



Newsletter #244

Gavet Goes

By David Kemeys

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



ONE IN and one out, though the one out is a well-known name, and the one in you probably never heard of.

James Gavet is off to the Knights, released from the last year of his contract for a two year deal with the Knights.

A bit like Charlie Gubb, who left for the Raiders, Gavet was a bit of a fan favourite for his all or nothing style of play, his ruggedness adding some real mettle to a pack that had long been regarded as a bit soft.

But in football general manager Brian Smith we trust, and he says we have enough depth in the squad to make going out shopping for a like for like replacement unnecessary.

"We feel like we've got enough flexibility," Smith said.

It's hard to argue with that with Leeson Ah Mau coming in from the Dragons, and Bunty Afoa, Agnatius Paasi and Isaiah Papali'i all having decent outings in 2018.

I am unconvinced by Chris Satae, so he will need to step up next season to win me over.

What is of concern is that we probably should have our squad pretty-much settled by now, but we are not alone there and the coaching merry-go-round is being touted as the reason, with players

said to be waiting until things settle.

The one in is second rower Lachlan Burr from the Bulldogs, who I confess to never having heard of,

which is hardly surprising when he was a reserve grade player last season and failed to make any NRL appearances, although he did debut for the Dogs in 2013 before getting 23 games with the NRL powerhouse Titans in 2015 and 2016.

After that he went to the UK and appeared for Leigh in the Super League.

He is still only 26, so fits that mould we seem to be going for, and as I say, Smith has not done much wrong so far so clearly sees something in the young lad.

Just to recap, that's Burr in, Panthers halfback Adam Keighran in, Fiji centre Taane Milne on a trial contract, alongside utility back Adam Pompey, also on trial, who was at the Wyong Roos.

Kata deal close

Probably be already announced by the time this goes out, making me look an even bigger mug than usual, but apparently we are close to a new deal with Solomone Kata, to which some fans tired of his total inability to pass, will be wondering why.

His deal doesn't end until the end of the 2019 season but club's generally try to get these things sorted ahead of time.

Johnson deal not so close

Shaun Johnson looked really good in the last test against England but who would know if that is just

adding to his possible value at another club, because we have not moved from our current position, which is that we are unwilling to offer a new contract beyond next season and can talk to other clubs.

With the Kiwis tour at an end you can bet there will be some pretty serious conversations taking place at Mt Smart real soon.

Smith said the club was keen to talk to Shaun and his manager “so we can get a gauge on what he’s thinking”. I bet they bloody are.

“We need to spend some time in the same room as him, to see where he’s at.”

is a fabulous and humble guy committed to helping people achieve the things he has been able to achieve himself, dropping massive amounts of weight and going on to inspire others to lead more healthy and active lives.

Manu’s fight is on the undercard for Joseph Parker’s bout against Alexander Flores on December 15, in Christchurch.

The last thing I would want to see is Big Manu getting decked – or worse.

At least he has boxing smarts in his corner, working with Monty Betham and David Tua.

Manu to put the gloves on

Manu Vatuvei will don boxing gloves and face Dave Letele, aka The Brown Buttabean, in December.

I wish I had not read that.

We are all dealing with the tragic death in the corporate boxing event in Christchurch, and plenty of people who know a lot more about boxing than I do – which is everyone – have been saying these events need to be better managed if not stopped before someone gets hurt.

Big Manu is a long way different from the usual array of IT consultants, builders and posties who rock up in corporate events, with a long and meritorious career as a professional athlete.

But Dave Letele is no mug. He has a pro-record of 16 wins and three losses. The brash and boastful Brown Buttabean persona he adopts is just an act. He

Mannering nearly a Panther

I just about choked on my cornflakes when I read that Warriors legend Simon Mannering almost became a Panther.

With his book out, he has been doing the promo rounds and one story to come out of that is that after some grim times at the Warriors in 2014 he came close to heading to Penrith.

Mannering says in his book –available in all good book stores – that a move across the Tasman was considered, and he thought of signing to reunite with Ivan Cleary

“I started to get disillusioned and seriously considered leaving.”

I don’t know what the rest of the story said, I could not bring myself to read it.

Congratulations to the Kiwis for their outstanding win over England on the weekend. 34-0

The Team will arrive home at 11:20am and should clear customs around 1pm this Thursday





By John Coffey

What A Difference A Week Makes!

WHAT A difference a week makes. At Elland Road it was the Kiwis who stormed over for an early try, the Kiwis who rattled on two more tries just before halftime, and the Kiwis who finished much the stronger to win the third Test against England 34-0. It was also different that the home team had three try-scoring chances correctly ruled out by the video referee. Even he was different, with Phil Bentham replacing Ben Thaler.

Of course, it was too late to recover the Baskerville Shield after the narrow defeats at Hull and Liverpool. But it gives us all a far better feeling than we had at this time last year, when shock losses to Tonga and Fiji ejected the Kiwis from the World Cup. New coach Michael Maguire, new captain Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and a young squad can look ahead with confidence to the 2019 Tests with Tonga, Australia and Great Britain.

The 34-point margin was the second largest in 20 matches between the two countries since 1908 (remembering most Tests down the years have been against Great Britain) behind the 49-6 victory at Bolton in a 2000 World Cup semi-final. It was the first time either nation had been held scoreless and keeps New Zealand narrowly ahead overall at ten wins to nine with one draw. Of the 20 Tests, only three have been held in this country.

Three years ago Kodi Nikorima was tossed into Test football in England after his NRL rookie season and struggled. This week he thanked his Broncos club coach Wayne Bennett for three years of development by scoring one and setting up three more of the Kiwis' six tries. Halfback partner Shaun Johnson assisted in Nikorima's try and during the second half kicked with confidence and skill to protect New Zealand's lead.

That Nikorima and Johnson were far more prominent in this Test was a tribute to the efforts of a committed pack spearheaded by props Jesse Bromwich, non-stop for 71 minutes, and Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, who sparked the first try with a deft off-load. When JWH was sin-binned for a flop at 22-0 after 56 minutes the others lifted their work-loads and Johnson drilled the Englishmen back with accurate kicks to touch and in-goal.

Watene-Zelezniak had his fifth outstanding game at fullback in as many appearances and led his men with a maturity beyond his years. Hopefully, DWZ can persuade Ivan Cleary to play him in the Penrith number one jersey next season. Dally M winner Roger Tuivasa-Sheck is no longer the Kiwis Test incumbent and must challenge to regain that status before the June Test against Tonga. The Warriors should benefit if he does.

Those at Elland Road when the Kiwis thumped the Kangaroos 24-0 in the 2005 Tri-Nations final – including coach Brian McClennan, who was beaming in the Sky Sports studio, and current assistant coach Stacey Jones – would have experienced a flash back when Ken Maumalo leapt high to bring down Nikorima's cross-kick for his second try. It was a carbon copy a Manu Vatuvei try from a Jones kick 13 years ago.

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Maguire will know this was not a perfect performance but will be thrilled by the solid goal-line defence when England dominated possession and attacked for much of the first spell as the Kiwis clung to a six-point lead. England received eight of the first 10 penalties from Australian referee Gerard Sutton, mostly for not releasing tackled players, but it was a change to actually understand the rulings of the match officials.

England wings Tommy Makinson (two) and Jermaine McGillvary had tries denied, twice because of desperate defence and once for an obstruction, by video referee Phil Bentham. Kiwis forward Kevin Proctor also touched down in vain after Jamayne Isaako toed the sideline when making the final pass. Most of New Zealand's seven errors (to 11 by England) also came when the outcome was still in the balance.

But Nikorima broke the game open when he sent Isaac Liu over after 32 minutes and later shrugged off England prop Chris Hill, dashed clear, found Johnson at his shoulder, and accepted a return pass to make the halftime score 18-0. Johnson kicked 11 goals from 12 attempts during the series (the twelfth struck an up-right) before giving the last conversion to eager debutant Isaiah Papali'i (Kiwi number 817).

Nikorima silenced the splendid crowd of 32,186, the biggest for a Kiwis Test in Britain since 1951. Most of them were there to see England complete a clean sweep and had to be satisfied with watching the Kiwis unleash their flair in the best weather and ground conditions of the series. The presentation of the Baskerville Shield was a little subdued and Makinson was named Man of the Series after his three tries at Liverpool.

New Zealand fans have much to look forward to in 2019 -- provided the NRL clubs and players' association do not scuttle the plans. The clashes between the Kiwis, Kangaroos and Tonga in the Oceania Cup, followed by Great Britain's Pacific tour (which does not include Australia), gives us a Test programme to savour. The Kangaroos are due to visit Britain in 2020, leading into the 2021 World Cup in England.

Activity

By Barry Ross



THE INTERNATIONAL and club seasons may be over in the Southern Hemisphere but there is still plenty happening on the NRL scene. According to a Sunday newspaper report in Sydney, Penrith's new coach, Ivan Cleary, only signed with Penrith last Wednesday, 7 November. Cleary was officially granted a release from the Wests Tigers at the end of October and last week signed a five year contract with the Panthers. Now 47 years of age, Cleary was sacked from Penrith by club supremo, Phil Gould, at the end of the 2015 season after four years as head coach. In the Sunday newspaper article, Cleary insisted that there was no problem working with Gould again. This week has been a busy one for the new Panthers coach. He held his first training session for the coming season on Monday (12 November) and his son, Nathan, turns 21 today, 14 November. Coaching his son was a major reason he was keen to return to Penrith, but he stresses it was not the only reason. Nathan, who made his first grade debut on 4 June

against the Storm in Melbourne, has now scored 444 points, including 18 tries, in his 58 first grade games. He made his State of Origin debut this year with the series winning NSW side. Nathan, who is still living with his parents at their home in the Penrith area, will move out after Christmas.

Long serving Manly player, then official, Peter Peters, had a farewell lunch recently at the Manly 16 ft Skiff Sailing Club. Born at Wollongong, 80 kms south of Sydney in June 1947, Peter played first grade with the Wollongong Wests club as an 18 year old back-row forward and then moved to Goulburn where he played under captain/coach, Ron Ackland, who played 18 Tests for New Zealand between 1954 and 1963. He then moved to Sydney, playing one season with Parramatta in 1968, before finishing his playing career after six seasons with Manly. Peter played strongly for Manly in their 10-7 Grand Final win over Cronulla in 1973.

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This is rated by many as the most vicious and brutal Grand Final of them all. Altogether, Peter played 84 first grade games (73 with Manly) and scored 141 points. After finishing his playing career, Peter worked as a Rugby League writer with the old Sydney Sun newspaper and the Rugby League Week publication, before forming a commentary duo with controversial referee, Greg Hartley, at Radio 2GB. He also did some regular work on television sports shows, before moving back to Manly as the club media man. At the farewell lunch, Peter was joined by many of his old Manly playing mates, including Immortal and Australian Team of the Century member Bob Fulton (35 Tests), along with 1982 Kangaroo captain, Max Krilich, who played 13 Tests between 1978 and 1982. Not one current Manly official bothered to turn up, although recently signed 2019 coach, Des Hasler, turned up for a drink. The current Manly administration were also criticised a few weeks ago when not one of them could find the time to attend a reunion of the 1978 Manly Premiership winning side.

The Canterbury Bulldogs NRL club have employed Yvette Davey as Player Engagement Co-ordinator. The job requires Yvette to take care of the players, as well as their wives, girlfriends and families. She will ensure that the footballers partners are content and happy on match days and will also help with housing and other requirements.

New Zealand were impressive on Sunday in their 34-0 drubbing of England at Elland Road Leeds. England may have won the series after their tight wins in the first two Tests but the Kiwis played some great football at Leeds and showed their class. I don't know who was responsible, but Phil Bentham was the video referee at Leeds on Sunday and not the incompetent Ben Thaler, who did the job in the first two Tests. Thaler was a disgrace and should have been replaced after his efforts in the first Test. The crowd of 32,186 for the third Test was excellent.

The European Rugby Championship was completed over the weekend. France won the 2018 title and won all three of their matches, qualifying for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup. They beat Scotland 28-10 at Carcassonne last Saturday, Wales 54-18 at Carcassonne on 27 October and Ireland 24-10 in Dublin on 3 November.

Wales finished second when they defeated Ireland 40-8 at Wrexham on Sunday. The victory over Ireland also gave Wales a place in the 2021 Rugby League World Cup.

I see former Parramatta star, Semi Radradra was on the scoring list in the Fiji-Scotland Rugby international at Edinburgh's Murrayfield on Saturday. Before a crowd of 67,144, Scotland belted Fiji 54-17. Now 26, Radradra scored his second try in his second Rugby Test for Fiji. In five seasons playing NRL with Parramatta, he scored 84 tries in 94 matches. He joined French club, Toulon for the 2017/18 French rugby season and this 2018/19 season he is with Bordeaux who also play in the French Top 14. There were six major Rugby Internationals played on Saturday in Europe. As well as Scotland-Fiji, New Zealand beat England 16-15 (crowd 82,149) in London, Wales defeated Australia 9-6 (crowd 67,144) in Cardiff, Ireland beat Argentina 28-17 (crowd 51,000) in Dublin, South Africa beat France 29-26 (crowd 50,000) in Paris and Italy beat Georgia 28-17 (crowd 18,424) in Florence. That is a total of around 330,000 for the six Tests.

It was a bad weekend for Australian sport. On Saturday night in Wales, the Wallabies were beaten 9-6 in a tryless Test match. It was Australia's 11th Rugby Test this year and they have won just three of them. The wins were against Ireland, South Africa and Argentina, while the eight losses were against New Zealand (3), Ireland (2), South Africa, Argentina and Wales. It was the Welshmen's first Test win against Australia in 10 years. In cricket, at Hobart on Sunday, South Africa won the third and last ODI, 50 overs game, to take the series two games to one. There was a glimmer of hope for the besieged Aussie cricketers when they defeated the South Africans in Adelaide last Friday in the second match of the series. Out west of Sydney at Penrith on Saturday afternoon before a crowd of 15,185, our women's soccer team, the Matildas, were surprisingly beaten 3-2 by Chile in the first of two matches. The Matildas are currently rated sixth in the world and Chile 39th. The two teams met again last night (Tuesday 13 November) at Newcastle.

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Third Test

By Miles Davis



WELL THE Test series is over and the Baskerville Shield goes to England but I think there is much for Kiwi league fans to be optimistic about as a result of the tour to Pomgolia.

The performance in the 3rd Test for instance. Many sides would have dropped their heads after losing the series but this Kiwi side fronted up full of passion and desire. Whilst I don't think the score-line was truly reflective of the game (the first disallowed Pommy try was a try every day of the week and could have made the contest more even by levelling the scores at that stage) there is no doubt the Kiwis wanted it more and fully deserved their win. They never eased up and continued to pressure England right up to the final whistle.

It was the performance that coach Michael Maguire would have been looking for in the first 2 tests and although it came after the series was lost I have no doubt he will be encouraged by it.

Then there was the top performances of several players. Brandon Smith has further proven that his stellar effort against Australia at Mt Smart was not a one off. He is a dynamic individual who makes things happen for his team and is a huge asset for the Kiwis. An eye-catching effort was that of Kodi Nikorima. He controlled the 3rd Test for the Kiwis and had the English defence panicking on many occasions. Looks certain to be a star of the future.

Another player who impressed me was Dallin Watene-Zelezniak. The added responsibility of being captain did not seem to affect him and he was a key figure throughout the series. To have him and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck available for the Kiwis seems almost unfair to other sides.

In my mind this series has further lifted the status of International rugby league. The arrival on the scene of Tonga lit the fuse, the Kiwis defeat of Australia added impetus and England winning this series has added spice to every fixture in the near future. And to top it off we have Great Britain touring down-under next year for the first time since 1996.

I for one cannot wait for that tour. I have so many fond memories of Great Britain coming down to these parts and have been to many memorable encounters. The Centenary Test in Sydney against Australia in 1988 at a brand new Sydney Football Stadium. The Test against the Kiwis in the same year in miserable conditions at Addington. Great Britain needed only a draw to make the World Cup Final but Gary Freeman came off the bench to score 2 tries in a 12-10 win. The Presidents XIII encounter in 1990 at McClean Park in Napier, which the visitors nicked 23-22. The Palmerston North test in 1992 when Bill Harrigan robbed my beloved Poms helping the Kiwis to a 15-14 win (just my biased opinion of course). I also still have nightmares about Martin Offiah dropping the ball under the posts at Carlaw Park while I was already celebrating the try (incidentally Martin and I went to the same school and played for the same Rugby Union club, Rosslyn Park).

Great memories and with International rugby league seemingly on the comeback trail I cannot wait for Great Britain to arrive here next year and give me some more memories as well as creating some for a new generation.

1988 – Gary Freeman scores 2 against Great Britain at Addington.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSffRMNEDAw>

1992 – First Test Kiwis v Great Britain, Palmerston North

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2jxDBYUcWs&t=50s>





By John Coffey

The 'Nearly Men' 1951-1952

THE 2018 Kiwis will return from Britain still wondering why they lost the Test series against England. History will consign the Michael Maguire coached and Dallin Watene-Zelezniak captained Kiwis to being “nearly men” after their close encounters and controversial defeats in the first two Tests. While that tag can be attached to many of their predecessors, surely the unluckiest Kiwis of all time were the 1951-52 tourists.

That might seem a ridiculous statement when one considers they lost all three Tests against Great Britain and both Tests in France. They then returned to London to play a British Empire XIII comprised of British and English-based Australians in a match given Test status by the NZRL and were hammered 26-2. That was their fortieth match on tour and they were exhausted. Their only win in seven Tests was 15-3 over Wales.

Maguire's Kiwis left these shores after beating World Cup holder Australia 26-24. In 1951 the Kiwis, coached by Scotty McClymont and captained by Auckland centre Maurice Robertson, had beaten unofficial world champion France 16-15 at Carlaw Park. Many of the players were very young. Robertson's brother, Bruce, was only 18, Bill Sorensen was 19 and George Menzies, Cyril Eastlake and Andy Berryman were all 20.

The scores reveal the closeness of the Tests in England. Great Britain won 21-15 at Bradford, 20-19 at Swinton and 16-12 at Leeds. Yet under modern rules the Kiwis might have won the series. The second Test was decided by a penalty goal from a scrum in the 78th minute. These days it would have been a differ-

ential penalty with no kick at goal. At Leeds Kiwis forward Charlie McBride crashed over between the posts for a potential winning try. The referee said he was unsighted. There was no video referee in those days.

“It was a travesty of justice that New Zealand should lose the rubber by a penalty goal awarded for a scrummaging technicality two minutes from the end of a thrilling match which fluctuated from start to finish,” reported NZPA. “New Zealand, by general consent, was the better team. They would have been worthy victors if fortune had not favoured the British fullback, Ledgard, with a simple goal-kicking chance at a crucial moment of a match in which New Zealand thrice held the lead.”

Des White was one of the greatest of all Kiwis goal-kickers but he struggled with the bigger and heavier balls used in Britain and the wintry conditions. During the series the British scored 13 tries and the Kiwis 12, seven of those by outside backs leaving White with difficult conversions. In the one-point loss at Swinton they scored five tries to four but White's two goals were trumped by Jim Ledgard's four.

Both teams crossed for four tries in the third Test and Ernest Ward's two goals provided the four-point winning margin. But White would not have missed from in front had McBride's “try” been awarded. The Kiwis were reduced to 12 men when prop Cliff Johnson was sent off just after halftime and, in an era of no replacements, were virtually down to 11 after Maurice Robertson was injured and reduced to being a passenger.

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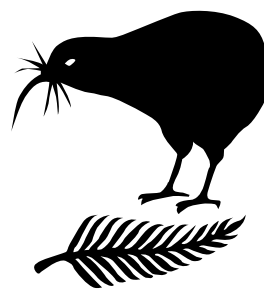
If the Kiwis felt they had not been given a fair go by English referees they found no respite in a first-up 8-3 loss to France in Paris. The Reuters correspondent wrote: "The French got their revenge for the Auckland match. They benefited from numerous penalty kicks that gave the impression the visitors committed many irregularities. But it must be remembered the French League had to win this game for its prestige in Paris."

The second Test was played at Bordeaux on December 30, the first of three games in three days. They went on to beat Toulouse on New Year's Eve and Catalans on New Year's Day. But France won the second Test 17-7 after, as one reporter wrote, "a very strict referee awarded penalty after penalty to the French." Having already beaten England and Wales at home and Australia on tour, France could again claim to be world rugby league champion.

At one stage hooker or prop (and future Kiwis coach) Lory Blanchard played 12 games in 30 days. Des Barchard, Tommy Baxter and Des White also played in 11 of the 12 games in France. There was no time to launder the gear so players washed their jerseys, shorts and socks in hotel room wash basins. Fifty years later wing Jim Edwards was still chuckling at memories of Barchard wringing water from his socks and putting them back on in the dressing room before the next game.

Lory Blanchard said the four-week boats trips were beneficial, building team spirit on the outward voyage and providing rest and recovery coming home. England was still suffering from the Second World War, food was rationed, and the Kiwis gave their coupons for such items as tea, butter and meat to their hotels. "I had ten shillings in my pocket when we sailed from Wellington, and a wife and two kids at home. It wasn't too bad though. After every game there was a banquet and free beer," said Blanchard.

In all, the 1951-52 Kiwis played 40 matches, won 25, drew one and lost 14. They scored 666 points and conceded 441. Despite his goal-kicking problems in the Tests, Des White was an iron man. He played in 33 games and scored a record 202 points from four tries and 95 goals. Wing Bevan Hough scored most tries with 17, while young Bruce Roberson scored 13 tries in 14 appearances in England before being injured.



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Vodafone Warriors To Face Tigers In Whangarei Trials

AUCKLAND, NEW Zealand, November 14, 2018

Kiwi coaches past and present will lead a galaxy of internationals when the Vodafone Warriors face the Wests Tigers in their second 2019 NRL trial at the Northland Events Centre in Whangarei on Saturday, March 2 next year.

It will be a double header event with the Vodafone Warriors and the Tigers also fielding their Intrust Super Premiership squads in the first game on the programme (ISP kick-off 2.15pm; NRL kick-off 5.00pm)

Jointly announced today by the Vodafone Warriors and the Northland Events Centre Trust, the NRL match will bring together long-time former Kiwi head coach Stephen Kearney and current national coach Michael Maguire.

Maguire, who has just finished guiding the Kiwis in their Test series in England, is returning to NRL coaching with the Tigers after a year off following a six-season stint with South Sydney from 2012-2017.

Northland Events Centre Trust chairman Alastair Wells said the two trials would provide a huge boost for the region.

“We are very excited to be hosting the Vodafone Warriors and the Wests Tigers at Northland Events Centre on March 2,” he said.

“It’s a fantastic event for the Northland region. The games will be held on Saturday afternoon to allow plenty of travel time for everyone in Northland to be able to attend. We would also love to see visitors from Auckland and further south come up for the weekend to enjoy the event along with our wonderful Northland hospitality.

“The event will include a load of pre-match entertainment and plenty of activities for kids and youth, so make sure you get your tickets and come along and support your team.”

Kearney welcomed the opportunity to take both Vodafone Warriors squads to Northland.

“As a club, we really enjoy playing in areas around the country and giving locals the chance to see our players up close,” he said.

“This trial will be really important for us being our last hit-out before starting our season against the Bulldogs at Mount Smart Stadium on March 16. It’s the same for our ISP team.”

As well as their Kiwi coaching connection, Kearney and Maguire have Melbourne Storm links in common. They both served their coaching apprenticeships with the Storm under Craig Bellamy and then went on to coach against each other when Kearney was with the Parramatta Eels and Maguire with the Rabbitohs in 2012.

The Whangarei match-up offers a tantalising prospect for fans with the prospect of as many as 18 current or past Kiwis being on show.

The Vodafone Warriors have eight players from their 2019 squad who have been on tour with the Kiwis in England – Ken Maumalo, Peta Hiku, Gerard Beale, Shaun Johnson, Northland born and bred Adam Blair, Agnatius Paasi and Isaiah Papali’i plus new signing Leeson Ah Mau while they also boast Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke and Tohu Harris as well as Tonga internationals David Fusitu’a and Solomone Kata, who have also played for the Kiwis.

Wests Tigers have centre Esan Marsters from the Kiwi party in England as well as former Kiwis Benji Marshall, Ben Matulino, Russell Packer and Elijah Taylor (who was brought up in Herekino in the Far North). Other New Zealand-born players in their squad include Michael Chee-Kam, Josh Aloiai and Thomas Mikaele.

As well as having both teams in Whangarei for their NRL and ISP trials, the Vodafone Warriors will be out and about in the area making a number of community appearances during the days leading up to game day.

It will be the fourth time the Vodafone Warriors have held a trial in Whangarei. They staged New South Wales Cup hit-outs there in 2011 and 2012 and an NRL trial against the Gold Coast Titans in 2016.

- Tickets and corporate hospitality
- Tickets are available from www.ticketrocket.co.nz and Forum North Box Office, Rust Avenue, Whangarei.
- Prices:
 - o Grandstand | Adult \$30, child \$15.
 - o GA terraces/embankment | Adult \$15, child \$10.
- For corporate hospitality options email rachel.ogorman@wdc.govt.nz

For further information please contact:

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The Butcher Pays Tribute To The Breakers Basketball Team

I want to give a big shout out to the Breakers basketball team. They won both games over the weekend, 1 was in Auckland the other in Aussie and we think we have it tough with Rugby League & rugby this weekend, they have a game in Invercargill and a game in Australia – basketball players are a lot tougher than we give them credit for. As a former no-hoper basketball player I wish them all the best for the 2018 season.

Friday 9th Nov, 2018

Friday 9th Nov
Final

New Zealand Breakers **104** VS **81** Cairns Taipans

Replay Highlights

FOX SPORTS

Spark Arena

Sunday 11th Nov, 2018

Sunday 11th Nov
Final

Brisbane Bullets **84** VS **85** New Zealand Breakers

Replay Highlights

FOX SPORTS

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Friday 16th Nov, 2018

Friday 16th Nov
7:50 PM

New Zealand Breakers **4-3** VS **6-3** Melbourne United

\$2.25 sportsbet.com.au \$1.65

FOX SPORTS

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ILT Stadium Southland

Sunday 18th Nov, 2018

Sunday 18th Nov
7:20 PM

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2019 NRL DRAW

RD	OPPONENT	NZ TIME	VENUE
1		v Bulldogs Saturday, 16 Mar 5:00pm	Mt Smart
2		v Tigers Sunday, 24 Mar 8:10pm	Campbelltown Stadium
3		v Sea Eagles Saturday, 30 Mar 5:00pm	AMI Stadium
4		v Titans Friday, 05 April 8:00pm	Mt Smart
5		v Rabbitohs Saturday, 13 April 5:00pm	Sunshine Coast Stadium
6		v Cowboys Saturday, 20 April 7:30pm	Mt Smart
7		v Storm Thursday, 25 April 9:50pm	AAMI Park
8		v Knights Sunday, 05 May 4:00pm	Mt Smart
9		v Dragons Saturday, 11 May 7:30pm	Suncorp Stadium
10		v Panthers Friday, 17 May 8:00pm	Panthers Stadium
11		v Broncos Saturday, 25 May 7:30pm	Mt Smart
12	BYE		
13		v Storm Saturday, 08 June 5:00pm	Mt Smart
14		v Titans Friday, 14 June 8:00pm	Cbus Super Stadium
15		v Panthers Sunday, 30 June 4:00pm	Mt Smart
16		v Knights Saturday, 06 July 9:35pm	McDonald Jones Stadium
17		v Broncos Saturday, 13 July 7:30pm	Suncorp Stadium
18		v Sharks Friday, 19 July 8:00pm	Westpac Stadium
19		v Eels Saturday, 27 July 5:00pm	Western Sydney Stadium
20		v Raiders Friday, 02 August 8:00pm	Mt Smart
21		v Sea Eagles Friday, 09 August 8:00pm	Mt Smart
22		v Roosters Sunday, 18 August 4:00pm	Venue TBC
23		v Sharks Saturday, 24 August 5:00pm	Shark Park
24		v Rabbitohs Friday, 30 August 8:00pm	Mt Smart
25		v Raiders Saturday, 07 Sept 5:00pm	GIO Stadium

Quentin Pongia (Raider #149)

Needs Our Help Immediately!

OVER THE last 12 months, Raider #149 Quentin Pongia, has been having some serious health complications to the point that he has been unable to work and adequately provide for his beautiful family.

Upon hearing this news, a group of Q's friends (led by personnel at the Canberra Raiders and Manly Sea Eagles who are his current employers) have decided to 'unite' to raise some much-needed funds, and as a person/club/organisation that has been involved with Q we ask for your assistance in this regard also.

Our plans are to initially setup a go-fund-me page to get donations from individuals, which we will promote through all available channels. Also, a decision has been made to collect a number of items to be auctioned off through www.allbids.com.au

Regarding the online auction, desirable items being sourced are:

- Signed Memorabilia (e.g. Jerseys, Boots etc.);
- Money-Can't-Buy-Experiences (e.g. Attend Team Captain Runs, Have a private meal with a group of Players etc.);
- Prizes, Gift Vouchers etc.

If you are willing and able to donate, please do so ASAP (by Friday 26 October 2018) by contacting David Thom via DThom@raiders.com.au

From Monday 5 November 2018 we will have all the fundraising initiatives active in market as we endeavour to alleviate some financial pressures on Q and his family leading into Christmas 2018.



Your assistance in helping out Q and his family is appreciated

BEST OF LUCK TO THE ALL BLACKS FOR THEIR TEST MATCH AGAINST IRELAND THIS SUNDAY. GAME STARTS AT 8AM NZ TIME



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Steps on the Green

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday 1 March, 2019 - Titirangi Golf Club

save the date →

Steps On The Green is back in 2019 and we'd love you to join us!

Save the date and register to join Monty and the Steps for Life Team at the Titirangi Golf Club for a round of golf with a NZ celebrity as your fourth player, food and drink while on course, spot prizes, great raffles, a sit down dinner at the end of the day and our annual golf day auction.

This is one of our most popular events and teams spaces fill up fast. Register before 31 December, 2018 to get the earlybird team entry price of \$500 (normally \$600)

When, Where and What time?

Friday 1 March, 2019 at The Titirangi Golf Club, 11 Links Road, New Lynn

- 11.00am Registration
- 12.30pm Shotgun start
- 5.30pm Reception, Awards and Auction



Enter your Team...

- 3 players plus mystery celebrity 4th player
- Includes: Celebrity guest player, snacks and drinks (beer, wine or non-alcoholic) while playing on course and a sit down dinner in the clubrooms at the end of the day.

[Find out more and register here ▶](#)

Secure your place now and we'll see you on the green!

The Steps for Life Team



empowering NZ youth and families one step at a time



June Crisp

It is with deep sympathy that we acknowledge the passing of long-standing Vodafone Warriors member and member of the Sir Peter Leitch club June Crisp.

June's support for the club began in 1995 and she will be sorely missed by those who were graced with her presence.

In 2018, June was visited by Sam Lisone at the retirement village to deliver her membership pack for Christmas. Sam was warmly welcomed by June who was patiently waiting in her Warriors jersey. It was a moment that will leave a lasting impression on all those present.

On behalf of everyone at the Vodafone Warriors, we would like to extend our condolences to Kathy and all of June's family and friends. We will be thinking of you all and send you comfort and peace as you remember June.

Best wishes,
Shani Willemsen

Vodafone Warriors memberships manager

A Stacey Jones Lounge Member, Robert Thompson, Shares His Thoughts On June

Kathy, it was with great sadness that I received the news from Sir Peter today that your beloved mum, and our treasured Lounge friend June had passed away. Having been a Warrior's buddy for many years in the Lounge, I was aware of course that June had recent health issues, but it was with great joy and huge admiration that we saw June back again to watch a few games this year, not letting a wheelchair and poor health hold her back. It has been such a pleasure and a privilege to sit at the window right beside June all these years, yelling at the Warriors when they did well, or not, and it will simply not be quite the same again going forward.

I would like to offer you my sincere condolences, and add those of son James and daughter Erin, who were very fond of June and have had many lovely chats with her over many years of attending the games with me.

I hope your sadness will pass in good time, and maybe helped knowing that a great many people knew June to be a really lovely lady, and a great character who enriched our lives though knowing her. Our sympathies also to all of June's extended family at this sad time.

Fondest Regards,
Robert Thompson

The June's Service will be held in the Main Chapel of Morrisons Funeral Home, 220 Universal Drive, Henderson, Auckland on Friday 16th November 2018 at 12.30 pm. The service will be followed by refreshments and a burial at Waikumete Cemetery at 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to be made to Stroke Foundation NZ.



Wishing Rodney Green a Happy Birthday, 70 on Thursday and still rocking!



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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.

Sir Peter Leitch - Editor
David Kemeys - Editor at Large
Emma Woodhead - Graphic Designer

John Coffey - Southern Correspondent
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John Holloway - Correspondent
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