



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

27 FEB 2014
#09

News Round-up

What a week!

I was lucky enough to travel away for four days with the **Vodafone Warriors**, flying out last **Thursday** to beautiful Queenstown around 10am - Air NZ of course. On landing it was straight to the hotel and a bit of lunch, then to training right next door to the Queenstown airport. I have never seen so many planes fly over a training session.

It was great to see so many fans turn out to mix with the players, who had the luxury of a quick dip in Lake Wakatipu for their recovery session.

It was dinner in the hotel with a guest speaker once we had eaten, then a free night, so I rang a mate who owns a luxury charter launch in Queenstown called **Pacific Jemm** (you saw the pics from that, last issue).

He kindly took me and some of the boys out for a cruise on for a couple of hours and the players had a ball jumping off the boat into the very cold lake. They no sooner got in than they jumped out again because it was so cold.

Friday morning it was an early start, on the bus at 7.30am and heading to Wanaka, where we were guests of **Red Bull** at the **Oxbow Adventure Company**. It was another exciting experience, the guys doing everything from archery, clay shooting, jet-boating, helicopter rides and more, all on the one property (see pics this issue). They had a fantastic time and it was great for team building.

Then it was back on the bus on to Dunedin for the big game. On arriving in town, some of the players headed off for a signing session in a mall. Then on **Saturday** it was training, plus we all attended a community carnival to meet and greet fans before heading to the Moana pool for a recovery session, and as a treat, dinner in a local restaurant. **Sunday** was a rolling breakfast in the hotel before leaving for the game at 1.15pm.

Lolohea signs on

Great to see the **Vodafone Warriors** sign exciting standoff prospect **Tuimoala Lolohea**, 19, to a three-year contract.

He went to Kelston Boys and showed his potential as part of our Nines squad, a performance that followed two-tries in the trial against the Titans at North Harbour. I thought he went really well in Sunday's trial against the Broncos in Dunedin too.

Having signed **Shaun Johnson** until the end of the 2017 season, it means we have two talented young playmakers at the club.

As part of the NYC competition last year, Lolohea scored 22 tries in 28 appearances, and was named the club's **Young Player of the Year**. The current **Junior Kiwi** is still eligible for the NYC team, he has been training with the club's NRL squad.

Down to business

The **Vodafone Warriors** belted **Brisbane** with a nine tries-to-one 48-4 pounding.

After leading 22-4 at halftime we were outstanding in the second spell. I thought we were great on attack and defence, shutting Brisbane out except for one try off a kick. The result meant we won the Trans-Tasman Cup, and my smile was pretty wide.

Shaun Johnson went in after only five minutes and his conversion had us 6-0 up.

It was 6-4 when **Jack Reed** went over off a bomb, although there was a hint of a knock-on. But given what was to follow, it didn't matter much.

Glen Fisiiahi showed great skill to finish in the corner and Johnson's conversion made it 12-4 after 20 minutes. Less than 10 minutes later he was in again, and although the kick missed, it already had the look of a game that was in the bag at 16-4.

I thought interchange prop **Charlie Gubb** might swallow his ears because he smiled so wide when he went over, and Johnson's conversion was the first easy one of the day, and we went to the sheds at 22-4.

The second half started with the **Broncos** looking good to be fair, but it was **Carlos Tuimavave** who scored for us first, and Johnson was again spot on. That was the last act from him, taken off to keep him safe after about 50 minutes, but it just meant **Sam Tomkins** stepped up, and when he floated a long ball to **David Fusitua** out on the touchline there was still quarter of an hour to go and we led 32-4 ahead.

Jason Bukuya, who I thought was awesome, made a bust and eventually Tomkins stepped off his left, and ducked under defenders for his first try for us. The conversion made it 38-4.

We just kept pounding away and centre **Konrad Hurrell** got a double - one of them converted - and the score-line read an astonishing 48-4.

I don't remember when we last played as well, trial or not, so it must be nice for coach **Matt Elliott** to have the problem of deciding who to pick for our opening game.

It was without a doubt our strongest line-up of the trials, and it showed. I can't wait for our opening game against the **Parramatta Eels** on March 9, and to return to Eden Park for the **Dragons** on Sunday, March 15 at 5pm.



The boys where all smiles on the plane!

Get your tickets!

What a stunning performance from the **Vodafone Warriors**, pounding the **Broncos** 48-4 in Dunedin. If that showing has not convinced you to get on board, nothing will. So grab your tickets to make sure you're there at Eden for the first home game of the season against the Dragons. It's our chance to revive the Nines atmosphere by turning Eden Park into a fortress. Buying tickets now means you save on gate prices and ensures you get the seat you want. Of course we have three home matches at Eden Park and the **Vodafone Warriors** are also returning to Wellington's Westpac Stadium for a home game against the Tigers. There are eight regular season home matches back at Mt Smart.

To secure tickets just visit www.warriors.co.nz

Let's not get carried away

Boy there was a lot to like about the **Warriors** on Sunday, but we need to keep our feet on the ground. One trial win does not make a season, however good it was. A fortnight or so from now and every NRL team will begin the season with a 0 beside their name. So let's move into the season proper with realistic expectations, although I will say that I am enjoying seeing what is happening at the club.

I'm all shook up

Friday night I'm off to the **Howick Club** to see the world's number one **Elvis** tribute artist, **Ben Portsmouth**, direct from the UK. It must be my music weekend because on the Saturday I'll be at **Bruce Springsteen** at Mt Smart.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTf_17q50p0



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Ds-FXGGQg>

Top tips for Queenstown way

Have to get in a plug for **Blair**, the skipper of the **Pacific Jemm**. What a good bloke, and what a beautiful boat. If you need a charter down that way hook up with Blair and he will make sure you have a terrific time. The number is **027 427 973**, and you can check it all out on www.pacificjemm.co.nz, or email info@pacificjemm.com.

And if you are a thrill-seeker, **Darb Richmond** is the go-to guy. His **Oxbow Adventures** is absolutely mind-blowing. His number is **021 828 856**, and his email darb@oxbowadventures.co.nz, and his website www.oxbowadventures.co.nz

Off to Sydney

Iflew over to Sydney on Wednesday with head coach **Matt Elliott**, and players **Sam Rapira**, **Manu Vatuvei**, **Kevin Locke**, **Jerome Ropati** and **Thomas Leuluai** for the official lunch of the NRL season. Over there we were joined by one of our owners, **Eric Watson**, club CEO, **Wayne Scurrah** and club chairman **Bill Wavish** plus some members. It was a great night and me and the boys left the hotel at 4.30am to catch our AirNZ flight back.



The boys in the foyer of our hotel.

Not all beer and skittles

Just in case you think it is all easy for the boys, keep in mind that we got the last flight out of Dunedin on Sunday and finally got back to Auckland around 11pm, so no one would have seen their bed until late.

After the game we stopped off at the local **Lone Star** restaurant for dinner then headed to the airport to catch our 8.50pm flight which we shared with the **Broncos** and some fans.

So you can see it was full-on, and I think, a very successful four days for the coaching staff and players.

Incidentally, we shared the same hotel as the **Blues** so I spent some quality time with **Benji Marshall** and caught up with my fellow knights **Sir John Kirwan** and **Sir Graham Henry**, and got to chat to most of the **Blues**. Top blokes they are too, so it was great to see the two teams chatting to each other in the hotel. I even took some of the **Vodafone Warriors** to the **Blues** game, and it was great to see my mate Benji play his first game.



Sir Graham Henry, Sir John Kirwan and Matthew Elliott.



Benji caught up with some of the Vodafone Warriors. The Blues were staying in the same hotel.

The Oxbow Incident(s)!

As mentioned above, OXBOW ADVENTURES is absolutely mindblowing and the *Warriors* had a great time there, after training, courtesy of the folks at Red Bull.



Shaun lines the golf ball up for a big whack.



The boys also tried knife throwing, archery (Ruben going all Spartan for whatever), and hole in one golf, though not sure if the can in the mouth would meet with OSH approval!



Feleti lines up the knife to hit the target.



All smiles.
Two group pics by the river before the jet boat excursion.



The team spent a very pleasant day at Oxbow and here they are with the owner's daughters and the family dog.





Even I got into the boat!



It's all guns blazing under the careful eyes of our host, Lloyd Ferguson.



Matt prepares to blast off in the sprint jet boat



Always the funny man! Konrad and his apprentice, Sione Lousi.

Check out these fantastic photos kindly provided by Red Bull!

BELOW:

The mean 4wd extreme off-roading machine watched over by their helicopter - a Hughes 500. Hmm... Now what piece of music would go well with this pic? Oh, yes... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUC8dJ0D6sA>



What a line-up! What a landscape! The team after 3 hours of adrenalin-fuelled excitement at Oxbow.

On target. Watch out for the chopper, lads!



The boys doing a bit of clay bird shooting. Some, like captain Mannering, were Deadeye Dicks.



Charlie Gubb catches a shower of the spray as the boat roars around the special pond they have constructed for the activity.



The guys loved this one! They're in the only 4 seater jet sprint boat in NZ; it goes from 0 to 100km in 2-and-a-half seconds! Shaun Johnson was catching flies! The boys said it's the scariest thing they had done but still loved it.



Once Upon a Time in the South.... Gun totin' Warriors!

YRRODDOM - Mmm!



YEEEEHAAA!!

The lads had a great time at Oxbow Adventure Company and the super fast jet boat run on the Clutha River was a real highlight.

Thanks, Oxbow and thanks Red Bull for giving us (water) wings!



In Dunedin



Great to see Frank Endacott at the game. Frank's a former Warriors and Kiwi coach, best known as "Happy Frank".



The boys had just finished their swim for recovery and had to wait outside till the bus arrived. Showing a bit of skin.



The boys in the pool for recovery.



I have my photo taken with Matt & Jaime Fraser in Dunedin.



Hi Sir Peter, thanks for taking the time with the boys. All they wanted was 3 photos – Shaun J, Manu & The Mad Butcher. We got all three. Here is a couple more photos. Many, Many thanks Simon



CANTERBURY RUGBY LEAGUE UPDATE

Reflections on a busy couple of weeks here in Canterbury for Rugby League.

Just last week Canterbury played hosts to the NRL Crounlla Sharks team, the Sharks just missed out on a finals place by four points at the inaugural Auckland Nines tournament at the weekend. The Semi-finalists did most of their preparation for the nines here in Canterbury, using the amazing facilities at Lincoln University. Outside of the Sharks training the club interacted with 616 kids and teenagers from Canterbury, delivering skills sessions and the NRL anti bullying program 'Tackle Bullying'

This week Canterbury Rugby League were fortunate enough to have Dean Watkins fly down from Auckland. Dean, the 'National Coaching Manager' for New Zealand Rugby League led a Managers course for our club officials here in Canterbury.

"The Rugby League community here in Canterbury has been very welcoming since my arrival. Just the other day I was down at Hornby Rugby League club for their junior registration day and it was fantastic to see so many of the players sign on that had taken part in our sessions when the Sharks were here." said Dean.

The Managers course run by Dean was another introduction to just a few of the passionate volunteers of the rugby league community here in Canterbury.

These qualifications provide our volunteers and their respected clubs access to new resources and useful knowledge that will help preserve the integrity of the game, maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for all to enjoy.

Last Friday it was brilliant to see Brent Stuart and Steve Toms recognised for their invaluable contribution to the game at the 'Marriotts Hadlee Sports Awards'.

If you would like to find out where your nearest club is or if you would like some more information regarding upcoming courses and the 'Tackle Bullying' program please contact Canterbury Rugby League Development Officer, David McMeeken; david@crfl.co.nz | 021 499 494



Canterbury Rugby League

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MAORI TELEVISION ANNOUNCES DEAL TO SCREEN ANZ CHAMPIONSHIP NETBALL ON TE REO CHANNEL

Maori Television has confirmed a deal with SKY to screen the 2014 ANZ Championship free-to-air on the Te Reo Channel from March 4.

In a first for New Zealand television, the Maori language channel will screen delayed coverage of one game from each round of the 17-week netball competition, including the finals, on Tuesday nights at 8.30pm.

Ex-Silver Fern Jenny-May Coffin and former Maori Television sports reporter Taroi Black will provide commentary in 100 per cent te reo Maori.

ANZ Championship General Manager Andrew Crook says he is extremely excited that even more netball fans will be able to enjoy watching the world's best netball league on the Te Reo channel.

"Each year as part of our strategic goals, the ANZ Championship actively looks to develop and improve the broadcast reach offering fans and viewers more netball."

Maori Television General Manager of Programming Haunui Royal says the agreement to screen the netball championships marks a significant step forward for the Te Reo Channel, which was founded in 2008.

"Netball is a great fit for the channel and our Maori sportswomen are fantastic role models for our younger viewers so we're excited to be bringing the games to a free-to-air audience."

"The fact that we are screening the games on the Te Reo Channel demonstrates our commitment to developing this important resource."

Jenny-May Coffin, who has been completing a Maori immersion course at Te Wananga Takiura, said she is delighted to be commentating in Maori.

"It's the chance of a lifetime to be using my reo to talk about a game that I love and I'm delighted to have Taroi by my side."

The 2014 ANZ Championship will screen every Tuesday at 8.30pm on the Te Reo Channel. The first game has the Central Pulse take on the Adelaide Thunderbirds on March 4.

The Te Reo Channel is available on SKY: channel 082 and Freeview: channel 24

MĀORI TELEVISION



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Pete,
Thanks for another SUPER newsletter. I really appreciate getting them.
They allow me to keep in touch with what's going on in the game - if
you can't be there, it's the next best thing!
You've got some great photos there mate - the nighttime shot of the
lights of Queenstown from Lake Wakatipu is magic!
I hope you enjoy the first competition match.
Go the Mighty Vodafone Warriors and the even mightier Rugby League
Ambassador Sir Peter Charles Leitch KNZM QSM.
My warmest regards to you and Lady Jan.
Your friend,
Colin Mack

Another Satisfied customer!

ROUND	GAME	MTS TX DATE / TIME - 2014	LIVE DATE / TIME (NZT)	STADIUM
1	Sea Eagles v Storm	Sun, 9 March – 7.30pm	Sat, 8 March – 9.00pm	Brookvale Oval, Sydney
	Warriors v Eels	Mon, 10 March – 9.30pm	Sun, 9 March – 8.30pm	Pirtek Stadium, Sydney
2	Warriors v Dragons	Sun, 16 March – 7.30pm	Sat, 15 March – 7.30pm	Eden Park, Auckland
3	Warriors v Cowboys	Sun, 23 March – 7.30pm	Sat, 22 March – 11.00pm	1300 Miles Stadium
4	Warriors v West Tigers	Sun, 30 March – 7.30pm	Sat, 29 March – 5.00pm	Westpac Stadium, Wellington
5	Warriors v Sharks	Sun, 6 April – 7.30pm	Sat, 5 April – 5.00pm	Remondis Stadium, Sydney
6	Warriors v Bulldogs	Sun, 13 April – 7.30pm	Sun, 13 April – 5.00pm	Eden Park, Auckland
7	Warriors v Dragons	Sun, 20 April – 7.30pm	Sat, 19 April – 7.30pm	Jubilee Oval, Sydney
8	Warriors v Storm	Sun, 27 April – 7.30pm	Fri, 25 April – 8.00pm	AAMI Park, Melbourne
No NRL games this week				
9	Warriors v Raiders	Sun, 11 May – 7.30pm	Sat, 10 May – 5.00pm	Eden Park, Auckland
10	Warriors v Bulldogs	Sun, 18 May – 7.30pm	Sun, 18 May – 4.00pm	Waikato Stadium, Hamilton
11	Warriors v Titans	Sun, 25 May – 7.30pm	Sat, 24 May – 5.30pm	Robina Stadium, Gold Coast
12	Warriors v Knights	Sun, 1 June – 7.30pm	Sun, 1 June – 4.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
13	Warriors v Rabbitohs	Sun, 8 June – 7.30pm	Sat, 7 June – 11.30pm	NIB Stadium, Perth
14	Roosters v Knights	Sun, 15 June – 7.30pm	Sat, 14 June – 9.30pm	Allianz Stadium, Sydney
WARRIORS BYE (Round 14)				

ROUND	GAME	MTS TX DATE / TIME - 2014	LIVE DATE / TIME (NZT)	STADIUM
15	Warriors v Broncos	Sun, 22 June – 7.30pm	Sat, 21 June – 7.30pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
16	Warriors v Panthers	Sun, 29 June – 7.30pm	Sun, 29 June – 4.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
17	Dragons v Cowboys	Sun, 6 July – 7.30pm	Sat, 5 July – 7.30pm	Jubilee Oval
WARRIORS BYE (Round 17)				
18	Warriors v Eels	Sun, 13 July – 7.30pm	Sat, 12 July – 7.30pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
19	Warriors v Broncos	Sun, 20 July – 7.30pm	Sat, 19 July – 9.30pm	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
20	Warriors v Sea Eagles	Sun, 27 July – 7.30pm	Sun, 27 July – 4.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
21	Warriors v Raiders	Sun, 3 Aug – 7.30pm	Fri, 1 Aug – 8.00pm	GIO Stadium, Canberra
22	Warriors v Sharks	Sun, 10 Aug – 7.30pm	Fri, 8 Aug – 6.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
23	Warriors v Knights	Sun, 17 Aug - 7.30pm	Thurs, 14 Aug – 8.00pm	Hunter Stadium, Sydney
24	Warriors v Roosters	Sun, 24 Aug - 7.30pm	Thurs, 21 Aug – 6.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
25	Warriors v Titans	Sun, 31 Aug - 7.30pm	Thurs, 21 Aug – 6.00pm	Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
26	Warriors v Panthers	Sun, 7 Sep - 7.30pm	Thurs, 4 Sep – 10.00pm	Centrebet Stadium, Perth
FINALS COVERAGE TBC				

Calling all Vodafone Warriors Supporters

Wellington

What could be better than hanging out with your mates, having a few be vies and watching NRL?
 Not much, we think, so join us on our very own same day return fan flight and you can be part of the crowd that witness the **Vodafone Warriors** take on the **West Tigers** at the impressive **Westpac Stadium on Saturday 29th March 2014**.

Oh, and on the flight home the whole team will be joining us!

- Our package includes:
- Return flights from Auckland to Wellington, tickets to the **Vodafone Warriors vs West Tigers** game
 - Return transfers from Wellington airport to Westpac Stadium.

Price: \$249 per person

Return flights to Wellington on Saturday 29th March (seat only)
 Depart Auckland 12.45pm
 Arrive Wellington 1.45pm

 Depart Wellington 9.00pm
 Arrive Auckland 10.00pm

Melbourne

After winging your way to Wellington with a bunch of like minded fans, how about a quick trip across the ditch to Melbourne for the **Vodafone Warriors vs. Melbourne Storm Anzac Day Clash!**

- Our Melbourne package includes:
- Return flights from Auckland to Melbourne, tickets to the **Vodafone Warriors vs. Melbourne Storm** game, and two nights at **Hotel Ibis Little Bourke Street**.

Price from: \$949 (based on 2 people travelling)

Friday 25th April 2014
 Depart Auckland 8.30am
 Arrive Melbourne 10.30am

Sunday 27th April 2014
 Depart Melbourne 11.45am
 Arrive Auckland 5.15pm

For more details and to book online visit our website:
www.grabaseat.co.nz or contact
grabaseat@airnz.co.nz if you have any queries.



Just One More

Warriors members at the NRL Season Launch.



This photo was sent in by William Felgate. Thanks, mate!

Hope you are enjoying the newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at

meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz

Or if you would like to **unsubscribe** please email **Amelia** and she will delete you from the list.

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The Newsletter Team

Here are the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it is a team effort.



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