

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

30th May 2018

Newsletter #219

The passing of Gerald Ryan



THE “FIGHTING RYAN” OF THE BOARDROOM

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



IT WAS with the utmost sadness that I learned former New Zealand Rugby League chairman Gerald Ryan had passed away last weekend, aged 87. In a lifetime of following and writing about the game I would have encountered only a handful of officials as colourful as Gerald. He was not only a totally honest and sincere man but also a journalist's dream.

The first NZRL chairman I met was Ron McGregor, who told me on the eve of the 1971 Kiwis tour to Britain and France that all rugby league folk were bonded by having made a choice to become involved. Rugby league was not thrust upon us, as the union code was in high schools, and often sacrifices needed to be made to play our game.

Since Ron there have been all manner of men chairing the national administration. They have certainly not been the bland, faceless stereotypes who have ruled some of this country's biggest sports. Frankly, I knew little about Gerald Ryan when he was elected to the post in 1997 but I soon discovered his four-year term was never going to be boring.

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I never really got to sit down with Gerald to quiz him about his background but he told me several times that the best man at his parent's wedding had been a namesake of mine. It is probable that was my grandfather. But my grandfather died before I was born and Gerald's parents were no longer around to confirm that probability.

Gerald Ryan was born in Westport in 1931, along with twin brother Kevin. Theirs was to be a difficult childhood because their mother Gladys died only two years later. Father Timothy was left to raise a family of nine, eight of them boys. After moving to Hamilton, the Ryan brothers earned a notoriety which resulted in a nickname -- the Fighting Ryans.

But twins Gerald and Kevin Ryan overcame their unfortunate circumstances, studied law and flourished in the legal profession. Kevin was perhaps the more publicly celebrated, leading the defence in some of this country's biggest trials. Kevin went on to become a Queen's Council, and when he died in 2008 he was hailed by his peers for his honesty.

While Kevin Ryan famously wrote in his autobiography that for all his legal career he had fought for "the rights of the innocent, the not so innocent and the downright guilty", Gerald was to fight New Zealand's corner for equality against powerful Australian and, to a lesser extent, British administrators in the court of international rugby league.

On one occasion, as NZRL chairman, he was told his Australian counterpart, Colin Love, would not accept a New Zealand referee to control the Kangaroos and Lions despite neutral officials then being the rule. While the British only mumbled their displeasure Gerald thundered his defence of New Zealand referees from the rooftops.

Gerald was never a great fan of Australian whistle-blowers, whom he believed were doing very little to show impartiality to the Warriors in the late 1990s. "There are orangutans and blind grandmothers from the South Island who could do better than some Australian referees," said Gerald to any members of the media prepared to listen.

In fact, Australians in general were inclined to get up his nose. More than once he confided in me that Aussies were unwise to show off their ankles in public because "you can see where the shackles have been". It must have been an interesting ambience inside the

boardroom the next time administrators from our two nations got around the table.

When New Zealand Maori were lobbying the International Board for acceptance into the 2000 World Cup they desperately needed NZRL backing. Although it had been another committee which initially supported them, Gerald knew he was committed: "A promise was given to them and as far as I'm concerned a promise is a promise".

In 1996 Gerald donated the Billy Kelly Memorial Trophy for what became the Anzac Tests, in recognition of the outstanding player who went from Buller to represent both New Zealand and Australia before being wounded in the First World War and was later a renowned coach in Sydney. Gerald was Billy Kelly's nephew (presumably Mrs Ryan was a Kelly).

Gerald's NZRL chairmanship from 1997 to 2001 covered the tempestuous Super League war which first ignited across the Tasman, the introduction of the national Bartercard Cup and provincial second division competitions, and the darkest days of the Auckland Warriors before Eric Watson came along. The Kiwis beat Australia in back-to-back Tests.

After one of those wins at North Harbour Stadium another out-of-town journalist and I were wondering how we were to get back over the bridge when a car pulled up, a window was wound down and there was Gerald offering a lift. For that he deserved a medal, and he got one in 2011, an ONZM "for services to racing, rugby league and the community".



Gerald's service is planned for 12pm this Friday at the Sacred Heart Collage Chapel in Auckland.



Gerald and his son Gerald Junior with the Ryan Family Cup he donated as the contest between NZ and Australian Universities.

A Tribute to Gerald Ryan

*By Carey Clements
New Zealand Universities and
Tertiary Students Rugby League
Life Member/Secretary*

THE LATE Gerald Ryan's passing is also being felt widely within the New Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students rugby league community.

It was in this area of the game that he first began his involvement in rugby league, 61 years ago as a member of the first ever Auckland University Rugby League club side.

At the time, Gerald along with his identical twin brother Kevin had been playing the other rugby code and to initially disguise their transfer into league they assumed new alias identities as 'Clark Gable and Winston Churchill' respectfully.

Such was his love of league that it was not long before the Ryan twins used their real names, with Gerald staying on in the club until it folded two years later. Besides Gerald the Auckland University Rugby League Club also had another future NZRL Life Member as a player in Allen Gore, while a young accountancy student and brilliant inside half by the name of Roger Douglas was its first treasurer.

After settling down to raise a young family and to work as a prominent lawyer and later accountant, Gerald made his second appearance into university rugby league, by being elected alongside his brother Kevin on the inaugural New Zealand Universities Rugby League Council in August, 1968. Although Kevin was to stay on the council for several more years as treasurer, work commitments, meant that Gerald came off it within six months.

His last involvement with the New Zealand Universities Rugby League came in 2004 when the council was reformed after an eight year absence, although between 1997 and 2000, it had been under the name of the New Zealand Students Rugby League. As Sec-

retary under Gerald's Chairmanship, I learnt values about the game which have still clung to me and when we shared a small flat together for three weeks on the Griffith University campus during the 2005 Student Rugby League Cup in Brisbane, more education came to me when we discussed many different things over cups of tea in the evening.

In just two years while on the reformed universities council (which was to add Tertiary Students following the 2005 World Cup), Gerald drive league back inside the university games, saw the body aligned to the NZRL as an affiliate (now called as an associate) and saw his side win the World Cup, which is to date the last time a New Zealand side has won it. More than that, he brought together professionalism, reflecting greatly in the 42 page constitution that he created.

Following the World Cup win, Gerald stood down from the council in knowing he had done a job well done and the game was in good hands. I never forgot his contribution and would speak to him on the phone every couple of months or see him at NZRL Annual Meetings. The last time I saw Gerald was on a two hour visit to his house two months ago. Although he had been battling various illnesses, it was a happy time, as he talked about his hope for league and about an autobiography that he had planned to publish. Sadly the time ran out before that happened, but his tremendous contribution will always be there as a legacy and as a reminder that people inside it should remember that they owe rugby league; Rugby League should never ever owe them.

Gerald Ryan's wife has asked that if anyone has any stories about Gerald could they email them to peterryan@xtra.co.nz



Butch introduces assistant coach Tony Iro to the lounge.



Chris Deban (Marist Western Suburbs Ch Ch) Len Poumaka (Sydney) Mark Cawley (Marist Western Suburbs Ch Ch), Nigel Mahan (Hornby Ch Ch) Wayne Mahan (Aspley/Brisbane) came up for the game..



Greg Dawson wins the Warriors football.



Jerry Seuseu former Kiwi, Samoan, Auckland Warrior and Wigan Warrior delights the lounge crowd before the game.



Matt Toffs wins the Warriors Jersey.



Mike Wood from Players Sports presents Michael Johannink with a ball for knowing the number of games Stacey Jones played for the Warriors -261.



One of the Players Sports team wanted to wind up the butcher by wearing a South's shirt.



Ron Corr wins the TAB bet. Kata first try scorer from Mr Popplewell from the TAB.



Tony Iro talks about his career.



Tony Iro Warriors assistant coach came up to the lounge after the game to give us his views on the game and Isaiiah Papali'i was there to support him.



Was great to host the team from playerssport in the lounge on saturday night check them out www.playerssport.co.nz.



Was nice to have Isaiiah Papali'i come up to the Stacey Jones lounge after the game and tell us about his background.

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8PM FRIDAY JUNE 29
MT SMART STADIUM

More Pain In The Rain

By David Kemeys

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



WELL THAT was horrible.
When we got whacked by Melbourne it was bad.

When we got whacked by Brisbane it was worse.

When we got whacked by the Roosters it was terrible.

But when we got whacked by Souths it was utterly predictable.

If you were a cheerful sort of a bloke you'd argue that eight and four going into the bye is nothing short of a miracle given what we have been subjected to in recent years.

I will confess to being pretty convinced we would get the wooden spoon this year, and come second last if someone was more awful than us.

Could still happen I suppose, but we are travelling way better than anyone gave us any hope of doing, which makes the capitulation to Souths worse. We have come to expect better.

The bye could not come at a better time, because we look like a side that needs it.

Sure all sides suffer injuries, and we have seen some sensational performances from players called in to cover for injuries.

Just not on Saturday night.

Maybe with some key players back we might see more of the style of play that so surprised us all at the start of the season.

And that would be no bad thing because the style we played on Saturday was horrible.

It was pretty much just one off the ruck, uninventive, lacked cohesion, was predictable, and worst of all, was clearly not working and there did not seem to be a plan B.

Having said that, I thought the boys dug deep and as I said when we got tanked before, at least we did not hoist the white flag, playing to the end in what must have been a depressing outing for the players on show.

On the other hand, if you were not a cheerful sort of a bloke, you'd be wondering if getting smashed on our home ground, courtesy of complete domination from the visitors, is not something of a pattern.

We went nowhere, and once again were utterly dominated in the forwards.

Mind you, they were monsters were not they – and across the ground.

It never fails to amaze me that commentators seem to persist with this “the Warriors are huge in the forwards” line, when it hasn't been true for many years.

I'd be guessing, but I would argue few packs now are not bigger than ours.

And it remains a problem. There is a saying: A good big 'un usually beats a good little 'un, and so it has proved every time we have lost.

Confession time. Having been sick as a pig all week, I did not make the game, deciding to watch from the couch while wrapped in a blanket.

So at least I did not suffer the misery in the rain that 16,000-odd supporters did.

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It didn't make it any less miserable an experience though.

But all in all – pretty much halfway through the season and we are doing way better than any of us thought.

Sure we have some obvious problems, but it wouldn't be the Warriors without getting your hopes up only to have them dashed.

At Sixes And Sevens

When you are crap, or just generally in a muddle, it is said you are at sixes and sevens.

Which is fitting, given the thrashing we got, because we were totally at sixes and sevens.

Or more correctly, who was at six and seven, because after 80 minutes I still couldn't tell.

Mason Lino has done very well filling in for Shaun Johnson, so we were always going to find this one tough going when he too was forced out.

I'm told Peta Hiku played in the halves, I couldn't tell. We lacked direction, as everything fell on the shoulders of Blake Green, a visibly unhappy man at the final whistle.

But blaming the loss on the the injuries would be a step too far, because we got beaten in the forwards.

Simon Mannering, who did not have the happiest of nights himself but was still our best, summed it up.

“If you look at the losses, it's been the basics where we have let ourselves down. You have to match and we didn't.”

Warriors coach Stephen Kearney mustn't push the panic button.

But he had better use the bye week to figure out why teams find it so easy to cross the Tasman and give us a touch-up.

He has recognised that as a bit of a theme – he'd have to blind not to.

“It's that's something we need to address, the coaches will work out how to arrest teams coming here and beating us up physically. In terms of teams coming here and getting us physically, then we've got to come up with a game plan that's going to help us counteract that.”

I hark back to when some us had the privilege to listen to Wayne Bennett before the Brisbane game, who said consistency is the key to success – or something like that anyway.

We do have to recognise those injuries. “The last six weeks we haven't had a great deal of consistency. That's not an excuse, but some of the changes we've had have been pretty significant.”

Fifth Suddenly Doesn't Look So Great

We are now fifth after Matt Moylan pretty-much beat Newcastle on his own, with his Cronulla side beating the Newcastle Knights 48-10 demolition job.

Moylan set up most of tries as six different Sharks scored, and Valentine Holmes got a hat trick. More importantly, the Boys from the Shire (whatever that means), leap-frogged us into fourth and we dropped to fifth.

That is six on the spin for the Sharks and you are starting to see the cream rise now.

The Knights have been going good, a bit like us, much to the surprise of everyone, but that is now four losses on the trot, and they were horrible in this one.

Kemp Puts The Boot In, Monty's Not So Sure

I had to laugh when I was looking on the old computer at the headlines and there was one that said: Warriors hoping Simon Mannering retires or leaves.

Bugger me, what's the other option, I thought? That he dies.

But it turned out it was Tony Kemp, who is never going to be accused of being a Warriors cheerleader, on the radio talking about how the club will be hoping Mannering does not go looking for a new contract, because he reckons that would be an embarrassing end for the club legend.

Kemp said the club will want to avoid the awkward conversation of not wanting to offer him much of a contract.

In fairness to Kemp, he has a point, Mannering has not been vintage this year, but he is still streets ahead of half a dozen others I could name.

Mannering himself has called for his mates to find another gear, as he uses the break to decide on his own future.

"We're still in a pretty good position. But in saying that, it doesn't count for anything if we don't push forward in the second half of the season. We've got to take it up a notch after the break."

Meanwhile Warriors great Monty Betham, who I always thought I could take in the ring, though I never bothered to tell him; is glad Mannering will get to make his own call.

"The great thing about this, and it was the same with me, is that the choice is his. He deserves to have that choice."

Mannering is still only 31 but his body must have taken a massive hammering, and you would have to think he is on a good chunk of the salary cap.

If you are looking to free up cash, maybe Kemp is right, but on that basis you'd also show Issac Luke the door.

Same argument. Far from our worst isn't he?

Whatever he decides, don't expect to read a bad word about the bloke here, at least not from me.

Long On Doyle

My mate Dave Long at Stuff did a really good piece with former boss Jim Doyle, a man I have a great deal of time for.

And I'll tell you why.

Pete and I – and a bunch of others to be fair – were once organising one of Pete's famous luncheons and had just had a meeting with Doyle about it all, and after leaving Mt Smart headed across to nearby Ellerslie, where we were partaking of a cup of tea and a sticky bun in a cafe, when in walked Doyle.

He had waved us off, then decided if something needed doing, there was no good reason why he shouldn't do it himself, and right now!

He picked up a load of posters and set about putting them up.

I doubt he even remembers, but I do. I thought it was remarkable that someone who headed up our beloved Warriors could take time out of what I can only imagine was a pretty hectic schedule, to roll his sleeves up and help a mate out.

Long's piece talked about Doyle leaving Mt Smart for the last time after completing the sale of the club, and even then conceded the Scotsman was reluctant to talk to him.

"I knew all along that when the sale takes place, that would be me finished," he said.

Doyle said he's a firm believer in the "out with the old and in with the new mantra", so left at least pleased his side was showing a dramatic turnaround on the field.

To me, there's little doubt Doyle played a major part in that, particularly in showing a few faces the door, and working to draw a line in the sand and start a whole new culture at the club.

[Read the interview here.](#)



Fly on The Wall

By Barry Ross



CLIWFFORD PARK Racecourse is the place to be this Friday, 1 May. The Toowoomba Turf Club is holding an NRL Sportsman's lunch and the guest speakers are Wayne Bennett and Craig Bellamy. The coaching heavyweights confirmed their appearances around six or seven weeks ago, well before the Broncos offer to Craig Bellamy became public news. At the time of writing, both coaches were still set to speak and after what has developed over the past week or more, it will be an interesting place to be. Tickets to the event are not cheap and I believe they are around \$200, although if you book a table of 10, they would be cheaper.

There is no doubt that the Broncos want Craig to take over from Wayne, but if or when that will happen, is a long way from being decided. Now 68, Wayne will want to finish on his terms. He is contracted till the end of 2019 and he has already said that he will be coaching the Broncos next year. A few years ago, stories circulated that he would finish at the end of the 2017 season, but in early 2016, he signed an extension with the Broncos to coach until the end of the 2019 season. This deal was believed to be around \$1.8 million. As well as this, earlier this year, he decided to continue as England's national coach until the end of 2019. If the Broncos coach had to leave the club before 2019, he would have to be paid out. While some are saying that at 68 his best coaching days are behind him, I have no doubt that he would be quickly snapped up if he had to leave the Broncos before 2019. If this didn't happen in the NRL, there would be a lot of interest among the English Super League clubs. Just last week, he coached his 800th first grade game which is a phenomenal achievement. He has 496 wins, which is a winning percentage of 62. With the Broncos he has won six Premierships (1992, 1993, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2006) and in 2010, he guided St. George/Illawarra to the title.

Craig Bellamy, 58, has been a head coach at just the one club and he joined the Storm in 2003. This year is his 16th consecutive season with Melbourne. He has coached the Storm in 404 first grade matches for 275 wins and a winning percentage of nearly 68. He has won two Premierships (2012 and 2017), although he also coached Melbourne to win the 2007 and 2009 Grand Finals, after which they were stripped of the Premierships because of salary cap breaches. In February 2013, he signed a contract with the Storm to coach until end of 2016, with the option of extending until 2018. He took up the option until the end of 2018 in a deal believed to be worth around one million dollars a season.

Both men had humble upbringings. Craig was born into a working class family at Portland, which is about 160 kms north west of Sydney. His father, Norm, who was a butcher and then a cement worker, died at 51, in a work accident when Craig was 24 and playing with the Canberra Raiders. His mother, Betty, also worked while he was growing up. The Storm coach and his wife Wendy, have a son Aaron, who works for the Storm, and daughter Rachel, who lives and works on the Gold Coast.

Wayne was born at Allora, which is 160 kms south west of Brisbane. It is well documented that his father, Jack, was an alcoholic, who deserted the family when Wayne was just 11 years of age. His mother, Patsy, had a struggle to bring up Wayne, his brother Bob and two sisters. Patsy passed away in June 2011, aged 81. His mother's brother, Eddie Brosnan, who was a well known Queensland policeman and a 1948 Kangaroo forward, had a positive influence on him as a boy. While still at school, he became an altar boy in the catholic church. With no father to help support the family, Wayne left school in year 8 and joined the work force at 14 years of age, first at Gambaros in Brisbane and then at the Warwick Bacon factory. He was accepted as a Queensland police probationary at 16 years of age in April 1966. He began coaching at Ipswich back in 1976 and continued in the Brisbane competition until 1985. He coached at the Canberra Raiders in 1987, before joining the Broncos in 1988. He and his wife Trish have three children, Justin, Katherine and Elizabeth. Katherine does PR work for Broncos CEO, Paul White, while Elizabeth is married to former Australian, Queensland State of Origin and Broncos player, Ben Ikin, who is now a regular Fox TV Rugby League expert. Around September 2016, it was announced that Wayne was splitting from Trish, his wife of 42 years.

Wayne played several years of first grade football in the Brisbane competition, as a centre, winger or fullback and represented Queensland in nine games. He toured New Zealand with the 1972 Australian team as a winger and had a season with Huddersfield, England in 1972/73.

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Craig was a centre, five eighth or lock, who played local first grade at Portland while still at school. From 1982, he played 10 seasons and 148 first grade games with the Canberra Raiders. He came off the bench for the Raiders in their 18-14 win over Penrith in the 1990 Grand Final. Craig also had a season in England, with Swinton in 1991/92.

Both men have a tremendous background in Rugby League and this is emphasised by their current standing in the game.

The competition is now at the halfway mark and the Broncos are not in the top eight sides. Two of the form teams at the moment are the Sharks, who have won their past six matches and South Sydney, who have won their last four games. Both teams sit on 16 competition points and they clash this Friday night, 1 June, in Sydney at ANZ Stadium. The State of Origin period kicks in this weekend with only four matches and eight teams having a bye. Only four competition points separate nine teams, which is an indication of a tight competition.

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Mark Broadhurst



By John Coffey

Special Trophy For Manly – Warriors Match

TWO OF Canterbury's finest Kiwis forwards, Mark Broadhurst and Adrian Shelford, have been honoured by the trophy at stake when the Manly Sea Eagles play their "home" match against the Warriors in Christchurch on Saturday week (June 9, 5pm kick-off). Both of them spent part of their dual-hemisphere professional careers in Manly's colours.

Broadhurst, a Test prop from 1979 until 1983 who was inducted into the NZRL Legends of League in 2013, made 44 appearances for the Sea Eagles in 1981 and 1982. In those pre-salary cap days Manly was one of the really big spenders. When Broady arrived at Brookvale Oval he found he was vying for first grade selection with six Kangaroos forwards.

Maybe Manly signed Broady for his toughness. The manner in which he staggered renowned Australian hard man Craig Young in a scrum at Carlaw Park would have done the rounds in Sydney. But reports he was New Zealand's professional heavyweight boxing champion were untrue. He actually had only four amateur fights -- but he did floor all of his opponents.

That resilience was needed in a 1981 semi-final which exploded into a wild brawl made most memorable by Broady's individual bout with hulking Newtown prop Scott Bowden. Broady was doing okay until Bowden introduced heat butts into a fist fight. His right eye closed tight, a half-blinded Broady never stopped carting the ball into the Newtown brick wall.

In 1983 Broady took his talents off to the Illawarra Steelers for 24 games. There he unveiled a lesser known skill by kicking a match-winning field goal. After sharing in a famous Test victory at Brisbane, Broady became a pillar of arguably the best Hull Kingston Rovers team of all time. He was still tough, as a touring Queensland team discovered to its cost.

Shelford was also to enjoy a great victory over the Kangaroos in Brisbane, in 1987, when his front-row partners, Wayne Wallace and Ross Taylor, had also come up through the grades at the Hornby club. But the finest of his Test appearances was on home soil when the Kiwis beat Great Britain 12-10 in a tense World Cup semi-final at Christchurch in 1988.

Blending the pace of a second-rower and strength of a prop, Shelford had been a Newcastle Knights original in 1988 before winning three consecutive Challenge Cup finals with England's most famous club, Wigan. When Wigan coach Graham Lowe moved on to Manly he persuaded Shelford to join him for the last 11 matches of the 1990 season.

After short stints at Wakefield Trinity and Sheffield Eagles, a knee injury ended Shelford's career at 27. Despite having no educational qualifications, he studied for six years to earn a university degree in information technology. Shelford was head of IT at a prestigious Wigan high school when he died from a heart attack in September 2003. He was only 39.

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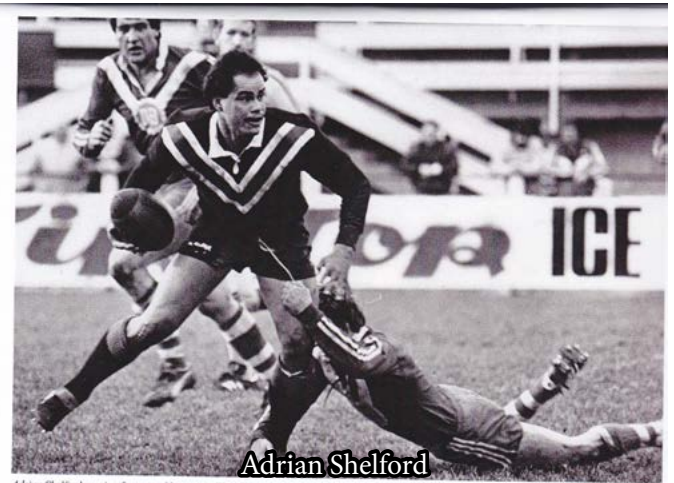
Canterbury's link with Manly goes back to 1964 when veteran Kiwis forwards Jock Butterfield and Trevor Kilkelly played there. Adrian Shelford's younger brother, Hami, had one first-grade game in 1991. David Vaealiki (2008) and Pita Godinet (2016) were briefly at Manly, and current squad member Lewis Brown is in his third season at Brookvale.

The new trophy will not be the only distinctive feature of Manly's first visit since 1958, when the Sea Eagles beat Canterbury 27-5 during a six-match New Zealand tour. Manly will debut a distinctive jersey commissioned by South Island iwi Ngai Tahu, designed by leading Maori artist and master carver Fayne Robinson and to be worn only for matches in Christchurch.

Organiser Justin Wallace has been thrilled with the willingness of Manly officials and coach Trent Barrett to promote their sport in Canterbury. The Sea Eagles are to spend six days in the city and have agreed to a busy schedule of school visits, junior skills sessions, fan meet-ups and a gala dinner. Not to mention playing the biggest game of the year in the south.

"We want to build a larger fan base in New Zealand and you will see the Manly colours all over Christchurch," said club chief executive Lyall Gorman. "We realise there are a lot of Warriors fans in the South Island but we hope that they realise that we are here to stay and the only NRL club that is truly committed to Christchurch. Maybe we can convert a few of them to Manly fans."

Manly has also offered the chance for one fan to be its "18th man" on June 9. The lucky fan will be present at the captain's run, on-field during the warm-up, in the players' tunnel for the coin toss, on the bench during the match, and at the post-match press conference. He will also receive one of the distinctive new jerseys and a free pass to another Manly home game. But fortunately this "18th man" does not get to play if someone is injured during the warm-up!



Adrian Shelford passing from a tackle against West Coast.

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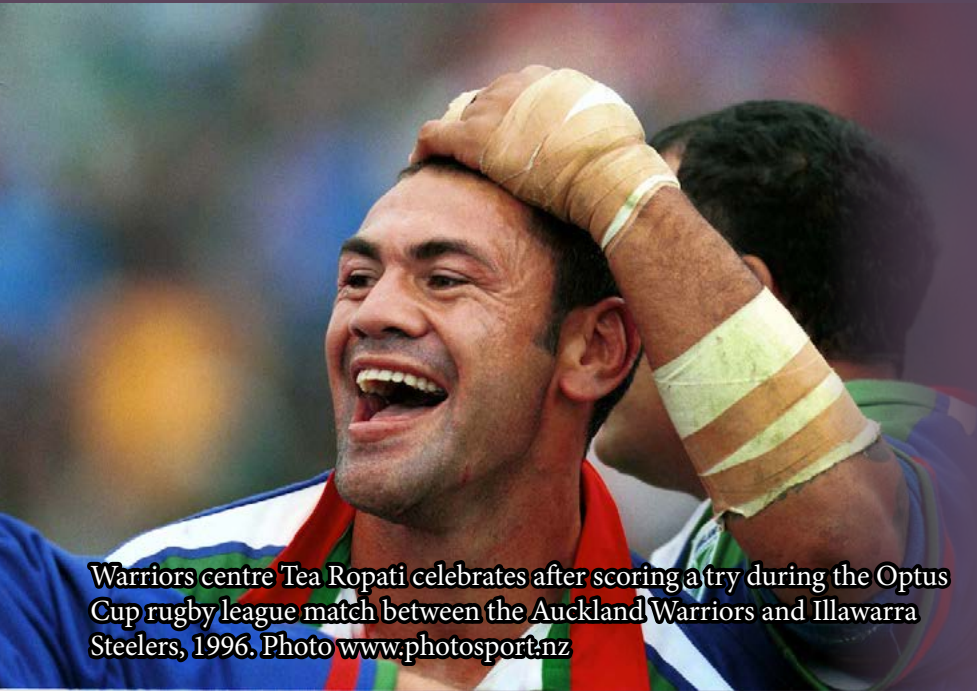


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By Miles Davis

The Originals - Warrior No. 15: Tea Ropati

Warriors centre Tea Ropati celebrates after scoring a try during the Optus Cup rugby league match between the Auckland Warriors and Illawarra Steelers, 1996. Photo www.photosport.nz

TEA ROPATI was one of 7 brothers and there must have been something in the water in the family's Auckland home as 4 of those brothers went on to play professional rugby league.

Ropati played his club rugby with Mangere Hawks and the Otahuhu Leopards. He had made the Junior Kiwis in 1983 and in 1986 came a proud occasion for the Ropati clan. New Zealand hosted the inaugural Universities Rugby League World Cup and four of the Ropati brothers were in the side – John, Peter, Iva and Tea. The New Zealand side went on to win that tournament, defeating Australia 14-10 in the final. He was also included in the Kiwis squad for the first time and went on their tour to Australia and made 5 appearances although did not feature in any of the tests.

In 1988 he was signed as part of the Newcastle Knights inaugural season in the NSWRL (NRL) but after featuring only twice took up an opportunity in England in 1989, signing for St Helens.

Adept at both stand-off and centre and able to kick goals Ropati soon became a valuable asset for the Saints. In 1991 his side made the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley being defeated by 13-8 by arch-rivals Wigan. In 1991/92 St Helens won the Lancashire Cup beating Rochdale Hornets in the final returning in the final of the same competition the following season, this time going down 5-4 to Wigan.

1992/93 was a stellar season for Ropati and his St Helens side. The finished 2nd on points differential to Minor Premiers Wigan and then made it through to the Premiership Final where they once again faced their Lancashire opponents. The final was held at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium in front of 36,000 fans. St Helens prevailed 10-4 in a tight tussle (fellow Kiwis George Mann and Shane Cooper were also in the side that day). On a personal note, Ropati was voted the league's player of the season.

In 1995, after 129 games and 56 tries for St Helens, Ropati returned to New Zealand after signing for the Auckland Warriors inaugural season. In the first game against the Brisbane Broncos he was on the interchange bench and came on to score a try. He repeated the feat in the 2nd game against the Illawarra Steelers before forcing his way into the starting line-up for game 3 against Western Suburbs, forcing Manoa Thompson onto the interchange bench. Once again he scored a try for the 3rd consecutive game. That season he made 21 appearances, scoring 12 tries in all. At the end of the season he was named Auckland Warriors' Player of the Season.

At the end of the inaugural season there was talk of Ropati returning to the UK and in fact he signed for Halifax but the move was called off when he discovered that his wife Vanessa was pregnant. In 1996 he made a further 20 appearances for the Warriors (5 tries). In 1997 he made 15 appearances and in 1998, at the age of 32, he played his last season making 10 starts and another 5 off the interchange bench before hanging his boots up.

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As well as his club efforts, Ropati made 9 appearances for the Kiwis and represented Western Samoa at the 1995 Rugby League World Cup.

On the coaching front Ropati had a short stint with the Eastern Tornadoes BarterCard Cup side after finishing his playing career and in 2010 took up a position as co-coach of the Mangere Hawks. It was in that year that he also finished a psychology degree.

Since retiring Ropati has also been involved in several initiatives aimed at getting troubled youth off the streets in South Auckland.

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



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The 300 Club

STRATFORD AND Eltham rugby club a recent merger of two long standing local rugby clubs in Taranaki is looking to raise funds to help replace the lights on our training ground. As part of the fundraising efforts we are running a 300 club.

1ST PRIZE \$20,000 - 2ND PRIZE \$8,000 - 3RD PRIZE \$3,000 - 4TH PRIZES OF 7 X \$1,000 - 5TH PRIZE OF 7 X \$500

There will be a grand draw event held on the 30 June to which each ticket holder will be invited, you do not need to be there to win a prize.

There are only 300 tickets available.

Each ticket costs \$300

Please help us raise the funds we need for this project.

If you would like to purchase a ticket, then please contact one of us on the following numbers

John Dazley Mob 0272099421 or
067656178 email cmk@cmk.co.nz

Mark Muller on 0273848028

Tony Arnold on 0276944449

Or go to our Facebook page and
sign up.

Live Draws
Cost of entry **\$300** per Ticket
Club Fundraising: To purchase of lights for training fields
1 x \$20,000, 1 x \$8000, 1 x \$3000 Draw
7 x \$1000, 7 x \$500, Draws
Drawn by Barrel 30th June 2018
Drawn in the Stratford Eltham Club Rooms
Orlando street, Stratford at 6pm
Results published in Daily News on Friday 6th July 2018

In the event of cancellation this will be published on 20th June in the Stratford Press and all money will be refunded.
Organiser: John Antony Dazley
15 Regan Street, Stratford 4332
Ph:027 209 9421



Representative Footy Hits Mt Smart This Saturday

By ARL

MOUNT SMART Stadium is the place to be this Saturday, as one of the biggest events on this year's domestic rugby league calendar kicks off.

The main act sees the famed Auckland representative team return to action, taking on a Tonga New Zealand Residents side led by two former Kiwi and Mate Ma'a Tonga representatives in Tevita Latu and Epalahame Lauaki.

Earlier in the day the Auckland Maori U20 will face off with the Toa Samoa Invitational U20, in a game which will pit some of New Zealand league's best young talent off against each other.

[CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS](#)

It will be the first time a Tongan side has played in Auckland since last year's Rugby League World Cup semi-final against England, which saw 30,000 fans flock to Mount Smart Stadium.

Both matches will be streamed live and free on aucklandleague.co.nz.

Saturday, June 2 at Mount Smart Stadium

Noon: Gates open

12.30pm: Auckland Maori U20 v Toa Samoa Invitational U20 kicks off

2.30pm: Auckland v Tonga NZ Residents kicks off

Win Tickets

Readers of Sir Peter Leitch's newsletter have an exclusive chance to win tickets, with the first 10 people to email savannah.t@aucklandleague.co.nz with the subject line WIN WITH THE BUTCHER, winning a double pass to the game.

* Winners must be able to pick their tickets up from ARL HQ, 19 Beasley Avenue, Penrose, prior to 5pm this Friday.



BATTLE LINES DRAWN



AUCKLAND V TONGA NZ RESIDENTS

AUCKLAND MAORI V
TOA SAMOA INVITATIONAL U20 MATCH

GATES OPEN 12PM
CURTAIN RAISER KICK-OFF 12:30PM
MAIN GAME KICK-OFF 2:30PM
ALL ENTRY "GATE B"

MINI TEAMS
FACE PAINTING
NATIONAL ANTHEMS
HOT FOOD & DRINKS
PROUDLY SUPPORTING TONGAN RELIEF FUND

U/5 FREE
YOUTH (U/6-18) \$6
ADULT \$10
FAMILY PASS \$24 (2 ADULTS, 3 KIDS)

*PRICES INCLUDE TICKETEK BOOKING FEE

WRITER TO MEGA GLENFIELD STORE MAN OF THE MATCH

SAT, JUNE 2

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Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SOUTHERN RUGBY LAEGUE

THERE WAS to have been two premier grade rugby league games last Saturday at Invercargill – But Winton City / Defaulted to He Tauaa RLC . The other game went ahead between Cowboys RLC and Cooks RLC . The Southland clubs are now in to their last few games ahead of the semis and the final.

The game was played in very wet and cold conditions at Elles Road.

The game commenced at 2.30 pm with Bruce Aupouri as the referee . Five minutes in to the game and Cooks gained their first points on the board in the way of a penalty goal . Neither Cooks or Cowboys put any more points on the board for the duration of the first half . Cooks displayed good defence throughout the first half despite some efforts by Cowboys to break through to score . At the conclusion of the first half Cooks sat on two points and Cowboys nil .

The second half saw Cowboys have a change of tactics and they ran in 6 tries , converting 3 of them . Cooks gave it their all in the second half but despite their efforts they did not gain any more points . The final whistle saw Cowboys take the win with 30 points against Cooks on 2 points. The players then made a hasty retreat to the clubrooms for a refreshing hot shower after a game played in bitter conditions.

Next weekend will see Winton/ City play Cowboys RLC on Friday evening at Collegiate grounds and on Saturday He Tauaa RLC will play Cooks RLC at Elles Road at 2.30 pm . (The game may change to Sandy Point if Elles Road is not suitable).





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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 13

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>
Thurs 31 May Lottoland	Sea Eagles v Cowboys	Sea Eagles	Sea eagles	Sea eagles	Sea eagles	Sea eagles	Cowboys	Cowboys	Sea Eagles
Fri 1 June ANZ	Rabbits v Sharks	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Sharks	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs
Sat 2 June ANZ	Eels v Knights	Knights	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels
Sun 3 June Allianz	Roosters v Tigers	Roosters	Roosters	Tigers	Roosters	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers
Weds 6 June MCG Melb	Blues v Maroons	Maroons	Blues	Maroons	Maroons	Maroons	Maroons	Blues	Blues

Picks last week	7/8	6/8	7/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	5/8
Total picks	56	58	57	50	53	59	52	

YOYOs DISEASE

I WAS FEELING not so good and went to the Doctor. He said what's up. I told him I was feeling good one day and awful the next. He said how long has this been happening I said several weeks. Aaahh he said up/down/up/down... I am seeing a lot of it lately, you've got YOYOs Disease. Where would I have caught it I asked. Mt Smart stadium he said....OK I've heard better jokes too but this win lose win lose thing is wearing a bit thin eh. The most common theme trotted out is the size and grunt of our forwards and not having an answer to opponents with bigger, aggressive packs. I guess the mountain sized Burgess boys sort of underlined that on Saturday nite. The hard fact is we have to go with what we've got and what we've got can win games when we are on song with all players available and we decide to have a real go. It is an ideal world thing that unfortunately doesn't always prevail. To be honest we still have a couple of players not quite up to NRL scratch yet but so do most squads. The purchase of tough toiler journeyman Leeson Ah Mau next season is handy but a long way from exciting. A hard running, hard hitting enforcer style prop would stir more emotion for the team and the fans. We just need to stand our ground brothers and stay in that top 8. A guaranteed 2 points this week on the bye, then the Sea Eagles in ChCh to follow....looking forward to that up on the YOYO. The Rabbitohs (bugger), Panthers, Sharks and Roosters all posted strong performance indicators this week with big wins. The Blue Mountain boys in particular made a bold statement, totally dismantling the long time league leading Dragons 28/2 to go top themselves, albeit on equal points. The Sharkies circle ominously with their 6th W on the trot unseating the try hard Knights 48/10. After a slow start Flash Flannagans Shireboys are well and truly back in the swim. The Storm on the other hand cling to the 8 but only just, beating JT's far north cattle rustlers 7/6. The luckless Cowboys remain one off the spoon on 6pts with Coach Paul Green pulling his hair out. Bennetts battling Broncos (9th) bucked the enigmatic Eels 18/10 leaving the powerless Parratroopers languishing last in line and a long way from where they promised to be in the beginning.

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TIPPING was on the upside again with most getting amongst the runs. Once again TARSH the FLAVA star was dominant and along with the wily one JC posted a sharp 7 from 8. Nifty Nev the whistleblower holds the overall front spot with 59 points just ahead with Big Joe Vagana breathing down his neck on 58. We have reached the halfway point and some of us High-tackle included need to think about making up some ground. Longshots, sureshots whatever gets the job done eh boyos.

New kids on the Block.

Freddie Fittler has totally changed the look of the Blues introducing a brand new bunch of kids for Origin one. A lineup of excitement and talent Tedesco, Mitchell, Jimmy the Jet, The Fox Addo-Carr, The Turbo twins, Maloney and Cleary. The fiery forwards Gillard, Frizzel, Klemmer, Cook, Crichton, Debelin, Vaughan, Cordner Graham pirotecnic potpourri of pace and power. The question is can they combine and gell into a winning unit. The Maroons in contrast have a more sedate look with only 3 debutants while losing or dropping the nucleus of past glory in Thurston, Smith, Cronk, Scott and Boyd. As a Maroons man I am definitely feeling nervous.



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By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Big Night For Makea Pair

HALL OF FAMER Thomas Makea jnr was inducted into the Hawke's Bay Sports Hall of Fame with Bay motor racing hero Greg Murphy. PHOTOSHAWKE'S BAY TODAY

FORMER HAWKE'S Bay rugby league referee Thomas Makea snr had a night to remember at the province's annual sports awards function on Saturdaynight.

Makea, 67, who refereed league in the mid 1990s joined long-serving netball umpire Judy Sutherland as recipients of Lifetime Contribution awards

at the function which attracted a record crowd of 580 to Taradale's Pettigrew-Green Arena. A brother-in-law of former Hawke's Bay Unicorns Des and Adrian Rowlands and father of long-time Tamatea women's player Leanne Makea, Makea, received the award in recognition of his 43 years service to softball.

He has held a variety of roles including player, administrator, coach, executive and he is still actively coaching junior softball. His biggest claim to fame is producing three sons who have played for the Black Sox, Thomas jnr, Fabian and Campbell.

Thomas jnr, who played for the Black Sox from 1994 to 2013, before retiring to take on the Junior Black Sox head coach role joined Hawke's Bay motor racing hero Greg Murphy as inductees into the province's Sports Hall of Fame on the night. The four-time world champion with the Black Sox was the best centre outfielder in the world during the bulk of his international career and he is still considered to be New Zealand's best all-round player of all time.

He told the function it was 1993 when he had to choose between chasing an international rugby career or softball one.

"Laurie Mains was the All Black selector at the time. He must have lost my phone number so I chose softball."

An old boy of St John's College in Hastings, Thomas jnr, 46, told the crowd about his rookie years with the Black Sox.

"We cleaned the boots of the older players and made them cups of coffee. I used to sit at the front of the bus with the other rookies and look down towards the back of the bus and think about how neat it would be to be down there one day where the senior players sit. It was about 2007-08 when I eventually got down there with my good mate Jarrad Martin.

"Now I'm looking at my son Reilly who is a rookie at the front of the bus with dreams of making it down to the back seat one day.

Reilly and Dante, two of his three sons, have already played for the Black Sox.

Thomas snr, who has won 11 national titles as a coach, spoke about the tough times fundraising to get all of his players and teams away to national tournaments as he brought them through the grades.

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“You couldn’t do applications for grants back then. It was just hangi after hangi ... yes they were tough times but they have given me a lot of great memories.”

Fabian Makea played a lot of league alongside Kiwis and Warriors star Tohu Harris with the Tamatea club. Harris was a finalist for the senior award on Saturday night which was taken out by world champion kayaker Aimee Fisher, a 2016 Rio Olympian, who captured the supreme award for the second time in three years.

As was the case in 2016 Fisher was unable to attend the function because she was competing at a World Cup regatta in Europe. She was represented by one of her former Karamu High School teachers Greg Ross.

Speaking after the function Ross said he knew Fisher would go on to be an Olympian when she was in year 11.

“That was the year she decided to put kayaking ahead of her canoe polo pursuits.”

The world under-23 K1 200m and 500m champion, Fisher, is motivated by the tremendous support she receives from her fans according to Ross.

“A lot of people try to win gold medals. Aimee strives to win because she doesn’t want to let all of her supporters down.”

“She fights for home. Aimee has always said a happy fighter is a dangerous one,” Ross added.



LOYAL SERVANTS Thomas Makea snr, right, with fellow Lifetime Contribution award recipient, netball’s Judy Sutherland, left, and award sponsor Leisa Epplert of Spark Digital.

A MATE HAS been in touch with me with a bit of a yarn that I thought you’d like. I certainly did because I know a thing or two about collecting jerseys.

Anyway my mate had to drop into the Spark store in Newmarket because he was having the odd spot of bother with his email, and he gets talking to the bloke there, who it turns out is a man of enormous taste and refinement. I know this because he apparently loves me!

He is also a massive league fan and a mad jersey collector, with more than 350 of them.

My mate was a bit suspicious of this claim and asked him to send pictures.

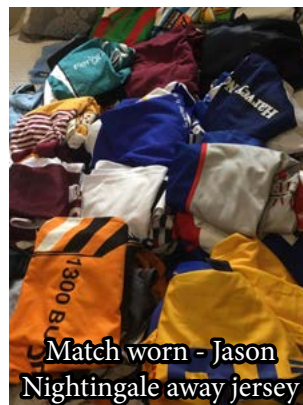
And here is the evidence.

This collection includes a couple of real beauties, including match-day worn jerseys from Dallin Watene Zelezniak’s Panthers debut, Ngani Laumape’s Auckland Nines shirt,

Kieran Foran’s Kiwis v Samoa 2014 Tri Nations jersey, and a Dragons away top from Jason Nightingale.

Do you or anyone you know have more jerseys than that? Please let me know if you do, I’d love to hear from you.

- Sir Peter Leitch



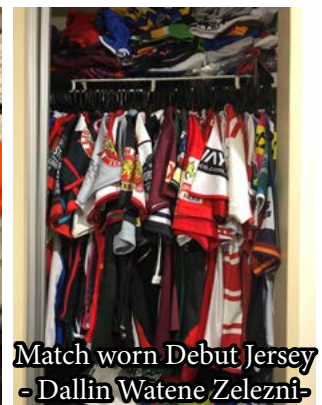
Match worn - Jason Nightingale away jersey (Dragons jersey).



Match worn - Kieran Foran 2014 Tri Nations v Samoa jersey (Kiwis jersey).



Match worn 9s jersey - Ngani Laumape (Warriors jersey).



Match worn Debut Jersey - Dallin Watene Zelezniak (panthers jersey).



Newcastle Test Wrap

By Carey Clements

A COURAGEOUS NEW Zealand Universities and Tertiary Students Rugby League side gave one of its best ever fightbacks to beat England Universities 26-10 at the Gateshead International Stadium in Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday.

The win meant the two Test match series was drawn with one each after England had won the first Test encounter in Featherstone a week earlier.

In the lead up to the second Test, a bad tummy bug affected the majority of the players and team officials, causing some to be in bed for up to two days and miss training.

As a result, the Kiwi students went into the game completely focussed after having so many setbacks disrupt them and from the outset of the Test it happened when they scored the first try of the game in just the second minute before doubling their scoring four minutes later with a second unconverted try.

The remainder of the first quarter remained scoreless before a try to its right wing Nathan Hill in the 28th minute followed by a converted try to its left wing Joe Capless two minutes before the break put the home side up 10-8 at halftime.

In the second half, New Zealand played like a team from another planet as it not only held firm on defence and did not concede any points, but put on 18 points through some brilliance around its pivots Destry Tamai, Mikey Hollis and George Ropati.

Some highly effective storming runs by its second-row captain Jason Whareaitu, fullback Kane Talea, wing Ben Tunnicliff, late replacement centre Mitchell Vincent and loose forward Rory Ropati, also allowed New Zealand to regain lost territory just when England were starting to gain a sniff of getting over the line.

New Zealand however defended magnificently, especially by its outside backs, which had learned so many valuable lessons from the first Test and as a result ensured that overlaps were kept to a minimum by bundling their opponents over the sideline when on defence. On offence it was a similar pattern as a high completion sets of tackles meant that the home side were defending more on their side of halfway.

New Zealand scored three tries in the second half including one just on fulltime from a crashing dive at dummy half by its barging prop Mona Sio, who nearly 80 minutes earlier had scored the game's first try from a similar movement. It was the first win by an NZUTSRL side over England Universities in England since the 1999 Student World Cup final.

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Off the field, coach Kenny O'Brien ably assisted by his highly experienced assistants Ray Fitiao and Tea Ropati, were the true masterminds behind the win by making personnel, tactical and game preparation changes, which led to a highly impressive turnaround from the first Test defeat.

Overall the win meant that the NZUTSRL side came away with what it had set out to achieve for this short tour in bleeding new players (15 in total) for the future, while at the same time giving them experience of playing in English conditions against a determined home side, who will be ready to host the next Student World Cup in 2021.



National Women's Tournament this weekend

*By Brooke Hurdell
NZRL*

NZRL WILL keep you updated with results and ladders throughout the National Women's Tournament on this weekend (2-4 June) at Cornwall Park.

Players will put their best foot forward in hopes of earning a spot in Kiwi Ferns wider squad of 30 which will be named at the conclusion of the tournament on Monday 4 June.

Teams this year include the Counties Manukau Stingrays, Wellington Orcas, Auckland Vulcans in Pool A and Canterbury, Akarana Falcons and Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions in Pool B.

Download the NZRL app on your iPhone or Android through the app store, and you'll receive live notifications as the results come in. You can refer to LeagueNet ([click here for link](#)) for live scoring and results as they happen too.

There will also be daily wrap-up graphics on the NZRL Facebook page and the NZRL website. These wrap-ups will be accompanied by interviews with players so you don't miss out on the action.

Thanks to passionate supporters of the women's game, Mainstream for sponsoring \$250 vouchers for the recipient of the 'Player of the Round' awards that will be given out after each round.

One game per day will be livestreamed on the NZRL Facebook page. These will include:

Day one 2 June, 2.30pm – Auckland Vulcans v Wellington Orcas

Day two 3 June, 1.30pm – 1st Pool A v 2nd Pool B (Semi Final 1)

Day three 4 June, 1pm – Grand Final

Will the Counties Manukau Stingrays take out their ninth successive National Women's Tournament title or will there be another team that takes the crown this year?

New CEO At The Helm Of The New Zealand Rugby League

By NZRL

THE NEW Zealand Rugby League (NZRL) is set for a boost with new internationally respected Chief Executive Officer, Greg Peters at the helm of the organisation.

Announced at a press conference today, Peters' appointment marks another positive change for the organisation that is determined to press forward.

Peters' experience as a successful sports administrator spans 20 years and includes five years as the Sydney-based CEO of SANZAR; two years with the Argentinean Rugby Union in the General Manager role; four years as CEO of the Hurricanes and Wellington Rugby; and eight years working for the New Zealand Rugby Union in various roles involving the grassroots and professional game.

Originally hailing from Canterbury but also spending a number of years in the Waikato and Wellington, Peters returned to Wellington from Argentina in 2016. As part of his new role Peters will relocate to Auckland, joining the NZRL in mid-June following the Board's 2018 Annual meeting on 18 June.

The Castle review conducted at the conclusion of the Kiwis' 2017 Rugby League World Cup campaign identified "a need for knowledge, expertise, understanding, leadership and capability at the high performance sport level and at the CEO position." Based on these recommendations, the NZRL Board brought in Global Elite Sports to assist with recruitment.

Confident that Peters' is the right person for the job, the New Zealand Rugby League Chairman, Reon Edwards says his appointment brings about some exciting prospects for the organisation.

"When it comes to leading high performance organisations to the top, Peters has the resume and experience to prove he is the one to lead the New Zealand Rugby League into a new era," said NZRL Chair Reon Edwards.

"Our game requires a strong, resilient leader who understands the nuances of grassroots sports and the connection with our community, while having the leadership qualities and commercial skills to grow the NZRL brand. Greg's C.V. speaks for itself. He is a

proven CEO with plenty of experience at provincial and international level. He's now excited about the prospect of applying his vast experience to a game he follows as a fan and has huge respect for.

"With the recent appointment of Michael Maguire as Kiwis Head Coach, and now Greg Peters set to lead the organisation, I believe we have leaders with the capability to implement the necessary systems and processes that will drive NZRL into the future.

"Our rugby league community expect that we represent the NZRL values of integrity, respect, leadership, courage and passion to the highest standard, and Greg does so in the most humble fashion," Edwards said.

As an avid supporter of sport and its societal impact, Peters understands that the success of a high performing sport organisation is the result of several different factors.

"High performance sport is not just about what happens on the field – it's the whole organisation from grassroots to the elite.

"While my experience has predominantly been in rugby union, the fundamentals of leading a sports organisation to succeed are transferrable and my focus now is getting the NZRL to reach new heights.

"I know New Zealanders are passionate about their rugby league and if we re-establish trust in the NZRL brand, we can re-position rugby league in the hearts and minds of the wider community.

"Rugby league has the power to galvanise, unite and inspire communities in a way that few other sports can," Peters said.

Bio – Greg Peters

2017 – Forefront Sports and Media Consultant
2015 – 2016 General Manager, Argentina Rugby Union
2010 – 2015 CEO, SANZAR
2006 – 2010 CEO, Wellington Rugby and Hurricanes
2003 – 2006 Broadcasting Renewal Project Manager, NZRU
2001 – 2003 General Manager Support Services, NZRU
2000 – 2001 General Manager, Game Development, NZRU
1998 – 2000 Amateur Rugby Manager, NZRU
1997 – 1998 CEO, Bay of Plenty Rugby Football Union



Broadhurst-Shelford Trophy Unveiled For Manly V Warriors Match In Christchurch

THIS WEEK in Christchurch a very special trophy for the Manly v Warriors match in Christchurch was unveiled.

Ngāi Tahu presented the special taonga Te Ātanga, the Broadhurst-Shelford Trophy, for the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles match against the Vodafone Warriors on June 9 in Christchurch.

The name Te Ātanga (my beautiful one, my adornment) comes from “E rere taku kahu ātangātanga – Soar my beautiful eagle”. The eagle in flight is a wonderful thing to see, a beautiful vision, referring to the way both teams play the game, with speed and skill, that wows the masses.

The trophy recognises two former Christchurch greats, Mark Broadhurst and Adrian Shelford who represented Manly in the 1980s and 1990s, and started their careers in Canterbury club rugby league.

Manly has committed to a home game in Christchurch for 2018 and 2019 with an option for a third match in 2020 and the trophy will be on the line every time Manly takes the field in Christchurch.

The trophy has a particular significance for Adrian Shelford’s whānau (family) who whakapapa to Ngāi Tahu, the South Island iwi (tribe) whose tribal takiwā (territory) the game is being played in.

Hami Shelford said his family was honoured by the recognition his brother Adrian received through the trophy. He said that the family remembered Adrian, who passed away in 2003, as a man with the determination and commitment to succeed in everything he did.

Mark Broadhurst has been excited about his old club taking the field in his home town, of Christchurch, and having this unique trophy named after him was clearly unexpected.

The taonga trophy was carved and designed by Ngāi Tahu master carver Fayne Robinson, himself an ex-player and keen supporter of rugby league, who also designed the Manly playing jersey for the game, and showcases a mere pounamu (short hand-club) encased in a wood carving.

The pounamu was gifted by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and the trophy was commissioned by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The pounamu in the trophy is in the form of a short, traditional hand held weapon to express the story of two teams in close combat. “The head at the front of the trophy is acting as a guardian on behalf of the Shelford and Broadhurst whānau”, said Fayne.

Lisa Tumahai, Kaiwhakahaere (Chair) of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, said that the trophy and the wider partnership with Manly was a great opportunity to showcase Ngāi Tahu culture and identity and promote health and wellbeing.

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“Supporting this game has been an opportunity for Fayne to show his art to the world and promote sport and healthy living to our whānau,” says Lisa.

Manly CEO Lyall Gorman said that his club was deeply touched and honoured by this gift from Ngāi Tahu. “And just like the jersey, it underlines Manly’s partnership and long-term commitment to the Christchurch community,” says Gorman.

Gorman recently received a pōwhiri welcome from Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri at Tuahiwi Marae earlier this year and says that the partnership with Ngāi Tahu has significantly added to the match.

“I want the players to experience the Ngāi Tahu culture the same way that I experienced it during my last visit and make everyone in the club understand that this fixture is much, much more than just another road trip,” said Mr Gorman, referring to the pōwhiri welcome the Sea Eagles will enjoy at the Ngā Hau e Whā National Marae on arrival in Christchurch next Tuesday.

Tickets Still Available In All Categories

There’s still great tickets available for Manly v Warriors in all categories. This game is NOT sold out. Most tickets remaining are undercover.

The best value tickets are in the Warriors supporter zone. They are \$39 each and you are close to halfway and undercover.

To purchase tickets to the Warriors supporters zone use this special link:

<http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?pp=QMEMB&sh=MANLYWAR18>

Tickets Still Available For Gala Dinner

There are still some tickets available for the Manly v Warriors Gala Dinner on Thursday 6 June at Sixty6 on Peterborough. It’s going to be a fantastic night filled with rugby league royalty. IN addition to members of the Sea Eagles and Warriors teams, Graham Lowe will be there as guest speaker, Frank Endacott will be filling the room with his stories and laughter and a favourite of those in Christchurch, Sir Peter Leitch will also be there.

To get a very special price for any remaining tickets phone Event organiser Justin Wallace on 027 251 5210 or email justin@walcoevents.nz



Trophy blessing.

This Warriors Life Top 10 - Warriors Unlucky Not To Play Origin

By Will Evans

WITH QUEENSLAND and New South Wales naming their squads for the 2018 series opener this week, we're taking a look back at the Warriors most unfortunate to miss out on a State of Origin call-up during their time at the club.

THISWARRIORSLIFE.COM TOP 10 – WARRIORS UNLUCKY NOT TO PLAY ORIGIN

10. Tony Martin

Gladstone product Martin was talked about as a potential Queensland bolter during his three seasons as a foundation Melbourne Storm player, which included scoring a try in the club's stunning 1999 grand final victory over St George Illawarra.

The classy centre heading to London Broncos for a three-year stint in 2001 but returned to the NRL with the Warriors in '04.

A reliable backline performer and quality goalkicker, Martin never really entered the Maroons conversation again with the likes of Paul Bowman, Willie Tonga, Brent Tate, Steve Bell, Justin Hodges, Shaun Berrigan and Josh Hannay at their disposal, but he wouldn't have let anyone down in the Origin arena.

After scoring 270 points in 53 games for the Warriors, Martin played out his career in Super League with Wakefield Trinity, Celtic Crusaders and Hull FC.

9. Robbie Mears

Never a realistic chance of getting picked, but there were no NSW hookers playing better football in 1999-2000 than Warriors livewire Mears.

The former Roosters and Bulldogs rake was a low-key signing for Auckland midway through 1999 but he provided outstanding return on the Warriors' minimal investment, going on to win the club's Player of the Year gong in 2000.

Converted halfbacks Craig Gower and Geoff Toovey were the Blues' hookers during those seasons' Origin campaigns, while Mears was controversially released by the Warriors following the sale of the club at the end of 2000.

After a year at Leeds, Mears returned to the NRL with Wests Tigers.

8. Wade McKinnon

An electrifying ball-runner not dissimilar to James Tedesco in style, former Souths and Parramatta fullback Wade McKinnon was an instant sensation after joining the Warriors in 2007.

McKinnon chalked up seven Dally M votes in his first six games for his new club, but the fiery custodian's two-match ban for contact with a referee ruled him out of a potential City Origin call-up and crucial opportunities to impress the NSW selectors.

Anthony Minichiello and debutant Brett Stewart wore the Blues' No.1 jersey in 2007, while injury wrecked McKinnon's 2008 campaign.

McKinnon represented City in 2009 but versatile NSW captain Kurt Gidley was picked as the Blues' fullback. The St Clair Comets junior linked with Wests Tigers midway through 2010 before finishing his professional career at Hull FC.

Continued on next page...

7. Nathan Fien

The only player on this list who reached State of Origin level during their career, Mount Isa product Fien was North Queensland's halfback when he was named as a shock selection at hooker for the Maroons during the 2001 series.

The 21-year-old ultimately came off the bench in a forgettable 26-8 loss in Sydney and made way for the stunning return of Allan Langer in the decider, destined to go down as an Origin 'one-game wonder'.

After helping the Cowboys to a maiden finals appearance in 2004, Fien joined the Warriors and racked up 105 appearances for the club. He was part of QAS Emerging Origin squads from 2004-06 but Scott Prince and Johnathan Thurston occupied the Maroons' No.7 jumper, while the likes of Matt Bowen and Shaun Berigan were preferred as versatile bench options.

Fien instead threw his lot in with New Zealand, erroneously allowed to make his Test debut in 2006 in what infamously became known as 'Grandma-gate'. But he qualified on residential grounds two years later and went on to play 20 Tests for the Kiwis, including a World Cup triumph in 2008 and a Four Nations success in 2010 in which he scored the winning try – ironically with both finals played at Suncorp Stadium, Queensland's Origin headquarters.

He left the Warriors midway through 2009 and won a premiership with the Dragons the following season.

6. James Maloney

Maloney made his NRL debut with Melbourne but was relatively unknown until becoming the Warriors' linchpin in 2010.

The game-breaking five-eighth steered the Warriors to back-to-back finals series in his first two years in Auckland, but Jamie Soward (2011) and Todd Carney (2012) were preferred as Mitchell Pearce's NSW halves partners. Both were discarded after one series and never picked again.

After an unhappy 2012 Warriors campaign, Maloney returned home to Sydney and made his Origin debut in 2013 a few months prior to guiding the Roosters to a premiership. He has played nine matches for the Blues to date and won another grand final with Cronulla in 2016.

The 2016-17 Kangaroos rep joined Penrith this year and seems certain to retain his NSW jumper with his 32nd birthday just around the corner.

5. Richard Villasanti

The Warriors' first Australian international rep and the only player to make their debut for the Kangaroos from the club, 'Villa the Gorilla' is among a select band of players – including the likes of Chris Lawrence, Daniel Gartner, Darren Britt, Nathan Blacklock and Joel Clinton – to wear the green and gold but fail to win Origin selection.

Canberra-born Villasanti cut his teeth with Balmain and Wests Tigers before rising to prominence at the Warriors in 2001. He is perhaps best remembered for an ugly head clash with Brad Fittler that proved a turning point in the 2002 grand final loss to the Roosters, but the front-row hitman's form the following season saw him play against several clubmates in Australia's loss to New Zealand at the end of 2003.

Villasanti missed out on a NSW call-up the following season, with rival props Ryan O'Hara and Brent Kite handed debuts instead. His club form deteriorated and he switched to Cronulla midway through 2006.

4. Ivan Cleary

A top-shelf centre, Cleary's preferred position was fullback but the presence of Matthew Ridge at Manly, Matt Seers and Norths and Andrew Walker at Sydney City saw him play the bulk of his football at those three clubs in the three-quarter line.

The sharpshooter, who set a new premiership record with 284 points for the Roosters in 1998, arrived in Auckland in 2000 – seemingly as a replacement for Ridge, but he started the year at centre before suffering a season-ending injury in Round 6. Cleary belatedly received the opportunity to lock down the Warriors' No.1 jumper in 2001 under Daniel Anderson.

With David Peachey, Robbie Ross and David Peachey (who between them had filled the fullback role for NSW in the previous eight series) on the injured list, the Blues were on the hunt for a new custodian.

Cleary could have been an option but being shuffled to centre then five-eighth prior to game one selection did the 30-year-old's prospects few favours. Newcastle fullback fill-in Mark Hughes got the nod for the '01 series loss. Brett Hodgson emerged in 2002, the year the ultra-consistent Cleary hung up the boots after the Warriors' historic grand final appearance.

3. Mark Tookey

A Queensland Under-19s rep, the burly Tookey was an instant first-grade cult hero for the South Queensland Crushers and Parramatta Eels, but he played the best footy of his career after joining the Warriors in 2000.

With his trademark flat-top haircut, goatee and generous mid-section, 'Tooks' was just as popular with the Ericsson Stadium faithful. He was included in the Emerging Maroons camp in early-2002, which spurred him on to his best season, playing 24 games in the Warriors' charge to the grand final.

But Queensland's selectors preferred 2001 debutants Petero Civoniceva, Chris Beattie, John Buttigieg and Carl Webb, and recalled stalwarts Steve Price and Andrew Gee as front-row sidekicks for the game's No.1 prop, Shane Webcke.

Tookey, whose weight and ability to play big minutes was a perpetual concern, headed to Super League mid-way through 2004.

2. Brent Webb

Cairns product Webb caught the eye during a stellar Queensland Cup campaign for Brisbane Wests in 2001 but was still relatively unknown when he became one of the Warriors' most inspired signings the following season.

Selected in the Emerging Maroons squad at the start of 2002, Webb was a Mr. Fix-it at five-eighth, hooker, centre, fullback and off the bench that season but was left out of the Warriors' squad for their finals campaign.

Webb, of Torres Strait Islander descent, developed into one of the NRL's most exciting No.1s following the retirement of Ivan Cleary. The emergence of an incredible crop of Maroons fullbacks – Matt Bowen, Rhys Wesser, Billy Slater and Clinton Schifcofske – meant he was never a realistic chance of an Origin call-up, despite his versatility.

The instinctive ball-player instead pledged his allegiance to New Zealand, playing the first of 17 Tests during the 2004 Tri-Nations. After 103 games for the Warriors, Webb joined Leeds Rhinos in 2007 and won three grand finals during an eight-season stay.

Continued from previous page...

1. Micheal Luck

North Queensland rookie Luck was one of just two players (with Brisbane's Michael Ryan) selected in the inaugural Queensland Emerging Origin squad in 2001 that did not go on to represent the Maroons – but he went desperately close during a seven-season tenure in Auckland.

The industrious back-rower joined the Warriors in 2006, was a regular fill-in captain and played a vital role in the club's charge to the 2011 grand final. Luck was the Warriors' Player of the Year in 2009 after returning to the Emerging Maroons camp at the start of that year.

Exactly the type of wholehearted, punch-above-their-weight forward Queensland has built its success on – think Paul Vautin, Billy Moore, Dallas Johnson and Ashley Harrison – Luck was 18th man for game three of the 2007 series but was consistently and frustratingly on the fringe of selection thereafter.

Luck retired at the end of 2012 after becoming the eighth player to bring up 150 first-grade appearances for the club.

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Former Internationals Named For Tonga NZ Residents

By ARL

FORMER NEW Zealand and Mate Ma'a Tonga representatives Epalahame Lauaki and Tevita Latu headline the Tonga New Zealand Residents squad named to play Auckland on June 2 at Mount Smart Stadium.

In a decorated 11-year career which saw him play in both the NRL and UK Super League competitions, Lauaki was capped twice by the Kiwis and three times by his birth nation Tonga, while Latu amassed four Test caps between the two nations, with both players appearing at the 2008 Rugby League World Cup.

Joining the pair in the wider squad for the inaugural Upright Access Mann Cup are a host of players who have come through the Vodafone Warriors' system, with prop Daniel Palavi, winger Saula Solomona and halfback Eko Malu all bringing vast experience.

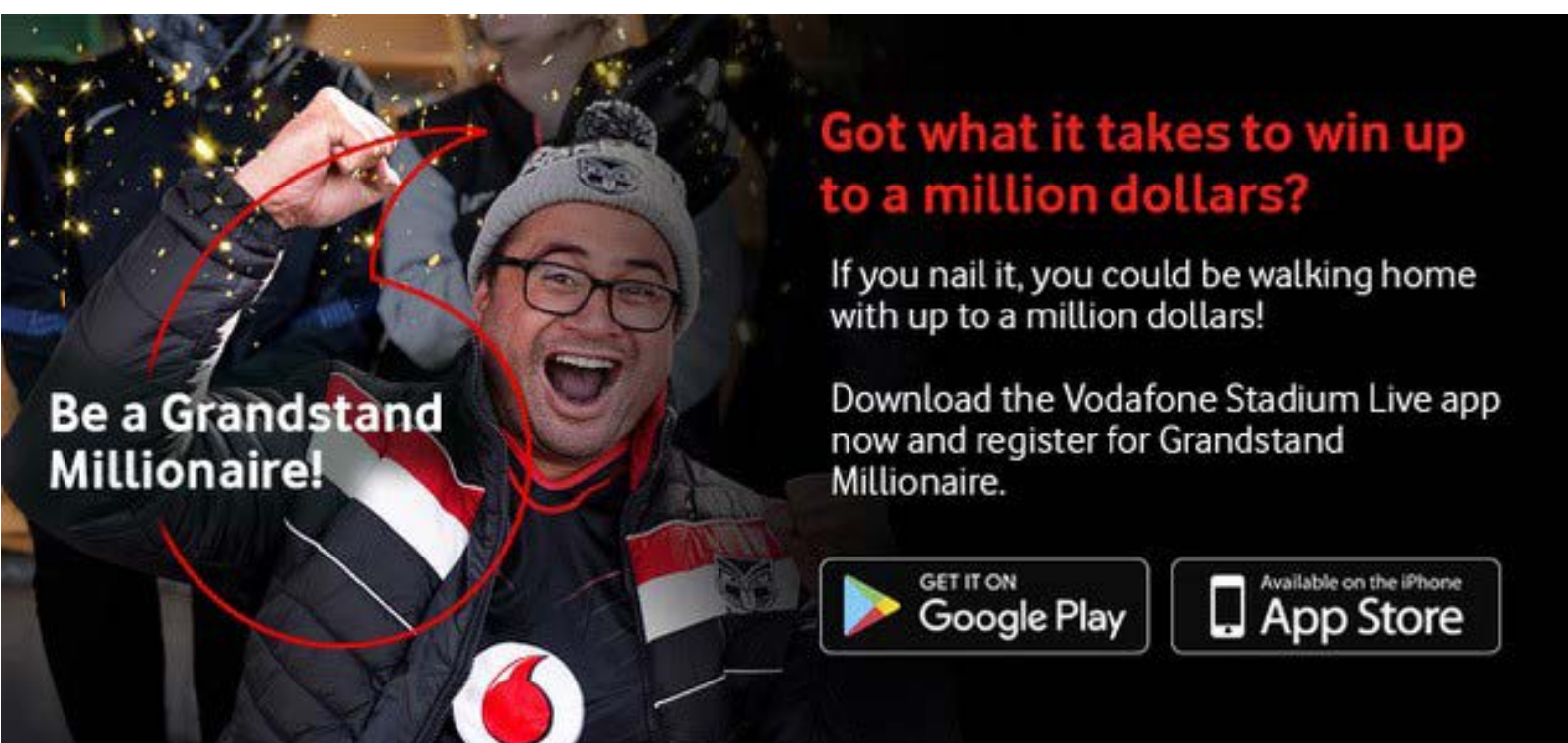
Head coach Duane Mann said he had focussed on achieving the right balance with his squad.

"I wanted to make sure we had the right mix of youth and experience," Mann said.

"Players like Soape Kavaliku, Epalahame Lauaki and Tevita Latu have been around the top scene for a long time and have given a lot back to club league in Auckland, and they join some really talented guys in their early 20s.

"Having those experienced guys around to promote the cultural aspect will also be important. It's a huge part of this game, and whether it's a Tongan, Maori or Kiwi team, culture is so important."

Henderson Cars Tonga New Zealand Residents squad: Ma'afu Briggs (Marist Saints), Nicholas Halalilo (Mangere East Hawks), Richard Holani (Otahuhu Leopards), Soape Kavaliku (Glenora Bears), Tom Kavali-ku (Marist Saints), Tevita Latu (Pt Chevalier Pirates), Epalahame Lauaki (Glenora Bears), Francis Leger (Pt Chevalier Pirates), Seiloni Liava'a (Howick Hornets), Sioli Makau (Pt Chevalier Pirates), Eko Malu (Northcote Tigers), Paea Manukia (Glenora Bears), Tevita Mikaele (Otahuhu Leopards), Ethan Nukanuka (Otahuhu Leopards), Peter Oliveti (Mt Albert Lions), Koli Oneone (Pt Chevalier Pirates), Daniel Palavi (Pt Chevalier Pirates), Paea Palu (Mt Albert Lions), Cyrus Payne (Marist Saints), Joseph Price (Mt Albert Lions), Troy Pulupaki (Howick Hornets), Trent Schaumkel (Northcote Tigers), Jonah Sofele (Otahuhu Leopards), Saula Solomona (Pt Chevalier Pirates), William Stowers (Papakura Sea Eagles), Dakohta Taimani (Mangere East Hawks), Akuila Tuha (Papakura Sea Eagles), Kruz Tupou (Howick Hornets), Toni Tupouniua (Marist Saints), Sione Tongia (Otahuhu Leopards), Dylan Uate (Otahuhu Leopards), Netane Vi (Mangere East Hawks).



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ARL Match Reports

By ARL

A Manukau player on the charge v Te Atatu.

Rd 8 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Match Reports

Mt Albert 22 Pt Chevalier 32

The Pirates maintained their unbeaten start to the season, running out 32-22 winners over Mt Albert at Mount Smart Stadium. The match, which was played as the curtain-raiser to the New Zealand Warriors' NRL clash at the venue, saw both sides trade tries through the 80 minutes, but with Pt Chevalier always in front. Centre Francis Leger was a standout for the Pirates, scoring a try and lending a hand in setting up several others.

Papakura 4 Otahuhu 38

Otahuhu delivered a masterclass in attacking rugby league, leaving the Papakura Sea Eagles with no answer at Prince Edward Park. The Leopards scored twice inside the first 15 minutes, before blowing Papakura away with a handful of tries late in the first stanza, including two long-range efforts from wingers Setu Tu and Emeliano Mikaele. The match finished prematurely, called off with 12 minutes to play due to an injury to Papakura's Tau Manuleli'A.

Howick 42 Marist 4

Thirty six unanswered points in the second half saw Howick clock a comfortable win over the Marist Saints. Up just 6-4 at the break, the Hornets turned it on in the second 40, with winger Lui Tusa scoring twice.

Mangere East 6 Glenora 26

The Glenora Bears made it seven wins on trot with a road win against Mangere East. The youthful Hawks started well, but Glenora still took a 16-0 lead to the break. Bears fullback Wyatt Rangi was instrumental in the result, while veteran hooker Zac Tippins worked tirelessly through the middle of the park.

Richmond 10 Northcote 52

The Northcote Tigers kept pace with the competition's top four, disposing of Richmond on the road to make it three wins on the trot. Prolific winger James Waterson and captain Taylor Daniels were among the scorers for Northcote, while experienced centre Nalu Tuigamala was accurate off the boot, more often than not turning four points into six.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Rd 6 Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Match Reports

Mt Wellington 10 Ellerslie 40

The Ellerslie Eagles blew Mt Wellington away in the second half to register their fourth win of the year. Up 10-6 midway through the first half, Mt Wellington couldn't foot it with the Eagles through the second. Experienced hooker Darin Kingi and captain Vili Li were standouts for Ellerslie.

Te Atatu 34 Manukau 14

Te Atatu finished comfortable winners in a fiery match, which saw five different players sent to the sin bin across the 80 minutes. Manukau scored first and were the superior team for much of the first half, but struggled to execute. English lock forward Conal Bevan got through a mountain of work in defence and carried the ball well for the Roosters in the win.

Papatoetoe 22 Manurewa 58

Four tries to halfback Cody Mahuika lifted Manurewa to a big win over south Auckland rivals Papatoetoe. The Marlins employed an open style of rugby league, with their playmakers leading the way. The victory was Manurewa's second of the year.

Hibiscus Coast 20 Otara 32

Otara survived a second-half comeback to defeat the Hibiscus Coast on the road. At 26-0 up at the break, the Scorpions were cruising, but had no answer for much of what the Raiders threw at them in second. In the end the Scorpions rallied to hold on for a win which sneaks them back inside the top eight.

New Lynn 22 Northern 16

New Lynn won a thriller at Lawson Park, repelling a last-minute raid from Northern to pick up win number three for the year. The Stags started well, but periods of poor discipline gave Northern an avenue back into the game, and at one point it was the visitors who led by six points in the second half.

Pakuranga 32 Ponsonby 24

The Pakuanga Jaguars upset the Ponsonby Ponies to register their third win of the campaign. The Jaguars took a 20-point lead into the break, and despite a stirring second-half comeback from Ponsonby, held on to win at Ti Rakau Park.

Waitemata 12 Bay Roskill 34

The Vikings remain undefeated competition leaders, coming out triumphant in the west Auckland derby v Waitemata. Second-rower Justus Loseve led the way for Bay Roskill, in a game where Waitemata matched last year's beaten grand finalists in a number of key areas.

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SHARKS STORM KNIGHTS NEWCASTLE PANTHERS RAIDERS

Masters League “Battle at Ngamotu”

By Patea Masters management

Photography by Nicky Gray

ON THE 27 May 2018 The Patea Warriors from South Taranaki traveled to New Plymouth to play against the Western Suburbs Tigers in a intriguing game of Masters Rugby League, the weather was expecting heavy rain falls however the sun stood out and it wasn't going to stop the players of yester-year partake in a physical match in the “Battle @ Ngamotu “

The game was played with such passion but what else would you expect from these two legendary teams.

There was a incident that occurred during the game in which a Patea player was injured which was unexpected however the player is recovering well.

Although Patea took the win, you could sense the wairua from the Western Suburbs Tigers who never gave up and showed a lot of mana on the field throughout the game.

To see past players come out of the wood works from both sides giving their all and enjoying themselves was a awesome experience to witness.

Special Acknowledgement goes out the Western Suburbs Tigers Committee who were fantastic hosts on the day,the kai was phenomenal and enjoyed by all, also to a member of the Tigers club Edd Te Huia for his commitment and engagement towards the Masters organisation. With out the clubs involvement, this event would not have occurred.

And to those who received the Player of the day rewards and not to mention our Player of the day sponsor : 3B Fitness Club

Now that we will look forward to the next date which is set, the Patea Management deem the next rugby league match as a (“Give back to the local community event”) - an appreciation to thank to all the supporters that have made the time and effort to go out and observe the Masters Games around the “Naki” region.

The Patea Warriors hosting there first ever Rugby League match in 20 years on home soil Sunday 24th June at the Patea Domain.

There will be a huge crowd wanting to see this in full effect considering this will be the first League game in a very long time.



Darren Pullen breaking through the line.



Tu toa Patea warriors in support.



The big show ihaka Crawford being stop from the Tigers defence.



Beko Netball League Delivering Excitement Around The Country



THE BEKO Netball League is well underway for the 2018 season with Round 3 completed this weekend. This fundamental performance pathway for Netball in New Zealand features six teams representing Zones from around the country; Northern Marvels, Northern Comets, Netball Waikato-BOP, Netball Central, Heller's Mainland and Netball South.

The Beko Netball League is designed to grow the talent and competitiveness, preparing athletes for elite netball in the ANZ Premiership and beyond. Matches are played on Saturdays and Sundays for 11 weeks, culminating with a grand final on 29 July 2018.

Round 3 saw victories to Waikato-BOP, Central and Mainland.

Waikato-BOP, the only unbeaten team after three rounds, continued to impress and set the pace in their match against the Northern Comets. This curtain raiser game for the ANZ Premiership saw the visiting team take home the win, 70-46.

Waikato-BOP captain, Simmon Howe said "It was a grind at the start but at the end we pulled away and I'm really happy to get the win. Getting our whole 10 on court and playing really well was a really consistent game from us."

Heading down south, Central dominated and were able to beat South 60-36. Both teams were locked 11-11 at the quarter break but Central lifted in the second half to net the confidence-boosting win.

Mainland led at every break against the Marvels but faced a few anxious moments in the deciding quarter as the Marvels came within two. Mainland eventually took the win, 53-51 and now sit in second place on the points ladder behind Waikato-BOP.

Make sure to head along to a game near you for Round 4!

Round 4 schedule:

Marvels v Central – Saturday 2 June, 1:30pm – Auckland Netball Centre, Auckland

Mainland v WBOP – Sunday 3 June, 5:30pm – EA Networks Centre, Ashburton

South v Comets – Sunday 3 June, 2pm – ILT Stadium Southland, Invercargill [LIVE on SKY Sport]

And if you head to any televised Beko Netball League match this season you could win a Beko Washer & Dryer AND go in the draw to win \$15,000 worth of Beko Appliances!

To keep up with all things #BNL, visit NetballNZ.co.nz or follow @NetballNewZealand on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Reader Mail

Morena Peter,

THANKS AGAIN for the shout out and cards and magazines for the kids. I've attached a photo of our team the Titahi Bay Marlins under 13s (yellow & blue) after their first game against Te Aroha Eels. Here is a brief on the team after 6 rounds of footy.

The Titahi Bay Marlins 13s represent a small proud community in Porirua City and is made up of newbies to the game of Rugby League. They are loving the game as it teaches them new skills and involves a lot of one on one confrontations. After 6 rounds of the Wellington Rugby League under 13s grade competition, the Marlins find themselves on top of the table with 5 wins and one draw. Led by captain Arkaid Edmonds the boys have learned the structures of playing lefts and rights and more importantly to give it their best and have fun playing the game with their mates. The Marlins were surprised with a special shout out video from the Mad Butcher himself as well as a few league gifts for the team to keep them motivated and grateful.



Cheers Cassius

Sir Peter

I'd like to take this opportunity and thank you for the invite to the Stacy Jones lounge for the Warriors vs Rabbitohs game.

You truly are an amazing host and such a fine ambassador for the great game of Rugby League not only in New Zealand but across the world.

Couple of years ago I was walking thru old town Cartagena Spain with my Souths top on and a gentleman came up to me and said have you heard of the butcher I thought to myself what the hell we have here I said sorry he said the butcher he played rugby league for New Zealand and has a chain of butcher shops named after him I said funny enough of bumped into him on the odd occasion.

He then went on to say how he was in a hotel with his grandson and the New Zealand team we're staying there and he bumped into you he wasn't a follower of league and certainly didn't follow New Zealand but after that encounter certainly became a New Zealand rugby league fan he also went on to mention that you went away came back with a kiwi shirt and cap for the boy.

I then went on to say google the name Sir Peter Leitch he thought I was joking when I said Sir also there is a fantastic reading book about.

Can't recall him playing for New Zealand but there you go.

Sir Peter what you have done for New Zealand Rugby League and the Mighty Vodafone Warriors is second to no one.

Once again thank you for the great hospitality and may great league always be the winner.

PS I love invites ha ha

Cheers Rabbitoh - Jeremy Shannon





THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 10 ISSUE

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



ROUND 13, 2018

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We're now halfway through the NRL season and it's the perfect opportunity to reassess your team's premierships credentials. Are they flying under the radar like the Cronulla Sharks? Have they stunned the competition like the Penrith Panthers? Or are they seriously battling to keep their head above water like the Parramatta Eels? Big League has done the research to predict who will finish in the top eight and who is hoping for better luck next year.

Ben Hunt was taken from the field with a bad corked leg during the Dragons' loss to the Panthers last week, but was named to play starting halfback for Queensland in Game One of the State of Origin series. In an exclusive column with Big League, Hunt reveals the extent of the injury and why nothing could stop him from pulling on the Maroons jersey next week.

Sam, Tom, and George Burgess have been in outstanding form for the Rabbitohs in 2018. New coach Anthony Seibold explains how he is getting the best out of twins George and Tom to inspire a form revival, and why he believes Sam is the best forward in the game.

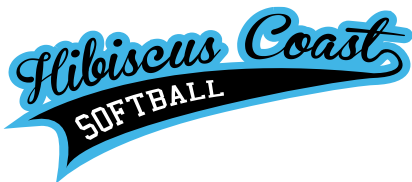
PLUS... This Week in History, Blues captain Boyd Cordner vows to aim up, 10 minutes with Daniel Alvaro, why Mahe Fonua respects Ivan Cleary more for dropping him, and a Roosters poster.

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Call for Nominations.

Your input makes for a great club.

The HBCSC Annual General Meeting is Wednesday 13th June, 7 pm at the Silverdale Rotary Club.
Are you keen to help out with the HBC Softball Club?

We have a number of positions available, all varied and something to suit whatever time you're able to give.

Positions like:

Marketing & Promotions

Scoring & Stats

Gear Coordinator

Fundraising

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Coaching/Management Co-Ordinator

Plus the core roles of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer

You'll be supported in these roles, so you won't be on your own! HBCSC will facilitate workshops and training material for you. The roles can be shaped by what time commitment you can spare.
More information on each role is available via the links below.

So there you have it!

Please email your completed nomination form to secretary@hbcsoftball.org.nz before Wednesday 30th May.

The nomination form is available here.

Key dates: **Wed 30 May: Final day for nominations**



Venue: **Rotary House, Silverdale.**
2 Hibiscus Coast Hwy, Silverdale 0932.

Date: **13th June 2018**

Time: **7:00 pm Start**

See you there...

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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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