



Sir Peter Leitch

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

14th March 2018

Newsletter #208

Vodafone Warriors Triumph Over Rabbitohs in Round 1

Congratulations to the boys on their win in Perth



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

That Winning Feeling...

By David Kemeys

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



THE BEST thing about having your own article in the newsletter is that you can say outrageous things, tell lies, and redefine history.

As you will all recall, I never had the slightest doubt the Vodafone Warriors would win in Perth.

I put zero stock in this nonsense about a Perth hoodoo.

I put even less stock in this nonsense that we can't win our first game of the season.

But 32-20? I could not believe my eyes.

Not only because of the scoreboard, I could barely recognise these trimmed down players that looked like, well athletes, almost like professional footballers.

And I could not believe either that we seemed to have a game plan that was not based on tackle, tackle, tackle and hope.

Don't forget we only won once away from home last year.

Actually when you consider that the Blues also won away from home, I can tell you Peter Leitch was an apprentice butcher the last time that happened.

That's stretching it a bit, but it was six years ago. I kid you not.

Being a Warriors fan has its fair share of downs and while one win does not a season make, it still feels bloody good.

And that also put an end to a nine game losing streak. Hallelujah.

There has been plenty of talk that Stephen Kearney would be getting his marching orders early in the season, but his side was unrecognisable from the rabble that ended 2017.

Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck all looked like the class acts we know they are capable of being.

But for me Leivaha Pulu was a really pleasant surprise. His name has barely been mentioned in the post-game analysis, but I thought he was terrific.

And hand on heart, I did not expect it. His signing hardly set the world on fire, but if he can put in shifts like that, fine by me.

Six-tries-to-four – two to my man David Fusitu'a – who I have always argued should be played on the wing and could we please stop fannying about trying to make him become a centre.

Our defence was pretty good, though leaking that last try when it didn't matter pissed me off.

"There were some good parts to the performance and to get the result today, I was just really pleased," said Kearney. "Roger, the halves, and the dummy-half and the spine had really strong games."

Hard to disagree.

It was a pleasure to read the match reports and the comments on the bottom of them online.

Predictably there were plenty of warnings about one game wonders, but it was great to see long-suffering fans have something, some glimmer of hope.

Stand Up And Be Counted

Manly recruit Blake Green's organising presence was great was it not?

He seemed to all Shaun Johnson to rediscover his form, with our No7 ripping Souths a new one more than once.

Interesting of course to see it play out, and a lot has been written – much of it by me – about Green's presence leading to the departure of Ata Hingano.

There are still plenty of fans around unconvinced we should have let Tui Lolohea go either, and he was instrumental in the Tigers 10-8 blowout win over the title-tipped Roosters at the weekend.

But Green was more than solid, and long may it continue.

Issac Fires Up

Please let me believe that Issac Luke is back.

The player shooting out of dummy and rifling bullet passes from the base of the ruck, looked nothing like the ponderous Luke of last season.

For whatever reason, and Luke has admitted it himself, he has struggled since joining us.

But he was better than good on Saturday night and how I would love for him to continue to shine, because he is determined to repay some of the faith and loyalty the club and the fans have shown him.

Penalty Count Blowout

If there is an area of concern it is the lop-sided penalty count. Plenty of us believe the Warriors don't get a fair crack, and they got flogged on Saturday.

But there are some new interpretations around the tackle and the play the ball, and we were our own worst enemies.

We will have to fix it because giving up penalty counts like it against better and more clinical sides will cause a whole world of pain.

We were so bad that we even had Solomone Kata sent to the bin.

Try defending against Melbourne with 12 players and see where it gets you.

At one stage the first half count was 7-1 and to be fair, I was too pissed by the end to keep count.

Bring On The Titans

The Warriors flew straight home to Auckland on Sunday and will look to go two from two this weekend when the Titans visit Mt Smart.

It would be incredible if they did, and not too many fans would have thought it the remotest possibility.

If we were to win, it would be our first back-to-back season start since 2009.

The Titans looked dead and buried to me with a few minutes to go but up stepped our old mate and fan favourite Konrad Hurrell, who could not believe his luck when the ball popped into this hand and he strolled in under the bar. The conversion was not quite the final act of the game, but the Titans took the points and left the Raiders scratching their heads.

One of us is going to be two and oh, confounding the critics.

Kearney Singles Out RTS

Warriors coach Stephen Kearney was heaping praise on captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. Our 24-year-old fullback had a couple of defensive efforts to be proud of, and certainly gave the Bunnies defence plenty to think about too.

"He came up with some tremendous tackles early in the game and constantly put himself in the contest," said Kearney. "He sets such a high standard and it's not often that he doesn't deliver on it."

Even the Herald's Dale Budge, who is a notoriously difficult man to please, was impressed, especially with the Johnson/Green combo.

"Blake Green did everything the Warriors would have hoped when they signed him to a three-year deal. He controlled the game and took all the pressure off Shaun Johnson," he wrote.

He was equally pleased our forwards fronted against a big and decent Souths pack, and was over the moon that the side looked like knew what they were doing. "Everyone knew the role they were supposed to play and how that fitted in to the overall plan."

More on the next page...

Sounds Like Bullshit To Me

The Tongan-American NFL group that is supposed to be going to buy the club is now apparently pretty keen to build a new stadium too.

The dreaded downtown Auckland stadium has even raised its head “if the numbers stack up”.

They don't, and it is about as likely to happen as an Aussie giving you a fair go.

But the head of the group, Richard Fale, told the Herald on Sunday the consortium, which includes six current and former NFL players, had been in talks with investment bankers Goldman Sachs about the stadium.

Here's a newsflash – investment bankers do not fund anything they are not likely to make a fortune on.

Here's another one – where you gonna put it?

Here's a third - got planning permission for that have you?

Sounds like a fantasy to me.

Fale arrived in Auckland last week and was straight into with his PR arm – ie the Herald, claiming:

- His group have looked at land near the airport for a new stadium (last time I looked the airport was not downtown)
- They have discussed acquiring Mt Smart (it's not for sale)
- His representatives are here to conduct due diligence (fair enough)

- He and his team will go door-knocking on random streets, to gauge the feeling about the Warriors “on the ground” (They could just read the newsletter – we are eternally optimistic despite having bugger-all reason to be).

On the other hand, I could be selling the guys short, and doing them a massive disservice.

We live in hope.

“We will get a clear picture over the next seven days of whether we are going to sign. If there were any deal-breaking problems, they are going to be discovered ... then we will start drafting the final agreement. The numbers have to line up, otherwise the ship is going to sink.”

Game Of The Round

Us of course.

But also up there was the Tigers – never a fancied side, upsetting the side most are tipping as title contenders, the Roosters, 10-8.

No one saw that coming.

Trailing 8-4, the Tigers locked it up through Corey Thompson's try before Warriors old boy (and I thought it most unsporting that the Aussies called him Warriors reject) Tuimoala Lotohea knocked over the match-winning conversion.

Call me a one-eyed bastard but I just love watching the Roosters lose.

Did you catch Monty's new show last Thursday?

THURSDAY'S NIGHTS 8.30pm on Sky Sport 2 Monty Betham and Courtney Tairi will co-present a new league show for 30 minutes with the emphasis being on Kiwi's playing the game in the Nrl and UK Super-league. We see Vodafone Warriors players like never before with a segment that gets us closer to them and we help you keep updated with your favorite Kiwi players across the ditch and on the other-side of the World. It's a great relaxed show where it's not all about the stats but about the Kiwis who play in their respective jumpers to earn a living in a privileged job. We have our own Kiwi version of the Dally M's and quite rightly named after a Kiwi legend! Tune in this Thursday to find out who that legend is and what else the show brings you.

It's worth a look!





Side Named For St Patrick's Day Clash At Home

by Richard Becht

VODAFONE WARRIORS head coach Stephen Kearney is set to use an unchanged side for the St Patrick's Day NRL clash against the Gold Coast Titans at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (5.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Suzuki).

He has retained the same starting line-up as well as the same four interchange forwards who guided the Vodafone Warriors to a 32-20 win over South Sydney last Saturday, the club's first success in Perth in 10 encounters in 22 years.

Also included on the extended bench are the same four players – Jazz Tevaga, Anthony Gelling, Agnati Paasi and Mason Lino – who were dropped off before the final 17 was confirmed for the match at Perth Stadium.

“What we achieved in Perth was certainly pleasing after the players had worked really hard in the pre-season,” said Kearney.

“The result there brought a sense of relief and also a sense of confidence in the way the players went about executing the game plan.

“But for us it's now all about this week and preparing well to give us the best chance of performing well on Saturday.”

The first home match of the season gives the Vodafone Warriors an opportunity to open a campaign with back-to-back wins for only the third time in 24 seasons since entering the competition in 1995. The first was in 2007 when they beat Parramatta 34-18 and Brisbane 24-14 while in their first outings in 2009 they accounted for Parramatta 26-18 and Manly-Warringah 26-24.

The Gold Coast clash on Saturday is the feature attraction in a triple header on a game day rich in Irish flavour as the Vodafone Warriors use the occasion to celebrate St Patrick's Day. One of the features off the

field will be the creation of a pop-up Irish bar known as the Simon O'Manner Inn.

The man after whom the bar is named – veteran second rower Simon Mannering – is again missing from the squad as he recovers from a shoulder injury he picked up in the 20-14 trial win over the Titans on the Sunshine Coast on February 24.

The Vodafone Warriors kept errors to a minimum in their Perth victory – just six in total – in achieving an 80 per cent competition rate (28 from 35 sets).

Captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck produced two try assists and two line break assists plus two outstanding try saves. He made 111 metres while Ken Maumalo (155), Peta Hiku (119), Issac Luke (114), Tohu Harris (132) and interchange forward Bunty Afoa (141). Shaun Johnson (99), Isaiah Papali'i (97), James Gavet (93), Ligi Sao (93) and Leivaha Pulu (92) were just short of three figures.

Afoa had the most post-contact metres (63) of any player on the field and also produced 27 tackles without a miss in his 47 minutes on the field.

VODAFONE WARRIORS v GOLD COAST TITANS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland
5.00pm, Saturday, March 17, 2018

Vodafone Warriors

1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck	12 Tohu Harris
2 David Fusitu'a	13 Ligi Sao
3 Peta Hiku	Interchange:
4 Solomone Kata	14 Sam Cook
5 Ken Maumalo	15 Leivaha Pulu
6 Blake Green	16 Sam Lisone
7 Shaun Johnson	17 Bunty Afoa
8 James Gavet	18 Anthony Gelling
9 Issac Luke	20 Jazz Tevaga
10 Adam Blair	21 Agnati Paasi
11 Isaiah Papali'i	22 Mason Lino



What's The Craic? St Patrick's Day Party

STAND BY to be entertained not just on the field but also off it when the Vodafone Warriors hold a St Patrick's Day party to celebrate their first NRL home game of the season against the Gold Coast Titans at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (match day sponsor: Suzuki).

Adult tickets cost just \$15.00 for the triple header game day with \$5.00 from every ticket sold being donated to the New Zealand Red Cross Pacific Disaster Fund for Cyclone Gita victims in the Pacific. Please note the ticket offer applies to pre-purchased tickets only and expires at midnight on Friday, March 16. [CLICK HERE TO BUY NOW.](#)

Coming off their history-making 32-20 win over South Sydney in Perth – their first there in 10 attempts spanning 22 years – the Vodafone Warriors entertain a Titans side which stole a last-minute 30-28 victory over Canberra on Sunday.

Gates open at 12.30pm for a football feast starting with the Vodafone Junior Warriors facing the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs in the Jersey Flegg Cup (12.45pm kick-off) followed by the Intrust Super Premiership encounter with the Bulldogs (2.45pm kick-off) and then the NRL contest (5.00pm kick-off).

This week's St Patrick's Day theme sets the tone for a revamped game day experience for the Vodafone Warriors' home games this season, this one being the fore-runner to the historic SKYCITY Auckland Double Header on Saturday, April 7 when the Vodafone Warriors take on North Queensland and Wests Tigers meet Melbourne.

A pop-up Irish bar – named the Simon O'Manner Inn – in the Entertainment Precinct

GAME DAY FEATURES | MARCH 17

- A pop-up Irish bar – named the Simon O'Manner Inn – in the Entertainment Precinct behind the dead-ball line at the northern end of the ground. The

bar is open to all fans.

- An Irish flavour throughout the day including Irish dancers, music and gate announcements.
- Suzuki 'Pot of Gold' halftime activation.
- Vodafone Stadium Live app (download it).
- Pre-purchased adult tickets for just \$15 with \$5 from every ticket sold being donated to the New Zealand Red Cross Pacific Disaster Fund for Cyclone Gita victims (the \$15 ticket offer expires at midnight on Friday so get in now). [CLICK HERE TO BUY NOW.](#)
- In 2018, platinum bays are members-only seating areas with no public sales. These are almost sold out already so anyone wanting to sit there should consider a platinum membership right now. Go to www.warriorsforever.co.nz
- Kids' tickets are now just \$10 anywhere in the stadium.
- Free trains to and from all home games for fans holding their membership cards or pre-purchased tickets (remember to hold onto your ticket for the return trip after the game).
- A bigger contingent of Pacific drummers.
- Special members-only area by the club's offices due to the unavailability of the Members' Clubrooms for the first two home games. The players will walk through this area before entering the dressing room.
- New area for the Harvey Norman Community Warriors team called Community Corner.
- The ever-popular mini and mod games.
- And look out for Tiki. Our club mascot has undergone a facelift.





A Chat With Lance Hohaia

*By Brooke Hurndell
NZRL*

KIWI #695 Lance Hohaia takes us back to his glory days in the black and white jersey and tells us about his new life as a coach in America.

When did you start playing rugby league as a child and who or what got you into the sport?

“I started playing when I was six years old for Huntly South. One of my best friends who was the best man at my wedding, he and I played together and his dad was the coach – I think I moved to Taniwharau the next year for under sevens. I grew up in the rugby league town of Huntly where my dad played and coached and my brother also played so it was inevitable that I’d end up playing footy. I’m really happy to have grown up in that town and it’s been a great journey since then”

Tell us about your rugby league career so far – coming from the humble beginnings of Taniwharau to becoming a coach in the United States:

“I played all through the age grades from under sixes right up until under 18s representing Waikato and each year from under tens to 18s we’d have National tournaments – those tournaments had club scouts there looking for the next big thing. I was approached by the Warriors when I was at the 16s tournament and I think back then I was offered \$1000, a tracksuit and some free medical care. I jumped at the opportunity to be involved with that club – I grew up watching guys like Stacey Jones who were smaller in stature but were tough players – I turned 18 while I was still at high school and before I was finished high school I was offered a full time contract to play for the Warriors in 2001 (I was part time before that) where I played the following season. PJ Marsh broke his ankle in one of the first games of the season and I didn’t really intend on playing many games in 2002. Daniel Anderson was the head coach at the time and said to me, “I think you’re ready, do you think you’re ready” and I of course said “Yes, I think I’m ready” so I think it was around round two or three of that season when I debuted for the Warriors against North Queensland in Townsville. From that point I played many years after that and I think personally 2008 and 2009 were my best seasons. I ended up staying till 2011 when I got offered an opportunity to play in the Super League in Helensville – I had been with the Warriors for 10 years and I thought a change was needed – my fiancé (now wife) agreed that it would be a cool little adventure to go on. We spent some time in the UK which was a bit of a turbulent time, it was hard for us to settle in as a family. Both of our young boys were born there and we didn’t have a lot of family support there and the Grand Final incident happened in 2015 which was quite a low point for us. We then moved to the United States after I retired which is where we live now and life’s going pretty good for us now.”

Continued on next page...

What challenges did you face as a young rugby league player transitioning into the professional world of rugby league?

“There were lots of challenges. I was 18-years-old earning six figures and dealing with media pressure, people wanting to spend time with you and looking back I was a kid who wasn’t equipped to deal with that stuff. It was tough, I feel like I was still able to play well over those years but it took time to adjust to that environment and it forced me to grow up quickly. I don’t have any regrets when I look back as it’s made me the person I am today. But, the pressure to perform, dealing with injuries, looking after yourself and being professional – they’re all things that take time and are learnt by making mistakes, I know I made a few. By the end of my career I was well on top of all of those things so I’m happy with my experiences and ups and downs that happened along the way.”

What’s your favourite league memory?

“As a player, my debut was very special, my last game for the Warriors was very special and winning the World Cup, alongside my debut for the Kiwis are the things I remember the most in terms of my accomplishments. The friends I made and the people I met – I have 100 more memories that I could rattle off. As a spectator, I remember being in Manchester when the Kiwis played Australia in the final of the World Cup, I was living there at the time and cheering them on in a foreign country, despite the outcome, was quite a cool moment. Coaching wise, I’ve been coaching a college team over here in the U.S. and they’ve gone from 35th to 5th in the nation over the past three years. I’m happy to say I had a little part to play in that and that’s probably one of my proudest moments so far.”

What was the best part of running out in the black and white jersey as a Kiwi?

“Knowing that I was representing my nation, my family, my kids and my wife – that is something that I’m pretty proud of. Listening to the national anthem at the start of the game is always something you see us players get quite emotional about. At that point you’re thinking of family members that have passed on, the effort, sacrifices and commitment it’s taken to get to that point – all those things just sit with you in that moment which is pretty cool.”



All Gates Open at 12:30pm



Your Ticket = Free Ride on Train to and from the Game



St Patrick's Day Irish
THEME OF THE DAY
Simon O'Manner Inn Pop Up Irish Bar
(for all Fans in the Entertainment Precinct)



SUZUKI





SUZUKI

Match Day Sponsors



Vodafone Warriors
v
Canterbury Bulldogs
Kick Off - 12:45pm



Vodafone Warriors
v
Canterbury Bulldogs
Kick Off - 2:45pm



Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast Titans
Kick Off - 5pm

Vodafone Warriors St Patrick's Day Event Details

- Gameday sponsor – Suzuki
- Theme – St Patrick's Day Irish including the Simon O'Manner Inn pop up Irish bar for all fans in the Entertainment Precinct
- Gates open – 12.30pm
- Jersey Flegg Kick Off – 12.45pm - VODAFONE WARRIORS V CANTERBURY BULLDOGS
- ISP Kick Off – 2.45pm - VODAFONE WARRIORS V CANTERBURY BULLDOGS
- NRL Kick Off – 5pm - VODAFONE WARRIORS V GOLD COAST TITANS
- Integrated ticketing means free train rides to and from the game with your gameday ticket

Attendances

By Barry Ross



NO DOUBT the total attendance figure of 142,684, for round one would have pleased the suits at the NRL but they have to keep on working to increase crowd numbers. The weather was great at most venues and with fans keen to see the beginning of the 2018 competition, the figures should have been good. Last season a total of 100,969 saw the eight opening games and this was bettered by more than 40 percent this year. But we don't have to go too far back to find better figures. In 2013, 158,006 attended the first round. Still this year's figures are encouraging and more importantly, the football was generally of a high standard, with several results going the way of the team presumed by many to be the underdog. With nearly 39,000 at the great new Perth stadium for the double header, this innovation was a success. In strong Aussie Rules territory, there is plenty of interest in Rugby League. There is another double header set down for ANZ Stadium in Sydney on Saturday 24 March and just two weeks after that, we have the same thing at Mt. Smart Stadium. Already things auger well for the Mt. Smart weekend, as all four teams involved, came away as winners in round one.

Some people are quick to criticise the Warriors but they deserve plenty of praise for their efforts in Perth. There were plenty of reminders of the New Zealand team's poor record in the Western Australian capital, where they have lost nine successive games, but coach Kearney and his team did not allow this to faze them. There were some impressive Warrior statistics to come from their 32-20 win. The Warriors made 6 errors compared to South Sydney's 14 and conceded 7 penalties to Souths 11. A good illustration of the forwards' impressive work was in the post contact figures. Here the Warriors gained 525 metres compared to Souths 454 metres. Other positive figures were the 407 kicking metres by the Warriors to 234 by Souths and the 80 percent completion rate to Souths 66 percent. Because they had 51 percent of total possession and completed 80 percent of their sets, the Warriors forced the Rabbitohs to make more tackles. Souths made a total of 324 tackles which is around 17 percent more than the Warriors 278. While most of the stats were positive for the Warriors, there is one that is not. The Warriors missed 44 tackles while Souths missed 33. No doubt the coaching staff will find out the reasons for this. But on the whole, the 17 players did the job and coach Kearney will generally be pleased with his entire squad. The new guys did very well and have already showed what an asset they are. There was a probably a big proportion of New Zealand-born people at the match. According to a 2016 Western Australian census I found on google, there are around 80,000 Kiwi-born citizens living in the west and they would have been pleased at the displays of fellow countrymen, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Shaun Johnson. They both provided several special moments in the game. Tohu Harris capped his Warriors debut by topping the tackle count with 29, while winger, Ken Maumalo with 155, ran for the most metres in the match.

There were large tackle counts at Newcastle on Friday and Sydney's ANZ Stadium on Saturday. Both games were very tight and this was reflected in the high tackle counts made by both teams involved. At Newcastle, the Knights beat Manly 19-18 thanks to a golden point field goal from Mitchell Pearce. Manly made 366 tackles during the match with their 25 year old hooker, Apisai Koroisau totalling 66 of these. Newcastle finished with 342 tackles with their 27 year old hooker, Slade Griffin, completing 44. Altogether both teams made a total of 708 tackles during the match. At ANZ Stadium on Saturday, Corey Thompson's try in the corner with just three minutes to play tied the score at 8-all. Before the Tigers could claim their 10-8 win, their 23 year old fullback, Tuimoala Lolohea had to land the real pressure conversion from the sideline. But, although the kick went over off the left upright, he did the job and Ivan Cleary and his boys went home as happy campers. A versatile player, who can handle five eighth and wing as well as fullback, Lolohea more than held his own with his big name opposite number, James Tedesco, who didn't have a happy game for his new club against his old team-mates. Another Roosters debutant, Cooper Cronk, played well in his first match with his new club. In this game both teams made similar tackle numbers. The Roosters made 339 with hooker Jake Friend the highest on 55, while the Tigers made 337, with lock Elijah Taylor topping their count with 53.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Out at Penrith, Parramatta made a dazzling start, to lead 14-6 at the break, but fell away dramatically in the second half, when the Panthers piled on 18 points to nil. Playing his 200th NRL match, Jarryd Hayne was contained throughout the clash. The 24-14 win will take a lot of pressure from the shoulders of Penrith coach, Anthony Griffin. Now 20 years of age, talented Penrith halfback, Nathan Cleary, had an outstanding second spell in his 42nd first grade game. His father, Ivan, was in the capacity crowd of 21,506 and it will be happy Sunday night for the Cleary family after Ivan's Tigers upset the Roosters a day earlier. Things won't be so rosy for Broncos coach Wayne Bennett and the Sharks, Shane Flanagan. The Bronco forwards finished a distant second behind the Dragons pack and things won't be any easier this Friday night in Brisbane against the Cowboys powerful six. Flanagan will be hoping the home ground advantage this Thursday night will give his team their first win over the in-form Dragons. In Perth, the Storm showed yet again they will be a Premiership threat, while the jury is still out for the Bulldogs and their new coach, Dean Pay. They held the Storm to 24-18 with 19 minutes to go but Melbourne then piled on 12 unanswered points for the 36-18 victory.

I would hate to be a Raiders player at their first training session this week. No doubt coach Ricky Stuart will have plenty to say after his team blew an 18-0 lead after just 12 minutes, to go down to the never-say-die Titans in the final minute of the match. Congratulations to new Titans coach, Garth Brennan, who marked his first grade coaching debut with a win.

SUZUKI
MATCH DAY SPONSOR

TICKETEK

St Patrick's Day
at Mt Smart

VODAFONE
WARRIORS

GOLD COAST
TITANS

PRE PURCHASE NOW \$15
5PM THIS SATURDAY



New Zealand's "Other" Team

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)



IT HAS taken only one round for the NRL premiership to prove it is the footy competition other codes wish they had. Big crowds, big games, big comebacks, spectacular tries, spectacular try saves, and a series of unexpected results has further heightened interest in an already much anticipated season. For the first time in history the bottom four from the previous season all won their first round games. That the Warriors shared in the blockbusting start by ridding themselves of their Perth hoodoo made it all the more memorable this side of the Tasman.

The Warriors chant could be heard clearly during the telecast, given voice by their many expat fans. Some had waited 22 years and suffered through nine previous losses in Western Australia. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke were back to their most imposing form, the arrival of Blake Green had an invigorating influence on Shaun Johnson, and young Isaiah Papalii thrived alongside new recruits Tohu Harris and Adam Blair in a committed forward pack. They looked stronger, more energetic and showed a greater appreciation of team work.

As one who watches every NRL match, I felt the weekend had already been made special by the victory of perennial wooden spooners Newcastle Knights over Manly Warringah and the major boilover caused by Wests Tigers at the expense of Sydney Roosters. While it was expected the reinforced Knights would improve after languishing last for three consecutive seasons, the Tigers – along with the Gold Coast Titans and the Warriors – were popular picks by Aussie critics to succeed the Knights as wooden spooners. Some urgent revision is needed.

Mitchell Pearce's match-winning field goal in the eighth minute of golden point time had barely cleared the cross-bar in Newcastle before Fox Sports commentators were labelling the Knights as "everybody's second team". The 19-18 victory was a thriller and a fair reward for the 23,515 fans who turned up for a late-after-noon Friday kick-off. The Knights have always had remarkable support during their time in the doldrums, and last week the city's mayor told employers it would be "un-Australian" not to allow their workers time to get to the stadium.

There were nine players making their debuts in Knights colours, and one of them had notable significance for New Zealand. Newcastle coach Nathan Brown caused surprise by preferring Slade Griffin over Kiwis World Cup representative Danny Levi at hooker. Levi had been one of Newcastle's best in recent seasons but Griffin – who hails from the South Island's West Coast and came off the bench in Melbourne's 2017 Grand Final winning team – justified Brown's decision. The wholehearted Griffin celebrated his arrival with his first NRL try.

But if Newcastle should be every Australians' second team, then Wests Tigers should be every New Zealanders' back-up team to the Warriors (with respect to those who have had undying loyalty to other clubs dating back prior to 1995). A tigerish spirit carried them to a 10-8 triumph over the highly acclaimed Roosters at ANZ Stadium, clinching the win when Corey Thompson dived over for a 78th minute try and Tuimoala Lolohea was on target with the difficult conversion. Lolohea was one of 10 Tigers players with New Zealand affiliations.

I have no records on the subject but I doubt any Australian-based professional rugby league team has fielded so many New Zealanders in the last 110 years. They were fullback Lolohea (born in Auckland), centre Esan Marsters (Auckland), wing Malakai Watene-Zelezniak (Sydney), five-eighth Benji Marshall (Whakatane), prop Russell Packer (Huntly), hookers Pita Godinet and Matt McIlwrick (both Christchurch), lock Elijah Taylor (Hawera) and interchange forwards Ben Matulino (Lower Hutt) and Michael Chee Kam (Auckland).

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Coach Ivan Cleary can be labelled an honorary Kiwi after his long stint in Auckland with the Warriors as a player and coach. The vastly changed Tigers also included Fijian World Cup captain Kevin Naiqama and Lebanon forward Alex Twal, while former Bulldog Thompson is just back from two seasons at English club Widnes Vikings. One can imagine Thompson habitually humming “Homeward Bound”, the hit song reputedly written by Paul Simon while sitting at Widnes railway station. England’s smelly chemicals capital has that effect on you.

Even Steve “Blocker” Roach, one of the most revered Tigers of all time, picked the Roosters to be too strong in his match preview. He later signed off saying he would never pick against his old colours again. One cannot blame Roach, though. Chris Lawrence is probably the only current Tigers player who could find his way from Campbelltown to Leichhardt Oval without using a road map. Cleary famously said last year he wanted a committed team “on the bus” for 2018, and now-Roosters fullback James Tedesco was one of those who jumped off.

Tedesco might have realised it was not going to be his day when he spilled a pass from wing Blake Ferguson with the try-line at his mercy early in the game. Now he has to put up with a week of ribbing from his housemate, who just happens to be Tigers scrum-half Luke Brooks. While Benji Marshall, starting in place of injured signing Josh Reynolds, played as if he had never been away from the Tigers, million-dollar Roosters recruit Cooper Cronk seemed to spend much of his time searching in vain for old mates Cameron Smith and Billy Slater.

With the mid-season Test match against England at Denver scheduled for June 23, the New Zealand selectors should nominate May 5 – when the Warriors host Wests Tigers at Mount Smart Stadium – as an official trial. With Blake Green the only “foreigner” in last weekend’s Warriors line-up, there could be as many as 26 Kiwis on show that night.

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



Facebook



Instagram





Twitter



NRL Round 2 Draw



ROUND 2

THURSDAY 15TH MARCH


Sharks  10:05pm  Dragons



FRIDAY 16TH MARCH



Roosters  8:00pm  Bulldogs

Broncos  10:05pm  Cowboys


SATURDAY 17TH MARCH



Warriors  5:05pm  Titans

Panthers  7:30pm  Rabbitohs

Storm  9:35pm  Wests Tigers

SUNDAY 18TH MARCH

Sea Eagles  6:10pm  Eels

Raiders  8:30pm  Knights

Note: All times are local





High-Tackle Holloway... I'll give ya the tip mate!

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 2

		Tarsh Leremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
Date/ Venue	Game	Flava Star	League Legend and Machine Lease King.	Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie	Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...	The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife	Ex International Referee	Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie
Thur 15 Mar Sth Cross	Sharks v Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Sharks	Sharks	Dragons	Sharks
Fri 16 Mar Allianz	Roosters v Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters
Fri 16 Mar Suncorp	Broncos v Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Sat 17 Mar Mt Smart	Warriors v Titans	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sat 17 Mar Panthers Stad	Panthers v Rabbitohs	Panthers	Rabbitohs	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Sat 17 Mar AAMI	Storm v Tigers	Tigers	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
Sun 18 Mar Lottoland	Sea Eagles v Eels	Sea Eagles	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles
Sun 18 Mar GIO stad	Raiders v Knights	Knights	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Knights	Raiders

Picks last week	3/8	5/8	4/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	2/8
Total picks	3	5	4	5	5	5	2

Hasta la Vista Hoodoo!!

And so endeth the Persecution in Perth. 10th time lucky. Did I say lucky?, no way, none of that “Rabbits Foot” bullcrap, it was down to hard yakka boyos. The Mad Butcher would have had the sausages sizzling on Saturday nite. You have to say that was more like it, ok I know one Swallow doesn’t make Summer but the mighty Warriors made a bird of that one. As I said last week *“Apart from his aggressive defensive attitude I believe the new 6 might be the key link to line-break opportunities for Shotgun Shauney J and Ricochet RogerTVS.”* and I will say it again Blake Le Maestro Green is the Messiah, organizing the D&A and releasing Magic Johnson and the rampant RTS to their creative duties. The born-again Bulli Luke, inspirational Basher Blair and the impressive Tohu TipTruck Harris set the go forward for a stirring team effort. The youth brigade weighed in with heart and we got the gold. As Coach Kearney noted it was not the “finished article” performance with indiscipline, penalties and a slight fade in the last quarter.... clearly a good start but needs work. From High-Tackles point of view all the faithful really ask of the team is to show commitment, competitiveness and consistency, well we got a reasonable dose of the first 2 with the last item a more longer term response. I get the feeling that the influence of master trainer Alex Corvo may well underpin this wish. Here’s hoping the Great Warrior Mannering recovers well and quickly to rejoin the fray. The Gold Coast party crashers descend on the Fortress this week and will not be a walk in the park, hell when you look at it there is no such animal. Several Sydneyside experts punted the Titans and the Tigers as contenders for the wooden Spoon with the Warriors in the same alley, well they can go figure, all three sides got up in round one to put them on notice, easybeat city it isn’t long term Cellar masters the new look Knights underlined it as well knocking off the Manly mob in a golden pointer, much to the delight of the never say die, long suffering Newcastle fans.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Perhaps The Bulldogs, Broncos and Raiders might want to keep an eye on the rear view mirror. Right dare I mention Tipping, yours truly in the corner with the Dunce Cap. Two, 2, dua brace, Rua whichever way you say it don't amount to much. High-Tackle bottom of the heap and chasing shadows. Big Joe Vagana solo on the Tigers and Montz the smokey on the Titans to lead with 5 from 8. Nifty Nev The Ref and the Eddie the Amsterdam Assassin more odds driven but right alongside with 5/8s as well. the Old Timer JC solid on a 4 and Tarsh moving with the beat for a 3. Thank god there are Another 25 rounds looks like High-Tackle might need them. Ka Kite brothers'n'Sisters get the gears on, see you at the Fortress on Saturday, High-Tackle and the Mokos will be hangin round the Kai Karts, so be there or be square and Gooo the Mighty Warriioooooorrrs.





By Miles Davis

The Originals - Warrior No. 7: Gavin Hill

Warriors Gavin Hill scores a try. Winfield Cup, 1995.

Photo www.photosport.nz

AS A young boy it would have been hard to imagine Vodafone Warrior No. 8 as a star of rugby league but that Gavin Hill would be a top sportsman was not in doubt considering his pedigree. Two of his great uncles (Jack Taiaroa and Joe Warbrick) were members of the first New Zealand team to tour overseas (Warbrick was to be joined by 4 of his brothers when he captained the New Zealand Native team on their long tour in 1888/89. He was inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame in 2008). Other sporting relatives include 1950's All Black Stan 'Tiny' Hill and his basketballing sons Stan and John.

Taranaki born and bred he first made his mark in Rugby Union with local club Eltham. Hill was a rarity, being a goal-kicking loose forward, and gained national attention as a 17 year old by winning a goal-kicking competition which included the likes of Grant Fox, Robbie Deans and Allan Hewson. His prize was a then considerable sum of \$2500 but his joy turned to despair as the Auckland Rugby Union took the money off him. As Hill later recalled "They claimed it under the old 'amateur rule'... that you couldn't make money from footy... it broke my heart. Then, from what I hear, they turned around and gave the cash to one of the All Blacks. Part of me wants to go back now and ask for the money!"

In 1986 he moved to Christchurch and had spells with the Kirwee and Shirley clubs before moving to Wellington in 1990 and joining Hutt Old Boys (nowadays Hutt Old Boys Marist). Having played for Taranaki B, Hill had made the step up on his travels having represented both Canterbury and Wellington.

His life goal had to become and All Black and represent his country but as time progressed he could see that goal becoming less likely with the level of competition for his position being high. It was perhaps fortuitous then that in 1992 he got a call from Canterbury Bulldogs CEO, Peter Moore, offering him a contract. The climate between the still amateur game of rugby and the professional one of league was a more than frosty one in those days so Hill flew over to Sydney in secret to finalise the deal. The inevitable fallout followed and was disappointing for Hill "I signed - and there was an immediate backlash from rugby. They hated league - plain and simple. I found out very quickly who my friends really were and it made me change my opinion about a lot of people. They said I went for the money... that wasn't it. I just wanted to play for my country and I could see that wasn't going to happen in rugby union, sadly."

The change proved a tough challenge with Hill struggling early on for fitness and battling homesickness for both himself and his wife. He made his Bulldogs debut in 1992's round 3 in a loss to the Rabbitohs and scored his first points (2 goals) against the Magpies in Round 5. He ended his first season with 16 appearances and 80 points (1 try and 38 goals, only 2 points behind top-scorer Terry Lamb). 1993 saw the Bulldogs become Minor Premiers with Hill making just 17 appearances but finishing top-scorer with 70 points beating Lamb this time by one point (although Lamb had played 23 games).

Continued on next page...

After just 10 games of rugby league, Hill got selected for the Kiwis for Papua New Guinea and Great Britain's visit in 1992. After making his debut in a 66-10 win over Papua New Guinea he played in both tests of the drawn series against Great Britain, kicking a goal in the first test 15-14 win in Palmerston North (I was at that game and still feel the Poms were robbed by referee Bill Harrigan). Hill went on to make 8 appearances for the Kiwis.

Hill left the Bulldogs at the end of 1993 and had a short stint with Featherstone Rovers in England (along with fellow Kiwi Iva Ropati) before returning to New Zealand and playing for Waikato Cougars.

His move back home proved to be a fruitful one as in 1995 he became the Vodafone Warriors first ever signing and he was thrilled to be part of history "It was an exciting time for the whole country, our own team, and (coach) John Monie built a great culture. We probably didn't have the early success but I thought he was unfairly chastised. He was a good bloke and a smart coach. It took us a fair bit of time to get accustomed to the NRL. A lot of the guys weren't used to the week-to-week grind and that was our undoing."

He played as a prop in the first game vs the Brisbane Broncos and had one failed attempt at goal. The rest of the season he became more of a bit player with just 7 appearances in total and 1 goal. 1996 saw him make a further 7 appearances this time kicking 8 goals. He left the Warriors at the end of the 1996 season signed for Northcote Tigers before returning to Wellington in 1998 and back to his original sport of rugby union. This time he played for Oriental Rongotai and was a key part of their Hardham Cup success that season. His form was such that he was awarded the Billy Wallace Trophy for Best and Fairest in Wellington Premier Rugby.

There followed spells playing rugby in Ireland and Canada (for Terenure College and Velox Valhallians respectively) before taking over coaching duties at Valhallians. He then returned to New Zealand coaching rugby union in the Wairarapa, Wellington and Auckland.

An Ambassador for Duffy's Books for Homes for many years Hill returned to his home province of Taranaki and was spending time working during the week on the Transmission Gully project in Wellington, returning home at weekends.

Hill not only has a place in Vodafone Warriors history as their first signing but is also one of the few forwards that successfully made the transition from union to league. The fact that he could also kick goals made him even more unique.

Gavin Hill scores for Bulldogs vs Roosters 1992

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l919arwqMMo>

New Zealand v Great Britain 1992

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2jxDyYUcWs&t=5s>



Gavin Hill reads at Whitcoulls New Plymouth.



Gavin Hill in his Warriors jersey.

NO ADVERTS ARE PAID FOR IN THIS NEWSLETTER



Late Try Gives Mt Albert First Nines Title



A LAST-MINUTE TRY to Roydon Gillett lifted the Mt Albert Lions to their first Sportsafe ARL Nines title on Saturday, beating the Pt Chevalier Pirates 20-14 in Auckland's flagship pre-season tournament.

With a near full-strength side at their disposal, the Lions cruised through pool play at Stanmore Bay on Auckland's Hibiscus Coast, but had to wait until the closing seconds of the decider to seal the deal against the Pirates, after scores had been locked at 14-14.

Earlier in the final the Lions had made a dream start after forcing an opposition handling error on the first play of the game, which hooker Isaac Misky turned into a four-pointer, before a looping ball from Francis Leger saw Puia'i Patu-Vaega'au hit back for Pt Chevalier.

Mark Graham latched onto a pinpoint Reece Joyce kick to give Mt Albert the advantage late in the first, before the back-and-forth nature of the clash continued when the two sides traded tries through the second half via Alifeleti Ngahe and Peter Oliveti.

Pt Chevalier playmaker Hawaiki Annandale tied things up with a late try, and the game appeared destined for golden point, before Gillett - who was a contestant in the inaugural season of the NRL Rookie TV show - sealed the match with a charging effort under the posts to edge past the 2017 Nines champions and claim the first official silverware of the new season.

Meanwhile in the second-tier Plate final, the Howick Hornets overcame Premiership newcomers the Franklin Storm, 24-20 in the final.

Mt Albert Lions 20 (Issac Misky, Mark Graham, Peter Oliveti, Roydon Gillett tries; 2 goals) def. Pt Chevalier 14 (Puia'i Patu-Vaega'au, Alifeleti Ngahe, Hawaiki Annandale; 1 goals)

Free Event Train for Double Header Match



On April 7 for the Double Header match there will be a free train service from Britomart to Mt Smart Stadium and back again for the SKYCITY Auckland Double Header. This service is available from three hours before kick off for the first game and you just need to show your ticket to access it.



Action Packed Four Days At Taini Jamison Trophy



THERE'S GOING to be loads of action both on and off the court during next week's Taini Jamison Trophy series at North Shore Events Centre. With eight games over four action packed days, it's going to be the ultimate festival of international Netball. There are two world class games every night as the Silver Ferns, Jamaica Sunshine Girls, Malawi Queens and Fiji Pearls battle it out to lift the Taini Jamison Trophy in what will be the ultimate build-up to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Explore The Action On And Off Court

Grab your work colleagues, friends or family and enjoy the international Netball action at the North Shore Events Centre from Wednesday to Saturday. With games not starting until 6.10pm each night – and loads of parking on-site – it is the perfect work night out to watch some of Netball's true international superstars go head-to-head. Enjoy a glass of wine and sample the food from the food trucks as you take in the on court action.

Family Fun Time

There are plenty of prizes up for grabs over the four-day series including the chance to win a Suzuki Sport for the weekend! Younger members of the family can get their face painted before the action heats up on court, while The Hits radio station will be courtside to ensure the entertainment is non-stop. Take in the festivities with something delicious to eat and drink, then settle back and watch some of the world's best athletes go head-to-head.

Immerse yourself in all that is Netball

Kit yourself out in the latest Silver Ferns gear with the new seasons range available at the stadium. Be-

come a SilverFan and show your support of the Silver Ferns with free face painting or for those Netball Fans attending the Friday session, learn how to stay injury free on court with the NetballSmart Power Warm-up.

Saturday Finals Showdown

Four days of international Netball comes to a close with an action-packed day of finals netball when the Taini Jamison Trophy will be decided. With games starting at 2:10pm and 4:10pm it's a great day out for the whole family with loads of fun activities including signing sessions with ANZ Premiership teams the Northern Stars, SKYCITY Mystics and of course your Silver Ferns.

Take part in the Mother Earth futureFerns #NutsAboutNetball promotion on Saturday with fun activities and don't forget to get your photo taken with Basil in the futureFerns photo booth.

Make sure you're there to see if the Silver Ferns can keep their hands on the prestigious Trophy and gain the mental edge heading into next month's Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. This is the closest you'll get to LIVE Netball before these four teams battle it out for a Games Gold – don't miss out!

WHAT: Taini Jamison Trophy

WHO: Silver Ferns, Jamaica Sunshine Girls, Malawi Queens, Fiji Pearls

WHERE: North Shore Events Centre

WHEN: Wednesday 21 – Saturday 24 March

NEED TO KNOW: Children from \$12, Adults from \$25 Family pass from \$59 or take the whole team along with packages of 10 tickets for just \$150. Tickets from Ticketek

ISP Kick-Off The Season At Home With A Win

By Joe Williams - ISP Team Manager

THE VODAFONE Warriors opened their 2018 Intrust Super Premiership NSW season with a win, defeating the North Sydney Bears 30-22 in a tight tussle at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday March 10.

Both teams were determined to give their respective new coaches their first-win, with former NRL player Shane Millard taking the reins at North Sydney and John Teina recently promoted from assistant coach for the home side.

Both sides showed some flair on attack, but execution will be something they will look to improve on as the season progresses.

The Vodafone Warriors ISP side will again play in front of a home crowd when they go up against the Canterbury Bulldogs in the first triple header of the year this Saturday March 17 (2.45pm kick-off).

The earlier game will see the Ricky Henry coached Jersey Flegg team take the field with hopes to secure their first win this season after going down 24-16 to North Sydney last weekend.

The NRL contest between the Vodafone Warriors and Gold Coast Titans will follow, kicking off at 5.00pm.

VODAFONE WARRIORS JERSEY FLEGG CUP V CANTERBURY BULLDOGS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

12.35pm, Saturday, March 17

VODAFONE WARRIORS INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP V CANTERBURY BULLDOGS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

2.45pm, Saturday, March 17

VODAFONE WARRIORS JFC TEAM

- 1 Tevita Mikaele
- 2 Kayal Iro
- 3 Elijah Sufia
- 4 Patrick Elia
- 5 Edward Kosi
- 6 Paul Turner
- 7 Eiden Ackland
- 8 Soane Hufunga (C)
- 9 Sheldon Rogers
- 10 Preston Riki
- 11 Harvey Tupouniua
- 12 Brody Tamarua
- 13 Tyler Slade (C)
- Interchange:
- 14 Dylan Tavita
- 15 Tom Ale
- 16 Wesley Veikoso
- 17 Tayhler Paora
- 18 Sione Tuipolotu
- 21 LOTU INISI

HEAD COACH | RICKY HENRY

ASSISTANT COACH | JEROME ROPATI

VODAFONE WARRIORS ISP TEAM

- 1 Hayze Perham
- 2 Lewis Soosemea
- 3 Joseph Vuna
- 4 Cole Waaka
- 5 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad
- 6 Chanel Harris-Tavita
- 7 Mason Lino (C)
- 8 Albert Vete
- 9 Karl Lawton
- 10 Agnatus Paasi
- 11 Matiu Love-Henry
- 12 James Bell (C)
- 13 Jazz Tevaga
- Interchange:
- 14 Manaia Cherrington
- 15 Chris Satae
- 16 Patrick Siple
- 17 Sione Afemui
- 18 Zac Santo

HEAD COACH | JOHN TEINA

ASSISTANT COACH | JUNIOR FIU

ASSISTANT COACH | MOEHEWA ARMSTORNG





THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 2 ISSUE

NRL, INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP, INTRUST SUPER CUP +
UNDER-20s TEAM LISTS, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND
RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!



ROUND 2, 2018

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the
ground from Thursday, March 15

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via magsonline.com.au, the Apple News-stand and Google Play

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@bigleaguemag
bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au

IT OFTEN takes time for greatness to evolve in players, but it was obvious from his NRL debut that Billy Slater was something special. Ahead of his 300th NRL game for Melbourne on Saturday, we chat to mentor Mal Meninga as well as Slater's former team-mate Matt King, to reveal just what makes him so mentally tough.

It's often said that winning becomes a habit, and that's exactly why Wests Tigers coach Ivan Cleary turned their pre-season into a competition. Benji Marshall reveals why it was some of the hardest training he has done and how Cleary has cultivated a 'winning culture' at the club.

Our columnist Michael Ennis runs his eye over the new combinations we saw in Round 1. He analyses which club nailed it and which clubs need to re-think some things.

The Raiders lost eight games by six points or less last season and started 2018 in similar fashion. We speak to Jarrod Croker about what the club is doing to avoid past mistakes.

PLUS... This Week in History, the Broncos v Cowboys rivalry, Lachlan Croker and a Roger Tuivasa-Sheck poster.

Editorial:

pamela.whaley@news.com.au

Advertising:

bowie.phillips@news.com.au



Vodafone Warriors in Perth





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

Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTING BRANDS!

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



The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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

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