

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

2nd May 2018

Newsletter #215



Vodafone Warriors v Storm



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Storm on Song

By David Kemeys

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



THREE BLOKES, an African fellah, a Warriors fan and a guy from Melbourne are all waiting outside the maternity unit to see their new children when the nurse comes out and says: “There has been a terrible mix-up and no one is sure whose baby is whose.”

So the three blokes talk about it and the Warriors fan takes the initiative and says he will go first and chose a bby. In he goes and comes out with what is clearly the chid of the African fellah.

“What are you doing?” says the African fellah. “Well I couldn’t risk going home with a Storm fan,” says the Warriors man.

Boom, boom, which is why it shits me no end that Brad Fittler has come out and said the Storm have to be favourites to win the NRL – back to back – after their showing against us.

But it is also why I’m not losing too much sleep over what happened on Anzac Day.

Bring on the Tigers and let’s get on with it.

Fittler says that 50-10 win was a warning shot fired across the bows of all the other clubs.

Brisbane went back to back in 1992-93 and it has not happened since.

Only a fool, damn it, would ever write Melbourne off, so there slow start meant absolutely nothing.

That’s now impressive wins over Newcastle, Brisbane and the Warriors. “It’s a totally different style of play with Cameron Smith playing a completely different sort of game,” Freddy told the Sunday Footy Show.

“Billy Slater looks like he’s playing the best footy he’s ever played.”

Josh Addo-Carr would give Usain Bolt a run and all I can say is bugger.

Now the other thing is that the old Butcher is always telling us “no one died”, and although I have never admitted it to him, it’s not a saying I’m that fond of.

Except that I am whacking this out late at night because you don’t let your mates down, and I have been away helping relatives who are pretty bloody crook, and suddenly Pete seems like the wisest man around.

It’s only footy.

Snail Sale

I have been damning about how long this sale of the Warriors is taking.

I can’t even remember the name of that tyre-kicker who surfaced all those months ago, but talk was cheap and it all turned out to be bullshit, surprising exactly no one.

Then along came Richard Fale, darling of the Herald, who he clearly had a hotline to, and it ultimately turned out to be more bullshit, surprising no one.

Now the Carlaw Heritage Trust are set to take over.

God help us all if they start to meddle and pull things to bits, making wholesale changes here, there and everywhere because this is the best we have been in donkey’s ages.

We have looked, over the years, a complete and utter shambles.

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But we are going well, the ship seems to be on a steady course, and the side is performing well above expectations.

The last thing we need is new owners disrupting that.

Jim Doyle has not always been everyone's cup of tea, but speak as you find, he has always been good with me, which, frankly, is way more than I deserve given some of the things I've had to say.

The club has a stability now that has been lacking.

There are a lot of players who were institutions at the club who have been moved on- ask yourself why?

What worries me is that all the good work could be undone.

New owners come with new ideas.

When Wayne Bennett talked at his dinner recently he said the Warriors would never progress until they could play with consistency, and that would never happen unless there was stability in leadership, including at the management and coaching level.

I tend to believe him. If anyone would know, it's him.

Just so you know, the Carlaw Heritage Trust was set up with the dosh from flogging off Carlaw Park. It is not the same as the Auckland Ruby League – although the ARL is the only organisation that can benefit from the trust.

But by keeping those two entities separate, the ARL can't end up in that well-known ditch, it the trust makes a complete pig's ear of the Warriors and ends up losing money.

Now add in Autex – a name well-connected to our game – who have partnered with the trust in buying our club.

So ultimately, will it be good for us?

Too much meddling and you could be excused for having serious reservations.

Only time is going to tell.

Did you know you can buy photos of your favourite sports people from photosport? Check out their web site photosport.nz!

PHOTOSPORT
NEW ZEALAND'S AWARD WINNING PHOTOGRAPHIC AGENCY

Check out League Life on Sky Sport on Channel 52 tonight at 9:30 they interview Former Warrior & Kiwi player Russel Packer



Front-line players back to face Wests Tigers

by Richard Becht

FOUR FRONTLINE players return from injury while hooker Issac Luke has also been named for the Vodafone Warriors' ninth-round NRL clash against the Wests Tigers at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (7.30pm kick-off; match day sponsor: TNT).

Halfback Shaun Johnson and centre Solomone Kata make their comebacks after missing the last two outings against St George Illawarra and Melbourne while second rower Tohu Harris also returns after being ruled out of the clash against the Storm.

James Gavet, who played in the first three matches of the season, has been included on the bench after missing the last five rounds with a hamstring injury picked up on the eve of the fourth-round encounter with the Sydney Roosters in March. He played 38 minutes in the Vodafone Warriors' 20-18 Intrust Super Premiership win over the Newtown Jets last Saturday, making 139 metres from 14 runs as well as 17 tackles.

Luke was originally expected to be out for up to four weeks with a knee injury which limited him to just 16 minutes against Melbourne on Anzac Day. However, he trained yesterday and has been included to face the Tigers.

Named on the extended bench in jersey No 14 is former Gold Coast utility Karl Lawton, who was signed in early March. Used at hooker with the club's ISP side, he's in line to become Vodafone Warrior #229, the ninth player to make his debut for the club so far this year.

Lawton comes onto the bench for Jazz Tevaga, who has been ruled out with a shoulder injury while Anthony Gelling, Mason Lino and Isaiah Papali'i, all starters against the Storm, are on the extended bench.

Johnson is set to make his 149th career appearance leaving him in line to achieve his 150-game milestone at home against the Roosters on May 12.

The Vodafone Warriors face a programme of three matches at Mount Smart Stadium in May with the Roosters (May 12) and South Sydney (May 26) follow while they're away to Parramatta on May 18.

They come off a heavy loss to Melbourne after beating competition leader St George Illawarra five days earlier, a result which leaves them third on the ladder with six wins and two losses a third of the way through the season.

In 18 encounters with the Tigers, the Vodafone Warriors have a 13-15 win-loss record with a 7-5 edge in 12 meetings at home. The Tigers have won the last four contests.

VODAFONE WARRIORS v WESTS TIGERS

7.30pm, Saturday, May 01, 2018

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

Referees: Ben Cummins and Grant Atkins

Vodafone Warriors

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



Kiwi Greats In Hall Of Fame Mix

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)



GREAT KIWIS Mark Graham, Stacey Jones and Ruben Wiki have been nominated among 25 finalists for induction into the NRL Hall of Fame later this year. There will be six inductees named on August 1 to join the already included “100 Greatest Players” chosen at the time of the Australian Rugby League centenary in 2008.

Because it was Australia’s centenary project all of those 100 players were indeed Australian. This is the first time overseas players who have graced Australian competitions dating back to the formation of the inaugural Sydney club premiership in 1908 have been considered for the upgraded Hall of Fame.

The 25 finalists announced on Saturday night were chosen by an eight-person panel after an exhausting day of whittling the number down from almost 9000 candidates dating back to those pioneering days. Players were rated on performances at club and representative levels and must be retired from professional sport for at least five years.

Graham was a fierce competitor for Brisbane Norths, where he won a premiership in 1980, in 146 games for North Sydney between 1981 and 1988 and in 29 Tests for New Zealand. Even grizzled old Daily Telegraph sports editor Phil Rothfield has admitted he approached Graham for after-match comments with the utmost trepidation.

But with 24 of the 25 Hall of Fame Voting College being Australians – as far as I know I am the only “outsider” – Graham’s status as NZRL Player of the Century might not be as highly regarded as the deeds of Jones and Wiki. Both had far more extensive careers in Australia and the accompanying television exposure.

Jones and Wiki were named alongside Graham in the NZRL Team of the Century to mark the centenary of the original All Golds in 2007. Jones was the first home grown Warriors star to catch the Aussies’ attention across the Tasman in a 261-match career. For a decade he also tormented the Kangaroos, and in 2002 won the Golden Boot.

Maybe Wiki has even greater credentials. He is a member of two of Australia’s most prized “clubs”, having played a total of 311 games for Canberra and the Warriors and he includes a premiership (1994 with the Raiders) among his credits. Wiki’s total of 55 Tests has been bettered only by Darren Lockyer (59) for Australia.

One or two new Immortals will also be named on August 1 to join Clive Churchill, Bob Fulton, Reg Gasnier, Johnny Raper, Graeme Langlands, Wally Lewis, Arthur Beetson and Andrew Johns. The NRL now has control of the Immortals concept, which was started by the Rugby League Week magazine which folded last year.

When the Immortals honour was introduced only players the judges had seen in action were considered. Hence, Churchill, the great South Sydney and Kangaroos fullback of the 1950s, is the senior member of the group. Now the judges will cast their nets as far back as Dally Messenger and the other pioneers from 110 years ago.

But the Hall of Fame will most catch New Zealanders’ attention. The 25 members of the Voting College comprise 10 of the original 100 “Greatest Players” plus five historians and/or statisticians, five current media representatives and five independents. The NRL official organising it all is former Penrith forward Frank Puletua.

New Zealand has fared better than Britain, which has no finalists. I was surprised rugged loose forward Malcolm Reilly was missing from the list. Reilly was in Britain’s Ashes-winning 1970 team before returning to play five seasons and win two premierships with Manly. He later coached Newcastle to 1997 Grand Final glory.

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Many outstanding British players, such as Ellery Hanley, served only short off-season terms with Australian clubs. Apart from Graham, Jones and Wiki, the sole finalist to have worn another nation's jersey is Petero Civoniceva, but he is there for his great club career and 45 Tests for Australia rather than his six Tests for Fiji.

A minimum of four more former players will be added to the Hall of Fame each year from 2019. It is envisaged that a maximum of two more Immortals will be unveiled every four years, with the next induction scheduled for 2022. The Immortals will be chosen by a different panel from that which selects the Hall of Fame.

In no particular order, the 25 finalists are: Greg Alexander, Royce Simmons, Gorden Tallis, Bob Lindner, Steve Renouf, Petero Civoniceva, Ricky Stuart, Kevin Walters, Michael O'Connor, Cliff Lyons, Steve Menzies, Mark Graham, Ruben Wiki, Stacey Jones, Paul Harragon, Danny Buderus, Craig Young, Rod Reddy, Dennis Flannery, Elwyn Walters, Ian Moir, Jack Watkins, Peter Dimond, Ron Lynch and Wally O'Connell.

They were all exceptional footballers and it is surprising some did not make the original "greatest 100" Australians from a decade ago. But to clarify the older finalists, Watkins played before and after the First World War, O'Connell from the 1940s, Flannery, Moir and Dimond in the 1950s, and Lynch and Walters in the 1960s.

Congratulations to the Kiwi legends named as finalists for induction into the NRL Hall of Fame

They are: Mark Graham, Stacey Jones, Ruben Wiki,



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Hall Of Fame

By Barry Ross



I WAS PLEASED to see some older generation men named in the 25 players short list for the next group to join the NRL Hall of Fame. In July, six players from the 25 will become the latest Hall of Fame Inductees. The 25 nominees in alphabetical order and the year of their first Test are Greg Alexander (1989), Danny Buderus (2001), Petero Civeniceva (2001), Peter Dimond (1958), Denis Flannery (1950), Mark Graham (1977), Paul Harragon (1992), Stacey Jones (1995), Bob Lindner (1986), Ron Lynch (1961), Cliff Lyons (1990), Steve Menzies (1995), Ian Moir (1954), Wally O'Connell (1948), Michael O'Connor (1986), Rod Reddy (1977), Steve Renouf (1992), Royce Simmons (1986), Ricky Stuart (1990), Gordon Tallis (1998), Elwyn Walters (1969), Kevin Walters (1991), Jack Watkins (1914), Ruben Wiki (1994), Craig Young (1978).

JACK "BLUEY" WATKINS goes back the furthest, beginning his first grade career in 1913 with the Eastern Suburbs Roosters. Born in Sydney on 12 February 1893, he could play any position in the forwards and in 11 seasons with the Roosters, he played 112 first grade games, scoring 23 tries. The red headed forward won a Premiership with Easts in his first season, 1913 and again in 1923, while he was also a member of City Cup winning sides in 1914, 1915 and 1916. A few weeks after the 1916 season, he enlisted in the AIF (Service Number 32922) for World War One and fought in France. He didn't return home until late May 1919 and soon resumed his career with the Roosters. At the Sydney Cricket Ground on 19 July 1919, he captained the AIF team and scored a try in the 18-5 win over combined NSW Country. The first of Bluey's seven Tests was at Sydney's Agricultural Ground on 27 June 1914 in the first Test loss to England. He also played Tests against the Englishmen at Leeds on 1 October 1921 and at Hull on 5 November 1921, during the 1921/22 Kangaroo tour. He went to New Zealand with the 1919 Australian team, where he played in all four Tests, scoring his only Test try in the first Test in the 44-21 win at Wellington on 23 August. Including his seven Tests, Jack played 19 matches for Australia, as well as 13 games for NSW between 1915 and 1924. He played with Easts from 1913 to 1916, before enlisting, then from 1919 to 1924 and in 1926. In 1925, he was captain/coach of Tumut in south western NSW, where he was given free board and paid 10 pounds a week. Regarded as one of the hardest and toughest forwards of his time, newspaper men compared young forwards to him for more than 30 years after he had retired. Bluey passed away at Concord Repatriation Hospital in Sydney, aged 81, on 13 July 1974. **DENIS FLANNERY** was a Queensland winger who played 15 Tests from 1950 to 1956. Born on 2 April 1928, he was a schoolboy sprint champion, who played with the Ipswich Brothers club from 1947 to 1958. In his 27 games for Queensland, he finished with 16 tries, while he also scored four Test tries. He made two Kangaroo tours, 1952/53 and 1956/57, while he also played in the first World Cup, in France 1954. Denis died on 12 February 2012, aged 83. **IAN MOIR** was another flying winger, who came from the NSW south coast town of Port Kembla, about 100 kms south of Sydney. As a member of the Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club, he won two NSW beach sprint titles in the early 1950s and finished second in the 1951 Australian beach sprint championship at Scarborough beach in Perth. Born on 17 July 1932, he won the 500 pounds Canberra gift in his late teens and in 1988, at 56, he won the NSW veterans 100 metre title in 12.7 seconds. Moir could certainly score tries. In his eight Tests, he collected six tries, including three against New Zealand at Brisbane on 27 June 1959 in Australia's 38-10 win. He also scored 14 tries in 11 matches for NSW and 119 tries in his 138 first grade games (110 for Souths and 28 with the Wests Magpies). At the Sydney Cricket Ground in July 1958, he won the NSWRL 110 yards sprint with another speedster, Ken Irvine, in second place. This race was held prior to a Test match between Australia and Great Britain, in which Moir was a winger in the Australian team. With Souths he played in three successive Premiership winning teams in 1953, 1954 and 1955. He died at age 58, on 19 September 1990, from cancer.

WALLY O'CONNELL OAM, PETER DIMOND and RON LYNCH are the other three players on the list who played their Test matches more than 50 years ago. Born in Sydney on 6 April 1923, O'Connell lived till 94, passing away on 28 June last year. He played 10 Tests for Australia as a five eighth, touring England and France with the 1948/49 Kangaroos and New Zealand with the 1949 Australian team. He played five games for NSW and 123 first grade matches from 1942 to 1952 with Easts then Manly. Peter Dimond was a powerful running centre/winger, who came from the Dapto club at Wollongong.

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His very physical clashes with opposing English winger, Mike Sullivan, in two of the three Tests on the 1958 British tour, will long be remembered. The duo played four Tests against each other. Born on 28 November 1938, Dimond played 10 Tests, scoring three tries and toured with the 1963/64 Kangaroos to England and France. He scored five tries in his four games for NSW and 84 tries in his 10 seasons and 155 matches of Sydney first grade football with the Wests Magpies. After leaving Sydney, he played in the Newcastle area until he was 34. Nicknamed “Thirsty” because of his love for a drink, Ron Lynch was born on 12 June 1939 at Young, 375 kms west of Sydney. He played 238 first grade games in 13 seasons from 1961 with Parramatta and then Penrith, as well as 17 games for NSW. A lock or second rower, he played 12 Tests and toured England and France with the 1967/68 Kangaroos.

Another pleasing aspect from the 25 name list which was released last Sunday, was the inclusion of three New Zealanders. Mark Graham, Ruben Wiki and Stacey Jones would be worthy inclusions in the NRL Hall Of Fame.

Coming to Mt Smart this Saturday?

If you're coming to Mt Smart this Saturday for the game. Want a tour of Mt Smart. Meet Dexter at the BACK of the WEST STAND along the concourse. Wait by the elevator. The tour starts at **6pm**. Any issues contact Dexter on 021 0733 723

We would both like to thank Sir Peter Leitch for the opportunity to be part of an amazing group of people passionate about the Vodafone Warriors.

We came from Rotorua for the game & to be present in the Stacey Jones lounge with people from all walks of life was the icing on the 'wedding anniversary' cake.

The stadium tour by Dexter & co was interesting, funny & full of info!

Once again thank you all so very much for your hospitality.

Brendon & Jo Faulkner



Brendon, Jo & the Butcher

Dexter's tour of the Mt Smart Stadium for the dragons game



By John Coffey



Tyson Frizell of the Dragons in action against the Knights during Day 1 of the NRL Auckland Nines Rugby League Tournament 2015.
Photo www.photosport.nz

Brothers In League – And Union

MOST OF us have exorcised the NRL memories of Anzac Day from our minds, particularly after what happened in Melbourne. But the day was significant for more than the destructive Storm which swept away the Warriors. Earlier on Anzac evening, at Allianz Stadium, Tyson Frizell completed a notable family double when named Man of the Match in St George Illawarra's 24-8 defeat of the Sydney Roosters.

A few days earlier Shannon Frizell, someone who I admittedly had never previously heard of, scored three tries when the Highlanders took their turn to beat up the Blues at Eden Park. It transpires that Shannon and Tyson Frizell are brothers. Their cross-codes paths intersected in Nelson early last year when Shannon was with the Tasman Makos and Tyson played a pre-season game there against the Warriors.

Tyson, aged 26, made his first grade debut for Cronulla Sharks in 2011 and moved to the Dragons two years later. He played for Wales at the 2013 World Cup, represents NSW in Origin and has been a Kangaroos regular since 2016. Shannon is 24, a Mako from 2016 and a first-year Highlander. He was born in Tonga and Tyson in Wollongong. They have similar roles, Tyson as a second-rower and Shannon a flanker.

That got me thinking about brothers shining in the rival rugby codes. One or two references have listed Warriors debutant Joseph Vuna, 19, as a brother of Cooper Vuna, whose league credits included the Warriors, Newcastle Knights and Tonga before he switched to union for the Rebels, Wallabies, Toshiba, Worcester, Tonga and Bath. But 30-year-old Cooper last week tweeted a good luck wish to his "nephew".

Among New Zealand's most famous footy families were the Yates trio. In league, John Yates was a Kiwis forward at the first two World Cups, in France (1954) and Australia (1957), and toured Britain and France in 1955-56 and Australia in 1956. His only home game was against Britain-France after the 1957 World Cup. Second-rower Simon Yates represented Auckland and was an outstanding Otahuhu captain and coach.

Meanwhile, brother Victor Yates had a golden 1961 union season, as All Black No.8 in three Tests and in North Auckland and New Zealand Maori victories over France. But he was to become one of that sport's enigmas. On the 1962 tour to Australia Victor failed to make the Test teams and he was thereafter shunned by the selectors. Disillusioned, he switched to league in 1966 and played several seasons for Auckland.

Australia's most famous dual-code brothers were the Thornetts in the 1960s. Fullback Ken and second-rower Dick were Kangaroos from the Parramatta club who toured Britain and France together in 1963-64 and John was a Wallaby forward from 1955 to 1967 who also captained his country. Dick was actually a triple international, having been a Wallaby and also a water polo player at the 1960 Rome Olympic.

The Meates family from the West Coast went one better with four brothers who played at first-class level, two in each code. Winger Billy (1949-50) and flanker Kevin (1952) made the All Blacks. Kevin told me neither he nor Billy had played a game of rugby union until they relocated from Marist Brothers High School in Grey-mouth to become boarders at St Bede's College in Christchurch.

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Vince and Jack Meates stayed in league. Vince represented West Coast as a winger and Jack played in the second-row for Wellington and Auckland. Their father, Bill Meates senior, was a West Coast administrator who in 1953 donated the Meates Cup for competition between West Coast and Auckland. Son Jack featured in the first cup game -- but he was wearing blue and white not red and white.

Schools matter. No-one would claim the Ropatis are anything but a league family. Brothers Joe, Tea and Iva were Kiwis between 1983 and 1993, Peter and John played for Auckland and Feu for Auckland under-21s. They all went to Otahuhu College. But youngest sibling Romi diverted to Auckland Grammar, played union and fashioned a varied career mainly with Otago, the Highlanders and Samoa.

My favourite story concerns the Haig brothers, Jimmy and Laurie, from Otago. Jimmy was 1946 All Black halfback before Kiwis captain Pat Smith persuaded him to join his Prebbleton league club in Canterbury. Jimmy went on to play for New Zealand in his adopted code until 1954, retiring as captain. Meanwhile, five-eighth Laurie was starring for Otago and chosen for the All Black team to tour Britain in 1953-54.

As was the custom of the day, Jimmy was disqualified for life (allegedly for professionalism) by the New Zealand Rugby Union and banned from attending all functions. But he was still welcome at his old club down south and no way was he missing his brother's farewell before he left for Britain. Several decades later Jimmy was a member of one of my supporters' tours to Britain and told me the story of that night.

"I switched to league for twenty-five quid (\$50) and a job at Pat Smith's pub," he said, failing to mention the lure of the 1947-48 Kiwis tour to Britain and France. "When Laurie made the All Blacks they had a whip around and presented him with a wallet. After the speeches we went outside and had a look. They'd given him hundreds (of pounds). You tell me, who was the amateur and who was the professional?" asked Jimmy.

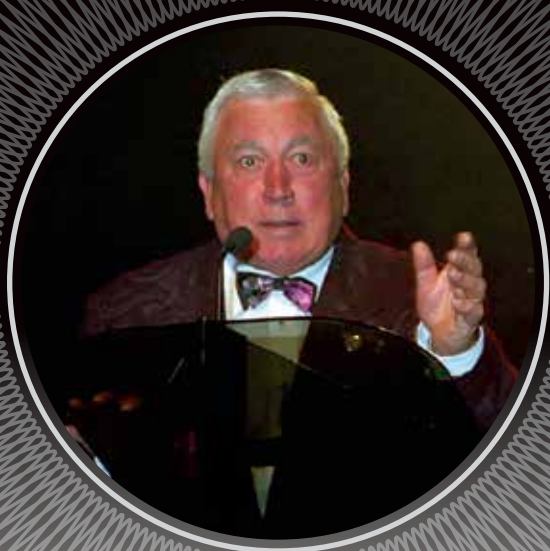
NEPHEW OF TONY & KEVIN IRO WINS SCHOLARSHIP

At the recent Pat Walsh memorial bowls day at Bridge Park, Nigel Iro (*Rarotonga, Ngapuhi*) was one of the 5 recipients to receive a Māori Sports Awards scholarship. Nigel is pictured receiving his scholarship from Sir Bryan Williams & Noeline Walsh, wife of the late great Pat Walsh.



Nigel's current achievements:

*U/16 & U/23 Boys T/20 Tag
NZ U/16 N-Z Māoris Rugby League
Counties stingrays U/15 Rugby League
Counties Maoris U/15 rugby league
Auckland Maoris U/13 rugby league
U/14 & U/15 Grand final club winners rugby
league for Manurewa Marlins.
Currently in Kiwis development squad for
Counties stingrays U/16*





By Miles Davis

The Originals - Warrior No. 12: Tony Tatupu

Tony Tatupu of the Warriors in action against Wests, 1995.
Photo www.photosport.nz

WARRIOR NO. 12 was Kuripitone Tatupu (or Tony to the Vodafone Warriors faithful). A rangy back-rower, Tatupu played his club rugby in Auckland for the Mt Albert Lions. Although the Lions had a proud history it was not a purple patch for the club (although they did win the Stormont Shield in 1993 defeating a then dominant Northcote Tigers).

His form for the Lions saw him get selection for Auckland and played a dozen games for his province, including a creditable draw with the Manly Sea Eagles in 1993. In 1994 he signed for the North Harbour Sea Eagles (skipped by fellow Warrior Duane Mann) who were to take part in the Lion Red Cup. His side finished 3rd in the round-robin but were to make it to the Grand Final where they faced minor premiers Counties Manukau. With Tatupu playing at Centre the Sea Eagles opened up a big first half lead then held on to prevail 24-16. Tatupu was named 2nd rower of the year at the end of season awards.

That season he was included in the New Zealand Residents team to tour Australia where they won all 4 games played. Upon returning they played a Western Samoan side, making their first tour to New Zealand, defeating them 64-2 at Carlaw Park.

It was that sort of form that got him signed for the Vodafone Warriors for their inaugural season in 1995. Selected in the starting XIII for the historic opening game against the Brisbane Broncos Tatupu wrote his name in Warriors history by scoring a try in the 25-22 loss. He went on to play 16 games that season (7 off the interchange bench) scoring 5 tries. The 1996 season saw him feature less with just 2 starts and 9 interchange appearances.

Let go by the Warriors for the 1997 season he was targeted by several clubs including the Hunter Mariners and Halifax. However after talking to Warrington's John Dorahy, he signed and joined another 8 Kiwis at the club. Dorahy was delighted at the signing "With his pace and ability, we have a class signing". Tatupu was also very positive and excited by the move declaring "I think we could have an awesome side here, with every chance of getting to Wembley this year".

Unfortunately things weren't to be as successful for Warrington as Tatupu had hoped. They finished 9th in the Super League and were knocked out of the Challenge Cup in the quarter finals by the Salford Red Devils. There was also the inaugural World Club Championship which was to involve 10 clubs from Australia (including the Vodafone Warriors who made it to the semi-finals before going down 22-16 to the Broncos) and 12 from England (including Paris St Germain from France). The competition was not as well supported as the organisers had hoped and the competition lost over \$5million. It was also a disaster for Warrington who lost all 6 games, including a 16-4 loss to the Vodafone Warriors at Lancaster Park. Tatupu also earned the ire of his team-mates when he and team-mate Nigel Vagana sneaked out for a quiet pint, breaking a drinking ban that had been imposed. As a result the whole Warrington squad was flogged at their next training session.

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In all Tatupu made 32 appearances for the Wolves and scored 7 tries before returning to Auckland in 1998 and re-signing for the Warriors. He was to make a further 40 appearances for the club over the next 2 seasons and pick up another 4 tries.

In 2000 he returned to the UK, this time signing for Wakefield Trinity who were coached by former Kiwi Tony Kemp and had future Warriors coach Steve McNamara as their skipper. It was a turbulent time at the club which was in severe financial difficulties. A Company Voluntary Arrangement was put in place and every player over the age of 24 had their contracts terminated in an attempt to save money. Kemp resigned in protest and several senior players touted their services on the open market as free agents. Tatupu however was one of the senior players who agreed to continue playing on a reduced contract.

In all Tatupu played 21 games for Wakefield before returning to New Zealand and quitting rugby league. His career also saw him play 4 tests for the Kiwis and 6 for Western Samoa.

After hanging his boots up he joined the New Zealand Police. It was a dream he had harboured since leaving Mt Albert Grammar "Right from school I wanted to join but they didn't have a cadetship back then and I was too young ... it's good to be putting something back in now".

Tatupu was also a member of the Lifewise outreach team and once helped turn around the life of former top rugby league player Darryl Mihaere. Mihaere had made some bad life choices and ended up in prison. Upon his release he found it tough to get his life back on track and ended up sleeping rough in Auckland. This is when he bumped into Tatupu who referred him to several support services and gave him continued encouragement as he completely turned his life around.

Whilst Warriors fans will always have a soft spot for Tony Tatupu I have the feeling that the wider Auckland community will benefit even more from his passion for policing and helping others.

Warriors v Broncos 1995 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ9-e5jScoM>

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



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Congratulations Joseph Vuna on becoming Vodafone Warrior number #228 after making your debut in Melbourne last week!





Tohu Harris
Photo www.photosort.nz



By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Harris A Contender For Top HB Gong

HAWKE'S BAY'S Warriors and Kiwis rugby league star Tohu Harris is among the finalists for the Bay's Sportsperson of the Year awards.

In the wake of his contribution to the Melbourne Storm's NRL Premiership success last year as well as the Warriors four consecutive wins before the cut off date for the awards Harris earned a spot alongside Black Sticks hockey veteran Shea McAleese, Tall Ferns basketballer Josie Stockill, world champion kayaker Aimee Fisher and shearing world record holder Rowland Smith in the senior category for the awards function to be held at Taradale's Pettigrew-Green Arena on May 26.

The winner of the senior category joins the winners of the junior, masters, disabled, senior team and junior team categories as finalists for the supreme award on the night. Harris is no stranger to collecting sports awards in his home province as he has won the supreme award and senior and junior categories at the Ngati Kahungunu Sportsperson of the Year functions in the past.

Another of Waipatu Marae's favourite sons, four-time world softball champion and current Junior Black Sox head coach Thomas Makea jnr will join Hawke's Bay motor racing legend Greg Murphy as inductees into the Hawke's Bay Sports Hall of Fame on the night.

Makea's father Thomas Makea snr, a multiple national title-winning softball coach during the last 43 years, and netball personality Judy Sutherland will be recognised for long service to their respective codes.

Hawke's Bay rugby league fans are unlikely to see any senior grade fixtures in the province until the Spring Competition fixtures begin in August. RLHB chairman Kevin Tamati said Hawke's Bay are keen to be represented at the national women's tournament in Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

"Obviously we can't go if the Central Vipers send a team because we are part of the Central Zone but if the Vipers don't send a team our women would love to go as a Hawke's Bay side," Tamati said last week.

"With most of the Manawatu women now playing in Wellington there is still uncertainty surrounding the Vipers participation at the tournament as it would only contain players from Hawke's Bay and Taranaki," Tamati added.

Last year six Hawke's Bay players were key architects of the Vipers third placing at the nationals. They believe a Hawke's Bay team would be strong enough to match that third placing.

Hawke's Bay were hoping to play Taranaki in Whanganui last weekend but Taranaki did not want to meet the Bay team halfway and Hawke's Bay didn't want to make a six hour bus trip to New Plymouth.

Continued on next page...

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A Lower North Island women's tournament scheduled for May 5 and 6 has also been cancelled because of teams being reluctant to travel. If Hawke's Bay are going to play at the nationals they need games and fixtures need to be confirmed fast.

Tamati is confident Hawke's Bay will be represented in under-17 and under-15 boys and girls grades at an age group tournament to be staged in Rotorua at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Meanwhile the coroner's report into the death of Tamatea Arikiniui player Katiana Pakoti Waikato in Hawke's Bay last year has been released. Coroner Tim Scott said she died from a head injury sustained while playing in a game and that it was likely she had hit her head on the ground in a tackle some undetermined time before she collapsed after the August 26 game and was taken to Hawke's Bay Hospital.

Her life support was terminated the following night.

"There is nothing to suggest that the circumstances of the injury were caused by or contributed to in any way by illegal or unsporting play," Scott stressed.

"Sadly, the game of rugby league along with many other commonly engaged in sporting activities has a risk factor about it."

"It is not totally clear what happened, but as best as I can determine Katiana got possession of the ball and then was either tackled and fell backwards or (less likely) stumbled and fell backwards."

A promotional poster for an NRL match between the Kiwis and the Wests Tigers. The background features a dynamic action shot of two players, one in a Kiwis jersey (black with red and white accents) and another in a Wests Tigers jersey (orange and black). The Kiwis player is in the foreground, holding the ball. The background is a mix of dark and light colors with some abstract patterns. At the top left is the TNT logo with the text 'MATCH DAY SPONSOR'. At the top right is the TICKETEK logo. The main text reads 'KIWIS GALORE!' in a stylized font, followed by 'THIS SATURDAY' in large, bold, white letters. Below that, it says 'MT SMART STADIUM' and 'KICK OFF 7:30 PM'. At the bottom, there are logos for the Kiwis (a stylized kiwi bird) and the Wests Tigers (a tiger head). Below these are logos for Vodafone, Canterbury, Skycity, Woodstock, A, CSG, dtr, flava, Harvey Norman, J, Suzuki, TNT, and Wendy's. The bottom of the poster has a black bar with the text 'Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter' and 'Page 14'.

TNT
MATCH DAY SPONSOR

TICKETEK

KIWIS GALORE!

THIS SATURDAY

MT SMART STADIUM
KICK OFF 7:30 PM

VODAFONE

WARRIORS

WESTS TIGERS

NRL
vodafone
canterbury
SKYCITY
WOODSTOCK
A
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dtr
flava
Harvey Norman
J
SUZUKI
TNT
Wendy's



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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 9

		Tarsh Ieremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
		<i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Ex International Referee</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
Date/ Venue	Game							
Thur 3 May Suncorp	Broncos v Bulldogs	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
Fri 4 May McDonJones	Knights v Rabbitohs	Knights	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs
Fri 4 May Carrington	Panthers v Cowboys	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Cowboys	Panthers	Cowboys
Sat 5 May GIO	Raiders v Titans	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
Sat 5 May Nt Snart	Warriors v Tigers	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sat 5 May Sthrn Cross	Sharks v Eels	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Eels	Eels	Sharks	Eels
Sun 6 May Jubilee	Dragons v Storm	Storm	Dragons	Storm	Dragons	Storm	Dragons	Storm
Sun 6 May Allianz	Roosters v Sea Eagles	Roosters	Sea Eagles	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters

Picks last week	5/8	2/8	5/8	4/8	2/8	5/8	5/8
Total picks	37	35	37	32	34	38	32

Some Days Are Diamonds, Some Days Are Stones...

Anzac Day was a bloody Rock, yup some days we should have just stayed in bed. Instead we ran into the perfect storm and capsized. On the upside our younger players Lino, Papalii, Tevaga and debutant Joseph Vuna etc will learn that all is often not what it seems, no matter how good you think you are there are always going to be higher levels required. Anyyyywayyyy lets put that aside, can't be changed move into the 10 day break, a chance for our guys to have a long look in their personal mirrors and chant "I must do better". We are still in a good place with 6 wins from 8 outings way ahead of what any of us thought coming in. Last week I mentioned stumbling blocks around us., well they have become a bit clearer over the last round. The Storm (we can testify) are gathering their forces, Munster is their everywhere man and the return of hard-running centre Chambers a big factor. Their strike on both wings is number 1 with a bullet! The dangerous Dragons remain fiery and the injury prone Panthers are loitering with intent. The form half Brooks is getting the most out of his tough tackling Tigers but while the muscular Esan Marsters is a handful, I get the feeling they don't have the depth of big game players to improve markedly at the business end. The Rabbitohs are in the picture but need to keep Big Sam Burgess on the paddock rather than his increasing stays in the Judiciary naughty boys cnr. On the bright side his twin-tower brothers Tom and George are putting up consistently powerful displays. The Sharks are fluky but will surface when they have a full catch of players available and stone face Bennetts bustling Broncos will always be there or thereabouts if they can sort their halves. The Eels with the lively Gutherson back on deck and Norman/Moses coming into form may test some while the no-name Titans continue to threaten an upset. The rest are battling to rise from the basement.

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The Knights without Pearce were written off but had enough left to surprise the drama queen Manly mob. Sticky Ricky still pushing through with his rocky Raiders subduing JT's Cowboys. The Far North Cattle rustlers look great on paper but are out of sorts and apart from the Titanic Taumalolo are not firing shots. So.... more importantly, this week the Homies are back at Mt Smart for yet another big test versus our old mate Ivans Westie Pie Tigers. We will miss the cheeky Maori Luke-Star but Harris, Johnson and Kata come back into play. Hopefully the lift they bring and the home ground factor will carry us to victory. So get your cheer gears on, grab a White Lady burger, Mussel fritter, Chips and a beer and be there or be square eh. Kia kaha Warriooooorrss!

Tipping was a tightrope again with the Knights, Raiders and Eels scoring against the tide of opinion. Nifty Nev with 5/8 is out on his own now on 38 points with young Tarsh (5) and old JC (5) in the trail on 37. Also 5 from 8 this week yours truly High-Tackle catching up to Fast Eddie on the bottom rung. Big Joe and Montz had weeks to forget. Believe me this gig is not easy, as they say....anybody can beat anybody on a good day. Keep the faith Warriors Whanau.

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



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ASICSNZ, is proud to be celebrating movement on and off the field with the Vodafone Warriors

The NRL returns to Christchurch! Manly v Warriors in Christchurch Saturday June 9

MANLY SEA Eagles and Warriors fans this is one weekend you'll want to be in Christchurch! On Saturday June 9, 3 days after Origin 1 in Melbourne, Manly host the Warriors in Christchurch. Ticket sales have already been strong, indicating yet again that rugby league has very strong support in the South Island.

Manly are looking to make the Canterbury region a home away from home and have committed to playing a home game in Christchurch for the next 2 seasons with an option for 1 more. Trent Barrett visited Christchurch just prior to the season and met with Frank Endacott and Scott Robertson, Crusaders Coach while he was in town. Last week, Manly launched their Ngai Tahu jersey, the jersey designed by Ngai Tahu artist, Fayne Robinson at the Tuahiwi Marare. Lyall Gorman, Manly CEO was blown away by the powhiri he received and story behind the design of jersey.

Mark Broadhurst, who is possibly more famous in Sydney than he is in his hometown of Christchurch, is Number 1 ticketholder.

Manly will get to Christchurch on Tuesday June 5 will go straight to fan day in the Eastern Suburbs, visit schools on Wednesday, and then have some down time to enjoy Christchurch and surrounding area on Thursday.

On Thursday night before the game, there will be a special dinner for rugby league supporters, at Sixty6 on Peterborough in Christchurch. Ex Manly coach Graeme Lowe is guest speaker and members of both teams will be in attendance. We are also very honoured to have Sir Peter Leitch as a guest at the dinner. Tickets and Tables are still available for the dinner \$185 + GST for single tickets or \$1750 + GST for a

table of 10. These can purchased here: <http://walco-events.nz/book-now-w-dinner/>

For Many fans in town for the game there's lots of great ticket options:

- Manly Supporter section – tickets from \$49 for Adults (\$39 kids) and every ticket comes with a large Manly flag ticketek.co.nz/manlywarriors
- Manly Membership – includes a ticket to the game plus 2018 Membership Card, 2018 Member Scarf, 2018 Travel Mug, 2018 Membership Pack all for \$115. This is the best value ticket offer available. ticketek.co.nz/manlywarriors
- Pre-Game Hospitality the 'Eagles Club' – hosted at Addington Raceway right next door and includes pre-game buffet and carvery, open bar, Category A ticket on halfway, post match food and bar, ABs v France on big screen back at Addington Raceway. Tickets from \$229 + GST person <http://walcoevents.nz/hospitality/book-now/#addington>
- The Eagles Nest – all week the Christchurch Casino will be decked out in Manly colours and will be a home base for Manly fans and players. The Casino will also host the exclusive post match function that will be attended by the team

And for Warriors fans that want to sit in the Warriors supporter section you can purchase tickets from this special link which the Mad Butcher has organised to get the very best prices for bloody good seats. <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?pp=QMEM-B&sh=MANLYWAR18>



Ex kiwi Mark Broadhurst's got his ticket.





Photo www.photospot.zn

Vodafone Warriors Climb Ladder With Tough Win In Wet

By Jamie Wall
NSWRL.com.au

THE WARRIORS proved the importance of having a good goal-kicker at QBE Stadium today, pipping the Newtown Jets 20-18 despite being outscored four tries to three.

The home side were looking to climb up the Intrust Super Premiership with another win, however they'd have to do it on unfamiliar territory at the new venue, also known as North Harbour Stadium. The Warriors welcomed back winger Lewis Soosemea from a one-week suspension, while another notable inclusion was prop James Gavet, making his first appearance in six weeks after a hamstring injury.

Newtown were four places higher than the Warriors on the table - but it was only by virtue of points difference. However, their confidence would have been high off the back of a stunning come-from-behind win against the Bulldogs last weekend. The Jets also had a good addition on the wing, as Tongan international Sosaia Feki pulled on the royal blue jumper for the first time this season.

Unfortunately, Auckland turned on an abysmal day for the game. Conditions were more suited to water polo than Rugby League as a heavy downpour swept the city, and it was evident that it was going to be a war of attrition before the ball had even been kicked off.

It didn't take long for the Jets to win the first battle, forcing a Warriors handling error on the first set. A subsequent penalty gave the visitors good field position, leading to Aaron Gray crossing on the right edge. Another string of penalties meant the Warriors were backed up against their line nine minutes later, and again Gray scored. This time he latched onto a kick through that held up in the wet in-goal, and the Jets took a two-score lead.

Even though neither try was converted, the Warriors needed to hit back. It took them until the 18th minute to finally gain some red zone ascendancy, and big prop Tevita Satae crashed over from short range next to the posts.

It stirred the home side into action, and Zac Santo benefitted from the conditions in the 24th minute. Hayze Perham had put in a kick that held up suddenly in a puddle, meaning that the Jets defenders over-ran the ball and the Warriors winger was gifted the easiest try of his career. Chanel Harris-Tavita nailed the difficult conversion, despite having to kick it out of a pool that had formed along the touchline.

The Warriors dominated the remainder of the half, and added a very slick try in the 36th minute. Joe Vuna, who had made his NRL debut midweek, was on the end of some perfectly-timed passes to score 10 metres to the right of the posts. This made the score 18-8 as the teams sprinted off the field to find some shelter from the rain at half-time.

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The Jets had the strong northerly wind at their backs in the second half, and dominated possession and territory. They made it count with a try to Sione Katoa in the 57th minute. The ball again sat up short in the wet off a seemingly innocuous kick, giving the winger an untouched run into the corner from 15 metres out.

Eight minutes later Anthony Moraitis bashed his way over next to the posts. Kyle Flanagan finally found his kicking boots, landing the conversion to make the scores level at 18-all.

It set up a tense last 10 minutes, however the home side was able to not only conquer their opposition, but the terrible conditions as well.

Four minutes from time, the Jets made a crucial error out in front of their own posts. A dangerous tackle on Vuna gave Harris-Tavita a chance to break the deadlock, and the five-eighth held his nerve into the stiff breeze. The ball sailed through the sticks to give the Warriors a thrilling win.

They now face a tough assignment in Canberra next weekend against Mounties, while Newtown head back to Henson Park to face North Sydney in the first leg of the 2018 Frank Hyde Shield.

Warriors 20 (T Satae, Z Santo, J Vuna tries; C Harris-Tavita 4 goals) def Newtown Jets 18 (A Gray 2, S Katoa, A Moraitis tries; K Flanagan goal)

Mitre 10 Signs Up With Vodafone Warriors As Home Improvement And Trade Partner

By Richard Becht



MITRE 10 has provided another boost to the Vodafone Warriors' impressive start to the 2018 NRL season by signing up as the club's first Official Home Improvement and Trade Partner.

Mitre 10, New Zealand's largest home improvement retailer with 81 stores throughout the country, has joined the club's family of sponsors for a two-year period.

Vodafone Warriors commercial manager Glenn Critchley said partnership discussions had been ongoing since early in the year and the club was delighted to welcome Mitre 10 on board.

"It's fantastic to begin a partnership with Mitre 10, a brand which is so recognisable to New Zealanders with its extensive network of stores and commitment to helping communities," he said.

"Each of our partners plays an important role in helping us to develop, and this relationship will see us do just that by working together to deliver some great experiences for our fans and Mitre 10 customers."

Mitre 10 general manager marketing Jules Lloyd-Jones said it was exciting to be partnering with the Vodafone Warriors and the deal presented many great opportunities for both parties.

"It's clear that there is a lot of passion for the club and, for us, this partnership is primarily focused on engaging our trade customers as it's fair to say many of them are massive fans," she said.

"While they might be based in Auckland, we see the Vodafone Warriors very much as a national team and are looking forward to working with them on initiatives throughout the country that'll help bring fans in Auckland and further afield closer to the team."

Mitre 10 and the Vodafone Warriors have already proved they work well together. In February, they combined forces to send more than \$17,000 worth of building materials in a shipping container to Tonga to help rebuild schools devastated by Cyclone Gita.



Northcote v Papakura

April 28 Premiership Match Reports

By ARL

SAS Fox Memorial Premiership

Northcote 16 Papakura 10

Veteran forward Dylan Moses capped a dream return to life back at his junior club by scoring a try and setting another one up in the final 10 minutes, lifting Northcote to a come-from-behind win against Papakura. Down 10-0 as the 70th minute approached, the Tigers stormed home to collect their second win of the year and leave Papakura facing a winless opening month of the competition.

Richmond 22 Mangere East 36

Led by a double to front-rower Kalani Ili, Mangere East claimed their second victory of 2018 at the expense of the winless Richmond Bulldogs. After taking a four-point lead into half-time, the Hawks ran away in the second, helped along by the accurate kicking of halfback Inga Limoni, who also scored a try.

Otahuhu 24 Pt Chevalier 32

The Pt Chevalier Pirates remain undefeated in 2018, picking up a 32-24 win, in experienced utility Jeremiah Pai's 100th Fox Memorial game for the club. After going into the sheds tied at 18-all, Pt Chevalier's interchange proved the difference after the break. In a beaten team, young fullback Geronimo Doyle was strong for Otahuhu, scoring a double and causing problems with his elusive running.

Glenora 36 Marist 12

The Glenora Bears powered to their third win of 2018, downing the Marist Saints at Harold Moody Reserve. Three unanswered tries inside the first half hour set the tone for the defending-champion Bears,

who took a 22-6 lead into the break and closed it out in the second.

Mt Albert 14 Howick 16

Howick remain one of two unbeaten teams in the competition, after overcoming Mt Albert late at Fowlds Park. Trailing at half-time, the Hornets came home strong, scoring in the closing exchanges via centre Aziah Ikitule-Filipo, to seal victory and assume the lead of the competition at the end of the first month of play.

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup

Ponsonby 24 Manurewa 12

Ponsonby bounced back from a narrow defeat in Round 1 to beat Manurewa 24-12 at Birkenhead War Memorial. Tied at the break, Manurewa were outrun in a second half where they struggled to complete sets. Playmaker Aaron Nootai was a key contributor for the Ponies, while up front Andrew Bob and George Pulu laid a solid platform.

Ellerslie 32 Otara 10

After going down to Bay Roskill to open the new campaign last week, Ellerslie made a statement via a 32-10 victory over fellow top-four hopefuls Otara. The Eagles did it tough in the second half, finishing the game with three players in the casualty ward and no interchanges remaining. Veteran player Darin Kingi was a standout for the Eagles.

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Papatoetoe 18 Franklin 30

The Franklin Storm are undefeated in their first fortnight at Premiership level, building on last week's draw with Manurewa to earn a close victory over Papatoetoe. Franklin hooker Jason Tau stood out, playing the full 80 minutes.

Waitemata Seagulls 10 Pakuranga 36

Pakuranga outlasted the Waitemata Seagulls to earn their first points of the year. After taking a modest lead into the second half, two late tries to Pakuranga blew the scoreline out. The match was played in thick mud as torrential rain pelted the Ranui Domain.

Mt Wellington Warriors 8 Te Atatu 28

The Te Atatu Roosters continued their positive start to life back in the second division, running out 20-point winners against first-round winners Mt Wellington. The victory leaves Te Atatu as one of four

undefeated teams after the opening fortnight.

New Lynn Stags 22 Hibiscus Coast 4

New Lynn made it two from two to open 2018, running out comfortable 22-4 winners over the Hibiscus Coast in their first home game of the year. Stags centre Edwin Amituanai scored two tries in the victory.

Bay Roskill 40 Northern Brothers 4

Former Kiwi internationals Jerome Ropati and Ben Henry both got on the scoresheet as Bay Roskill powered to a Round 2 victory over competition newcomers the Northern Brothers. After having the bye in Round 1, Northern fought valiantly against the Sharman Cup heavyweights, who had hooker Cheoneth Henry chew through 47 tackles in the middle of the park.

Manukau BYE

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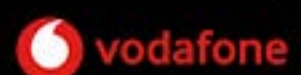
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Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

TWO PREMIER grade games were played at the Elles Road grounds at Invercargill .

The games were part of a combined Otago / Southland competition round .

The first game saw Winton/ City play Dunedin Bears RLC . The bears opened the score book very early in the game and from there onwards dominated the game . However to the credit of Winton/ City they showed a keen determination and executed some good defence and carried out some good tackling. But the halftime score was Bears 50 and Winton / City NIL.

The second half saw the Bears carry on with their scoring regime and at the fulltime whistle the final score was Bears 116 – Winton / City NIL .

At least Winton / City fronted for a full game and gave it a good go.

The second game was Cooks RLC vs Kia Toa Tigers RLC from Dunedin . This game also being part of the combined Otago/ Southland competition round – it was also a game for a challenge to secure the Zulu Taia and Manuel Thompson memorial trophy.

Cooks opened the score card with a try 3 minutes in to the game . Play was consistent for both sides . Kia Toa then scored their first try 25 minutes in to the game . This reflected some good tackling and defence by the Cooks .

Cooks went on to score another try before the end of the first half . The halftime score being : Cooks 14 Kia Toa 6 .

Kia Toa Tigers showed some determination in the

second half running a series of tries , Cooks managing to score once in the second half . Kia Toa went on to win the game with 28 points against Cooks on 18 . A good fast moving and clean game of rugby league .

Try Scorers in the game :

Kia Toa Tigers – Tayler Hazlett 1 , Adam Jones 1 , Hogan Frae 3

Cooks - Ramera Chambers 3 , Tahna Epiha 1 .

Conversions :

Kia Toa Tigers – Tayler Hazlett 4 .

Cooks – Tihuma Brown 1 .

Results from games played at Dunedin :

Cowboys RLC 32 / University RLC 12

South Pacific Raiders RLC 34 / He Tauaa RLC 28





Taranaki Rugby League

By Wayne Capper

ROUND FIVE of the Paddock to Plater Butchery Taranaki Premiership got underway on Friday Night under lights at Clifton Park in Waitara with the inform Hawera Hawks facing the home side the Waitara Bears. Hawera shot out to an early lead only to have Waitara come back and gain a healthy lead with 10 minutes to go, this did not stop the Hawera side however as they scored some late tries in succession missing a conversion kick to tie the game on fulltime, Waitara taking a close game 32-30. The Western Suburbs Tigers and Whanganui Boxon sides had a tight tussle in the wet on Saturday with the game ending in a draw. Whanganui Boxon started off strong gaining an early 10 point lead, and went into half time with the lead. Western Suburbs came out firing in the second and gained momentum of the game to take the lead, only for Whanganui Boxon to convert a penalty kick to draw the game, final score 18-18 in what was a physical encounter in the wet at Ngamotu Domain. The last game of the round was played on Sunday with the Linton Cobras playing at home against the Bell Block-Marist Dragons. The Linton Cobras started fast getting out to a 30-0 lead after only 20 minutes of play. Smart play by their halves and strong running from their right edge made things hard for the Bell Block-Marist Dragons. The Bell Block-Marist Dragons did come back before half time however, and scored again early in the second half to make it 36-18. From there Linton Cobras scored a few more tries to seal the game. The Bell Block-Marist Dragons came back with some late tries but it was little too late as the Linton Cobras took their first win of the season winning 48-32.

The Patea Warriors travelled north on Sunday to play the Waitara Bears in a game of Masters Rugby League, and what a game it was with some great tries, outstanding tackles and some good old fashion straight up the guts running. The game was played with such passion and physicality, but what else would you expect from these two great teams and clubs. There was a great mixture of aged players, with the oldest being in his mid-sixties, but for those who were there, age was definitely no barrier. Although Patea took the win the game of rugby league was the winner on the day. To see our past players on both sides giving their all and enjoying themselves was an awesome sight to see. Kudos must go to all the players and supporters of both teams who travelled near and far to be a part of this tremendous occasion, to the Patea Warriors Club for making the journey north and to the Waitara Bears Club who were fantastic hosts on the day. Masters Rugby League is alive and kicking in Taranaki, and we now look forward to next date that is set with the Western Suburbs Tigers hosting on Sunday 27th May at Ngamotu Domain in New Plymouth, see you all there.

The Junior scene in Taranaki is also well underway as Round Three got underway over the weekend. The Waitara Bears hosted the Coastal Cobras which coincided with a Waitara Whanau Day Celebration along with the Masters Rugby League game, the day was a huge success with the community being really supportive of the initiative. The Western Suburbs Tigers headed south to face a strong Normanby-Okaiawa Knights Club, whilst the Hawera Hawks headed north to face the Bell Block-Marist Dragons with both days showing an abundance of talent. The Lower North Island Youth Competition also kicked off in the weekend with the Bell Block-Marist Dragons and Western Suburbs Tigers both entering team in the Under 15's and 17's grades in what is a collaboration between Taranaki, Manawatu and Wellington in these age groups.

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**Paddock to Plate Butchery Taranaki Premiership
Round Five (27th – 29th April 2018)**

	Waitara Bears	32		Hawera Hawks	30
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Waitara Bears 32 (Tries: Nathan Mahoney 2, Brent Martin, Caelo Marino, Anki O'Carroll-Leota, Elijah Toetoe, Levi Muraohi, Goals: Mahorahora McLeod 2) **Hawera Hawks 30** (Tries: Kurt Kahui 3, Rikki Cardine 2, Isiah Graham-Hooper, Goals: Steve-Ray Gray 3). **HalfTime:** Waitara Bears 19 Hawera Hawks 16. **Venue:** Clifton Park, Waitara. **Graeme West Medal:** 3 – Brent Martin (Waitara Bears), 2 – Kurt Kahui (Hawera Hawks), 1 – Isiah Graham-Hooper (Hawera Hawks)

	Western Suburbs Tigers	18		Whanganui Boxon	18
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Western Suburbs Tigers 18 (Tries: Sam Bennett, Jacob Wintonkey, Cameron Robb, Goals: Caleb Rihui 3) **Whanganui Boxon 18** (Tries: Francis Polaka, Tautahi Rawiri, Jordan Davis, Goals: Tautahi Rawiri 3). **HalfTime:** Western Suburbs Tigers 6 Whanganui Boxon 10. **Venue:** Ngatawhiri Domain, New Plymouth. **Graeme West Medal:** 1 – Reagan Courts (Western Suburbs Tigers), 2 – Tabore Robangaki (Western Suburbs Tigers), 1 – Tautahi Rawiri (Whanganui Boxon)

	Linton Cobras	48		Bell Block-Marist Dragons	32
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Linton 48 (Tries: Cody Christensen 2, Pita Monahill, Shadow Tuala, Nasra Talipa, Nikolas Iorani, Logan Aloa, Vito Veneribus, Goals: Corey Governor 8) **Bell Block-Marist Dragons 32** (Tries: Rocco Palanka, Levi McPhie, Whetu Cameron, Kayne Newman, Matipo Ranaia, Dylan Hall, Goals: Dylan Hall 4). **HalfTime:** Linton Cobras 36 Bell Block-Marist Dragons 12. **Venue:** Linton Army Base, Linton. **Graeme West Medal:** 3 – Corey Governor (Linton Cobras), 2 – Shadow Tuala (Linton Cobras), 1 – Jahn Governor (Linton Cobras)

**Paddock to Plate Butchery Taranaki Premiership
Competition Points Table**

	Team	Played	Won	Draw	Loss	For	Against	Diff	Points
	Whanganui Boxon	5	3	1	1	192	98	+94	7
	Bell Block-Marist Dragons	5	3	0	2	150	134	+16	6
	Western Suburbs Tigers	4	2	1	1	98	80	+18	5
	Hawera Hawks	4	2	0	2	130	114	+16	4
	Waitara Bears	5	2	0	3	96	204	-108	4
	Linton Cobras	5	1	0	4	146	182	-36	2

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KIWIS GALORE!

THIS SATURDAY

MT SMART STADIUM

KICK OFF 7:30 PM

VODAFONE

WARRIORS

WESTS TIGERS



ANZ Premiership Season Launched With Ultimate Shoot Out!



SILVER FERNS

ON MONDAY the ANZ Premiership celebrated the launch of the 2018 season with the Ultimate Shoot Out at Westfield St Luke's, Auckland.

Six teams contested the Shoot Out at the public event, each team including a representative from one of the ANZ Premiership teams, a media personality as well as a member of the public. Teams battled it out to score the most points under time pressure with the public member of the winning team walking away with a VIP experience to the 2018 ANZ Premiership Grand Final.

Players in attendance included Ama Agbeze (Northern Stars), Tamara Leoni (SKYCITY Mystics), Lenize Potgieter (WBOP Magic), Mila Reuelu-Buchanan (Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse), Jess MacLennan (Silvermoon Tactix) and Olivia Bates (Ascot Park Hotel Southern Steel).

After an intense Shoot Out which ended in a golden goal shoot out, ultimate honours went to the Magic, winning in a tight final round competition against the Pulse.

The court was then open to the public to test their skills against the players as well as autograph signing and photos. The first public event for the ANZ Premiership this year the public turnout was strong, with lots of interest in gold medal winning England Roses captain Ama Agbeze who is joining Auckland based Northern Stars this season.

Tactix captain Jess MacLennan, who is returning to the court after an injury side-lined her for most of the 2017 season, is excited about the upcoming season after the Tactix went through the recent ANZ Premiership pre-season tournament unbeaten.

The 2018 ANZ Premiership season starts this Sunday 6 May with a Super Sunday in Palmerston North where all six teams will take to the court for three action packed, back to back matches.

For tickets to all matches or to keep up to date with everything ANZ Premiership head to ANZPremiership.co.nz

WATCH LIVE ON **SKY** sport



Nga Whanau o Patea Warriors

Successful Masters Game Enjoyed By Taranak Locals

By Neville Hinga

Tu Toa © Patea - Patea Warriors team and supporters

ON 29TH April 2018 The Patea Warriors from South Taranaki traveled north to play the Waitara Bears in a game of Masters Rugby League, and what a game it was with some great tries, outstanding tackles and some good old fashion straight up the guts running.

The game was played with such passion and physicality, but what else would you expect from these two great teams and clubs. There was a great mixture of aged players, with the oldest being in his mid sixties, but for those who were there, age was definitely no barrier.

Although Patea took the win the game of rugby league was the winner on the day.

To see our past players on both sides giving their all and enjoying themselves was an awesome sight to see.

Acknowledgement definitely goes out to all the players and supporters of both teams who traveled near and far to be a part of this tremendous occasion, to the Patea Warriors Club for making the journey north and to the Waitara Bears Club who were fantastic hosts on the day.

Masters Rugby League is alive and kicking in Taranaki, and we now look forward to next date that is set with the Western Suburbs Tigers hosting on Sunday 27th May at Ngamotu Domain in New Plymouth



Brendan Bomb conducting play on the field.



Waitara team on attack.

Vodafone Warriors Climb Ladder With Tough Win In Wet

By Joe Williams - ISP Team Manager

THE WARRIORS proved the importance of having a good goal-kicker at QBE Stadium on Saturday, pip-ping the Newtown Jets 20-18 despite being outscored four tries to three.

The home side were looking to climb up the Intrust Super Premiership with another win, however they'd have to do it on unfamiliar territory at the new venue, also known as North Harbour Stadium.

Chanel Harris-Tavita proved the difference in slotting all his goals throughout the abysmal day, including the winning penalty goal from in front of the posts.

The Vodafone Warriors now have another tough task of traveling to Canberra this weekend to face the top of the table Mounties at GIO Stadium.

The John Teina coached side has put together a run of three straight wins in the last three weeks to sit on 10 points with four other teams just two behind the Mounties.

Kick-off is at 12.45pm local time (2.45pm NZT) and will be played live on Sky Sports.

**Intrust Super Premiership
Vodafone Warriors V Mounties
12.45Pm, Saturday, May 5
Gio Stadium, Canberra**

Vodafone Warriors

1 Hayze Perham
2 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad
3 Anthony Gelling

4 Cole Waaka
5 Lewis Soosemea
6 Chanel Harris-Tavita
7 Zac Santo
8 Ligi Sao
9 Manaia Cherrington
10 Chris Satae
11 Matiu Love-Henry
12 Joseph Vuna

13 James Bell (C)
Interchange:
14 Tevin Arona
15 Sione Afemui
16 Patrick Siple
17 King Vuniyayawa
18 Preston Riki
20 Johnny Tuivasa-Sheck
Coach | John Teina

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Reader Mail



THESE ARE my two grandchildren as karlie & Aidyn both Vodafone Warriors supporters.

Lorna from the Lounge



HI SIR Pete, A huge thanks for sending me one of these awesome signed Warriors nines jersey, you do a lot for the sport of rugby league & the Warriors, I appreciate it when you ask me how my recovery is going after my accident. Go The Mighty Vodafone Warriors.

David Pickles "Never Give Up"



Kia Ora Sir Peter,

SMALL NOTE: i really appreciate the work the mad butch does for the club and the community. Churr brother

Kind Regards

Tessa Kimi

Dear Sir Peter

RECENTLY I entered your Nines jersey giveaway that you had running in a newsletter, and blow me down, I WON ONE!!!

This wee beauty has 7 signatures and fits me perfectly...I'm soooo excited!!!

Thank you so much...this absolutely made my day!!!! You're awesome ...keep up the great work that you do.

Lots of love from the Wilson's of Hokitika xx

GO THE MIGHTY WARRIORS!!!!



Trevor a mad warriors supporter managed to score a 1995 signed ball - it is signed by about 40 of the original 1995 team.



Kia Ora Sir Peter,

MANY THANKS for the Jersey which I received last week. Unfortunately have been away with Hubby Barry [Prostate Cancer } hence the late reply.

Contemplating whether or not to donate as a fundraiser to Patea Warriors Masters 2018. Thanks again GO DA WARRIORS.

Regards

Marcia Broughton – PATEA.

AS ALWAYS your generosity exceeds all expectations. Recently, you sent us a box of posters and player cards. These were superbly received by our young players, it was very cool to see them scrambling through the box discussing & doing card swaps; ensuring they got their favourite players.

Thankfully I managed to get a pic of the last bunch of the 30 or so kids that had just completed the school holiday programme with Development Officer Paddy Byrne...the cards & posters were their reward for participating.

Thank you to not only yourself, but to the warriors for supplying us with such great freebies. The kids here in Hokitika ABSOLUTELY love it!!

Many thanks

Kirsty Wilson - Hokitika Rugby League

Photo: Nate Crossman, Che Weepu, Ben Rasmussen, Max Johansson, Jack Lourie & Seth Wilson.



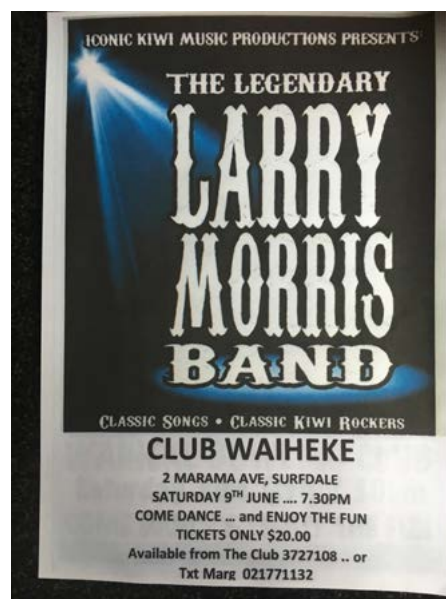
Dear Sir Peter Leitch

THE WEST Coast Rugby League schoolboys would like to THANK YOU for your generosity in the latest newsletter jersey giveaway. We were fortunate enough to win a signed Nines jersey...as seen here with WCRL Schoolboys president, Tony Gurden. This will be put to good use later in the season when we do our annual fundraiser.

Keep up the great work....you're an absolute legend!!

Kindest regards

The WCRL Schoolboys Committee.



Feel like a night on Waiheke then check this out will be a great night at CLUB Waiheke



THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 9 ISSUE

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



ROUND 9, 2018

**On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the
ground from Thursday, May 3**

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Newcastle fullback Kalyn Ponga is only 20, but already he's considered one of the most exciting players in the game. In the absence of Knights' star halfback Mitchell Pearce, Ponga has stepped up to lead in attack and while he doesn't shy away from the pressure, he says it doesn't bother him either.

Panthers halfback Nathan Cleary has been sidelined with a knee injury since Round 4, but says he is eyeing off Round 11 to make his comeback against his dad's Wests Tigers. It would leave him only two games to impress New South Wales coach Brad Fittler, but the 20-year-old is up for the challenge if it means State of Origin selection.

Melbourne played their first NRL game 20 years ago this season, a 14-12 victory over Illawarra at WIN Stadium. Ahead of their clash with the Dragons this weekend, we chat to Storm's inaugural coach Chris Anderson about that first game and why it was so important in building the strong culture that still exists today.

Payne Haas is still just a teenager, but the Broncos rookie is impressing all the right people in rugby league. We talk to Blues under-18s coach Danny Buderus who made Haas captain of the side last year about why he's destined for a big NRL career.

PLUS... This Week in History, why Frank-Paul Nuuausala is just happy to be home, how the Panthers are making an impact at grassroots level in Bathurst, and a Raiders team poster.

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IN THE school holidays we were lucky enough to fly over and watch the Warriors play the storm from christchurch Unfortunately the result didn't go our way but it was a great occasion. Left to right Cooper, Sam, Will, Thomas and Preston

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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.

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David Kemeys - Editor at Large
Hayden Woodhead - Graphic Designer

John Coffey - Southern Correspondent
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