

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

# Newsletter #213



## Vodafone Warriors v Broncos



Photos courtesy of [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

# Bennett is the best!

By David Kemeys

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



**F**OR A spot of shameless name-dropping, I had dinner with Broncos coach Wane Bennett on Friday night ahead of his pigging mongrel side beating us 24 hours later.

So did a couple of hundred others to be fair, but it doesn't sound anywhere near as impressive if you say it like that.

He gave his time free, which is pretty bloody good when you consider he commands big fees if he is even willing to speak, in Australia.

The occasion was a fundraiser for the NZ Universities and Tertiary Rugby League Association at Ellerslie.

Now I could be in danger of doing the man a massive disservice, since I am only writing from memory of what he said, and the memory may have been affected by Lion Red.

But he was bloody funny for a man who virtually grunts his answers, never uses two words when one would do, and is famous for being the grumpiest man on the planet, let alone in the NRL.

If I have it doesn't matter, because he wouldn't give a shit, because he doesn't care what the media says about him, let alone some arsehole tapping out a newsletter in New Zealand.

"The media write all this stuff about me and then get upset because I don't get upset, and they write about that too. Two things, one, I don't read it, and two, I don't give a shit what they think."

The Bennett philosophy is much deeper than that though. He is a firm believer that individuals can only control what they believe and do, so remaining true to yourself and what you believe in is critical.

At his best when left to answer questions from the floor, Bennett had some wonderful answers.

Did he think the Warriors had turned a corner? "No."

You can't say he didn't answer the question, but when pushed, he conceded they'd done well, but did not believe anything had been achieved until the club was able to play the way it has been on a consistent basis.

Knowing Stephen Kearney well did he feel, he was a natural coach? "No."

Blunt, but astonishingly direct.

But again, when pushed, he said Kearney did, in his opinion, have what it took to become a very good coach. "He's got wonderful values, he listens and takes advice, he works incredibly hard and he is no quitter."

Hard work is a theme Bennett returns to often, saying the most successful players he has ever worked with have not necessarily been the most talented.

"I have seen guys with a ton of talent but no work ethic, and they fall by the wayside, and I have seen the opposite, players who are good, and who turn themselves into something even better through hard work."

Even then there are Bennett riders, many of them around a moral code and being a good person.

He's proud of the work league is doing to clean-up it's all too often tarnished image. "We have tried hard, and we've needed to, but if you want an example of what happens when you let young men get away with anything, when egos run out of control, that's called the Aussie cricket team."

He's big on responsibility and having a moral compass.

"One thing I can tell you after a lot of years in the game is that the very best I've worked with, whether they are the most talented or the hard-workers, are always those with the best parents."

To the gags about his side being about to be beaten, he would do little more than offer that wry Bennett grin and a "we'll see", or a "we can't worry about you, only what we can control".

Who do you suppose had the last laugh?

Then he does it again

Having listened to Bennett on Friday, it came as no surprise the Broncos coach was back to his best with the New Zealand media after the game, offering grunts and as few syllables as possible to any question.

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One reporter wrote his press conference was conducted “without revealing much”.

He might have called for consistency for the Warriors before any claims of change the night before, but he was positively glowing about our boys on Saturday night, two points under his belt.

“They started the season well and a defeat isn’t going to hurt them. They played pretty well. We come into this situation every week, one of us is going to win, one of us is going to lose. I’m sure they’ll pick the pieces up quickly and move on.”

All I can say is Bennett’s been right a hell of a lot more often than he’s been wrong. Let’s hope we do that moving on come Friday night.

### **Flat Out!**

Hoping for six straight was just too much, our boys falling 27-18 to a pretty bloody good Brisbane outfit, and leaving more than 15,000 fans in Mt Smart feeling just a little flat.

And that’s entirely appropriate, because flat is the word you would use to describe the performance.

We just weren’t as sharp as we have been.

So that ends our perfect start to the year, which has bought the knockers out in full cry.

Bugger me you just could not win if you were part of the Warriors’ coaching and management set-up could you?

You win five and it’s all good.

You lose one and it’s, “told you so”, “they’ll lose at least three with the Dragons and Storm next”, and the “wheels have fallen off” etc.

The truth of the matter is they might lose the next two, who knows.

But what is also true is that at least we went down trying, not like in previous years, where we have looked like we would have raised a white flag if someone had one handy.

All it is is one game.

That is, entirely correctly in my view, the mantra coach Stepehn Kearney has been repeating about winning five games.

You can only ever focus on the next opponent.

And with ours the table-topping St George, a side we don’t have a lot of joy with at Mt Smart, the test will be in picking ourselves up – especially with a few injury scares thrown into the camp – and going again.

You also have to look at what happened.

Brisbane were excellent, almost perfect in the first half in fact, 100% completion rate, zero errors and a handful of missed tackles.

Ours were, unusually given the way we have been going, not so flash in the missed tackles department, but actually quite good other than that.

Where we came unstuck was in that second 40, where despite all the predictions we would be too strong in the forwards, it was Brisbane that had the dominance.

The Broncos were clinical – although I would add cynical to that too – given some of their tactics in the tackle left a lot to be desired but went unpunished.

And while I am whinging, can someone tell the ref that when you set the 10, it’s not their job to step one pace forward to keep the players onside, it’s theirs to step back.

Before we throw up the panic signs...

Who thought we would begin the year as we have?

No one.

And who thought we’d go through the season without defeat?

Another no one then.

And who thought the Broncos wouldn’t be a threat.

You could keep going.

But if anything did worry it was that it felt a bit like the second 40 against the Cowboys, when we seemed to struggle to get our attack going.

The truth of the matter is that we got beaten by a better side on the night, and one that will be there or thereabouts come finals time.

Five wins don’t make a season, and one loss doesn’t end it.

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The challenge is to bounce back and prepare for the Dragons on Friday night. Win and the optimists will crow we are back on track, lose and pessimists will shout it's all over. Both would be wrong.

There is a long way to go yet.

### **Kearney Not A Happy Bunny**

The boss did is best Wayne Bennett impersonation on Saturday night, leaving it very clear he was unhappy his side failed to live with the physicality of the Broncos.

"I was pretty disappointed. I have to give credit to Brisbane, they came here with a real commitment and intent about them right from the outset and we didn't match that."

Whatever you think, that is a pretty accurate summation from a man who says he realised at the break that the players needed to lift their intensity.

Even the freshest face on the bandwagon would have realised that. It was clearly a game we were going to have to work really hard to get back into, let alone wrestle the momentum to our side.

Full credit to the Broncos, they were excellent, and did a Mason Lino to us.

I say that because plenty gave us no hope when Shaun Johnson was ruled out a few backs back, and we played Mason Lino. But the side stepped up and Lino was terrific that day.

News the Brisbane outfit would have to do without Kodi Nikorima and Matt Gillett seemed to make them grow in stature.

### **A Bit Hard On Yourself Their Mate**

There's a danger prop Agnatius Paasi is being a bit tough on himself.

The big fella is talking all about being complacent, and that he could be guilty of starting to take playing in the NRL for granted.

I am not sure there has been evidence of that Agnatius, but I am pretty relaxed if he is aware of the possibility.

He certainly looks a fitter, faster and better player than he did at the Titans.

Kearney clearly has faith in him. "He's starting to find

his feet and he's only going to get better. He's been a great addition."

And he does not accept the boys took the opposition too lightly, saying he had no sense of that and that training during the week was excellent.

"It's a great lesson, you've still got to turn up and get in the physical battle."

### **Not Hard Enough On Yourself Their Mate**

Contrast Paasi's view with five-eighth Blake Green.

He's already said the boys can fix what went wrong.

"We'll be alright, we'll fix it and we'll be better."

You have to admire the confidence, and to be fair, Green was one of the best on Saturday and it was nice to see his little kick canon off the posts into his hands for the easiest try he will ever score.

"It shouldn't be too hard for us to respond."

Prefer to read you'll be working bloody hard to put things right actually, but let's not quibble.

Green agreed with Kearney, in that he didn't believe it had anything to do with complacency,

"We probably got out-enthused, and at times looked a bit disjointed, but we weren't complacent."

It isn't the dog in the fight, it's the fight in the dog.

Kearney, Paasi and Green know that.

### **Sale Blah, Blah, Blah**

See all those thousands upon thousands of words in the papers about the sale of the club have been proved spot on.

My arse.







Eddie is a big Bronco's fan and loves to wind up the butcher in the lounge.



Greg Matson who flew up from Christchurch for the game takes some good hearted abuse from Butch. Watched on by Mr Music DJ Pete.

## In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Ingrid and Hannah with Wynton Rufer soccer legend who was our very special guest in the Stacey Jones lounge on Saturday night.



Mark and Ben Donovan loyal Broncos supporters. Who were brave enough to come up to the Stacey Jones lounge in their Broncos gear.



Nicola and Warwick Roberts who flew up from Christchurch for the game. They enjoyed the hospitality in the Stacey Jones lounge.



Steve and Laila Coleman looking great in their matching Warriors jerseys.



This happy group done the tour of Mt smart stadium on Saturday night with Dexter.



Tom Woollen who flew over from Brisbane for the game is in awe of the Butcher.





Glenda and her sister Cheryl both mad Vodafone Warriors fans.



Graeme Lee who drives up from Tauranga to every home game and has done for 10 years.



Some of our former Warriors with a very happy fan. Logan Swann (42) 195 games, Awen Guttenbeil (33) 170 games, Shontayne Hape (80) 28 games and Justin Murphy (92) 43 games.



One very dedicated Vodafone Warriors family.



Shaun takes the time to talk to a fan.



Two colourful supporters.







**VODAFONE WARRIORS v  
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA  
DRAGONS**  
Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland  
8.00pm, Friday, April 20, 2018

# Mannering returns to starting line-up against Dragons

by Richard Becht

**S**IMON MANNERING has been named in the starting line-up for the first time this season replacing the injured Leivaha Pulu for the Vodafone Warriors' seventh-round match against unbeaten St George Illawarra at Mount Smart Stadium on Friday night (8.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Vodafone).

After playing in each of the first six matches of the season, first-year Vodafone Warrior Pulu was forced off the field with a foot injury after just 23 minutes of last Saturday's 18-27 loss to Brisbane.

While centre Solomone Kata was also forced off late in the game with an ankle injury, he has been selected with head coach Stephen Kearney saying he is a chance to take his place.

With ex-Gold Coast Titan Pulu facing an extended period on the side-line, the 31-year-old Mannering slots into the starting second rower's role on the left edge for his 283rd career appearance.

In his first two games back from a shoulder injury, Mannering was used off the bench for 57 minutes against North Queensland (70 metres from nine runs and 23 tackles) and 61 minutes against Brisbane (70 metres from 10 runs, 33 tackles).

Filling Mannering's spot on the interchange is 44-game front rower Albert Vete, who is yet to play at first-grade level this season. After serving a suspension hanging over from last season, Vete has appeared in the Vodafone Warriors' Intrust Super Premiership side in four of their last five games.

In the 34-4 win over the Sea Eagles last Saturday, he thundered 30 metres to finish off a superb long-range try, playing a total of 52 minutes and making 174 metres from 15 runs including 55 post-contact metres with six tackle breaks.

Vete aside, the other players on the extended eight-

man bench are utility Jazz Tevaga, prop Sam Lisone, centre Anthony Gelling, prop Chris Satae, halfback Mason Lino, second rower Isaiah Papali'i and wing Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad.

After six consecutive Saturday matches, this week's encounter with the Dragons is the first of eight Friday night matches the Vodafone Warriors play this season.

The occasion coincides with hooker Issac Luke's 50th appearance for the club, his 237th overall, while halfback Shaun Johnson will play his 149th match leaving him in line for his 150-game milestone in the traditional Anzac Day contest against the Melbourne Storm tomorrow week.

The Dragons started their 2018 campaign with a 34-12 win over Brisbane before beating Cronulla 20-16, Gold Coast 54-8, Newcastle 30-12, South Sydney 16-12 and Cronulla 40-20 last Friday night.

The last time the Vodafone Warriors and the Dragons met at Mount Smart Stadium in 2016, the home side won 26-10. It remains just the fifth time the Vodafone Warriors have beaten St George Illawarra in 26 encounters.

### Vodafone Warriors

- |                       |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck | 12 Tohu Harris             |
| 2 David Fusitu'a      | 13 Adam Blair              |
| 3 Peta Hiku           | Interchange:               |
| 4 Solomone Kata       | 14 Jazz Tevaga             |
| 5 Ken Maumalo         | 15 Sam Lisone              |
| 6 Blake Green         | 16 Albert Vete             |
| 7 Shaun Johnson       | 17 Anthony Gelling         |
| 8 Bunty Afoa          | 18 Chris Satae             |
| 9 Issac Luke          | 20 Mason Lino              |
| 10 Agnatius Paasi     | 21 Isaiah Papali'i         |
| 11 Simon Mannering    | 22 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad |



## This Friday Night's Game Details

**I**T DOESN'T get much better than this for the first Friday night game of the year – table toppers the St George Illawarra Dragons coming to Auckland to face the record-setting Vodafone Warriors at Mount Smart Stadium.

After a run of six straight Saturday matches, Friday Night Lights footy sparks up this week with two teams boasting just one loss in 12 games between them to date. It's a night no Vodafone Warriors member or fan should dare to miss.

The Dragons have gone six matches without defeat to sit alone on top of the ladder while the Vodafone Warriors, lying third on points differential on 10 points, have just the one loss after opening the season with five consecutive victories, obliterating the previous best start to a campaign of two wins (achieved in 2007 and 2009).

So, Mount Smart Stadium is where it's at for this Friday's eagerly-anticipated showdown (8.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Vodafone).

After donning their 2018 Heritage strip on Old Boys' Day last Saturday, the Vodafone Warriors will be back in their traditional black kit this week hoping to play in front of another huge crowd to match the monster turnout of 25,600 for the 22-12 win over North Queensland in the SKYCITY Auckland Double Header on April 7.

“This game has been selling really strongly and we'd love to see our members and all fans turn out in big numbers to support the boys,” said Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George.

“We had a setback last week but we've started the season really well just the same and the Dragons have been absolutely sensational. This is a terrific contest, one everyone should want to be at.”

This is the third of the club's run of three straight home matches and their biggest test yet before they head to Melbourne just five days later for the annual Anzac Day encounter.

Aside from the Friday Night Lights theme, there'll be a fund of special features, activities and attractions wrapped around the on-field action.

GAME DAY DETAILS | v ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA, FRIDAY, APRIL 20

6.00pm | Gates open

8.00pm | NRL | Vodafone Warriors v St George Illawarra Dragons

[BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

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### GAME DAY FEATURES

- Entertainment Precinct:
- The revamped Members' Clubrooms were a big hit in their first week back in operation in their regular location last Saturday. Great place to meet before the game and afterwards. Members-only venue.
- The Woodstock Bar is again open for business as it will be for every home game for the rest of the season. Open to all fans.
- Play Grandstand Millionaire. Download Vodafone's Stadium Live app to play. Your challenge is to guess the try-scorers in exact order in the Vodafone Warriors v St George Illawarra match.
- The merchandise van will be on hand again. Look out for a game day offer from the black range.
- Drums of the Pacific will be performing before the match and throughout the contest.
- The Suzuki Swift Road Warrior will be on show. Make sure you register to go in the draw for your chance to win this great set of wheels at the end of the season.
- Harvey Norman Community Warriors will have lots of activities on offer including Smile Dealers' photo activation and war paint stations from Body FX.

### Other entertainment:

- Two flame balls, set up on the hill behind the Entertainment Precinct, will add to the night-time atmosphere.
- Pukana cam. Watch out for it. You could be on the big screen showing off your best pukana.
- Enjoy watching our regular Woodstock 'Kick for Cash' competition at halftime.
- ACC Big Warm-Up and mini mod footy in the build-up to the big game.
- Coin toss involving rival captains Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Gareth Widdop plus a lucky Vodafone Warriors member. This is due to take place about 6.30pm in the middle of the field.
- Keep your eyes out for Tiki, who'll be putting on some moves throughout the day.
- The CCC T-Shirt Cannon will be in business again. Which player will be firing it?
- Vodafone Stadium Live app is a great in-game tool. Download it.
- Free trains to and from Mount Smart Stadium for fans holding membership cards or pre-purchased tickets (remember to hold onto your ticket for the return trip after the game).
- No cheerleaders.
- Enjoy the much-improved Entertainment Precinct. This includes an Astro-turfed food alley with seating and places to hang out.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



**Congratulations to all the Kiwi athletes who won a medal at the Commonwealth Games!**





By Miles Davis

## The Originals - Warrior No. 11: Stephen Kearney

1995. Rugby League, Australia vs New Zealand.  
Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**A**LTHOUGH I have already written about Original Warrior No. 11 that was mainly in his capacity as coach and I feel his playing career is undoubtedly worth further highlighting and celebrating.

Stephen Kearney grew up in Waikanae and learned his rugby league with local club Kapiti Bears before moving on to the Upper Hutt Tigers. He impressed there and then signed for Randwick Kingfishers being part of their Wellington Grand Final side that lost 14-6 to the Wainuiomata Lions in 1991.

In a bit of a shock move he was picked up by the Western Suburbs Magpies in 1992 and as a member of their junior side won the Presidents Cup Final with a win over the St George Dragons. In that season he also made 3 senior appearances from the interchange bench.

An athletic second-rower with a great offload he was soon a fixture in the side and in 1993 he played 22 games, the most of any Magpies player (equal with Darren Willis). He scored his first try in the round 11 game against the Dragons. The 1994 season saw him play another 21 games for the Magpies and pick up four tries.

It was at the end of the '94 season that Kearney was given the chance to return to New Zealand and become part of the Warriors side about to make its NRL debut. In that season he made 20 appearances (2 off the interchange bench), scored 2 tries and also captained the side twice. His captaincy potential has been spotted very early when in 1993 he became the youngest Kiwis skipper ever at the age of 21.

Over the next 3 years he made a further 59 appearances for the Warriors, scoring 9 tries, before in 1999 he signed for the Melbourne Storm. The Storm had only been admitted to the NRL the season before so it was a phenomenal effort that they made it to the Grand Final where they faced the St George Dragons. Along with fellow Kiwis Richard Swain and Tawera Nikau, Kearney was a key part of the side that had made it through to the big day. At half time the Storm were looking down the barrel of a big defeat with the Dragons leading 14-0. The Dragons had already beaten the Storm 34-10 in the qualifying final so prospects of victory were not good.

Rather than panic in the dressing room there was a calm air. The Storm felt they had been playing just as well as the Dragons but perhaps their tactics were wrong. They decided to spin the ball a little earlier in the tackle count and the game started to turn around. When Anthony Mundine decided to try and go for glory rather than pass to the unmarked Nathan Blacklock, Craig Smith made a challenge and Mundine knocked the ball on. A penalty try late on (I still feel the pain of that decision) secured a 20-18 win for the Storm and gave Kearney a winners medal.

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He was to be a major part of the Storm for the next 5 seasons, being appointed captain in 2003. Whilst with the Melbourne outfit he became the first Kiwi to make over 250 appearances in the NRL. In 2005 after making 139 appearances for the Storm he left and joined Super League club Hull FC where he joined former Storm team-mate Richard Swain (Kiwi Motu Tony was also in the side as was 1999 Grand Final opponent Nathan Blacklock).

Hull finished 5th in the Super League and qualified for the play-offs. After beating Warrington comfortably 40-6 they were drawn against the Bradford Bulls in the semi-final. The game was a disaster for Hull and Kearney. He was sent off in the 7th minute for a high-tackle on Stuart Fielden and Hull fell apart as they were smashed 71-0. There were no hard feelings between Fielden and Kearney as they were seen having a drink at the bar after the game. Fielden said "You don't want to see anyone sent off, especially someone like Stephen in his last game". Kearney's coach, John Kear added "I'm really upset because he been a great player, a great servant to rugby league and to Hull FC in his year with us, and he didn't deserve that. I've seen much worse acts put on report or escape punishment completely."

It was a much better experience in the Challenge Cup as Hull made the final where they faced Leeds who came in as hot favourites. In what was to be regarded as arguably the best final every, Hull got home 25-24 in front of over 74,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff.

After hanging his boots up Kearney moved naturally into coaching and cut his teeth working alongside master coach Craig Bellamy at the Storm before taking over as Kiwi coach in 2008, the youngest coach in the modern era at the age of 35. With Wayne Bennett as an adviser he led his side to their magnificent 34-20 World Cup Final win against Australia that same year. In 2010 and 2014 his side won the Four Nations.

In 2011/12 he coached Parramatta with little success and left the club during his second season. In 2013 he spent time with Brisbane Broncos as an assistant coach and in 2016 he was offered the head coaches job at the Warriors. He then stood down from his position as Kiwis coach with the best win record for that job including 5 wins over Australia.

Kearney made 45 appearances for the Kiwis as well as his coaching stint. His legacy in Wellington league is highlighted by the Stephen Kearney Cup which is contested by the region's top secondary school players.

His first season as Vodafone Warriors coach was a tough one but his second season has started with a 5-1 win record and things are looking on the up.

I wouldn't write off the possibility of Kearney adding a Grand Final win to his World Cup win as a coach. An the guy is still just 45!!!

## Jersey Competition Winners - All jerseys have been posted!

Send a photo of you and your jersey to [pcleitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcleitch@xtra.co.nz) once you receive it.

### 2018 Jersey Signed by the Team:

Troy Taylor Auckland  
Roger Hallberg Greymouth

Oliver Ensor Glendowie  
Matthew Funaki Wakerley Brisbane

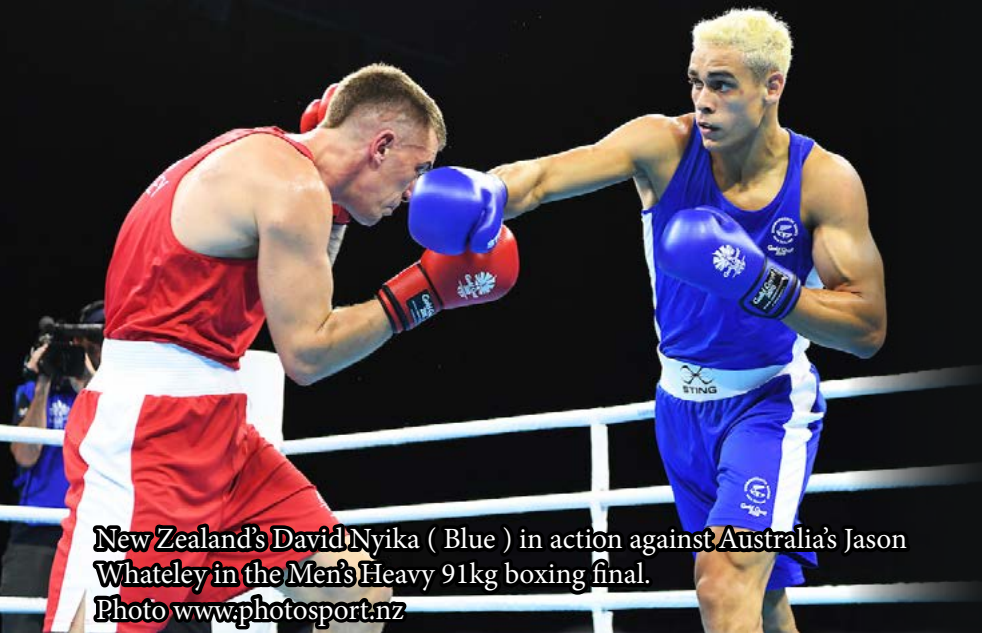
David Pickel Christchurch  
Vikki Thomson Auckland  
Kirsty Wilson Hokitika

### Nines Jersey Signed:

Penny Scragg Gisborne  
Adam Hutchings Peru  
Marcia Broughton Patea  
Gary Whittle Manukau  
Maureen Parker Torbay  
Ron Dryken Richmond Nelson  
Robyn Rota Balgowlah Nsw

J Kevin (Ex Kiwi) Dixon Nelson  
Tony Blazey Christchurch  
Kurt Seymour Queensland  
West Coast Rugby League Hokitika  
David Jacobsen Auckland  
Amelia Wilson. Papakura  
Kimi Clair Nsw  
Bendon Stewart Auckland





By John Coffey

## Nyika Boosts Our Heavyweight Heritage

New Zealand's David Nyika ( Blue ) in action against Australia's Jason Whateley in the Men's Heavy 91kg boxing final.  
Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**W**HAT A remarkable couple of weeks it has been for our best performed boxing division. The month of April started with Joseph Parker contesting four of the five world professional heavyweight championship belts in Cardiff and last Saturday David Nyika decisively won the Commonwealth Games amateur heavyweight gold medal on the Gold Coast.

Through the deeds of Cornish-born, Timaru-raised Bob Fitzsimmons more than 100 years ago, Gisborne's Tom Heenev in the 1920s, and David Tua and Parker this century, New Zealand has long been represented in the heaviest division on the world professional stage. Tua signalled his potential by winning a bronze medal at the 1992 Olympic Games.

But it is at the more realistic Commonwealth Games level that our heavyweight heritage comes to the fore. A review of our gloved gold medallists shows that four of New Zealand's seven titles have been won by heavyweights. Nyika, of course, is the only boxer listed twice, having also claimed the 2014 light heavyweight crown at Glasgow.

The full list is: Frank Creagh (heavyweight at Auckland in 1950), Wally Coe (welterweight at Perth in 1962), Bill Kini (heavyweight at Kingston in 1966), Jimmy Peau (heavyweight at Edinburgh in 1986), Michael Kenny (super heavyweight at Auckland in 1990), Nyika (light heavyweight at Glasgow in 2014 and Nyika (heavyweight at Gold Coast in 2018).

In addition, Kini won heavyweight silver in 1962, George Stankovich (1978 at Edinburgh), Garth da Silva (1998 in Kuala Lumpur) and Shane Cameron (2002 in Manchester) were all heavyweight bronze medallists, and David Light won heavyweight silver at Glasgow in 2014. Bigger is better as far as New Zealand boxing is concerned.

Tua's 1992 heavyweight bronze was only our third Olympic medal. Wellington welterweight Ted Morgan brought home a gold medal from Amsterdam in 1928 and Kevin Barry won the 1984 light heavyweight silver medal at Los Angeles. Barry went on to be associated with the professional careers of Tua and Parker as manager and coach, respectively.

Last Saturday Nyika out-pointed Australian Jason Whateley as easily as champion racehorse Winx won her 25th consecutive start at Randwick a few minutes later. The patriotic Aussie commentator and sidekick Jeff Horn kept assuring the home audience that Whateley was taking most of Nyika's punches on his gloves but the judges had clearer vision.

A couple of dodgy split decisions went Australia's way on finals night – boxing is notorious for home town verdicts, and maybe Horn owes his own world professional title to one of them – but Nyika was confident from three previous wins over Whateley. By the end of each round Whateley's pummelled face was as red as the singlet he was wearing.

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Only when it was over did the commentary team concede the result would not be close. Horn compared Nyika to England's former world cruiserweight and heavyweight title-holder David Haye and predicted he could have a glittering professional career. Still only 22 years of age, Nyika also has the lure of the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo to consider.

So we celebrate David Nyika as New Zealand's fourth Commonwealth Games heavyweight champion and first for 32 years. Just who were his predecessors, Frank Creagh (1950), Bill Kini (1966) and Jimmy Peau (1986)? And who were the men they beat in their gold medal bouts?

English-born Frank Creagh grew up in the tough West Ham district of London and was the city's middleweight champion in 1939. After serving with the British army during World War II he arrived in Wellington via the merchant navy. His next port of call was the City Mission Gym and in 1949 he dominated the national championships and Games trials.

There were only two heavyweight entrants at the 1950 Empire Games in Auckland. The other contender was a courageous but outclassed Australian, Sid Cousins, who was reportedly punched all around the ring by Creagh. In 1962 Creagh settled in Rotorua and successfully trained out of the May Road gymnasium for many years. He died in 1998.

William George "Bill" Kini rates among our finest amateur heavyweights, as emphasised by his Games silver and gold medals. It has taken more than 50 years for Nyika to overtake him with his golden double. In 1962 Kini was out-pointed by George Oywello, of Uganda, in the final but took his revenge over Ghana's Adonis Ray four years later.

At home, Kini won a remarkable eight national heavyweight championships over nine years. Born in Winton, he claimed his first in 1959 when representing Southland. He then moved to Auckland and joined George Cammick's gym in Otahuhu, reigning supreme with seven consecutive New Zealand titles from 1961 to 1967. Big Bill passed away in 2012.

Jimmy Peau also trained in Otahuhu, under Gerry Preston. He included three New Zealand heavyweight and one super heavyweight titles among 88 wins from 97 amateur bouts. Peau won a six nations tournament in Tahiti as a prelude to his 1986 Commonwealth gold medal – beating Scotsman Dougie Young in the final – and claimed a 1987 World Cup bronze.

In 1989 he turned professional, changed his name to Jimmy Thunder, and fashioned a highly commendable record in Australasia and America. He held two minor "world" titles (WBF and IBO), beat the respected Tony Tubbs, Trevor Berbick and Tim Witherspoon but fought until aged 40 in 2006. Late losses tarnished his overall record of 35 wins and 14 losses.

These are a MUST watch: Boston Green the son of Blake Green on video:

<https://www.facebook.com/vodafonewarriors/videos/1878330115544706/>

<https://www.facebook.com/vodafonewarriors/videos/1895061790538205/>

**Friday Night Lights**

**THIS FRIDAY APRIL 20  
MT SMART STADIUM**

VODAFONE WARRIORS

ST. GEORGE ILLAWARRA



**I**T IS interesting to see that the NRL has signed a seven year agreement with the Victorian government to take some major games to Melbourne. State of Origin games will be played in the Victorian capital in 2021 and 2025. This year, on 6 June, the Melbourne Cricket Ground will stage the first of the 2018 Origin series and the attendance figure is tipped to be 90,000 or more. That is all very good for NRL finances and local Melbourne businesses but will the game attract some new fans? No doubt, some local sports fans will attend to experience the atmosphere and have a look at a something new. The Melbourne Storm has established a good supporter base and a large percentage of these people will be in attendance but what about the great majority of Melburnians, who like to call their city, the Sporting Capital of Australia. There is no doubt that Victoria is the home of Australian Football and the sport has a cult-like following in the southern states. There are 18 teams in the AFL (Australian Football League) competition and last weekend they played games in Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Canberra and Geelong plus four in Melbourne, including a game on both Saturday and Sunday at the Melbourne Cricket ground and Docklands (or Etihad) Stadium. In the nine matches the total attendance was 288,842, which gives a match average of 32,094. The total NRL attendance last weekend was 115,545 and this resulted in a match average of 14,443. If Rugby League could attract some of the AFL fans it would be great for our game. The Richmond Aussie Rules club, who won last year's Grand Final, announced that they have more than 90,000 football club members this year. The Broncos had the most NRL football club members last year with around 36,300. When State of Origin became a three game series in 1982, Brisbane and Sydney staged two games each alternate year but those days appear to be over. This year an Origin will be played in Melbourne, next year Perth, Adelaide in 2020 and then back to Melbourne in 2021.

The Kangaroos will also play Test matches in Melbourne in 2022 and 2023, while the All Stars match will resume in Melbourne next year.

Another positive for our game down south was the announcement that the Victorian government will provide \$12 million for the establishment of a new Victorian Rugby League State Centre. This will be built in partnership with the NRL, NRL Victoria and the Melbourne Storm and probably be located at Broadmeadows, which is about 16kms north west of the central business district.

It has taken six rounds, but we now have a clear leader on the competition ladder. St. George/Illawarra are playing well and deserve to be on top. They have scored 194 points which is 52 more than the Warriors who are next for points scored. In defence, the Dragons are equal second with the Panthers with both clubs allowing 80 points against them. The Wests Tigers lead the defence table, allowing just 67 points. They are a well coached side and Ivan Cleary is certainly doing an excellent job. Halfback, Luke Brooks, 23, was outstanding in the Tigers 38-12 win over Manly on Sunday afternoon. He set up three tries and scored another, as well as combining brilliantly with his five eighth, the evergreen Kiwi, Benji Marshall. Now 33, Benji helped himself to two tries and kept the Manly defence guessing throughout the match. Manly recently granted an immediate release to forward, Darcy Lussick, 28, who will leave to join the Toronto Wolfpack. Lussick, who has played around 120 first grade games with Manly and Parramatta, will join several other former NRL men playing with Toronto and these include Josh McCrone, Reni Matua, Chase Stanley and Ashton Sims. The Wolfpack came into Rugby League last year and after winning their competition, were promoted to the Betfred Championship competition this season in the English Rugby League. After 10 games, they were leading the table with eight wins a draw and just one loss.

Friday is the night for Sydneysiders to stick close to their TV. At 6pm local time, the Warriors take on the Dragons at Mt. Smart and right after that we have the Broncos clashing with the Storm in Brisbane. Two great games to be enjoyed over a glass of red.



# NZ Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League Dinner

By Sir Peter Leitch



ON FRIDAY night I went to a dinner organised by the NZ Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League.

The special guest was league legend and Brisbane Broncos coach Wayne Bennett, who was interviewed by Stephen McIvor from Sky Sport, who did a fine job.

It was a fantastic night with former Warriors Justin Murphy Jerry Seuseu , Whetu Taewa, Tony Tuimavave and Tea Ropati (who done a lot of the work for the night) in attendance.

Stephen interviewed all the players as well as the chairman of the New Zealand Universities organisation.

That Jerry Seuseu is a funny man and he brought a bit of laughter to the night but there is no doubt the big act was Bennett.

We all know he has probably forgotten more about league than the rest of us put together ever knew.

He was outstanding and had the audience completely under his spell – even that David Kemeys bloke shut up for half an hour.

To be fair you could have heard a pin drop while he was talking.

Later in the night I went over and asked him if he would do a small interview on my phone for a guy named Ron who was coming up from Christchurch.

This bloke is a huge Broncos fan but has more on his plate at the moment than league, because he is battling cancer.

Bennett gave me a typically grumpy reply, “bugger that”, and I was a bit taken aback, before he followed up with a remarkable offer.

“Butch, you just bring him down to the changing room after the game.”

Needless to say I did not need to be asked twice, and I took him up on his offer, and have to say Wayne and the Broncos were outstanding.

Bennett went out of his way to make it a very memorable night for his guests, even introducing them to the entire team, and letting them stay as the players sang the victory song.

It was a night Ron will never forget, I have to tell you.

Wayne Bennett is a personal friend of mine and has a massive heart and cares about people.

He might have a reputation as a grumpy old sod who doesn't like talking, and it might even be a deserved reputation. But he is also a man with a big heart and I have nothing but the utmost respect for him.

And if you would like to know more about the university rugby league, contact their chairman John Fiso at [John.fiso@fisoinvestmentgroup.co.nz](mailto:John.fiso@fisoinvestmentgroup.co.nz)



John Fiso New Zealand Universities.



Justin Murphy and Whetu Tawa.

*Continued on next page...*



Tea Ropati.



Tony Tuimavave, Jerry Seuseu being interviewed by Stephen McIvor.



Ron, Wayne and Broncos Captain Darius Boyd.



My table on the night.



Ron from Christchurch with Wayne.



Rugby league legend Alfie Langer gives me an uppercut.



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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 7

Date/Venue		Game	Tarsh Ieremaia <i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</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>
Thur 19 ANZ	Bulldogs v Roosters	Bulldogs	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters
Fri 20 Mt Smart	Warriors v Dragons	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Fri 20 Suncorp	Broncos v Storm	Storm	Broncos	Storm	Storm	Broncos	Storm	Broncos	
Sat 21 Central Cst	Rabbitohs v Raiders	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Raiders	
Sat 21 Scully Park	Tigers v Knights	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	
Sat 21 1300Smiles	Cowboys v Titans	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Titans	Cowboys	
Sun 22 ANZ	Eels v Sea Eagles	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	
Sun 22 Sthrn Cross	Sharks v Panthers	Sharks	Sharks	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Sharks	Panthers	

Picks last week	4/8	5/8	5/8	3/8	4/8	5/8	4/8
Total picks	26	27	26	23	28	29	24

### A Little Stumble.....

**A**ND A stubbed toe. It hurts but it will quickly heal. 18/27 a hiding it isn't, fixable it is.. Disecting this loss has already been covered by the weekend media and I am sure my fellow scribblers here in the newsletter. I will not bore you further. I can say that this Friday nites meet'n'greet with the unbeaten Dragons will require a huge lift of attitude to get the Gold. The path to achieving that I will leave to King Kearney and his merry men. What I have been thinking about is the various media claims that Mt Smart faithful have made complaint and adverse comment relating to the 25,000 turnout to the double header being populated by "fair-weather friends" and "fickle fans" who only turnout when the going is good.... (not withstanding that there were 4 popular teams on show)... I am a Faithful and hand on heart can say I was hugely buoyed and excited by the bigger crowd and the atmosphere and support it generated for our team. I love it when the "extra" crowd turns up. I think rather than take aim at them we should appreciate that there are die-hard Warrior fans and then there are footy sports fans who exercise their options and will attend good entertainment. We need to ask ourselves was our team offering good entertainment prior to this improved performance season.? Get my drift one begets the other...for a large part the onus is on the team to perform not the fans to turn up. A little test this Friday nite as well with the genius intellects in the schedule seats setting the Blues game at the market garden of Eden at the same time as we face the Red V at the Penrose Palladium, go figure. This could well affect both codes if floating punters take the option to watch on dual Pub tellys or switch-watch at home. For mine it's a no-brainer, a couple of beers and a juicy White Lady Burger Mt Smart.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Tipping was tough again. The Cowboys and the Roosters tripped everyone except yours truly who fluked on the Bunnies. The Broncos of course gave us Zero. The Dragons continue to impress 40/20 over fuming Flanagan's bottom feeding Sharks. Also riding high are the prowling Panthers 38/12 over the tipsy Titans and Cleary's under-rated Tigers who mauled the Manly mob 38/12 at the normally impenetrable Brook. Speaking of Brooks the Tigers half of the same name was in rare form cutting the Seaside's to ribbons. Sticky Rickys ulcers eased with the Raiders 2 in a row leaving the Eels marooned at the bottom of the pond. Everyone picked the Storm and they duly overturned the Knights 40/14. The upshot is The wily old Whistleblower Nev (29) slips one ahead of The Warrior Boxer Montz. Big Joe Vagana in the trail on 27, Tarsh and Mr Coffey (26) hangin in but High-Tackle and the old mate The Dutchman and have work to do.

Right that's it....see you Friday nite at the great game. Be there or be Square. Ka Kite Ano

Go the Mighty Waarriioorrss

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**THIS**  
*Friday Night Lights*

**VODAFONE WARRIORS** **V** **ST. GEORGE ILLAWARRA**

**THIS FRIDAY**  
**MT SMART STADIUM**

**NRL** | **vodafone** | **canterbury** | **SKYCITY** | **WOODSTOCK** | **CSG** | **dtr** | **flava** | **Harvey Norman** | **SUZUKI** | **TNT** | **Wendy's**



# Ivan Mauger

By Miles Davis



I CAN STILL remember as a young boy being mesmerised by the spectacle and noise coming from the television as 4 men on bikes (without brakes) belted around a cinder track. Apparently without any regard to their safety.

One of those men seemed to be faster than the others, perhaps a fraction braver. He was the one I wanted to be. His name was Ivan Mauger.

I don't think it ever really crossed my mind that he came from the other side of the world. He was on my screens every week I just assumed he must be English. As I grew older I fell more and more in love with speedway and Ivan Mauger.

As I had thought it turned out that Mauger was indeed better than the rest. Born in Christchurch he was inspired by another local speedway legend, Ronnie Moore (who had been World Champion in 1954) and was determined from a young age to become a World Champion. He worked after school and during the holidays and saved every penny so he could buy a bike.

As a teenager he married his equally young sweetheart, Raye, and at the age of 17 headed to England and got a job at Wimbledon speedway where Kiwi legends Moore and Barry Briggs were plying their trade. Helping out the groundsmen and taking part in races for future stars.

Having raced sporadically for Wimbledon and Eastbourne it was in 1963 when he signed for Newcastle that he really started to make an impact before moving to Belle Vue in 1969. After a 4 year spell there he moved to Exeter Falcons before having a spell with Hull.

In 1966 he made it to his first World Championship in Gothenburg finishing a creditable 4th (Barry Briggs winning the title). In 1968 he claimed his first World Championship with Barry Briggs finishing 2nd to complete a Kiwi quinella. He repeated the feat again in 1969 (Briggs once again 2nd) and in 1970 to complete his three-peat.

He failed to make it four in a row finishing 2nd to the flying Dane Ole Olsen in 1971 but he was back on top the following year winning the title at Wembley. Two more 2nd places followed in 1973 and 1974 and was off the podium in the next two years before

returning to the top of the tree in 1977 where he equalled Ove Fundin's record of 5 World Championships and beating the likes of Peter Collins, Michael Lee and Olsen. In 1979 at the age of 39, Mauger won his record-breaking 6th title (since equalled by Sweden's Tony Rickardsson). It was also to be the last time he rode in a World Championship finals.

Whilst arguably revered in England more than in his home country of New Zealand he was twice voted Halberg Sportsman of the Year in 1977 and 1979 and was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1989 he was awarded an OBE in the New Zealand New Year's Honours List and he was also voted the Greatest Rider of the 20th Century. He also won 3 World Longtrack Championships in 1971, 1972 and 1976 as well as 3 team World Championships riding for Great Britain.

Mauger worked hard and travelled extensively competing in 26 countries and in over 1,000 events before hanging up his riding boots in 1985.

It was estimated that 99 riders died during Mauger's career but he likes to point out that thousands more died from smoking. As combative as anyone on the track Mauger once said "I set out as a little kid to become World Champion. I never, ever set out to be popular." Well Ivan you managed to achieve both. A true sporting hero and someone who gave me memories that I shall cherish for the rest of my life. Thank you and rest well Legend.

NB: This is well worth a watch. Circuits of Gold – Ivan Mauger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB-HjDV6e-9s>





# Rd 2 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership match reports April 14, 2018

By ARL

*A wrap of the action from Round 2 of the 2018 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership.*

## **Mt Albert 14 Northcote 12**

A late surge got Mt Albert home against Northcote, after scores had been locked at 8-all at the break. The decision to kick a penalty goal right on half-time proved key for Mt Albert, who were led well by young prop Sala Falelua-Malio. Northcote outscored the Lions three tries to two, and will rue missed conversions which made all the difference in the end.

## **Glenora 24 Papakura 10**

The defending champions avenged their Round 1 defeat by putting away the Papakura Sea Eagles at Harold Moody Reserve in west Auckland. A double to Philippines international John Nicodemus did much of the damage for the Bears, while young hooker Phoenix Hunt was a standout for Papakura.

## **Howick 22 Otahuhu 14**

The Howick Hornets fought back from a 14-8 deficit at half-time to beat Otahuhu and clock their second victory of the new season. Coach Shaun Clark credited the strong impact of his bench, who turned the game early in the second half. Veteran prop Tony Tuia was another standout, playing 70 minutes in the middle of the park. While they missed out on the two points, the Leopards will take plenty of confidence from footing it with last-year's semi-finalists.

## **Pt Chevalier 37 Richmond 26**

The Konica Minolta Roope Rooster is staying at Walker Park, after Pt Chevalier got the better of Richmond in a high-scoring match. After trailing at half-time, Richmond opened to the second period with two quick-fire tries to claw their way back, but were made to pay for a horror ten-minute period midway through, which saw them leak three times in quick succession.

## **Mangere East 26 Marist 20**

After trailing for the first 75 minutes, Mangere East stormed home to pick up their first victory of the year at the expense of the Marist Saints. Scores were locked at 20-20 heading into the dying stages, at which point fleet-footed Mangere East playmaker Inga Limoni danced his way through some tired Saints defence to score the game-winner. Along with the competition points, the Hawks also picked up the Roy Chan Memorial Cup in the win.





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# Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SDRL PREMIERS WINTON/CITY VS COOKS

PHOTOS BY SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

**I**N THE first game of the day we had He Tauua and Cowboys putting their undefeated run's on the line. Both teams showed why they were the two top clubs in the competition.

Right from the kick off the pace of the game was sensational and the hits were crunching tackles . Cowboys gave it to He Tauua , but He Tauua gave it back just as good as they were getting.

We knew this was going to be a thriller and the hardest game we would see to date.

There was nothing between the two , they went try for try for majority of the game and when one team would score to go ahead on the score board. The other team would then take the lead. This game was a heart stopper and keep the supporters on the side on their feet.

Cowboys began to dig deep with only twenty minutes left on the clock and started to open the gap between the two. He Tauua tried hard to fight back into the game , but found that they were tiring from all the defence they had to do.

The more He Tauua fought back , the more Cowboys started to come back at them just as hard. At the end of the 80 minutes , both teams showed each other the respect they deserved. Cowboys were the better team on the day and lead the points table going into the Southland/Otago part of the competition.

What a game for the eyes to see,

COWBOYS 52 - HE TAUAA 24

In the second game of the day we had Cooks vs Winton City.

Winton City struggled to find player numbers for today and had to default to Cooks.

Players from the other clubs and a couple of supporters stood up to help Winton City field a team to play Cooks, , it still gave Cooks a chance to practise their moves and defence.

Due to default Cooks will get the two competition points and 30 points for and 0 points against.

COOKS 30 - WINTON CITY 0

A big thank you must go out to Mike Lemalie for refereeing both games today.

The touch judges did a good job and made Mikes job in the middle a lot easier.



SDRL - PREMIERS HE TAUAA VS COWBOYS

PHOTOS BY SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE





# Southland District Round League Under 18s

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SDRL - UNDER 18'S HE TAUAA VS COWBOYS PHOTOS BY SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

**T**ODAY WE saw the return of Under 18's club rugby league.

Cowboys and He Tauaa decided to set up a three game series between themselves , after two clubs were unable to field a team to start an under 18 competition.

When talking to He Tauaa & Cowboys about the Under 18's and what made them want to set up a three game series for the club. The answer was clear. It was about keeping these young guys involved in rugby league and about building our club for the future. Most of the boys play rugby Saturdays , so we thought if we play Sundays we are not stepping on rugby's feet.

This was the first game of the three.

Both teams played with a lot of heart and the game was amazing to watch. These young guys showed how much they enjoyed having the opportunity to play rugby league for there desired club of choice.

When talking to some of the players , they talked about how both clubs had given each other a bit of banter at school.

It was a fast and an exciting game to watch today. He Tauaa got on the score board first and then Cowboys equalled them. It was starting to look like we were watching the a replay of the He Tauaa vs Cowboys premier game a day earlier.

Cowboys fought hard with only having the one reserve on the bench and made it hard for He Tauaa to get a flow on. It didn't take long before He Tauaa got themselves back into game mode and they began to fire. Both forward packs ran strong all day and both side defended well. It was good to see tackling around the boot laces , cutting down momentum.

The backs on both teams were awesome to watch , as they put their game plans into action. Southland has some young talented young men coming through the ranks and if we can keep them interested in rugby league , we will be looking good for the future of the sport.

Referee - Patrick Sililoto

Touch Judges - Dave & Ned

Half time score

He Tauaa 24 - Cowboys 12

Full time score

He Tauaa 48 - Cowboys 24



# Vodafone Warriors Bounce Back Impressively Against Sea Eagles

By Joe Williams - ISP Team Manager

**R**ETURNING HALFBACK Mason Lino inspired the Vodafone Warriors to a 38-4 victory over the Blacktown Workers Sea Eagles in Round 6 of the Intrust Super Premiership NSW at home over the weekend pushing them back up the ladder to seventh spot.

Leading into Round 7 clash at Mt Smart Stadium (3.00pm kick-off) against St George Dragons whom are one of four team sharing top sport on eight, the Vodafone Warriors will be without leading try-scorer Lewis Soosemea.

Soosemea, who leads all scorers with seven, is suspended resulting in Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck coming into the line-up.

Also, into the run-on side is new signing Karl Lawton, who starts at hooker after being on the bench last week.

Prior to the Intrust Super Premiership kicking off the Jersey Flegg team look to make amends to last weeks lost, also playing St George Dragons (11.00am kick-off).

Entry to the double header on Saturday is free, entry via Gate B.

<p>VODAFONE WARRIORS IN-TRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP V ST GEORGE DRAGONS</p> <p>Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland</p> <p>3.00pm, Saturday, April 21</p>	<p><b>Vodafone Warriors</b> <b>ISP Team</b></p> <p>1 Hayze Perham 2 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad 3 Joe Vuna 4 Cole Waaka</p>	<p>5 Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck 6 Chanel Harris-Tavita 7 Mason Lino (C) 8 Chris Satae 9 Karl Lawton 10 Ligi Sao</p>	<p>11 Matiu Love-Henry 12 King Vuniyayawa 13 James Bell (C) Interchange: 14 Sam Cook 15 Sione Afemui 16 Patrick Siple 17 Reece Charlie</p>
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**#GO BALLS OUT**

# Reader Mail

Hi Sir Peter.

**T**HANKS FOR the game day experience where we joined you in the Stacey Jones Lounge. For the cow-boys game 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 Mannering. No 3 - Peter Ensor shows off his Warriors flag he had signed by Simon Mannering 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.



**I**'VE BEEN a die hard Warriors fan for a few years now. Over the past year I've been traveling the world, South East Asia, UK, South America but I've managed to never miss a game which sometimes means waking up at 3am and walking to another hostel with better internet so i can watch the game outside their reception area on my phone. It's so great to see the boys pulling together and play a fantastic brand of footy this year, it definitely makes getting up all hours of the morning that little bit easier. The trip's coming to and end soon and I'm going to make it home just in time for the Dragons clash which is shaping up to be a cracker. Looking forward to seeing it live at MT smart this Friday I arrive home to NZ on wednesday,



Cheers Butch, go the mighty warriors!!!  
ADAM HUTCHINGS



Trevor, Christian Kampe from German , Lorna and M8 the Warriors Gnome.



Don Graham & Wynton Rufer at the game Saturday night.





Ali Lauititi in action.

# Kiwi Rugby League Legends Support Test In Denver

By Brooke Hurdell  
NZRL

**F**ORMER KIWI legends are rallying together in support of the mid-year clash between the New Zealand Kiwis and England scheduled to go ahead in Denver.

Stomping ground of the Denver Broncos, Mile High Stadium will host the international match on 23 June where Americans will get a taste of world-class rugby league for the first time.

While the Test in Denver is set to challenge the status quo of where international rugby league is played, former Kiwi legends Olsen Filipaina, Ali Lauitiiti and Henry Fa'afili are right behind the new fixture.

Kiwi #529 Olsen Filipaina and Kiwi #677 Ali Lauitiiti played 28 and 19 Tests respectively for the Kiwis and both say taking the game to Denver is an important step for rugby league to move forward.

"I fully support the Kiwis playing in Denver – how else is our game of rugby league going to expand if we don't showcase it to other countries? Let's give them a taste of Kiwi," Filipaina says.

Exploring all international and commercial opportunities for the Kiwis becomes an essential part of growing the game. Expanding into the North American market would, in turn, allow New Zealand Rugby League to better support and resource grassroots rugby league throughout the country.

Lauitiiti is excited to share the game he loves with those in America who haven't yet had the opportunity to experience 'the hits' in real life.

"Personally, I think it's a great initiative and it's worked for other sports so why can't rugby league do the same thing. It's our great game so why not bless the rest of the world with it," he says.

Like Ali Lauitiiti, Kiwi #687 Henry Fa'afili remembers his days in the black and white jersey very fondly and only wishes he could do his time again running out at the world renowned Mile High Stadium.

"It would be disappointing if the game in Denver weren't to go ahead. We've got the opportunity to make history with our great game so I think we need to embrace it," Fa'afili says.

"You only have to see the excitement and reaction from the Americans when Shaun's twinkle toes are on show. Then there's Roger's speed to beat players one on one, and Marty's strength and power to fend and run over players. For them to experience it first-hand I think will be talked about for a long time," he added.

Filipaina, Lauitiiti and Fa'afili, alongside a number of other former Kiwis continue to support the growth of rugby league in New Zealand even after hanging up the boots. This includes NZRL Board Member Tawera Nikau and Wellbeing Manager Nigel Vagana who work behind the scenes at NZRL to ensure rugby league continues to benefit New Zealanders across the country.



## THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 67ISSUE

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



The Wests Tigers have shocked the entire NRL with their outstanding form to start the season. With just one loss from the first six rounds, the Tigers have begun to build a powerful culture with the help of coach Ivan Cleary. Halves Luke Brooks and Benji Marshall are taking full advantage, creating a fantastic combination that has helped them both return to their best.

Jai Arrow has burst onto the scene at the Gold Coast this season, joining former Brisbane teammate Jarrod Wallace in the Titans pack. Wallace made his State of Origin debut in 2017 and believes Arrow would be ready for a Queensland jersey if one was thrown his way in a little over five weeks.

The Eels are off to a miserable start this season and are yet to win a game. We chat to former NRL coach and rugby league analyst Matt Elliott about what is missing at Parramatta and how they can turn it around.

Big League columnist Petero Civoniceva talks through the rivalry between Melbourne and Brisbane, how it started and why it means so much to the clubs.

PLUS... This Week in History, Sione Mata'utia says he's enjoying the new era at the Knights, Damien Cook puts his hand up for Origin duty, and an Anthony Milford poster.

ROUND 7, 2018

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[bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au](mailto:bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au)

Editorial:

[pamela.whaley@news.com.au](mailto:pamela.whaley@news.com.au)

Advertising:

[bowie.phillips@news.com.au](mailto:bowie.phillips@news.com.au)





Harvey Norman Community Warriors - Georgia Hale, Tessa Blakeborough, Kaitlyn Apaipora, Evahna Taplin, Reuben Judson Leitch , John-Afi Stowers Atafu.



Look who popped into the club yesterday Dee. Dee has won the opportunity to present the round 6 ISP cup player of the day and NRL player of the day. He will also be helping Laurie Hale as the water boy. Pictured above Shani Willemsen memberships manager, Dee Te Wao (winner) & Blake Green.

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## 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 Coffey** - Southern Correspondent  
**Barry Ross** - Australian Correspondent  
**John Holloway** - Correspondent  
**Miles Davis** - Correspondent  
**Shane Hurndell** - Correspondent