

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

24th January 2018

Newsletter #201

WELCOME BACK TO THE FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2018

Another Season Looms

By David Kemeys

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



BLOODY HELL, time to do the newsletter again, surely not?

If, like me, rugby league has been the furthest thing from your mind, you have missed a few things about our Vodafone Warriors.

For instance we have a new centre, Anthony Gelling.

You could be forgiven for never having heard of him, unless of course you are a Howick Hornet, where he played his club footy.

Gelling has been plying his trade in England in the Super League, and signs on a one year contract.

He has played international footy for the Cook Islands and made 114 appearances for the Wigan Warriors, managing 52 tries along the way – a pretty impressive strike rate.

"It's a stroke of luck for us that Anthony has come back," head coach Stephen Kearney says.

"We're thrilled we've been able to add him to our squad. He brings size and some special skills."

Family reasons brought the big man home.

"I'd had six seasons in England and I really wanted to be back in New Zealand around my family."

Gelling won the Super League grand final with Wigan at Old Trafford in 2016 and was also in its beaten side in the 2014 decider. He also played when Wigan won the World Club Challenge, beating Cro-

nulla in 2017.

What else has happened of note? We have confirmed Roger Tuivasa-Sheck will again be our captain.

RTS is off contract at the end of this season, and there have already been reports linking him to rugby, and of course Tuivasa-Sheck played under new signing Adam Blair for the Kiwis at the World Cup.

Warriors chief executive Cameron George says coach Stephen Kearney has no plans to change.

"We have no doubt Roger is a suitable and appropriate person to be our captain," George said.

"Roger is a quality person, and he has a good rapport with people on and off the field."

But apparently the club has accepted there will be all sorts of speculation about Tuivasa-Sheck's future, and is doing everything possible to keep him.

"We have had initial discussions with Roger and his management; he is a priority for us."

Meanwhile new recruit Gerard Beale hopes he will be fit for the start of the upcoming season.

We all saw him suffer a broken leg at the World Cup but news is he is recovering well.

The 27-year-old is making a gradual return to training and hopes to begin running in February.

"It's coming along really well," said Beale. "I've been nailing the rehab and there are plenty of things

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I can still do at the moment and each week is a progression."

I confess I have not really kept up with the comings and goings, and could not bring myself to read all the pre-season predictions. Too depressing.

The optimists will say the only way is up, the pessimists that things can indeed get worse.

Let's see, the club still has not sold, so that drags on and on.

We lost nine on the spin at the end of last year and I can't remember what it feels like to win.

Coach Stephen Kearney must be under pressure, despite what anyone says.

Our traditional slow start will add to that, so here's hoping we can get out of the blocks better than we have for, well, ever.

We have added Adam Blair, and say what you like, he

is going to add a load of professionalism and grit to our pack.

Ditto Tohu Harris.

Leivaha Pulu and Agnatius Paasi will be looking to prove they have the goods, and spare a thought for Issac Luke, who must be desperate to return to his best after pretty poor showings so far.

Blake Green has been added to the line-up, and will be expected to take the pressure off Shaun Johnson, but it does raise the question of what now for Ata Hingano?

Let's face it, no matter what happens, you just can't help but get your hopes up when a new season dawns. But we have all also been there too often and it is interesting that there is none of the hype that has featured in previous seasons.

Only the very optimistic will believe we are a chance of breaking our finals drought. Be nice if we could stay in the reckoning a bit longer at least.



MEMBERS' COUNCIL APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

First established in 2016, the council is an initiative that provides a link between members and the club to improve our member experience and drive engagement.

Home-based council members will help in a variety of ways, especially as game day volunteers and act as our members' eyes and ears, picking up ideas to pass on to the club. Away-based council members will assist at away games in their region and provide feedback on all touch points of the member experience.

Whether you have been a member since '95 or 2017, we are always interested to have new personalities and fresh perspectives representing our tribe of members.

**CLICK HERE TO
APPLY**



Auckland Rugby League Release Sharman Cup Draw For 2018

By ARL

THE AUCKLAND Rugby League have today released the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup draw for 2018, with 16 clubs set to face-off for the title and promotion to first division for the following year.

The regular season gets underway on Saturday April 21, with all teams to play each other once across 15 rounds before splitting into a top 8 Premiership and bottom 4 Championship. Teams who finish outside the top 12 will be eliminated.

After falling just short of survival in the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership this year, the Te Atatu Roosters return to the competition alongside the Mt Wellington Warriors and Glenfield Greyhounds, with the trio joining the ARL's newest club the Franklin Storm, a side comprising of players from the Tuakau, Waiuku and Pukekohe clubs.

ARL general manager Greg Whaiapu views the formation of the Storm as a major plus for 2018.

“It’s great to have a presence from clubs further south of Auckland,” he said.

“Seeing those clubs come together can only be good for the game in the area and it’s a great opportunity for any players interested in playing at Premiership level.”

The opening round will see 2017 Sharman Cup runners-up the Bay Roskill Vikings take on the Ellerslie Eagles, who have coach Wade Brundson returning after he took the club to the major semi-finals in 2016, while second division heavyweights Otara and Ponsonby will face off.

[Click here to view the draw for the 2018 Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup competition.](#)



Make sure you have booked for this weekend it's going to be a massive day!



WELCOME TO all our readers for 2018. A new year always brings fresh interest and prospects for everything and this certainly applies to Rugby League. In just two weeks, the first trial game for the new season will be played when the Storm take on the Knights in Melbourne on 7 February. You will need an atlas and geography lessons to follow all the preseason matches this year, as they will be played all over the East Coast of Australia, as well as at Port Moresby and in New Zealand.

There will be plenty of interest at AAMI Park Melbourne on Friday night, 16 February when the Storm take on the Leeds Rhinos for the title of World Club champion. The next night in Sydney at the big ANZ Stadium Atat 5.30pm and then South Sydney meet Wigan ay 7.30pm.

The Warriors begin their 2018 campaign at Rotorua against the Storm on the same day, 17 February and the next week take on the Titans at Queensland's Sunshine Coast on 24 February. The temperature on the Sunshine Coast will probably be very different to that at Rotorua. I am pleased that Roger Tuivasa-Sheck will again captain the Warriors in 2018. He is a talented player who leads by example and it must be very satisfying to the players in front of him to know that their fullback and captain can diffuse dangerous situations and usually brings the kicks back to good field positions. Adam Blair will stiffen up the forwards. There can be no question about his durability, as he played all 27 matches for the Broncos in 2017 and has averaged 24 games a season for the last 10 seasons. Although he is almost 32 years of age, with 266 NRL games under his belt for the Storm, Tigers and Broncos, along with his 41 Tests for New Zealand, Blair has the experience and talent to improve the Warriors forwards' all round performance. One thing he could do is be more careful with his aggression. Bake Green and Tuhu Harris are also excellent additions for the coming season. Like Blair, Harris is well respected by all opposition forwards in the NRL, while Green was great for Many at five eighth last year, as he was with the Storm in 2015 and 2016. Anthony Gelling, 27, could be a good signing. He did well in his 114 games with Wigan in the English Super League, scoring 52 tries. Gelling participated in some big games with Wigan, including the 2016 League Championship win, the 2017 Challenge Cup Final (Hull beat Wigan) and the

World Club Challenge win over Cronulla. He will have to fight for a first grade position with Solomone Kate and Peta Hiku ahead of him in the pecking order for a centre position.

Behind the scenes, Warriors new CEO, Cameron George, has been working hard for the club. He has plenty of admirers throughout the horse racing world in both Australia and New Zealand, while after just a short time, he has already earned respect in Rugby League circles.

This year the 35th Charity Shield clash will take place at Mudgee, 270 kms north west of Sydney. The Charity Shield began in 1982 when St. George defeated South Sydney 9-7 at Redfern Oval on 13 February before a crowd of 10,980. When St. George and Illawarra amalgamated, they played their first NRL season in 1999 as St. George/Illawarra Dragons. St. George/Illawarra continued the Charity Shield contests and after 34 games, St. George and St. George/Illawarra, have won 16, South Sydney 13, while there has been five draws. In 2000 and 2001, when Souths were omitted from the competition, there was no Charity Shield games.

A good crowd is expected at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on Friday night 23 February, when the Cowboys play Cameron Smith's Melbourne Storm in a special testimonial match for Johnathan Thurston. The Star Australian, Queensland and Cowboys halfback, along with his wife Sam and their two daughters, Frankie and Charlie, have designed a special Cowboys jersey to be used in the game.

Rugby League fans around the world are waiting for the real story to emerge about the incident at the Toronto Wolfpack club, involving Fui Fui Moi Moi, Dave Taylor and Englishman, Ryan Bailey. The Wolfpack players are at a training camp in Portugal, preparing for the coming English season. Just a few days ago, Moi Moi, Taylor and Bailey left the club. All that Wolfpack coach, Paul Rowley has said up to Saturday 20 January, was that the trio, " has left the club by mutual consent. " Obviously there are legal reasons why he cannot say anymore at this stage but look out for plenty of news about this in the coming weeks. Moi Moi and Bailey played with the Wolfpack in their very successful 2017 season, while Taylor was with Ricky Stuart's Canberra Raiders

Vodafone Warriors Secure Ex-Wigan Centre Gelling

By Richard Becht



ANTHONY GELLING, who recently returned to Auckland after six seasons in England, has been signed by the Vodafone Warriors on a one-year contract.

After being given an early release by the Wigan Warriors, the Cook Islands international was invited to train with the Vodafone Warriors this week.

“It’s a stroke of luck for us that Anthony has come back,” said Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney.

“He proved himself in the Super League and has immediately impressed us at training this week.

“We’re thrilled we’ve been able to add him to our squad. He brings size and some special skills, providing further depth and increasing competition among our outside backs.”

In his six seasons with Wigan, Gelling (27) scored 52 tries in 114 appearances and also represented the Cook Islands at the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.

“Rugby league wasn’t the reason I came home,” he said.

“I’d had six seasons in England and I really wanted to be back in New Zealand around my family. I’m grateful for everything Wigan did for me and for allowing me to head home early.

“I wasn’t sure what would happen with my career but the opportunity came up to train with the Vodafone Warriors this week and now I’m excited about signing for the club.”

Gelling was a Super League grand final winner with Wigan at Old Trafford in 2016 and was also in its beaten side in the 2014 decider.

He helped Wigan to its World Club Challenge win against Cronulla in 2017 as well as playing in the Challenge Cup final at Wembley (a match Hull FC won).

He last played in New Zealand in 2011 when he was in the Vodafone Warriors’ feeder side the Auckland Vulcans, who lost 28-30 to the Canterbury-Bankstown Bankstown in the dying moments of the New South Wales Cup at ANZ Stadium. The same season he tasted success at Auckland club level when the Howick Hornets won the Fox Memorial premiership for the first time.





Five new signings set for Rotorua trial

FOUR OF the Vodafone Warriors' major new signings plus exciting Rotorua prospect Hayze Perham are poised to line up in the club's first NRL trial against Melbourne in the Geyser City on Saturday, February 17 (3.00pm kick-off).

Head coach Stephen Kearney said he expects to use centres Peta Hiku and Anthony Gelling, prop Agnati Paasi and second rower Leivaha Pulu at Rotorua International Stadium.

Kearney has also confirmed Rotorua Boys' High School star Perham will have his first taste of playing alongside experienced first-grade players against the 2017 premiers-ship-winning Storm side.

Kearney said established props Albert Vete and Sam Lisone would be among the other players he would use against Melbourne.

"We always planned to bring in a lot of our new players for this first trial," he said.

"While Anthony has only recently arrived, the other four have been with us for all or most of the pre-season. This is a great opportunity for them to build combinations and to work on what we're seeking to implement in terms of the way we'll play this year.

"Peta, Agnati and Leivaha have been impressive since coming into camp as has Anthony, even though he has been with us only a couple of weeks.

"As for Hayze, it's exciting for him to play in front of family and friends in his hometown. He's a young man with a lot of ability and a great attitude."

Perham (18), a Pikiako Warriors product, represented the New Zealand 18s against the Australian Schoolboys last year while he played for Rotorua Boys' High School at the NZRL Secondary Schools Nationals and excelled at rugby union as well for the school's well-regarded First XV and the New Zealand Secondary Schools Barbarians.

Gelling joined the Vodafone Warriors just over two weeks ago after six seasons with the Wigan Warriors in the English Super League while Hiku, the Vodafone Warriors' 2012 NYC player of the year, is back at Mount Smart Stadium after stints with Manly and Penrith in the NRL and Warrington in the English Super League.

Paasi, a one-game Vodafone Warrior in 2014, has returned to the club after three seasons with Gold Coast and Pulu racked up 45 appearances in his first two NRL seasons with the Titans.

The Rotorua Lakes Council and the Vodafone Warriors are joining forces in bringing NRL football back to the region.

The February 17 trial will cap a programme including a regional nines tournament for the Peter McLeod Cup, a trophy named in honour of the long-serving former general manager for Events and Venues Rotorua, who passed away almost two years ago. McLeod was the driving force behind the bid which resulted in the Auckland Warriors being introduced to the then-Winfield Cup in 1995.

Through their Harvey Norman Community Warriors programme, the Vodafone Warriors will also have a strong presence in Rotorua leading up to game day when they'll be out and about in the community. The feature of the activity will be a packed schedule of school visits.

It will be the fourth time the Vodafone Warriors have had a trial in Rotorua.

Their first preseason clash in Rotorua was against the Sydney Roosters in 2010 when they won 26-8. In 2011 they beat Parramatta 24-4 at Rotorua International Stadium and returned in 2015 when they beat Penrith 18-4.



Season 2018

By John Holloway

JUMPIN JOCKSTRAPS the 2018 season is comin up fast in the rear view mirror...just a bit over 40 sleeps till kickoff, Thurs March 8. Geez seems just like yesterday the old High-Tackle was grump-in'n'groanin about a year of woulda, coulda, shoulda but didnt!... But hey nothing like a couple of holiday weeks chasing the mokos round the beach and getting some fresh Kaimoana (and a few coldies) downtown to the puku to straighten up the outlook. Yeah you're hearing right I am ready to go again! Why? Because we are the faithful, we are Warrior people its what we do. High-Tackle recently signed on yet again for Season Tickets along with my Son in law Julian, my cool moko Jack and extended family and friends group in our usual Bay 33 possie.

So will this year be better? You know what...hand on heart, yes it will. I see real value from the revitalising input of new signings, particularly Blake Green and Tohu Harris. Plus a rev up from Pulu, Paasi and Adam Blair. Some seem sceptical of the stats of the Ex Bronco/Kiwi captain but if Wayne Bennett called his weekly contribution really important I am not going to argue. I am thinking the mighty Manner-ing might just have yet another really good year and a chance to enhance his attack game given some quality workload assistance from the newbie group. A fresh look around the midfield might just surprise as well with handy Hiku, Beale and Gelling in the mix to maximise the known potentials of RTS, Kata and notably Fusitua. Before you ask yourself "what is this guy smoking" let me tell you I have been playing, coaching, managing and supporting this game for over 60 years. I first pulled on a City Newton jumper in the early 1950s (around 10 yrs old) and then a year or so later took my leather sprigged footy boots over to Richmond Rovers to begin my association with arguably the greatest Rugby League Club in NZ. Getting off the Warriors track a bit I know but anybody who wants to debate this point needs to consider the following facts. The little community at Grey Lynn Park have to date produced the most Kiwis, 55 in all, including members of the Team of the Century chosen by the NZRL in their Centenary year 2009. Richmond provided the Captain Cliff Johnson and centre Tommy Baxter. Local rivals Ponsonby also had two in Des White and the remarkable Roger Bailey. Magnificent Mark Graham from Otahuhu was named Player of the Century.

A most notable and unique achievement occurred through the 1930s/ 40s when Richmond champion sides played Australian counterpart club teams on 8 occasions and won all 8 games...

1933 played St George won 5/3 and 13/8

1934 played Western Suburbs won 18/16 and 10/3

1938 played Eastern Suburbs won 11/9

1939 played Combined Clubs won 17/16

1946 played the Legendary Harry Baths Balmain stars and won 17/19

1948 played Western Suburbs and won 18/16

Yes it's a while back but it will likely never be matched. In 1946 Richmond had teams in 10 grades and won 8 championships. The senior team had 1 Kiwi Morrie Robertson and 7 in the Auckland team. 1949 saw Richmond Seniors side selected to play the Rest of Auckland in a Injured Players fundraiser, our team got up 15/12. 1951 saw our boys take the Fox and Phelan yet again and 6 players make the North Island and NZ Kiwis team. Come 1954 again six Kiwis selected from our Senior team!! Tommy Baxter, Jim Riddell, Sel Belsham, Cliff Johnson, B Robertson and Vern Bakalich. In 1956 we provided the Kiwi Coach Snow Telford and yet again 6 Kiwis selected to tour Australia. Baxter, Johnson, Bakalich, Riddell, Joe Murray and John Lasher. Has any other club ever had 6 Kiwis in their Senior lineup? Across the years Richmond has won many Fox and Roope Roosters titles and remain among the leading achievers. In the 70s captain/coach Ray Williams led our Premiers in an International Fixture against the exciting Papua New Guinea team as a hastily arranged curtain raiser to the Pacific Cup Finale on Carlaw Park. Our crowd pleasing line-up in the day was built around Kiwis, Fred Ah Kuoi, Shane Varley and try scoring machine Gus Toa Fepuleae. This team progressed to further Rooster, Fox and Champion of Champions titles under Ray and the late great Joe Gwynne. We were trendsetters also in Womens Rugby League with our ROSES often winning titles and having now close to 20 NZ Reps.

The club celebrated an un-paralleled hundred years in fine style in 2013 then started on the next Hundy. I was part of a panel

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that selected our Richmond Team of the Century ... all Kiwis....The Legendary Bert Cooke, Nigel Vagana, Vern Bakalich, Tommy Baxter, Morrie Robertson, the maestro Fred Ah Kuoi, Shane Varley, Ray Williams, Se'e Solomona, Jim Riddell, great Kiwi captain Cliff Johnson, John Lasher and big Joe Vagana. Super Stars old and New. More Recent Richmond junior standouts the Storms Jesse Bromwich and long time Manly hardman Steve Matai would have given it a shake as well. Administrators extra-ordinary in Ron McGregor, son Cameron McGregor, Les Mills Auckland Mayor Gym guru and Athlete of major note are favoured sons. International Ref Neville Kesha was a cool headed half in his Richmond days. I could go on but.... as I was attempting to explain in my long winded way, from my experience in the game I think we really are looking at a better year for the Warriors and the Mt Smart faithful. I will go into more detail

on this in later columns. Meanwhile I am out there putting together a Terrific Tipster Team to pick the winners each week right here in the Butchers big and beautiful weekly Newsletter. Stay tuned for High-Tackle hitting it up bigtime in 2018.

Go the Mightyyy Warriioors.



Our Mate Dexter In Nelson



DEXTER DROPS by the TE TOTARA VOLLEYBALL PROGRAMME in Nelson.

Nelson Bays Volleyball welcomed a special guest who turned up to have a look at the action at their Te Totara VOLLEYBALL Development Camp this week.

More than 150 young people attended Junior/Intermediate and Senior Programmes over 3 days - FUN!

It was great to see Senior Seargent Dexter Traill (Mad Butcher - Sir Peter Leitch' s- Personal Security) and introduce him to our presenter David Eldridge all the way from Adelaide Australia. David recently

retired after 32 years of teaching and coaching volleyball at Heathfield High School and Mt. Lofty Volleyball Club, and during his time won 57 National or State volleyball titles.

Dexter and David - Two famous people!

Photo: Constable Jermain Bestowe, Constable Carol Heiford (local volleyball coach), Dexter and Allan Brodie (Nelson Bays Volleyball).

By Pamela Brodie

Winner Announcements



4 sets of all 4 programs from the 2017 rugby league World Cup

1

2017 LEAGUE WORLD CUP PROGRAMMES

Vera Campbell - Auckland

Brendon Dawson - Invercargill

Bruce Riley - Auckland

David Ford - Auckland

\$500 VODAFONE WARRIORS 2018 PRIZE PACK

Vikki Thomson - Auckland

DINNER WITH SIR PETER LEITCH AND STACEY JONES

Svend Madsen - Wellington

VIP VODAFONE WARRIORS GAME PACKAGE

Steve Crestani - Christchurch

SPOT PRIZE (& FURTHEST ENTRY)

Paul Buchanan - Canada

2 A \$500^{RRP} Vodafone Warriors 2018 Prize Pack
View the range at:

nz.canterbury.com/vodafone-warriors-t24



3 Lunch or Dinner with a Knight of the Realm - Sir Peter (Mad Butcher) & Vodafone Warriors club legend Stacey Jones, in Auckland, on a suitable date for all parties (conditions do apply)

3

4 Special VIP invitation to a Vodafone Warriors game at Mt Smart for 2 people in the Stacey Jones Lounge (hosted by Sir Peter) Includes tickets to the game, drinks & meals and possibly a visit to the changing room after the game (conditions do apply)



Vodafone Warriors Giveaway
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The Marina 2144,
Manukau, Auckland
New Zealand

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____
Jersey Size: _____

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to the Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter
Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address on the left.
Winners will be drawn on the 20th January 2018

Vale Graeme Langlands

By Barry Ross



RUGBY LEAGUE Immortal and Australian Team of the Century member, Graeme Langland passed away overnight on Sunday 21 January. Born at Wollongong, 80kms south of Sydney, on 2 September 1941, Graeme was 76. He had been in a nursing home for the past 13 months or so, at Jannali, a southern Sydney suburb. Over the past year or so, he has suffered from Dementia and other health issues. After starring for Southern Division against the touring Great Britain team at Wollongong in July 1962, Graeme joined the St. George club in 1963 and in 14 seasons with the Dragons, he played 227 first grade games, including four Grand Final wins. He also scored 1,554 points (86 tries, 648 goals) for the club. He made his Test debut at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 8 June 1963, partnering Reg Gasnier in the centres, in the tight 7-3 win over New Zealand. The last of his 45 Tests, in which he captained Australia 15 times, was again at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the 1975 World Series, against England in the 10-all draw. He finished with 206 Test points for the Kangaroos from 20 tries and 73 goals. During his great career, in which he played Test football at fullback, centre and on the wing, Graeme toured England and France three times (1963, 1967 and 1973), New Zealand three times (1965, 1969 and 1971), as well as playing in the 1968 and 1972 World Cups, plus the 1975 World Series. He also represented NSW in 33 games, City Firsts in 8 games and Country firsts in one game. He was captain/coach of Australia from 1973 to 1975, winning 12 of his 16 Tests in this role. He was awarded an MBE for his services to Rugby League and is a member of the Sport Australia Hall of Fame plus the Australian Rugby League Hall of Fame.



By Ben Francis

Adam Blair Excited To Represent Warriors

Vodafone Warriors training session
Photo www.photosport.nz

NEW ZEALAND international Adam Blair is excited for what lies ahead in his debut season with the Warriors.

The Whangarei born product signed a three-year deal with the Auckland based club in October, and he will bring much-needed experience in the Warriors forward pack following the departures of Ben Matulino, Jacob Lillyman, and Ryan Hoffman.

Blair has played in 266 NRL games with the Melbourne Storm, Wests Tigers and most recently the Brisbane Broncos. On top of that, he has donned the Kiwis jersey on more than 40 occasions.

The 31-year-old knows the news of his arrival received mixed reactions from the public, but despite that, he is excited to play for the only New Zealand team in the NRL.

"I'm enjoying it," Blair told reporters on Monday. "This is my fourth week so to put on the jersey the other day when we did the photo shoot, and stuff felt a little surreal.

"As a kid you I didn't watch much rugby league, but I watched the Warriors growing up and always

thought I'd play for the Warriors and now I have an opportunity to work hard and play for them.

"It feels good to be a part of the Warriors, and it's exciting."

Despite being captain of the Kiwis, Blair will not lead the Warriors in 2018 season with fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck to keep the captain's armband.

Blair admitted that being captain isn't his main priority.

"For me, it's about making sure that I get here and work hard.

"Roger's done a great job here, we're all here to support him, and we've got some great boys around him."

The Warriors two played two pre-season matches before the season begins with games against the Storm in Rotorua on February 17 and the Gold Coast Titans on the Sunshine Coast on February 24.

They then open their 2018 season against the South Sydney Rabbitohs at Perth Stadium on March 10.

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



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Years Ending In Eight

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 DAWNING of a new year always brings with it renewed hope of success for one's sporting teams. Maybe that is especially true in 2018 considering the disappointing results returned by the Warriors and Kiwis over the last twelve months. It is 111 years since Albert Baskerville's pioneering All Golds began a nine-month odyssey which gave rugby league an international foundation from being a north of England breakaway sport. When they returned home in May 1908 they were the first world champions, sparking a trend of significant years ending in "8"

1908: Baskerville's team achieved 2-1 victories in the inaugural Test series in Great Britain and Australia, but sadly arrived back in his Wellington home town without their inspirational leader. Baskerville had died in Brisbane from pneumonia, aged just 25. The first rugby league game in New Zealand was played at Athletic Park as a charity match for his widowed mother.

1918: The First World War had seriously disrupted the development of rugby league around the country, with one exception. The fledgling sport was thriving so much in Auckland that a concerned New Zealand Rugby Union allowed the introduction of special "Auckland Rules" in a bid to make their own code more attractive to a discerning sporting public.

1928: New Zealand and England engaged in a titanic three-Test series. The Kiwis won 17-13 at Auckland's Carlaw Park before losing the second Test 13-5 at the Caledonian Ground in Dunedin. Christchurch's English Park was packed for the decider, with England emerging victorious 6-5 after what one report described as "an epic of dour struggle and grim tackling".

1938: No Tests were played during New Zealand's tour of Australia but it was still greatly significant for two reasons -- for the first time the national rugby league was officially known as the Kiwis, and the previously plain black (apart from a kiwi and silver fern emblem) jersey featured a white vee design. Both the name and jersey have survived the test of time.

1948: After another world war, Christchurch publican Pat Smith captained the Kiwis across the Tasman for a tour which included the first two trans-Tasman Tests on Australian soil since 1909. New Zealand surged back from a 13-point deficit to win the first 21-19 at Sydney but Australia levelled the series with a 13-4 victory at Brisbane.

1958: Another drawn two-Test series, this time at home against Great Britain. Prolific try-scoring wing Tom Hadfield touched down in both games as the Kiwis got home 15-10 in the first Test before the Lions roared back to score four consecutive second-half tries and win the second match 32-15. Both Tests were staged at Carlaw Park.

1968: The Kiwis lost 15-10 to France at Carlaw Park in the first World Cup match played in New Zealand. That had clearly been their best winning chance. They were required to play their other games across the Tasman, losing 31-12 to Australia at Brisbane and 38-14 to Great Britain in Sydney. Australia outclassed France 20-2 in the final.

1978: Crowds plummeted to an all-time low when the Kiwis were well beaten in all three Tests of their Australian tour. But even the critical Aussies were impressed with a powerful young centre named Olsen Filipaina. When the British also struggled in 1979, the Aussies concocted the State of Origin concept to revive their representative football.

1988: Triumph and despair for Kiwis fans. Two Gary Freeman tries propelled New Zealand to a 12-10 victory over Great Britain in a World Cup "semi-final" at a muddy Addington Show Grounds in Christchurch. But the Wally Lewis-captained Australians comfortably won the final 25-12 before a record 47,363 crowd at Eden Park.

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1998: A massive year for the Kiwis, coached by Frank Endacott. They beat the Kangaroos 22-16 in the Anzac Test at North Harbour before the Australians won two later Tests home and away. Quentin Pongia then captained New Zealand to a unique unbeaten series in Britain, winning at Huddersfield and Bolton and drawing 23-23 at Watford.

2008: The greatest triumph of all, as Stephen Kearney coached and Nathan Cayless captained the Kiwis to World Cup glory. After an early loss to the Kangaroos, Great Britain was beaten 36-24 at Newcastle and 32-22 in the Brisbane semi-final. Back at Suncorp Stadium a week later the Kiwis gave Australia a 10-point start and a 34-20 beating in the final.

Warriors footnote: In 1998 the Auckland Warriors won seven games and lost 15, finishing 15th of 20 clubs in the inaugural NRL season after the reuniting of Super League and ARL factions. In 2008 the New Zealand Warriors qualified eighth for the play-offs of 16 teams, then beat minor premier Melbourne and the Roosters before losing to Manly in a preliminary final.

So there have been plenty of great times, and some depressing ones, in the years ending in "8". Now we start 2018 not knowing who will be coaching or captaining the Kiwis. What has been confirmed is an October Test against Australia preceding a three-Test series in England. So far there has been no undue hype about the Warriors but fingers are nervously crossed for both club and country.

Vodafone Warriors Christmas Cheer

By Richard Becht



IN BETWEEN their gruelling preseason training sessions, Vodafone Warriors players last month used their downtime to spread some Christmas cheer.

In December, members and fans were invited to send in a short 30-second video about what they wanted for Christmas.

After wading through all the submissions – and there were plenty of them – Vodafone Warriors fan engagement ambassador Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck opted for Jason and his family from Ngaruawahia.

They asked for some food for a Christmas lunch, so Johnny headed down the main state highway to personally deliver an assortment of produce to Jason, his partner and their three children.

The Vodafone Warriors and the club's 19th man Sir Peter Leitch joined forces to put together a package which included a ham, sausages, polonies and much Christmas fare plus a 2018 Vodafone Warriors family membership and 2018 home jerseys for the three kids.

Harvey Norman Community Warriors also heard from one of Santa's elves that charity partner SHINE

desperately needed a new fridge since the one at its refuge had just given up the ghost.

So, with the help of Harvey Norman, the club delivered a new Fisher and Paykel fridge freezer to SHINE headquarters in Kingsland just before Christmas.

Along with that, Vodafone Warriors and Harvey Norman staff donated boxes and boxes of food, toiletries and Christmas presents for SHINE families.

Such items are needed by SHINE on an ongoing basis for families arriving at its refuges and for providing them with necessities once they've been relocated to new secure homes.

Vodafone Warriors players who assisted with distribution of the food parcels were Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck, Blake Green, Bunty Afoa, Junior Puga and Matiu Love-Henry along with Vodafone Warrior community coordinator and Kiwi Fern Georgia Hale.

If you would like to donate items to SHINE, please go to this link:

<http://www.2shine.org.nz/i-want-to-help-others/donating-items>

Full Steam Ahead

By Miles Davis



IF YOU come across someone who is focused on the Vodafone Warriors poor 2017 season and is full of doom and gloom for 2018's prospects, you know they are not a true fan. At best they are someone who takes a passing interest.

A true fan will be filled with excitement at the upcoming season. They will be hanging out for the first game and imagining a great run that leads their beloved team to the play-offs and perhaps even a Grand Final. All the agonies of last season have been put in an airtight container, not to be opened unless a run of losses knocks the confidence and allows fear and dread to muscle its way in.

For the true fan a new season is always one of promise no matter what the neutrals may say or cold, hard facts may indicate. Perhaps the eternal optimism is a defensive mechanism. If a supporter of any struggling club looked at every season with objectivity they may find it hard to keep living the dream. And dreams is what keeps the true fan going.

How realistic are those dreams? What positives can be put forward to suggest the Vodafone Warriors can improve dramatically from last season and make the top 8? They say you learn more from your defeats than from your victories and if that is true the coach Stephen Kearney would have learned a lot. He strikes me as someone who will make the most of those lessons. He will also have learned a lot about his players. Their strengths and weaknesses and how to get the best out of them. It is often hard to get a proper handle on these matters in your first season. There is also the playing roster. Kearney has had a chance to bolster his squad and really stamp his mark on the side. How well has he recruited remains to be seen but on the surface of it there is promise.

Adam Blair is a seasoned campaigner who brings invaluable experience to the squad. He has won and lost in a Grand Final and is a World Cup winner. The forwards have also been bolstered by the arrival of Tohu Harris and Leivaha Pulu. The backs have not been neglected with Gerard Beale, Peta Hiku, Anthony Gelling and the 200+ NRL games experience of Blake Green.

Key to a successful season however will be the form of the Vodafone Warriors established stars. Shaun Johnson is a world-beater on his day but he needs to be fully fit to be at his best. I can't help feeling that he has been thrown into the fray when not fully fit. This does no favours to Johnson (just as it didn't for Kevin Locke, who although he had his own demons was not helped by being played while injured for weeks on end). I personally expect a massive season from Ata Hingano who had a great World Cup with Tonga and will likely be a more consistent player this time around. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck is another who I feel will have benefitted from the experiences of last season. He will have grown as a skipper and will hopefully have a forward pack on the front foot which will give him more opportunity to show what he can do in open play. As for Simon Mannering I doubt if there is anyone who expects anything other than the usual, fully committed, never-say-die performances he has delivered for over a decade.

I will also give a special mention to someone who I think will be a real star this season, having shown glimpses in 2017, prop James Gavet. The man has the potential to be a beast in the Vodafone Warriors pack and has already become a crowd favourite. He has waited a while for a decent chance to impress and this could be his season.

I for one feel excited for the new season. I can see potential all over the park, a mix of old and new that augurs a top 8 finish and perhaps a decent run in the play-offs. Now it may be that I am merely suffering from TFDS (True Fan Delusion Syndrome) but I am happy to be so afflicted. Surely it is much better to approach the journey that is 2018 with excitement and optimism rather than dread and a feeling of impending doom. It may well go pear-shaped somewhere along the way and if it does I shall moan as much as the next man. Until of course the 2019 season is about to start.



Tohu Harris, Storm v Cowboys NRL rugby league Grand Final
Photo: www.photosport.nz



By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

RLHB Plans To Capitalise On Harris Factor

Rugby League Hawke's Bay chairman Mike Tamati says his organisation is ready to feed off the Tohu Harris factor.

“There's no doubt with Tohu playing for the Warriors now it's going to generate a bit more interest in our code at grassroots level here in the Bay and we need to capitalise on that.”

Sixteen-test Kiwi Harris, 26, who returned home to New Zealand last year to link up with the Warriors after eight years with the Storm including five in the NRL team, was born and raised in Hastings. All of his club league before crossing the Tasman was for Tamatea, the Waipatu Marae-based club on the outskirts of Hastings.

However Tamati was quick to point out just as crucial to the game's growth in the Bay as Harris' return is another one from across the Tasman ... that of his brother and former Kiwis hardman Kevin Tamati. A veteran of 22 tests for the Kiwis from 1979 to '85, Kevin Tamati, 64, returned home late last year after two years in Aussie and his brother said he will have no hesitation in nominating him for the RLHB chairman's role at the body's AGM next month.

“I only took on the chairman's role in an interim capacity when Dion [Te Ahu] stood down because of his work commitments last year. We can't have Kevin sitting around doing nothing and he loves boosting the junior levels of our game which will again be our emphasis as the senior grades look after themselves,” Mike Tamati said.

“Our future is the juniors.”

It will be interesting to see if the return of Harris and Tamati proves to be the key to winter league getting

up and running again in the Bay. Most of Hawke's Bay's league competitions since the turn of the century have been spring competitions.

When rugby league was at its strongest in the Bay during the mid 1990s Sunday winter league competitions were played regularly. Mike Tamati pointed out a decision will be made by the end of next month on the dates for the club comps.

One weekend when there won't be any league scheduled in the Bay, Saturday or Sunday, will be March 17 when the Warriors take on the Gold Coast Titans in their first home match of the season at Mount Smart Stadium.



Continued on next page...

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“I’m sure there will be busloads of fans going up from the Bay for that one. And I have no doubt fans from the Bay will be making regular trips to Auckland if Tohu has the impact we all expect him to have,” Mike Tamati said.

Many Tamatea players play union and league and they were rapt to learn the Hawke’s Bay club rugby season doesn’t start until March 24, the week after the Warriors first home outing.

Mike Tamati said he is hoping at least two Hawke’s Bay men’s teams will play in the Mid Central competition and a Hawke’s Bay women’s team will play the Linton Army side on a regular basis similar to last year. He is also hopeful of getting the Hawke’s Bay Unicorns team up and running for the entire Mid

Central inter-provincial competition instead of one game like last year when the team was withdrawn from the competition after taking a thrashing from a below-strength Wellington Orcas side.

“We know we have to get a few off-field issues cleaned up first and we’re working on those,” Mike Tamati said.

While he admits rugby union’s numbers continue to grow in the Bay he said league’s aren’t dropping and in the wake of his brother’s return he is predicting an increase in league’s junior numbers this season.

The coaching staff for the Unicorns men’s and women’s teams will be announced next month.



Your MAD Weekly Specials

Available at all Mad Butcher stores until this Sunday



BEEF OR PORK FLAVOURED SAUSAGES ONLY \$4.99KG



FRESH CHICKEN KABABS ONLY \$1 EACH



PREMIUM BEEF MINCE ONLY \$8.99KG



LEAN PORK MINCE ONLY \$8.99KG

HOMEMADE BEEF BURGERS WITH GRILLED VEGES



As it’s summer, these beef burgers can be cooked on the BBQ along with the vegetables, but they can just as easily be cooked in a frying pan or on a char-grill on the stove top. The bistro butter adds succulence and extra flavour to the burgers - delish!!

[VIEW RECIPE](#)

OLSEN FILIPAINA STARS IN THE 91ST AOTEAROA MAORI TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

“BRING BACK OLSEN” WAS THE CALL FROM KIINGITANGA KAUMATUA

AS WITH THE FAMOUS “BRING BACK BUCK” CALL KAUMATUA AT THE POWHIRI FROM THE STRONG RUGBY LEAGUE ROHE OF WAIKATO MADE THE CALL TO OLSEN IN RELATION TO THE DISSAPOINTING RESULTS OF THE WARRIORS & THE NZ KIWIS



**AOTEAROA
MAORI TENNIS**
ASSOCIATION INC



OLSEN COMPETED IN THE SOCIAL GRADE WITH BROTHER ALF, BUT IT WAS IN THE 60+ MENS SINGLES WHERE OLSEN EXCELLED TAKING EVENTUAL CHAMPION TATE KORA TO 3 SETS IN THE FIRST ROUND, OLSEN HAD TO RETIRE IN THE 3RD SET, DUE TO HEALTH REASONS.

FOR FULL RESULTS FROM THE TOURNAMENT GO TO - www.amta.co.nz/past-results

Reader Mail

Hi Sir Peter,

FINALLY I have got around to writing to thank you for your generosity and hospitality you showed to both Bruce and myself on our visit during October and November.

Due to your help we were able to gain access to tickets to the match up in Port Moresby, after which we experienced the culture and colour of Papua New Guinea.

The kindness you showed when we visited you on Waiheke Island was above and beyond our expectations, as was the case when you invited us to your home in Bucklands Beach.

The gifts and souvenirs will be a constant reminder of the time we spent in your company. You are a true Ambassador for New Zealand Rugby League, and hopefully you will continue to share your passion not only for the New Zealand Kiwis but also the Mighty New Zealand Warriors in the 2018 season.

We hope that you and Lady Janice have a lovely Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

With Kindest Regards,

Denise Hardy and Bruce Pitcher (UK)



Hi Peter,

THANK YOU for sending the Warriors prize pack.

I'm actually a New Zealand citizen currently studying in Germany. In Germany some people have heard of rugby but no one has heard of rugby league. Surprisingly this was the case when I was studying in London as well. League is of course popular in northern England but I have never been there.

If you have any plans to promote league in Germany, I would be happy to assist.

Regards, Lakkana



JUST THOUGHT I'd share this pic with you, I was fortunate to get a new granddaughter on 18/12 (Merry Xmas to me) and this is Theia in the outfit I got her for Xmas. - Dot Eaton

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TEAM TOGETHER?

With less than six weeks to go, now is a great time to get your team together and register for this popular event.

This year sees a brand new look, date and location. Register now to join Monty and the Steps for Life Team at the Titirangi Golf Club for a round of golf with a NZ celebrity as your fourth player, food and drink while on course, spot prizes, great

raffles, a sit down dinner at the end of the day and our annual golf day auction.

When, Where and What time?

Friday 2 March, 2018 at The Titirangi Golf Club, 11 Links Road, New Lynn

- 11.00am Registration
- 12.30pm Shot gun start
- 5.30pm Reception, Awards and Auction

Enter your Team...

- 3 players plus mystery celebrity 4th player
- Includes: Celebrity guest player, snacks and drinks (beer, wine or non-alcoholic) while playing on course and a sit down dinner in the clubrooms at the end of the day.

Entries close 23 February, 2018. Spaces are strictly limited.

Secure your place now and we'll see you on the green!



[Download registration](#)

[Find out more](#)

[Register online](#)

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David Solomona's Birthday



From the left Monty Betham, Motu Tony, Lesley Vanikolo, Joe Vagana, Kevin Senio ex professional rugby player. A great night had by all.



From left to right Tevita Latu, Brent Webb, Epalahame Luaki, Sione Faumuina. Ali Lauitiiti, Monty Betham, Henry Faafilli, Motu Tony.



DAVID SOLOMONA was back in Auckland over Christmas and was treated to a surprise 40th birthday and a few of his old team mates turn out to make the night very special for him. David has had a great career in rugby league and now works for the NRL in Brisbane. (check him out on Wikipedia)

MANLY IS COMING
SAT. 9 JUNE 2018
AMI STADIUM

BUY TICKETS NOW AT WWW.TICKETEK.CO.NZ **TICKETEK**

NEW YEAR NEW GEAR



[SHOP NOW](#)

RESOLUTION #1

VISIT THE SUPERSTORE IN 2018

Mt Smart Stadium Gate C. (Free parking is available at the gate)
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10am to 4pm

RESOLUTION #2

GET SEASON READY

If You're Like Me And Want To Support The Vodafone Warriors In 2018 Here Are Some Options For You To Look At

Benefits For All Members:

- Access to the Vodafone Warriors Members' Clubrooms on game days
- Access to game day benefits including Captains' Club upgrade, coin toss, guard of honour, and post-match gym experience
- Invites to meet the team events and members-only events
- Exclusive member communications
- Discounts on official Vodafone Warriors merchandise from www.warriorsstore.co.nz
- 10% discount on tickets to Vodafone Warriors regular season home games

2018 Platinum Covered

The best seats in the house! Located in the centre bays of the east and west stands, these are our most sought after covered seats at Mt Smart Stadium.



Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Platinum Covered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- Priority access to purchase an O'Rorke Road car park pass if available
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$399 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$849

2018 Platinum Uncovered

The most coveted seats in the stadium. Hear the hits and feel the impact in the closest seats to the field. Surrounding either the home or away team tunnel, these seats don't last long!



Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Platinum Uncovered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- Priority access to purchase an O'Rorke Road car park pass if available
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$359 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$769

2018 Gold Covered

Cheer on the boys from the comfort of your reserved covered seat in the wings of the upper east or west stands.

Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Gold Covered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$319 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$689

2018 Gold Uncovered

Park up on the sidelines where you'll be right in the thick of the action as you watch from your reserved uncovered seats in the lower east or west stands.

Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Gold Uncovered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$279 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$609

2018 Tribe Uncovered

Sit with the loudest and proudest in the ultimate supporters' zone. These reserved seats are only available in the lower east stand and only for the diehard Vodafone Warriors fan.

Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Tribe Uncovered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018



Continued on next page...

- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$279 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$609

2018 Silver Uncovered

The most affordable reserved seating options available at the stadium. Witness feats of fantastic try-scoring athleticism and feel the hits as they happen right in front of your eyes.



Exclusive benefits include:

- Your own reserved seat in the Silver Uncovered seating area for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase your seat for the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$179 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$409

2018 Bronze General Admission

Park up in the South Stand where you'll sit behind the try line, or enjoy the view from the Northern Bank. You get to choose your spot and your seat with this affordable membership.



Exclusive benefits include:

- General admission entry to the South Stand and Northern Bank for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- First priority to purchase General Admission access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- First priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin
- The best value membership of 2018

ADULT -\$119 CHILD -\$49 FAMILY -\$289

PARTIAL SEASON



Build Your Own Pricing 2018				
	2 Game Option	3 Game Option	4 Game Option	5 Game Option
Platinum Covered				
Adult	99	139	169	199
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	229	309	375	439
Platinum Uncovered				
Adult	89	119	159	179
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	209	269	355	399
Gold Covered				
Adult	79	109	139	159
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	189	249	315	359
Gold Uncovered				
Adult	59	79	109	129
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	149	189	255	299
Tribe Uncovered				
Adult	59	79	109	129
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	149	189	255	299
Silver Uncovered				
Adult	39	59	79	89
Child	30	30	35	39
Family	109	149	195	219



5 Game Mini Plan

The most flexible option available. Mini plans give you the ultimate freedom to pick and choose which fixtures you attend, so you can rally your tribe or take a rain check on game day. Unlike any other membership, there's no pressure to commit to attending a game right until you walk through the gate of Mt Smart.

Exclusive benefits include:

- Entry to any five Vodafone Warriors regular season fixtures at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader). Mini plan holders have access to our general admission areas including the South Stand and the North Bank.
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- Mini Plan membership essentials including a 2018 members' lanyard and membership card
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$59 CHILD -\$35 FAMILY -\$155



Continued on next page...

3 Game Mini Plan

The most flexible option available. Mini plans give you the ultimate freedom to pick and choose which fixtures you attend, so you can rally your tribe or take a rain check on game day. Unlike any other membership, there's no pressure to commit to attending a game right until you walk through the gate of Mt Smart.

Exclusive benefits include:

- Entry to any three Vodafone Warriors regular season fixtures at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader). Mini plan holders have access to our general admission areas including the South Stand and the North Bank.
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- Mini Plan membership essentials including a 2018 members' lanyard and membership card
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$39 CHILD -\$30 FAMILY -\$100

AWAY

Aotearoa Single Game (Previously The Proud)

We are one team representing our nation and we need you in the stands and in full voice, cheering us on whenever we play on home soil, be that in Auckland or anywhere else in New Zealand. Designed for our Vodafone Warriors supporters throughout the country, the Aotearoa Single Game membership gives you a ticket entitlement to any regular season fixture that the Vodafone Warriors play within New Zealand (excluding the NRL doubleheader). Show your support and make our team, your team.



Exclusive benefits include:

- One general admission ticket entitlement for a regular season fixture that the Vodafone Warriors play in New Zealand in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader). Your ticket must be booked in advance by contacting the memberships team on 0800 839 839 or emailing memberships@warriors.kiwi
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin

ADULT -\$59 CHILD -\$49

Across The Ditch Single Game (Previously Aussie Proud)

We are one team representing New Zealand and we are calling on our loyal Aussie-based fans to join our tribe. We need you in the stands and in full voice, cheering us on whenever we play in enemy territory. There's nothing better than hearing the "Warriors" chant drown out the locals at Suncorp Stadium or Allianz! The Across the Ditch membership gives you a ticket entitlement to any regular season fixture the Vodafone Warriors play within Australia (excluding the Western doubleheader). Show your support and make our team, your team.



Continued on next page...

Exclusive benefits include:

- One general admission ticket entitlement for a regular season fixture that the Vodafone Warriors play in Australia in 2018 (this does not include the Western doubleheader at Perth Stadium). Your ticket must be booked in advance by contacting the memberships team on 0800 839 839 or emailing memberships@warriors.kiwi
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018

ADULT -\$69 CHILD -\$59

Western Doubleheader (NEW)

Be there as the 2018 NRL season kicks off with a huge doubleheader at the brand-new Perth Stadium. Witness history as your Vodafone Warriors compete in the first sporting event to be held at the state-of-the-art venue when we clash with the South Sydney Rabbitohs and the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs face the Melbourne Storm. Show your support and make our team, your team.



Exclusive benefits include:

- One ticket in the Vodafone Warriors supporters' bay for the first-round NRL doubleheader at Perth Stadium on Saturday, March 10.
- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL double header at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018

ADULT -\$89 CHILD -\$79

Basic

Perfect for those who want to be part of our tribe but can't attend any matches this season. The Basic membership is your chance to still be involved with your team.



Exclusive benefits:

- 2018 membership pack. Adult members will receive a Vodafone Warriors #BeTheTribe cap, membership card, lanyard, sticker sheet and key ring. Child members will receive a junior membership pack containing a drawstring bag, pencil case, sticker sheet, height chart and lanyard, along with their 2018 membership card.
- Second priority ticketing access to NRL Finals and State of Origin
- Second priority ticketing access to the NRL doubleheader at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018

BASIC -\$30

ADD-ONS

Sir Peter Leitch Club

The only corporate space at Mt Smart Stadium in which you'll be entertained by a knight of the realm, the Sir Peter Leitch Club is the place to be on game day. Hosted by the Vodafone Warriors' 19th man and ambassador, Sir Peter Leitch himself, in the Stacey Jones Lounge, it's no surprise that these memberships sell out faster than any others. Get in quick to avoid disappointment.

Includes:

- Sir Peter Leitch Club pass
- Access to the Stacey Jones lounge for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- Sir Peter Leitch Club passes are on a renewal basis until November 2017, they will then be offered to members in the order they were placed on the waitlist.

O'Rorke Road Car Park

Includes:

- O'Rorke Road car park pass
- Access to the O'Rorke Road car park for 11 regular season home games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2018 (this does not include the NRL doubleheader)
- Car park passes are on a renewal basis until November 2017, before they will be offered to Platinum members in the order they were placed on the waitlist.

SIR PETER LEITCH LOUNGE/ BUTCHERS LOUNGE -\$200

O'RORKE CARPARK -\$150

BASIC -\$30

Summer Adventures



Angle parking Waiheke style @ Waiheke Island



Just cooked another #bbq. I'm getting back into the swing of it now A good meaty barbecue yeah can't beat it. [Watch the video here](#)



ONE TREE POINT ART & CRAFT WORKING EXHIBITION 2018

**January 27th and 28th 2018
10am to 4pm**

**Marsden Cove Marina, One Tree
Point**

Up to 50 exhibitors with works for sale

Gold coin entry

Eftpos available

**CREATIVE
NORTHLAND**

MARSDEN COVE
WHANGAREI HARBOUR

noel leeming

**THE NEW ZEALAND
ARTIST
MAGAZINE**

**MACSWAY
SCAFFOLDING LTD**
The Heights of Safety

ONE TREE POINT ART & CRAFT WORKING EXHIBITION ATTRACTS TOP LOCAL ARTISTS

Following a successful 2017 exhibition the OTP Art & Craft Group will be running the One Tree Point Art & Craft Working Exhibition again this Anniversary weekend on Saturday and Sunday 27 & 28 January.

The groups' focus has always been to support Northland artists and this year Hopper Developments have come on board for the event by donating their Marquee at Marsden Cove Marina, Marsden Point as the venue. This new venue has given the group the opportunity to hold a more extensive working exhibition and sale of works and will feature 47 artists demonstrating their diverse crafts including some of Northland's top artists.

The artists include painters, sculptors, jewellers, potters, weavers and a range of textile artists all keen to share their knowledge and passion.

The Exhibition features a wide range of artwork for sale as well as the opportunity to see the artists working on their respective pieces and runs from 10am-4pm both days.

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

Our Sponsors

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