

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

3rd October 2018

Newsletter #238



2018



**Congratulations to Roger
Tuivasa-Sheck for Winning
the Dally M Medal**



Tuivasa-Sheck, R Dally M and Father Johnny
Photo www.photosport.nz



By John Coffey

Greatest Night In Warriors History?

DID LAST week's NRL awards night in Sydney finally prove Australian-based players can prosper by joining the Warriors -- that a transfer to Auckland is not a kiss of death to one's aspirations? The Warriors carried off four major prizes, the most of any club, highlighted by captain Roger Tuivasa-Sheck receiving the supreme Dally M Medal. His recognition should eliminate all prejudices about crossing the Tasman.

RTS's success was warmly and widely greeted in the Sydney media. The Daily Telegraph virtually said the Warriors were no longer an outpost "where careers go to die". It recalled dire warnings that RTS would sink into oblivion after leaving the Sydney Roosters in 2016, especially when his first Warriors season was ruined by a serious knee injury. Instead, he rose from that setback to be acclaimed the NRL's best player.

Although RTS was a warm favourite on trans-Tasman betting charts his victory was not confirmed until the last votes were announced by Kangaroos coach and thirteenth Immortal Mal Meninga. The highly prized medal was placed around his neck by Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, a diehard Cronulla fan, and the Fullback of the Year trophy was presented to him by quadruple Dally M medallist Johnathan Thurston.

There was live television drama when Newcastle Knights wonder kid Kalyn Ponga skipped to a five-point lead late in the voting and was still one point ahead of RTS and Wests Tigers halfback Luke Brooks entering the last two rounds. Ponga was then sidelined by an ankle injury and could not add to his total of 27 points -- but he stayed ahead when neither RTS nor Brooks registered a vote in the penultimate round.

Brooks was then named Halfback of the Year, indicating he was not going to feature for the top prize. Meninga allowed the suspense to build before finally announcing RTS had received three points in the last round against the Canberra Raiders. The judge for that match was former Kangaroos centre Ryan Girdler. RTS's 29 points pipped Ponga (27) with Brooks (26) third and Cronulla fullback Valentine Holmes (25) fourth.

I couldn't help thinking RTS had also missed a couple of games during the season, notably when partner Ashley was expecting their first child, and that it could have cost him the most prestigious individual award in the game. Not that he would have had any regrets. The manner in which he thanked Ashley and his family -- after a touching moment with his father, Johnny, when his win was confirmed -- underlined that.

"This is crazy," said RTS. "I remember the first time I came to these awards in 2013. Cooper Cronk won the Dally M and I remembered sitting there thinking, 'Man, it would be a dream to win this award'. I didn't know that day would come so I feel truly blessed to be holding this trophy and wearing this medal." Club-mates Isaac Luke and Jazz Tevaga and fellow Kiwis Jordan Rapana and Jamayne Isaako honoured RTS with a stunning haka.

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Tevaga had come from the stage of join Luke and Rapana. He played his own role in making it such a great night for the Warriors by being named Interchange Player of the Year. It was a fitting reward for his whole-hearted efforts off the bench, whether as Luke's understudy or, even more so, as one of the smallest but busiest loose forwards in the NRL. Tevaga embellishes the spirit of the retiring Simon Mannering.

David Fusitu'a was the first recipient of the Ken Irvine Medal as the competition's top try-scorer, touching down 22 times in 22 appearances. The Fusitu'a trademark was spectacular diving for the goal-line, often planting the ball down with his entire body airborne outside the sideline. Irvine's career record of 212 tries for Norths and Manly – most of them the product of his blistering speed -- has already lasted 48 years.

The Warriors have never enjoyed an awards night like it. RTS is the club's first Dally M medallist and only the third Kiwi after Gary Freeman and Jason Taumalolo. At the Roosters he was Fullback of the Year in 2015 and Winger of the Year in 2013. In addition to Tevaga and Fusitu'a also taking home trophies, Stephen Kearney was a finalist for Coach of the Year and Luke polled an impressive 18 Dally M points.

It was a great night for Canterbury juniors. Tevaga learned his rugby league basics with the Burnham Chevaliers club at the New Zealand Army camp south of Christchurch. Brisbane Broncos wing and goalkicker Jarmayne Isaako, an Aranui Eagles junior from Christchurch's eastern suburbs, was doubly recognised as Rookie of the Year and also the most prolific points scorer in the NRL minor premiership.

Those judged as best in their positions were RTS (fullback), Blake Ferguson (wing), Joseph Leilua (centre), Cameron Munster (five-eighth), Luke Brooks (halfback), Jason Taumalolo (lock), Josh Jackson (second-row), Andrew Fifita (prop), Damien Cook (hooker) and Jazz Tevaga (interchange). Coach of the Year was South Sydney's Anthony Seibold and Captain of the Year was Melbourne's Cameron Smith.

Fittingly, women's rugby league was recognised more than ever. Former Jillaroos captain Tarsha Gale made a passionate speech about the struggles for recognition leading up to the introduction of the NRLW competition this year. Brisbane hooker Brittany Breayley won the women's Dally M Medal and the inaugural State of Origin match at North Sydney Oval was judged the Peter Frilingos Memorial Headline Moment of 2018.



The banner features two players in action: a New Zealand player on the left and an Australian player on the right. The New Zealand player is wearing a black jersey with 'IRTEK' and '778' visible. The Australian player is wearing a green jersey with a yellow V-neck. The background is dark with green foliage. On the right side, there is a 'TRANS-TASMAN TEST' logo, the date 'SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER', the venue 'MT SMART STADIUM', and a 'GET TICKETS' button. At the bottom left, text reads 'NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA', '3 TESTS 1 DAY', and 'IT'S TIME'.

TRANS-TASMAN TEST

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER
MT SMART STADIUM

GET TICKETS

NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA
3 TESTS 1 DAY
IT'S TIME

At the Dally M Awards with Sir Peter



Always great to catch up with my mate Darryl Brohman and Todd Greenberg (CEO of the NRL).



Bella's night out with Dad.



Colleen and Cameron McGregor. Cameron is chairman of the Warriors board.



David Fusitua and partner Eden enjoying the night.



Great to have three of the Warriors Women squad at the awards. Kyrstal, Hilda and Laura.



Great to spend some time with Jazz Tevaga.



Had a great night with Jim Doyle.



Having fun with David Fusitua and Issac Luke.



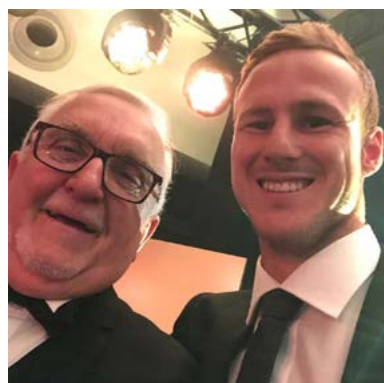
I even managed to slip in for a photo with the boys.



I love Rugby League because you become mates with some great people like Darri Brohman and Martin Taupau.



Maybelle and Joe Galuvao. Joe played for the Warriors, Panthers, Eels and Sea Eagles for a total of 240 NRL games.



Nice to see Daly Cherry-Evans.

At the Dally M Awards with Sir Peter



Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and his very proud dad Johnny.



The boys chilling.



The three Vodafone Warriors winners on the night. David Fusitua, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Jazz Tevaga.



Warriors player Krystal with her Dad Roger a very handy league player in his day.



Was nice to see my old mat the King, Wally Lewis, and his lovely wife Jackie.



Always great to catch up with this lovely couple Martin Taupau & Michelle the love of Marty's life. The true love birds.



David, Cameron (Warriors CEO), Bruce Rogers (Manager), Roger, Jazz and Steven all smiles.



The Vodafone Warriors A team at the awards in Sydney tonight including Roger, David and Jazz.

Check out my interview with Cameron George (Vodafone Warriors CEO). Click here:

<https://www.facebook.com/sirpeterleitch/videos/516555625476311/>



Roosters Cock-A-Hoop

By David Kemey's

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



MINOR PREMIERS and now NRL champions the Sydney City Roosters rule the roost. If you asked me a fortnight ago I would have told you this was, except for a few galling episodes, the best NRL season I could recall in a long while, with the eight sides into the final separated by only two points.

Week after week the lower-finishing sides were eliminated until only No 1 and No 2 were left standing.

It was marketing dream.

Then came two decisions that have left me totally scratching my head and wondering why I bother.

First was the Billy Slater shoulder charge. Now I am not a lawyer or a member of the judiciary but I still cannot understand how he got away with it, and have every sympathy for those who think it was an utter outrage.

I have heard all the theories, protecting Slater's fairytale finish, one rule for Melbourne another for everyone else, that it would have damaged the gate, that it stood to derail the marketing, and I have no idea where the truth lies.

What I do know, or at least I thought I did, was a shoulder charge when I saw one. Apparently not.

What I don't have sympathy with was the booing Slater copped during the final. At the end of the day, disagree or not, a decision was reached – and not by Billy – but by the judiciary, and he deserved better after a wonderful career.

The second reason was the Cooper Cronk injury. Just as I am not a lawyer, I am not a doctor either, but we now know that he played the match courtesy of four pain-killing injections for a broken shoulder bone.

You can admire the courage and determination or you can call it what it actually is – stupid.

Clubs have a duty to protect players and it doesn't end because a game is more important than usual. I can only hope, and I say this genuinely, that if the Warriors had a player suffering from that kind of injury we would not put him out there.

So for me the season goes from one I immensely enjoyed to one where I am left with two abiding memories, both hugely damaging to my view of our great game.

That shouldn't take away from Cronk's incredible performance, described repeatedly on the commentary as the Roosters having 12 men and an on-field coach, as they brushed aside a Melbourne side that looked ridiculously off its game, making repeated errors and offering bugger-all on attack, even given how well the Roosters defended.

Cronk was kept away from everything, just directing Luke Keary where and when to kick and pass, and hiding behind Mitch Aubusson throughout.

It would be unfair not to mention Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, so frequently derided as ill-disciplined and unworthy of a place in a Kiwis jersey. He was a monster and played as well as I have ever seen.

In truth, I didn't think it was much of a game. In 2008 Manly beat the Storm 40-0, so it was hardly as one-sided as that, but all the same, Melbourne were never in it.

At the start off the year the bookies said the Roosters would win the comp, turns out they were right.

Smith Unhappy With Billy's Boos

Never thought I'd see the day when I agreed with Melbourne Storm captain Cameron Smith.

But he has savaged the boos that rang out every time Billy Slater got the ball in the Grand Final, saying he deserved more respect from the Sydney fans.

He's not alone, with NRL commentators also upset by it, but Slater seems to have taken it in his stride.

"That's footy, we tried our best but that's the way it goes. I'm grateful for the career I've had, the friends I've made and what league has done for me. It taught me selflessness and respect."

Where I do differ from these folk though is that they seemed surprised. What did they think was going to happen after the decision that cleared him to play?

While the boos might have been reprehensible, they shouldn't have come as any surprise.

Not A leg To Stand On

"I'll see your broken shoulder bone and raise you a broken leg."

Roosters winger Blake Ferguson apparently played the final 30 minutes with a broken fibula.

Fergie, who is off to the Eels, was on crutches and in a moonboot after the final, with Roosters coach Trent Robinson saying he wasn't aware of the extent of Ferguson's injury until after full-time.

"We knew he had an injury but the longer it goes it sort of starts to get numb, so they ended up getting it scanned and we found out he'd broken his leg."

Robinson said Ferguson's willingness to play through the pain was emblematic of his mindset. "It's about the mentality he had throughout the year."

It's The Munster Mash

What a surprise, Cameron Munster has been cleared to play for the Kangaroos despite being charged for kicking Rooster Joseph Manu in the head.

Pathetic.

Munster was charged with contrary conduct but he will escape with a fine, clearing him to play in this month's tests against New Zealand and Tonga.

"I was frustrated and it was a bit of a brain fart, but I really can't explain what happened. I said sorry to Manu after the game and I know there's going to be a lot of keyboard warriors saying some stuff to me, but I'm not like that."

Well you obviously are Cameron, and there's footage to prove it.

But don't worry mate, the judiciary is a total farce.

Sin-binned twice in a Grand Final, it's quite a thing to be famous for.

Five New Names For Kiwis

Michael Maguire has named five debutants in his 23-man squad for this month's clash against Australia and the tour of the UK.

Several experienced campaigners are recalled too.

Dally M medal winner Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke, Tohu Harris and Kieran Foran were unavailable due to injury, while Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Zane Tetevano picked up injuries in the final.

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“In some ways it's a bit of a new era,” Maguire said. “I've obviously got some long-term goals but at the end of the day it's about what we do when we come together.”

The Kiwis begin their programme at Mt Smart on October 13 in what will be the first test against the Kangaroos on home soil since 2014. They then go on a three-test series against England in Hull, Liverpool and Leeds.

Kiwis: Leeson Ah Mau (Dragons); Gerard Beale (Warriors); Adam Blair (Warriors); Jesse Bromwich (Storm); Kenneath Bromwich (Storm); James Fisher-Harris (Panthers); Corey Hawawira-Naera (Panthers); Jahrome Hughes (Storm); Jamayne Isaako (Broncos); Shaun Johnson (Warriors); Isaac Liu (Roosters); Joseph Manu (Roosters); Esan Marsters (Tigers); Ken Maumalo (Warriors); Kodi Nikorima (Broncos); Isaiah Papali'i (Warriors); Kevin Proctor (Titans); Jordan Rapanahina (Raiders); Brandon Smith (Storm); Joseph Tapine (Raiders); Martin Taupau (Manly); Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Roosters); Dallin Watene-Zelezniak (Panthers).

Buntty And Jazz Back

The Vodafone Warriors have signed front rower Buntty Afoa to the end of the 2021 NRL season.

At just 22 he is already well-established as one of our first-choice forwards. He needs only six more appearances to reach the 50-game milestone.

Our footy manager Brian Smith says Afoa is a vital signing as we secure the players we have developed.

The same must be true of Dally M Medal winner Jazz Tevaga, who has re-signed on a one-year deal for 2019 with an option for 2020.

The back rower/hooker, 23, made 20 appearances this year and was good enough to pick up that medal for best interchange player.

“We have a really good crop of young players making their way in the NRL,” Smith says.

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



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Attention all X Kiwis and Officials

The New Zealand rugby league Kiwi Association is holding a reunion on Sunday, 14 October the day after the Kiwis play Australia at Mount Smart Stadium it is open all ex kiwis players management and officials players and management are coming from all over the country ex kiwis coach Frank Endacott is coming up from the South Island To register contact our secretary J Woodhouse Auckland 09571 2000 or Juanita.w@Auckland League.co.nz you must REGISTER

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By Barry Ross
Australian Correspondent

Entertaining Day

Sir Pete and Peter Wynn (taken in Sydney last Wednesday (26 September)).

Club FOOTBALL is all over for another year and it won't be long before the coaches call their players together to begin preparations for 2019. A lot of credit must go to the NRL for a entertaining and interesting Grand Final day. The football was great, as was the pregame show, while Daryl Braithwaite brought the house down at halftime with his version of "The Horses." He first released this back in 1990 but there must have been plenty from that generation at the game as they happily and loudly joined Braithwaite in singing. Before the Gang of Youths began their pregame songs, retiring players were paraded around the ground. This was really well done. The 16 retirees named in the game day programme were Johnathan Thurston, Sam Thaiday, Luke Lewis, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering, Jason Nightingale, Frank Paul-Nuuausala, Chris Heighington, Kirisome Auva'a, Beau Scott, Peter Wallace, Antonio Winterstein, Jacob Lillyman, Ryan Simpkins, Jonathan Wright and of course Billy Slater, who was in the dressing room preparing for the big game. Between these 16 men there was a total of 3,882 first grade matches, while seven of them (Slater, Thurston, Lewis, Thaiday, Heighington, Hoffman and Mannering) have cracked the 300 game mark.

The attendance of 82,688 was great as it was not far from capacity. No doubt there will be some complaints, probably from the sound system for the Gang of Youths, but generally it was a great occasion.

And the game itself? The Roosters were superb. Their defence was granite-like and for the opening whistle, they went hard into every tackle. In attack they looked much better than the Storm. Everyone will be amazed when they hear the true extent of Cooper Cronk's shoulder injury. But he played and did the necessary work to put his team on track for the Premiership. There can be no argument about Luke Kerry winning the Clive Churchill Medal as the best player in the Grand Final. The 26 year old Kerry only weighs 85 kgs but his one on one low tackling was inspirational to his team-mates. He was unlucky to miss out on a place in the Australian squad for the coming Tests at Mt. Smart against New Zealand (13 October) and Tonga (20 October). Just three Roosters were included in the Kangaroos and these were backrower Boyd Codner, centre Latrell Mitchell and fullback, James Tedesco. The tactics of the Roosters were faultless and illustrates just what an excellent and thorough coach Trent Robinson is. Now 41 years of age, Robinson has won two Premierships and four Minor Premierships in six seasons with the Roosters. Congratulations to the Broncos ladies for winning the first ever Women's NRL competition. They were too classy for the Roosters winning 34-12. In the Intrust Super competition, the Canterbury Bulldogs forwards paved the way for their 42-18 victory over Queensland's Redcliffe Dolphins.

Although he played his last game in a losing side, Billy Slater still retired as a winner after such a brilliant career. He never stopped trying in the Grand Final, but could not find any gaps because of the strong defence. He was booed throughout the game but laughed this off after the 80 minutes.

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The Warriors made many Australian league people take notice this year. The club made the end of season playoffs, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck took out the Dally M Medal and David Fusitu'a was the season's leading try-scorer. Not only that but the season's average crowds increased from last year by 49 percent and there were two sell-out home games.

The curtain was brought down for Rugby League at Allianz Stadium (the Sydney Football Stadium) last Saturday with the annual Kangaroo reunion followed by a Roosters fan day on the ground on Monday. Work will begin soon to tear it down and build a new, modern stadium on the site. The Kangaroo reunion was held in the members area on the second level of the western side of Allianz and it was good that former New Zealand and British Test men mingled with their Australian counterparts. Among the Kiwis present were Simon Mannering (45 Tests), Mark Graham (29 Tests), David Solomona (13 Tests), Dean Halata (15 Tests) and Nigel Vagana (38 Tests), while former Kiwi and Warriors trainer, Bob Lanigan was also there. They joined 40 or more Australians. Andrew Voss was the MC at the function, which began around midday and he interviewed Australian coach, Mal Meninga, plus retired Queenslanders, Johnathan Thurston and Sam Thaiday. Probably the oldest player at the function was Ken McCaffery who is now 88 and played eight Tests. Harry Wells, who played 29 Tests for Australia and is now 86 was also present, as was Noel Kelly who turned 82 in January and played 28 Tests. The popular three Test Kangaroo, Peter Wynn, gave me some details from the day.

Two English stars, John Gray (8 Tests) and Charlie Renilson (8 Tests), also enjoyed the function.

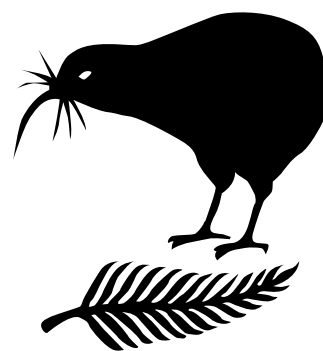
I watched the Australia-New Zealand Twenty/20 ladies cricket match on TV last Saturday night. Played under lights at North Sydney Oval it was a very entertaining game and although the Aussies won, they didn't have things all their own way. Chasing 163 to win they looked in trouble early at four for 45. A century partnership between Australian captain, Meg Lanning (56 not out) and Rachael Haynes (69 not out) pushed Australia over the line. New Zealand wicketkeeper, Katey Martin batted well for her 56 not out, while Sophie Devine scored 43 and took two wickets. The three match series continued in Brisbane on Monday, while the third game will be played in Canberra this Friday.

The Australian team did very well at the Women's Basketball World Cup in Spain from 22 to 30 September. Going into the tournament, the Opals were rated number four team in the world but upset home team, Spain, with their 72-66 semi final win. They finished with the Silver Medal, going down 73-56 to the USA in the final last Sunday. Liz Cambage was the star for Australia, Now 27, she plays with the Dallas Wings in the American WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association). On 17 July this year, playing against the New York Liberty, she set a new WNBA individual record by scoring 53 points. A couple of years ago, she was reportedly paid around \$400,000 US dollars to play a season in China and this made her one of women's basketball's highest paid players.

Predictably on the big Melbourne Cricket Ground, a huge crowd of 100,022 turned up to see the West Coast Eagles take the Aussie Rules Premiership with their 79-74 win over Collingwood. Curiously, this was just one more than the official figure of 100,021 for last year's AFL Grand Final between Richmond and Adelaide.



Look who I bumped into Sonya and Nytram from Mt Wellington with Peter Wynn former Parramatta eels great at his shop



**NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE™**

Super Cooper Trumped Them All

By John Coffey QSM

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



IT WAS a significant rugby league weekend in four countries (including Canada, but more of that later). Cooper Cronk's inspirational guidance of the Sydney Roosters to their 21-6 NRL Grand Final victory over Melbourne Storm topped them all. Cronk heroically played with a broken scapula. The club bought him to win a premiership and he delivered, despite being more of an on-field coach than a stand-out player.

Cronk was a total distraction for the usually composed Storm, who trailed 18-0 at halftime. Cronk's former team had no answer to the onslaught led by Roosters props Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Sio Siua Taukeiaho and the generalship of Cronk's halfback partner, Luke Kerry, who effectively filled the numbers six and seven jerseys and was a runaway winner of the Clive Churchill Medal as Man of the Match.

If only Waerea-Hargreaves could produce similar intensity in a Kiwis jersey as he did when becoming the tenth Kiwi to win a second premiership ring – and preventing the outgunned Jesse Bromwich from claiming a unique third one. Try-scorer Joseph Manu was outstanding in the centres on attack and defence, and fellow New Zealanders Isaac Liu and Zane Tetevano maintained the forward rage from the bench.

Seldom has Melbourne captain Cameron Smith exerted less impact on a match, being forced to make a game-high 53 tackles in the face of the red, white and blue tide. The Storm failed to displace the 1992-1993 Brisbane Broncos as the last club to win back-to-back premierships though the remarkable Cronk was the first to win consecutive grand finals with different clubs since Johnny Mayes for Manly and Easts in 1973-1974.

While no male New Zealander has ever been awarded the Clive Churchill Medal, Kiwi Fern Kimiora Nati won the women's counterpart, the Karen Murphy Medal, in the inaugural NRLW Grand Final. Nati scored three tries in Brisbane's 34-12 defeat of the Roosters and shared the victory with fellow Kiwi Ferns Teuila Fotu-Moala, Maitua Feterika, Rona Peters and Ngatokotoru Arakua.

It was great to see Greg Eastwood exit the Canterbury Bulldogs with consecutive NSW Cup and State Championship Grand Final triumphs. Eastwood played 28 Tests from 2007 to 2016, including the 2008 World Cup and two Four Nations successes, but was on the losing side in the 2012 and 2014 NRL Grand Finals. Alongside him on Sunday were fellow Kiwis Fa'amanu Brown, Ofahiki Ogden and Renouf Toomaga.

A few questions popped up while I watched Sunday's triple action. Were there any moments when Billy Slater wished he had pleaded guilty to the shoulder charge, um, charge? Why did we get Ray Warren and Channel 9 after the previous 200 games were covered by Fox Sports? Can the New Zealand and NSW Governments co-ordinate daylight saving so future Grand Finals held in September kick off an hour earlier over here?

Meanwhile, there will be an all-Auckland decider to the New Zealand inter-provincial premiership at Mount Smart this Saturday after previously unbeaten Canterbury lost to Akarana 34-14 and Counties-Manukau accounted for Waikato 46-22. It all came down to points differentials and Canterbury fell back to third. Two complaints: why no "away" jerseys to provide a colour contrast and where the heck is Akarana anyway?

Over in Britain, expansionists are salivating. In a season when French club Catalans Dragons won the Challenge Cup, they will now see Toronto Wolfpack and London Broncos play off in Canada this weekend to replace relegated Widnes Vikings in the 2019 Super League. The Salford Red Devils, Leeds Rhinos and Hull Kingston Rovers saved their Super League status, but only with superior points differentials over Toronto.

The Wolfpack have made amazing strides in two years, winning the third-tier competition in 2017 and the second-tier Championship this year. Their 17-16 victory over Leeds (the 2017 Super League champions but only ninth in 2018) at Headingley last weekend was one of the more incredible scorelines in the sport's history. If they can knock off London in Toronto the Super League will be spread over Britain, France and Canada.

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All of the drama in the qualifying competition tended to overshadow the playoffs between the top eight Super League clubs. But they have reached their semi-finals, with St Helens to play Warrington on Friday (NZ time) and Wigan up against Castleford on Saturday. The final will be at Old Trafford on Sunday week (NZ time) and you can expect the England team to take on the Kiwis to be predominantly chosen from these teams.



GREAT TO see former Kiwi's getting together at the : Kiwis/Kangaroos reunion in Sydney over the week-end. From the left. David Solomona, Paul Whatuira, Simon Mannering, Mark Graham Nigel Vagana.

Attention all X Kiwis and Officials

The New Zealand rugby league Kiwi Association is holding a reunion on Sunday, 14 October the day after the Kiwis play Australia at Mount Smart Stadium it is open all ex kiwis players management and officials players and management are coming from all over the country ex kiwis coach frank Endacott is coming up from the South Island To register contact our secretary J Woodhouse Auckland 09571 2000 or Juanita.w@Auckland League.co.nz you must REGISTER



By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Newcomer Eyes Another Taste Of Silverware

HATTRICK HERO Tamatea centre Fale Matamata runs in for his third try in Saturday's 36-24 win against Dannevirke Tigers.
PHOTOHAWKE'S BAY TODAY

NEWCOMER FALE Matamata had tongues wagging after Saturday's semifinals in Hawke's Bay's premier club rugby league competition.

In just his third outing in the 13-man code, Hawke's Bay Saracens and Hawke's Bay Samoans rugby representative Matamata, 21, grabbed a hattrick for Tamatea in their 36-24 win against Dannevirke Tigers at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings. This secured Tamatea a berth in this Saturday's grand final against Bridge Pa at the same venue.

A loosie for Hastings Rugby and Sports in union, Matamata, is playing centre in his league outings..

"That's my first hattrick in either union or league this season. That was only my third game of league and I'm enjoying the physical nature of the game," Matamata said.

He helped the Hawke's Bay Samoans retain their title in the lower North Island High Commission Cup competition last month and the Saracens win a third consecutive Hurricanes Development competition title. Matamata is confident Tamatea can do the business against Tamatea.

"I missed out on the Maddison Trophy with Hastings Rugby and Sports when we were pipped in the semifinals but we've got a good chance with this Tamatea team," he added.

Former Magpies rugby prop Mason Kean was inspirational on the carry and with his defensive workrate for Tamatea. Secondrower Joe Taafi again impressed for the winners.

Captain and standoff Haisley Robson and fullback Ioane Ioane joined Matamata as the best of the Tamatea backs. Fullback Waka Petera and standoff Tama Petera were elusive attackers for Dannevirke.

Secondrowers Jesse King and Jacob Stephenson were industrious forwards for the Tigers.

Winger Jarome Mareikura also recorded a hattrick as Bridge Pa walloped a below-strength and youthful Maraenui side 72-0 in the other premier semifinal. Secondrower Willie Schuster and centre Jackson Waerea were among several Bridge Pa players to score two tries each.

"When you get one-sided games like this a week out from a final you need to focus on defence. We did well to keep Maraenui to zero and after a rusty start we played well," Bridge Pa coach Ihaka Waerea said.

"Obviously after finishing second to Kahuranaki last year we want to go one step better this year," he added.

Former Hastings Boys' High School 1st XV rugby player Shamara Brooks produced a player-of-the-match display for Bridge Pa at standoff. Fullback Lewis Marshall, the former Magpies and Manawatu Turbos Mitre 10 Cup rugby utility back, was also prominent in the winning backline.

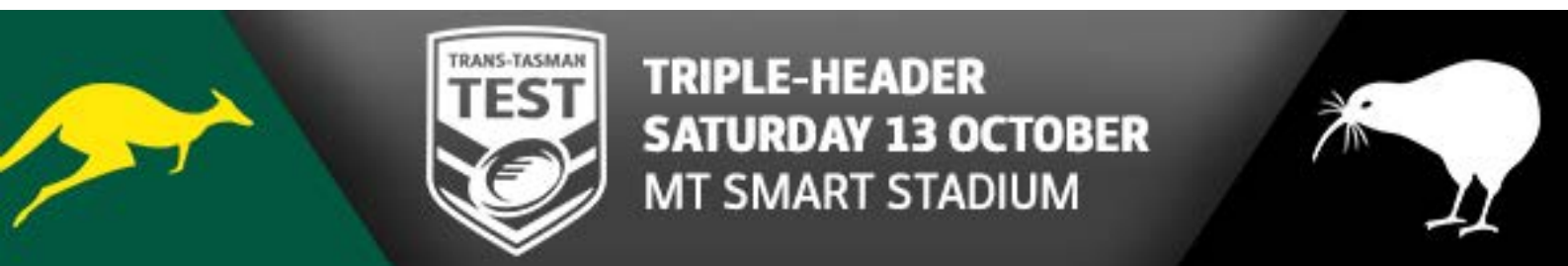
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Schuster and backrower Ivan Bellamy were the pick of the of the Bridge Pa forwards. If Hawke's Bay's most successful premier club rugby league coach Waka Leonard can keep the Maraenui squad together and get them to commit to his training schedules they should be competitive at this level within three seasons.

Bay Bulldogs will take the favourite's tag into Saturday's reserve grade grand final against Bridge Pa after thrashing Flaxmere 72-14 in their semifinal. Bridge Pa pipped Omaha Huia 30-24 in their semifinal.

Defending champions in the women's competition, Bridge Pa, will again take on Tamatea in the grand final. In their respective semifinals Bridge Pa beat YMP by default and Tamatea beat Hastings Rugby and Sports 48-8.



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By Miles Davis

Grand Final

THE NRL Grand Final is an event that over the years has become a must-see sporting spectacle. But this year for me it highlighted my firm belief professional sport has sold its soul.

Firstly there was the Billy Slater debacle. As I said last week, I had a feeling they would let him off so he could play in the Grand Final.

You can dress it up any way you want but the tackle he made would have seen just about any other player suspended, and if that offence had happened in weeks 1 -20 would he have been suspended, and would Melbourne have fought so hard to clear him?

The cynics say the reason he was let off was because it suited the NRL's marketing, a fairytale finish to a career of a legendary figure, and having him appear could only add to the event.

Did they sell their soul to enhance the value of the Grand Final?

League is by no means the only sport under the microscope, and odd decisions are becoming more common, with the administrations charged with upholding the integrity of their games seeming to sell-out for pecuniary gain.

Sport was once an activity that taught you important life lessons, like how to be a better person, and helped you grow in that regard. That still happens in most amateur sports but increasingly the professional outfits are ignoring their responsibilities.

It's almost as if as long as it makes money they will bend, twist and break the rules and absolve themselves of any responsibility to set a moral compass for those who follow and play their sport.

Another example was the appearance in the final of Cooper Cronk.

There's no doubt he is another legend of the game and was undoubtedly going to add value to the Roosters and the Grand Final.

Even I could market this one, a superstar of the game playing against his old club. What more could you want?

The only problem was the injury to his shoulder, which caused speculation all week about whether he would play, but the nearer the final got the more convinced I was he would play.

But we now know Cronk had a fracture of the scapula. Any sensible organisation would have stood him down and protected him.

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We don't know who decided he should play, but again, you could be forgiven for thinking someone weighed up a player's health against his participation, because he went out there with a serious injury that undoubtedly boosted his club and added value to the showpiece.

Now I know the final decision would have been down to Cronk but for me that's irrelevant. Most players would want to play in a big game, even if they were injured.

But the administrators have a responsibility to the long-term welfare of their players and on this occasion (and others) they have ignored that responsibility.

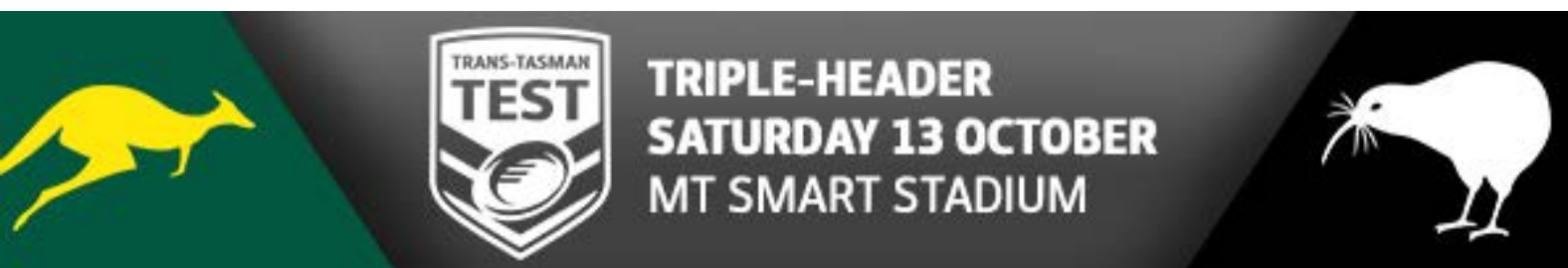
Both the club and the NRL should have over-ruled Cronk's desire to play and stood him down for his own good.

Clubs should have an almost parental responsibility to look after their players. Would any of you let your kid go out and play with a broken scapula? It was a ridiculous risk.

Perhaps even the Vodafone Warriors are guilty. I always suspected Kevin Locke was often on the park when he was injured, and I am sure that affected his career.

Shaun Johnson is another who I suspect is frequently out there playing when his body is not quite right.

As I said, I know most players want to play whenever they can but the clubs and the administrative bodies of the sport have a responsibility of care to their players.



KIWIS V AUSTRALIA CORPORATE HOSPITALITY PACKAGES

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A photograph of Greg Eastwood, a player for the Bulldogs, in a white and blue jersey, diving on the grass to catch a rugby ball. He is being tackled by a player in a dark jersey. Other players are visible in the background.

Greg Eastwood

Greg Eastwood of the Bulldogs gets a ball from Shaun Johnson. 17 March 2017
Photo www.photosport.nz

GREG EASTWOOD had the best possible end to his Bulldogs career, as he helped the Intrust Super Premiership team to a convincing 42-18 win over the Redcliffe Dolphins in the State Championship. The veteran forward, who started his NRL career at the Broncos in 2005 and has also accumulated 26 tests for the Kiwis, leaves Belmore after nine seasons and more than 180 NRL games in the famous blue and white V.

Greg, this was your last game for the Bulldogs. You had a great win over Newtown (18-12) in the Intrust Super Premiership last week, so what does this result, in the state championship, and on such an occasion, mean to you?

The boys worked hard today. It was a bit of a scrappy first half, but we ran away with it in the end. It was a pretty good effort, but it's hard to describe the feeling Last week we gave it our all and it was outstanding and then we topped it off today.

After losing NRL grand finals in 2012 (to the Storm) and 2014 (to the Rabbitohs) this must feel pretty good to be on the winning side on the last day of the season. At last there's a medal, celebrations, cheering and the club song...

Yeah, definitely, it's a nice feeling. I've lost two of the big ones so when I came here today I didn't want to go through that again. We just had to work hard for each other and dig deep and we definitely didn't want to go out on the losing side. I tried to push myself and lead the boys around the park, help them out and we ended up winning. It's a much, much better feeling than losing.

One of the biggest cheers of the day was for your conversion at the end from out near the sideline. That will give hope to big forwards everywhere. How did that come about?

I've been practising a little bit [laughs]. I did a bit of goal kicking at school but since I've been at the Bulldogs we have had a lot of goal kickers here. But I told [captain] Rhyse [Martin], if I get a chance to just get some sort of points. I was just happy it went over.

The players in this team have spoken a lot about you being a real leader in this group, since you came down from first grade to join this team. What does hearing that mean to you?

When you come into the game you just want to prove to yourself that you can be at your best. I've been around a long time now and I know in these situations I have to lead these guys.

It's great for the club with all these boys coming through and I just guide them through and help them out where ever I can. It's good to have that feeling. I try to bring experience whenever I come back and try to push them and lead them in the right direction. They took it on board and gave it their all. So I can't be any prouder.

Continued on next page...

What's next for you football wise?

I'm not sure yet. I just wanted to focus on my footy this year and when that is done then start talking with my manager and sorting out a club. I still want to go around again [next season] but it's hard at the moment with a lot of clubs having salary cap issues. But mainly I just wanted to play good footy and I think I have done that so hopefully something can be sorted out.

You've played more than 180 games for the Bulldogs since coming to the club almost a decade ago and been alongside so many different players. If you look back at your Canterbury career now, what

are your favourite memories?

It's hard to pick one. Coming to the club in 2009 all the way back then and then in the second round [that season], scoring a try on debut and feeling like you were at home...that is always memorable. And of course the grand finals in 2012 and 2014; we didn't win but that is something you take away and cherish. There are so many memories here at the club.

Are you still available for the Kiwis?

Yes, as long as I am still playing I'll be available for my country. But there are a lot of good young guys coming through now.

Aucklanders set for Emerging Nations World Championship By ARL

AUCKLAND WILL be well represented across several international teams when the Emerging Nations World Championships kick off this week in Sydney.

Players from Auckland Rugby League senior competitions will take the field for Hong Kong and Niue, while local players also make up the majority of the New Zealand Physical Disability squad, who will play Australia in a three-match series at the tournament.

Among the Aucklanders included in Niue's squad is current Auckland representative Jamel Hunt, Glenora Bears prop Kurt Bernard, Howick back Azaiah Ikitule and Marist duo Cyruss Payne and Christian Ulukita.

Zebastian Luisi, Alfred Smalley and Mike Williams - all Auckland juniors who have since moved overseas to play - are also in the Niue squad.

In the Hong Kong side is Richmond's Mike Tsang - who was raised in a Hong Kong orphanage for the first five years of his life before being adopted - with the winger the only New Zealand-based player selected by the Thunder.

The New Zealand Physical Disability team has 10 Auckland players, including Otara Scorpions life member Jim Doolan.

More info here: <http://www.rlif.com/article/8439/>

Niue

Kurt Benard (Glenora)
Azaiah Ikitule (Howick)
Cyruss Payne (Marist)
Christian Ulukita (Marist)
Mike Williams (former Auckland player)
Zebastian Luisi (former Auckland player/coach)
Alfred Smalley (former Auckland player)

Hong Kong

Mike Tsang (Richmond)

New Zealand Physical Disability team

Michael Kulene (Auckland)
Uturei Toparea (Auckland)
Jason Gilmour (Auckland)
Jim Doolan (Auckland)
Ben Tuimaseve (Auckland)
Matthew Williams (Auckland)
Bruce Cross (Auckland)
Junior Leaupepe (Auckland)
Freeman Hickey (Auckland)
Josh Hyde (Auckland)



Kimiora Nati

Kimiora Nati and Ngatokotoru Arakua with the Holden Premiership Trophy after the Broncos beat the Roosters. Photo www.photosport.nz

KIWI FERNS five eight Kimiora Nati was one of the stars of the first NRLW grand final, crossing for three tries as the Brisbane Broncos crushed the Roosters 34-12. The 30-year made the big decision to cross the Tasman ahead of this year's competition and it has paid off spectacularly, as she claimed the Keryn Murphy medal for best of field in the grand final.

Congratulation Kimiora. How was the big day and the whole grand final experience?

It was surreal. I can't believe it. I almost have no words to describe what was happening out there. Throughout the whole season I've been taking everything in, learning a lot of things off [captain] Ali [Brigginshaw] and today the whole experience was mind blowing.

What about the game – how would you reflect on the match itself?

We played well. Structure-wise we were probably a bit lost at times but we still scored at the back end of our sets. And then we defended our own errors well. Big ups to the girls, it was 60 minutes of big effort from all of them.

To score one try in a grand final is pretty special. How does it feel to score three?

I have no words; that just came out of nowhere; I have never done it in my life before. Not three tries in a grand final. Wow. That's incredible, but credit to all of the team.

Talk us through your tries.

Ali [Brigginshaw] had been talking to me during the game and saying, just dummy and have a go. I took the opportunity because they were holding off me, expecting me to pass. For the first one I took the chance because they were holding off; I pinned my ears back and thought hopefully I get in.

The second try was a bit lucky, an error from the Roosters and I took my chances and I happened to be there. The third one was again because they were holding off...the dummy and the 'show and go'.

How did you end up at the Broncos? How did that process happen?

[Coach] Paul Dyer rang me and offered me a contract to play in Brisbane. It was after I had been trying to crack the Warriors but I didn't want to let my opportunity slip. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity so I took it, made the move here and settled in well with all the other players and never looked back.

You are one of more than half a dozen New Zealanders in this team. What's it been like having so many other Kiwis in the team?

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It really made my decision a lot easier. I dwelled on it for a whole week and weighed all the pros and cons about making the move here. I've got two little ones that I had to leave back in New Zealand. Making the transition over to Australia, new environment, new faces, new team was obviously a big move. But with some of the Kiwis in the squad it made my life easier, having them around with the New Zealand background. It helped me heaps because I otherwise I would have been homesick.

Coach Paul Dyer mentioned your sacrifice, having two young children back in New Zealand. How have you done that?

I've got a lot of support at home through my kid's grandparents. They are the ones that take them on board while I am doing all this sporting stuff. I can't thank them enough for all that they have done for my kids. They have been a great help. They have supported me throughout my journey.

What do you think will be the effect of the NRLW on the Kiwis Ferns?

It should make the Kiwi Ferns a lot stronger. There are Kiwis all over the competition and it should really help. There is a lots of talent out there and more coming through, so that has to help the team.

Tell us about the experience of being at the Broncos?

It's improved my game so much. I've learnt heaps, especially attacking wise. It's a different attacking style compared to back at home in New Zealand. I'm so grateful for all the stuff I've been taught over the last two months.

Anyone coming up to the test match at Mount Smart Stadium in October from out of Auckland? Here is a very special deal for accommodation close to the stadium!



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Photo www.photosport.nz

Cooper Cronk

ROOSTERS HALFBACK Cooper Cronk entered into grand final folklore on Sunday night, after playing the match with a fractured shoulder blade. The 34-year-old, playing in his eighth NRL decider, wasn't highly involved but his presence on the field helped to inspire the Roosters to a memorable victory.

Cooper, what was the plan on defence tonight, considering your injury and the limitations around what you could do?

Yeah, well, you don't want your edge defenders maybe having to work too hard. But there was nowhere to hide out there and I just did what I had to do.

When you were out there, knowing the injury that you already had, was there a fear of doing something more serious to the shoulder?

You really can't be emotional about it. I had to put it completely to the side...I didn't even enter conversations about what may, or may not, happen. But today [was] not possible without the medical staff here. There wasn't enough hours in the day that they treated me, helped [me], researched, [and were] innovative in their approach. Today, hopefully me being out there was just repaying a bit of faith in what they have shown me over a long time.

Cooper, the team doctor has revealed that when they finally found a way to inject you with the right amount of local anesthetic, they were able to get you to move your arm. How did you feel? Were you blown away by what they were able to achieve?

Look, not to make it dramatic or anything, but I had a conversation with Robbo [Trent Robinson] on Friday morning and I basically told him I couldn't do it. We had tried a few ways and it wasn't working. On Friday afternoon we had something planned – I didn't really want to do it because of the conversation I had had with Robbo – but medical staff said 'look, we have been this far, let's go and see him'. And yeah, it worked. I was testing it out in a medical office, tackling and throwing and passing and for some reason I could move my arm into an area that was allowing me to do some things.

There was some head noise going on Friday night [and] Saturday morning – “can I do this, can I not” – and at the end of the day my wife basically just said 'You have been trying all week to get your shoulder right and someone has just given you a chance so deal with it' and that was the end of it.

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Were you working through the night all week Cooper? Were you getting up at two, three, four in the morning to ice it?

Yes, I was icing it but it was also important for me to rest too. I was doing that much in the daylight hours that I had to get some type of rest and recuperation. The silver lining was that I just focused on one day at a time and one thing at a time - the next physio, the next massage - and come Friday I had to make a mental decision around it. So I didn't really mentally drain myself all week because to be honest it was a complete long shot.

Did your wife give you a break from nappy duty and all that kind of thing over the past week?

I think every player has a support network from family and friends and I'm no different. My network was tremendous this week.

What did you think of Luke Keary tonight?

To execute under pressure, to deal with everything, it was an amazing performance tonight. He thoroughly deserved the Clive Churchill medal.



**Kenny
Bromwich**

Photo www.photosport.nz

KIWIS SECOND rower Kenny Bromwich featured in his third grand final on Sunday, an interchange forward for the Storm in their 21-6 loss to the Roosters. It wasn't the way the 27-year-old would have wanted to end the 2018 season, but Bromwich can still reflect on a remarkable campaign and now has the international season to look forward to.

Kenny, a tough result and a hard game. What did you think of tonight?

It's a tough one to take. They came out and played really well, started really fast. Full credit to them but we needed to be better. Basically we needed to hold the ball, get to some good kicks and try to defend better. But that wasn't the case tonight and they played very well.

The Storm are normally so good at rising to these big occasions. What do you think was missing for Melbourne?

We didn't have much ball. We didn't complete that well, and that has probably been the story of our year. We haven't really completed and been inconsistent with that and that showed tonight. We needed to be better there.

Continued on next page...

The Roosters were outstanding tonight, in probably their best performance of the year. Were you expecting such a big performance from them – especially their pack?

Yeah, you always expect a big game from the opposition. But we expected ourselves to come out and have a big game but they played very well...full credit to them.

When you came on in the first half the team was already behind and struggling a bit. What was it like coming on at such a difficult stage in the match?

I try to come on and provide a bit of spark for the boys. Run hard, tackle hard, it's pretty simple. But I'm not sure how it went.

What did you think when you heard Cooper Cronk was playing, an hour or so before kickoff?

I wasn't surprised. He's the ultimate professional. He would have done everything he could to make himself available to play and that's what he did. He's a good friend of mine and he deserves everything he gets. He's a heck of a player and such a good bloke. I'd like to congratulate him.

Were you trying to target him on defence, but just couldn't get at him?

If he was in front of me I would have ran at him but he seemed to be in a good position a lot of the time in defence. He flipped sides quite a bit from what I noticed.

It must be such a massive contrast in emotions for you from last year?

Yeah, it is. Last year we were over the moon. We got the win. This year – we took the loss and it's very different. But I guess we can learn from this and move on. This will probably marinade with me for a while and come pre-season it will hopefully give us a bit more motivation.

This grand final didn't go the way you expected or wanted but how will you reflect on the season? Considering the players you lost at the start of the season, like Tohu Harris, Cooper Cronk and Jordan McLean it's been a remarkable effort from the Storm.

Well, it happens every year. We lose players every season and the next man seems to always step up. That was no different this year. Had a few tough injuries throughout the year and a couple of suspensions that were hard to take but the boys always rise up and that next man up always did a good job.

And Billy Slater played his last match tonight. Not the exit that he wanted but how would you sum up his contribution to the Storm since you have been there?

He's been massive for this club. But not only for the club but for rugby league in Victoria. I think every kid in Victoria that knows rugby league says they want to be Billy Slater and that just about says it all really.

He's an awesome bloke and makes everyone better at our club. He's always looking to improve and always constantly learning. Hopefully he sticks around and helps out at the club a bit but he's been massive for this club, for league in Victoria and around the world. He's be missed.

What would it mean to you to get back in the Kiwis?

I'll love to get back in. That's the pinnacle for me; playing for the Kiwis and I would love to play against Australia and on this tour [to England] coming up. But I have full faith in all the boys that get the call up.

I know the staff behind the scenes have been working really hard and hopefully we can play well and get the fans behind us. That's something we really cherish, having our people behind us.

What are your early impressions of Kiwis coach Michael Maguire?

I've seen him work at the club a little bit when I was coming through. My impressions...he's a very smart man, very passionate and he's come from good systems. I think he will do well as Kiwis coach. I was stoked to see him get appointed and hopefully he can lead us and get a good plan for us moving forward.



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Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos - 5pm

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3 Tests. 1 Day. It's Time.



Kiwis Teams

By NZRL

EXPERIENCED PLAYERS RETURN FOR KIWIS' CAMPAIGN

AUCKLAND, NEW Zealand, October 1, 2018 – Seven experienced players make their return alongside five debutants in the squad named today for the New Zealand Kiwis' four-Test end of season campaign against Australia and England.

Another feature is the inclusion of three Sydney Roosters players from last night's 21-6 NRL grand final win over Melbourne while four Storm players have also been named.

The Kiwis begin their programme against the Kangaroos at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday, October 13 followed by a three-Test series against England at KC Stadium, Hull (October 27), Anfield, Liverpool (November 4) and Elland Road, Leeds (November 10).

Head coach Michael Maguire revealed the touring party and the new ISC playing jersey at New Zealand Rugby League headquarters today accompanied by new assistant coach and Kiwi great Stacey Jones plus Vodafone Warriors players Shaun Johnson and Ken Maumalo.

After missing the one-off international against England in Denver in June, Vodafone Warriors trio Adam Blair, Johnson and Gerard Beale, Jesse Bromwich and Kenny Bromwich (Melbourne), Kevin Proctor (Gold Coast) and Jordan Rapana (Canberra) all return to the fold.

Maguire has also further underlined the Kiwis' new direction with the introduction of five more newcomers:

- Sydney Roosters premiership winning centre Joseph Manu, who hails from Tokoroa.
- Melbourne grand finalist and Waiheke Island-raised hooker Brandon Smith plus Wellington-born utility back Jahrome Hughes, who was in the Storm's extended squad for the grand final.
- Penrith second rower Corey Harawira-Naera, raised in the Hokianga area in Northland.
- Vodafone Warriors second rower Isaiah Papali'i.

The quintet's selection follows the introduction of seven Kiwi debutants for the Denver Test. Wingers Jaymayne Isaako (Brisbane) and Ken Maumalo (Vodafone Warriors), centre Esan Marsters (Wests Tigers) and Vodafone Warriors-bound front rower Leeson Ah Mau (St George Illawarra) have been chosen again while Raymond Faitala-Mariner (Canterbury-Bankstown), Slade Griffin (Newcastle) and Herman Ese'ese (Newcastle) were ruled out due to injury.

"This is a new era for the Kiwis and that's again reflected in the make-up of this squad as it was for the Denver Test," said Maguire.

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“A lot of experienced players have moved on in recent years in the shape of Simon Mannering, Thomas Leuluai, Manu Vatuvei, Jason Nightingale, Ben Matulino, Kieran Foran, Russell Packer and others.

“We’re also without Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke, Tohu Harris and Nelson Asofa-Solomona this time while there have been a number of players who have aligned themselves with Tonga.

“For us it’s really exciting bringing in these new players as we strive to take the national side to the place we want it to be. That starts with the Test against the Kangaroos.

“It’s a huge opportunity for us and for the sporting public having the world champions in our own back yard. We also have the Kiwi Ferns and the Junior Kiwis taking on Australia at Mount Smart Stadium.”

Melbourne prop Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Sydney Roosters front rower Zane Teteveno were both ruled out of contention for the tour this morning following injuries they picked up in the grand final.

“We named 23 players at this stage and will add our final play after further discussions,” said Maguire.

As well as releasing all three New Zealand teams today for the October 13 Trans-Tasman Showdown, ISC was announced as the NZRL’s new apparel partner.

“We’re really excited to have such a reputable and high-quality apparel company such as ISC on board with the New Zealand Rugby League,” said NZRL CEO Greg Peters.

“Bringing more international content to the New Zealand market is a high priority for us and it’s important that our players and loyal fans are outfitted in a brand that is renowned for producing quality rugby league gear.”

ISC welcomed the opportunity to join forces with the NZRL in the countdown to the Trans-Tasman Showdown.

“It is a great honour and privilege to be the official apparel partner of the New Zealand Rugby League, a brand that lives by the values of integrity, respect, leadership, courage, passion,” said ISC’s Brett Corrick.

“We look forward to seeing both the players and their passionate fans wearing the ISC gear with pride and going on their sporting journey together.”

The New Zealand Kiwis assemble in Auckland this weekend to prepare for the Bill Kelly Cup international. It’s the Kiwis’ first Test against the Kangaroos on New Zealand soil since winning the 2014 Four Nations final in Wellington and the first time since 2012 that the countries have met in Auckland. The last time New Zealand and Australia met at Mount Smart Stadium was in the 2006 Tri Nations.

[BUY TICKETS NOW | TRANS-TASMAN SHOWDOWN](#)

Saturday, October 13

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

3.05pm | Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos, 3.05pm

5.15pm | Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos, 5.15pm

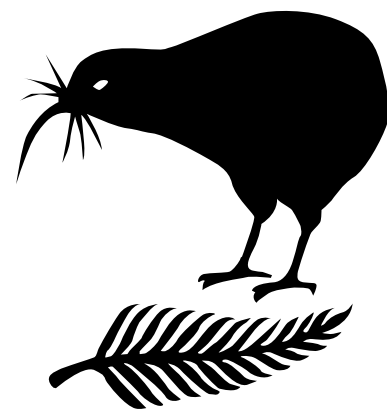
7.45pm | Kiwis v Kangaroos, 7.45pm

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NEW ZEALAND KIWIS | END OF SEASON CAMPAIGN

Player	Club	Kiwi No	Tests for NZ		
LEESON AH MAU	St George Illawarra Dragons	812	1		
GERARD BEALE	Vodafone Warriors	767	10		
ADAM BLAIR	Vodafone Warriors	732	45		
JESSE BROMWICH	Melbourne Storm	775	24		
KENNEATH BROMWICH	Melbourne Storm	796	3		
JAMES FISHER-HARRIS	Penrith Panthers	801	2		
COREY HARAWIRA-NAERA	Penrith Panthers	-	-		
JAHROME HUGHES	Melbourne Storm	-	-		
JAMAYNE ISAAKO	Brisbane Broncos	808	1		
SHAUN JOHNSON	Vodafone Warriors	774	25		
ISAAC LIU	Sydney Roosters	805	3		
JOSEPH MANU	Sydney Roosters	-	-		
ESAN MARSTERS	Wests Tigers	809	1		
KEN MAUMALO	Vodafone Warriors	810	1		
KODI NIKORIMA	Brisbane Broncos	790	9		
ISALIAH PAPALI'I	Vodafone Warriors	-	-		
KEVIN PROCTOR	Gold Coast Titans	771	17		
JORDAN RAPANA	Canberra Raiders	798	8		
BRANDON SMITH	Melbourne Storm	-	-		
JOSEPH TAPINE	Canberra Raiders	800	8		
MARTIN TAUPAU	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	785	21		
JARED WAEREA-HARGREAVES	Sydney Roosters	755	24		
DALLIN WATENE-ZELEZNIAK	Penrith Panthers	794	7		



**NEW ZEALAND
RUGBY LEAGUE™**

Junior Kiwis Named For Trans-Tasman Triple-Header

JUNIOR KIWIS Coach Ezra Howe has named his team ahead of the 13 October Trans-Tasman Triple-Header at Mt Smart Stadium when they will take on the Junior Kangaroos.

Morgan Harper comes into the team following a grand final win with his Canterbury Bulldogs side in the Intrust Super State Championship yesterday, while four players including Chanel Harris-Tavita, Isaiiah Papali'I, Emry Pere and Steven Marsters return to the Junior Kiwis squad after their 2017 ANZAC Test stint.

"It's great to have a lot of experienced players available, many of them having come through the New Zealand Rugby League pathways in New Zealand 16s and 18s teams as well as NRL teams recently," Howe, who coached the New Zealand 18s side last year said.

"I'm looking forward to working alongside a fantastic management and coaching staff in a campaign which is extra special for these players being on home soil in Aotearoa,"

"Creating meaningful pathways for our Kiwi rugby league players is important and I look forward to ongoing involvement with Michael Maguire and Motu Tony in developing our future Kiwis talent," Howe added.

[To buy tickets, click the Ticketek link here. Adult ticket prices start from \\$35.](#)

Saturday, 13 October

Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland

Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos 3.05pm

Continued on next page...

Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos 5.15pm

Kiwis v Kangaroos 7.45pm

Junior Kiwis team listed by NRL team:

North Queensland Cowboys: Emry Pere, Peter Hola, Sean Mullany; New Zealand Warriors: Joe Vuna, Isaiah Papali'i, Chanel Harris-Tavita, Hayze Perham, Tom Ale, Paul Turner; South Sydney Rabbitohs: Lucky Ta'avale, Mawene Hiroti; St George Illawarra Dragons: Steven Marsters; Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs: Morgan Harper; Melbourne Storm: Kelma Tuilagi, Kayleb Milne; Penrith Panthers: Dean Blore; Canberra Raiders: Paul Roache; Brisbane Broncos: Jordan Riki; Cronulla Sharks: Jackson Ferris

Kiwi Ferns Named For Trans-Tasman Triple-Header

KIWI FERNS Head Coach, Kelvin Wright has named his 19-women squad ahead of the highly anticipated Trans-Tasman Triple-Header on 13 October.

Amongst the 19 is halfback Kimiora Nati who will be riding the high after picking up a hat-trick at last night's inaugural NRL Women's Premiership grand-final, driving the Brisbane Broncos to their Premiership title. She also received recognition for her outstanding grand-final display taking home the Player of the Grand-Final award. Nati is joined by several of her teammates who were stand-outs during the 2017 Women's Rugby League World Cup including 2017 NZRL Women's Player of the Year, fullback Apii Nicholls.

At a press conference today, Nicholls wore the new Kiwi Ferns playing jersey to mark the New Zealand Rugby League's (NZRL) new partnership with apparel provider, ISC. NZRL CEO Greg Peters announced he was "really excited to have such a reputable and high-quality apparel company such as ISC on board,"

"It's important that our Kiwi Ferns are outfitted in a brand that is renowned for producing quality rugby league gear – that's ISC," he said.

Brett Corrick from ISC reciprocated the excitement saying, "it is a great honour and privilege to be the official apparel partner of the New Zealand Rugby League, a brand that lives by the values of integrity, respect, leadership, courage, passion,"

"We look forward to seeing both the players and their passionate fans wearing the ISC gear with pride and going on their sporting journey together," Corrick said.

In addition to Nicholls and Nati, seven other players were in the Counties Manukau Stingrays who took out their ninth successive National Women's Tournament title this year. One of those players being Kiwi Ferns veteran, Laura Mariu who is no stranger to the Trans-Tasman rivalry having played in all five Women's World Cups to date. Her stellar National Women's Tournament earlier in the year saw her then progress into the Women's Warriors squad which she captained in the four-week competition.

Another veteran to sport the black and white again is Honey Hireme. She first played for the Kiwi Ferns 16 years ago in 2002, and after a brilliant stint with the St George Illawarra Dragons, she will look to back-up her fine form in the World Cup where she was top try-scorer.

Kelvin Wright said his team is filled with "some great leadership and experience mixed with some exciting youth whose form has been too hard to ignore."

"It's always extra special when you can hand players their debut," he added. One of those Kiwi Ferns debutants is Counties Manukau Stingrays centre Onjeurlina Leiataua, a proven powerhouse in her breakout season with the Warriors. She is joined by Broncos utility Lavinia Gould and Cantabrian Masuisuimatamaalii Tauasa-Pauaraisa who make up the three debutants in the squad.

Continued from previous page...

As expected, the selection process was difficult as Wright admits, “there’s been a lot of Kiwi talent on show and excitement is certainly brewing amongst the women as the 13 October Trans-Tasman Triple-Header nears.”

Last year marked the first time Australian based Kiwis were eligible to play in the Kiwi Ferns jumper, an opportunity halfback Raecene McGregor and Gisborne born Nita Maynard relished with both hands. The two of them have again earned a spot in the Kiwi Ferns after fantastic performances for the St George Illawarra Dragons and Sydney Roosters respectively, Maynard playing hooker for the Roosters who finished runners-up in the grand-final.

“For all involved now we are looking forward to getting into camp and putting our full efforts into preparing for our clash against the Jillaroos,” Wright said.

The Kiwi Ferns go into camp on 7 October in preparation for the Trans-Tasman Triple-Header at Mt Smart on 13 October.

[To buy tickets, click the Ticketek link here. Adult ticket prices start from \\$35.](#)

Saturday, 13 October

Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland

Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos 3.05pm

Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos 5.15pm

Kiwis v Kangaroos 7.45pm

Kiwi Ferns listed by NRLW team:

*debutants

New Zealand Warriors: Raquel Anderson-Pitman, Apii Nicholls, Langi Veainu, Amber Kani, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Aieshaleigh Smalley, Laura Mariu, *Onjeurlina Leiataua, *Masuisuimatamaalii Tauasa-Pauaraisa; Brisbane Broncos: Ngatokotoru Arakua, Karley Te Kawa, Kimiora Nati, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Maitua Feterika, *Lavinia Gould, Lilieta Maumau; St George Illawarra Dragons: Honey Hireme, Raecene McGregor; Sydney Roosters: Nita Maynard



NEW ZEALAND v AUSTRALIA
3 TESTS 1 DAY
IT'S TIME

TRANS-TASMAN TEST

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER
MT SMART STADIUM

GET TICKETS



Junior Kangaroos Squad

Junior Kangaroos coach Neil Henry confirmed his side today ahead of the match against the Junior Kiwis at Mt Smart Stadium in Auckland on Saturday 13 October.

The squad includes 11 players with NRL Telstra Premiership experience; Victor Radley, Sean O'Sullivan (Sydney Roosters); Jake Clifford, Enari Tuala (North Queensland Cowboys); Gehamat Shibasaki, Koton Stagg (Brisbane Broncos); Zac Lomax, Reece Robson (St George Illawarra Dragons); Nick Cotric, Emre Guler (Canberra Raiders); and Kyle Flanagan (Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks)

There are also five incumbents from the side that defeated the Junior Kiwis 46-22 in May 2017 at GIO Stadium in Canberra.

"It's an enormous honour to represent your country and these players should feel immensely proud to be pulling on the green and gold of Australia in New Zealand next week," Henry said.

"It's a strong group of players who fully deserve their selection after excelling this season in both the NRL and State-based competitions," Henry said.

"There's no doubt it'll be a tough match away from home but I'm confident the squad we've named today will get the job done."

The Junior Kangaroos match against the Junior Kiwis will kick off the first of three matches between Australia and New Zealand in Auckland, with the Harvey Norman Jillaroos and Australian Kangaroos to follow in their matches against the Kiwi Ferns and Kiwis respectively.

2017 Junior Kangaroos

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Corey Allan | Brisbane Broncos |
| 2 | Enari Tuala | North Queensland Cowboys |
| 3 | Gehamat Shibasaki | Brisbane Broncos |
| 4 | Zac Lomax | St George Illawarra Dragons |
| 5 | Nick Cotric | Canberra Raiders |
| 6 | Sean O'Sullivan | Sydney Roosters |
| 7 | Jake Clifford | North Queensland Cowboys |
| 8 | Pat Carrigan | Brisbane Broncos |
| 9 | Reece Robson | St George Illawarra Dragons |
| 10 | Emre Guler | Canberra Raiders |
| 11 | Shawn Blore | Penrith Panther |
| 12 | Kotoni Staggs | Brisbane Broncos |
| 13 | Victor Radley | Sydney Roosters |
| 14 | Blayne Brailey | Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks |
| 15 | Louis Geraghty | Melbourne Storm |
| 16 | Thomas Flegler | Brisbane Broncos |
| 17 | Tino Fa'asuamaleaui | Melbourne Storm |
| 18 | Kyle Flanagan | Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks |



Harvey Norman Jillaroos Squad For New Zealand Test Match

HARVEY NORMAN Jillaroos coach, Brad Donald today named the squad to face New Zealand on Saturday 13 October in Auckland.

Twelve players faced the Kiwis in their last match up, when Australia triumphed in the Rugby League World Cup Final, whilst six players have been named as debutants, including Dally M Female Player of the Year nominee, Jess Sergis.

Dragons captain Sam Bremner has been named national captain, with experienced players including Steph Hancock, Kezie Apps and Simaima Taufa adding plenty of depth to the side.

“This has been a landmark year for women’s rugby league and it’s fitting that we finish our year with a Test Match against New Zealand,” Jillaroos Coach Brad Donald said.

“The memories of the World Cup are still fresh in everyone’s minds and following the success of the Women’s Premiership, it’s great to be able to bring the best of the best together as a national squad.

“Taking on the Kiwis on their home turf is a huge occasion for our team and the squad is looking forward to the challenge of playing in front of what will no doubt be a big crowd.”

The squad, listed alphabetically, is as follows

Player NRL Club

Kezie Apps St George Illawarra Dragons
Chelsea Baker Brisbane Broncos
Heather Ballinger Brisbane Broncos
Annette Brander St George Illawarra Dragons
Brittany Breayley Brisbane Broncos
Samantha Bremner (Captain) St George Illawarra Dragons
Ali Briginshaw Brisbane Broncos
Keeley Davis St George Illawarra Dragons

Tazmin Gray Sydney Roosters
Steph Hancock Brisbane Broncos
Isabelle Kelly Sydney Roosters
Julia Robinson Brisbane Broncos
Jess Sergis St George Illawarra Dragons
Hannah Southwell St George Illawarra Dragons
Simaima Taufa Sydney Roosters
Zahara Temara Sydney Roosters
Eliana Walton Sydney Roosters
Holli Wheeler St George Illawarra Dragons

Coach: Brad Donald

The Jillaroos will play alongside the Kangaroos and Junior Kangaroos, in a triple-header against Kiwi teams at Mount Smart Stadium.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



KANGAROOS SQUAD

SYDNEY ROOSTERS forward Boyd Cordner will captain the Kangaroos' squad for the Test matches against New Zealand and Tonga.

Cordner will replace Greg Inglis, who was today stood down for the matches, to be played on October 13 and October 20 at Mt Smart Stadium.

South Sydney Rabbitohs player Dane Gagai has been added to the squad following the withdrawal of Inglis.

Cordner will be the first player from the Roosters to Captain the Kangaroos since Brad Fittler in 2001.

He will also be the first New South Wales Captain to skipper the Kangaroos since Danny Buderus in 2005.

"Both Boyd and Greg were strong candidates for the captaincy so clearly Boyd was next in line," Kangaroos Coach Mal Meninga said.

"Boyd has had exceptional success as a leader this season.

"He skippered NSW to a State of Origin series victory and also captained Sydney Roosters to a Premiership.

"Being able to captain the Kangaroos will cap a great year for him.

For updated player profiles of the 2018 Kangaroos squad, [please click her](#)

The updated squad, listed alphabetically, is as follows:

Player	NRL Club	Junior Club	dogs	All Saints	Toongabbie
Reagan Campbell-Gillard	Windsor Wolves	Penrith Panthers	Josh McGuire	Brisbane Broncos	Aspley
Daly Cherry-Evans	Mackay Brothers	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Jordan McLean	North Queensland Cowboys	Young Cherrypickers
Damien Cook	Boyd Cordner (c)	Sydney Roosters	Latrell Mitchell	Sydney Roosters	Taree
burgh Tigers	Pirates	Old Bar	Red Rovers		
Boyd Cordner (c)	Sydney Roosters	Old Bar	Cameron Munster	Melbourne Storm	Norths
Tyson Frizell	St George Illawarra Dragons	Corri-mal Cougars	Knights		
Dane Gagai	South Sydney Rabbitohs	Souths Sharks	Tyrone Peachey	Penrith Panthers	Wel-
Valentine Holmes	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Western Lions/Townsville	lington Cowboys/Cronulla-Caringbah		
Ben Hunt	St George Illawarra Dragons	Black-water Crushers	James Tedesco	Sydney Roosters	Camden Rams
Felise Kaufusi	Melbourne Storm	Bundaberg Brothers	Jake Trbojevic	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Mona Vale Raiders
David Klemmer	Canterbury-Bankstown Bull-		Tom Trbojevic	Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Mona Vale Raiders
			Aaron Woods	Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Leich-
			hardt Juniors		



National Youth Tournament Day One wrap-up

By Brooke Hurdell

THE AKARANA Falcons 15s have begun their national title defence strongly with a commanding 60-4 victory over the Wellington Orcas today. Taylor Raj and Naisa Pahulu scoring two tries each in the one-sided result. They'll be keeping a close eye on their Pool A rivals Counties Manukau, who ran up an impressive 46-0 victory over the Central Vipers.

In Pool B, The Auckland Vulcans were too good for the Northern Swords winning 40-12, with the South Island Scorpions outplaying Wai-Coa-Bay 30-18. Uriah Tuli scored a double for the Scorpions, who face the Vulcans at midday tomorrow. Wai-Coa-Bay and Northland will both be seeking their first win against each other in the other Pool B match on Tuesday.

In the 17s grade, 2017 champions Counties Manukau came from behind to beat Wellington 26-14. NZ 16s representative players Sione Moala and Taniela Otukolo were standouts for the Stingrays, with Orcas halfback Dallas McEwan performing admirably despite the final result. The Akarana 17s started their campaign well with a 46-0 victory over the Northern Swords; centres Naufahu Whyte and Samuel Kamu both crossing the line for the Falcons.

The South Island Scorpions marched to an important 28-20 victory over the Central Vipers. Griffin Neame and Caius Fa'atili standouts for the southerners, who survived a late charge lead by Tyson Chase and Tyrese Ratahi. The Auckland Vulcans were too good for Wai-Coa-Bay, running out 26-12 victors. Despite being behind at half-time, the Vulcans managed to get around the outside of the local side, with backs Okusitino Lui and L'ia Julius Lafaele bagging doubles for the Aucklanders.

The Vulcans head into a blockbuster match tomorrow with Counties-Manukau Stingrays; with Wai-Coa-Bay facing Wellington in the other match in Pool C. In Pool D, Akarana Falcons take on the Central Vipers, and South Island Scorpions playing the Northern Swords.

Results Monday 1 October:

17s grade:

Counties Manukau Stingrays 26 (Soakai Taufu, Taniela Otukolo, Feao Tongia, Albert Talakai, Tyrone Waipouri; Sione Moala 3 goals) Wellington Orcas 14 (Blaine Betham-Ta'ape, Maui Wallace; Stanley Fiso 3 goals)

Auckland Vulcans 26 (Okusitino Lui 2, L'ia Julius Lafaele 2, Ativalu Lisati; Konrad Tu'ua 4 goals) Wai-Coa-Bay Colts 12 (Sean Field, Ben Fosita; Ceiza James 2 goals)

Akarana Falcons 46 (Naufahu Whyte 2, Seeti Kuresa, Samuel Kamu, Lani Graham-Taufa, TJ Devery, Timothy Vogel, Totive Junior Tuilesu; Samuel Kamu 3 goals, Seeti Kuresa 1 goal, TJ Devery 1 goal) Northern Swords 0

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

South Island Scorpions 28 (Griffin Neame 2, Sincere Harraway, Leo Petelo, Caius Fa'atili, Jordan Aldridge; Caius Fa'atili 2 goals) Central Vipers 20 (Zamayo Lilo-Mariu, Potene Rolls-Paewai, Hiraka Wanakore, Tyson Chase; Tyrese Ratahi 1 goal, Potene Rolls-Paewai 1 goal)

15s grade:

Akarana Falcons 60 (Taylor Raj 2, Naisa Pahulu 2, Ethan Moughan, Tony Tafa, Benaiah Ioelu, Geneva Tuitupou, Louis Dehar-Webster, Deine Mariner; Sebastyan Jack 4 goals, Keano Kini 4 goals) Wellington Orcas 4 (Joshua Williams)

Counties-Manukau Stingrays 46 (Kavan Thompson-Campbell 2, Carlos Tarawhiti 2, Brayden Easthope-Seu 2; Nui-Alinghi Peni, Ali Leiataua, Nathaniel Skelton; Francis Manuleleua 5 goals) Central Vipers 0

Auckland Vulcans 40 (Nathaniel Cama, Filipo Whitehouse-Opetiaia Tovio, Charlie Leumoana, Michael Angelo Taufa, Stanley Iongi, Heneli Luani, Sione Vaihu, Sioeli Fa'anunu; Tremein Campbell 4 goals) Northern Swords 12 (Jarvaiyas Mangu, Robin Herbert, Haiapai Leef)

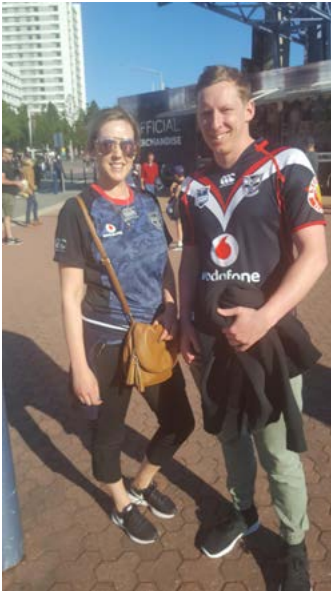
South Island Scorpions 30 (Uriah Tuli 2, Unalato Uasi, Ethan Faitaua, Jaedon Wellington; Matthew Logopati 4 goals, Riley Pascoe 1 goal) Wai-Coa-Bay Colts 18 (Manaia Ngataki-Matthews 2, Te Whatiki Childs-Katene; Tome Poona 3 goals)



ON MY visit to the Vodafone Warriors HQ on Tuesday, my good mate Leighton Corbett, the Vodafone Warriors' graphic designer, was excited to tell me all about how proud he was of his nephew, Zak Corbett captaining the Otago U13 League team on the weekend at the South Island under 13 /14 tournament held in Dunedin. He's taken up league for the first time this year and is just loving it. A Big West Coast team won the tournament but it was a great learning experience for Zak the Boys. The kids tournament, which also included a girls competition for the first time, was the curtain raiser for the men's game, the Otago Whalers v Northland Swords which ended in a 26 all draw. I just love hearing about these games and seeing the game growing at the junior level all over the country. Let's hope there is a future Vodafone Warrior or two from the deep south in a few years! Great work Zak!

Dexter out and about at the Grand Final

By Dexter



Aimee and Anthony from Christchurch first time at Grand Final.



Brie-anna, Lilydale. GO STORM.



Gordon and Peter from Waiuku been coming for years love the shirt.



Left to right. Justin, Malcolm, Sonia and Cam. All from Auckland.



Richard & Sarah Wellington BACK Donna Meadows Melbourne.



Richard Matthews, Mark Pavister and Ryan Matthews. From Auckland for the 4th year.



Sean, Troy and Dylan ready to go for the grand final.



Glenda, Robbie & Sheryl. Great Vodafone Warriors supporters at the grand final.

A portrait of Nathan Cayless, a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark polo shirt, with his arms crossed. The text 'CAYLESS SIGNED' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

CAYLESS SIGNED

Ex-Kiwi Captain Joins Vodafone Warriors Coaching Staff

WORLD CUP-WINNING Kiwi captain and current Kiwi assistant coach Nathan Cayless has been signed on a two-year deal as Vodafone Warriors Intrust Super Premiership coach charged with the key responsibility of preparing players for the NRL.

Vodafone Warriors general manager football Brian Smith today hailed the signing as one of the club's most important in the mission to build on the Vodafone Warriors' return to NRL finals football for the first time this season.

"Bringing Nathan to the Vodafone Warriors is critical to us in terms of adding even more quality to our overall coaching staff," he said.

"Key to his role is transitioning our players from the ISP to the NRL and ensuring they're much better prepared for it.

"Nathan is ideally equipped to help us really lift in this area through the past experience he has as a player and captain for both the Kiwis and Parramatta and now through his coaching background. He understands better than anyone what is needed."

Smith and Cayless have a long relationship from their Parramatta days when Smith coached the Eels from 1997-2006. He handed Cayless his first-grade debut in his first season in the job and also made him the Eels' long-term captain in a one-club NRL career which would end in 2010 after 259 appearances, 217 of them as skipper.

After making his Kiwi debut in 1998, Cayless' 38th and last Test was the 2008 Rugby League World Cup final when led the Kiwis to their historic win over Australia.

Vodafone Warriors head coach Stephen Kearney as well as assistant coaches Stacey Jones and Tony Iro also have ties with Cayless through their Kiwi playing careers (and as Kiwi coach and captain for Kearney and Cayless in 2008).

Like all three of his former New Zealand team-mates, Cayless has been developing his coaching credentials in recent years.

He has coached Parramatta's SG Ball side and also been assistant coach of the Eels' National Youth Competition side before stepping into the coach's job with the Wentworthville Magpies in the Intrust Super Premiership midway through the 2016 season. He continued in the role again last season and this year.

Cayless coached the Junior Kiwis against the Junior Kangaroos and joined new Kiwi coach Michael Maguire as an assistant for this year's one-off Test against England in Denver in June. He will again work with Maguire for the October 13 Test against the Kangaroos at Mount Smart Stadium.



2019 MEMBERSHIPS

HELP US pack out Mt Smart Stadium next year and cheer on your team as we chase premiership glory. The 2019 membership renewal window is open and below are the key details you need to know about next year's memberships and how you can secure yours.

Key details:

- All reserved seat memberships in the East and West Stands have been priced at just \$199* for the full 2019 season. This represents a discount of up to \$200 on 2018 pricing in some categories
- Kids' memberships remain just \$49 anywhere in the stadium.
- Full season memberships give you access to all 10 regular season games at Mt Smart Stadium in 2019
- While kids' memberships will come with a pack in 2019, standard \$199 adult memberships do not. When you purchase your membership, you will have the opportunity to add on an official 2019 CCC members' cap for \$25. We want members to only pay for what they want in 2019
- The club is also releasing a limited number of Super Memberships. See below for more information on how you can upgrade to this VIP product

Key dates:

- September 19: Full season membership renewal window opened
- October 16: Same seat guarantee ends
- October 17: Upgrades, seat movement and seat addition requests fulfilled
- October 22: Partial season members and away members (i.e. build-your-own, mini plans and basic) can book full season memberships
- November 1: New memberships on-sale*



*Due to an overwhelming demand, we are allowing new members to secure their spot as a 2019 member from today onwards. Please note, they can pay \$199 to secure their spot as a member, however they will not be able to select seats until October 30, 2018. This will allow plenty of time for our 2018 members to secure their same seats and move/add seats where possible before we open up the available seats to the general public.

Away memberships

This is a reminder that 2019 Away membership packages and on-sale dates will be released shortly!

Super Membership

Continued on next page...

The Super Membership is the ultimate package for the Vodafone Warriors fanatic who wants to take their support to the next level. When you renew, you will be given the option to upgrade to a Super Membership for an additional \$800 (adults) or \$250 (children).

An adult Super Membership (\$999) comes with:

- 2019 home jersey
- An exclusive pre-season meet-the-team event
- An exclusive mid-year dinner with the team
- Access to a football forum with coaching staff, CEO, senior players
- A membership pack which includes a CCC members' cap and training back pack, Vodafone Warriors 25th season members' travel cup, key ring, bumper sticker, Super Membership pass and lanyard
- A 25% discount on tickets to all Vodafone Warriors regular season games
- Your name on your membership seat for the year
- A thank you call from a player
- Access to an exclusive post-match event with the playing squad in the Members' Clubrooms
- Access to a workout session with Vodafone Warriors great Ruben Wiki
- A signed copy of Simon Mannering's official biography (due for release in November)
- And other benefits still to be announced

A kids' Super Membership (\$299) comes with:

- 2019 home jersey
- An exclusive pre-season meet-the-team event
- An exclusive mid-year dinner with the team
- Access to a football forum with coaching staff, CEO, senior players
- A membership pack which includes a 25th season Vodafone Warriors fold up back pack, drink bottle, sticker, membership pass and lanyard
- A 25% discount on tickets to all Vodafone

Warriors regular season games

- Your name on your membership seat for the year
- Registration for an in-season Vodafone Warriors footy clinic
- Access to an exclusive post-match event with the playing squad in the Members' Clubrooms
- The opportunity to run out with the Vodafone Warriors at a home game (numbers permitting)
- And other benefits still to be announced

How do I renew/purchase?

Existing full season members

- Visit www.warriorsforever.co.nz
- Login using your email address
- You will need to reset your password to login
- Follow the steps to renew your membership

New full season members

Due to overwhelming demand, new members can pre-order a full season membership for \$199 before November 1st by following the below steps. Those who pre-order will be able to select their seats on October 30.

- Visit this link <https://oss.ticketmaster.com/aps/nzwarriors/EN/buy/browse>
- Select either a full season reserved membership for \$199 or General admission (GA) membership for \$125
- Reserved membership seating can be selected on October 30. GA memberships will be allocated automatically

Have a question?

Contact the memberships team on 0800 839 839 or memberships@warriors.kiwi



ONE PERSON DOESN'T MAKE A TEAM,
BUT A NATION CAN.



JOIN US

ON 7 | 10 | 14 | 18 OCTOBER 2018



SILVER FERNS V AUSTRALIAN DIAMONDS

WATCH LIVE ON **SKY**
sport

OR DELAYED ON



For all the updates and information
visit silverferns.co.nz



SILVER FERNS

MEDIA RELEASE



Emerging Nations World Championship Wrap: 1 Oct

MALTA, TURKEY and Hungary were the winners on Day One of the 2018 Emerging Nations World Championship played at Windsor Stadium today (Monday 1 October).

The ENWC tournament, which is endorsed by the Rugby League International Federation, showcases the growth of the game internationally, with 30 matches over two weeks across Western Sydney, culminating in the final on Saturday 13 October 2018.

RESULTS

Malta 36 (Tries – Kyle Cassel 3, Nathan Benson, Sam Stone, Justin Rodrigues, Jake Attard; Goals – Nathan Benson 4) def. Philippines 10 (Tries – Jordan Bien, Blake Mackay; Goals – Jordan Bien)

Turkey 30 (Tries – Arda Dalcik 2, Aiden Solomon-Cochrane 2, Volkan Er, Ali Bokeyhan Surer; Goals – Ali Bokeyhan Surer 3) def. Solomon Islands 22 (Tries – Jimmy Maebata 2, Tony Kaypuya, Carlwyn Tengamoana; Goals – Eddie Moe'ava 3)

Hungary 20 (Tries – James Korvarch, Daniel

Ivan, Cruize Too Ray, Brent Vor Goh; Goals – Jared Forkorsh 2) def Greece 18 (Tries – Adam Vrahnos, Sam Stratis, Peter Mamouzelos; Goals – Sam Stratis 3)

MATCH REPORTS

Malta v Philippines, [click here](#)

Solomon Islands v Turkey, [click here](#)

Greece v Hungary, [click here](#)

NEXT GAMES: Thursday 4 October

St Marys Leagues Stadium, Field #1

11.55am Malta v Niue

1.40pm Japan v Turkey

3.20pm Hong Kong v Poland

5pm Hungary v Vanuatu

DRAW

[For the full draw, click here](#)

LIVE STREAM

The tournament will be streamed live via the tournament website and Facebook page.

**Good luck to the All Blacks playing
South Africa in Pretoria this
Sunday at 4.05am NZT**



Media Release.



Greg Inglis

GREG INGLIS will miss the Kangaroos' matches against New Zealand and Tonga after being suspended for two games today.

Australian Coach Mal Meninga and NRL CEO Todd Greenberg agreed on the sanction after the Australian captain was charged with drink driving and speeding yesterday.

They said it was important to uphold the principles of the RISE values (Respect, Inspire, Selfless, Excellence), adopted by the Kangaroos.

Inglis, who today apologised for the breach, said he accepted the decision.

"I know I did the wrong thing and, while I am disappointed at missing the tour, I accept the penalty," he said.

Mr Greenberg said it was a difficult decision to suspend Inglis who had such an exemplary record over a long period of time.

"Greg is not just a great player, he is one of our best role models, but he made a poor decision on this occasion," he said.

"He deserves full credit for being upfront today by apologising and taking full ownership of his mistake.

"It is a mark of the man that he has accepted responsibility for his actions and I have no doubt he will overcome this setback and retain his status as a true leader in our game."

Mr Meninga said Inglis would be welcomed back into the Kangaroos by his team mates and management.

"I hope to see him back in a Kangaroos jersey next year," he said.

"Greg has been an integral part of the team for many years and I expect him to be back."

Mal said the RISE values were important in ensuring players recognised the need to do the right thing on and off the field.

"No one respects those values more than Greg and we look forward to him returning to the team next year.

"Greg was in fact an integral part of the creation of the RISE values.

"As a result he's accepted the penalty and I think he has shown real leadership by the way he has been accountable for his actions."

END OF SEASON SALE

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The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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