

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

13th June 2018

Newsletter #221

Vodafone Warriors Defeat the Sea Eagles in Christchurch

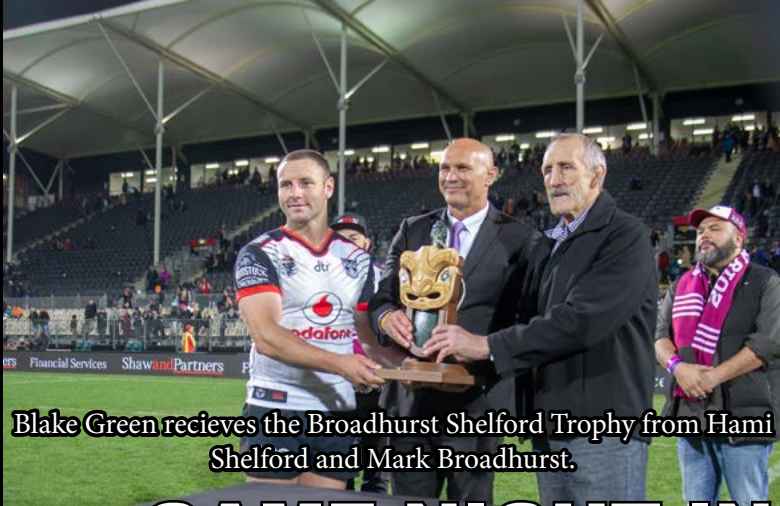


Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

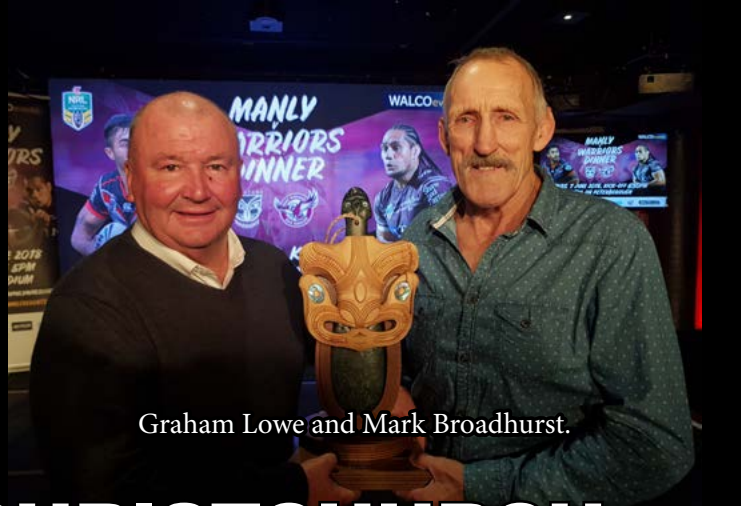


Shaun's first NRL game against the Roosters.

**Congratulations
on 150 NRL
Games Shaun
Johnson**



Blake Green receives the Broadhurst Shelford Trophy from Hami Shelford and Mark Broadhurst.



Graham Lowe and Mark Broadhurst.

GAME NIGHT IN CHRISTCHURCH



Justin Wallace with his sons Jonny and Harry before the game.



Ken Maumalo and David Fisitua with the Broadhurst Shelford Trophy.



Vodafone Warriors with the Broadhurst Shelford Trophy.



Manly faithful enjoying AMI Stadium.



Shaun meets his fans after the game..more league in Christchurch please.



The Linwood Keas come from behind to win the half time relay once again and take the cheque for \$1000 thanks to AMI Insurance.

A Big Shout Out

By Sir Peter Leitch



VODAFONE WARRIORS playing the Manly Sea Eagles in Christchurch. Justin's event business has raised over \$1.6 million over the last 8 years. What a fantastic promotion for rugby league in the South and both tams really did their part to promote the great game with school visits etc. Justin's passion for the game shone through with a full week of activities starting with a junior skills clinics Tuesday, a State of Origin event with Trent Barrett and John Cartwright Wednesday night and then Thursday night a dinner with 200 guests and ex kiwi and Manly coach Graham Lowe as the guest speaker. Graham was sensational he spoke from the heart and got very emotional at times and was no doubt the star of the night. Then on Friday night Justin organised a function at my good mate Gary Clarke's museum for EX KIWI's and officials by all accounts everyone have a great night. Justin also commissioned the Broadhurst-Shelford trophy "Te Atanga" to remember two of our great Kiwi players which is of course in the Warriors trophy cabinet. And the weather for the game was perfect on Saturday and just 300 off a sell out crowd bloody marvellous plus a couple of shots on the TV during the game absolutely show cased the stadium and Christchurch and of course my beloveds Vodafone Warriors got the win and that just made my weekend but very seriously Justin deserves a lot of credit because he showcased rugby league in Christchurch and we owned the town for the weekend.



This is one of the shots that appeared in the TV Coverage on SkyTV.



The trophy the teams played for,

Here Is Justin's Next Big Project...



SECURE YOUR RINGSIDE TABLE TODAY!

JOIN US at Horncastle Arena on Saturday 4 August as 20 brave contenders step into the ring for Christchurch's most exciting fight night!

The contenders are sweating it out in the training ring, preparing themselves for the fight of their lives and we have your ringside hospitality packages available now.

Over the past 8 years, this event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Christchurch based charities, - join us on the night to add to that total!

Enjoy a red carpet arrival as you enter the Casino Royal - delivering a glamorous Las Vegas feel, hard-hitting entertainment and gourmet three-course dinner served to your ringside table.

Register your interest here: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/abf819d2a8f1443cbc7d0045e9a9c2ce>





RTS named to return in Townsville

by Richard Becht

CAPTAIN ROGER Tuivasa-Sheck is again in line to return from an ankle injury for the Vodafone Warriors' 15th-round NRL encounter with the North Queensland Cowboys at 1300SMILES Stadium in Townsville on Friday (6.00pm kick-off local time; 8.00pm NZT).

While he was included when the side was originally named for last week's clash against Manly, the 25-year-old was subsequently ruled out with the versatile Peta Hiku again filling the fullback's position.

However, Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney said Tuivasa-Sheck's hopes of playing this week were more encouraging after today's field session.

"He has a few more boxes he needs to tick but he's certainly better than he was last week," he said.

Kearney has listed the same starting line-up initially chosen for the Manly match. Hiku would again be in line to switch to fullback with Gerard Beale coming into the centres should Tuivasa-Sheck be forced to miss the contest on Friday night.

The extended interchange bench includes one change with centre Anthony Gelling added as a replacement for front rower Sam Lisone.

The Vodafone Warriors remain in fourth spot on 20 points heading into the 15th round, level on points with South Sydney and two behind St George Illawarra and Penrith.

The 9-4 start to the season, the second best in the club's history, contrasts with a grim first half of the campaign for the Cowboys.

They started the year as one of the title favourites after being beaten in the 2017 grand final but have won just four times in 14 matches so far, including only two from seven in Townsville.

Yet their record and the fact they sit 14th in the competition is of no consequence to the Vodafone Warriors as they contemplate one of their most difficult away assignments.

The overall record between the two clubs is dead even – 19 wins a piece – but it is tilted heavily in the Cowboys' favour at 1300SMILES Stadium (12-5). Of the last 12 matches there since 2002, the Vodafone Warriors have won just once, 20-16 in 2014.

Since starting 2018 with five straight wins, they have had four in their last eight outings with wins following losses.

Wing David Fusitu'a marked his 70th career appearance last Saturday with a hat-trick to take him into an outright lead in this year's NRL try-scoring stakes with 15 in 13 games. He now boasts 47 tries overall giving him a strike rate of a try every 1.48 games.

VODAFONE WARRIORS v NORTH QUEENSLAND COWBOYS

6.00pm, Friday, June 15, 2018
1300SMILES Stadium, Townsville

Vodafone Warriors

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

That Will Do Me

By David Kemeys

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



EVEN TACITURN Warriors coach Stephen Kearney was happy. He praised his players after their 34-14 NRL win over Manly, which seems fair enough given the Sea Eagles have beaten two million times out of the last two million games.

You would have to be a thoroughly miserable bastard not to have enjoyed watching us bounce back from the 30-10 shellacking we took from the Bunnies a fortnight ago.

Plenty of league geniuses, which is to say me, said the bye could not have come at a better time, and so it proved, the boys demolishing a side that has been a real bogey for us.

Kearney was thrilled, and why wouldn't he be, given a six-tries-to-two win.

"After the inconsistencies of the last six weeks, and particularly our last performance, it was a good way to bounce back."

Amen.

Lots of people are going to tell you Manly are not great, and they might even be right, but they are good enough to have tipped over Brisbane and the Storm, so they aren't as bad as some people are making out.

We certainly had to absorb a bit of pressure, and it did not help the Manly cause losing Apisai Koroisau early on either, and you know what, I don't care.

It was great to see Shaun Johnson return – and clock up game number 150. Who knows how many he would have played by now but for some awful injuries.

Plain and simple, we look a lot better side with him in it.

David Fusitu'a grabs a hat-trick, though god alone knows why they went upstairs for the third, but damned if you do, damned if you don't I suppose.

If you score three tries you'd expect to get the headlines, but it was the Johnson show really.

After a month out, the 27-year-old never missed a beat, and restored our attack, which had been lacking in recent weeks.

The other one I was pleased for was Solomone Kata, who must have read the col last week, which pointed out he needed to step up. He certainly did that, looking a real handful all night.

Ken Maumaolo was a wrecking ball and Peta Hiku, who has come in for some unearned in my view criticism, was rock solid at full back, especially defensively, coming in for Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, ruled out with an ankle injury.

That move saw Gerard Beale come in at right centre, and we did not lose anything.

Tuivasa-Sheck is a good chance of being back for Friday's away match against the Cowboys in Townsville.

So let's hark back to last week, when I said we would beat Manly, as I looked at our possible path to the holy land – finals footy.

I do not believe we are going to be all-conquering, the results are just too inconsistent, so I'm sticking with the win some, lose some theory.

There is nothing to suggest, given the Cowboys form, that we are not a shot of another win, although travelling to Townsville is as much fun as watching paint dry.

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A win this weekend is important because then it is the Sharks at home with the potential for disaster, with the Kiwis in Denver ahead of that.

Then it is the Panthers (away), Broncos (away) and Storm (home) – ugly reading. Anything out of those would be a major boost.

We will beat the Titans (away), probably the Dragons will be a bridge too far in Aussie, but then we will beat the Knights at home and the Bulldogs away.

The final two weeks of our campaign could still be crucial - beat the Panthers or the Raiders at home and book your finals tickets.

Mannering Still Silent

I was surprised to read some of the negative comments on Simon Mannering going around last week, as he considered his future.

For the veteran it is retirement or another season in 2019.

Mannering had said he would make his decision in the bye weekend but didn't.

"I guess missing the start of the season it has taken me longer to sort out."

The club has told him to take as much time as he needs.

I have been absolutely open that I will not have a bad word to say about a man who has in recent seasons been one of the few good things about our club.

I will say this though. All players face the end of the career, that's just life. But those who made online comments last week about him being over the hill must feel pretty bloody stupid after his performance on Saturday, where he was once again outstanding.

Time's Up For Manu

If you need evidence of my assertion all players have to face the end, consider Manu Vatuvei.

He's coming back to New Zealand after his Super League club Salford granted an early release due to ongoing injury issues.

Many of us were sad to see big Manu go, and he was a sensation when he arrived in Salford, scoring five tries in eight games.

This year he has not laced his boots because of an

Achilles injury.

"Unfortunately, the injury meant he would be out for the season," Salford's Ian Blease said. "We had hoped Manu would have played a significant part in our campaign but we now feel it is best for both parties for Manu to return home."

Just ask yourself one question, even with 152 tries in 226 games for the Warriors, and remember he is still only 32, would you welcome him back and send Ken Maumalo to the reserves?

No, didn't think so.

Bully In The Headlines

The man they call Bully, Issac Luke, is playing like a man possessed yet it could well be his last year with us.

He got off to a rocky start, and was man enough to admit it, but this year he has been among our best.

But the Herald on Sunday reported it's unlikely he will be at Mt Smart next season.

The issue is apparently the salary cap and the lack of space the club has under it.

Which is pretty rich when you look at the rosters some clubs boast, but who am I to throw stones?

Luke is 3, so probably needs to make his next contract count. But who would you rather see in No 9 jersey, Luke or Nathaniel Roache or maybe Karl Lawton?

Luke still has speed and strength and I would uncertainly not be unhappy if he stayed.

Unlike the fan who got stuck into Luke on Facebook after the hooker missed a high-five with a young fan, so returned to complete the salute – probably making the kids' day.

This sent this dimwit into a frenzy, with him taking to social media to slate the hooker as unfit and a disgrace to the jersey.

Luke fired back, but here's some advice Bully. You can't win dealing with arseholes hiding behind a keyboard, so let it slide.

To be fair, hundreds of fans rallied to Luke's cause, and good on them.

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Having given Luke some advice, it's only fair there's some for the Facebook poster, so here's a challenge for him. Rearrange the following words into a sentence.

Loser life a get.

And All That Jazz

You would not wish it on your worst enemy. Poor Jazz Tevaga had a shoulder operation after a cancer scare.

The great news is that it was successful and Tevaga could return to training ahead of Friday's match against the Cowboys.

He did not even know he had a lump. It was spotted by a teammate in the changing sheds.

I loved his quote in the paper, which absolutely underlines why I have taken a bit of a shine to him.

"I was shitting myself about it."

That is as honest as it gets, and that is also his style of play, 100% honesty and effort.

Fus Sticks With Tonga

Good on David Fusitu'a. He has turned down a return to the Kiwis, to represent Tonga.

You think back to all that was said about jumping ship ahead of the Rugby League World Cup and there is much to admire about his decision.

I would love to have him in a Kiwis shirt, but he went with Mate Ma'a Tonga and now says he wants to give back to the Island nation.

"When I think back to my parents' parents, who came over from Tonga and didn't have a lot but did what they could to give us a chance of a better future, I feel it's only right to give back."

Fusitu'a was actually born in Auckland –and that has nothing to do with it. Do I believe he is a proud Kiwi? Yes actually.

Do I support his decision to honour the sacrifices his family made in swapping Tonga for New Zealand to provide opportunities they cannot have believed they would have in Tonga? Yes, actually.

No problem. Good on you David.

Cowboys Team To Play Warriors

Cowboys: 1 Michael Morgan, 2 Kyle Feldt, 3 Enari Tuala, 4 Kane Linnett, 5 Javid Bowen, 6 Te Maire Martin, 7 Johnathan Thurston (c), 8 Matthew Scott (c), 9 Jake Granville, 10 Scott Bolton, 11 Gavin Cooper, 12 Coen Hess, 13 Jason Taumalolo

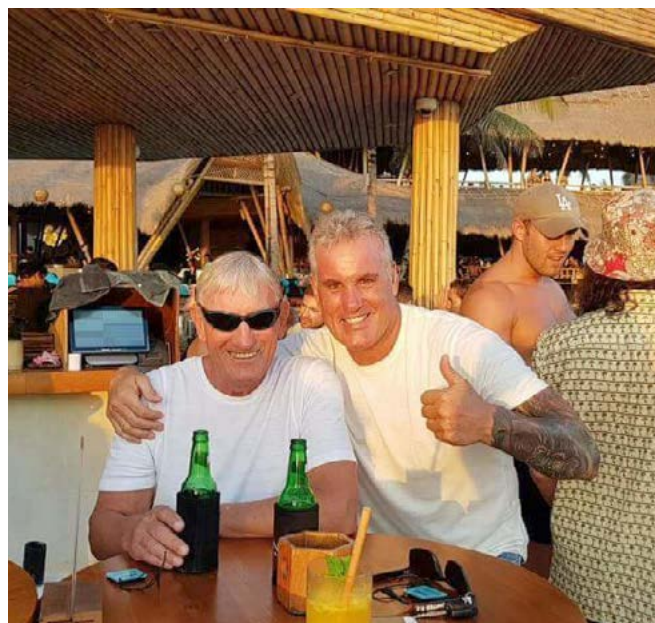
Interchange: 14 Ben Hampton, 15 Shaun Fensom, 16 Corey Jensen, 17 Sam Hoare

Reserves: 18 Justin O'Neill, 19 Ethan Lowe, 20 Mitchell Dunn, 21 Francis Molo



Northern Bulldogs v Papanui Tigers 8 years teams in the curtain raiser games.

Papanui Tigers v the Halswell Hornets 9 years teams in the curtain raiser games.



MY OLD mate Ray Haffendon (a great rugby league man) was holidaying in Bali and caught up with kiwi rugby legend Brent Todd. Brent played for the Raiders, Wakefield Trinity, Gold Coast Sea-gulls and Canterbury. Brent also started his rugby league career with Linwood in Christchurch



By Richard Becht

Mannering Retires From International Football

VETERAN VODAFONE Warriors back rower Simon Mannering has today announced his retirement from international rugby league, ruling him out of contention for the Kiwis' one-off Test against England at the Mile High Stadium in Denver on Saturday, June 23.

After representing the Kiwis in 45 Tests since his 2006 debut, the 31-year-old said the time was right to step aside.

"Going into the World Cup last year I sort of had it in the back of my mind that it would be my last campaign playing for the Kiwis," he said.

"It still doesn't make it an easy decision to make it official even though my days of being selected in the team are getting behind me.

"The idea of taking a Test to the United States is great for the game and it's exciting for younger players to be given an opportunity that I wish had been around when I started.

"I was honoured to wear the Kiwi jersey every time and it's been a huge privilege having the chance to play alongside so many outstanding players. It was also a special honour to captain my country.

"There have been so many great memories along the way like being involved in the World Cup win in 2008 and also the Four Nations victories in 2010 and 2014 but now I want to be able to focus on the Vodafone Warriors who have supported me throughout."

Mannering finishes with 45 Tests, fourth-equal on the Kiwis' all-time list with Stephen Kearney and Adam Blair behind Ruben Wiki (55) and Stacey Jones and Gary Freeman both on 46.

Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney said

Mannering had again underlined his selfless attitude with his decision.

"Simon is such a wonderful player and person and he's had an outstanding career with the Kiwis," he said.

"This decision emphasises once again how he always puts others before himself.

"I've had the pleasure of working alongside him with the Kiwis and now at the club and he's just tremendous in what he brings to every team he's involved in."

Making his NRL debut as an 18-year-old in 2005, Mannering is set to play his 290th game when the Vodafone Warriors play North Queensland on Friday night leaving him on track to become the first player to appear in 300 NRL games for the club.

He started his Test career against the Kangaroos in the 2006 Tri Nations while his 45th match was the quarter-final loss to Fiji Bati in Wellington at last year's Rugby League World Cup.

Mannering was in the centres when the Kiwis beat Australia 34-20 in Brisbane to win the World Cup for the first time in history in 2008 and was again in the centres in the 16-12 Four Nations final win against the Kangaroos at Suncorp Stadium in 2010.

In 2014 he captained New Zealand to a 22-18 victory over Australia in the Four Nations final at Westpac Stadium in Wellington.



By John Coffey



Dale Brown, Gary Clarke and Mark Fuller. Dale and Mark were Kaiapoi and Canterbury reps

An Evening With The President

GARY CLARKE was elected Canterbury Rugby League president at the annual meeting late last month but the former outstanding player, selector and coach, and generous sponsor of amateur sport, was his usual unassuming self when hosting the South Island Kiwis last Friday evening. It's fair to say his relaxed style of presidency will be poles apart from that bloke in the big white building in Washington DC.

The venue was Gary's factory-cum-rugby league museum and the occasion was a lead-up to Saturday's match between the Warriors and Manly-Warringah. Kiwis' events at Gary Clarke Plastics have been held for many years. He was previously based behind Lancaster Park but when that premises was demolished because of the earthquakes he uplifted his machinery and his memorabilia and moved it all to Woolston.

Gary's story, both on and off the footy field, is one of unbridled success. Canterbury was blessed with many quality inside backs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Jimmy Bond, Bobby Irvine, Gary Clarke and Graeme Cooksley all played for the Kiwis. If one was injured, the New Zealand selectors knew they had only to consult a Canterbury match programme to find an equally skilled replacement.

Having been a Schoolboy Kiwi in 1956, Gary graduated to senior international honours in 1966 and 1968. He represented Canterbury from 1963 to 1971 and captained South Island against the 1969 Kangaroos. Gary won premierships with Linwood in 1963 and Papanui in 1971 and 1972 and was already coaching before he stopped playing. In 1975 he guided Canterbury to a maiden Carlaw Park victory over Auckland.

Fittingly, Mocky Brereton, Lewis Hudson, Mark Broadhurst, Dale Brown, Mark Fuller and Mutu Stone, who were in that team, were at Friday's function. Gary was a national selector in 1983 and 1984. Kiwis coach from that era Graham Lowe was also there on Friday. So were NZRL chairman Reon Edwards and CEO Greg Peters, Kiwis coach Michael Maguire and Auckland RL chairman Cameron McGregor.

There were many personal reunions. Maguire renewed acquaintances with Logan Edwards more than 20 years after they were together at the short-lived Adelaide Rams Super League club. The "senior" former Kiwis international present was John Bond, who made his Test debut in 1953 and is still looking remarkably fit at the age of 86. Kevin Pearce, who played in the 1957 World Cup, was next in seniority.

The appointment of Gary Clarke as CRL president was not his first recognition. He is already a CRL life member and in 2015 was awarded a Queen's Service Medal for services to sport and philanthropy. Gary could paper his factory walls with letters of thanks from clubs, people and organisations he has assisted. But there is no room to do that now he has displayed all of his jerseys, photographs and other memorabilia.

In an interview a few years ago Gary told how he had left school at 15 and found a job with a plastics firm. That business was later taken over by Sir Robertson Stewart and renamed PDL Industries. For 28 years Gary absorbed every aspect of the plastics trade. When PDL decided 37 years ago to make its moulding machines redundant Gary bought them and started working for himself. At 76, he is still busy with those same machines.

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One day he decided to clean out his garage and hang souvenirs from his own and his family's rugby league careers in a small room, set up as a bar, in his old building. When he ran out of space he moved some machines and adorned the walls of his factory. When others saw what he was creating they offered contributions, notably Sir Peter Leitch in Auckland whose latest consignment of goodies arrived last week.

"It just goes on and on. I get people who walk in here that have come through the factory and they see it and say, 'wow, what the hell's this?' People are blown away by it and that gives you a bit of a buzz," said

Gary. Among the highlights are former Kiwis forward and coach Lory Blanchard's blazers and Gary's own 1968 World Cup blazer. "It's nice to come in here at four o'clock with a glass of beer in your hand and reminisce."

Footnote: The near-capacity crowd of 17,357 at Saturday's game testified to the success of the occasion and to the thirst for top-class footy in Christchurch. There were no losers. Manly might go home regretting the result but deserved great credit for doing so much for the rugby league community in the city, while the Warriors would have relished the support of the fans as well as the two vital premierships points.



Former Kiwi and host on the night Gary Clarke, Auckland Rugby league Chairman & Chairman of the Vodafone Warriors board Cameron McGregor, Luka, former Kiwi coach Graham Lowe and Glenyce Fisher (Gary's partner)



Former kiwi Eddie Kerrigan and Greg Whaiapu general manager Auckland Rugby League.



Former Kiwi Mark Broadhurst who had the trophy the teams were playing for named after him.



Former Kiwis coach Frank Endacott with ex-Kiwis George Turner and Kevin Pearce.



Graham Lowe and Cameron McGregor Chairman of Auckland Rugby League and Vodafone Warriors board.



John Coffey and Justin Wallace the man that put the game on in Christchurch and deserves a big thank you.

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Gary Clark the host for the night and Kip Winaka (Canterbury rep).



Ex-Kiwi Mocky Brereton and ex-Canterbury rep Steve Wilks



New Kiwis coach Michael Maguire, staunch rugby league fan Steve Anngow and former Warrior & Kiwi Terry Hermansson in the background.



Dave Cox, Gary Clarke, Fiona Cox and Glenyce Fisher (Gary's partner)



Kip Winaka with former kiwi Skippy O'Donnell



Celebration Lions racing in the half time relay.



Canterbury foundation club the Addington Magpies 7 years team in the curtain raiser games.



Cantabs want more league in Christchurch.



A few Warriors jerseys in the crowd.



SATURDAY WILL be a great day and night for Australian Sports fans. The couch lizards will struggle to decide on what they should watch from around 8pm, as there are three great games from which to choose. At Kazan, 820 kms east of Moscow, Australia begins the Football (Soccer) World Cup when they take on France. Australia are ranked 47th in the world and France, number 3. The kickoff for this match is 1pm local time, which is 8pm in Sydney. Down at Melbourne the Wallabies meet Ireland in the second of a three Test series. The kickoff for this game is also 8pm. In southern Sydney, a few minutes earlier, the Sharks play the Broncos at Shark Park, or as it is now called, the Southern Cross Group Stadium. Before these three clashes, TV fans can warm up by watching St. George/Illawarra take on Manly in Wollongong at 5.30pm or across the Tasman, they can watch the All Blacks play France around the same time, in the second of their three Test series.

The NRL would have been very pleased with what unfolded at the State of Origin in Melbourne last Wednesday. The crowd of 87,122 was great and it shows they will be successful in the coming years when they take the game to Perth next year and Adelaide in 2020. The date for the Perth match next year has not been confirmed as yet, but what has been confirmed is that it will be game two of the series and be played in June 2019. The venue in Western Australia will be the new Perth Stadium, or Optus Stadium, which holds 60,000 fans.

While they officially have no preference for a winner, the NRL would have been happy to see NSW win, after the many years of Queensland successes. This gives the Blues an excellent chance of clinching the series at home in Sydney in game two on 24 June. If NSW win this year, it would be only their second series from the past 13 seasons. While the Blues were worthy winners in Melbourne, the referees did have an impact, with two big fifty/fifty calls going against Queensland in the second half. To be fair, it is a tough job for the whistle blowers but teams are mostly so close in both club and Origin football, that some decisions are critical. Watching the Raiders-Penrith game on Friday, I believed that the refs made a blunder late in the match, leading up to Nathan Cleary's winning field goal in the 78th minute. Just after this game, up on the Gold Coast, there was a big call on a scrum feed just a few minutes from the end which cost the Titans the chance to beat South Sydney. The Fox TV commentators pointed out the mistake and thought the bunker might correct the decision. Whether this is permitted, I don't know, but if it was, the bunker stayed silent instead of correcting the error. This scrum was only about 30 metres from Souths line and the score finished at 18-16. Six tackles might have been enough for the Titans to upset the Bunnies, but the Rabbits used the scrum win to run the clock down. I am reluctant to criticise the referees and I know they make less mistakes than players. But their mistakes have repercussions and so they shouldn't be swept under the carpet. I realise the bunker has some restrictions imposed upon it but they could help the referees with a quick word in their earpiece, without stopping the game, when appropriate.

It might have been a Manly home game, but the Christchurch visit was a great success for the Warriors. An impressive win and the ending of the seven game losing streak against the Sea Eagles, plus a good crowd of 17,357, completed the visit. Three more tries to David Fusitu'a, brought his total to 15 this season. Last year he crossed for 12 tries with Melbourne's Suliiasi Vunivalu the season's top try scorer with 23. Vunivalu has just six, so far in 2018. With 11 regular season games to play this year and if he remains healthy, the Warriors flyer could surpass last year's mark. David, 23, has now played 70 first grade games and has 47 tries. Players remember milestone games and so there will be happy memories for Shaun Johnson and his 150th match. He now has scored 839 points, including 62 tries.

With just a six day turnaround, the Warriors go from the cold, brisk air of Christchurch to North Queensland this Friday night. The temperature through the day could reach 28 degrees at Townsville but at game time (6pm), it will probably be 18 or 19 degrees, with little chance of rain. The Cowboys have only won four of their 14 games and were beaten 20-14 by the Eels in Darwin last Saturday night.

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Despite the Warriors being in fourth place and the Cowboys down at 14th position, this could be a real danger game for the New Zealanders. The later game on Friday will be worth watching. Top of the table Penrith play the fifth placed Roosters at Allianz Stadium in Sydney. The third Saturday game between the Sharks (6th) and the Broncos (8th) at Shark Park, will be another tight struggle.



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SHARKS STORM KNIGHTS NEWCASTLE PANTHERS RAIDERS



Incorporated within the business is the Gary Clarke Rugby League Museum.

**If you are ever in Christchurch this is a must see - contact Gary for a tour.
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Photo www.photosport.nz



By Miles Davis

Laura Mariu

WHEN THE Queen's birthday honours list comes out every year the media traditionally focuses on the more high profile recipients. For me however it is those less well-known individuals that hold the most fascination. The ones that have given such great service to their community that their peers feel they deserve recognition and the New Zealand Government agree with them. One such individual is Laura Mariu.

Although well-known in rugby league circles, Laura's would not be a name easily recognised by the majority of Kiwis but she has a great tale to tell.

Growing up in the North Shore suburb of Paremoremo Village her father was an officer at the local prison. Whilst at school she played some rugby but it was an invitation from a friend that turned her to league. She was working as a postie when the offer came to front up for Glenfield. She loved the game and never looked back.

With the competition on the Shore in those days not being testing enough for her, Laura changed her allegiances to Otahuhu (she tells me she has been a bit of a league nomad on occasion but sees Otahuhu as her main club in her early years although for the last 6 years she has played for the Papakura Sea Eagles).

In 2000 she was selected in the Kiwi Ferns to take part in the inaugural Women's Rugby League World Cup in England. It was to be a successful tournament for Laura and her crew as they won the tournament beating Great Britain 26-4 in the final.

She looks back at that original World Cup and is pleased at how things have changed for the better as far as the women's game is concerned. "At the beginning it was marae styles and now we're at the Novotel, which is huge and we're truly grateful for everything the NZRL have been doing for us. They're paying for hotels and for us to fly over to Australia. In the past we've had to pay levy fees just to represent our country. With the game evolving and the support from the NZRL, Rugby League World Cup and even the NRL, it's made a huge difference for the game".

Although it was tough in the early days Laura believes that it was a motivating factor for the team. It was passion that drove them to make the sacrifices in order to represent their country and that was reflected in the way they performed.

The Kiwi Ferns won the first 3 World Cups before losing to Australia in the 2013 final. It was a bitter-sweet tournament for Laura as she dislocated her wrist in the semi-final, an injury that forced her to drop out of her training to be a police officer (she had originally wanted to be a prison officer when she was younger but her father let her know in no uncertain terms that there was no way he was going to let her follow him into that profession). She nearly flagged the police when she was told she would have to re-sit her course after recovering from her wrist injury but after reflection she dug it in and graduated from police college earlier this year.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

At the end of the 2017 World Cup, her 5th and at which she was Kiwi Ferns captain, Laura made the decision to retire from the game she loves. However while at police college she realised she missed the game terribly and still had the passion to play so reversed her decision. She has just been named in a Kiwi Ferns training squad of 33 that are preparing for an October clash with the Jillaroos.

Whilst she has had many highlights in her career she pinpoints the 2008 World Cup Final, where the Kiwi Ferns destroyed Australia 34-0 at Suncorp, and the 2015 9's tournament where the women were included for the first time.

So we come to the Queen's Birthday Honours this year when Laura was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her outstanding service to rugby league. She tells me that she was at police college when a formal looking letter arrived. Her wife asked her nervously whether she had done something wrong and upon opening the letter they both found out the great news. Both were shaken up and taken aback by it but Laura says that the honour, just like all her rugby league achievements, give her pleasure because of the joy and pride they bring to her whanau (they must be bursting with pride as not only has she represented New Zealand in league but also karate, softball and touch).

Now 37, I asked her how long she intends to continue playing. As long as there are good physios and the body doesn't totally pack up was the answer. With her passion and dedication I wouldn't write off her chances of another couple of World Cup appearances.

Congratulations Laura Mariu, Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit and one of rugby league's finest.



Laura and wife Hilda.



Laura on graduation day at the police college.

Want to get some insight into the FIFA World Cup, a bit of banter and some betting tips?

Join Miles Davis on FootballHQ every Wednesday and Sunday during the tournament at 7pm live streaming on the TAB Facebook page. If you can't make it live then watch it back at your leisure.

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

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 15

		Tarsh Ieremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
		<i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran League</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Ex International Referee</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond League</i>
Date/ Venue	Game							
Thur 14 ANZ	Eels v Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs
Fri 15 1300 Smiles	Cowboys v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Fri 15 Allianz	Roosters v Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Roosters	Panthers	Panthers	Roosters
Sat 16 Belore	Bulldogs v Titans	Titans	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Titans	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
Sat 16 WIN	Dragons v Sea Eagles	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons
Sat 16 Sthrn Cross	Sharks v Broncos	Sharks	Broncos	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Broncos	Sharks
Sun 17 McDon	Knights v Storm	Storm	Knights	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm
Sun 17 Cambeltown	Tigers v Raiders	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Raiders	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers

Picks last week	7/9	6/9	6/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	6/9
Total picks	66	66	64	58	61	69	59

Poor Ricky Just Cant Take A trick...

THERE WAS a time I was not a fan of Ricky Stuart...some years back (2002) in his first coaching stint he took the Roosters to the Premiership title knocking off Ivan Clearys mighty Warriors in the process. Obviously I was less than impressed with that. He appeared to me at the time to have an arrogant sort of attitude mind you he had been a dual international for the Wallabies & Kangaroos, a gun player with the great Raiders teams of his era, coached the Blues to a rare series win in 2005 and coached Australia as well. Can't argue with his pedigree. He then had less than successful years coaching Cronulla, Parramatta and on to his current gig at the Green Machine. Getting back to the present he is having cruel luck with what should be a title challenging squad. A heartbreaking series of close losses with the latest outing enough to drive any coach bananas. Another agonizing loss with Penrith as is their style coming back and grabbing a last-minute Cleary droppie winner. This season the Canberra crew have lost to the Titans 28/30. The Knights 28/30. The Warriors 20/19 and now the Panthers 22/23. Fair to say rueful Rickey has had more than his share of raw deal shocker decisions from the men in the middle as well. Because he wears his heart on his sleeve he is inclined to make his demonstrative chair kicking frustrations clear to all as he patrols the sideline each game, as I said I used to dislike him but now...well maybe not. You would have to say that newbie Coach Brennan at the Titans is experiencing similar frustrations with his try-hard Titans who seem to be able to seize defeat out the clutches of Victory, second place again to the Origin absentees Rabbitohs 16/18. The luckless Knights hung tough throughout but still got the silver 16/18 hosting the Roosters.

Continued on next page...

Not expected was the bottom feeding Eels surprising win over the similarly placed but better rostered cellar-dweller Cowboys 20/14. The 2017 Coach of the Year Green not quite so lauded of late. The Sharks with Valentine Holmes running hot got the bikkies eventually 24/16 over Ivans Tigers while the Storm faced down the early Broncos charge to post a 32/16 clearcut. The daring Dragons rounded out the weekend with a close win over nemesis foe the Belmore Boys but only just 18/16, a game that could have gone either way. The Red V stay top of the standings. On the Homefront the Mighty Warriors banked 2 more points. Yeeehaaah baby! Hikus versatility on show again deputizing for RTS, The Flying Fus a hat-trick, Tall Timber KennyM some blockbuster forays and a sharp looking Magic Johnson back doing the business. After a very very rare average game in Rd 13 Captain Mannering was back on song, buoyed no doubt by the huge cheer from his homie ChCh crowd when he entered the match. As he is currently considering his playing future it is fitting that if he does decide to retire he is doing it while still a top level talent. I think sadly that it is possible this may be his last year and if it is we should have no regrets, he has served so well for so long with a wondrous performance, faultless attitude and enduring loyalty. Through the good years and lately some very lean ones he has continually stood tall. The toss up between the brilliant Little General Jones and the Magnificent Tackle Machine Mannering as our greatest Warrior is a very close run thing indeed. Does the good big guy always beat the good little guy???

The TIPSTERS did good this week. With 8 games plus the Origin making 9 points (plus a bonus) the possible return. A few 6s, tidy 7s from Tarsh and Montz and a very cool 8 from Nifty Nev made for a good result. The Whistle-blower strengthens his well-deserved lead. High-Tackle and the Devonport Dutchman still eating dust.

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**On sale THIS
Thursday!**

This Warriors Life Top 10 - Oldest Warriors

By Will Evans

THE WARRIORS' current squad is by no means short on experience, but in terms of age they're one of the younger sides running around. Off-season recruit Adam Blair, who turned 32 in March, is their oldest team member.

This week we profile the most 'mature' players to have donned the Warriors jersey. Interestingly, six of the top seven were Aussie imports, while Jacob Lillyman and Stacey Jones (who rejoined the club as a 32-year-old) were the only players on the list who weren't originally recruited after their 30th birthday.

THISWARRIORSLIFE.COM TOP 10 – OLDEST WARRIORS

10. Terry Hermansson – 32 years and 354 days (2000)

'The Rock' was a late-comer to the professional ranks by modern standards, debuting for Souths as a 25-year-old in 1993 and breaking into the New Zealand Test team the following season. The Canterbury (NZ) product played 111 games for the Rabbitohs and Roosters before linking with the Warriors in 1999. Hermansson racked up 39 games across two seasons in Auckland and represented NZ Maori at the 2000 World Cup.

9. Stacey Jones – 33 years and 121 days (2009)

Still only 18 when he was blooded in first grade by John Monie during the Auckland Warriors' foundation season, Jones carved out a legacy as the club's – and arguably New Zealand's – greatest-ever player over the next 11 seasons before heading to Super League at the end of 2005. The Warriors hauled the legendary half-back out of retirement in 2009 and Jones produced some memorable highlights in a difficult campaign, while also extending his then-club record to 261 games.

8. Dean Bell – 33 years and 122 days (1995)

The fledgling Warriors' gamble on recruiting a 32-year-old as their inaugural skipper paid handsome dividends. Kiwis and Wigan great Bell played 19 of Auckland's 22 games in that 1995 campaign and was one of their most reliable performers. Inexplicably, the club declined to offer him a contract for '96 and he returned to England with Leeds Rhinos.

7. Phil Blake – 33 years and 154 days (1997)

A famed journeyman and one of the era's great entertainers, the versatile Blake scored 121 tries in 234 games for Manly, Souths, Norths, Canberra and St George from 1982-94. The 31-year-old scored the Auckland Warriors' maiden premiership try from fullback and crossed nine times in the club's first four matches, but he was shuffled around the team sheet thereafter – including a stint at hooker – and was used in first grade just twice in 1997 before hanging up the boots.

6. Jacob Lillyman – 33 years and 164 days (2017)

Lillyman was a fresh-faced 25-year-old forward with 62 games for the Cowboys and four Origins for Queensland to his credit when he arrived at the Warriors in 2009. He went on to become one of the club's longest-serving players, racking up 188 appearances (sixth on the Warriors' all-time appearances register) and representing the Maroons a further 10 times. 'Bull' was moved on by Stephen Kearney at the end of 2017 and linked with Newcastle.

5. Ryan Hoffman – 33 years and 220 days (2017)

The Warriors forked out big money on a three-year deal for 31-year-old Melbourne Storm stalwart Hoffman in 2015. While the former Australian Test back-rower tried his guts out in all 60 appearances for the club and became its first NSW Origin rep, it's debatable whether the Warriors saw sufficient return on their hefty investment. Hoffman captained the Warriors in 2016 but incoming coach Kearney, a former Storm teammate, replaced him with Roger Tuivasa-Sheck last year, and the veteran returned to Melbourne at the end of 2017.

4. Jeff Robson – 33 years and 270 days (2016)

The oldest player ever to be recruited by the Warriors, the club no doubt had visions of Robson playing the steady halves role that Blake Green has performed so effectively this year. Robson was a highly-effective operator for Parramatta and Cronulla during the previous seven seasons – steering the clubs to a combined four finals series – but he failed to fire for the Warriors in 2016 and he returned to the Eels after just seven top-grade appearances.

3. Nathan Friend – 34 years and 190 days (2015)

Former Brisbane, Melbourne and Gold Coast hooker Friend arrived in 2012 to compensate for the dual departure of Aaron Heremaia and Lance Hohaia. A wholehearted, popular workhorse, Friend played 86 games for the Warriors across four seasons – the last 69 in succession – but his stint will predominantly be remembered for his astonishing upside-down, between-the-legs pass that led to a try against the Storm in 2015, which won the Dally M Headline Moment of the Year award. He finished an admirable 242-game NRL career back at the Titans in 2016.

2. Steve Price – 35 years and 164 days (2009)

Incumbent Test and Origin prop Price was a prized signing for the Warriors in 2005 after more than a decade with the Bulldogs. He was immediately handed the captaincy and became one of the club's best-ever recruits in 91 games, winning the Dally M Prop and Captain of the Year gongs in 2007 and leading the Warriors to a second straight finals campaign in '08. Price played 16 matches for Australia and 12 for Queensland while based in Auckland. Coach Ivan Cleary dropped a bombshell by replacing Price as captain with the 23-year-old Simon Mannering in 2010, but a toe injury forced the front-row stalwart into retirement without playing a game that season – preventing him from becoming only the second player after Brad Fittler to make 200 appearances for one club and break the 100-game barrier with another.

1. Ruben Wiki – 35 years and 250 days (2008)

Another 200-game club legend linked with the Warriors 2005: Canberra great Wiki, who ironically as a rookie Raider back-flipped on a contract to become a foundation Auckland Warrior. All was forgiven, however, as the blockbusting-centre-cum-forward-enforcer produced an inspirational 87-game, four-season stint in his hometown. Wiki extended his Kiwis tenure to a world record 55 Tests and became the first non-Australian to make 300 premiership appearances before retiring at the end of 2008.

THIS WARRIORS LIFE

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Southland District Round League

By SOUTHERN
RUGBY LEAGUE

Photos by: Dave Loudon

SOUTHERN RUGBY LEAGUE by DAVE LOUDON PHOTOGRAPHY

THERE WAS scheduled to be two premier grade games last Saturday . The first game between Winton / City and Cooks ended up being a friendly 9's game due to Winton/ City having a shortage of available players on the day . Mike Lemalie refereed the game . They played 25 minutes each way and made the most of the situation for both teams to enjoy a run with some good banter on the field . At the halftime whistle cooks held the lead on 28 to Winton/ City on 24 . The full time score was Cooks 56 and Winton City 46 .

The main game of the day was between He Tauaa RLC and Cowboys RLC . There was some talk on the sideline that this game could go either way. Bruce Aupouri was the referee for the game which kicked off at 2.30 pm . Moments in to the game Cowboys scored the opening try – very quickly followed by He Tauaa scoring a try . The game was evenly played during the first half with excellent defence and tackling being demonstrated by both sides . At the half time whistle both teams had each scored two tries with He Tauaa converting one of the tries whilst Cowboys had not converted any . The half time score saw He Tauaa with 10 points on the board and Cowboys sitting on 8 – At this stage the game could have gone either way as discussed by the folk on the sideline !

The second half saw the Cowboys ramp up and run in 4 tries for the half , He Tauaa gained one more try for the half . He Tauaa had players out with injuries and only one player on the bench – but to their credit , in true He Tauaa fashion they dug it in and played good rugby league . Cowboys showed their ongoing consistency during this game and with the Southland club semis and final looming over the next two weeks . It will provide some close quartered premier grade Rugby League. Cowboys won the game with a score of 28 over He Tauaa on 16 .

Next weekend (Sat 16th June) sees the semi finals . Cowboys are scheduled to play Winton/ City and Cooks meet He Tauaa . Both games will be at Sandy Point . The first game timed to kick off at 1 pm and the second game for 2.30 pm .

The winners of those two games will meet each other in the SDRL grand final on Saturday June 23rd – Time and Venue to be confirmed .





ARL Match Reports

By ARL

An Otahuhu player takes the ball forward v Northcote

Rd 9 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Match Reports

Northcote 28 Otahuhu 12

A double to James Waterson helped lift Northcote to a valuable victory over Otahuhu, which pushes them into the competition's top four. Up 16-12 at the break, Northcote went on with the job in the second 40, with veteran centre Nalu Tuigamala the key figure for the Tigers.

Glenora 26 Mt Albert 8

Glenora stand-off Jordan Tuarae backed up from his star showing for the Auckland representative side a week ago, to lead Glenora to a comfortable victory over Mt Albert. Tuarae scored a try and played a hand in setting up several others against his former side, while Bears centre To'o Alo scored a crucial intercept on half-time. Down 22-0 at the break, Mt Albert improved in the second 40 but couldn't match the defending champions in the key areas.

Marist 20 Richmond 34

Richmond recovered from a horror opening half hour to clock their second victory of the year at Murray Halberg Park. Down 16-0 early, the Bulldogs then scored 16 unanswered points of their own to tie the game up at the break. Individual brilliance from centre Siave Tupou and captain Brandon Motion saw them both score tries, giving Richmond the upper hand midway through the second half, at which point their superior fitness levels came through.

Papakura 30 Mangere East 42

Lui Lauhingoa was the hero as Mangere East collected their third win of the year, with the winger crossing for three tries at Prince Edward Park. The Hawks took an 18-6 lead into the break, but had to survive a late scare as Papakura crossed for a pair of tries in the dying minutes.

Pt Chevalier 33 Howick 30

Pt Chevalier won a nail-biter at Walker Park to retain the Roope Rooster and continue their undefeated start to 2018. A field goal from Dylan Tavita right on half-time helped the Pirates to a 19-12 lead at the break, but Howick scored four unanswered points in the back end of the second period to set up a thrilling finale. A last-minute goal-line stand from Pt Chevalier secured the three-point victory.

Continued on next page...

Rd 7 Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Match Reports

Bay Roskill 110 Papatoetoe 12

Bay Roskill continue to set a ferocious pace at the top of the table, remaining undefeated after a crushing 98-point victory over Papatoetoe. Vikings fullback Cori Vogel was untouchable in the win, crossing for five tries and terrorising the opposition with his running game.

Ellerslie 38 Pakuranga 4

Ellerslie came out convincing winners against neighbouring Pakuranga, with Henry Pei scoring a hat-trick and star hooker Darin Kingi a double. The Jaguars had plenty of possession and spent prolonged periods of the game inside the attacking 20, but couldn't find a way through the staunch Ellerslie defence.

Northern Brothers 28 Franklin 35

A converted try and a field goal inside the final five minutes saw Franklin edge past the Northern Brothers to remain without a loss in 2018. Locked at 28-all with 15 minutes to go, Franklin hooker Jason Tou scored a converted try, before player/coach Jody Henry nailed a field goal to secure the win and ensure the Storm remain second on the ladder.

Manurewa 60 Hibiscus Coast 32

Manurewa turned a big half-time lead into a comprehensive victory at home at Mountfort Park, overpowering the Hibiscus Coast. Playmaker Henry Dunn was a standout for the Marlins, who led 36-6 at the break, and despite leaking a number of tries in the second half, never looked in doubt of picking up their third win of the campaign.

Manukau 28 New Lynn 16

Manukau sprung an upset on top-eight side New Lynn, running out comfortable 28-16 winners at Moyle Park. The win was the Magpies' second of the year, with their bulky forward pack standing out.

Otara 58 Mt Wellington 12

A big second-half effort saw Otara overcome Mt Wellington at home. Mt Wellington scored first and trailed just 14-12 at the break, but were helpless to stop the Scorpions in the second 40. Otara forward Michael Blucher scored a double in the win.

Waitemata 20 Te Atatu 14

Waitemata got up for an upset victory over Te Atatu in the west Auckland derby, with centre Suliano Faulkafa's two tries proving the difference for the Seagulls. Waitemata led 6-4 at the break and 20-10 with three minutes to go, but leaked a late try to set up a nervous finish at the Ranui Domain.

Ponsonby BYE



Marist's Maaфу Briggs on the charge.



City & Country Team Photo

Taranaki Rugby League

By Wayne Capper
Operations Manager
Taranaki RL

AN ABSOLUTE outstanding game and night of Rugby League was had last Friday night in the Inaugural Paddock to Plate Butchery City v Country game held at Clifton Park in Waitara.

The game was physical and intense from the get go, with some excellent displays of individual brilliance and teamwork. Country went in to the break with a 12-4 lead, but City came back firing early in the second half and took advantage after some key injuries to the Country line up. From here on in it was back and forth with City and Country both showing some real grit late in the game with the score locked at 22-22 all. A penalty kick however was all it took for City to gain the slight advantage heading into the final stages of the game, Country came back however with some late last minute bursts but it was not enough to take the game, City taking the honours 24-22 in what was a very classy game of Rugby League.

Acknowledgements must go to the players and staff who committed their time to the game, along with the referees, ball boys, match managers, volunteers, cooks and hosts who all made this possible. A massive thanks must also go to Paddock to Plate Butchery who continue to support the grassroots game of Rugby League here in Taranaki, and also the Mellowpuff Trust who are a big part of this initiative. We even had NRL stars Issac Luke (Running water for Country) and James Stosic in attendance which was great to see. A massive thank you must also go to ONU Sportswear for their help and assistance with our awesome apparel and uniforms.

The Paddock to Plate Butchery City v Country game is an initiative that we hope to build on from here, and if the intensity, energy and passion that was shown last night is anything to go by, we look forward to what lies ahead. The future of the Taranaki Sharks also looks good with the awesome display shown tonight, we look forward to the representative season ahead.

City 24 (Tries; Mataio Raana 2, Paora Noble, Tjontae Morunga, Goals; Caleb Ritai 4) Country 22 (Tries; Stevie-Ray Gray, Isaiah Graham-Hooper, Nathan Maharey, Rikki Gardner, Goals; Shae Kahui 3). Halftime: City 4 Country 12. Venue: Clifton Park, Waitara.

#CITYVCOUNTRY #TARANAKISOWNORIGIN
#JOINTHEJOURNEY



Allana Prestney (TJRL Secretary) Issac Luke and Kathy Boxer (TRL Life Member).



Teams Bring the Heat on Super Sunday



SUPER SUNDAY'S always bring the heat from the ANZ Premiership teams. We had all six teams competing at Horncastle Arena, Christchurch on Sunday 10 June and some exciting results in all three matches.

The Northern Stars, desperate to get their first win of the season, came out fighting but narrowly fell short to the Ascot Park Hotel Southern Steel who were able to take the 63-60 win.

After going down by two goals to the same opponents seven days ago, the result added to the Stars frustration after they were left still searching for their first win of the season. Coming close numerous times so far, the outcome was all too familiar for the Stars in posting their fourth bonus point loss.

Leading by seven with just minutes remaining, the Steel were forced to withstand a furious last-ditch comeback from the Stars but it all proved too little too late.

But it wasn't all a disappointment as the Stars were able to celebrate Paula Griffin's 100th combined national league match.

Game two saw the Silvermoon Tactix take on the WBOP Magic in a thriller match that ended in a one-point victory for the Magic. The 48-47 win allowed the Magic to take their second win in a row from the Tactix and start their climb up the competition ladder.

The speed of Magic's through-court transition, led by centre Samantha Sinclair, was impressive, while import shooter Lenize Potgieter picked up where she left off a few days ago with an almost flawless start. And at the other end, captain Casey Kopua and the

tall figure of goalkeeper Kate Lloyd caused the Tactix shooters plenty of problems under the hoop.

None the less, the crowd loved the home side's effort as the Tactix were better second time around, managing to secure a crucial bonus point, and threatened throughout the second half to consistently close the gap, but ultimately paid dearly for untidy lapses and a lack of shooting accuracy.

The final match of the day was the dramatic season changer as a miracle goal on the stroke of fulltime earned the SKYCITY Mystics a dramatic 52-51 win over the previously unbeaten Te Wānanga o Raukawa Pulse.

Falling out of court, Bailey Mes provided the winner in a stunning turnaround for the Mystics who rebounded from a 22-goal loss to the same opponents just seven days ago.

It was a greatly improved effort from the Mystics who broke the Pulse's six-game winning streak with a whole-hearted and committed team effort in a thrilling match-up.

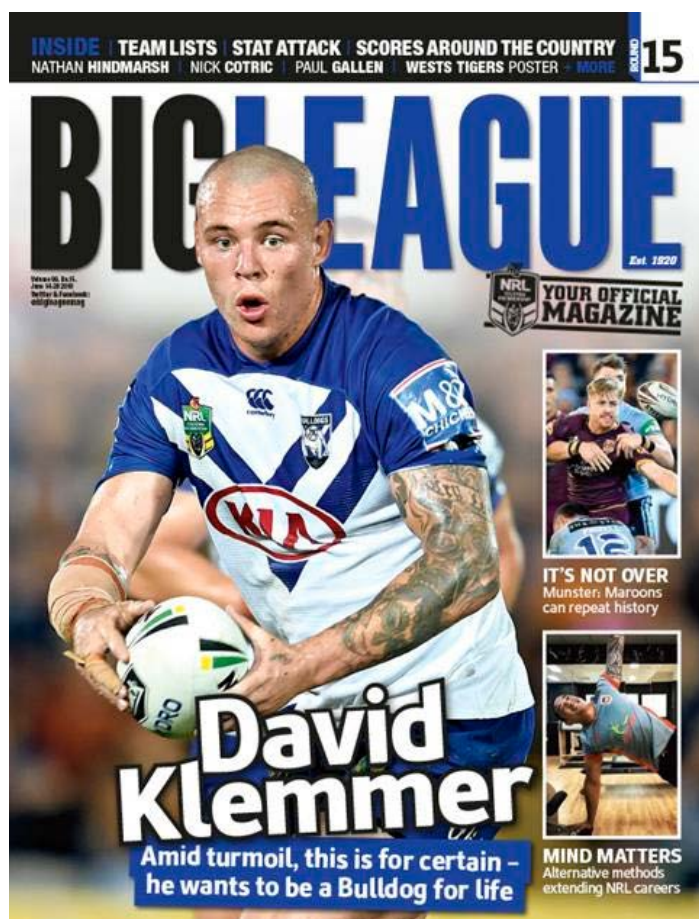
Facing their most testing assignment to date, the Pulse clawed their way back to level the scores with under a minute to play but the Mystics, producing their best outing of the season, held their nerve to put their campaign back on track.

The next Super Sunday will be hosted by the Northern Stars on 22 July in Auckland at Pulman Arena, Takanini. It's sure to be a sell out so make sure you grab your tickets from ANZPremiership.co.nz



THIS WEEK IN OUR ROUND 15 ISSUE

NRL, INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP, INTRUST SUPER CUP +
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Not much is going right for the Bulldogs in 2018, but big man David Klemmer is having one of the best seasons of his career. It was suggested earlier in the year that salary cap issues may squeeze the 24-year-old out of the club, but he insists he's not going anywhere. If it's up to him, he'll be a Bulldog for life.

Raiders star Nick Cotric narrowly missed out on New South Wales selection for the first State of Origin game in Melbourne. However, at 19, the young Canberra winger was brought into camp to learn from the players he had idolised as a child. He hopes to take the lessons he learned back to club football.

Cardio and weights can only get you so far. These days, NRL players are taking extras into their own hands and seeking out ways they can not only improve their performance but actually extend their careers through yoga, meditation and pilates. Andrew McCullough, James Segeyaro and Tyson Frizell are all doing something a little different off the park and are reaping the rewards on the field.

Paul Gallen will be 37 in August and he's playing like a man 10 years his junior. The Sharks co-captain is inspiring his younger team-mates, not just with his on-field performances, but with the work he does to stay in peak physical condition.

PLUS... This Week in History, a look back at the 2003 NRL Grand Final, 10 minutes with AJ Brimson and a Wests Tigers poster.

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