

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

1<sup>st</sup> August 2018

# Newsletter #228



**We May Not Have Won But It Was Fantastic Meeting All The Fans!**



# What the hell was that?

By David Kemeys

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



**W**ELL THAT was disappointing. Someone forgot to tell the Titans they were easy-beats.

For the first 40 minutes they looked average, as in fairness did we, a pretty good Shaun Johnson try apart.

For the next 40 minutes they looked like world-beaters, and it was us who looked like, well, the Titans.

We were without Tohu Harris, Adam Blair and Issac Luke, and boy did we miss them.

Simon Mannering had to wear the No 13 jersey and did not have his happiest day.

On the other hand I was delighted to see Leivaha Pulu back after way too long out.

There is a lot to like about his play.

You might have figured it out by now, I am trying desperately to remain positive after a dismal 428-0 thrashing or whatever it was, I lost count.

That was a really bad one.

Our second half performance was a truly awful day at the office.

It has happened before this year, but usually against good sides, which is something the Titans are never going to be accused of being.

What I did find depressing was the players who came in, failed to grab the opportunity they were given.

But let's keep it in perspective.

Sure this one was a bad miss, although it is not that long ago we didn't expect to win across the ditch.

Yet so good – and if we are honest, unexpectedly good – has our season been, that we will have expected to pop over to the Goldie and nick those points easy-peasy.

A negative bastard might say the wheels have well and truly fallen off, but we have been here before this year and bounced back.

That we even think we can, underlines the turnaround in our club.

This time last year we were deader than a dead thing, canon-fodder for anyone.

No one gave us a snowball's chance in hell of being anything different this year – pretty much everyone tipping us for the wooden-spoon, yet here we are, still eighth even after the disappointment in Queensland.

But the Titans are a side we really should have had the depth, skill and courage to beat.

If we lose to the Dragons this week, which most would certainly tip us to do, we will be in a tighter spot than we deserve.

Those who love knocking our boys will be all over radio doing what they always do, shouting chokers and the like.

That would be horrible when we went into the season with so little to look forward to, yet were presented a side that has played – the odd blowout aside – with pride and passion, allowing us all to believe.

Dropping it all from here would be beyond cruel.

Never easy being a Warriors fan is it?

## Five To Go

Just five games to go and the magic 30-point figure always touted as guaranteeing a spot in the eight is still three wins away.

I called it months ago when I said expect it be a win-some, lose some race to the finals, and now we sit on 24 points after that bad loss to the Titans.

Three from five, with the Tigers sniffing, forget about the Raiders.

Will we get them and book our first trip to finals football in seven years?

Your guess is as good as mine, but the difference is I have to write this and predict, and look a total cock if I get it wrong, while you can lie, and say you were always confident, or never believed we would do it, however it comes out.

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But nothing has changed for me.

I cannot see the slump of massive proportions that would be needed for us to fall out of contention happening, but stranger things have, and usually at the end of the year.

Not this year though. This side is a different kettle of fish, although the outing against the Gold Coast might argue different.

Our run home is still good, three of the five at Mt Smart – though given our inability to win at home, that might not be a good thing either.

Three of the games against bottom placed sides, and just two against top eight opposition.

You need to take a peep back over recent years to see why 30 must be the target. That's what the Cowboys needed last year to secure eighth.

It's been done with fewer, the Titans had 27 in 2016, and the Dragons 28 in 2015, but when we hit 28 in 2014 we stalled into ninth on points differential.

Here's my attempt at crystal ball gazing.

We are away to the Dragons this week, having beaten them earlier in the year, stopping their seven-game winning streak. But they are travelling well and this one might be a step too far, though beating them would bring the bonus of annoying Miles Davis.

It will be squeaky bum time at Mt Smart the week after, when the Newcastle Knights come to town. A loss would almost certainly cause panic to set in. It will be a must-win, against a side capable of playing good footy, but also capable of playing like chooks.

Having got the points against the Knights we will travel to Australia knowing beating the Bulldogs will almost guarantee our place. And we will win. The Dogs are 14th, who knows how, because they are rubbish.

Job almost done, and as I said months ago, it will go late into the season.

The first of our two remaining games will see the Panthers, who smashed us, come to Mt Smart. Who would know what will happen, which Warriors side will turn up, the gutsy one we had come to love and admire, having overachieved on anything we might

have expected, or the powder puff who were embarrassing at Gold Coast?

Something nags at me that we will be more desperate, and not want to leave it to the last game, and we will pull it off and give the long-suffering Mt Smart fans something to finally cheer about.

I certainly hope so because that will give us reason to breathe a sigh of relief when our last Friday night fixture sees Ricky Stuart, the only man in the world who moans more than me, in town.

I always think we will lose to those shits, though we didn't earlier in the year when the Shaun Johnson field goal double sunk the Green Machine. It will be Simon Mannering's 300th game – so we might do something special.

### **All Is Not Lost**

Might be clutching at straws here but after the Storm put 50 on us we responded by beating the Tigers 26-4.

Then the Roosters caned us 32-0 and a week later we beat the Eels.

The Rabbitohs thumped us, we beat Manly in the next round.

The Panthers touched us up too, and we bounced back by beating Brisbane.

I'll have repeat against the Dragons please.

### **Refs Get A Serve**

The cat really got put among the pigeons over the dismal refereeing displays of late, with NRL boss Todd Greenberg warning his whistlers to do better.

Gerrard Sutton, who called the State of Origin, the touchie whose flapping about caused a major stink in the Canberra-Sharks game, and bunker officials Luke Patten and Henry Perenara all copped a serve.

Warriors coach Stephen Kearney, as we know, was an unhappy chappy and said he didn't want a single fan to give up on the game.

Too late. I was reading the comments on one article in the week and it was littered with remarks from people who said they had already quit because they are convinced the game is crooked.

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That might be going a bit far, incompetent yes, crooked, come to think of it, you can hardly blame people for thinking so.

Greenberg said bad decisions were impacting games and livelihoods. Guess what Todd, as Warriors fans, we know that!

“Officials have got to improve their performances ... we’ve got to be better.”

He isn’t going to find too many, other than Sharks and Storm fans, who disagree.

Raiders coach Ricky Stuart asked after his side had its finals chances blown away, how many fans had been driven away by officiating. I suspect it is more than the NRL would care to admit.

But Greenberg did defend the bunker against claims too many people meddle, which can only make you wonder why so many have been unhappy about the penalty blitzes this year, or who wonder why it seems like every Warriors try goes upstairs.

You must have some sympathy, because it is a crap job. Every decision questioned and all fans believing their side gets the short end of the stick.

If you want to stop the Storm spending 40 minutes of an 80-minute game lying in your ruck, then there are going to be even more penalties. The 10-metres is a joke and has been forever, and some sides patently do get an easy ride.

But the growing unhappiness can’t be ignored. Boyd Cordner and Kevin Walters have both backed a re-trial of the captain’s challenge.

It has only been used once at NRL level, and that was in 2016. But tell me Cameron Smith would have got

away with that high shot if the decision had been challenged.

The problem I see with it though is that it is just another intrusion. Do you really think it would solve anything? Wasn’t the bunker supposed to do that?

No matter which way you lean, the conclusion is inescapable, something is wrong.

That’s three weeks in a row. Week one the Warriors get shafted, week two the Titans, week three the Raiders. Whose turn this week?

Apologies just don’t cut it.

If we miss the finals by the two points we were robbed of, who do you think is going to cop the blame?

### **Charlie Moves To England**

He was a bit of a fan favourite despite the fact he tended to give away penalties, miss tackles and generally zoom out of the line like a rocket-fired missile.

But Charlie Gubb always played as if this game was his last – and given his tackling technique there was always a chance it might be. He was no nonsense, gritty and as tough as teak and the fans loved him.

He left us for Canberra but now he’s signed a contract to join Widnes, pending his UK visa.

Charlie is still only 28, so has plenty to offer.

“I’m excited by the opportunity that has emerged to join Widnes Vikings,” he said.

The fans better buckle in because he never gives anything less than 100%.

## **Check out the interviews Sir Peter did on the Gold Coast!**

[Clinton Toopi](#) [Sammy Stewart](#) [Mark Tookey](#) [Kevin Champion](#)

**Follow his Facebook page so you stay updated with his future interviews!**



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# Experienced trio named to face the Dragons

**VODAFONE WARRIORS v ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS**  
3.00pm, Saturday, August 4, 2018  
WIN Stadium, Wollongong

*by Richard Becht*

**EXPERIENCED FORWARDS** Adam Blair, Issac Luke and Tohu Harris have all been named to start in the Vodafone Warriors' 21st-round NRL encounter with St George Illawarra at WIN Stadium in Wollongong on Saturday (3.00pm kick-off local time; 5.00pm NZT).

Harris (knee) and Luke (calf) were listed in the initial line-up for last Sunday's encounter with Gold Coast but were later ruled out after failing to recover sufficiently.

Blair was serving a one-match suspension but, along with Luke and Harris, he returns in a starting forward pack showing three changes from the combination used in the 12-36 loss to the Titans.

Luke slots in for Jazz Tevaga, Harris for Joseph Vuna and Blair for Simon Mannering. As a result, Tevaga and Mannering – who makes his 296th career appearance this week – are named among the first four players on the extended bench along with Bunty Afoa and Leivaha Pulu. Pulu played 36 minutes last week in his first NRL outing since April 14.

The other four players on the interchange are utility Peta Hiku, halfback Mason Lino, prop Sam Lisone and Vuna.

It was hoped Harris would be ready to make his comeback last week but he has now been set for this battle against the fourth-placed Dragons, who are on 28 points, four ahead of the eighth-placed Vodafone Warriors. He has missed the last four outings against Penrith, Brisbane, Melbourne and Gold Coast.

Luke is in line to return at dummy half after picking up a calf muscle injury in the 6-12 loss to the Storm on July 22.

With Harris in his regular spot on the right edge and Blair back in the No 13 jersey, Mannering reprises an interchange role he has filled seven times previously

this season, five of them coinciding with wins over North Queensland (home), Wests Tigers (home), Parramatta (away), Manly (away) and the Cowboys (away).

The backline named is unchanged from the one used against the Titans.

The Vodafone Warriors have stayed in Australia this week, spending the start of the week on the Gold Coast before travelling to Wollongong on Thursday before their final field session on Friday.

The last time the two teams met in the seventh round in Auckland on April 20, the Vodafone Warriors prevailed 20-12 to end the Dragons' season-opening run of six wins.

Both teams have been battling for form recently, each winning one of their last four games.

St George Illawarra has a clear advantage over the Vodafone Warriors in the sides' 27 meetings since their first in 1999. The Dragons have won 21 times with two of those losses coming in the last four encounter and both at Mount Smart. The Vodafone Warriors are winless in 10 encounters in Wollongong.

### Vodafone Warriors

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



By Barry Ross



# Alarmed

HENSON PARK, SYDNEY, the home ground of the NEWTOWN JETS

**M**AYBE I am getting soft in my old age but I am alarmed with the amount of tackles around the neck in our game. In the Broncos-Sharks game in Brisbane last Thursday night, there was probably half a dozen that didn't look to good in just the first half. The referees only penalised one of these and that was around the 25th minute for a tackle by Korbin Sims on Paul Gallen. These tackles are not a good look and they are often quite strong and dangerous. With other defenders coming in to complete the tackle, the ball carrier can be pushed in all directions and if his neck is held tightly, serious damage could be caused. I know this is not a new thing but I think the number of such tackles is increasing and I would like to see the officials take a tougher stance. Has it evolved from all the wrestling in modern Rugby League? Whatever the reason, something should be done to stop it. I know the referees and the bunker are rightly under the pump for some of their decisions this year, but reacting to a dangerous tackle should be almost instantaneous as they are usually quite close to the action. If they are not policing such tackles because they are not considered potentially dangerous, I feel they should think again. And while I am on referees reacting quickly, I would like to see them being more consistent regarding running opponents off the ball when a high kick is being chased. Sometimes they penalise the offender but often it goes unchecked.

The Sharks received the wrong end of the stick from the whistle blowers in Brisbane last Thursday, and coach, Shane Flanagan was correct in what he said after the match. But the Sharks were the lucky team the week before against the Raiders after a terrible mistake from the bunker and match officials. The media was quick to remind Flanagan of this. Paul Gallen, the NRL's oldest player, turns 37 in 13 days, on Tuesday 14 August and he is still a valuable player for the Sharks. He played 65 minutes against the Broncos but still topped Cronulla's tackle count with 39. He will play his 320th first grade game this Sunday against the Sea Eagles at Shark Park and has scored 62 tries in these games. This season he has run for 756 post contact metres in his 13 games, which is close to 60 metres per game. He has also averaged 136 running metres a game this year.

There was a lot of fun and laughter at Henson Park in inner Sydney last Saturday. Henson Park is the home ground of the Newtown Jets who play in the NSW Intrust Super Premiership. The Jets took on competition leaders, Penrith at 3pm, but before the kickoff, the third annual Beer, Footy and Food Festival began. Patrons could choose between over 40 outlets selling a wide variety of food and beverages, including 22 different craft breweries. The game was also a good and tight affair with the Jets leading until the last 10 minutes. The final score was 28-24 to Penrith but the Jets retained their place in the top four. Newtown was arguably the first Australian Rugby League club to be formed in 1908 but were kicked out of the first grade competition in 1983, after winning three Premierships in 1910, 1933 and 1943. They re-emerged in 1990 to play in the third level NSWRL competition and since 2000, they have played in the NSWRL's second tier competition. Over the last few years they have been a feeder club for South Sydney, the Roosters, the Warriors and currently, the Sharks.

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The Jets have many hard working, personable and clever administrators. Among these is media officer, Glen "Bumper" Dwyer, who never stops promoting the club. His media releases are regular and informative. Glen has done this job for the past 22 years and shows no sign of slowing down. Everyone involved with the Jets should be congratulated for the continual innovations shown. The paying crowd on Saturday was more than 7,000 and this is a tremendous result for a second division match. For many years now part of Newtown folklore was to announce the same crowd figure of 7,972 for every home game, no matter how many turned up. Kyle Flanagan, 19, the son of Sharks coach, Shane Flanagan, played halfback for the Jets on Saturday and finished with a try and four goals for 12 points. Young Flanagan, who was selected for the 2018 NSW Intrust Super Premiership team, is fourth on the individual points scoring list this season with 109.

I hope the Warriors can come good this Saturday in Wollongong. Another loss and a win for the Tigers in Newcastle on Friday night, would see the New Zealanders holding eighth position by just one win. The Dragons have not been brilliant over the past few weeks and if Steve Kearney can put out a full strength team, they could fly back to Auckland with two most welcome competition points. Although nothing can be taken away from the Titans after their 36-12 win on Sunday, I did notice the comment from the bunker after a try was sent up to them. Despite a Warrior playing obviously being pushed and falling to the ground as he was trying to get across in defence, the description of this incident from the bunker was "minimal contact." The Warrior player probably would not have made the tackle but he was denied any chance of doing so. It was obviously a push, as you could see the Titans player's hands make contact in the replay. To me that is not minimal. For most of this season, this has been enough to rule "no try," but not this time. The Rabbitohs-Storm clash in Sydney this Friday night should be a high class game, while the next day, down by the seaside at Wollongong, let's hope the Warriors are at their best.

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



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**FRIDAY AUGUST 10  
MT SMART STADIUM**





Antonio Winterstein. New Zealand Kiwis training session. 15 Oct 2010.  
Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



By John Coffey

## Winterstein In A Select Kiwis “Club”

**I**N COMPARISON to the widespread acclaim which followed Simon Mannering’s recently announced retirement, the news of another Kiwi international hanging up his boots never even caused a ripple in the New Zealand media. North Queensland Cowboys wing Antonio Winterstein has finally succumbed to the knee injury which troubled him throughout his successful 10-season NRL career.

Winterstein played in 47 games (19 tries) for the Brisbane Broncos in 2009 and 2010 before joining the Cowboys, where he made 167 appearances and touched down for 73 tries. Though it was seldom obvious to outsiders, Winterstein and his respective clubs’ medical crews had always been managing a knee problem which worsened this season to the extent he was struggling to walk after matches.

Born in Auckland, the 30-year-old Winterstein moved to Brisbane with his family as a youngster. He attended Sunnybank State High School and was a Logan Brothers junior before playing for the Sydney Roosters at G Ball Cup and NYC levels. But it was back in Brisbane with the Broncos that he broke into the NRL, before giving eight years of sterling service to the Cowboys.

With Winterstein on the flank of a backline ignited by Jonathan Thurston, the Cowboys in 2015 beat the Broncos during golden point time in one of the greatest of all grand finals. He also played in the 2017 grand final when the Cowboys lost to the Melbourne Storm. Winterstein represented Samoa eight times (for seven tries and as captain against England last season), and also the NRL All Stars in 2015.

But it is his “career” as Kiwis number 764 which places him in a unique group, if not one that players would usually aspire to join. Of the 814 Kiwis on the NZRL Roll of Honour, nine did not actually make it onto the field in the black and white jersey. In 2010 Winterstein was in our Four Nations-winning squad, which in itself was a cause for celebration and a recognition he had earned through his form at club level.

Jason Nightingale and Manu Vatuvei began that tournament as the first-choice wings, but the latter broke an arm two minutes into the first game against England. That left Sam Perrett or Winterstein to replace him for the second match against Papua New Guinea. The more experienced Perrett got the nod, scored three tries when the Kiwis thrashed the Kumuls, and effectively closed the door on Winterstein.

Official Kiwis status (and number) is no longer awarded to players who do not get some of the action, but it used to be. That policy stemmed back to the era of long overseas tours when it was expected every player would make many appearances on itineraries which stretched up to 40 matches. But even then there were exceptions to the rule, dating back to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

The 1939 Kiwis had arrived in England only days before war was declared on Germany and only two games could be played. Of the five Kiwis who missed out, Joe Cootes (243) and Ces Davison (247) had already been Kiwis and Arthur McInnarney (276) was to return to Britain with the 1947-48 Kiwis. The other two were future New Zealand Test cricketer Verdun Scott (282) and George Mitchell (280).

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Auckland forward Clarence (Sandy) Hurndell became ill during the 1947-48 Kiwis' voyage to England and was invalided home from Panama. Undaunted, Hurndell overcame his lonely return trip and extreme disappointment. Hurndell made a belated international debut on the 1948 tour to Australia and also appeared in home Tests against the 1949 Kangaroos and 1950 Lions. His hard-earned Kiwis number is 314.

Since then there have been seven players awarded numbers as members of World Cup or Four Nations squads – Keith Bell (382) at the 1957 World Cup, Don Parkinson (464) at the 1968 World Cup, Eddy Pettybourne (759) at the 2009 Four Nations, Winterstein (764) at the 2010 Four Nations, Bill Tupou (772) at the 2011 Four Nations, and Sosaia Feki (788) and Bodene Thompson (789) at the 2014 Four Nations.

There had been several others who did not play in short tournaments dating back to the 1995 World Cup but who, like the trio in 1939 and Hurndell, played for the Kiwis either before or afterwards. They were awarded numbers when they first toured, which was the policy at that time. But in 2015 the NZRL changed the rule to coincide with the first time the Kiwis played an away three-Test series in England.

Manaia Cherrington, Isaac Liu and Curtis Rona did not gain selection for any of the Tests and were the first to be affected by the new criteria. They were viewed as being similar to an 18th man in a home Test match – or the non-playing reserves in home Tests up to the mid-1960s when mid-match replacements were not permitted. Liu belatedly earned his number (805) on debut at the 2017 World Cup.

Footnote: Winterstein's 97 tries left him just short of becoming the fifth Kiwi centurion. The list is topped by Vatuvei with his 152 tries for the Warriors. Nigel Vagana (140) is next, with 37 for the Warriors, 61 for the Bulldogs, 32 for the Sharks and 10 for the Rabbitohs. Of current players, Shaun Kenny Dowall (130) scored 121 for the Roosters and has nine for the Knights and Nightingale has scored all his 110 for the Dragons.



fan Danny Tunupopo's tribute to Simon Mannering.



**J**UST PRESENT-  
**ED** my mate cole  
McWilliams a @  
blk #kiwis t/shirt  
on making the nga  
Taonga o tamaki  
makaurau rugby  
league team Con-  
gratulations buddy



Kiwi number  
398 Graeme  
Farrar enjoy  
catching up  
with coach  
Stephen at the  
captains run



Shaun was a big hit with the kids at the captains run on the Gold Coast

# Parker vs Whyte

By Miles Davis



**M**Y INTENTION was to write about rugby league this week but after the Vodafone Warriors forgot to come out for the 2nd half and the Dragons got beaten up by the Roosters I decided against it. Those results had left me in no mood to sit in front of a screen and write prose about league that would not have the censors running out of red ink.

I will however give my thoughts on another defeat, that of Joseph Parker. Reading through online press reaction, and that of social media following his loss to Dillian Whyte I found myself wondering what sort of planet some people live on. Of course everyone is going to have an opinion and not all are going to agree but it was the negativity and vitriol shown towards Joe that really hit home. Gutless, inept and out of his depth said some. No heart or desire said others. Some even went so far as to say he no longer had a future in the sport. I have one word for those knockers – Bollocks.

Firstly let's address the fight itself. Parker started off like a whirlwind and controlled the opening round using his fast hands and backing Whyte up against the ropes, landing several good combinations. The 2nd round was similar until out of nowhere Parker hit the canvas. I didn't see the punch that put him down and was perplexed. It was no surprise then that I saw it was a clash of heads that had put Parker on the deck for the first time in his career. Whilst Joe seemed to recover quickly the knockdown had lifted Whyte's spirits and he started to take control of the fight, albeit occasionally with tactics more like wrestling than boxing. As the rounds progressed Parker became more cautious rather than the aggressor he was in the opening 2 rounds and Whyte continued to build up a lead on the judge's scorecards. By the 9th round it was apparent that Parker would need a knockout if he was to win and in trying to up the tempo he was knocked to the canvas, this time legitimately. It looked as if his night was over but Parker somehow managed to survive the last 90 seconds of the round. Miraculously he came out like a new man in the 10th and perhaps even edged it. Round 11 started with Whyte once again on the front foot, seemingly trying to finish the fight but as the round went on it became apparent that he was tiring rapidly and Parker seemed to have a greater reserve of energy. Round 12 saw the tiring Whyte, still throwing the odd haymaker (I found that strange as all

he needed to do was keep moving and cover up and the fight was his) with Joe trying to find the knockout. With little time left in the fight Parker connects and knocks Whyte down. He takes the full count of 8 before clinging on desperately till the final bell. Another 30 seconds and it is likely Parker could have finished the job.

Of course in retrospect Parker should have continued his aggression earlier but that could also have exposed him to the power of Whyte and resulted in him being knocked out himself. To say that he wasn't up to the task is wrong. Physically he looked well prepared for the challenge it was his tactics that let him down.

To those that say he hasn't got the desire and that he won't fight again – only Parker knows what is inside his heart and head. He is only 26 and if he wants to continue in boxing there is undoubtedly a future for him there. He may have to take some lesser paydays till he works his way back up the rankings but if he has the desire that will be a minor setback.

Talk of a re-match with Whyte is unrealistic at this stage. Whyte will be looking at a bigger prize of either a fight with Deontay Wilder or a re-match with Anthony Joshua, who knocked him out for his only defeat. I can however think of a match that could be made which would keep him in the limelight and it came as a result of a bout on the undercard. Dereck Chisora's knockout of Carlos Takam (whom Parker had already beaten) has seen the 34 year old put back in the boxing limelight (he lost to Tyson Fury, Robert Helenius, Vitali Klitschko and David Haye before having 5 winning fights and being given another crack at Fury. If he can why can't Parker?). Chisora is well-loved in Britain and a clash between him and Parker would undoubtedly prove a popular attraction. Whether such a match would eventuate of course depends on the management of both boxers thinking it is worthy.

My final assessment - Parker did not disgrace himself but he will know that different tactics may have seen him record a win. Only he knows whether he has the hunger to put in the work required for another tilt at the top. Any talk of him being a loser or a pussy is disgraceful and totally off the mark and those who make such disparaging remarks should be made to front up for a sparring session with Joe.



By Shane Hurdell  
Hawke's Bay Today  
Sports Reporter

## Kahuranaki To Take On Panthers In Opening Round

JUBILANT RIANA: Riana Foster centre with Caspian Buxton (left) and Warriors from left: Georgia Hale, Jazz Tevaga, Albert Vete and Keanu Laumatia-Paki.  
PHOTO/HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

**D**EFENDING CHAMPIONS Kahuranaki will take on Napier Panthers in the opening round of Hawke's Bay's premier rugby league competition on August 11.

All games in all three competitions, premier, reserves and women, will be played at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings. Rugby League Hawke's Bay draw master Mike Tamati confirmed there will be eight premier, six reserve grade and six women's teams this season.

Last year's champions in the reserve grade, Bridge Pa, will take on Flaxmere and 2017 women's champions Bridge Pa will take on Hastings Rugby and Sports in their first round clash.

Kahuranaki upset Bridge Pa in last year's premier comp grand final and with the bulk of the Kahuranaki side turning out for Otane in Hawke's Bay's division two club rugby competition they won't be short of match fitness on August 11. Last weekend Otane completed an unbeaten run for the season with a 46-10 win against Waipawa-based WCUMR in their final.

This weekend Otane will play premier grade wooden spooners Tamatea in the promotion-relegation clash. The Tamatea side will also include plenty of league players and will also boast the services of former All Black hooker Hika Elliot.

Numerous league players were in the Clive women's rugby team which won a second consecutive Hawke's Bay championship and completed an unbeaten run for the season with their 48-28 victory against Taradale Rugby and Sports in their final at Farndon Park. One of them, flanker Laurae Blake, played for the Central Vipers team which finished third at last year's national women's tournament.

Blake and the likes of player-coach Te Maari MacGregor, 2006 world champion Black Fern Amy Williams, Deidre Hakopa, Shaylee Tipiwai, Lara Kendrick and Lisa Ropiha are all regular Hawke's Bay women's rugby league reps.

Hakopa is in her 25th consecutive season playing for Clive and has been a key architect of their 17 title wins since 1992. Most of the Clive players will turn out for Tamatea in the women's rugby league competition.

It was a memorable weekend for Clive as their premier men's team thrashed defending champions Napier Old Boys Marist 37-7 in the Maddison Trophy final at Park Island. The Clive side included Hurricanes speedster Jonah Lowe and Chiefs utility back Tiaan Falcon, a son of former Panthers NRL player and Maori All Black and Hurricane Gordon Falcon.

It was a case of sweet revenge for Lowe and Falcon as they played for Clive in the 2017 semifinals but missed out on the final which Clive lost 31-26 to NOBM because they had to play in a Magpies pre-season game the following day.

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Clive were the fourth qualifiers for this season's semifinals and NOBM the third qualifiers. Earlier this season NOBM had thrashed Clive 76-0 and 84-12.

Clive last won the Maddison Trophy in 2000. Assistant coach and hooker in this season's team, Sam Ebbitt, 43, played for Clive's Maddison Trophy-winning teams in 1999 and 2000 and was an NOBM player earlier in his career.

Ebbitt also turned out for Clive when they played in Hawke's Bay's reserve grade rugby league competition four seasons ago. Ebbitt dedicated his contribution to Clive's win at the weekend to former Clive president Alan "Porky" Nisbet who died in 2016 after a battle with cancer.

"Porky would have been proud of that effort," Ebbitt said.

"We were driving over to the park today and a Glen Campbell song was playing on the radio. Porky loved Glen Campbell's music so we thought that might be a good omen for us," Ebbitt explained as he was smothered in congratulatory hugs after the final.



**C**HCH FANS at the Fox&Ferret Palms Mall cheering on the Warriors v Titians. Not the result we wanted but there is always next week. Remember pop down each week and watch our team in the nrl. All games live on the big screen. Drink specials and give aways. Thanks to Tom & staff for the wonderful hospitality.

If you interested In going to a game ask for Steve Anngow and he can arrange a trip to Auckland, made possible with the great assistance of the madbutcher.

Keep the faith - Steve Anngow

## Vodafone Warriors Members Function after the Game!





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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 21

NRL Round 21		Tarsh Ieremaia	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Neville Kesha	High-Tackle Holloway
<b>Date/ Venue</b>	<b>Game</b>	<i>Flava Star. Moving to the beat.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Ex International Referee</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Rich- mond Leagueie</i>
Thur 2 Aug ANZ	Bulldogs v Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
Fri 3 Aug HS	Knights v Tigers	Knights	Knights	Tigers	Knights	Knights	Tigers	Tigers
Fri 3 Aug ANZ	Rabbits v Storm	Storm	Rabbits	Storm	Rabbits	Storm	Storm	Rabbits
Sat 4 Aug WIN	Dragons v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
Sat 4 Aug ANZ	Eels v Titans	Titans	Titans	Titans	Eels	Eels	Titans	Eels
Sat 4 Aug Allianz	Roosters v Cowboys	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters
Sun 5 Aug Sharkpack	Sharks v Sea Eagles	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks
Sun 5 Aug Panther Park	Panthers v Raiders	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers

Picks last week	6/8	6/8	6/8	6/8	6/8	5/8	3/8
Total picks	95	85	95	90	88	101	83

### Lost For Words...

**W**ELL NOT quite, we have ...I didn't see that coming, we will learn from this, we had a great week together, they trained very well, we are a tight bunch, we didn't take our opportunities, but in the end the word from Kearney is that we were softies! Go figure.

The commentators were forecasting both sides to put up a lot of points on the sunny firm track with the Warriors getting home by a 6 or more at the end. Well they were partly right about one thing. Go figure.

I texted a mate before kick-off to say I had concerns about our pack...The Titans had a very handy bunch up front in James, Peats, Wallace, Proctor, boom kid Jai Arrow and all action penalty magnet Keegan Hipgrave. We on the other hand looked a bit underdone, no Blair, Harris, Luke and inexperience or lack of Top grade match fitness showing in Lawton, Tevanga, Lisone, Pulu, Papaalii and Vuna mind you I thought the last two named played above their tender years. With the big lack of go-forward it's no use even mentioning the backs. All of our too frequent big losses this year have coincided with our pack being bashed and beaten and so we find ourselves hung out on a limb again all alone at the exposed bottom of the 8. The Tigers in particular lurking with intent. We got lucky that the Balmain boys got beat as well this round or they would well and truly be the enemy at the gate! Keep those fingers crossed mate! The real deal movers for the big dance look a lot clearer now.

Continued on next page...

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Best in the Business Bellamy and the Cam Smith Stormtroopers drowned the Raiders 44/10, the Star studded Roosters with Latrelle on loud scorched the Dragons 36/18 and the Burgess Brothers racing Rabbitohs came back from the dead to smoke the enigmatic Eels 26/20. This big three look to be clear of the pack with the dangerous Sharks still thereabouts to make up the 4. The wild cards are the prowling Panthers who ran down Barretts unlucky Manly mob 28/24, the Blue Mountain men have a very talented line-up of strike power when all are on deck. Do not count out Master coach Bennetts Broncos who got past Cronulla just, 12/10 at Suncorp. The Brisbane bashers can be a big danger when their halves are on song. The drooping Dragons look to be running out of steam with a jaded looking forward pack and a previously rampant rearguard that are showing frailties on defence as the season approaches the business end. Their great war-horse Pommie Graham has been a mighty rock for many years at the Bulldogs and now the Red V but is looking starting to look jaded these days, the heart beats strong but the body is tired. So to round 21 can the Warriors redeem against the Dragons of St George. Lets see who turns up.

TIPPING well almost everyone had a pretty good week. Tarsh, Joe, JC, Fast Eddie and Montz carding 6/8s and runaway Whistle-blower nifty Nev 5/8. Yours truly, found that chasing the longer shots was not a good thing this week. Cest la vie.

FOOTNOTE C is for Consistency and also for Crusaders. P is for Parker, take the money and run son. R is for the mighty Richmond Bulldogs another win on the weekend and a big chance now for our young team to hang tough in the Fox comp for 2019. Bite em Bulldogs!!

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# Warriors under 20's stars: Where are they now?

By JACKSON THOMAS - Courtesy of Stuff.co.nz

*The Warriors have a new beat reporter, one who looks beyond the wins and losses and focuses on the players, the club and its loyalist fans.*

*Stuff recently upped its investment into their rugby league coverage and young sports journalist Jackson Thomas has been appointed as the new Warriors reporter for the media organisation.*

*The 24-year-old Melbourne trained journalist has been with the company for three years across three of the company's suburban publications - and now focuses solely on the Warriors.*

*"I have always been passionate about the game and the club," he said.*

*"As a youngster, I remember the characters I would meet with my old man at the games as much as I do watching the likes of Stacey (Jones), Francis Meli and Lance Hohaia run around on a Sunday.*

*Jackson's role is not in a traditional sports reporting capacity, but rather stories on where ex players are now, the fans and the game of rugby league in New Zealand on the whole.*

*"I will aim to take readers behind closed doors also and get to know the Warriors players inside and out, be that their home life or hobbies."*

**A**S A club the Warriors have always had an abundance of junior talent, perhaps never more so than in 2010, the club's inaugural junior premierships season.

So where did the under 20's class of 2010 end up? They were stars of the future. The club's first Toyota Cup champions. But eight years on, where are they now?

## 1. Glen Fisiiahi

Glen 'the flying fish' Fisiiahi was a finisher in the purest sense of the word. The fullback turned winger finished his Toyota Cup career with 28 appearances and 20 tries and went on to earn 25 caps for the Warriors top side.

In 2016 he shifted to rugby union and signed with the Chiefs.

## 2. Omar Slaimankhel

The NRL's first Afghani player, Slaimankhel was a try scoring specialist for the Warriors juniors and eventually went on to make five first grade appearances before signing with a Japanese rugby union side.

He is back in Australia now playing for Mounties in the NSW premierships and also models for clothing brand YKTR (owned and operated by fellow former Warrior, Isaac John).

## 3. Sosaia Feki

He might have spent his junior playing days in the centres, but Feki has gone on to be one of the NRL's most consistent wingers for the Sharks with his combination of speed, power and balance.

Unwanted by his junior club at the end of 2012, Feki signed with the Sharks in 2013 and went on to win a premierships with the club in 2016.

He has made 118 first grade appearances, scoring 54 tries in the process.

*Continued on next page...*

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#### 4. Siuatonga Likiliki

As a junior, Likiliki was a man amongst boys and a force on the edge for the junior Warriors.

He signed with the Newcastle Knights in 2011 but failed to land a regular first grade gig. In 2014 he shifted to the Titans but again struggled to break into the top grades.

Likiliki, who's brother also played for the Warriors juniors, now plays in the QLD Cup for the Runaway Bay Seagulls.

#### 5. Elijah Niko

Another one lost to the other code, Niko was a crafty finisher during his time as a Warriors junior and signed with NRL powerhouse the Melbourne Storm in 2011 - though he never managed to break through into the top grade.

In 2015 he switched codes and moved to France where he now plays wing for AS Béziers Hérault, in the French second division.

#### 6. Carlos Tuimavave

Tuimavave played in both the 2010 and 2011 Grand Final victories as a junior Warriors and was awarded the club's young player of the year award.

He spent two years with the Warriors NRL side, managing nine appearances before moving to the Knights in 2015.

The utility back currently plays for Hull FC in the English Super League.

#### 7. Shaun Johnson

The only player from the class of 2010 still with the Warriors, Johnson has been a constant in the Warriors first grade side since his 2011 rookie season.

#### 8. Neccrom Areaiiti

The hard running prop has bounced around rugby league clubs since his junior days, and managed just one NRL appearance for South Sydney, against the Warriors, in 2012.

He is back living in Auckland and currently plays for the Manurewa Marlins.

#### 9. Elijah Taylor

Along with Johnson and Feki, one of the most successful junior players from the 2010 side would be Wests Tigers lock forward, Taylor.

After 67 games for the Warriors between 2011-2013, Taylor followed coach Ivan Cleary to the Panthers and then to the Tigers and has played over 150 first grade games across the three clubs.

#### 10. Mark Ioane

Like fellow prop Neccrom Areaiiti, Ioane made his NRL debut against the Warriors and went on to play 24 games for the Titans and five for the Dragons between 2013-2015.

In 2016 he signed with English outfit the London Broncos.

#### 11. Matt Robinson

A real work horse type back-rower, Robinson left the Warriors in 2012 after 40 junior appearances and signed with the Panthers where he spent two seasons and played 32 NRL games.

He now plays for the Burleigh Bears in the QLD Cup.

#### 12. Ben Henry (C)

The tragic story of Henry is one all Warriors fans are familiar with.

A series of horror knee injuries forced the promising back-rower into an early retirement in 2016, and he is now settling into life after football as a player development manager at the club.

---

**Congratulations to the Crusaders  
on their win over the Highlanders.  
Now good luck for the final this  
Saturday!**



# This Warriors Life Top 10: Warriors Rookie Seasons

By Will Evans

**W**ARRIORS COACH Stephen Kearney pinpointed young second-row pairing Isaiah Papali'i and Joseph Vuna as his standout performers in a dismal loss to Gold Coast on Sunday. Papali'i, who was blooded off the bench in 2017, has been a revelation in his first full season of NRL football, while fellow 19-year-old Vuna has looked the goods so far in four first-grade outings.

This week we take a look at the best and most memorable campaigns by Warriors rookies.

## THISWARRIORS LIFE.COM TOP 10 – WARRIORS ROOKIE SEASONS

### 10. Odell Manuel (1999)

Otahuhu Leopards product Manuel won a wing spot in new Auckland Warriors coach Mark Graham's squad for Round 1 and held his place for the entire season, scoring nine tries in 24 games to win the club's Rookie of the Year award.

New Zealand Test honours beckoned for the former Junior Kiwi rep but his follow-up season was less impressive and, after turning out for NZ Maori at the 2000 World Cup, he linked with Canberra in 2001 for an underwhelming two-year stint.

### 9. Sonny Fai (2008)

Mangere East Hawks junior Sonny Fai was destined for rugby league's heights, debuting just three days after his 20th birthday and showing massive promise as a second-rower/centre in 15 NRL outings, in which he crossed for five tries.

Fai could not force his way into the Warriors' 17 for their finals campaign but he was named in both the New Zealand and Samoa training squads for the World Cup at the end of the year.

Fai tragically drowned after being caught in a rip while trying to save his brother and cousins at Te Henga (Bethells Beach) on January 4, 2009.

### 8. Brent Webb (2002)

Unheralded Cairns product Webb was an outstanding 'Mr. Fix-it' during the Warriors' 2002 minor premiership-winning campaign. The 21-year-old started games at hooker, five-eighth, centre and fullback, scoring nine tries in his first 12 appearances – including a vital double off the bench in a historic defeat of the Broncos in Brisbane.

With versatile types Lance Hohaia and Motu Tony also in the squad, Webb was unluckily left out of the lineup during the finals but assumed the No.1 jumper vacated by the retired Ivan Cleary in 2003.

### 7. Solomone Kata (2015)

Kata bagged a hat-trick and man-of-the-match honours in the Warriors' 2014 NYC grand final win and was one of just three players to feature in all 24 NRL games for the club the following season.

The nuggetty centre powerhouse scored 11 tries in his first 13 games in the top grade and earned a Test debut for Tonga after just a handful of NRL appearances.

The tries dried up for the 20-year-old as the Warriors' finished the year on an eight-match losing streak, but his tally of 12 touchdowns was enough to end Manu Vatuvei's run of 10 straight seasons as the club's top try-scorer.

*Continued on next page...*

### **6. Motu Tony (2001)**

Marist Saints product Tony debuted for the Warriors as a 19-year-old and filled a number of roles with the expertise of a veteran as the club surged to a maiden top-eight finish in 2001. Initially used as a bench utility, the versatile livewire scored four tries in four games at fullback before settling in as Stacey Jones' halves partner.

Tony was selected as New Zealand's fullback for the mid-season Test against France after just eight NRL appearances, while he wore the No.6 jumper in the Warriors' first-ever finals match, scoring a try in the 56-12 loss to Parramatta – his 10th four-pointer of the season.

### **5. Konrad Hurrell (2012)**

After dominating the NYC competition as the Warriors made it back-to-back premierships in 2011, centre tyro Hurrell became an immediate crowd favourite at Mount Smart during his 2012 rookie campaign. The Tonga-born wrecking ball debuted off the bench in Round 1 against Manly and scored a try in his maiden start a week later against Parramatta.

In a spectacular mid-season streak, Hurrell crossed the try-line in seven consecutive games – including doubles against Sydney Roosters and Wests Tigers, and a hat-trick at Gold Coast's expense. He finished the year with 12 touchdowns from 17 NRL appearances.

### **4. Elijah Taylor (2011)**

Taylor captained the Warriors NYC side to a maiden premiership in 2010 and was the first to graduate to NRL level, debuting in Round 4 of the following season. The 21-year-old quickly cemented a second-row spot alongside Simon Mannering and finished his rookie season with 21 appearances.

The Otahuhu junior featured prominently throughout the Warriors' finals campaign and scored a try in the club's grand final loss to Manly after switching to centre as injury cover. Taylor capped a remarkable rise by making his New Zealand Test debut during the subsequent Four Nations tournament.

### **3. Stacey Jones (1995)**

Penrith legend Greg Alexander and New Zealand Test star Gene Ngamu seemed locked in as the Auckland Warriors' halves pairing for 1995, with mercurial veteran Phil Blake a standout choice at fullback. But the prodigious talent of teenager Jones forced coach John Monie into a rethink.

After making a try-scoring debut off the bench against Parramatta in Round 7, Jones was handed a starting role three weeks later – starring in a 23-18 win over Cronulla – and played all 13 remaining games. A dominant display in arguably the Warriors' best win of '95, a 29-8 demolition of eventual premiers the Bulldogs, announced Jones as a future superstar.

Mat Rogers and John Hopoate scooped the major rookie awards that year but Jones was only a whisker behind, while he usurped Kiwis great Gary Freeman as Test halfback at the World Cup at season's end.

### **2. Lance Hohaia (2002)**

When a season-ending injury to captain Monty Betham saw PJ Marsh switch from five-eighth to hooker, 18-year-old Huntly product Hohaia was tossed the No.6 jumper and immediately formed a superb combination with Stacey Jones.

*Continued from previous page...*

Debuting in Round 4, Hohaia scored seven tries in his first 10 NRL games and was hailed as one of the leading contenders for the Dally M Rookie of the Year award, which instead went to another Kiwi, Bulldogs winger Matt Utai.

Hohaia dropped back to the interchange late in the season for the minor premiers with Motu Tony promoted to starting pivot, but he came off the bench in all three of the minor premiers' finals matches – including the grand final loss to Sydney Roosters – and made his Test debut at five-eighth against Australia at the end of the season.

### **1. Shaun Johnson (2011)**

The linchpin of the Warriors' maiden NYC premiership success in 2010, Johnson made his NRL debut in Round 13 of the following season after an injury to regular halfback Brett Seymour. He scored six tries in his next nine appearances in the top flight, including one of the all-time great individual touchdowns against Brisbane and sizzling long-range efforts against North Queensland and Penrith.

Johnson had just 12 first-grade games under his belt heading into the 2011 finals but handled the playoffs stage like a seasoned veteran. His cross-field kick produced the match-winning try for Krisnan Inu in the 22-20 semi-final defeat of Wests Tigers, while his mesmerising run to set up Lewis Brown's sealer in the preliminary final boilover against Melbourne grabbed an immediate place in finals folklore.

The 21-year-old capped an amazing four months by laying on two tries in the Warriors' late comeback in the grand final against Manly, which ultimately fell short 24-10.

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# By public demand we have moved the draw out to the 7th of August!



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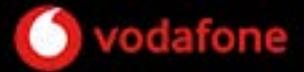
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## Warriors Look To Develop Regional Players

**I**N AN aim to try to help stop the drain of young talented rugby league players being drawn to Australian NRL clubs the Vodafone Warriors have introduced a Youth Development Academy to highlight potential pathways to top level rugby league while remaining in New Zealand.

In an unexpected surprise, after the recent U15 tournament, Greymouths' Callum Donaldson (pictured left) was asked to attend one of these academies in Auckland. Callum was surprised and excited to receive a phone call on Tuesday asking if he would be interested in joining the academy on that Friday. He was flown from Hokitika to Auckland on Thursday, put up in a motel that night and attended the Academy on Friday.

The academy offered players a look into the pathways that could result should they continue their path towards careers in rugby league.

Players were also tested on strength and conditioning and had educational talks about resilience and what it takes to become a high level player within the NRL.

Highlights of the day were getting to meet legends of the game in particular Simon Mannering, Manu Vatu-vai, Ben Henry, Issac Luke and Stacey Jones.

This experience highlights that local players have as many opportunities to be noticed and to progress towards a career in Rugby League as the main centres.

Warriors General Manager, Brian Smith said that it was his goal to give regional players the opportunity to make it to higher level competition through education and development. To achieve this he said players need to realise that not only talent is required to progress. Hard work and being a good person both on and off the field is what they were looking for when selecting players to potentially fill positions that may become available in the future.

The West Coast has a proud history in Rugby League and has produced many of the great players that have represented New Zealand.

It is a credit to our local competition that talented players like GriffIn Neame and Tom and Jack Campbell have already began their pathways towards careers within rugby league.

With many more young talented players still coming through our clubs and with huge efforts being made to help give these boys the necessary skills required to achieve higher recognition from dedicated coaches, the future of the game locally is looking bright.



# WCRL Schoolboys Legends Tournament Deciders

*By West Coast  
Rugby League*

**T**HE DECIDING round of the West Coast League Legends was played at Jellyman Park in trying conditions, all teams short on numbers, the games were still played with high intensity and enjoyed by all players.

The deciding game for the Under 12s Quentin Pongia v Tony Coll started off slow with both teams getting used to the elements. Quentin Pongia's started to string together good team plays with the ball movement getting all players involved. Declyn King got the pack moving, making metres up the middle, and was rewarded with the first try. Liam Gurden converted. Gurden had some nice clearing kicks to keep the Tony Coll side always coming out of their own half. Great hands shown by Cruz Spicer to defuse the kicks on the full. Clem Swinburn made a break down the right side almost making it to the try line, to plays later Kahlykah McHatton, saw the short side and used her speed to get around defenders to score for Tony Coll to get them back in the game. Score 6 - 4. Sammi Donaldson who had a strong game, scooped up the ball pinned her ears back and ran, bumping off tacklers and changing direction ran straight to the goal posts to score under them. That put Quentin Pongia's team out to 10 points. Swinburn again burst through the front-line defence to run 50meters this time Quentin Pongia's were unable to bring him down, and he score the final points before half time, keeping the Tony Coll's in touch. Half time score 10 - 8 to Quentin Pongia. As the rain started to get heavier, the players took the field for the second half, Tony Coll's lead by Matt Molloy controlled the field position, having most of the ball in the early periods, put heaps of pressure on Quentin Pongia's and they struggled to get out of their own half. Poppy Williams and McHatton made good metres for the first and second tackles and that set up the rest of the set. McHatton was rewarded with a second try with a solo run to the try line, Tony Coll's got in front for the first time of the match and never looked back keeping Quentin Pongia's scoreless. Williams scored a double thanks to her team mates Harvey Tacon and Swinburn for their non-stop hard work up the middle. Tacon scored the last try due to pure determination, scoring over a couple of Quentin Pongia defenders. Carlos Wafer, played extremely well in a beaten side, stopped certain tries by not giving up. Tony Coll selection team won the first series congratulation to all involved. Final Score Tony Coll 26 (McHatton 2, Williams 2, Swinburn, Tacon Tries) Quentin Pongia 10 (King, Donaldson tries, Gurden goal)

Next up Under 13's representing Don Ladner and Bob Neilson, Don Ladner side won the last game and they are one each, going into this deciding game. A clever kick from Aston Wilson to Jack Fahey opened up the score board for Don Ladners team. Calib Arnesen hit back for Bob Neilson, good hands from Reece Duggan, Arnesen was able to score in the corner to level up. Niko Barnett joined in and beat soft defence to score out wide to get Don Ladners back in front. From the kick off they marched back down to their goal line, Wilson dictating play passed back in side to James Crook for him to score under the posts making an easier conversion for Wilson, Don Ladners were looking good going into the break, however they coughed up possession and from a scrum Bob Neilson spun the ball wide and with share speed Arnesen scored again. Going into half time 6 down.

*Continued on next page...*

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After the break Bob Neilson had everything going their way great footwork and speed made Duggan hard to tackle and always bet the first defender with his runs. Bob Neilson came together as a team and set up the next try to Connor Green with good passing between players. The conversion unsuccessful they were still down by 2 points. Duggan score the next two tries to get his team in front with a handy lead and Bob Neilson's were controlling the ball a lot better, unfortunately Theo Barnett scored next for Don Ladner keeping them in touch and Wilson conversions going over making it easier to close the gap. Wilson, after looking like he'd broken his leg, got the ball in the next play, dummied and took off to level the game up. Fahey took this conversion to win the game and the series by two points. Don Ladner 24 (Fahey, Crook, N. Barnett, T. Barnett Wilson tries, Wilson 2, Fahey goals) Bob Neilson 22 (Arnesen 2, Duggan 2, Green Tries, Green goal)

The last legends of league fixture saw the U17s Jock Butterfield v U15 Trevor Kilkelly, which was played at Jellyman Park, lived up to hype that surrounded it.

It was a game that see-sawed as each team tried to gain control of the scoreboard.

As one team seemed to get the ascendancy the other would strike back.

The big guys at the front caused each other trouble...As Jared Cutbush would break one sides defence the favour would be returned by Josh Blyth.

Henry Gibson ran strongly and created some great opportunities for the Jock Butterfield selection but not to be out done Tom and Jack Campbell were electric on attack and defence for their Trevor Kilkelly team.

Opposing halves Brett Rees and Riley Pascoe have each had great seasons and they too stretched the opposing defensive lines and created opportunities for their teams with every touch of the ball.

Zeb Thompson, Dylan Sutton and George Gibson each had solid games for their Butterfield side.

Dean wisdom, Harrison Calder and Geordie Gibson each produced strong efforts for their Kilkelly team.

As the game came to an end the Butterfield side was six points ahead of their Kilkelly counterparts.

This close score line shows what an evenly matched affair these games have been and that is a credit to the players who have shown up this year to make these games possible. Final score 44-38 to Butterfield.





# Manurewa Cap Undefeated Year With Title

By ARL

**T**HE MANUREWA Marlins made it back-to-back Farrelly Photos Women's Premiership titles, after coming out on top in a thrilling Grand Final on Sunday at Mount Smart Stadium #2.

Up 20-14 with three minutes to go, Manurewa then leaked a try under the sticks and the game looked destined for extra time, only for the conversion in front to ping off the crossbar.

With first-choice kicker Alice Vailea nursing a leg injury picked up late in the game, Richmond fullback Shannon Muru was called up to attempt the kick, with the effort not having the required power, effectively handing Manurewa another title.

The win was a deserving reward for Manurewa at the end of a brilliant 2018 season, which saw them go undefeated.

The Rusty Matua-coached Marlins had raced out to a 10-0 lead early against Richmond, thanks to four-pointers from Krystal Rota and Kararaina Wira-Kohu.

A quick play-the-ball from TJ Noble-Bell laid the platform for Rota's effort, before Wira-Kohu rushed from five metres out to find a hole and crash over.

Richmond hit back on the half hour through Vailea, but when Louisa Gago wrapped around for a try in the middle of the park, which Kere Matua converted, Manurewa had a 16-4 to take to the break.

In the second half, tries to Lorina Papali'i and Johreena Sekene, one of which was converted by Vailea, cut the gap to 16-14, with both tries coming off kicks, the first from Shontelle Woodman and the second a pinpoint grubber from Vailea.

But when Manurewa's Christyl Stowers executed a left-side shift to score with 12 minutes left, Richmond's dream of a comeback appeared over.

Following long stoppages in play for a couple of injuries, Annetta Nuuausala powered over from close range to score a try which should have forced extra time, with a couple of centimetres on the ensuing conversion denying the central Aucklanders a shot at a memorable victory.

Earlier in the day the Ponsonby Ponies ran out convincing 54-18 winners over Mt Wellington in the second-tier Grand Final, with backrower Mele Toki starring with three tries.

Manurewa 20 (Krystal Rota, Kararaina Wira-Kohu, Louisa Gago, Christyl Stowers tries; Kere Matua x2 goals) def. Richmond 18 (Alice Vailea, Lorina Papali'i, Johreena Sekene, Annetta Nuuausala tries; Alice Vailea 1 goal). At Mt Smart Stadium #2.



# ARL Match Reports

By ARL

## Rd 16 SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Match Reports

Mangere East 30 Mt Albert 27

A last-minute try to Dakohta Taimani saw Mangere East register one of the upsets of the season at Walter Massey Park. In a game where the lead changed multiple times, Mt Albert appeared to have the game won when they took a three-point lead with five to go, thanks to a Reece Joyce field goal and penalty. But directly off a scrum 10 metres from the line, on what turned out to be the last play of the game, Taimani sliced through to score the match-winner and boot the Lions back out of the top four.

Papakura 22 Richmond 32

A strong first half set Richmond up for a crucial victory in the push to avoid relegation. After taking a four-try lead into the sheds, Richmond had to survive a late scare which saw Papakura bag consecutive tries in the final 10 minutes. Centre Siave Tupou was a standout for the Bulldogs, scoring two tries in the win, which lifts them four points clear of relegation.

Glenora 36 Otahuhu 10

Glenora ran riot in the first half, clocking 30 points to Otahuhu's 10, before shutting their opponents out for the entire second 40, to defend the Roope Rooster challenge trophy. The Bears' star-studded forward pack did much of the damage, and off the back of it fullback Polima Siaki scored a pair of tries.

Howick 20 Northcote 18

A George Edwards try on the buzzer and a Drew Radich conversion saw Howick upset Northcote and jump back inside the competition's top four. Northcote had led from the 15th minute right through to the 79th, before Edwards got on the end of a backline move to tie things up, setting Radich up with a game-winning kick 10 in from the sideline.

Marist 6 Pt Chevalier 22

Pt Chevalier scored a flurry of points late in the game to get past a determined Marist at Murray Halberg Park. Up just 10-6 at the break, Pt Chevalier were made to work for everything in the second 40, with Francis Leger and Saula Solomona scoring key tries.

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from previous page...

## Rd 14 Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Match Reports

Franklin 20 Ellerslie 22

A storming finish saw Ellerslie record a come-from-behind win over Franklin, which keeps them in third position. Franklin had led 12-10 at the break, and stretched the gap to 10 points with 20 to go. But the Eagles rallied late, scoring via Liam Tuaiti, with Hayden Mcleod-Crumpe converting for the win. Franklin wing William Pompey was a standout in the loss, crossing for a hat-trick.

Otara 50 New Lynn 18

Otara's James Toleafoa scored a hat-trick in his side's comfortable win over the Stags. The Scorpions carried momentum through the first half and led 26-4 at the break, continuing their charge in the second to remain inside the competition's top eight.

Te Atatu 28 Manurewa 22

Doubles to Allan Pesamino and Shiloh Fountain helped lift Te Atatu past Manurewa. The Roosters were in fine touch through the first 40, taking a 22-6 advantage into the break. Te Atatu's sole second-half try proved enough for them to dodge a brilliant comeback from the visitors.

Bay Roskill 20 Ponsonby 10

Bay Roskill have wrapped up the minor premiership and remain undefeated after winning the top-of-the-table clash against Ponsonby. The home side led 14-4 at half-time, with former Kiwi international Jerome Ropati the Vikings' standout player.

Papatoetoe 16 Waitemata 60

A remarkable five-try haul from fullback Ilai Faamita set the tone for Waitemata in a big win over bottom-placed Papatoetoe on the road. The Seagulls scored 26 points in the first half before adding a further 34 in the second, with their big forward pack a key component in the win.

Northern BYE

Manukau BYE



Cherish green Who flew over for the game from the West Coast was stoked to get a photo taken with Simon Mannering.



It was great to catch up with former Vodafone Warriors player Kevin Campion on the Gold Coast.



It's always great when Mark Robinson co owner of the club. Takes the time to come and watch the boys train and catch up with this good mate Stacey Jones.



## Media Release

SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018

### **BRONCOS MEN AND TIGERS WOMEN TAKE OUT INAUGURAL NRL TOUCH PREMIERSHIP**

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> July, the Tigers Women's team and Broncos Men's team took out the inaugural NRL Touch Premiership at the Gold Coast's CBus Super Stadium.

The Women's Wests Tigers elite touch football team finished the grand final with a 4-2 result against the Brisbane Broncos, while the Men's Broncos team conquered the Tigers 6-5.

Despite the Australian-player-packed line-up in the Women's Broncos, the Tigers played their hearts out in what happened to be International Tiger Day.

After the Women's match wrapped up, The Tigers were looking to make it a double, with the Men's getting off to the perfect start. But it was a draw at full-time, and when it went into a three-on-three player drop-off, the Broncos ended up getting one up on them.

"Both the Men's and Women's games were tight and tense, so the players really gave the crowd at Cbus Super Stadium a fantastic show of skill and speed," said Touch Football Australia CEO Steve Mitchell.

The grand final was played ahead of the Titans v Warriors NRL match, and it was broadcast live on Fox League.

There were six NRL clubs involved in this NRL Touch Premiership: the Wests Tigers, Parramatta Eels, Newcastle Knights, Gold Coast Titans, Brisbane Broncos and North Queensland Cowboys.

"We've been so happy with the NRL Touch Premiership in its inaugural year," said Mitchell. "We've had fantastic responses from audiences. It's an exciting product that's been referred to as rugby league's Twenty20 because it's fast, fun, family-friendly and high in try-scoring.

"We're looking forward to developing it so it's even bigger and better next year. We're currently speaking with NRL clubs with the view to have more teams, and certainly more rounds, next year."



# Hibiscus Coast

## SOFTBALL

**Welcome** those who wish to apply for Coaching positions at our Club. Join a friendly, progressive, supportive club! Opportunities exist across all age grades starting with our Under 6's through each age group and onto our Senior grades, both male and female.



### Some great things about Coaching:

- ⇒ Be recognised as a person who supports a great club and is associated with the club in a positive way.
- ⇒ Experience in Managing a group of people. Upskill our Athletes - provide an avenue to and develop our softball players.
- ⇒ Develop Personal: Your personal confidence will grow!
- ⇒ Upskill! The club provides access to seminars, tutorials and on-line resources to develop you as a coach.
- ⇒ Qualifications - Start on the pathway to being a qualified coach. HBCSC work with Softball NZ to get you the best support.

**Support:** HBCSC will support you in your efforts.

**Time:** A game of softball has an hour and half time limit – we want you to have a life outside of the game!

**Recognition:** Get recognised in the game as someone contributing positively.

**Family:** Help in the progress and success of a family member!

Be a part of the bigger picture, contribute to the growth of our club and the game of Softball.

**Who are we?** This page describes HBCSC's values and beliefs. We think that believing in these will make our club even more awesome!

[www.hbcsoftball.org.nz/our-club-values](http://www.hbcsoftball.org.nz/our-club-values)

Next Step: **We're here to answer any questions you may have!** Your first port of call is **Leon Smith** – [secretary@hbcsoftball.org.nz](mailto:secretary@hbcsoftball.org.nz) or 0221 938 619 or **Ken Lee** - [vicepresident@hbcsoftball.org.nz](mailto:vicepresident@hbcsoftball.org.nz) 027 221 6006



Broadee Green, Samuel Green, Layne Green and Cooper Green originally from Rununga West coast. Dad Bernard Hurgi Green played for the kiwis.

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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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