROPHY

As a SilverFan you can secure your seat FIRST to next year's Taini Jamison Trophy series featuring the Silver Ferns, Jamaica Sunshine Girls, Malawi Queens and Fiji Pearls.

Pre-sale starts at 10am, Monday 11 December - 10am, Wednesday 13 December.

#### **TAINI JAMISON TROPHY SCHEDULE**

##### *Wednesday 21 March*

Jamaica Sunshine Girls v Fiji Pearls - 6.10pm

Silver Ferns v Malawi Queens - 8.10pm

##### *Thursday 22 March*

Fiji Pearls v Malawi Queens - 6.10pm

Silver Ferns v Jamaica Sunshine Girls - 8.10pm

##### *Friday 23 March*

Jamaica Sunshine Girls v Malawi Queens - 6.10pm

Silver Ferns v Fiji Pearls - 8.10pm

##### *Saturday 24 March*

3rd in Preliminary Rounds v 4th in Preliminary Rounds - 2.10pm

1st in Preliminary Rounds v 2nd in Preliminary Rounds - 4.10pm

All tickets are general admission and include both games scheduled for each day.

**Pre-sale ends 10am, Wednesday  
13 December**

[Click here to purchase](#)

**Use code: SILVERFANS18**

**Non-Presale Tickets available  
from Friday the 15th of December**

[Click here to purchase](#)

We're getting into the festive season and preparing for ultimate relaxation at Auckland Live Summer in the Square!

Grab your jandals and sunscreen, and join us at Aotea Square for a team outing during your lunch break or come down after work to wind down – you deserve it!

We've got an awesome lineup of FREE entertainment, and so much fun coming your way! Mark your diaries for the Latin Fiesta, Auckland Town Hall Organ tours, gardening workshops, live NZ theatre and so much more. If relaxing's your thing, grab a deckchair and chill to the sounds of DJs and the best summer music line-up in the city.

Make the most of summer in Aotea Square - we'll see you there!

AUCKLAND LIVE

SUMMER

IN THE

SQUARE

1 DEC  
-  
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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  
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