

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

21st March 2018

Newsletter #209



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Photos From The Stacey Jones Lounge (The Home Of The Sir Peter Leitch Club)



Aaron Lawton Warrior Fan Engagement Manager with Roana from Shamrock.



Adam Worth wins big with the prize of a signed Kevin Proctor boot.



All the way up from Taranaki Sean Puttock, John Dazley and big Dean Griffin all the way from the Gold Coast Ready to Rock at Mount Smart.



Andy wins the Don Aitkin & Co hamper.



Anthony Niteri from the TAB gives Jodi Wright the TAB BET OF THE DAY \$50 on the FIRST TRY SCORER DAVID FUSITUA and it came in..



Blake Ayshford and Andrew Mcfadden speak after the game in the lounge.



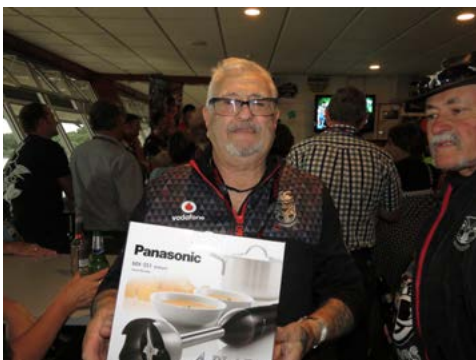
Cameron George addresses the fans in the lounge.



Dale Husband chats with Herbie Clemens x Mangere East while Richie Barnett former kiwis captain checks his mic.



Dale Husband sings When Irish Eyes are Smiling..



Derek wins the Panasonic beater, Yvonne will be happy.



Glen Harding wins big with the PANASONIC TV.



Graham Lee with Pete (ELVIS).

Photos From The Stacey Jones Lounge (The Home Of The Sir Peter Leitch Club)



Great to have Richie Barnnet in the Stacey Jones lounge. Richie played for Cronulla Sharks, Sydney Roosters, London Broncos, Kiwis and now works for Sky Sports.



Joyce Putohe presents Sir Peter with a signed NO 5 Salford jersey signed by Manu Vatuvei which she purchased from Salford then sent it back to the UK to get Manu to sign it.



Kristie Clarke receives a gift from Sir Peter..



Kristy Clarke gets a package from Sir Peter.



Lorna & Trevor and Their baby M8.



Lorna Warrington gets a gift for all the work she does.



Lounge member Gerry Elbourne tells how he fought back after an accident in Samoa where he suffered major injuries including a cracked skull.



Lorraine & Zenny enjoying the lounge.



Margie Grayson from Waiheke is sung HAPPY BIRTHDAY by Mervina also from Waiheke.



Mark Spitz takes the stage telling Irish jokes.



Michael Johannink receives a jersey from Sir Peter.



Miles Davis talking about Warriors being true fans as like his love for West Ham..

Photos From The Stacey Jones Lounge (The Home Of The Sir Peter Leitch Club)



Neville Kesha famous New Zealand referee with Sir Peter.



Richard Fale talks about his prospective consortium attempting to buy the warriors.



Riley with Sir Peter.



Simon Mannering with a little baby.



Simon Mannering with Kay Ellis and Gail Clifton.



Simon Mannering with Sir Peter.



Tina and Bruce Flitter from England.



The team from coverstaff Shamrock in the Stacey Jones lounge today.



Trevor with the Warriors Gnome and Richard Farley.



Wyndham Cruises Dean Griffin presents Peter (our DJ) with a cruise on the Gold Coast.



Zenny & Simon.



Zenny gets the much wanted Selleys BBQ pack.



Changes Made For Clash Against Canberra Raiders

by Richard Becht

LEIVAHA PULU is confirmed to start in the second row replacing the injured Isaiah Papali'i for Saturday's third-round NRL encounter with the Canberra Raiders at GIO Stadium (3.00pm kick-off local time; 5.00pm kick-off NZT).

The 27-year-old, who'll be making his 48th career appearance this week, played the last 73 minutes of the 20-8 victory over his former club Gold Coast after coming on for the injured Papali'i (knee) last Saturday.

His elevation to join Tohu Harris as a starting second rower sees his fellow former Titans team-mate Agnatius Paasi coming onto the interchange.

There's another change in the top 17 with utility Jazz Tevaga named in jersey No 14, coming onto the bench for 2018 rookie Sam Cook, who played 12 minutes in his debut against South Sydney on March 10 and seven minutes against Gold Coast.

"Leivaha did a wonderful job on the left edge coming into the game so early after Isaiah was injured," said Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney.

"It's tough for Isaiah being ruled out for a few weeks after the great start he had to the season but fortunately we're able to call on Vaha as well as bringing Agnatius onto the bench.

"Iggy has had two impressive outings in the Intrust Super Premiership while Jazz had 80 minutes for our ISP side last weekend, so he comes into the side while Sam goes back to the ISP to get some time on the field."

Paasi picked up a medial ligament injury after just a few minutes of the February 17 trial against Melbourne in Rotorua but returned for the season-opening ISP match against North Sydney when he made a game-high 190 metres from 21 carries and 20 tackles in 55 minutes in a 30-22 win. He had another 57 minutes in last Saturday's disappointing 14-30 loss to the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs.

Tevaga was with the NRL squad for the South Sydney match in Perth but didn't play. In his first outing of the season last week he made 53 tackles and 87 metres from 14 runs for the ISP team.

Coming onto the extended eight-man bench are wing Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad and prop Chris Satae.

The Vodafone Warriors face a Canberra side desperately unlucky to lose each of its first two games by the same score – 28-30 – after conceding late tries against the Titans and Newcastle.

In 15 previous meetings at GIO Stadium, the Raiders have won 12 times. The Vodafone Warriors tasted success there in 2014 and 2015 but had a 22-26 golden point loss in 2016 and went down 8-20 in tough grind last season.

The Vodafone Warriors are second on the NRL ladder after consecutive 12-point wins over South Sydney (32-20) and the Titans (20-8). If they win this week it would be the first time in history that they have started a season with three straight victories.

Continued on next page...

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**VODAFONE WARRIORS
V
CANBERRA RAIDERS**

GIO Stadium, Canberra

3.00pm, Saturday, March 24, 2018

- 1 Roger Tuiva-sa-Sheck
- 2 David Fusitu'a
- 3 Peta Hiku
- 4 Solomone Kata
- 5 Ken Maumalo
- 6 Blake Green
- 7 Shaun Johnson

Vodafone Warriors

- 8 James Gavet
- 9 Issac Luke
- 10 Adam Blair
- 11 Leivaha Pulu
- 12 Tohu Harris
- 13 Ligi Sao
- Interchange:
- 14 Jazz Tevaga

- 15 Agnatius Paasi
- 16 Sam Lisone
- 17 Bunty Afoa
- 18 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad
- 20 Anthony Gelling
- 21 Chris Satae
- 22 Mason Lino

LAST NIGHT two of the Vodafone Warrior boys came over to Waiheke to attend the Waiheke Rams rugby league club rooms for a club muster. Zac Santo who is on his first year at the club coming from Canberra Raiders and Sam Cook who made his debut for the club against South Sydney in Perth. Unbelievably they even live together with Sam's Mum and Dad. They were meet at Matiatia by Justin & son Benji (proudly Wearing his Waiheke RAMS JERSEY) who is named after the legend Benji Marshall. The club has three junior teams (U6s U7s & U8s) and one U85s senior team this year. The kids had a great time and I think the adults did too.



Some of the kids that turned up last night.



Thanks to the Vodafone Warriors for sending the guys over.



The boys enjoyed the local Waiheke oysters.



The boys loved the club mascot outside the club rooms.



The boys were meet at the wharf by Justin & son Benji who took them to the club.



The boys were very pleased with this welcome sign as they arrived at the club.

Stick Your Racist Abuse Where The Sun Don't Shine

By David Kemeys

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



IT IS not often that I get deathly serious, and that's hardly a surprise when our side has been so pitiful for years that I have pretty much given up on taking it seriously.

But one thing that does wind me up, and which I do not joke about, is racism.

So despite the fabulous win against the Titans, it is not that, that has me talking.

It is the fact Penrith are investigating claims Souths star Greg Inglis was racially abused by a fan as the Panthers tipped over the Bunnies 18-14 on Saturday.

Inglis is not everyone's cup of team, fair enough.

He was booed from Panthers Stadium when he left the field after a head knock, less acceptable, but still understandable.

But then he sat on the bench after he was ruled out for the rest of the match, and he says he copped racial abuse. Not understandable, not acceptable.

I'm as happy as a sandboy to hear someone singing "who ate all the pies", or "can we play you every week", don't care, but racial abuse is beyond loathsome.

Before we get to bloody smug about it, I have heard plenty at Mt Smart from time to time that has left me feeling sick.

And much of it has been directed at our own players.

No more. Call it out. Racism is vile and detestable and we need to stamp it out.

So good on the Panthers, who are trying to find the offender. Just look for a coward in a KKK hood.

"I wish to make it clear our club does not tolerate this kind of behaviour in any form," Panthers chief executive Brian Fletcher said.

"We will work with the NRL to investigate the matter and any perpetrators will be swiftly dealt with."

Fletcher went on to apologise to Inglis, and I have to part company with him at that point. The Panthers are not responsible that an offensive moron came into the ground and gave Inglis a spray.

That rests solely on the dickhead who opened his mouth.

You have to remember this is not the first time Inglis has copped racial abuse.

There's no need to re-hash those, but I will say this.

To my shame I cannot claim to be blemish free, having said many things over the years I truly wish I had not.

But I vow, I will not tolerate racial abuse towards anyone from any fan at Mt Smart who cares to utter it within my earshot.

The only way to stop this is for all of us to make it clear, we are there for footy, we are there to support our boys, whether they hail from New Zealand, Tonga or Australia.

Here endeth the lesson.

Didn't See This Coming

I am gobsmacked that we are two from two after beating the Bunnies in round one, then giving the Titans a bit of a tickle up at Mt Smart On Saturday night.

But if I am honest, which I am seldom (sorry, always) am, I'm more surprised by Wests Tigers.

No one gave them a snowball's chance against the highly-fancied Roosters in round one, but they got the job done.

Everyone said they would come back to earth with a bump when they faced reigning premiers the Melbourne Storm in round two.

Everyone was wrong.

The giant-killing Tigers travelled to Melbourne and left with the points courtesy of a Luke Brooks last-ditch try in a 10-8 victory.

Two words for you.

Ivan and Cleary.

The bloke knows what he is doping.

The Tigers showed no fear, and our coach Stephen Kearney has to take a leaf from that playbook, because going into any game with some level of belief is critical.

They rattled the Storm from the whistle, were intense all night and never gave an inch. I thought they thoroughly deserved their win, and Cleary absolutely agreed with me, which is why I say he is a such a smart bloke. "I thought we deserved the win."

If there was a blemish, it was former Vodafone Warrior Ben Matulino being sin-binned for a professional foul. His reputation appears to have followed him.

But he more than made up for it, finding Brooks on the charge for the match-winning try.

Now It's Time To Revel In Our Glory

Like the Tigers, our own Vodafone Warriors are now two from two, and going against all the expert predictions.

Yes, yes, we know there are many, many weeks to go, but when you consider how bad we have been, I think it is acceptable to enjoy it.

It's amusing how quickly the fans have divided into the optimists – told you this year is our year, you

wait and see; the realists – didn't see that coming but hell, I'll take it; and the pessimists – it will all turn to custard you mark my words.

We won in Perth where no one gave us a chance, and followed it up in a game that we would have been favourites to win given our good record against the Gold Coast glitterati.

What impressed me was that we did it in some style.

But before we got too carried away, we did have the rub of the green more than one, the video ref turning down two Titans' four-pointers.

You win some and you lose some, and it is nice to be on the end of decisions going our way, because in all honestly I am one of those who believes they go against us more often than they should.

The boys were again very good, especially after losing young back-rower Isaiah Papali'i early in the game.

If you had offered me 20-8 at the start of play I'd have snapped your hand off.

Captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was again hot, scoring a try, saving another and running for almost 200 metres. I would not have been surprised if he'd stopped to sign a few autographs mid-game.

My man David Fusitu'a grabbed another double, and don't tell me there is a club in comp who would not be happy with that return.

I'd be a miserable to nitpick, but I am, so I was disappointed that all the solid defence work we put in was undone by a soft try to Anthony Don, who seems to love playing us, at the death. And yes I know it didn't matter by then.

I'd have to also say the Tigers tipping over the Roosters and the Storm is a hell of a lot more of an achievement than us doing the Bunnies and the Titans.

The Titans are our Bunnies, given we have beaten them 15 from the last 16 but Kearney's new-look side did really well and that is all you can ask.

"It was a real tough contest and what I liked about the lads' performance is that they stayed in the battle," Kearney said.

Before You Get Too Carried Away

Having just said all you can ask is that the players stay in the game and remain committed, I've decided it isn't. I'd also expect them to do something fast about making 10 errors and having a completion rate of under 70 percent.

You'd better believe the really good sides in the NRL will punish that.

Having said that, watching us off-load like madmen was fantastic fun, like watching the Warriors of, god, it's so long ago I can't remember.

I'd be pretty confident there were more off-loads against the titans than in all of last season, when all we did was trudge up, fall over in the tackle, and if by some dint of good fortune we had not actually spilled the ball forward, repeat the process.

"When they start throwing the footy around and it sticks, they're a hard side to defend," Titans coach Garth Brennan said.

But let's just be happy because at this stage of the season we are usually played two, lost two, not the other way around.

Tohu Harris is looking more than an adequate replacement for Ryan Hoffman, Adam Blair has added plenty to the propping rotation, and Peta Hiku is, bless him, a step up from Blake Ayshford.

The odd off-load might have gone to ground, but at least we were willing to throw them.

Raiders Next

I have still to get over the absolute arse-whacking we got in Taranaki at the hands of the Raiders, though I may be in a more forgiving mood if we can visit the absolute shithole that is the nation's capital, and come away with the points.

Truth be known, the Raiders always worry me. You never know which Raiders side is going to turn up.

It's way too early to read anything into the fact we beat the Titans, and the Titans beat the Raiders.

But we will be travelling with a little confidence all the same.

And much of that comes down to the fact that the forwards have held their own and the backs, who were bloody awful last year, are showing some signs of cohesion, which might come as something of a surprise since David Fusitu'a said in preseason that

the new line-up was not clicking.

Shaun Johnson and Blake Green have gone well, early days sure, but you can't deny it.

Peta Hiku and Solomone Kata have been solid if not spectacular in the centres, and Fusitu'a is on fire, while Ken Maumalo had his best game in our colours for quite a while on Saturday.

With RTS at the back, that is far from shabby.

I've made no secret of the fact I believe Fusitu'a should be on his wing. The finishing displays he has put in so far are all the evidence I need.

You have to also give praise to Hiku, who seems to have added a lot of stability in the centres.

It's easy to forget that he is still only 25.

"If we can leave all the hype to the side, we should be able to do what we need to do," he says.

My kind of logic.

Well Done Big Sam

At this rate I will have to admit I was wrong, which I never am.

Sam Lisone has been excellent.

I was not impressed when the club went to great lengths to keep him when he was being courted by the Titans and Raiders, since I could just not see what others clearly could.

Sam wanted to stay, the club wanted that too, and we have been rewarded with some really good footy from the big man.

Now he is already convinced he made the right decision.

Lisone wants to be part of something special at the Warriors.

"There was the option of leaving, but I have unfinished business here. I've done nothing and I would have wasted a couple of years here."

I have to admire that self-awareness. I am sorry Sam but there are a few of us who would agree that you have not contributed as much as we would have liked.

But chin up, there are exactly the same number of us who want you to prove you can!

NZRL Cock-up

At this point I was going to write about the report that came out about the Kiwis World Cup campaign and so on.

But since I am expecting my phone to go any minute, with an offer to be the new CEO of the NZRL, I had better keep my own counsel.

I will say this though.

Bullshit.

The blame has been laid primarily at the feet of David Kidwell,

There's been a nod here and there to a lack of planning and high performance this and that, all of which means diddly-squat to the average league fan.

David Kidwell's name we recognise, and given we know the NZRL wants a new coach, what is the average fan supposed to think.

I'll tell you what I think, I think that's a cheap shot at a guy the NZRL set up to fail.

Shitty communications.

Worse planning.

Crappy relationships with players.

Non-existent high performance expectations or direction.

Hard to see how much of that was down to Kidwell, yet the thing most of us have clutched is that overseas coaches can now apply, surely another nail in Kidwell's coffin.

But you know what, I'd still rather have Kidwell with the proper plans in place than Laurie Daley, who is being touted.

An Aussie who butchered four of the five State of Origin campaigns he was involved in despite having all the resources.

Yeah, that'll put us back on the right track won't it?



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By John Coffey

In Defence Of David Kidwell

David Kidwell during a press conference ahead of the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. Photo www.photosport.nz

TEAM GOING well? Praise the players. Not going well? Blame the coach. Eliminated? Sack the coach. In the weeks following the Kiwis' demise from the 2017 World Cup after consecutive losses to Tonga and Fiji the airwaves ran hot in condemnation of head coach David Kidwell. His immediate resignation was demanded by Radio Sport's anonymous talkback rabble, fuelled by the uninformed comments of sports commentators in various forms of the media.

Now, in the wake of the extensive review carried out by sports lawyer Tim Castle and sports administrator Raelene Castle, it is all too obvious Kidwell was set up to fail by the system which appointed him. Sure, he made mistakes, particularly in so hastily suspending captain Jesse Bromwich and fellow forward Kevin Proctor from a World Cup still more than five months away for breaking team protocols after the Anzac Test in Canberra.

Kidwell should have taken his time in considering their punishment. Other sports in New Zealand and overseas have fought tooth and nail to keep badly-behaved players within their squads. When Kangaroos star Cameron Munster proved to be a disruptive influence during the World Cup coach Mal Meninga sent him home to Melbourne for a telling off from Storm coach Craig Bellamy – then welcomed him back into the Kangaroos camp.

The New Zealand Rugby League failed to provide Kidwell with the vital high performance backing needed for the World Cup, and nor did he insist on receiving it. Instead, he attempted to rebuild what should have been a four-year programme in just a few months. He succeeded to the extent the players brought into his plan and fully supported his methods. Both coach and players were also lacking in media training on how to relate to the public.

An enthusiastic Kidwell had been promoted when incumbent head coach Stephen Kearney was signed by the Warriors in 2016. It seemed logical Kidwell, as Kearney's assistant, could step up to the top job though Kidwell had never previously filled an elite coaching position. Because the NZRL had a policy that the coach had to be a New Zealander, the job virtually became Kidwell's by default. There were no other contenders.

Kidwell by no means took over a successful team. The World Cup, won in 2008, returned to Australia in 2013 and the Four Nations triumphs of 2010 and 2014 had been dimmed by a 2015 Test series loss in England and a 16-0 defeat in the 2016 Anzac Test. That turned out to be Kearney's swansong and Bromwich's debut as captain. Kidwell was tossed into the job on the eve of another Test in Australia and Four Nations series in Britain.

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The Castle Review revealed a lack of communication between the NZRL, its selectors and coach and the players between their well-spaced international commitments. Kidwell was too polite and respectful of the NRL system to distract players from their club focus. It might also explain how selector Tawera Nikau could talk to Jason Taumalolo after the 2017 Grand Final without actually discussing the World Cup starting a couple of weeks later.

Meanwhile, Tongan coach Kristian Woolf had daily access to Taumalolo at the Cowboys, where Woolf is a member of the coaching staff. Once Taumalolo decided to switch to Tonga there was a domino effect embracing Sio Siua Taukeiaho, Manu Ma'u and David Fusitu'a. The review confirmed Fusitu'a only withdrew one hour before Kidwell announced his team despite training with the other Auckland-based Kiwis that morning!

A full strength Kiwis team would have been no more than a distant second favourite behind the red-hot Kangaroos to win the World Cup. That was before a steady erosion of talent, caused by an injury list headed by Kieran Foran, Tohu Harris and Jordan Kahu, the banishing of Bromwich and Proctor, and the four-punch Tongan knock-out. Even some of the stand-by players, such as Alex Glenn, were by then no longer available.

Despite the media mocking the Kiwis spending time on a marae as Kidwell sought to inject his culture into the camp, the on-field campaign began so promisingly. Samoa was swept aside, Scotland was thrashed, and the Kiwis comfortably led Tonga at halftime in Hamilton. Then the wheels fell off. Kidwell's enthusiasm and the best efforts of a below-strength squad could only carry them so far.

Most people do not know how hard Kidwell worked in the short time he had to prepare for the World Cup. I was given an insight in Christchurch one night when he explained his plans to put together an inspirational book relating the deeds of 40 past Kiwis who had been faced by adversity during their careers. He did a great job and proudly presented one to each player.

All the while Kidwell was battling against monetary restrictions imposed by a financially strapped administration (that hasn't changed: why else play a mid-season Test in Denver?). His most telling remark to me when he was wrestling with the complexities of the book was, "I bet Mal (Meninga) wouldn't be doing this. He would have someone else to do it for him". An entire department more likely.

The out-of-contract Kidwell's time as Kiwis coach has almost certainly ended, for now at least. There would be too much baggage to carry this year, and the NZRL has already revoked the rule requiring the Kiwis to be solely coached by New Zealanders. But pathways need to be restored to develop future coaches and it is heartening that NZRL chairman Reon Edwards has embraced (and made public) the Castle Review.

Join Monty Betham and Watch Joseph Parker take on Anthony Joshua

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VS JOSHUA**

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MONTY BETHAM

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Foundation

For Joseph Parker's World title fight on the 1st of April NZ time. I'm putting on a screening party at the Sweat Shop.

**CHECK IT OUT
HERE:**

[HTTP://BIT.LY/2P-PAAU9](http://bit.ly/2P-PAAU9)

- MONTY
BETHAM





By *Shane Hurdell*
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Tamati is Back in Charge

THE BOSS: Kevin Tamati pictured at his farewell from the Bay in 2016. **PHOTO:** HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

KIWIS RUGBY league legend Kevin Tamati is the boss of Rugby League Hawke's Bay again. Bridge Pa-born Tamati, 64, who played 22 tests for the Kiwis from 1979-'85, was elected chairman at the organisation's annual meeting in Hastings last week. The RLHB life member had previously been chairman during the 2015 and '16 seasons before leaving the Bay to take up a property investment business opportunity in Australia in 2016.

Tamati returned to the Bay late last year.

"No other person in our code in the Bay, other than Tohu Harris, has the profile to do this job. I see it as part of my responsibility to help take the game forward in the Bay and I look forward to it," Tamati said.

An NZRL Legends of League inductee in 1995, Tamati, was RLHB chairman when the Napier's McLean Park hosted an NRL match between the Melbourne Storm, with Harris as a starting centre, and the Dragons in 2015. One of his goals will be to help organise an NRL game involving the Warriors and Harris in the near future.

"With the contacts I've got in the game that has to be a priority for me. Hopefully the new owners of the Warriors will see the value of taking some of their matches around New Zealand.

It's a responsibility of their's to promote the game around New Zealand and they need to see it as a good thing."

Junior development will be another priority for Tamati.

"It's no secret the grassroots of the game is struggling here in the Bay. We need to put more than a shoulder to the wheel for it. Growth of the game is crucial for our tamariki and rangatahi and I'll be giving it a big push. I'll be inviting the likes of the Warriors, New Zealand Rugby League and New Zealand Maori Rugby League to come here and support the development we are trying to put in place."

Securing more games for the Unicorns, just one was played last year, and the Bay's women's team will be another big focus for Tamati.

A former New Zealand Maori player and coach who had coaching stints with the Salford, Chorley Borough and Whitehaven clubs in the United Kingdom, Tamati, is keen for another coaching stint.

He has applied for the head coach role with the New Zealand Maori women's team.

"I watched them lose 18-0 to the Aussie Indigenous team in Sydney last month. I thought to myself if that is the best we can come up with we are in trouble so I thought I would jump in boots and all. If I get the job I will have Chanel Huddleston as my assistant coach," Tamati said referring to the Bay's retired Kiwi Fern and New Zealand Maori player who played in the fixture.

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“Hopefully we can help change a bit of history.”

On the work front Tamati is assisting Te Reo Irirangi o Ngati Kahungunu sports show host Kotuku Tomoana with his hour-long rugby league segment each Saturday from 10am to 11am. They plan to provide live broadcasts of games involving Ngati Kahungunu teams from the national Maori tournament at Labour Weekend.

“I want to be better than JD,” Tamati quipped referring to New Zealand Maori Rugby League chairman John Devonshire who is involved with a similar show on Te Reo Irirangi o Tainui.

When your’s truly put it to Tamati he had a lot on his plate I got a predictable reply:

“It’s not about the size of the dog. It’s about the size of the fight in the dog.”

Tamati has used that quote on numerous occasions over the years.

Mid Central Zone general manager Lisa Reweti and coaching development manager Alan Jackson attended the meeting. Reweti spoke about club infrastructures while Jackson outlined the pathways available to coaches keen to upgrade their qualifications and the representative programmes for provincial sides and the Vipers men and women.

Delegates also learnt there will be a big push to get competitions up and running in the Mid Central region for under-17 female players.

Officers elected to the Rugby League Hawke’s Bay board were:

Chairman, Kevin Tamati; treasurer, Lee Grace; secretary, Tracey Liddington; referees delegate, Shane Foster; women’s team delegate, Te Aroha Hunt; Sport Hawke’s Bay representative, Junior Armstrong; Mid Central board representative, Neil Cleaver, Bridge Pa club delegate, Ihaka Waerea.

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



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Shontayne Hape Is This Weeks Guest On The Kiwi League Show!

Shontayne is a dual international who played for the Warriors, Kiwis and England Rugby Union and will be in the studio this week!

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!

Linwood Retrieves Thacker Shield

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)



CANTERBURY CHAMPION Linwood Keas retrieved the Thacker Shield, one of the oldest and most hotly contested rugby league trophies in Australasia, when they over-ran the West Coast Chargers 66-20 at Wingham Park, Greymouth, last Saturday. In recent years the shield has been at stake in pre-season matches between the top Canterbury club and a composite team from west of the Southern Alps.

Donated in 1913 by Dr Henry Thacker, founding president of the Canterbury Rugby League, the shield was originally competed for on a national basis. In the first challenge Sydenham kept it in Christchurch by beating Auckland club North Shore. It was later changed to a South Island inter-club format before becoming an annual showdown between the champions of Canterbury and West Coast.

The shield's history is liberally sprinkled with tales of mighty challenges and stubborn defences, accusations of home town refereeing (on both sides of the Alps), and memorable weekends when railcars were hired by challenging clubs and packed with their supporters hell bent on bringing home league's "log of wood".

Folklore has it that one Canterbury club triumphed at Wingham Park only to be told the shield had gone missing and could not be presented. It was found securely tucked away behind a wardrobe in the home of the captain of the defending club! No-one could quite explain how it had got there.

Gradually, as playing numbers dwindled on the West Coast from the late 1980s, the shield fixtures became more one-sided. The introduction of end-of-season provincial competitions also made it increasingly difficult to find suitable dates and the shield challenge slipped off the calendar altogether for a time.

It was revived by the Hornby Panthers in 2013. Hornby was then coached by former Kiwis prop Brent Stuart, a West Coaster who could see a pre-season game serving the dual purposes of giving his team a valuable warm-up match and providing the West Coast with a feature opening to its own season.

A pattern was established of the Canterbury champion being given a tough work-out for the first 40 minutes before running away through superior fitness and preparation. But in 2017 Linwood was beaten 28-20 by the Chargers, the first West Coast shield win since Cobden-Kohinoor had upset Hornby in 1997.

Undaunted, the Keas returned home without the shield but with a resolve which took them to a second consecutive Canterbury championship last August. This time the shield challenge followed the more familiar pattern, with the Chargers holding Linwood to 34-20 at half-time before conceding 32 unanswered points in the second spell.

Linwood was an original Canterbury club in 1913 but had to wait 50 years before having its name inscribed on the Thacker Shield for the first time by beating Brunner 10-6 in 1963. During the off-season the Keas have lost teenager Graeme Patu-Vaega'au to the Warriors Jersey Flegg squad but regained Matt Sauni from the Warriors NSW Cup squad.

The Greymouth Star recently reported only three teams, Suburbs, Runanga-Brunner and Cobden-Kohinoor, had sufficient players to enter premier teams this season. Waro-Rakau (a combination of the former Blackball and Ngahere clubs) was the most recent to drop out as the West Coast continues to suffer from its youth exodus to Canterbury and overseas.

Frank Endacott Honoured

MEANWHILE, ALL Canterbury rugby league followers had cause to celebrate Frank Endacott's induction into the Sporting Legends of Canterbury at the province's annual awards night. Endacott was modestly shocked when the honour was bestowed. He had been led to believe he was attending the function to support his son, Gary, who was up for an award.

Continued on next page...

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“My wife told me I looked like a stunned mullet and she’s never seen me like that in 50-odd years. To be up there with names like Sir Richard Hadlee, Ivan Mauger and Ronnie Moore is neat, I’m over the moon,” said Endacott, who was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the 2007 New Year Honours.

Endacott has been involved in rugby league since his father was instrumental in the formation of the Shirley club in 1955. He was a Schoolboy Kiwi in 1963 alongside the likes of future senior Kiwis Phillip Orchard and Graeme Cooksley and played for Addington and Hornby before coaching both clubs to championship success.

Although his illustrious coaching career included much success with the Kiwis from 1994 to 2000 and memorable stints with the Warriors, Wigan and Widnes, he has no doubt about his proudest achievement. That was coaching Canterbury to thump star-studded Auckland 36-12 in the 1993 national provincial final at a packed Addington Show Grounds.

Fans Dressing Up For St Patrick's Day at Mt Smart Stadium



Thursday Night

By Barry Ross

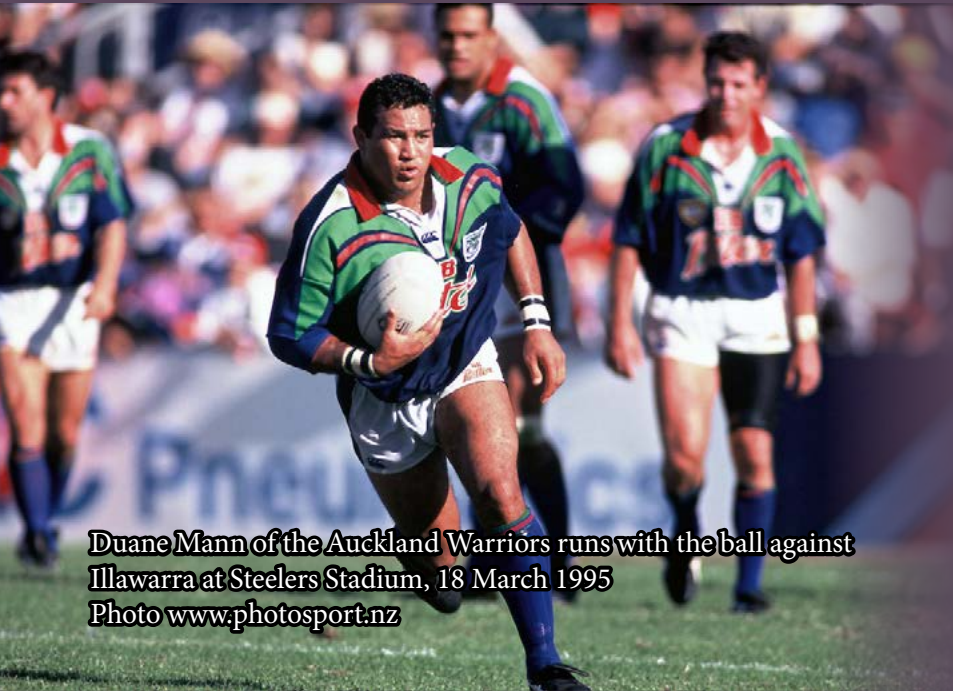


THE ST. GEORGE/ILLAWARRA Dragons seem to like playing Thursday night football. In the first two rounds of this season, they have scored two wins on Thursday night and in both games they were probably the underdogs. But the next time they play on a Thursday night is more than three months away when they take on the Parramatta Eels at WIN Stadium in Wollongong on 28 June. Before this year, the Dragons had not played too many Thursday night fixtures and when they did, their record was not great. Last season they did not play any Thursday night games, while in 2016, they lost three of their four matches. In 2015 they won the only their only Thursday game and in 2014 they lost the one they played. Regular Thursday night football is only a recent thing and the Broncos played eight such games last year and will play the same number this season.

Dragons' 22 year old centre, Euan Aitken, was impressive last week against the Sharks. Since making his first grade debut in March 2015, Aitken has been a classy all round defender, who often did not receive the praise he has deserved. In his two games this year, Aitken has scored a try in both of them, as well as running for a total of 214 metres and making 28 tackles. He has also made two linebreaks and six tackle bursts. In his 59 first grade games to date, he has 21 tries to his credit. Born near the Victorian border at Pamula on the far NSW South Coast, 525 kms south of Sydney, Aitken weighs 93 kgs and stands 182 cms. Another Dragon, who stood out on Thursday night, was 24 year old hooker, Cameron McInnes. He never stopped working, as his 50 tackle count indicates. His defence in tight around the ruck area, was exceptional. The former South Sydney junior has made a total of 86 tackles in the two games this year, while he also also picked up 86 metres from his dummy half runs.

While Thursday has been good for the Dragons so far this year, the same could be said about Saturday for the Warriors. Lets hope this continues against the Raiders in Canberra this coming Saturday. GIO Stadium in Australia's capital city has not been a good venue for the New Zealanders. In 15 games at this venue, the Warriors have won just three. But the team had a poor record in Perth and that was no problem in the win over South Sydney on 10 March. Stephen Kearney will focus on his team's excellent defence this year and while they will not be over confident, they are playing well enough to record their third successive victory. The Warriors play 11 games on a Saturday in 2018, eight on Fridays, four on Sundays and one on Wednesday 25 April (Anzac Day) in Melbourne against the Storm. At Mt Smart, there are six Saturday games, while the Warriors also meet Manly at Christchurch in what is a home game for the Sea Eagles. Four of the Friday night games are at home and four are away but only one of the Sunday matches is at Mt. Smart.

Two rounds completed and five unbeaten teams- the Dragons, Warriors, Panthers, Tigers and Knights. And it is probably fair to say, that none of these five were expected to have two wins from their first two matches. The Broncos were favoured to beat the Dragons in the opening game of the competition, while over in Western Australia, the Perth hoodoo was supposed to be too hard for the Warriors to overcome. Parramatta were the favourites to beat the Panthers in round one, while the Tigers were outsiders in both of their games against the Roosters then the Storm. In the last match of round two, the Newcastle Knights hung in all the way, scoring the winning try with three minutes to play. Nathan Brown has already shown that his Knights are genuine threats this year, after finishing with the wooden spoon last season. Mitchell Pearce was outstanding for Newcastle in the hot Canberra conditions. At the other end of the scale, there are also five sides who have no wins from their opening two games. These are the Raiders, Sharks, Eels, Rabbitohs and Bulldogs. Ricky Stuart's Raiders have stumbled in the last five minutes or so of both their losses after appearing to have winning leads. They do have some match winning players and these include Blake Austin and Jordan Rapana. These two players will be a threat this Saturday afternoon when they take on the Raiders in Canberra. Parramatta were terrible on Sunday in their 54-0 capitulation to Manly. Their major signing, Jarryd Hayne, was far from impressive and as a team they appeared to have little interest after the first 10 minutes or so. The Sharks have many problems with the main one being their poor ball control. The Bulldogs need to improve quickly but South Sydney did compete until then of their loss to Penrith.



By Miles Davis

Duane Mann of the Auckland Warriors runs with the ball against Illawarra at Steelers Stadium, 18 March 1995
Photo www.photosport.nz

The Originals - Warrior No. 9: Duane Mann

WARRIOR NO. 9 was hooker Duane Mann. Auckland born but of proud Tongan heritage he had rugby league in his veins with father Don having been a Kiwi. Like his father Mann played his club league for Glenora Bears representing the club through the grades before making his impact in the senior side.

In 1986 he was selected for the fledgling Tongan Rugby League side that took part in the Pacific Cup (it was 2 years later that Tonga played their first official test match). The following season he made his debut for Auckland and was part of the side in 1988 who demolished the touring Great Britain side 30-14 at Mt Smart.

He was then selected for Kiwis in 1989 for the upcoming Kangaroos tour of New Zealand. Although he missed out on the first test he was in the starting line-up for the 2nd and 3rd. Over the next 4 years he was to play 23 consecutive tests for the Kiwis.

Mann's performances were attracting attention overseas and in November 1989 he took the next step up the rugby league ladder when he signed for English club Warrington Wolves.

He was to have a fair measure of success in his first season with Warrington finishing mid-table in the league but making their way to the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. There was a fair Kiwi representation that day with Mann being joined by Gary Mercer in the Warrington side whilst opponents Wigan had Adrian Sheldford, Dean Bell and Kevin Iro in their ranks. Warrington however fell short on the day going down 36-14.

The next season saw Mann and his team once again finish mid-table but he was to pick up his first winners medal as Warrington were triumphant in the Regal Trophy beating Bradford Northern 12-2 in the final. In all he spent 4 seasons with Warrington making 123 appearances, including a club record 103 consecutively, and scoring 20 tries. At the end of the 1992/93 season he was let go by the Wolves and returned to New Zealand to play for the North Harbour Sea Eagles in the 1994 Lion Red Cup. He was given the captaincy of the side by coach Graeme Norton. The Sea Eagles finished 3rd of 12 teams in the round-robin but made it to the Grand Final where they faced Minor Premiers Counties Manukau Heroes. Although they were the underdogs Mann and his team opened up a 20-6 half-time lead and held on for a 24-16 victory (Mann's opposition hooker and skipper was future Warriors team-mate Hitro Okesene).

1994 also saw Mann voted NZRL Player of the Year and handed the captaincy of the Kiwi side. His form made him a natural choice for the new NRL club the Vodafone Warriors and he was given the No. 9 jersey for their opening game against the Brisbane Broncos.

He scored his first try in the round 6 win against the Illawarra Steelers and managed to dot down in the next two games as well. In round 10's fixture against the Newcastle Knights he was handed the captaincy in the absence of regular skipper Dean Bell. In round 12 he was replaced as the starting hooker by Syd Eru and was consigned to a part-time role for the rest of the season. He was not re-signed at the end of the 1995 season.

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Having also been dropped from the Kiwi squad he rejoined Tonga and was made their skipper for the 1995 Rugby League World Cup. Tonga were in the same group as the Kiwis and Papua New Guinea and faced Mann's old team in the first game at his old stomping ground of Wilderspool, Warrington. Despite being massive underdogs the Tongans nearly provided the shock of the tournament. With Mann leading a fired up forward pack and stunning the Kiwis with his unexpected astute kicking game. The Tongans scored first through a Willie Wolfgramm try but the Kiwis hit back to lead 12-6 at half-time. The second half started with Tonga pressuring the Kiwis into mistake and with 7 minutes left they were leading by 12. Two late tries converted by Matthew Ridge levelled the scores and two minutes into injury time Ridge dropped the winning goal (one can imagine a very satisfied Duane Mann at the final whistle of the Kiwis v Tonga clash at last year's World Cup). So near yet so far for Mann and the Tongans (Mann also captained Tonga at the 2000 Rugby League World Cup). He is Tonga's most capped player.

After leaving the Vodafone Warriors he returned to skipper the Glenora Bears and led them to 3 consecutive Fox Memorial titles in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

After hanging up his boots Mann was appointed NZRL's High Performance Director and also had periods coaching both Tonga and Fiji. In 2013 he was appointed the Vodafone Warriors Pathways and Academy Manager before leaving in 2016 to take up a sports management and development role at his old school, Kelston Boys High. Mann saw his new role as a chance for personal development and one that excited him "It will be a different sort of challenge but one I'm really looking forward to. Just to be involved with rugby league as a full-time job, I have been very lucky."

Still very much a presence on the rugby league scene and occasionally providing comments for television, print and radio, Duane Mann will always be the original Warriors No. 9.

1990 Challenge Cup Final Warrington v Wigan <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ln6ZlysQGMU&t=1s>

1995 Tonga v New Zealand World Cup clash <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-Aqco92OYY>



\$49

11-GAME KIDS' MEMBERSHIPS



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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 3

Date/ Venue		Game	Tarsh Ieremaia <i>Flava Star</i>	Joe Vagana <i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	John Coffey <i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	Fast Eddie <i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	Monty Betham <i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	Neville Kesha <i>Ex International Referee</i>	High-Tackle Holloway <i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
Thurs 22 Mar AAMI	Storm v Cowboys	Cowboys	Storm	Cowboys	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
Fri 23 Mar ANZ	Bulldogs v Panthers	Bulldogs	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Bulldogs	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
Fri 23 Mar Cambletown	Tigers v Broncos	Broncos	Tigers	Broncos	Broncos	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Broncos
Sat 24 Mar GIO	Raiders v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sat 24 Mar ANZ	Rabbits v Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Rabbits	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Rabbits	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles
Sat 24 Mar ANZ	Eels v Sharks	Eels	Eels	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks
Sun 25 Mar C.Berghofer	Titans V Dragons	Titans	Titans	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons
Sun 25 Mar ALLIANZ	Roosters v Knights	Knights	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Knights	Roosters	Roosters

Picks last week	6/8	3/8	4/8	3/8	3/8	6/8	4/8
Total picks	9/16	8/16	8/16	8/16	8/16	11/16	6/16

Ripleys Believe it or Not!!

When was the last time you saw the NRL ladder look like this

1. Dragons
2. Warriors (yeeaaaah)
3. Panthers
4. West Tigers
5. Knights

NO SIGN of the Storm, Broncos, Cowboys, Roosters Sharks or the enigmatic Eels who were fancied by many as a Big Dance date but find themselves on the bottom rung, whats going on. OK its only round 3 but just saying its mighty weird at any time. The Dragons continue to confuse me, two weeks in a row I have picked their opponents and twice been denied, I am starting to dislike Mary McGregors hard headed crew. Likewise the Tigers and the Knights defied the odds again. How on earth do the Tigers beat the Super Smith/Slater Storm in Melbourne, I watched the replay and they even won that, astounding! Mind you they had the Maori magician Benji Marshall pulling the strings just like the old days. What will they do when Josh Reynolds recovers? The most impressive display came from the Manly mob. Barretts Bashers pummeled the Slipping Eels 50 to zip. OUCH, the "hard to beat at the Brook" mantra is ringing true again. The Parra coach spent the whole match head in his hands hardly able to watch the parade of Eagle touchdowns.

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DCE and the Turbo twins unstoppable. For the second week in a row the Panthers looked out of sorts with Souths all over them but once again pulled the Rabbit out of the hat. The elusive Peachey in a late cameo grabbing the last minute winning try. Not the first time he's done that. Our old friend Ivan Cleary nearly raised a smile at the bell. Whats happened to the Shireboy Sharks 0 and 2? I suspect they are missing the link play of the old stager Luke Lewis for one thing and still trying to get Mattie Moylan in their groove for another. Jimmy Maloney a bigger loss than they thought. Up North the big blue was the Broncos v Cowboys clash, JT's cattle rustlers even without megastar Morgan starting a handy favorite, but not to be. Bennetts boys rising to the occasion as they often do at Suncorp with no one soaring higher than boom youngster Tevita Pangai jnr who single-handedly wrested the win for the homies, what a sustained power packed display he put on. His crowning effort being the try-saver goalpost smash on Bolton in the final minute to save the game. He was hotter than the Butchers sizzling Sausages, this game was his coming of age in the NRL, you heard it here first. Well what about the Titanic struggle at Mt Smart, another brace of points for the good guys the mighty Vodafone Warriors. Not as coherent as week one and apart from some exciting scoring movements would probably be considered as closer to winning ugly than being dominant. For a long period the Gold Coasters were in touch with the match enduring several close run moments with tries denied. Good luck mixed with good scrambling saved the Warrior blushes. Our defence was once again reasonably consistent, due as noted last week to perceived improved fitness and attitude levels (The Corvo factor)...this is becoming a notable and hopefully ongoing aspect of this 2018 squad. The upshot of the above unforeseeable goings on was another hard day at the Tip Face. It turned out to be "Ladies Day" for Tarsh moving to the beat with an excellent 6 from 8. The only punter on the Tigers what a bolter pick. The Whistler Nifty Nev also carded a neat 6 to go to the outright lead with 11 points now. The rest of us notching very average returns, the two old guys Coffey and High-tackle got 4 with the Dutchie, Montz and big Joe V on 3. The draw this week has a few more fish-hooks on offer with the Tigers looking to add the Broncos to their scalp list. The Roosters looking to shut down a few of their old team-mates and "Pearce" the Knights dream run, Storm Cowboys a 50/50 and Eels looking to arrest the slide up against the also winless Sharkies. I can see the Bulldogs starting well but run down by the fast finishing Blue Mountain Panthers. The next big test for our boys in Raider town with Sticky Ricky desperate to turn around his cartwheeling Canberra crew. A step up needed again for another away winners grin. Keep the faith brothers n sisters and Goooo the Mighty Warriioooooorrrs!!

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



Thanks Shamrock Recruitment

A big thank you to Roana and the team at Shamrock Recruitment for their support for Saint Patrick's day in the Stacey Jones Lounge on Saturday night at Mt Smart. You took the lounge to another level!

If you're looking to hire then give them an go:
roana@srg.co.nz



Silver Ferns Connect With Young Fans On The North Shore



LOCAL NETBALL fans turned up in droves to show support for their sporting heroes at the Silver Ferns Experience held at Westfield Albany on Sunday 18 March.

Hundreds of young fans came out to meet take part in a range of fun activities, win prizes and of course meet their Netball idols ahead of the Taini Jamison Trophy, taking place at the North Shore Events Centre this week. The whole Silver Ferns squad were on hand to run Netball skills and drills, answer questions, pose for photos and of course sign dozens of autographs.

For new Silver Ferns quad member Michaela Sokolich-Beatson it was a way to touch base with the local community that have supported her as she's come through the grades.

It couldn't get much better for the rising 21-year-old, the first Whangaparoa-born Silver Fern excited by the prospect of getting her test career underway in her own backyard for the series against the Fiji Pearls, Jamaica Sunshine Girls and Malawi Queens, starting on Wednesday.

“Playing at the North Shore Events Centre is going to be huge because obviously I'm from the North Shore,” Sokolich-Beatson said. “I'll probably cry in the national anthem because it is huge....it's a massive honour and to have all of my closest friends and family there to experience that moment with me is going to be massive.”

Leading the NZU21 team to an historic back-to-back Netball World Youth Cup title in Botswana last year, it was only a matter of time before the athletic 1.84m goal/wing defence made her way to the elite level, completing the jump in double quick time.

Impressive performances over the last two years and astute leadership of the NZU21s led to Sokolich-Beatson's elevation to the Silver Ferns last month, the newest member having no qualms that she's ready for the job ahead.

“To represent my country at the top level is huge,” she said. “I am with the big girls now. Some of them have been there for 10 years and to be with these players who I grew up watching is amazing and to represent my country on the world stage is going to be epic.”

Sokolich-Beatson acknowledged the grounding and preparation she had received as part of the NZU21s for the past three years, where aspiring to excellence was the key driver throughout, had helped her slip seamlessly into transitioning to the Silver Ferns environment.

“Last year was a huge year for me, both on and off the court,” she said. “I learnt a lot about resilience as a player which is gold in sport. There's lots of ups and downs all the time and to be able to take a knock and then to just get on with life, is big.”

And those attending the Taini Jamison Trophy will be able to make personal connections with the Silver Ferns with signing sessions held each day as well as the SKYCITY Mystics and Northern Stars squads who will be on-site at North Shore Events Centre on Saturday.

For more information go to SilverFerns.co.nz and to grab tickets head over to Ticketek.co.nz



Meet The 75-Year-Old Pirtek Volunteer Of The Year

By Brooke Hurdell
NZRL

YOU'LL STRUGGLE to find a volunteer who has dedicated more of their life to rugby league than Jack Newson.

The 75-year-old was the well-deserved recipient of the Male Pirtek Volunteer of the Year award at the NZRL Annual Awards earlier this year. This award recognises the tireless efforts of our sport's behind-the-scenes legends at grassroots level.

As a Life Member of the Hornby Rugby League Club, Newson lives and breathes the game and is said to be one of the club's biggest supporters.

"He is extremely humble, and never ever asks for anything in return. We as a club are honoured to be in his presence".

His involvement with the Hornby Rugby League Club spans over 65 years as a player, coach, executive member and life member, and he currently still plays for the Masters team. Not only does he help with skills days for juniors, he fixes and maintains the club and is always the first person to be watching and supporting around Canterbury's fields.

Newson sat down with Andrew King from Christchurch's Western News to chat about his life of rugby league.

So Jack, you have a longstanding tie with the Hornby Panthers, 66 years and counting. What got you into league?

"When I was growing up every young kid around the country wanted to be an All Black. But we were from Hornby and we wanted to be Kiwis. That was the difference, we are a staunch rugby league area. League dominated and I still love the game right up to today.

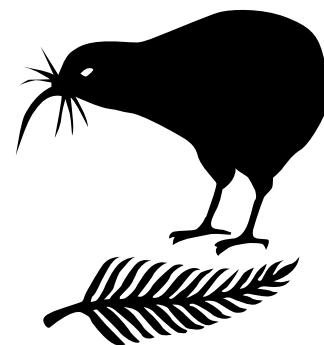
It has been my life."

Now you volunteer for the club and was named top male volunteer of the year by NZRL. Are there more people helping out nowadays or less?

"There is plenty of people who help out with the club and we have an excellent committee who gets a lot of work done. I just help out when I can and I don't live far away. I go over there every week. I like to go to the schoolboys' prize giving. I love watching the younger kids coming through. Gave up coaching but I really like watching them develop their skills. There is a lot of good coaches there now, that have passed me. I used to coach 14s take them to 15s then to 16s and then drop back down and do it all over again."

So what keeps you coming back to help out?

"It is part of my life. My love of the club, the sport all rolls into one. It is a major part of my life. When my boys finished playing I was a bit lost. I had been flat tack chasing teams here there everywhere then it just stopped. Now grand kids are coming through so it all started again."



**NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE™**

NZRL Life Member Nominations Now Open

NEW ZEALAND Rugby League now invites nominations for Life Membership and Distinguished Service Awards.

These are prestigious honours that are not awarded lightly nor earned as of right. They are awarded for long, well-documented and meritorious service.

Recipients must have:

- During their time, advanced or improved the game of rugby league significantly, such that their contribution is widely recognised as outstanding
- Introduced policies or initiatives that have made a significant impact, either at national or district/zone level
- Ideally be life members at both club and district/zone level first before being considered at national level

Nomination forms can be found on the NZRL website here under Life Member Nomination forms.

Please send nomination forms to tnepe@nzrl.co.nz by 5pm Friday March 30, 2018.

Reader Mail

Hi Sir Peter,

THOUGH I would drop you a line to say that Saturday night was one of the best lounge nights ever.

There were many things that made it the best....The sumptuous meal at 2.30pm, the guests that you had on stage especially Simon Mannering (what a sincere humble bloke he is), the Warriors winning but to me it was the lovely ladies from Shamrock that made the night. Their Irish theme, from dressing up, to Irish cookies and even prizes for telling an Irish joke were all highly entertaining. Plus the best score half and full with a cash prize was a real bonus.

Can you pass on to them my (and all my work mates) our best wishes. Also tell them that they were a class act (not quite as good as the Butcher in full flight, but still they put on a damn good class act that was hard to beat!)

Kind regards,

Don Graham JP - Director/William Aitken & Co,



HI SIR Peter! Thought you might appreciate seeing a couple of very excited little vodafone Warriors fans!! The afternoon kickoff time is great for the whole family!!

Have a great day!!

Brendon Dawson CHRISTCHURCH

Auckland And Bay Of Plenty Teams Dominate Top Section Of School Volleyball Nationals

Bae Fountain, of Mount Maunganui College spiking against the two-man Rangitoto College block of Matthew Bell (3) and Mitch Coulthurst in their pool match at the NZ School Volleyball Championships. [PHOTO: Julie Maree Photography]

TEAMS FROM the volleyball powerhouse regions of Auckland and the Bay of Plenty have dominated the top placings in pool play at the 50th NZ Secondary School Volleyball Championships, being played in Palmerston North.

Of two groups of sixteen teams making up the Boys' and Girls' 1st Divisions, a total of ten teams are from Auckland, and a further ten from the Bay of Plenty. Tasman, Wellington and Canterbury regions take up another 9 spots, with three teams each, while the remaining three teams come from the minor regions of Taranaki, Manawatu and Otago.

In the Boys pools, no real surprises have occurred, with all teams moving though from their pools to the 1st Division playoffs being seeded in the top 3 spots, with Rotorua's Western Heights High School, Westlake Boys High from the North Shore of Auckland, Nelson College and the North Shore's Orewa College being the pick of the teams in this group. Not far behind are perennial top place challengers Tauranga Boys College, who carry the hopes of the Tauranga supporters, after cross-town rivals Otumoetai missed out on the Top 16.

A few more surprises have shown through in the Girls' pools, with dark horses Otago Girls High and home town team St Peters College qualifying from their bottom pool ranking positions, while top pool seeds Aorere College of Auckland, and Nelson's Nayland College both missing out. Frontrunners at the mid-point of the tournament are Westlake and New Plymouth Girls' High Schools, with 16-times winners Tauranga's Otumoetai College and Wellington Region's Sacred Heart and St Mary's integrated schools not far behind.

Section play in all divisions runs for the next two days, followed by semi-finals on Thursday and Finals on Friday. A record 99 Girl's teams are participating in the tournament, along with 72 Boys' teams, making for a total of around 3,000 players, officials and supporters packing out the Palmerston North venues.



McCauley College's Francesca Tua spiking against Trident College's block of Jayme Price (13) and Autumn Amoroa (3); Delilah Toti (4) of McCauley backing up, in the teams' final pool match at the NZ School Volleyball Championships, won narrowly in the 5th set by McCauley. [PHOTO: Julie Maree Photography]



ROUND 2 LADDER

1
4 PTS

DRAGONS



9
2 PTS

COWBOYS



2
4 PTS

WARRIORS



10
2 PTS

TITANS



3
4 PTS

PANTHERS



11
2 PTS

BRONCOS



4
4 PTS

TIGERS



12
0 PTS

RAIDERS



5
4 PTS

KNIGHTS



13
0 PTS

SHARKS



6
2 PTS

SEA EAGLES



14
0 PTS

RABBITOHS



7
2 PTS

ROOSTERS



15
0 PTS

BULLDOGS



8
2 PTS

STORM



16
0 PTS

EELS




Holden



THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 3 ISSUE

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



ROUND 3, 2018

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IT BEGAN when Cooper Cronk announced he had signed with the Roosters and after months of anticipation, Knights halfback Mitchell Pearce will face his old club and the player who is wearing his former jersey at Allianz Stadium on Sunday. We look at their head-to-head clashes at club and state level and chat to Roosters five-eighth Luke Keary who has played alongside both halfbacks.

Parramatta finished in the top four last season but are yet to record a win yet this year. Ahead of their clash with Cronulla on Saturday, Eels legend Brett Kenny reminds fans that the season is long and not to panic, and why Kane Evans playing at his best may hold the key for the Eels revival.

Bulldogs utility Moses Mbye has been used in a range of roles since making his debut back in 2014, from hooker to centre and in the halves. However, this season he has been handed the No.1 jersey and he's relishing the chance to be settled in one position.

Gold Coast hooker Mitch Rein reveals his disappointment after moving on from the Dragons, and the stroke of luck that took him to Panthers reserve grade and then back to the NRL under Garth Brennan.

PLUS... This Week in History, an ESL update with Bryson Goodwin and a Benji Marshall poster.

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Hi Sir Peter.

THANKS FOR the game day experience where we joined you in the Stacey Jones Lounge. Certainly was an adventure and capped off with the Warriors win. Here are a few photos we had. No 1 - Dave McKee, Steve Crestani, Lorraine McKee and Craig Crestani. No 2 - Steve and Craig meet Simon Mannerling. No 3 - Peter Ensor shows off his Warriors flag he had signed by Simon Mannerling for his son Oliver. No 4 - Steve and Craig Crestani share a thumbs up with Sir Peter for a great day in the Stacey Jones Lounge.

Thanks again for the prize and then the kids gifts

Cheers Steve



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