

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

10<sup>th</sup> October 2018

# Newsletter #239



## Watene-Zelezniak New Captain For Kiwis

*By NZRL*

**FULLBACK DALLIN** Watene-Zelezniak has today become one of the youngest captains in New Zealand rugby league history after being named to lead the Kiwis in their Trans-Tasman Triple Header Test against the Kangaroos at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (7.45pm kick-off).

The ascension to the captaincy is a triple celebration for the Hamilton-born Penrith Panthers star, who turned 23 on August 17.

It coincides with he and his wife Purdy's third wedding anniversary today while Watene-Zelezniak emulates the achievement of his great grandfather Tipene (Steve) Watene, one of New Zealand rugby league's most revered figures. He was the first Maori to captain the Kiwis in 1936-1937 and the only person who has represented the New Zealand rugby league side and become a Member of Parliament.

"I was really humbled when Madge (Michael Maguire) offered me the chance to captain my country. It's a huge honour, especially following in my great grandfather's steps," said Kiwi No. 794 Watene-Zelezniak.

His first Test as captain will be the eighth of his career since debuting against the Kangaroos in Newcastle in 2016.

"Dallin lives the values we're looking for and embodies the new direction we're heading in with the Kiwis," said Kiwi head coach Michael Maguire.

Of Maori heritage through his mother, Watene-Zeleniak is of Tongan and Polish extraction on his father's side. With 96 NRL appearances across five seasons, he retains the fullback role he filled in the one-off Test against England in Denver in June.

The listed 17 includes two debutants in grand final-winning Sydney Roosters centre Joseph Manu and Melbourne's Brandon Smith at hooker.

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Tokoroa-raised 22-year-old Manu, 192cm and close to 100kg, made 26 NRL appearances this year, lifting his career tally to 45 with a try-scoring contribution in the Roosters' 21-6 premiership victory over the Storm.

Smith (22), born on Waiheke Island near Auckland, was used off the bench in the grand final, his 18th NRL outing in 2018 and the 21st of a first-grade career which started last year.

Another of the squad's new faces Melbourne utility back Jahrome Hughes is named in jersey No 19.

The Kiwis' starting pack includes four players who appeared in the grand final with another two also in the 17, Manu in the centres and Kenny Bromwich, reunited in a Kiwi Test side with his elder brother Jesse, on the interchange.

In all 10 players who lined up in Denver are again selected – Watene Zelezniak, winger Ken Maumalo (Vodafone Warriors), centre Esan Marsters (Wests Tigers), halfback Kodi Nikorima (Brisbane), prop Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (Sydney Roosters), loose forward James Fisher-Harris and interchange forwards St George Illawarra's Warriors-bound prop Leeson Ah Mau and fellow front rower Marty Taupau plus Sydney Roosters second rower Isaac Liu (who was in Denver but wasn't selected); Peta Hiku (Vodafone Warriors) is included on the extended bench in No 18 after being used in the centres against England.

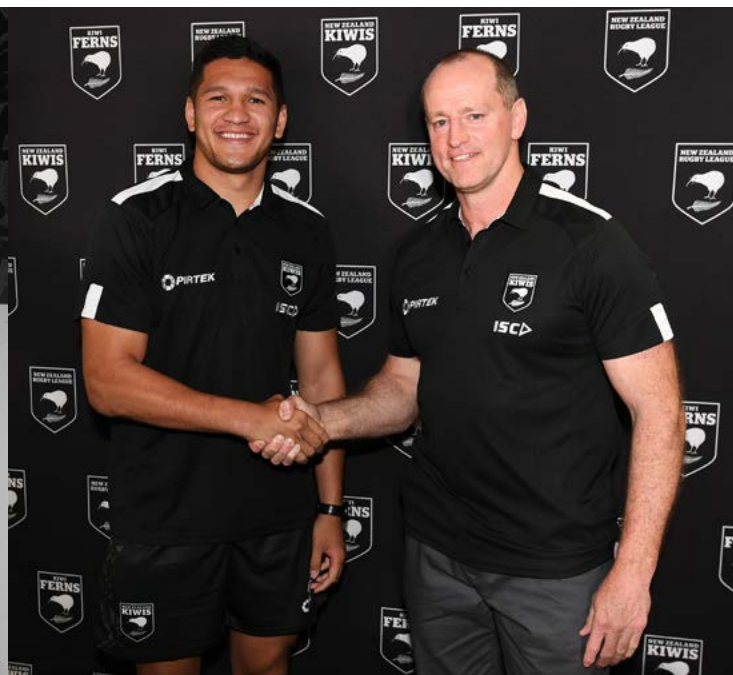
Back in the Kiwis after missing the trip to Denver are winger Jordan Rapana (Canberra), playmaker Shaun Johnson (Vodafone Warriors), front rower Jesse Bromwich – who joins the team tonight – second rower Kevin Proctor (Gold Coast) and Kenny Bromwich and Adam Blair (Vodafone Warriors) on the bench; Blair was originally set to make the trip to the United States in June but was then suspended.



## New Zealand Kiwis Team

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. DALLIN WATENE-ZELEZNIAK  | 11. KEVIN PROCTOR       |
| 2. KEN MAUMALO              | 12. ISAAC LIU           |
| 3. ESAN MARSTERS            | 13. JAMES FISHER-HARRIS |
| 4. JOSEPH MANU*             | 14. KENNEATH BROMWICH   |
| 5. JORDAN RAPANA            | 15. LEESON AH MAU       |
| 6. SHAUN JOHNSON            | 16. MARTIN TAUPAU       |
| 7. KODI NIKORIMA            | 17. ADAM BLAIR          |
| 8. JESSE BROMWICH           | 18. PETA HIKU           |
| 9. BRANDON SMITH*           | 19. JAHROME HUGHES*     |
| 10. JARED WAEREA-HARGREAVES |                         |

New Kiwis\*



Kiwis v Kangaroos  
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland 7:45pm Saturday 13 October 2018 #TelwiKiwi



**TRIPLE-HEADER THIS  
SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER  
MT SMART STADIUM**



# Not a Happy Camper

By David Kemeys

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



**I WAS NOT** a happy camper this week when the wife revealed I would not be going to the Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos, nor would I make it in time for the Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos, and I could even forget about the Kiwis v Kangaroos.

Apparently I have to miss out despite the fact we have not seen a Kiwis v Kangaroos game at home for four years because the daughter's boyfriend is coming from Saudi Arabia to meet the family.

The argument that with a not a lot of league played in Saudi this bloke could benefit from watching the pinnacle of our game and become an ambassador for our sport fell on deaf ears, which if I am honest, I consider to be a very short-sighted view indeed.

Little does she know, although she will when she reads this, my prospective son-in-law will be watching on TV, whether he likes it or not, and if he wants my permission and all that traditional stuff, he would do well indeed to like it.

So all this has left me wondering what to write that the nation's league reporters won't have already done, so I have hit upon the idea of naming my good roosters Kiwi side.

To qualify you must be first and foremost have been a Kiwi, and obviously a good rooster too. But more than that, I must actually have seen you play, and we must also have met and enjoyed a conversation.

You do not have to be the best, have an outstanding playing record or be an Immortal or anything like that.

Because I do not go back to the beginnings of time, obviously it rather restricts the field, which rules out guys like Bob Scott and Des Hamilton, who undoubtedly qualify as good roosters, but I never actually saw them play.

So at fullback I am going to have Richie Barnett, on one wing Manu Vatuvei and on the other Philip Orchard.

Phil was my first ever league hero, pretty much because I grew up in Rotorua and he played for the Ngon-gotaha Chiefs, who I would watch as a small boy at the Medical Officers Reserve, and he was something special.

Sadly we lost Phil earlier this year.

He played 21 tests from 1969-75, and scored 40 tries in all his matches for the Kiwis.

I can still remember in those days sides would be named in the Daily Post, and the Chiefs line-up was always Orchard, Orchard, Orchard, Orchard...because Phil had three brothers who also played, Robert, Eddie and John.

My Mum liked him too, though I think that was something to do with the size of his thighs, which All Black Bryan Williams would have been proud off. You can see a clip of Phil in full flight [here](#).

Because it is my team I can whoever the hell I like in any position I like too, so James Leuluai can play in the centres alongside Olsen Filipaina. You want to see an awesome try from James click [here](#), even if it is in Hull colours rather Kiwi ones.

Olsen, the bin man from Mangere, made Wally Lewis look a mug many times in his Kiwis colours and the path he forged for Polynesian players, something we take for granted nowadays, should never be forgotten.

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So we need a stand-off and a halfback. No 7 is easy, Stacey "The Little General" Jones has to win that birth. If you ever wondered about commitment recall flying back from the UK for the birth of a child, getting back on the plane and still playing like the best halfback in the world, which he undoubtedly was at the time.

Stand-off I'm going to have, and this might be a controversial one, Lance Hohaia, because I loved watching him play. Rocks and diamonds sure, but sometimes he did things that were utterly unbelievable. I always loved it that he was such a small bloke, but he had a ticker no one could doubt, and he could, and would, play anywhere. I once saw him buy I do not know how many raffle tickets at a charity do, then when he won the TV he promptly gave it away. Good rooster.

So now we need a forward pack so we'll go for Kevin Tamati in case there is a bit of a bit a blue, although some would he argue he would be as likely to start it as finish it. This would be the perfect chance to get you to [click here](#). You think you're going to see the infamous punch-up with greg Dowling, but you'd be wrong. This one is a hell of a hit though.

He'll need a propping partner and there are no shortage of greats but I'm having Lyndsay Proctor, who I loved. I can recall him telling me a story when about staring down the wrong end of a double-barrel shotgun, when he was ordered to hit the ground in a bank hold-up.

He also told me he was not stupid and was absolutely shitting himself, especially when old league injuries meant he could only drop to one knee. Any time I ever spent in Lindsay's company was a complete joy, a very special man.

Howie Tamati can play hooker, because why wouldn't he? So now we have room for only three, the back and second-rowers and I was tempted to cheat and name Hugh McGahan until I realised I don't think I have ever actually met him, and for the same reason I can't have Mark Broadhurst either. Bugger.

But I can have Graeme West and Mark Graham. One of them will have to play in the back-row because I need to find a place for Tawera Nikau too.

Happy Frank Endacott can coach and the Butcher can be the footy manager.

So while I can't be there on Saturday, as Pete would say, go the Kiwis. Time to become the players today's young ones can store in their memories and keep the great tradition of Kiwis football alive.



## New Zealand Jr Kiwis Team

1. HAYZE PERHAM	11. ISAIAH PAPALI'I
2. STEVEN MARSTERS	12. JOSEPH VUNA
3. MORGAN HARPER	13. KELMA TULAGI
4. JACKSON FERRIS	14. PAUL ROACHE
5. MAWENE HIROTI	15. LUCKY TA'AVALE
6. DEAN BLORE	16. PETER HOLA
7. CHANEL HARRIS-TAVITA	17. JORDAN RIKI
8. EMRY PERE	18. KAYLEB MILNE
9. SEAN MULLANY	19. PAUL TURNER
10. TOM ALE	

Jr Kiwis v Jr Kangaroos  
Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland 3:05pm Saturday 13 October 2018 #TelwiKiwi



# It's Getting Exciting

## By Sir Peter Leitch

Here's a piece I did for the local papers in Auckland.



In terms of excitement things just don't come any bigger. Three great tests in one day, with the Junior Kiwis, the Kiwi Ferns and the Kiwis all taking on their Aussie opposites.

Get yourself a ticket and be part of history in what will be a tremendous event at Mt Smart next Saturday, the Juniors getting us underway at 3pm, the Kiwi Ferns next up at 5pm, and the Kiwis taking to the field to front the Kangaroos at 7.45pm.

If you want to have a special experience, why not join me in the Stacey Jones lounge. There is an exclusive offer, and when you consider it has been four years since the Kiwis took on the Kangaroos at home, it is not like it is an opportunity that rolls around every day.

To secure tickets to join me in the the Stacey Jones Lounge just go to Ticketek and follow the link. Here: <http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=KIWISKAN18&eg=MA>

Tickets start from \$35 for adults and \$15 for kids. I like to think I know a fair bit about good deals after my years in business, and that is one!

If you want to bring your family you can even take advantage of the bundle deal. It includes six children's tickets and one adult for \$96.

There is a fair bit on around the test actually, with things getting started with a coaches' breakfast on Thursday from 7-9am when the New Zealand Rugby League is giving you the chance to have breakfast with Kiwis head coach Michael Maguire and his Kangaroo opposite Mal Meninga.

They'll be reflecting on their reflecting on their coaching careers and providing insight into what it takes to coach at the highest level.

The breakfast is at the Mangere East Rugby League Club and costs \$26, which I think is fatntastic, because that is the cost of the breakfast only, with both men giving their time free. To get tickets visit <https://nzrl.eventdesq.com/>

That same day, at 8.30-11am, you can visit Mangere Easts ground on Massey Road and participate in some skills and drills training with players from both

sides, and at noon players from all six sides involved in the triple-header will be at SkyCity for a signing session.

Of course the big talking point after the weekend was the All Blacks amazing last gasp win in South Africa over the Springboks.

We have looked far from invincible of late and I had my doubts as the minutes ticked by in this latest test and we were behind by a country mile.

But champion teams know how to win and we fought our way back into it with the final try basically beating the full-time whistle, with the conversion sailing over to give us a two-point win and revenge for the loss the Boks inflicted on us in Wellington – not to mention almost giving me a heart attack.

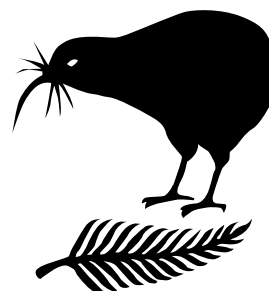
It was a tremendous win but the radio callers will be giving vent to their frustrations about the points we are leaking and shoddy defence, which personally I think fails to give enough credit to South Africa.

No one thought they could win in New Zealand, their coach was said to be for the chopping block, yet they did win. So then no one said they could do it again in South Africa, but they almost pulled it off, and all credit to them.

We expect to win, but truth be known, I do enjoy it more when it is a genuine contest and I think rugby needs the top sides to be closer, to have the ability to beat one another, to keep it exciting.

Mind you, you could say the same thing about league, and we will find out on Saturday.

Go the Kiwis - Junior, Kiwi Fern or full Kiwi, I don't care. If it's in black, I'm backing it!



**NEW ZEALAND  
RUGBY LEAGUE™**

# Experienced duo to lead Kiwi Ferns

## By NZRL

**K**IWI FERNS co-captains Laura Mariu and Honey Hireme will pull on the 36 years of international rugby league experience between them to lead the Kiwi Ferns in their match-up against the Jillaroos on Saturday.

Coach Kelvin Wright has named his side for the Trans-Tasman Triple-Header which boasts some of the top talent in the recent inaugural NRL Women's grand final. Powerhouse prop Ngatokotoru Arakua, who is one of four NRLW Premiership winning players in the starting line-up, will pair with Warriors prop Aieshaleigh Smalley up front, while Maitua Feterika and co-captain Honey Hireme will run out in the centres.

NRLW grand final Player of the Match Kimiora Nati will steer the team in the halves alongside Raecene McGregor, a combination that proved lethal in the Kiwi Ferns 2017 Rugby League World Cup campaign.

Consistent and dangerous with ball in hand, Warriors fullback Apii Nicholls will play at the back in the number one jersey with Langi Veainu and Karley Te Kawa on the wings. Te Kawa makes her deserved return to the Kiwi Ferns squad eight years on from her Kiwi Ferns debut at the 2010 match against Great Britain at Trust Arena, and five years on from her last stint with the New Zealand side at the 2013 Rugby League World Cup in England.

Gisborne born Nita Maynard will get the start as hooker with Fotu-Moala in the second row and co-captain Laura Mariu drawing on her five World Cups of experience as loose forward.

The interchange will provide impact through Georgia Hale, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Amber Kani and South Islander Sui Pauaraisa, who is one of two players, Onjeurlina Leiataua being the second, set to make their debut for the national women's side.

In high spirits about the Kiwi Ferns camp so far, Kelvin Wright is confident his team will be putting their best foot forward against the current World Champions.

"I'm really happy with how training has been going this week. We have some extremely valuable coaching staff in amongst the team (referring to Assistant Coaches Justin Morgan, Tim McIntyre and Trainer Simon Mannering) who are providing critical feedback for the players,"

"The players are in great form after the recent NRL competition and they are so eager to get into the black and white jersey to represent their country with pride," he said.

1	APII NICHOLLS	12	TEUILA FOTU-MOALA
2	KARLEY TE KAWA	13	LAURA MARIU
3	HONEY HIREME	14	GEORGIA HALE
4	MAITUA FETERIKA	15	ANNETTA-CLAUDIA NUUAUSALA
5	LANGI VEAINU	16	SUI PAUARAISA*
6	RAECENE MCGREGOR	17	AMBER KANI
7	KIMIORA NATI	18	RAQUEL ANDERSON-PITTMAN
8	NGATOKOTORU ARAKUA	19	LILIETA MAUMAU
9	NITA MAYNARD		
10	AIESHALEIGH SMALLEY		
11	ONJEURLINA LEIATAUA*		

\*debutants

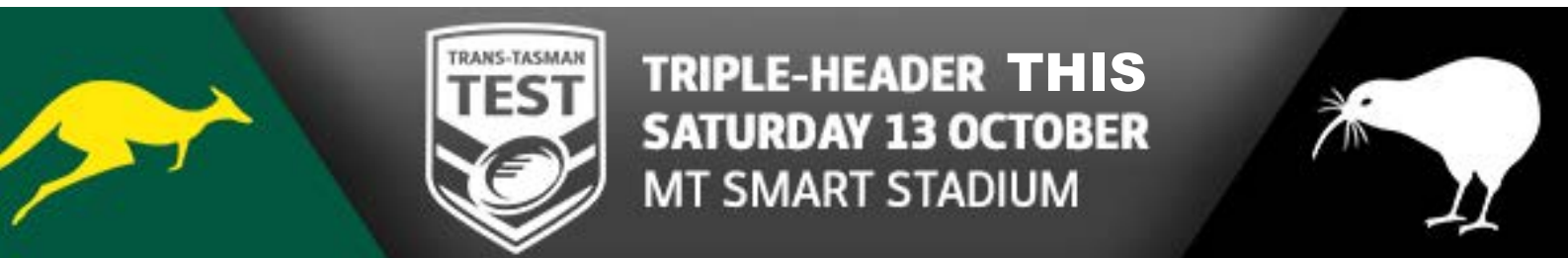






Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



By John Coffey

## 25 Years On: History Repeats For Big Mal

**N**O WONDER Kangaroos coach Mal Meninga knew what action had to be taken when he and the NRL stripped Greg Inglis of the captaincy and stood him down from this Saturday's Test match against the Kiwis. Twenty-five years ago Meninga was also the Australian centre and captain when he was suspended from a trans-Tasman Test at Mount Smart Stadium. The only difference was the cause of their respective penalties.

Inglis was last week stopped for speeding and found to be over the drink driving limit near the NSW country town of Lithgow. He had been playing in an indigenous tournament before celebrating his elevation to the Kangaroos captaincy with family and friends. Back in 1993 Meninga incurred his suspension for elbowing Manly's Welsh import John Devereux while playing for Canberra in a Winfield Cup fixture.

Ironically, Manly's coach was Bob Fulton, who also happened to be Meninga's Australian coach for the trip to New Zealand. With Meninga suspended, the captaincy passed to his Canberra team-mate, Laurie Daley. There is more irony here. Daley is now one of Meninga's Test selectors and was outspoken in his belief that Inglis would have to be stood down from the upcoming matches against the Kiwis and Tonga.

In 1993 the Aussie media was angry Big Mal missed his first Test in five years. Kiwis prop Gavin Hill was already sidelined for an offence while playing for Canterbury-Bankstown. That caused a huge outcry in New Zealand from fans sick of Kiwis being suspended from national duty. Aussie scribes claimed Meninga suffered from a "tit for tat" suspension to silence the criticism. No-one asked Devereux how he felt!

According to some Australian scribes Meninga was a victim of a trumped up demonstration in New Zealand. They might not have said it in so many words but the inference was the Kangaroos had lost a champion centre, a champion captain and a champion bloke all because one of those notorious Kiwi boofhead front-rowers had gone and got himself suspended for a typical lack of discipline. Plenty of unbiased reporting there.

The 1993 Test was the first time the Kiwis fielded an entire team of players contracted to professional clubs: Morvin Edwards (Balmain), Sean Hoppe (Canberra), Jarrod McCracken (Canterbury-Bankstown), Dave Watson (Bradford Northern), Daryl Halligan (North Sydney), Tea Ropati (St Helens), Gary Freeman (Eastern Suburbs, captain), Se'e Solomona (Oldham), Duane Mann (Warrington), Brent Todd (Gold Coast), Gary Mercer (Leeds), Quentin Pongia (Canberra), Tawera Nikau (Castleford), with reserves Tony Kemp (Newcastle), Brendon Tuuta (Featherstone Rovers), Jason Donnelly (St George) and John Lomax (Canberra).

Against Great Britain in 1992 the Kiwis had used four "locals" in Auckland stand-off Dean Clark, Canterbury forwards Brent Stuart and Quentin Pongia and Wellington forward Mark Woods. Clark subsequently joined Hull Kingston Rovers but suffered a knee injury on return to Auckland. Stuart underwent knee surgery before bruising a hip in the Kiwis trial. Pongia had signed for Canberra in the off-season. The other members of the 19-man 1993 squad were the suspended Gavin Hill and Leeds' former All Black centre Craig Innes, who never did take the final step to becoming a double international.

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Not that the Kangaroos looked weak without Meninga. They fielded Dale Shearer, Michael Hancock, Laurie Daley (captain), Brad Fittler, Willie Carne, Kevin Walters, Allan Langer, Glen Lazarus, Steve Walters, Paul Harragon, Paul Sironen, Bob Lindner and Bradley Clyde, and used three reserves, Steve Renouf, Brad Mackay and Ian Roberts. The neutral referee was Russell Smith, who was then still living in his native England.

We will never know the final result had Meninga – and Hill – played. But Daley was to be Australia's saviour when his second field goal rescued his team from looming defeat and secured a desperate 14-14 draw. Two Hoppe tries and three Halligan goals had the Kiwis up 14-13 at half-time after Shearer and Steve Walters scored Australian tries, Shearer kicked two goals and Daley surprised everyone with an early field goal.

For 37 minutes of the second half the Kiwis defended valiantly. Mann finished with 52 tackles, Mercer – a converted outside back playing in the second-row – made 41 and Todd 34. The single biggest hit was by 95kg Nikau on 109kg Sironen. McCracken was intimidating in midfield and the diminutive Freeman and Watson tackled low and hard. The Kiwis lost nothing when Tuuta replaced an injured Pongia at halftime.

Eventually, acting captain Daley resorted to field goals in quest of a consolation draw. He was astray with one before landing a second three minutes from the end. Both coaches were disappointed. Howie Tamati had seen a momentous victory snatched away, while Fulton knew the Kangaroos failed to justify their hot favouritism. Fulton was lucky. Referee Smith had no video backup and a legitimate try by Mann was not awarded.

Meninga and Hill returned for the second Test, won 16-8 by the Kangaroos at Palmerston North, and Australia clinched the series 16-4 at Brisbane's Lang Park. Meninga had been restored as captain, which might give Inglis hope of similar treatment next season. The 1993 Tests were the last played under the old five-metres play-the-ball rule, with the International Board having already decided to increase the distance to ten metres.

## Double MVP Honour for Auckland Vulcans

By ARL

**T**HE HONOURS keep coming for the Auckland Vulcans, following the programme's history-making trip to the National Youth Tournament last week.

The Vulcans can now lay claim to having the best U15 and U17 players in the country, after livewire hooker Stanley Longi picked up the U15 MVP award, and halfback Konrad Tu'ua did the same in the U17 grade.

Longi - who plays his club football with the Marist Saints - was in fine touch across the week-long tournament in Rotorua, crossing for six tries in five games, including the game-winner in the 16-14 Grand Final victory over Southern, which saw them become the first ever Vulcans team to win a national title.

He picked up Man of the Match honours in the final, and was joined in the U15 Merit Team by teammates Nathaniel Cama, Filipino Whitehouse-Opetiaia Tovio and Heneli Luani.

It is the second-consecutive year a Vulcan has picked

up the U15 award, following on from Benjamin Kosi's win in 2017.

While Tu'ua's U17 team fell just short of a Grand Final appearance, the Glenora Bears' playmaker stood out above his peers, with his dynamic attacking ability and strong game management.

It caps a stellar year for Tu'ua, in which he also won the SAS College Rugby League and national secondary schools titles with Kelston Boys' High School.

Okustino Lui was the other Auckland Vulcan to make the U17 Merit Team.

Auckland Rugby League coaching and development manager Andy Hay said it was a milestone moment for the Auckland Vulcans system.

"It's a brilliant achievement, and a testament not only to the efforts of Konrad and Stanley, but also all of the parents and staff involved in the Auckland Vulcans programme," Hay said.

"We are extremely proud to have both tournament MVPs in our system."





By Barry Ross  
Australian Correspondent

## RESCUE

The brand new Kellyville Ridge synthetic stadium used in the Emerging Nations Tournament on Sunday 7 October

**B**LACKTOWN CITY Council has come to the rescue of the Emerging Nations Rugby League World Championships being held in Sydney at the moment. Blacktown is on the western outskirts of Sydney and is around 40 kms from the CBD. Heavy rain hit Sydney on Thursday 4 October and over the next 24 hours or so, some suburbs received a drenching of more than 70 mms. This forced the closure of grounds and impacted on the Emerging Nations tournament, which began on Monday 1 October. Three grounds in Sydney's west were set to be used and this was the case for the first two days of the championships, on Monday 1 October and Thursday 4 October. The three venues were St Marys Leagues Stadium, the Windsor Sporting Complex and the Cabramatta Sports Ground Complex. Matches were set down at Cabramatta for last Sunday, 7 October, but the rain forced the local council to close the ground. Blacktown council were quick to offer their new \$6 million floodlight arena, which is a state-of-the-art synthetic field at Kellyville Ridge. This allowed the Rugby League International Federation to christen the new facility, which is believed to be Australia's first all-weather synthetic pitch.

The hard working, well travelled and popular Rugby League International Development Manager, Tas Baitieri, praised Blacktown Council for their generosity, saying, "Without their support we would not have been able to play on Sunday. We are hopeful of returning to the other venues for the rest of the tournament once the weather eases." There are 11 nations and four regional confederation teams playing 30 matches over the 13 days of the tournament, while there will also be a Physical Disability Championship with three matches between Australia and New Zealand. The 11 nations will play for the World Cup, Trophy and Bowl, while the regional teams will play for their own trophy. The Cup Final will be played at St Marys this Saturday 13 October, at 3.55pm.

The 11 Nations will play in three pools. Pool A includes Malta, Niue and the Philippines, Pool B is Hungary, Greece and Vanuatu, while Pool C is made up of Turkey, Poland, the Solomon Islands, Hong Kong and Japan. The pools were formed on the basis of current world rankings. The four regional sides are Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and South East Asia.

The coaches for the 11 countries are as follows Greece (Steve Georgallis), Hong Kong (Jason Fairleigh), Vanuatu (Lionel Harbin), Hungary (Jonathan Wilson), Turkey (Scott Hartas), Japan (Viliami Ahosivi), Solomon Islands (Andrew Peter Mereko and John Jewiss), Malta (Aaron McDonald), Niue (Brendan Perenara), Philippines (Arwin Marcus) and Poland (Lee Addison). Probably the most well known of these coaches is 50 year old Steve Georgallis, who for part of 2011, was the Penrith Panthers head coach. He played more than 200 first grade rugby league games in the Sydney competition and also had three seasons with English Rugby League clubs. Jason Fairleigh is a brother of former Australian Test forward, David Fairleigh, who is currently an assistant coach with the Cowboys. Jason played first grade on the NSW Central Coast and has been living and working in Hong Kong for 15 years or so.

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Jonathan Wilson is a former Bulldogs Harold Matthews coach, who has been coaching in the St. George junior league for the past few years. Viliami Ahosivi played junior football with Newtown, while Aaron McDonald, a teacher, has been coaching the Berkeley Eagles in the Illawarra competition at Wollongong. Brendan Perenara has played with the St Patricks club in the Cronulla junior league and later coached the St. George Harold Matthews Cup team. Arwin Marcus is well known in Gold Coast Rugby League circles, where he played with Bilambil and worked with the Tweed Heads Seagulls and the Coolangatta Knights. Lee Addison is a teacher at Ipswich near Brisbane where he is a former coach of the nearby Swifts first grade team. John Jewiss has been the NRL Development Manager for Fiji for the past three years and before that, he worked in a similar position on the NSW Central Coast. Scott Hartas is a former Wests Magpies Harold Matthews Cup coach. A Canberra Raiders junior, Lionel Harbin has played with Wakefield Trinity in England and then coached in Central Queensland.

Harrison, or Henry Siejka, who is playing for Poland, has had an interesting career. Now 26, he was born in Bathurst and joined Penrith in 2011 after signing for \$75,000, which was then a record fee for a 16 year old. He played four first grade games in his two seasons with the Panthers and then came to the Warriors for half of 2014, before signing with St. George Illawarra. He played no first grade games with the Warriors and the Dragons. He played in the English competition from late 2014 with Bradford and Wakefield Trinity. This season, he joined Dapto in the Illawarra League and in 12 games scored 84 points. His grandfather was taken from a farm in Poland by the Nazis, as a 16 year old and forced to work in a labour camp. He migrated to Australia at the end of World War Two.

Congratulations to the All Blacks and the Wallabies for their amazing come-from-behind wins last Saturday. The All Blacks were down by 12 points at Pretoria with just four minutes remaining but came home strongly to win 32-30. The Wallabies played Argentina at Salta in north west Argentina and were behind 31-3 at half-time. Five converted tries later they won 45-34, scoring 38 points to three in the second half.

The Australian cricketers are playing their first Test match in six months. It is their first Test since the ball tampering incident in South Africa and they are playing Pakistan in Dubai. The match began last Sunday and after losing the toss on a perfect batting wicket, they will struggle to win.

Mt. Smart will be a great place to be this Saturday with the three top class New Zealand versus Australia games. I was pleased to see the Roosters five eighth, Luke Kerry get a call-up for the Kangaroos after Cameron Munster's late withdrawal for family reasons.

## **Extended interview: Former Kiwi Motu Tony joins NZRL administration | Courtesy of Matt at TVNZ**

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/extended-interview-former-kiwi-motu-tony-joins-nzrl-administration>

I'M SO pleased to see so many ex NZRL Kiwis involved in this Saturday's test match. Stacey Jones and Nathan Cayless are assistant coaches. Simon Mannering is the Kiwi Ferns trainer. Clinton Toopi is the Junior Kiwis assistant coach. Jerry Seusue is the Junior Kiwis manager. Tony Iro is helping out the Junior Kiwis as their technical advisor. Nigel Vagana is the well being and education manager. Motu Tony is the GM of high performance. This is our chance to support the kiwis. Go buy tickets today! - Sir Peter Leitch

# Tommy's Off To Old Trafford

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)



**T**HOMAS LEULUAI is one of three former Warriors expected to feature in this weekend's Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford, the magical Manchester United stadium nicknamed the Field of Dreams. The versatile Leuluai will most likely play scrum-half for Wigan Warriors alongside fullback Sam Tomkins, while Bodene Thompson will probably be in the opposing Warrington Wolves forward pack.

Leuluai and Tomkins scored all of the points in Wigan's 14-0 semi-final win over Castleford Tigers at Wigan last Saturday morning (NZ time). Leuluai, making his 250th appearance for the club, claimed the opening try from dummy-half and carried off the Man of the Match award. In his last home game before transferring to Catalans Dragons, Tomkins contributed a try, two goals and two field goals.

The previous day Thompson – who missed Warrington's historic Challenge Cup loss to the Dragons at Wembley earlier in the season – assisted Castleford to an upset 18-13 victory over minor premier St Helens. The Wolves had qualified fourth and were not expected to topple the mighty Saints at their home ground. Second-placed Wigan will be favoured to triumph at Old Trafford on Sunday morning (NZ time).

Warrington has been a perennial bridesmaid during the 20 years of Super League, with Wigan, St Helens and Leeds mostly sharing the major trophies between them. The Wolves have played and lost three Grand Finals since 2012, the most recent being a 12-6 defeat by Wigan in 2016. Only a few of their loyal fans can remember as far back as when they were champions in 1948, 1954 and 1955.

Wigan will not only bid goodbye to Tomkins and fellow international John Bateman, who is off to Canberra. Even more emotional will be the farewell to coach Shaun Wane. A local junior, Wane made his playing debut for Wigan in 1982. He played 149 games as a tough, uncompromising forward through to 1990, spent time at Leeds and Workington Town, and returned to Wigan as head coach in 2011.

London Broncos tackled their way back into Super League by beating Toronto Wolfpack 4-2 in a fiercely-contested but try-less promotion game in Toronto on Monday. Two penalty goals by former Penrith half

Jarrold Sammut got London home after the Wolfpack three times crossed the London goal-line without getting the ball down. The Broncos forwards included former Warriors Toyota Cup winner Mark Ioane.

Meanwhile, Sam Burgess has been a significant withdrawal from Wayne Bennett's England squad for the upcoming Tests against the Kiwis. Burgess is having surgery on wrist and shoulder injuries sustained while leading South Sydney to within one game of the NRL Grand Final. However, there will still be plenty of Burgess family beef in the England pack, with George and Thomas involved.

Akarana Falcons retained their New Zealand title by beating Counties-Manukau Stingrays 51-20 in last Saturday's final at Mount Smart. The Stingrays, who beat the Falcons in round-robin play, scored the opening try before conceding the next 29 points. Waikato retained its position in the top competition with a whirlwind 18-point rush in the first 12 minutes and an eventual 48-18 victory over challenger Northern Swords.

Over in Port Moresby, some of the Kangaroos and Junior Kangaroos got valuable match practice for this weekend's showdowns with their Kiwi counterparts. The Australian Prime Minister's XIII won their annual encounter with Papua New Guinea 34-18, with captain Daly Cherry-Evans scoring two tries. Wing Shakiah Tungai crossed for three tries as the women's Prime Minister's XIII beat the PNG Orchids 40-4.

Footy in PNG is seldom without incident. Midway through the first half of the men's match many of the 14,007 spectators invaded the pitch. The invasion was apparently caused by low cloud above the ground creating an illusion that a light tower was toppling over, though it was also speculated most of those who ran onto the field just wanted to get near their heroes. It took ten minutes for officials to clear the ground.

Saturday's historic international triple header at Mount Smart Stadium will be special for the Rapanapa family. Jordan Rapanapa returns to the Kiwis after missing the Denver Test through injury, while his sister, Tazmin Gray, will make her debut for the Jillaroos against the Kiwi Ferns. Gray, aged 23, was born in Tweed Heads after the family moved to Australia. Jordan had been born in Wellington six years earlier.





By Shane Hurndell  
Hawke's Bay Today  
Sports Reporter

## Bridge Pa Rules Again

**HOT SPEEDSTER** Bridge Pa winger Jarome Mareikura breaks out of another tackle during Saturday's Hawke's Bay premier competition's grand final. PHOTO HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

**B** R I D G E P A coach Ihaka Waerea saluted his team's superior fitness and composure levels after they captured a second Hawke's Bay premier club rugby league title on Saturday.

"Towards the back end of the second half it was those two things which came into play," Waerea said after Bridge Pa's 44-30 win against Tamatea at the Hawke's Bay Regional Sports Park in Hastings.

"It was an awesome game from both teams who turned up to play. It was what a final should be," Waerea explained.

Former Tamatea backrower Ivan Bellamy produced a player-of-the-match display for Bridge Pa. He had a massive defensive workrate and produced some big hits when they were required. Secondrower Willie Schuster played the entire 80 minutes and was "a beast" in all aspects of play according to Waerea.

Centre Jackson Waerea and winger Jarome Mareikura were a lethal attacking duo down the left side. Waerea will take his side to the national Maori tournament in Rotorua at Labour Weekend where they will compete in the Waka grade.

"We're pretty happy. After winning the reserve grade in 2015 we've been up in the premier grade since then and this is our second title at premier level," Waerea added.

Former Hawke's Bay Magpies rugby prop Mason Kean and fellow experienced frontrowers Richie Eagle, Raumoa Timu and Johnny Wang did plenty of damage for Tamatea. Centre Fale Matamata was again impressive in the Tamatea backline.

Three Solomon brothers, centre Chaz, secondrower Harlan and stand-off-centre Harris, were prominent for Bay Bulldogs during their 30-26 win against Bridge Pa in the reserve grade final. Co-coach Levi Armstrong said Chaz was particularly impressive and scored a 50 metre run away to secure the victory.

"Bridge Pa scored two late tries to close the gap. We hope to take this team up to the premier grade next year and will be aiming to field reserve grade and women's teams next year," Armstrong added.

Secondrower Pat Smith was another to shine for the Bulldogs.

"As you know our club involves a lot of Mongrel Mob whanau and we want to give them something positive to focus on," Armstrong added.

In the women's final Tamatea beat previously unbeaten defending champions Bridge Pa 32-18. Stand-off Deidre Hakopa led the Tamatea side by example.

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from previous page...

Centre Sonee-Lee Collier was another to shine for Tamatea who had lost twice to Bridge Pa in their only previous encounters this season. Hakopa headed kudos on her entire squad and pointed out they peaked at the right time of the season with a bit of extra motivation.

She was referring to the fact Bridge Pa had protested about Tamatea using “under age players” in their semifinal win the previous week against Hastings Rugby and Sports.

“On the Monday before the final we were told we were out of the grand final on those grounds. However our club appealed the decision and won so we got to play in the grand final,” Hakopa explained.

Prop Whitley Mareikura, a sister of Jarome, was Bridge Pa’s best player.

“We left our worst game of the season for the last game. It was the wake-up call we needed before going to the national Maori tournament,” coach Alan Mason said.

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# NZRL – Conference of League

## By Tony Feasey

**L**AST SUNDAY I was fortunate enough to be invited to participate in the New Zealand Rugby League – Conference of League held at the Mt Albert Rugby League Club in Auckland; representing NZ Police Rugby League.

Note: I used the word “participate” because that’s exactly what we did – opportunities were abound for everyone to have a say or offer an opinion via the excellent use of the facilitator for the day: David Hansen, who had everyone in the room thinking and being open to how they view the differing opinions and needs of all.

After the failures of the past few years for the game of rugby league in New Zealand a new era was being ushered in, and at least this time there was no unnecessary call for yet another independent and costly review. This time they would go direct to the stakeholders from all areas of the game and sit-down face to face with them.

There was a wealth of sporting, business, and rugby league knowledge and experience in the room from around the country.

The day was started by a short but warm welcome from NZRL President Howie Tamati who reminded us all – the game owes you nothing, you owe the game because of the opportunities it presents especially in terms of friendships and life experiences.

It was fantastic to hear from people such as Tony Kemp who not only spoke about the needs and experiences of his district but how he also spoke of inclusiveness and removing barriers for the affiliates – a term he does not like to use as he believes it derides the contribution made by those organisations to the game.

Then there was Hone Harawira; representing the Far North and he spoke of the power base that is Auckland, where the Auckland Rugby League, New Zealand Rugby League and the Warriors are all situated, and the need for those organisations to recognise the needs of the rest of the country. Greg Whaiapu CEO of Auckland Rugby League spoke of the need to empower the stakeholders and for everyone to work together rather than pulling in different directions.

The message from the participants was clear, consistent and loud; the game has its faults, but everyone

present was positive, they still loved it and wanted to see it grow and prosper; New Zealand Rugby League’s new era was off to a good start.

In this first chapter they have opened the door and offered people an opportunity to have their say. They didn’t ask to hear only about the bright spots, they also asked those present to tell them what they thought was wrong with the game and then most importantly, how they thought it could be fixed. At times it may have been slightly uncomfortable to hear the opinions and home truths of others, but Greg Peters CEO – New Zealand Rugby League and the other board members present, took it well and showed respect to the people by listening to them. They allowed them a voice, an opportunity to be heard and a chance to feel valued.

After a series of creative conversations that focused around the topics of:

- Our Reputation, Purpose & Vision
- Our Competitions & Tournaments
- Our Relationships & Partnerships
- Efficiencies, Sharing Good Ideas & Best Practice
- Our Game & Capability Development
- Our High Performance

Greg Peters and others will take away the ideas, opinions and suggestions from all involved and formulate a first draft – a plan of attack, a map of the future and how we can make rugby league great again in New Zealand.

Like many others in the room – I thought this was a great first step. There was a high level of buy-in and positivity from those present. The ball is now firmly in the court of the New Zealand Rugby League and it’s up to them to show the qualities of Leadership, and be consistent in their attitude, effort and actions.

Congratulations and well done, Greg Peters you have passed your first test with flying colours. Now for the hard part.





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

# Joseph Manu

**J**OSEPH MANU capped off an incredible season by being named in Michael Maguire's Kiwis' squad to face the Kangaroos on Saturday at Mt Smart. Manu, who grew up in Tokoroa, was one of the standout player for the Roosters in their run to the minor premiership, then scored a try as the Sydney team accounted for the Storm 21-6 in the grand final.

**Joseph, you are 22-years-old and have only played 45 NRL games. How does it feel to have a Premiership ring on your finger?**

It's crazy. It still doesn't feel real. We worked so hard the whole year and it's been a hell of a season.

**Why do you think this NRL season went so well for you?**

I was just trying to do my part, and everything I can do for the team. I know it helps the boys. I had good players inside me and good players outside me. We had a great coaching staff and I tried to do my part for the team. It's been a huge year for everyone but I am so stoked we won the grand final. It's a dream come true.

**The grand final is a massive occasion in Sydney, and around Australia and New Zealand. How was the buildup for you?**

I was pretty calm the whole week but then on grand final morning I woke up and I was so nervous. It was the biggest stage I had played on.

**How did you cope with the nerves? What do you do?**

It was pretty hard. When you are lying in bed you are just thinking about the game. I was playing a bit of PlayStation, trying to take my mind off things. I was also watching some YouTube clips, and cracking a few jokes with Blake Ferguson (my roommate).

**What You Tube clips were you watching?**

A bit of game play, Fortnite [and] a bit of basketball, especially Kobe Bryant. He's been my favourite player. I like his competitiveness and his mentality. I like to compete on these big stages and he is one of the best to compete [at that level]. Obviously we are in different sports but we are both sportsman. He's been a massive [inspiration] for me.

**How were the nerves when the game started, with 80,000 people at the stadium and millions watching on television?**

Once I arrived [at the stadium] I knew my job [and] how I wanted to play. Once I got out there [on the field] I was focussed. I knew what I had to do and wanted to do the best I could. I was excited, pumped. I thought, 'I've done it all year and it is just another game really, with a lot more fans'.

*Continued on next page...*

### **Why were the Roosters so good in the opening quarter?**

We talked a lot about starting fast, about being the first to get on the front foot. The boys believed in each other. We knew we were good enough, we scrambled for each other and we came away with the win. We prepared well, we trained well and it showed last Sunday. The best defensive team all year and our attack came on the back of that.

### **How will you look back on your try in the first half?**

I didn't have to do much really but it was just crazy to get over the line in a grand final. Once I put the ball down, I looked at the fans, everyone was so excited. I knew where my family was sitting in the grandstand and I looked at them...it was crazy.

### **What would it mean to you to run out against the Kangaroos this Saturday night?**

It would mean the world. Playing for my country would mean a lot to me [and] my family. It will cap off this awesome year that I have had. I've always wanted to represent my country at the highest level and I will be stoked to do it.



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Mate Ma'a Tonga Welcome Ceremony In Auckland**

**M**ATE MA'A Tonga will attend a special event at the Manukau's Vodafone Events Centre on Wednesday (October 10) to celebrate their arrival in Auckland ahead of the historic Test match against the Kangaroos.

Supporters can meet the team at the event, which will be the official welcome ceremony for Mate Ma'a Tonga, who face the Kangaroos at Mt Smart Stadium on October 20.

Supporters are encouraged to attend the official welcome, and are reminded that there will be no opportunity to greet the team on arrival at Auckland Airport.

The welcome event is free and open to all ages.

Details of media opportunities for Mate Ma'a Tonga are below:

Wednesday October 10

Mate Ma'a Tonga Auckland Welcome

Time: 5.30pm – 6.30pm (subject to on-time flight arrival and transfer from airport)

Venue: Vodafone Events Centre - Manukau

Free parking is available at the venue.

Saturday October 13

Field training with player interviews to follow.

Time: 7-8am

Venue: Beetham Park, Hamilton.

For broadcast details of the Australia-New Zealand Triple Header at Mt Smart on October 13, as well as the Kangaroos-Tonga match on October 20, click [here](#)



# Jake Trbojevic

Jake Trbojevic (L) and Manu Vatuvei, NZRL Press Conference to announce Tonga playing 2 rugby league test matches v Australia and the Kiwis in New Zealand.

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

**T**HE KANGAROOS arrive in New Zealand on Tuesday, ahead of tests against the Kiwis (October 13) and Tonga (October 20). They will stay on this side of the Tasman for almost two weeks, which is their longest stay in New Zealand since the mid-1990s. Lock Jake Trbojevic is one of the young guns in the Australian side, which has been rebuilt since Mal Meninga took over as head coach in 2016. The 24-year-old has played almost 100 NRL games for Manly, as well as six State of Origin appearances and four test matches.

## What do you think about playing two matches in New Zealand?

I think it's exciting. To play against the Kiwis then Tonga the week after – they are two quality sides and it will be really good to continually grow the game and keep getting test matches on. The more times you get to play for your country the better, as it is the pinnacle of the sport.

## Since Mal Meninga took over he has tried to restore the importance of the Kangaroos jersey. Has that started to sink in among the players?

Without a doubt. Mal has done a great job, putting pride and a lot of history back into the jersey. Anytime you get the chance to play for the Kangaroos it's special and you represent it with pride because you grew up as a child wanting to do that.

## Everybody understands the profile and the importance of the NRL, but there's been a desire recently to grow the international game. Does it add something for players?

Definitely. Playing for the Kangaroos is the ultimate goal and the more times you can do it the better. It will be good to travel a bit, come over here and play against two quality teams. It's a great opportunity and hopefully it continues to grow.

## As part of staging the Tonga match, the Australian players (through the Rugby League Players Association) had to agree to reduce match payments for that match. Was that a difficult negotiation?

Not at all. Any chance you get to play for Australia is awesome and you would do it for free. Payment never really comes into it and that would be the same with everyone I think.

---

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It's been four years since the Kiwis took on the Kangaroos on home turf, so don't miss the chance to be there alongside Sir Peter Leitch.

To secure tickets to the Stacey Jones lounge and join the Mad Butcher, click on the Ticketek link below:

<http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=KIWISKAN18&eg=MADKIWI&ep=MADKIWI>



**Gates open at 2.30pm:**

**Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos - 3pm**

**Kiwi Ferns v Jillaroos - 5pm**

**Kiwis v Kangaroos - 7.45pm**

**It's been four years since the Kiwis took on the Kangaroos on home turf, so don't miss the chance to be there.**

**Tickets start from \$35 for adults and \$15 for kids. – this is one you simply can't miss.**

**Want to bring your team to celebrate the end of the season? You can take advantage of the bundle deal that includes 6 children's tickets and one adult ticket for \$96.**

**3 Tests. 1 Day. It's Time.**



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Mate Ma'a Tonga Squad To Face Kangaroos

**EXPERIENCED LEADER** Sika Manu heads a 21-player squad for the Mate Ma'a Tonga's historic end-of-season Test match against the Australian Kangaroos.

The Mate Ma'a Tonga will play the world champions in a Test at Auckland's Mount Smart Stadium on October 20.

Head coach Kristian Woolf today selected a squad of 19 to contest the country's first-ever game against Australia, and added two development players to take part in the camp preparation.

In wonderful news for Tonga, the inspirational Manu has been cleared of serious knee damage to lead the team into battle.

The majority of the squad named today were also part of last year's exciting run to the World Cup semi-finals.

Only Manly forward Addin Fonua-Blake and development players Robert Jennings (South Sydney Rabbitohs) and Leivaha Pulu (NZ Warriors) were not in the squad that just fell short of meeting the Kangaroos in the 2017 World Cup Final.

Woolf said he was excited at the squad Tonga had managed to assemble, especially with the injection of the experienced Manu.

"To be able to have Sika Manu in as a leader for this squad is a big plus," said Woolf.

"This group has shown a commitment to their country of heritage and we are pleased with the calibre of the squad we have been able to name.

"We realise there is a huge challenge ahead of us in player the current World Cup holders, so we are extending every resource we can to give this challenge our absolute best effort."

The Mate Ma'a Tonga team has been assisted by the Tongan Government and sponsors Recon Solutions.

The Tonga squad will travel to New Zealand next week for a pre-match camp in Hamilton before establishing themselves in Auckland in the week of the Test.

MATE MA'A TONGA SQUAD	Andrew Fifita – Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks	Coast Titans	Broncos
AUSTRALIA v TONGA Test Match	Addin Fonua-Blake – Manly Warringah Sea Eagles	Michael Jennings – Parramatta Eels	Tevita Pangai Junior – Brisbane Broncos
20th October 2018 - Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland	David Fusitu'a – Warriors	Solomone Kata – Warriors	Jason Taumalolo – North Qld Cowboys
Coach: Kristian Woolf	Siliva Havilli – Canberra Raiders	Sione Katoa – Penrith Panthers	Sio Siua Taukeiaho – Sydney Roosters
Development players: Robert Jennings (South Sydney Rabbitohs) and Leivaha Pulu (Warriors)	Ata Hingano – Canberra Raiders	Tuimoala Lolohea – Wests Tigers	Peni Terepo – Parramatta Eels
	Will Hopoate – Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	Sika Manu – Hull FC	Daniel Tupou – Sydney Roosters
	Konileti Hurrell – Gold Coast Titans	Ben Murdoch-Masila – Warrington Wolves	
		Joe Ofahengaue – Brisbane Broncos	



## Harvey Norman Jillaroos Trans-Tasman Test Squad - Update

**E**XPERIENCED HARVEY Norman Jillaroos player, Karina Brown has replaced Jillaroos captain Sam Bremner in the Trans-Tasman Test squad, ahead of the match against the Kiwi Ferns on Saturday in Auckland.

Bremner has been ruled out with injury, with Jillaroos coach Brad Donald saying that Brown was a fantastic addition to the squad.

"We've got plenty of experienced players in the squad, with many of the team having played the Kiwis on multiple occasions, including Karina," Mr Donald said.

"It's unfortunate to be losing our captain for such a big match, but I know Sam will be cheering the team on and we look forward to welcoming her back from injury as soon as possible."

The Jillaroos will fly to New Zealand tomorrow (Tuesday) to continue preparations ahead of the triple-header Test (alongside the Junior Kangaroos and Kangaroos) on Saturday.

The Harvey Norman Trans-Tasman Test Squad 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
Ali Briginshaw	Brisbane Broncos
Karina Brown	Sydney Roosters
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 Taufai	Sydney Roosters
Zahara Temara	Sydney Roosters
Eliana Walton	Sydney Roosters
Holli Wheeler	St George Illawarra Dragons



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# MEDIA RELEASE



## Australian Kangaroos Squad To Face New Zealand Kiwis

James Tedesco, Latrell Mitchell, Luke Keary and Damian Cook will make their Test debuts for the Australian Kangaroos in the Trans-Tasman Test Match against the New Zealand Kiwis at Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland on Saturday evening.

Boyd Cordner will also Captain the Kangaroos for the first time.

“It’s a great honour to get to represent your country on foreign soil in a Test Match,” Kangaroos Coach Mal Meninga said.

“I’m confident that despite a few new faces, new spine and short time together that this team, led by Boyd, will bring nothing but their best come Saturday.”

The 19-man squad to face New Zealand is as follows:

James Tedesco\*  
Dane Gagai  
Latrell Mitchell\*  
Tom Trbojevic  
Valentine Holmes  
Luke Keary\*  
Daly Cherry-Evans

David Klemmer  
Damian Cook\*  
Jordan McLean  
Boyd Cordner (C)  
Felise Kaufusi  
Josh McGuire  
Ben Hunt

Jake Trbojevic  
Tyson Frizell  
Aaron Woods  
Tyrone Peachey  
Reagan Campbell-Gillard

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**TRANS-TASMAN TEST**

**SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER**  
MT SMART STADIUM

**GET TICKETS**

# Sir Owen Glenn To Further Support Black Sticks

By Hockey NZ

**H**OCKEY NEW Zealand today announced a new funding arrangement with well-known New Zealand businessman and philanthropist Sir Owen Glenn, that will see the Vantage Black Sticks Men's and Women's national squads fully supported for the next two years to enhance their chances of winning medals at the Tokyo Olympic Games in 2020.

Sir Owen Glenn's long association with hockey, having played the game himself, has seen him support the Black Sticks players for many years and be the Patron and a Trustee of the Hockey Foundation.

Hockey New Zealand CEO, Ian Francis, said the grant from Sir Owen Glenn was an amazing gesture which was received with much appreciation by the organisation.

"Sir Owen's incredibly generous support will help the Vantage Black Sticks compete successfully and sustainably on the world stage and help keep New Zealand's best hockey talent playing longer.

"Both Black Sticks teams are playing in the new FIH Pro League from 2019 which will take the sport to a new level and make demands on our players like never before.

"For our players to compete in the FIH Pro League and on to the Tokyo Olympics, we needed to raise significant additional funds.

"We're very grateful that Sir Owen has generously donated a substantial amount and I'm sure our players will be excited and appreciative to learn of this investment in them".

Sir Owen commenting from his home in Sydney said, "I am pleased that the Government through High Performance Sport New Zealand (HPSNZ) and Hockey New Zealand have both agreed to match my grant over the next two years.

"This will allow the elite Black Sticks squads to have their primary focus on hockey and now have the same financial support as other leading hockey nations. I look forward to watching the men and women's Black Sticks compete for medals at the Tokyo Olympics."

Whilst details of the funding arrangement will remain confidential, HPSNZ and Hockey New Zealand will match the grant, which will see the players of both women's and men's squads receive equal individual amounts to enable them to train and prepare for the Tokyo Olympics and maintain a healthy work/life balance.

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**'They gave up everything for me' - Kiwis' Waiheke Island rookie Brandon Smith breaks down over parents' sacrifice | Courtesy of Matt at TVNZ**

<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/sport/league/they-gave-up-everything-me-kiwis-waiheke-island-rookie-brandon-smith-breaks-down-over-parents-sacrifice>



**N**RRL TOUCH Football has today confirmed the Warriors will join the NRL Touch Premiership for the first time in 2019 fielding both men's and women's teams.

Touch Football is a major participation sport in New Zealand with 27,000 players competing in Auckland alone.

From an elite perspective, New Zealand hosts the international trans-Tasman event bi-annually and is seen as a heavyweight internationally in the sport.

The opportunity to have elite Warriors men's and women's teams in the NRL Touch Premiership will provide the club with a direct link to a huge and highly-engaged community.

Vodafone Warriors CEO Cameron George said joining the NRL Touch Premiership makes sense because it will attract a new audience to the club and add to the game day experience in 2019.

"Next year we want to engage and entertain as many people as possible at our games and significantly grow our fan base," said George.

"Not everyone can play contact sport so our partnership with Touch New Zealand is really important as it now provides a pathway for touch footy players to play in the NRL at the elite level for the Warriors. It's really fantastic for New Zealand.

"We are excited to be a part of the 2019 NRL Touch Premiership and the development of community programmes and commercial opportunities, both locally and through TV broadcast."

The games will be broadcast nationally and across the Tasman through a mix of live and delayed TV broadcasts with the teams playing in Warriors-branded kit.

NRL Touch Football CEO Steve Mitchell is delighted to be aligning with the Vodafone Warriors and grow-

ing both touch and tackle versions of rugby league.

"We look forward to working closely with the Warriors and Touch New Zealand on bringing the 2019 NRL Touch Premiership to life. We will be releasing the official draw shortly and cannot wait!" he said.

Touch New Zealand chief executive Joe Sprangers sees enormous opportunity for both touch and rugby league through this collaboration.

"We look forward to the excitement that will be generated around the Touch Premiership League with the inclusion of the Warriors touch teams," he said.

"This is certainly something the membership will embrace".

The breakthrough announcement means the club will now field six Warriors teams in its 25th season in 2019. Three Vodafone Warriors teams will again compete in the NRL, the Intrust Super Premiership and the under-20 Jersey Flegg Cup along with the Warriors team in the second NRL women's premiership and now two Warriors teams will line up in the NRL Touch Premiership.

For more information about the NRL Touch Premiership please visit <http://touchfootball.com.au/nrltouchpremiumship/>

To play Touch Football this summer in New Zealand find your nearest club at <http://www.touchnz.co.nz/>

To play Touch Football this summer in Australia find your nearest club at <https://playnrl.com/>







## NZRL Conference of League. Sun 7 Oct 18

In 2007 I attended my first NZRL Conference of League Hui in Wellington. It was a session fraught with mistrust, numerous invite only round table conversations, vote negotiations, and a very agile NZRL executive weaving like Mohammed Ali at the questions raining in from the floor. It has been near 5 years on since I left the NZRL as GM of Football and Community, following the departures of Jim Doyle, Tony Kemp, Carmen Taplin, Trina Tamati, Caley Wilson and others. My own departure like most of my former colleagues was not on the best of terms with the new NZRL and we subsequently had to watch the NZRL go into a downward spiral and the game traverse some very tough times. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the NZRL called another Conference of League Hui's. Creating an opportunity to explore the present, and project above the line to a future we can be proud of. It was such a breath of fresh air, for one returning to the game in the capacity of CEO of the League4Life Foundation something we set up in 2011 to support the people of our game. And two to see the many faces who through thick and thin have not changed. If there was ever a doubt of why our game bounces back, the answer was in that room at Mt Albert. Not so much the very good facilitation, or new ideas, but the passion and vigour of our community.

Dain Guttenbeil CEO League4Life Foundation

## • League4Life Golf Day Mon 8 Oct 18

For the first time in a number of years, the League4Life Golf Day was held, organised and run by the Foundation Trustees particularly Scott MacKay, Sara-Jane Erika and Bill McKentee with valuable support from the NZRL and NZ Kiwis on Monday 8 Oct.

Over \$2,500 was raised and will go towards Rugby League people who have sustained a permanent or life changing injury (things not covered by the ACC), or for those who have fallen on hard times.

I first heard of the idea of a foundation created by Rugby League to look after its own in my time at the NZRL in 2008. It was an idea often banded around by an Aussie bloke called Dennis Ward, a number of Kiwis legends like Don Hammond and blokes like Graeme Coutts, Kevin Bailey and several others who should all be recognised, and thanked for their persistence.

It was not until the arrival of CEO Jim Doyle in mid 2009 and the team that we really made traction and went from an idea to a movement that was termed League4Life, a name I had given to our community centric programmes. It was at that time our great patron was appointed, Sir Peter Leitch, and we got on with the job. Formally recognised and sanctioned in 2011.

2018 sees a call for a reset, stabilisation and rebirth, and my return to Rugby League following 2013. We have a target of \$500,000 to raise to support our people and reach sustainability. It is a tough time and a tough ask for any charity or foundation when funding pools are being exhausted across over 27,000 charities in NZ. Yet I believe one of our strongest points of difference is that the League4Life Foundation is Rugby League supporting Rugby League people. We are a passionate and resilient whanau like little else. While we may enjoy the odd dust up amongst ourselves, at the end of the day we are there for our own. We will strive to provide opportunity for all to get involved from all over our sport that is "More than just a game".

Dain Guttenbeil CEO League4Life Foundation





## Strong Start For Some At Pita Pita Nz Secondary Schools Netball Champs

**F**ORMER CHAMPIONS Mount Albert Grammar School (MAGS) have made their intentions clear from the opening whistles of the Pita Pit NZ Secondary School Championships.

The five-time champion school mean business after netting two emphatic wins on the first day of the national netball event at Southern Trust Events Centre in Timaru.

MAGS opened its campaign in convincing style with a 56-27 victory over St Hilda's Collegiate which it backed up later in the day by beating Villa Maria 54-28.

They have kept their opponents to single digit figures in all eight quarters contested while at the other end of the court, both Sharne Pupuke-Robati and Crystal Maro had their shooting radars finely tuned missing just seven goals between them in two games.

Defender Ruby Young also showed her all-round abilities when snaffling three intercepts with the goal keeper bib on against St Hilda's before slotting nine from 11 attempts at goal when switching to goal attack in the fourth quarter.

MAGS, who last won the Pita Pit NZ Secondary Schools title in 2015, now take on Wellington East Girls' College in their final pool match before teams are split into the top and bottom eight.

Victory will secure them top seeding from Pool C, but they take on a Wellington East Girls' side desperate for a win to push them also into the top eight.

Meanwhile, defending champions Howick look destined to slip into the bottom eight of the draw after suffering two defeats on day one.

They will be left rueing a poor fourth quarter against New Plymouth Girls' High School, losing their tournament opener 18-26.

Just one goal separated the two teams heading into the deciding spell but four unanswered goals gave New Plymouth a sniff of victory and they surged ahead to take control.

Wing defence Brooke Neilson proved influential through the middle picking up three intercepts in the final quarter and her combination with goal defender Parris Mason starved Howick scorers of ball.

The second loss may hurt more for Howick however, after being pipped by a solitary goal against Westlake Girls' High School.

The scores were locked at 17-17 at the main break before Westlake Girls' grabbed a two-goal advantage heading into the final quarter.

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The two teams went goal-for-goal in a tense fourth spell but Howick was unable pull in its opponent, eventually losing 32-33.

It was Westlake Girls' second win of the day after earlier accounting for Southland Girls' High School 42-27 and they remain unbeaten in Pool D alongside New Plymouth Girls' High School.

Saint Kentigern College have also made a strong start to the four-day event with a 43-26 win over Manukura and a 45-28 victory over Sacred Heart College late in the day to lead Pool B.

Epsom Girls' Grammar School is also well placed to top its pool (A) heading into the second round of play.

The Waana Araroa-coached side netted two wins on day one with a 40-33 win over Hamilton Girls' High School and a 47-28 win against Nelson College for Girls.

The Pita Pit NZ Secondary School Championships finish in Timaru on Friday when the tournament final will be played.

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