

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

# Newsletter #216

## Vodafone Warriors Tame the Tigers 26 - 4



vodafone BE A GRANDSTAND MILLIONAIRE

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

canterbury



Andy & Shiona Holeman won a great prize a voucher for the Blue Water hotel in Napier



This group came up from Christchurch to watch the warriors vs west tigers for Ihaka Davis 30th kneeling on the right. Back left Victoria Davis, Joezanna Paul, Renee Davis, Michelle Morris and front left Aaron Fraser.



Members Andy Holman and Jane Clifton won the Fred Dagg impersonation noncompetition



Stacey Jones and family enjoying the cake we presented to him on the night at the game for his birthday on May the 7th.



Stacey Jones talks about the win against the Tigers

# In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Marley & his dad James Who fly over from Sydney for the game James has been a warriors fan since 1995



Mike Brown was stoked to get a photo with David Kemeys our editor at large for this newsletter and some say a goodbugger



My grandson Matthew was stoked with the win and to get a photo with Benji Marshall was a added bonus



Wayne & Josie who travelled to the game all the way from Waiheke



Pat Conlon (thinks he is Fred Dagg) and shiona looking fantastic in swandri and gum boots at the game



The butcher loves it when the stands look like this!

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



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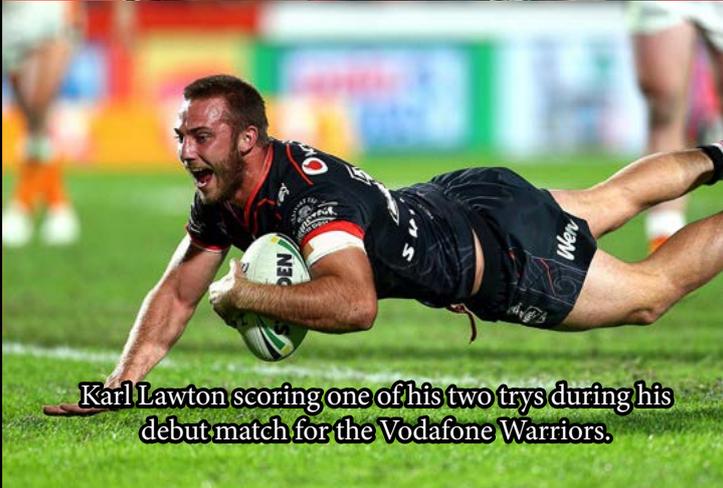
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# Vodafone Warriors v Tigers Game Day Pictures



Simon giving Karl a pat on the head.



Karl Lawton scoring one of his two tries during his debut match for the Vodafone Warriors.



Karl getting acquainted with the drum

# Message from Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George



I HOPE EVERYONE is feeling good about your club. It's great to see our players playing with passion and commitment, they love the fact so many people are smiling and coming to the games.

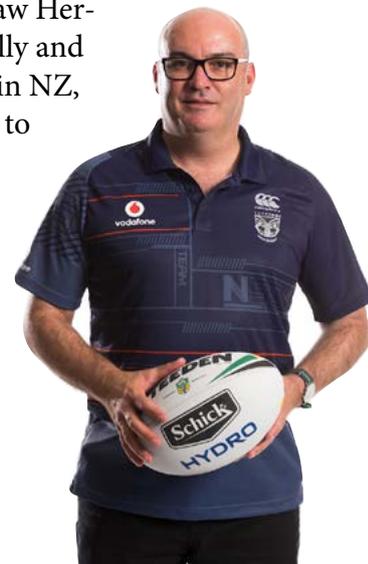
The last few weeks have been a bit of a rollercoaster with new owners taking over the club and a strong win against the tigers. It's great for all concerned the ownership has been settled and we can get on with business as best we can. There is so much potential with the partnership of Carlaw Heritage Trust, Autex Industries and Vodafone Warriors. If managed and planned carefully and right we should be able to execute a vision that will benefit the game of rugby league in NZ, and long term the Vodafone Warriors will continue to excite rugby league for all fans to enjoy.

This week we take on the Roosters and any help you provide by spreading the word to help sell out the stadium is much appreciated. I want the Roosters to know they are walking into our house and they're up against and can feel it in the air. We can do this with 20 000 plus people here being loud and proud.

Once again I think you for your support and look forward to seeing and hearing you at the game on Saturday, bring as many friends as possible..

Cheers

Cameron George



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# Our Karl Is Better Than Your Ivan

By David Kemeys

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



**K**ARL LAWTON one, Ivan Cleary nil. You could have turned off the floodlights and just let the smiles light Mt Smart on Saturday night.

The grins were so wide around where I was sitting I thought there was a danger of a couple of people swallowing their ears.

And it was a very welcome smile indeed after the arse-kicking we took on Anzac Day.

Will the smug bastards who love to see us lose please now retract all those online statements about what a pile of shite we are, and how the real Warriors are back, and how we can expect many more floggings.

Will they bollocks. Haters are haters, and nothing is ever going to shift them.

Which is a great shame because at 26-4 if anything should shift them, it was the 80 minutes of footy on Saturday night.

The Tigers – as they do under Ivan Cleary – refused to quit and hung about like Uncle Tom at the Boxing Day barbecue.

At halftime, despite being ahead on the scoreboard, the stats were pretty much neck and neck after a half characterised by some pretty impressive defensive work from both sides.

The second 40 was a different story.

The Warriors were a totally different side from the one on show back on April 25 against the Storm.

They were solid, professional, didn't panic, disciplined and effective.

And then when poor Issac Luke, who had been in doubt and did incredibly well to be able to play at all after injuring himself against the Storm, had to leave with a shoulder injury, in came Karl Lawton.

It is fair to say that our off-season signings did not set the world on fire, and there are many of us looking a bit sick for saying so now.

But of all them, Lawton's was the most puzzling. Only real nerds had much of an idea about what the former Titan could do.

But on Saturday as anxious fans wondered what

the hell would happen next with Luke off, Lawton showed he is more than capable of filling in.

Two tries on debut and the West Stand chanting "give it to Lawton", he could not have hoped for a better start.

Some fans will remember Lawton at Mt Smart back in 2016 – or more correctly – they'll remember the boor bugger being carted off the field in his NRL debut for the Titans with a terrible leg injury.

Lawton is still only 22, and was signed because Nathaniel Roache had to have his back surgery.

But he is capable of way more than cameo appearances in the hooking slot, and can play at lock, centre or in the halves.

Now poor Issac already has a reputation for shaking off injuries, but if his dislocated shoulder does keep him out, at least there will be plenty of people not as anxious about who comes in for him as there might have been, and Lawton himself would be only too pleased to accept the opportunity.

"If it comes I'll take it with both hands. I'd love to slot in their like a regular."

He's not short of confidence either. "I think with the boys helping me I could do that."

Lawton even managed to get praise from our normally reluctant coach Stephen Kearney.

The only downside of a terrific performance was the injuries.

Luke's dislocated shoulder saw him go home in a sling.

He is one tough little nugget that is for sure, attempting to put his shoulder in himself before leaving the field.

Halfback Shaun Johnson hobbled off with an ankle injury after a very good return himself, leaving the ground on crutches, and will be out for at least a week, and Adam Blair rolled his ankle but is confident he'll play against the Roosters.

## **Rattue Becomes A cheerleader**

Having had a pop about the knockers, full credit to Chris Rattue, who seldom has a good word to say about anyone, but who says we will canter into the eight, something he describes as a miracle.

He did not want to get too cheerful, but said seven wins out of nine in a 16-team, 24-round competition was pretty bloody good, especially when over the past five seasons, 12 wins gets you into the playoffs.

And he singled out a couple of blokes who go largely unsung, Bunty Afoa and Ken Maumalo, and had praise for skipper Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke and Blake Green, but more than anything, the spirit of the team.

I have often cautioned against being upset by his frequent criticism of our team, and this is much the same, but it does make a nice change.

“To be honest, a lot of us are still waiting for the bubble to burst, because we've been conditioned that way and still have trouble trusting this new team. But hey, what is life if you can't celebrate a whopping great beacon of hope.”

## **Doyle Leaves With A few Personal Highlights**

Really good piece in the weekend papers from the Herald's Michael Burgess, speaking to outgoing Warriors boss Jim Doyle about his key moments at the club.

Two of them revolved around Roger Tuivasa-Sheck – signing him and keeping him.

The one that really interested me, because so much is written and said about “culture”, was Doyle saying he and then coach Andrew McFadden had set about changing ours.

Doyle said there was basically a group of players who did everything right, but a bigger group who didn't – and that a lot of the upcoming players joined the later.

“So we knew we had to get some of them out and bring more who belonged to the first group.”

Seems to me that tells you a hell of a lot about what we are seeing happening now, and if you needed any more evidence, another of his key moments was dealing with the incident when half a dozen of the players had a night out on the town mixing prescription drugs with energy drinks.

Just ask yourself how many of them are still at Mt Smart.

Full article

## **Experts After The Event**

Talk about damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Now there are all sorts of questions firing around in the wake of the Auckland Rugby League, via the Carlaw Heritage Trust buying the club.

Personally I find this whole saga about as interesting as Cameron Smith.

But in a nutshell, Autex – well-known and long-time supporters of the game – have a third of the club, the trust the other two-thirds, and the price is reported to have been \$18 million.

Now the last chair, before Cameron McGregor took over, a bloke named Dene Biddlecombe, is all pissy about it all.

He reckons the trust shouldn't have got involved, and that there is no commercial case for the decision.

The only reason to give any credence to any of this is that Biddlecombe says when Sir Owen Glenn spat the dummy and looked to get out, the ARL looked at it then, and thought it was a silly idea.

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“Auckland Rugby League has lost sight of what it was formed for, by investing in professional sport. The last time they were involved it was a disaster.”

It’s a reasonable point, and here’s another one: Shut up, you aren’t the chairman any more, this has nothing to do you.

If he was that bothered he wouldn’t be running off, he’d be keeping it zipped and letting the new owners try and make the most of it.

McGregor, very sensibly in my view, has decided to say nothing.

The man they bought it from, Eric Watson, not so much.

He has expressed the belief the change is in the best interests of the club.

“The decision to sell was not an easy one and although I will always be a passionate supporter of the

club, I believe the time is right to hand the club over to a new owner.

“I wish the new owners all the best.”

Which is exactly what Biddlecombe should have done.

Now the reason it says: Experts after the event in the headline, is because another lot have also chipped in, this time claiming the buyers were either too dim to figure out they were paying too much, or maybe that they got ripped off.

Apparently financial accounting organisation Deloitte did a valuation of the club last year at between \$10.5million and \$13.05million, which would mean the new buyers paid – give or take - \$5 million too much.

Last I looked there was willing seller, willing buyer.

The poster features two rugby players in action, one from the Sydney Roosters (white jersey) and one from the Warriors (black jersey). The background is a vibrant green with ferns and a large, colorful Maori sun symbol (hauora). Text on the poster includes: 'canterbury MATCH DAY SPONSOR', 'TICKETEK', 'NRL INDIGENOUS ROUND', 'THIS SATURDAY HEI TE RĀHOROI MT SMART STADIUM TE PAPAŦĀKARO O RAROTONGA KICK OFF 5:00PM WĀ TĪMATA 5:00PM', 'VODAFONE WARRIORS', and 'SYDNEY Roosters'. At the bottom, there is a row of logos for NRL, Vodafone, Canterbury, SkyCity, Woodstock, A, CSG, dtr, flava, Harvey Norman, Suzuki, TNT, and Wendy's.



# One Change Made For Indigenous Round Encounter

by *Richard Becht*

**VODAFONE WARRIORS v SYDNEY**

**ROOSTERS**

**5:00pm, Saturday, May 12, 2018**

**Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland**

**M**ASON LINO will start at halfback in the only change to the playing 17 named for the Vodafone Warriors' NRL Indigenous Round clash against the Sydney Roosters at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (5.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Canterbury of New Zealand).

Lino comes in for Shaun Johnson, whose ankle injury prevents him making his 150th career appearance against the same side he faced in both his debut in 2011 and his 100th game in 2015.

The 24-year-old Lino will make his fourth appearance of the season after previously filling the position against the Roosters, North Queensland and Melbourne.

Johnson has been omitted after being forced off the field in the 70th minute of the 26-4 win over Wests Tigers but the other two senior players who were injured – hooker Issac Luke and loose forward Adam Blair – have both been listed.

Luke was forced off with a shoulder injury in the 55th minute while Blair left the field with an ankle complaint after returning from the bench for his second stint.

“Adam is fine and will play,” said Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney.

“We gave Issac every chance to play last week after injuring his knee against Melbourne and he came through. Once again, we’ll give him every opportunity this week.”

There’s one change on the extended bench with utility Jazz Tevaga (shoulder) back after he was unavailable last week.

The second-placed Vodafone Warriors face another stern examination this week with the Roosters sitting sixth on the ladder after going to a 5-4 record with their 22-20 victory over Manly last Sunday.

When the two sides met in the fourth round the Roosters, who came into the season as one of the premiership favourites, fell to a 6-30 loss at Allianz Stadium.

Since then the Roosters have beaten Cronulla 28-10, lost to South Sydney 14-26, had a 6-0 win over Canterbury-Bankstown, lost to the Dragons 8-24 and accounted Manly.

The Vodafone Warriors have had an identical win-loss-win-loss-win sequence in their last five matches against North Queensland, Brisbane, St George Illawarra, Melbourne and the Tigers.

The Vodafone Warriors have fashioned a solid record against

the Roosters. This will be the 40th contest between the two sides with the Vodafone Warriors boasting a 22-1-16 win-draw-loss record. The only two current sides they have had a better run against are Gold Coast and South Sydney.

In 18 meetings at Mount Smart Stadium, the Vodafone Warriors have won 12 and lost six. They have had a sequence of four consecutive victories home and away since 2016.

## **Vodafone Warriors**

- 1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (C)
  - 2 David Fusitu'a
  - 3 Peta Hiku (Ngāriki Kaiputahi)
  - 4 Solomone Kata
  - 5 Ken Maumalo
  - 6 Blake Green
  - 7 Mason Lino
  - 8 Bunty Afoa
  - 9 Issac Luke (Nga Ruahine Rangī, Te Atiawa)
  - 10 Agnatius Paasi
  - 11 Simon Mannering
  - 12 Tohu Harris (Ngāti Kahungunu)
  - 13 Adam Blair (Ngā Puhī)
- Interchange:
- 14 Karl Lawton
  - 15 Sam Lisone
  - 16 Isaiah Papali'i
  - 17 James Gavet
  - 18 Sam Cook (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Whatua)
  - 20 Jazz Tevaga
  - 21 Albert Vete
  - 22 Anthony Gelling

# Creating Indigenous Round History

By Richard Becht



**M**AORI CULTURE will be fully integrated into the NRL's annual Indigenous Round for the first time when the Vodafone Warriors host the Sydney Roosters at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (5.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Canterbury of New Zealand).

Until now the round has been dedicated to Australia's indigenous people but this time the Vodafone Warriors will be honouring New Zealand's indigenous culture in various ways throughout the coming week and on game day itself.

While other clubs will don strips with an Australian indigenous flavour, the Vodafone Warriors will play in a spectacular jersey depicting New Zealand's Maori heritage.

The front of the jersey design is dominated by a toa (warrior), armed with a patu, a strong attacking and defensive weapon, as well as a tewhatewha, a long-handled weapon shaped like an axe.

Ferns in the design represent New Zealand while the mist is spirit (wairua); mist is a connector to New Zealand's ancestors and to the earth mother and sky father. The back of the jersey features an image of Rangitoto Island, connecting it with Auckland.

The Vodafone Warriors have enlisted a cultural adviser to put together a programme to capture the essence of the day.

The pre-match entrances by the teams will differ from the norm. As the home team, the Vodafone Warriors will come out first on this occasion, greeted by a performance from a cultural group The Haka Experience.

A karanga (welcome chant) will welcome the visiting Sydney Roosters onto the Vodafone Warriors' home ground followed by a brief ceremonial welcome. Before kick-off there'll be an exchange of cultural gifts between representatives from both teams.

## GAME DAY DETAILS | v SYDNEY ROOSTERS, SATURDAY, MAY 12

**2.30pm | Gates open**

**2.45pm | Intrust Super Premiership | Vodafone Warriors v Western Suburbs Magpies**

**5.00pm | NRL | Vodafone Warriors v Sydney Roosters**

### Main features:

- 'Race the LED' competition at halftime. Buy anything from the Canterbury of New Zealand 2018 range and be in to win. Three competitors will be selected to race the LED in front of the East Stand. The fastest person wins a \$500 CCC voucher and a 2018 Vodafone Warriors Indigenous jersey.
- Back again is our regular Woodstock 'Kick for Cash' competition at halftime.
- Performance by whakapaka group from InZone Education Foundation between ISP and NRL games (waiata and haka).
- ACC Big Warm-Up and mini mod footy games in the build-up to the big game.
- Coin toss involving the rival captains Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Boyd Cordner plus a lucky Vodafone Warriors member.
- Keep your eyes out for Tiki, who'll be putting on some moves throughout the evening.
- The Canterbury of New Zealand 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.
- Also 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 Wests Tigers.
- 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.



**T**HERE IS plenty to like about the Warriors this year. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Shaun Johnson, Blake Green, Tohu Harris and company were prominent against the Wests Tigers on Saturday night, continually showing their class and talent. They obviously played a major part in the 26-4 win but what about the young brigade. Five players 23 or less ran on to Mt. Smart on Saturday night and they too were impressive. Like most league fans, I can't wait for David Fusitu'a to come up with something spectacular as he seems to do every week now. He is a worthy leader of this year's try scoring list with 11, and has as total of 43 tries in his 66 first grade games. But I am also a big fan of Bunty Afoa and his powerful running. Watching him wind up and run straight, and at full pace, at the defensive line is something special. Bunty is only 21 but already he has a big following. He has played all nine games this season and now has 30 first grade games and three tries on his CV. Like David Fusitu'a, Solomone Kate is also just 23. He is an established first grader with 71 top grade games behind him and 35 tries. Solomone and Bunty have similar styles in the way they play the game. They take no prisoners and expect no favours from their opponents. The other two youngsters are Ken Maumalo, 23 and Isaiah Papali'i, 19. Ken has played all nine games this season and now has 50 top grade matches to his credit and 12 tries. Isaiah has played 10 first grade games and scored three tries. Sam Lisone just missed out on being included in this list. He turned 24 about 10 weeks ago but although still a young man, is a valuable part of the Warriors pack. Sam would like a few more tries under his belt. He has just the one from his 71 first grade games.

There was a nice touch at Southern Cross Group Stadium on Saturday night before Cronulla played Parramatta. The Sharks named their medical room the Dr. Peter Malouf Room in honour of their former long term doctor. Peter took over as the Sharks doctor way back in 1967 when they came into the competition and continued in this position for the next 39 years, when he retired at the end of 2005 season. From the beginning, Peter was very much a part of the game. In the 1980s, he and the then Canterbury Bulldogs medico, Dr. Hugh Hazard, established the Rugby League Doctors' Association. Peter was honoured with an OAM for his services to medicine and sport.

In an article written about Dr. Malouf and his time with the Sharks, in the Rugby League Week newspaper back in 2005, he shared a few of his memories.

“ There's bravery, “ he said. “ Cliff Watson played with four busted ribs in the violent 1973 Grand Final against Manly. Some people said he had a fairly quiet game that day, but there wasn't much he could do about it.”

“ And thuggery, Sludge's jaw (Steve Rogers was Sludge) “

“ In a game in 1985 he was hit hard long after he had passed the ball. It was one of the worst injuries I have seen. At one stage I looked at his face and there were three rows of teeth on the bottom. “

Cliff Watson, who Dr. Malouf mentioned, will long be remembered for his 30 Tests with Great Britain. He also played around 370 matches with St. Helens where he won two Cup Finals and two League championships. He joined Cronulla in 1971 and played 39 games with the Sharks in three seasons. Cliff passed away on Wednesday 2 May, aged 78 and is funeral is in southern Sydney this Friday.

The Sharks were lucky to hang on and win their Saturday night clash with Parramatta. They led 22-4 after 46 minutes and appeared to be travelling comfortably. But the Eels scored 16 points in the final six minutes to give the local fans a real fright. David Gower, Michael Jennings and Mitchell Moses scored tries in this period and Moses converted the first two. But he could not convert his own try from out wide, after the siren, which would locked the scores up at 22-all and taken the game into golden point. Michael Jennings scored his 134th first grade try in the 77th minute. The 30 year old has played 244 matches in the top grade.



The newsletter team want to wish Barry a speedy recovery from an accident that occurred over the weekend.





By John Coffey

# Memories Of Carlaw Park

14 September 2002, Rugby League Bartercard Cup final, Carlaw Park. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

The Warriors sale to the Auckland Rugby League, represented by the Carlaw Heritage Trust, and Autex Industries inevitably brought back memories of that remarkable old ground after which the trust is named. For 81 years it was our sport's national headquarters, hewn out of a Chinese market garden and sold off in 2002 because the Warriors made Mount Smart their home and the Kiwis also relocated to the larger and more comfortable former Commonwealth Games stadium.

For nearly half of its existence I travelled up from Christchurch to report on international and provincial matches at Carlaw Park. Sure, I miss it, but I did not mourn its passing. The advent of a fully professional club demanded a move because Carlaw Park had severe limitations. It could not be extended, jammed as it was between the Domain on one side and a railway embankment on another, and the Warriors needed the training and administration space available in Penrose.

Back in the day we sent our newspaper reports by telex from the chief post office, so stayed in nearby hotels. My first was the long-gone Great Northern at the bottom of Queen Street. From there it was also an easy walk to Carlaw Park, one's step quickening with every stride as anticipation increased. There was mutual excitement in the shoulder-to-shoulder shuffle down the lane, past the referees' club, and onto the turnstiles. Once through them, a pie and drink could be bought at the shop.

The number two ground was situated at right angles to the main playing field. The latter was flanked on one side by the rickety, wooden Railway Stand, and on the other by the concrete terraces. Behind the far dead-ball line was the scoreboard sitting atop a grassed embankment. It was all encircled by a white picket fence. No other field gave fans such an affinity with the players. You could almost pat Kiwis wing Phillip Orchard on the back as he charged along for that Test-winning try against Australia in 1969.

For most of its existence it did not take much rain to turn Carlaw Park into a quagmire. One French team manager scooped up a handful and, in perfect English, said "Mud, Mud, Mud". Shakespeare could not have penned it better. Later, they tried sand and it was transformed into a soggy version of Bondi beach. At the Domain end the terraces side curled upwards to provide a further trial for a flying wing such as Brian "Speedy" Reidy as he calculated his dive for the try-line.

The media box was on the roof of the Railway Stand, almost teetering above the picket fence. Entry was gained by climbing to the back of the seated area and exiting a rear door. There was a wooden stairway, slippery when wet, to the roof. From there one walked a plank to the door. Inside, at the left end was the radio booth. To the right was the ground announcer. Eight or ten journalists had the best view in the sporting world. Did I mention the box rocked when anyone was walking that plank?

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Down below, the dressing rooms were uniformly bleak and very irregularly upgraded from the 1920s. There were windows which could be prised part-open with some difficulty, which meant spectators outside could hear a coach berating his players at halftime. When certain teams were in residence pockets of fans would gather to hear their favourite coach in verbal action. The players would emerge into a passage way, sprigs clacking on concrete, as they walked to the tunnel which led onto the ground.

In that corridor Kangaroos captain Wally Lewis consoled Kiwis coach Graham Lowe after Australia's last-minute win in the second 1985 Test, saying "Sorry it had to be you, Lowie." A few minutes later Kiwis captain Mark Graham barked to the media that matches lasted for 80 minutes; leading for 79 minutes and 30 seconds was not good enough. A week later the Kiwis whitewashed the Kangaroos 18-0 in the third Test. I was not there – the boss told me the series was over after two.

After-match functions were held in a boardroom with a kitchen/bar in one corner, honours boards on the walls alongside photos from the past. Touring teams were announced there, when players' dreams were realised or dashed. There could be no greater test of character than an overlooked footballer standing staunch while those who were selected celebrated around him. It happened to Mark Broadhurst before the 1978 Australian tour. Broady took it out on the Aussies and Poms for the rest of his career!

You never knew who might be in the room. Peter Leitch once told me there was a future world champion I should meet. At a time when no-one else would sponsor this person Peter had organised a fundraising function, even convincing a reluctant All Blacks management to let their players share the evening with the Kiwis. Peter took me over to a shy young lady sitting with her boyfriend and introduced me to squash prodigy Susan Devoy. Now she is Dame Susan Devoy and Sir Peter is a Knight.

Carlaw Park will never be forgotten by those of us who saw it as our field of dreams. It was eventually doomed by its geography but the sale assured the Auckland Rugby League of future prosperity and provided the finance to purchase the Warriors ahead of a truly worrying approach from a Hawaiian politician. Maybe one day Auckland city will have the waterfront stadium which should have been built in 2011. Fittingly, it would be just down the road from where dear old Carlaw Park was situated.



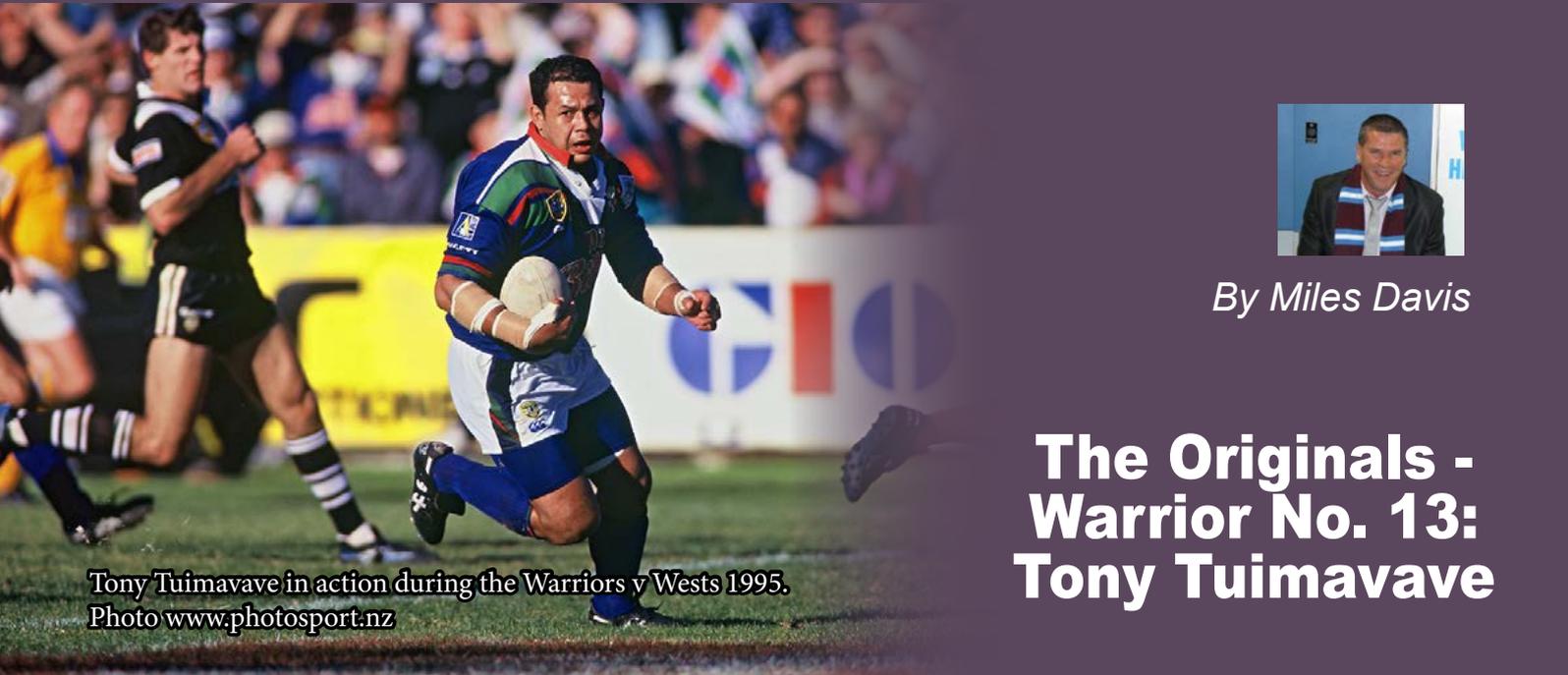
I had the pleasure of giving the player of the day out for the game against the West Tigers went to Agnatius Paasi.



I also gave the player of the day award out for the INTRUST CUP game and it went to James Bell.



Was great to catch up with Karl Lawton at the club yesterday who scored 2 tries on debut for the club on Saturday.



Tony Tuimavave in action during the Warriors v Wests 1995.  
Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



By Miles Davis

## The Originals - Warrior No. 13: Tony Tuimavave

**T**HIRTEEN MAY be unlucky for some but it certainly wasn't for Tony Tuimavave who was to become Vodafone Warrior No. 13.

Born in Apia, Samoa, Tuimavave initially played his club league with the Mt Albert Lions as a hard-tackling second-rower/loose forward. Such was his imposing defence he earned the nickname "The Chief".

In 1987 he was selected in the Junior Kiwis first ever tour of Great Britain. Coached by Bob Bailey the side also included the likes of Jason Lowrie, Jarrod McCracken, Kevin Iro and Tony Kemp. The side won all 7 games on tour including the two international fixtures against BARLA (the British Rugby League Academy).

At club level he also represented Northcote Tigers but it was with the Auckland representative side that he really made his mark. He made his debut in 1988 and went on to make 30 appearances for his province.

In 1991 he headed to England for a season with the Sheffield Eagles. In just 21 games he managed 13 tries and threw in 2 field goals for good measure.

In 1994 he signed for the Waitakere City Raiders for their Lion Red Cup campaign. Despite a poor season for the Raiders, Tuimavave impressed and was signed for the Vodafone Warriors. He was part of the starting line-up for the first game against the Brisbane Broncos and was a virtual ever-present in that first season, missing just one of the 22 games.

In that same 1995 season he made his one and only appearance for the Kiwis, going on to represent Samoa at that year's World Cup.

Tuimavave went on to play 78 games for the Vodafone Warriors, scoring 9 tries. When he retired in 2000 he was the last of the originals still at the club. After hanging his boots up he decided to try his hand at boxing, winning his only professional fight.

After that things took a downward turn for The Chief. There were those who were intent on revealing incidents from his turbulent youth. The thought of those matters being made public and other struggles he was going through saw Tuimavave hit rock bottom. In 2004 he decided to end it all and he got behind the wheel of his Mercedes and drove drunk at 120km per hour into a concrete wall. Someone was looking over him as he survived the impact. He said later "The pressure of things from my closet got me. There were a lot of things happening in my life I didn't have a good hold on, but I was fortunate. Some people have the misfortune of not coming back from what I went through. I thank God for giving me another chance of life."

He did not however escape unscathed. He smashed his arms and legs and suffered serious internal injuries. He had iron rods inserted into his legs to help them mend but they caused him almost constant pain. It took him years to come right and he is still unable to run.

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In 2009 he was appointed development officer for Ponsonby Ponies Rugby League and in 2010 was appointed coach.

Nowadays he spends most of his time in Samoa where he runs a jet-ski rental business. The longest lasting of the originals he will always be welcome with open arms by the Mt Smart faithful.

Highlights of all 7 games 1987 Junior Kiwis tour of Great Britain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7DYDmO0o14>



*Congratulations to Shaun Johnson and Kayla Cullen on their engagement.*



From the left to right my grandson Reuben working at the warriors : Evahana Taplin, John Afi, Kaitlyn Apaipora, Sene Atafu, Georgia Hale and Tessa Blakeborough



# 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 **3.30pm**. Any issues contact Dexter on 021 0733 723



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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 10

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 10 May Leichardt	Tigers v Cowboys	Cowboys	Tigers	Cowboys	Cowboys	Tigers	Cowboys	Cowboys	
Fri 11 May McD Jones	Knights v Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	
Fri 11 May ANZ	Bulldogs v Eels	Eels	Bulldogs	Eels	Eels	Eels	Bulldogs	Eels	
Sat 12 May Mt Smart	Warriors v Roosters	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	
Sat 12 May Suncorp (double head)	Storm V Titans	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	
Sat 12 May Suncorp (double head)	Sea Eagles v Broncos	Broncos	Sea Eagles	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	
Sun 13 May ANZ	Rabbits v Dragons	Dragons	Rabbitohs	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Rabbitohs	
Sun 13 May GIO	Raiders v Sharks-	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Sharks	
<b>Picks last week</b>			5/8	6/8	6/8	6/8	6/8	7/8	6/8
<b>Total picks</b>			42	41	43	38	40	45	3/8

### Obviously Its Obvious...

**T**HE TIGERS beat the Storm twice but the Storm towed us up but we toppled the Tigers, the Dragons thrashed the Storm who had bashed us but we knocked off the Dragons so its pretty obvious as to who is obviously the best team is isn't it...isn't it?, I guess it's the Dragons or perhaps the only team that's beaten them so far... Go Figure. I spent this last weekend in Crusader land, the Canterbury countryside and missed the Sat/Sun games. Saw Coach Kearney at the Airport Saturday morning probably meeting friends or family incoming for the game, clearly my thumbs up best wish to him came good. I got home later Sunday night and replayed the Homies great win which was a cruisey-watch when you knew the result. I have to admit that I have in the past openly doubted the credentials of Tall Timber Wingstar Maumalo as he seemed a bit shaky under the high ball and a little shy of the try-line but gee he has made me look silly now and I am fine with that. The fire and desire of our forwards young and old is an uplifting watch and play director The Green man is calling the shots, RTS is sizzling, Hiku is happening, way cool brothers. Once again we are looking at injury worries but this year it doesn't carry the heavy angst it used to do as our boys are a working machine now with replaceable parts rather than a loose unit hopelessly reliant on a couple of key stars. Way more comfortable eh. Not a bad weekend for Goff Town with the Warriors now 7 from 9 and the odds off Blues getting up in Sydney but my own mighty Richmond Bulldogs came up agonizingly short of the upset, 26/27 against perennial front-running neighbours Mt Albert, bugger. The headline clash of the weekend did not go to plan for Bellamys Stormtroopers battlers who were dominated by the St George fire breathers 34/14. It's not often the flying Fox Addo Carr scores a hat-trick and still goes home a loser.

*Continued on next page...*

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The Rabbitohs are running into some very entertaining attacking form and I am boldly picking them to topple the rampant Red V in round 10. With Sam the Man Burgess back, his two monster brothers firing and the explosive Cook darting from dummy half they could halt the Dragons go forward and in the process stifle the destructive inroads of Widdup, Dufty, Aitken and co. You read it here first. Good to see JT's dusty Cowboys back in the winners circle, knocking off the well fancied Panthers 26/20 no mean feat. The Roosters tuned up for Mt Smart only just, taking the biscuits 22/20 off a ragged Manly mob. The troubled on and off the paddock Sea Eagles along with the try hard Belmore Bulldogs and the Slippery Eels hold bottom place with 4 points from their two wins this year. A much better Tipping haul this week with every body on the pace but the Whistle Blower Nifty Nev with 7 out of 8 for 45pts continues to hold the front line from the wily old stager JC on 43 and young Tarsh the FLAVA star on 42. Once again the Desperate Dutchman and Hapless High Tackle fighting out the rear gunners spot with 38.

Righto its back to the Fortress again for this Saturdays Rooster roundup, Burgers beers and the smell of "roasting chook" in the evening air. Get your Warrior gears on gather up the Whanau and perambulate to Penrose for the weekly dose of Footy fantastic. Be there or be square.

Ka Kite Ano and goooo the Mightyyyy Warrriioooooorrss

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



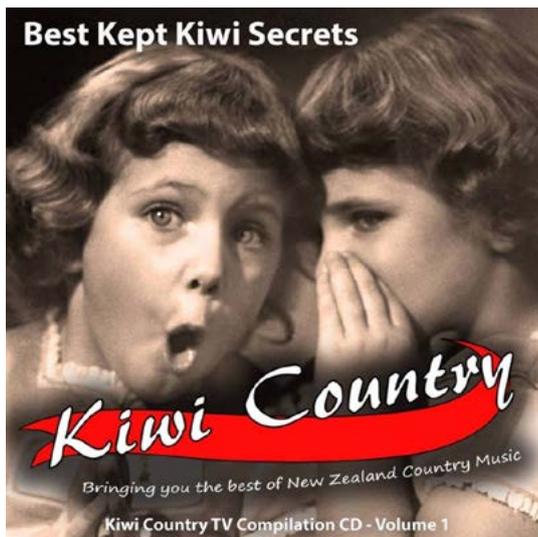
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**Happy Birthday For Tuesday To The Little General Stacey Jones ONZM**





By John Coffey



Ryan Hoffman attempts to tackle Esan Marsters.  
Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

## Marsters Of League

**I**VAN CLEARY beat me to it last week when he recommended Wests Tigers centre Esan Marsters to the Kiwis for the June 23 Test match against England in Denver. Despite the Tigers being comprehensively beaten by the Warriors on Saturday night I saw nothing to suggest Marsters is anything but a strong contender to make his international debut in that exotic location.

A 21-year-old former Mount Albert junior, Marsters went into the Warriors match with a running average of almost 120 metres, a goal-kicking analysis of 20 successes from 22 attempts, and the distinction of being the leading off-loader in the NRL. At 185cm in height and weighing 105kg, he has the physique to remind us of legendary Kiwi Olsen Filipaina.

Marsters is a model for the type of promising youngster Auckland Rugby League chairman Cameron McGregor wants to keep at home in future. At 17 Marsters viewed Sydney as his best pathway to the NRL and found a place in the Roosters' S G Ball Cup squad. But he was cut after one season and could have joined thousands of other hopefuls who have drifted into oblivion.

To his credit, Marsters tried again at the Tigers and spent the 2015 and 2016 seasons in their NYC team. Last year he was firstly promoted to the NSW Cup – and chosen for the Junior Kiwis – before making his first grade debut in round 13 against St George Illawarra. After two games off the bench he has secured a permanent spot in the centres for the club's last 21 matches.

Marsters played in the halves as he came through the grades, which explains his ball skills. Tigers coaches switched him to centre to utilise his size and strength. Ironically, this move was the opposite to that made by Filipaina, who starred at centre on his first Kiwis tour before coach Graham Lowe convinced him he was the man to combat legendary Kangaroo Wally Lewis.

Twice a Cook Islands international since 2015, Marsters is already realising one dream by playing alongside Benji Marshall at club level and could replicate that with the Kiwis. Marsters was nine years old when he watched in awe as Marshall weaved his magic in the Tigers' 2005 Grand Final triumph and thereafter wanted to be Benji in backyard games with his mates.

Marsters admits he was nervous when the 33-year-old Marshall returned to the Tigers this year. It can be tough when your boyhood hero is competing for a place in the same backline. But Marsters credits Benji for providing tips and guidance which have been invaluable in his development. On Saturday it was clear that Marsters is now very much Benji's go-to man on attack.

There is little doubt Marsters has been the most impressive New Zealand centre over the first nine rounds of the NRL. Penrith's Dean Whare has the experience and consistency to retain the other centre berth. Injuries have kept Gerard Beale and Jordan Kahu out of sight, utility Brad Takairangi does not inspire in a struggling Eels team and Peta Hiku's defence has been a concern.

*Continued on next page...*

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Of course, there is no certainty Marshall will be recalled six years after the most recent of his 27 Tests. But with Kieran Foran struggling in a lack-lustre Bulldogs outfit, Marshall has been the form Kiwi stand-off half, to the benefit of Tigers scrum-half Luke Brooks and Marsters. It would not surprise if the new Kiwis coach chose Marshall to counter England playmaker Gareth Widdop.

Meanwhile, the Marsters name might soon become even more familiar with NRL watchers. Esan's 18-year-old cousin Steven, a 99kg fullback, has played for New Zealand at under-18 and Junior Kiwis levels and for the St George Illawarra S G Ball Cup team. He is currently in the Dragons' development squad after signing a three-year contract extension through to the end of 2019.

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



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## **Auckland And Tonga To Play For Mann Cup** By Auckland Rugby League

**T**HE AUCKLAND premier team and the Tonga New Zealand Residents will vie for the Mann Cup when they meet at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday, June 2.

The Auckland Rugby League has named the trophy in recognition of the Mann family, who have contributed significantly to both the Auckland and Tongan game over several decades.

The match will serve as the headline act of the Queen's Birthday Weekend representative showdown, which will also see the Auckland Maori U20 take on the Toa Samoa Invitational U20.

ARL general manager Greg Whaiapu said the trophy announcement added an historic element to a new concept.

"It's nice to be able to pay tribute to the Mann family, who over the years have achieved everything there is to be done in Auckland league. They have been wonderful servants of the local game," Whaiapu said.

"A big part of bringing the Auckland representative team back is about recognising and celebrating our history, and this family have certainly played a leading role in the Auckland Rugby League story, along with contributing greatly to the development of the game in Tonga."

The late George Mann Senior is considered the godfather of Tongan rugby league, having formed the first ever Tongan national team in 1986, dubbing them 'Mate Ma'a Tonga' (die for Tonga).

His brother Don Mann Senior represented Auckland on numerous occasions across a 10-year period, captaining the famed representative side along with winning Player of the Year and Coach of the Year honours in the Auckland first division.

Between Don's sons Duane and Bart, and George's sons Warren, George Junior and Esau, the next generation went on to amass a number of appearances for both Tonga and Auckland, with Duane captaining both sides during his career.

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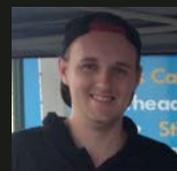
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By Ben Francis

# Fans Find Their Voice At Mt Smart Stadium



Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**T**HE WARRIORS claimed their seventh win of the season when they beat the Wests Tigers 26-4 in Auckland on Saturday night.

16,727 were in attendance for the match which featured 19 New Zealand born players.

I went to Mt Smart Stadium to watch the match - my third time there this season and I have begun to notice something has been missing over the last few years.

The atmosphere and the passion that I'd known to love is officially back. It has been missing over the last couple of seasons which has been a huge disappointment.

I remember going to the game against the Sharks last season, and I was disappointed with the atmosphere, you can hear the very few Sharks fans more than the Warriors ones.

Now things have gone back to the way they used to be as the Penrose-based club have found form and playing some exciting footy. Five of the six home games this season have had over 16,000 fans in attendance - compare that to last season where the Warriors didn't get a crowd bigger than 14,000.

I stood near the sideline for Saturday's match to soak up as much of the atmosphere as I could, and I spoke to other fans to get thoughts on the rejuvenating atmosphere.

"It's great," one season member said. "The way the Warriors have been playing has helped fans find their voice again, and it's great to be here watching the boys win."

"It has been tough over the last six seasons without a trip to the playoffs," another one said. "It is like fans

have bottled up their energy over the years and are letting it out now due to their success."

I remember when I was younger, one of the reasons why I started loving the Warriors was the stadium atmosphere and the passion they displayed week in and week out.

Earlier in the season for the Mt Smart doubleheader, it was officially dubbed as a sell-out.

Apart from the club's debut season in 1995, it's the Warriors' biggest crowd for a regular season NRL match and the first time the ground has been sold out for a non-finals game since the 2007 round 24 encounter with Manly.

Another big crowd should be expected on Saturday afternoon when the Sydney Roosters roll into town. The Warriors have already beaten them this season [30-6 in round four]. On top of that, they have won their last four against the Tri-Colours.

In total, since 1998, the Warriors have lost only six times to the Roosters in 17 meetings at their Penrose fortress.

They will be looking for their eighth win in round ten of the season - would eclipse the number of wins the Warriors had last season in 24 matches.

So if you're not on the 'bandwagon' right now, then you better get on and enjoy the fantastic Mt Smart atmosphere.





# ARL Round UP

By ARL

Pt Chevalier's Malo Solomona.

## SAS Fox Memorial Premiership – Rd 5

Mt Albert 28 Richmond 27

A miraculous comeback saw Mt Albert score eight points in the final five minutes, to record a comeback win over Richmond. Down 27-20, a converted try to Jarrod Tua gave Mt Albert a chance, before halfback Reece Joyce kicked a 40-metre penalty to seal the result. The loss leaves Richmond without a victory through the first five weeks.

Howick 12 Glenora 20

Glenora inflicted Howick's first loss of 2018, with a strong first half setting the Bears up for their fourth win of the campaign. Howick finished the stronger of the two sides, but couldn't find a way through the staunch Glenora defence often enough. Glenora's Chase Bernard played 80 minutes in the front row, while dummy-half Zac Tippins was a standout for the Bears.

Papakura 14 Marist 12

A penalty goal with two minutes on the clock lifted Papakura to their first victory of 2018, with halfback Evean Hunt booting the south Aucklanders to glory at home. Tied at 12-all through the back end of the second half, Marist will rue a missed opportunity to jump off the bottom of the ladder. In the middle of the park Jamal Hunt – younger brother of match-winner Evean – was a standout for the Sea Eagles.

Pt Chevalier 42 Northcote 0

The Pt Chevalier Pirates made an emphatic statement on their way to retaining control of the Roope Rooster, producing a 42-0 shut out of Northcote. Pt Chevalier were flawless when defending their line, while in attack Oliver Tuimavave scored a double, as did Nathan Newton off the bench.

Mangere East 22 Otahuhu 28

Otahuhu dodged a fast-finishing Mangere East to pick up their third win of the year. Up 16-6 at the break, the Leopards scored 12 points in the second, but had to survive a late raid by the Hawks at Bert Henham Park. Fullback Geronimo Doyle scored a try and kicked well, while Dylan Uate was strong in the back row for Otahuhu.

*Continued on next page...*

### Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup – Rd 3

Otara 18 Bay Roskill 32

A strong second half saw Bay Roskill get up for victory over Otara at Walker Park. The Scorpions had the lion's share of possession in the opening exchanges, but struggled to find a way through the Bay Roskill line. Cori Vogel was influential at fullback for the Vikings, while veteran hooker Johnathan Wea set the tone for the victory in the middle of the park.

Papatoetoe 0 Ponsonby 102

Five tries to centre Damon Niko were the highlight of Ponsonby's 102-0 blowout of Papatoetoe, which gave the Ponies their second victory of the year. Up 48-0 at the break, Ponsonby found another gear in the second, cracking the century mark late in the match.

Franklin 52 Hibiscus 12

A star showing from captain-coach Jody Henry helped Franklin to a comprehensive 52-12 victory over the Hibiscus Coast, leaving the Premiership newcomers undefeated through the opening three weeks. Henry scored two tries and directed play well. Up 18-12 at the break, the Storm blew the Raiders away in the second 40, scoring 34 unanswered points.

Manurewa 30 Ellerslie 24

Manurewa bounced back from a defeat in Round 2, to down Ellerslie in a thriller at Mountfort Park. Up 22-12 at the break, Manurewa were forced to play the final 10 minutes with only 11 players, having had two put in the sin bin, but did enough to hold on for victory.

Te Atatu 18 Pakuranga 16

The Te Atatu Roosters remain undefeated, after edging past an injury-hit Pakuranga Jaguars. Locked up at the break, both teams traded blows through the second, with the Roosters' two tries in the second period proving enough to get them home.

New Lynn 18 Mt Wellington 26

Mt Wellington downed the previously unbeaten New Lynn Stags on the road, scoring twice in the final 10 minutes to secure the result. After the Stags got off to a flying start, it was Mt Wellington's enthusiasm which proved the difference in the second half.

Northern Brothers 48 Manukau 16

The Northern Brothers are on the board in 2018, picking up a big victory over Manukau. Up 22-10 at half-time, Northern went on with the job in second to run out comfortable winners at Freyberg Park.

## Auckland Vulcans Women's Coach Named

By Auckland Rugby League

**E**XPERIENCED CLUB coach Frank Fuimaono will lead the Auckland Vulcans Women into the upcoming National Women's Tournament.

Having taken the Richmond Roses to the Grand Final of Auckland's Farrelly Photos Women's Premiership last year, Fuimaono, who currently coaches at the Northcote Tigers club, brings with him a strong understanding of the female game in the region.

The tournament will be held at Cornwall Park, Auckland, over Queen's Birthday Weekend, with the Kiwi Ferns' wider squad to be selected at the conclusion of the event.

Last season the Vulcans finished fourth in the competition, with Fuimaono this year determined to instil into his group what it means to represent Auckland.

land.

"They need to realise that Auckland has a proud history," Fuimaono said.

"To put on that blue and white jersey is an opportunity I believe the girls should take with both hands.

"I've always had an interest in the women's game and I've been around the Auckland system for six or seven years now.

"The players are at that stage now where they need to be competing at an elite level, and the Auckland Vulcans give them that opportunity."

# Pocklington Named To Coach Auckland

By Auckland Rugby League

**T**HREE-TIME AUCKLAND first division winner Grant Pocklington has been appointed to coach the Auckland representative side, in the Queen's Birthday Weekend clash with the Tonga New Zealand Residents.

Pocklington claimed SAS Fox Memorial Premiership titles with Pt Chevalier in three-consecutive years between 2013-15, before moving on to become assistant coach of the New Zealand Warriors' reserve-grade side in 2017, and last year head coach of the Junior Warriors.

The veteran mentor said he didn't have to think twice when offered the chance to be involved with the Auckland side for the match on Saturday, June 2 at Mount Smart Stadium.

"I couldn't say no to the opportunity, I jumped at it," Pocklington said.

"There's a proud history around the Auckland jersey, it's a great opportunity for our younger players coming through the Fox to play in the jumper, and I feel like I have something to offer these players.

"This is also a chance to reward guys in the Fox who have done the work, and show them that they can go up another level."

Auckland Rugby League coaching and development manager, Andy Hay, said it was pleasing to appoint someone with such a wealth of experience in the game.

"Grant has coached and enjoyed success at the highest level of club rugby league in New Zealand, and also has experience within the NRL setup at the New Zealand Warriors," Hay said.

"He will add plenty for the selected players, and be a real asset in what shapes as a big event for the local game."

Auckland v the Tonga New Zealand Residents will be the feature game of a match day that will include a curtain-raiser between the Auckland Maori U20 and Toa Samoa Invitational U20.



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# Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

**S**OUTHLAND/OTAGO COMPETITION results from games played at the SDRL grounds , Elles Road , Invercargill last Saturday. Write up courtesy of Southland District Rugby League.

In the first game of the day we had He Tauaa up against University from Dunedin. Uni had gone through the Otago part of the local competition unbeaten and last week they faced there first defeat in their opening game of the Southland /Otago Competition at the hands of the Cowboys.

He Tauaa had a loss to South Pacific Raiders in their opener and both clubs were out to get there first win in the combined competition.

Uni started the scoring off with 3 quick unanswered tries , before He Tauaa finally crossed over for their first try. Uni hit back again through some bad handling from He Tauaa.

Uni were showing why they are the top team in Otago. Just before half time He Tauaa scored.

Half time :

Uni 22 - He Tauaa 12.

Uni had less handling errors and mis-tackles than He Tauaa in the first half which gave them the edge they needed going into the break.

In the second half He Tauaa looked like a whole different team than they did in the first half. It was pretty much even on both sides , with the forwards leading the way and set up play for the backs to do their thing. He Tauaa's coach put out the call for his team to dig deep and his did just that, closing the score to 28 - 32 after being down by 16 points. With just over 3 minutes showing on the clock till full time. He Tauaa had their backs against the wall and with some strong play up the sideline they were able to cross over to win the game. This was a game of two halves.

Final score :

He Tauaa 34 - University 32

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In the second game of the day , Cowboys were up against South Pacific Raiders.

Cowboys and South Pacific Raiders were coming off wins in the first round of Southland/Otago competition.

Cowboys came out firing and they got off to an early lead , before South Pac began to fire back . South Pac got a few combinations going but just couldn't finish off , due to a strong Cowboys defensive line.

*Continued on next page...*

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The powerful running from the Cowboys forward pack, with the backs moves making it hard to defend against

Half time :

Cowboys 32 – South Pacific Raiders 0

The half time score didn't really show how tuff this game was to watch. It was a very physical first half , with some crunching tackles from both sides.

In the second half , Cowboys didn't look like they were going to conceded any points. But South Pacific Raiders wanted to prove a point and when one of their young players put his body on the line only to be knocked out cold , seemed to lift his team and they were able to rebuild from where the left off last week. But this was short lived and Cowboys showed why they are unbeaten so far.

Final score :

Cowboys 46 - South Pacific Raiders 14

**Find out more about Southland Rugby League at**  
<http://www.sdrl.co.nz/>

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# Top 10 Tryscoring Strike-Rates By Warriors Players

By Will Evans

**E**VERYONE KNOWS that it's Manu first and daylight second, third and fourth on the Warriors' all-time tryscoring register, but which players have the best strike-rates in the club's 23-season history?

Put away your calculators, we've done the legwork for you:

TOP 10 TRYSCORING STRIKE-RATES BY WARRIORS PLAYERS (Minimum 15 tries)

\*Statistics current up to the end of NRL Round 9, 2018

## 5. Sean Hoppe (1995-99): 93 games – 52 tries (0.56 tries per game)

Former Canberra and Norths flyer Hoppe was a prized signing for the fledgling Warriors and lived up to his billing as one of the world's best finishers with 19 tries from 22 games and Dally M Winger of the Year honours in the club's 1995 debut season.

The remainder of the Northcote Tigers product's five-season tenure at the Warriors was less productive, though he did manage a team-high 11 tries from 18 games during the 1997 Super League campaign. Hoppe, a 34-Test Kiwi, headed to England in 2000 with 81 tries in 152 first-grade games to his name.

## 4. Konrad Hurrell (2012-16): 71 games – 41 tries (0.58 tries per game)

Ah Konnie, one of the great unfulfilled Warriors talents. For all his enigmatic qualities on and off the field, though, Hurrell rates alongside any player in the club's history as an attacking talent.

After going on a tryscoring rampage at NYC level, the powerhouse centre scored 12 tries in 17 games in his 2012 rookie year, backed it up with 13 tries in 20 games in 2013, and dotted down 12 times in 19 games in 2014 – few of them less than memorable.

But Hurrell fell out of favour with coach Andrew McFadden in 2015 and scored just four tries in his last 16 games for the club before linking with the Titans midway through 2016.

## 3. Glen Fisiiahi (2011-15): 25 games – 15 tries (0.60 tries per game)

Speaking of unfulfilled talents and enigmas...

'The Fish' is quite possibly the fastest player to don a Warriors jumper, but a succession of injuries and erratic form limited him to just 25 NRL appearances across five seasons before he switched to rugby union with the Chiefs.

Fisiiahi didn't edge past a strike-rate of 0.5 tries per game until a sizzling four-try performance against Wests Tigers in 2014, but the injury curse dictated that the elusive winger/fullback played just two more games for the Warriors in the top flight.

## 2. David Fusitu'a (2014-17): 66 games – 43 tries (0.65 tries per game)

Arguably the Warriors' premier backline weapon at present, Fusitu'a has finished each of his four seasons in the NRL with a tryscoring strike-rate of 0.5 or better.

He burst onto the scene as a 19-year-old with seven tries from 12 rookie-year appearances in 2014, overcame a long run of injuries to score 11 tries in 18 games in 2016 – including four tries in a match against Newcastle – and led the club last season with 12 tries in 24 games, featuring a hat-trick at the Knights' expense.

Interestingly, until the end of 2017 Fusitu'a's strike-rate at centre (12 tries in 19 games) was slightly better than when he played on the wing (19 in 31 games). If Stephen Kearney wants the tall speedster to keep piling on the four-pointers, he should keep him away from fullback (one try in seven games).

*Continued on next page...*

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But a blistering start to 2018 – scoring 11 tries in the first nine rounds – has sparked predictions of a Manu-like season haul on the flank for the Kiwis and Tonga Test rep.

### 1. Manu Vatuvei (2005-15): 226 games – 152 tries (0.67 tries per game)

It's yet another mark of Manu Vatuvei's greatness that he is 70 tries clear of the second-most prolific try-scorer in Warriors history and second on the club's all-time appearances register while also boasting the best strike-rate of any Warriors player, averaging two tries for every three NRL games played.

The oft-maligned wing stalwart was outstanding in the air, almost unstoppable one-on-one, very tough to run down when in the clear, and had an uncanny knack of getting the ball down in the corner for a big man.

'The Beast' scored an unprecedented 10 tries in 10 consecutive seasons from 2006-15, including a career-high 20 touchdowns in just 19 games in 2010. The equal-10th try-scorer in premiership history – and fourth in the NRL era behind only Billy Slater, Brett Stewart and Nathan Merritt – Vatuvei is also New Zealand's greatest try-scorer with 22 in 28 Tests at an outstanding 0.79 strike-rate.

### TOP 10 WARRIORS TRYSCORERS

1. Manu Vatuvei – 152
2. Stacey Jones – 82
3. Simon Mannering – 63
4. Shaun Johnson – 61
4. Francis Meli – 60
- 6=. Lance Hohaia – 57
- 6=. Clinton Toopi – 57
8. Jerome Ropati – 54
9. Sean Hoppe – 52
10. David Fusitu – 43

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## Reader Mail

**A**NOTHER GOOD win for the Warriors. Chch fans celebrating the victory at the Fox&Ferrett@Palms.

Reminder all Warriors games live on the big screen. Pop down and enjoy the game each week with like minded fans.

Drink specials and giveaways during the game. Also book your seat on the bus to the Manly/Warriors game in Chch June the 9th. Signed Warrior 9s Jersey up for grabs. If your wanting to go to a game in Auckland

Warriors Social Tours is worth checking out. Just ask at the bar

Cheers Steve Anngow



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

**M**ANLY 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](http://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](http://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.





# Footy Clinic 2018

*By Harvey Norman Community Warriors*

**A**S THE first term came to an end for schools throughout New Zealand our Harvey Norman Community Warriors Footy Clinic kicked off on the 17th and 18th April. Our holiday programme is open to ages from 5 to 13 years for both boys and girls to learn new skills and get a special insight of what our Vodafone Warriors players get up to on a normal day at training.

Over 60 Kids registered for our two-day event with all participants watching the Vodafone Warriors team train before getting up close and personal with the players, even exchanging signatures. Not only were the kids able to chat with the team they were also able to experience first-hand some of the skills and drills which they had just watched the team run through. An actioned packed and exciting rugby league match was the ultimate conclusion to the two days giving the kids an opportunity to test out all of their new skills. An outstanding turn out and memorable holiday program for the kids.

There will be two Harvey Norman Community Warriors Footy Clinics ready to kick off in July.

Register now at [community@warriors.kiwi](mailto:community@warriors.kiwi)



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## Beko Netball League setting new standards



SILVER FERNS

**N**EW CENTRAL coach Pelesa Semu expects the toughest season yet when teams line up for the third instalment of the Beko Netball League.

The defending champion team went unbeaten en route to winning their first Beko crown last year but Semu, who takes over from last season's victorious Central coach Natalie Milicich, was expecting the 2018 league to be tougher than the first two seasons.

"It's just getting more competitive every year," she said. "There has been a lot of player movement and I'm expecting there to be very little between the teams."

"And that's what we all want to see from this league – the level of intensity to increase, competitive matches and preparing these players for their next step."

The Beko Netball League, which was introduced in 2016 with the aim of developing talent in New Zealand, starts on May 13 with a repeat of last year's Grand Final between Central and Mainland. Waikato-BOP will host inaugural winners South while an all-Auckland derby, between the Marvels and Comets, rounds out the opening weekend of the competition.

Semu, who is a former Shakers' captain and Samoa international, believed teams now had programmes well aligned with their ANZ Premiership franchise

which was improving the standard of play each year.

The former Shakers captain and Samoa international said they would not be able to take any team lightly in the league.

"I honestly don't think you can discard any team this year," she said. "Auckland teams are always strong and have a great player base, Mainland has an experienced base and Waikato and South have some talented players coming through."

Semu, who is also the Central Zone's Performance Manager, said both she and her team could feel some heat going into the 2018 Beko League as defending champions but felt her new-look squad had been working hard on "our own identity".

"It just comes with the role," she said. "There's always a pressure environment as coach but I'm always up for a challenge and I'm certainly looking forward to this one."

"It's a very new team and it's about paving our own pathways this year."

The Beko Netball League starts on May 13 and consists of 31 games over 13 weeks, with the Grand Final to be played in Auckland on July 29.

WATCH LIVE ON **SKY** sport





## THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 10 ISSUE

**If you're coming to the game don't forget to purchase a copy at the grounds!**



**ROUND 10, 2018**

**On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from Thursday, May 10**

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### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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

Josh Addo-Carr and Ash Taylor are two of the most exciting young players in the NRL. In Indigenous Round, they talk through why their childhood heroes Greg Inglis and Johnathan Thurston were so important as role models, and why they're willing to step up to the plate to inspire a new generation of young rugby league players.

State of Origin is just around the corner and with it brings a whole new level of selection speculation. As an experiment, we've taken all of the opinion out of it and crunched the numbers to find the best starting 13 for New South Wales and Queensland based on statistical performances this season. As expected, it's thrown up a few surprises.

Siliva Havili didn't expect to be playing much first grade at Canberra, but he's making the most of the opportunity while he has it. Star hooker Josh Hodgson is due to return to the field next month and Havili is doing everything he can to keep his place in the Raiders' 17.

The Cowboys have had plenty of distractions while in Sydney this week, but they have vowed not to be derailed when they take on the Wests Tigers at Leichhardt Oval on Thursday night.

PLUS... This Week in History, the familiar face of 'the hot dog man', how the Warriors' new ownership will take them to a higher level, and a Bulldogs team poster.

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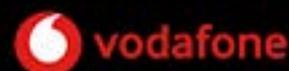
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