



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter 06 MARCH 2014 #10

Having a blast in Sydney!



The Vodafone Warriors' members (fans) catch up with our players at the NRL launch in Sydney.

Time out for a spot of sightseeing around Sydney's Darling Harbour.



Who needs sleep? The members' had a great getaway in Sydney.



Here's to success at the start of the NRL season

By crikey it is no wonder I'm yawning. Talk about burn the candle at both ends. It all started on Wednesday when I went across to Sydney for the official launch of the 2014 NRL season, with **Vodafone Warriors** coach **Matt Elliott**, and five of the team's players, and we all had a blast.

Also present were members of each club – in the old days we just called them *fans* – but the bigwigs have decreed they are *members* now.

It was great to see the members/fans along though. They loved it and the whole launch was really professional. It has left me rearing to go for the year.

But of course before that happened I got home in time to tune in for the **Blues** against Canterbury, and what a ripper of a Super Rugby game it was.

I wish them all the best for the trip to South Africa, and boy, how hard must that be: up at sparrow-fart after a tough game against the **Crusaders** and boarding a plane for the other side of the world?

Truth be told, I could not get to the game because I had a date with some friends and we went along to the Howick Club on Friday night to see a bloke called **Ben**

Portsmouth. With a name like that, where could he be from except England. He's no household name but the man he impersonates is. Ben performs as *The King*, **Mr Elvis Aaron Presley**, and he was sensational. It was a terrific night.

Then on Saturday I was at Mt Smart, no not for the **Vodafone Warriors**, for *The Boss*, **Bruce Springsteen**, and the crowd was massive.

I can't recall when I last saw so many people cram the ground. What a performer that bloke is. The place was rocking.

I had to be up at 6am to meet some friends on Sunday and to do a few other things, including attending a farewell function for my great mate **Peter Kean**, from Lion Breweries.

By the time I got home on Sunday all I wanted was a good

sleep, and I reckon I was out like a light before my head hit the pillow.

There is nothing in my head this week though except the mighty **Vodafone Warriors** beginning their NRL journey. Our first game is away in Sydney to the **Parramatta Eels**, a side we always seem to have a bit of bother with, and I am hoping we can get off to a flying start.

Our first home game is the weekend after, at Eden Park, against the **Dragons**. To grab special deals for the game visit www.warriors.co.nz

And speaking of visiting websites, click on to www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz and check out the **Vodafone Warriors'** road trip to Queenstown. It was a huge amount of fun and I was very honoured to be invited to go along. So there are lots of photos of the trip, and you'll see a side of the boys you mightn't otherwise.

First side is a cracker

I was chomping at the bit to see who head coach **Matt Elliott** would name in his first side of the year against the **Parramatta Eels** on Sunday.

And I was delighted to see young **John Palavi** get the nod. He is a fine young man who is studying to become a doctor and I have a lot of time for him.

Palavi was close to making his NRL debut when he was 18th man in 2012, and he will turn out at loose forward, becoming **Warrior No 188**.

It's a big breakthrough for the former St Paul's College head prefect. He had a 64-game NYC career over four seasons, and was a regular at the **Vulcans** last season.

"JP deserves his spot," Elliott said. "He has performed right through the preseason."

Of course, it was no surprise to see new signing **Sam Tomkins** named, or for that matter, fellow newcomers **Chad Townsend** and **Jayson Bukuya**, who I thought looked really good in the trials.

Tomkins will start at fullback, Townsend at stand-off and Bukuya in the second row. Tomkins becomes No 185, Townsend No 186 and Bukuya No 187.

Also earning a starting spot through his trials and Nines efforts is centre **Carlos Tuimavave**, who'll line up on the right edge. He has been chosen ahead of **Konrad Hurrell**.

That one might be a bit of a big call, but you have to put your faith in the man in charge, and there is no doubt that Tuimavave was impressive in the Nines and against Brisbane.

My great mate **Manu Vatuvei** is on the left wing for his 172nd career appearance and **Dane Nielsen** is in the centres for his 97th first-grade match.

Bukuya joins captain **Simon Mannering** in the second row, Mannering playing his 189th NRL match and his 89th as captain, just two short of **Steve Price's** club record of 91.

And our bench is massive. **Jacob Lillyman**, **Suaia Matagi**, **Feleti Mateo** and **Sione Lousi**, who gets a place after missing the whole 2013 campaign. **Jerome Ropati** was also named.

The **Warriors** fly to Sydney on Friday for the Parramatta match before returning for their first home match of the season against **St George-Illawarra** at Eden Park the following Saturday.

Warriors: Tomkins, Glen Fisiiahi, Nielsen, Tuimavave, Vatuvei, Townsend, Shaun Johnson, Sam Rapira, Nathan Friend, Ben Matulino, Bukuya, Mannering (c), Palavi. **Interchange:** Lillyman, Matagi, Lousi, Mateo, Ropati.

Old boy is a Dragon

St George Illawarra have left halfback **Sam Williams** out for the club's round one NRL clash against **Wests Tigers**, with former **Warrior Michael Witt**, who also played for Otago in rugby's NPC, has been given the nod to wear the No 7 to partner **Gareth Widdop**.

Witt played 90 NRL matches between 2003 and 2009 before heading to the Super League for four seasons.

He's still only 30 but will be in charge of an NRL side under pressure to get their season off to a flying start.

Papers have a lot to say

Did you see the piece in the papers about **Matt Elliott**? It said Matt Elliott had had a year in the job, but now it's time to step up, because in year two you really start to get judged.

Tomkins, Bukuya and Townsend have all come in, and the article said Elliott expects there to be differences this year.

After a season of bedding in, Elliott believes he and his players are finally on the same page. Let's hope so. Bring it on.

Elliott's contract expires at the end of the season .

Matagi signs on

Let's just say I was not broken-hearted when the **Vodafone Warriors** signed prop **Suaia Matagi** to a new three-year contract the other day.

This time last year he was in the reserve grade, but I think it's fair to say a blind man could have picked him out as a man with a big future.

The 25-year-old was given a new contract in June last year to take him through to the end of 2014, but other clubs were already showing interest.

Voss goes for Chooks

I see **Sky TV's** league commentator **Andrew Voss** reckons the **Roosters** will go back to back.

Fair enough, but he also said he expected the **Vodafone Warriors** to only make the lower regions of the top eight.

I can tell you I am looking for better than that, but one game at a time is fine by me.

"Of all of the sides, I think the **Roosters** are the one that's going to improve the most, that's why I have to have to tip them to win the comp," Voss said.

And on us, he had this to say: "The **Warriors** have let me down in the last two years, but I think they are a top eight side. Last year I thought they were as good as Newcastle, and Newcastle, through a bit of commitment and consistency, made it to the Grand Final qualifier.

"The **Warriors** under-achieved, they can't have a start like getting two wins from 10 matches again."

New boys on the block

The club now owns and runs its own team in the New South Wales Cup, with coach **Rohan Smith** also naming his first **Vodafone Warriors** NSW Cup side to take on Wentworthville in Sydney on Saturday. Club legend **Stacey Jones** has also named his first side as the new **Vodafone Junior Warriors** coach.

Sky TV has all the games
Sky TV will show every NRL game again this season, starting with the clash between the **Rabbitohs** and **Roosters** on Thursday night.

20 years of trying

Do the maths. This year is our 20th campaign since joining the NRL, and I for one reckon that is long enough to wait to win the title.

Our off-season build-up was a bit all over the place, largely because of the Nines, but I am looking forward to the season.

Vodafone Warriors head coach **Matthew Elliott** is back in business, naming his first side of the year, as I've already discussed.

It's not like it was anything new to the boss, he has done it 260 times as an NRL coach, but he reckons picking the first team of any season is special.

This one is undoubtedly in that category.

There's nothing new though about our starter though.

It seems to me like we meet the **Eels** in the first or second round every year. They were our first-round opponents last year, in 2011, 2009 and 2007, and second round opponents in 2012, 2008 and 2006.

Back to work

When the 2014 programme started back in October, staff almost outnumbered players, with many of the boys on duty for the **Kiwis**, England, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and the Cook Islands at the 2013 Rugby League World Cup, and some others with time off after other representative commitments.

The full squad did not come together until mid-January, and the schedule since then has been hectic - three NRL trials and the Nines in 15 days.

With the playing roster stretched, **Matthew Elliott** had to spread his talent thinly against the **Titans** and Wigan, and of course we all know what happened. Then the Nines squad was bundled out in the semis.

Only in the Brisbane trial was Elliott able to call on his best available players, although **Manu Vatuvei**, **Thomas Leuluai**, **Dane Nielsen**, **Kevin Locke** and **Ben Henry** weren't available.

The 48-4 win was one of our best trial performances ever.

Now it's time to get back to work.

A flutter on the ponies!

Wednesday 5th March was the **Barfoot and Thompson Auckland Cup Day**.

And I went along with my good mate, **Dexter**, for a bit of a flutter.

The Auckland Cup Week extends till Saturday, so if you're keen on the horses, get along to it! The atmosphere is great and there's lots to do. Don't let the odd shower put you off!



Wellington Rugby League Newsletter - "Pass It On"
2014 Edition 4 Friday 28th February

In this issue: Farewell to Juggler, Warriors v Tigers at Westpac, Leonardo Va'a Memorial Cup 9's Tournament, Jim Courtney Memorial Pre season knock out tournament and WRL AGM

Visit us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wellington-Rugby-League/149807975039915> LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

AGM NOTICE-Wellington Rugby League, Thursday 3rd April 7pm, Pelorus Trust Sports House

There was a huge turn out at the Wainuiomata marae as we farewelled Michael Sharp yesterday. A very moving and poignant service was witnessed by well over 500 of Jugglers family, friends, team-mates and opponents.

The service was mixed with some great songs full of love and meaning to him and those closest to him along with stories from those whose lives he had touched.

Sharpy did his final lap around the Wise Park #1 field. Home of many, many victories and tries for the pocket battleship and his mighty Lions.

Many of us had the privilege to carry Juggs around on that final lap to the applause of the gathered crowd and there were even a few "take it up the middle Juggler" and "C'mon Juggs" as we marched proudly around.

Michael Sharp was a humble man that touched the lives of many people and he was given his final farewell with a mighty Haka that shook the club that he dearly loved.

The stories and celebration of a life cut way too short carried on into the night in the club as we laughed, cried and hugged with Richard, Peter, Jess and the rest of Jugglers family.

**Farewell brother we will miss you.
RIP- Michael Sharp- Legend**



Sat 29th March Westpac Stadium

The event will be a triple header
Gates Open 12.30pm;
NSW Cup played first at 12.45pm;
NYC Under 20 at 2.45pm
NRL at 5pm.

NRL action returns to Wellington when the Vodafone Warriors bring their Round 4 home game against Wests Tigers to Westpac Stadium.

In what will be the Vodafone Warriors second ever home match to be played outside of Auckland, Simon Mannering and the boys will go up against a rebuilding Tigers outfit headlined by Captain Robbie Farah and New South Wales front-rower Aaron Woods. The Warriors came away with an exciting win against the Tigers last year at Leichhardt Oval and they will be hoping to thrill the Wellington crowd with a spectacular win here.

It will be a feast of Rugby League with two curtain raiser matches also being played.
Follow the link below for tickets
<http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/Show.aspx?sh=WARR00314>



NOTICE FROM KAPITI BEARS RUGBY LEAGUE

An expression of interest is sought from interested parties for Club Coaches.

We are looking for coaches to coach our little peeps and big peeps in the game of Rugby League! Please put your expressions of interest into the Club by 2.00pm 12 March 2014. Your contact is Tina Simcock - 021495101 or email tina.simcock@gmail.com

An invitation is sent to all interested parties to a 'Meet the new Committee for the Bears 2014!' This meet and greet is scheduled for an hour on Thursday 13 March 6.00pm - 7.00pm. Come down and have a cuppa with us and we'll let you know what our plans are for 2014! All parents, players and league community welcome!



Vodafone extends New Zealand's longest sponsorship deal

Vodafone has re-signed with the **Vodafone Warriors** until the end of the 2018 NRL season, marking a 20-season, loyal partnership and New Zealand's longest professional naming rights sponsorship.

The announcement comes as the **Vodafone Warriors** are coincidentally counting down to the start of their 20th season since entering the competition in 1995.

Vodafone New Zealand CEO, Russell Stanners, is proud of the company's legacy with the club.

"Every year our partnership with the **Vodafone Warriors** has become stronger and more enduring," he said.

"We are loyal fans as much as sponsors and we know Kiwis are too. That's why we do this; to bring our customers and fans closer to the team they love - whether at home or in the stands.

"The **Vodafone Warriors** are one of New Zealand's most loved sports teams, with a cumulative New Zealand broadcast audience of more than 3.3 million people in 2013. "We look forward to supporting the **Vodafone Warriors** over the next five seasons. In 2014, we will be bringing some exciting mobile innovations to help our fans and customers throughout New Zealand better support the team."

Vodafone's renewal extends throughout the club, including the **Vodafone Junior Warriors** (under 20s) and the new **Vodafone Warriors** reserve grade side replacing the Auckland Vulcans in the New South Wales Cup.

Since signing with New Zealand's only team in the NRL in 1999, the company has made a significant investment to the club and supported it through thick and thin.

"Vodafone's loyalty in their support of the **Vodafone Warriors** has been nothing short of world-class," said **Vodafone Warriors** chief executive, **Wayne Scurrah**.

"A 20-season partnership is almost unheard of in the era of professional sport and demonstrates Vodafone's complete commitment to the **Vodafone Warriors**, the players and most of all, our fans."

Vodafone Warriors' 19th man, **Sir Peter Leitch**, added: "Vodafone Warriors fans are loyal. It's about the game and the people, and Vodafone is hugely supportive of both the club and the fans. **Go, the mighty Vodafone Warriors!**"

During Vodafone's sponsorship era, the **Vodafone Warriors** have twice made the NRL grand final (in 2002 and 2011), won the minor premiership in 2002, secured a spot in the play-offs seven times and claimed the NYC premiership twice (2010 and 2011).

Across 15 seasons so far, Vodafone's name and logo has been on the front and back of the jersey, serving to make

Vodafone arguably the most visible and recognisable sporting sponsor in the country.

The period has coincided with **Vodafone Warriors** jerseys becoming the hottest on the NRL market, the club accounting for about 20 percent of the NRL's total merchandise revenue.

The **Vodafone Warriors** start the 2014 NRL season away to the **Parramatta Eels** on Sunday, March 9 before returning to Eden Park on Saturday, March 15 (5.00pm kick-off) for the second round home clash against the **St George Illawarra Dragons**.

SPONSORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Two NRL grand finals – 2002 and 2011
- Seven times in the playoffs – 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011
- Minor premiership win – 2002
- First home games at Eden Park – 2011, 2012, 2013
- FIRST HOME GAME OUT OF AUCKLAND – 2013 (WELLINGTON)
- TWO NYC PREMIERSHIPS – 2010, 2011
- NYC MINOR PREMIERSHIP – 2011

VODAFONE WARRIORS

2014 SEASON DRAW

ROUND 01: Mar 9 Pirtek Stadium	ROUND 02: Mar 15 Eden Park	ROUND 03: Mar 22 1300SMILES Stadium	ROUND 04: Mar 29 Westpac Stadium	ROUND 05: Apr 5 Remondis Stadium	ROUND 06: Apr 13 Eden Park	ROUND 07: Apr 19 WIN Jubilee Oval, Kgrh	ROUND 08: Apr 25 AAMI Park	ROUND 09: May 10 Eden Park	ROUND 10: May 18 Waikato Stadium	ROUND 11: May 24 Robina Stadium	ROUND 12: Jun 1 Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 13: Jun 7 NIB Stadium	ROUND 14: BYE	ROUND 15: Jun 21 Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 16: Jun 29 Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 17: BYE	ROUND 18: Jul 12 Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 19: Jul 19 Suncorp Stadium	ROUND 20: Jul 27 Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 21: T.B.C GIO Stadium	ROUND 22: T.B.C Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 23: T.B.C Hunter Stadium	ROUND 24: T.B.C Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 25: T.B.C Mt Smart Stadium	ROUND 26: T.B.C Centrebet Stadium
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Tickets on sale from 17 Feb at www.ticketek.co.nz
Or be at every game as a member, join at www.warriorsforever.co.nz
(booking fees apply)

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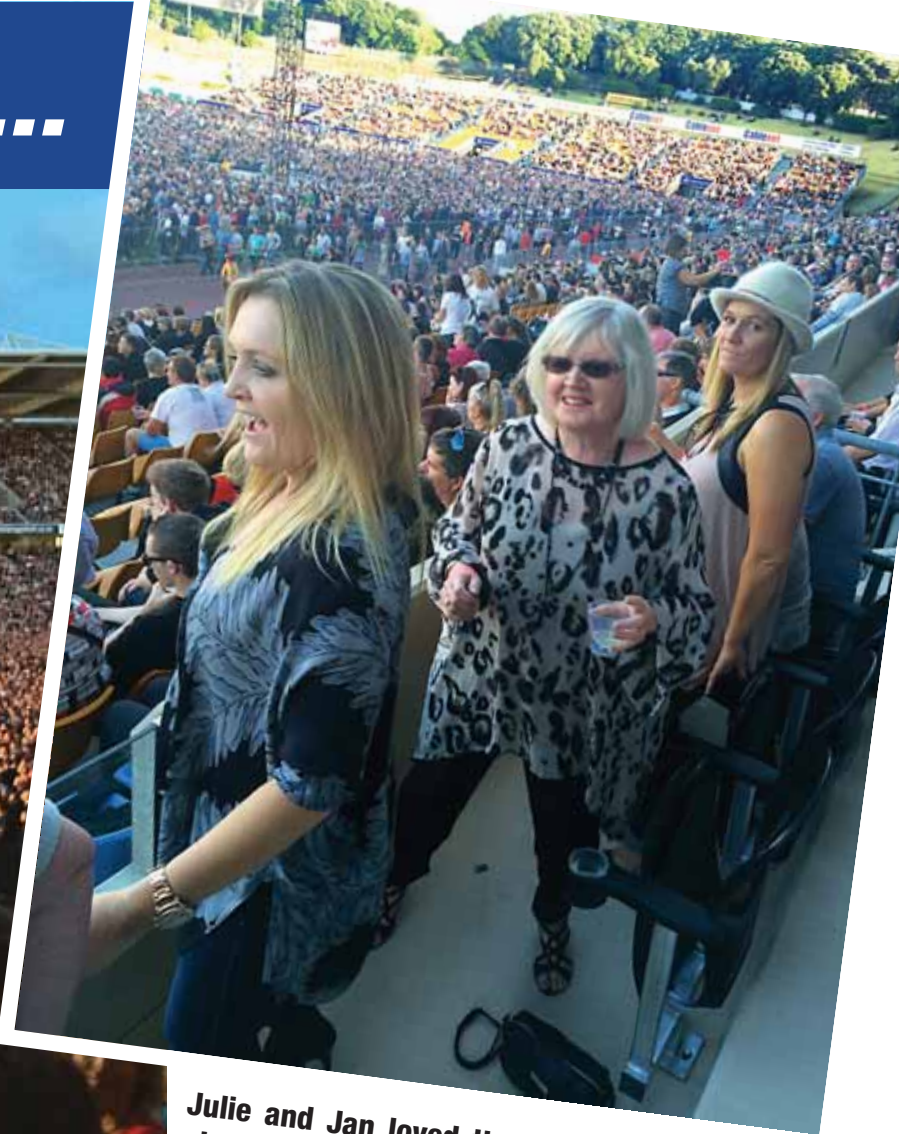


These folks came up from Invercargill, for the Nines: Kath (from Invercargill) & Carla supporting their Warriors; and Doug & Greg, loading up on the Mad Butcher's meat before heading to the games.

Out and About last week....



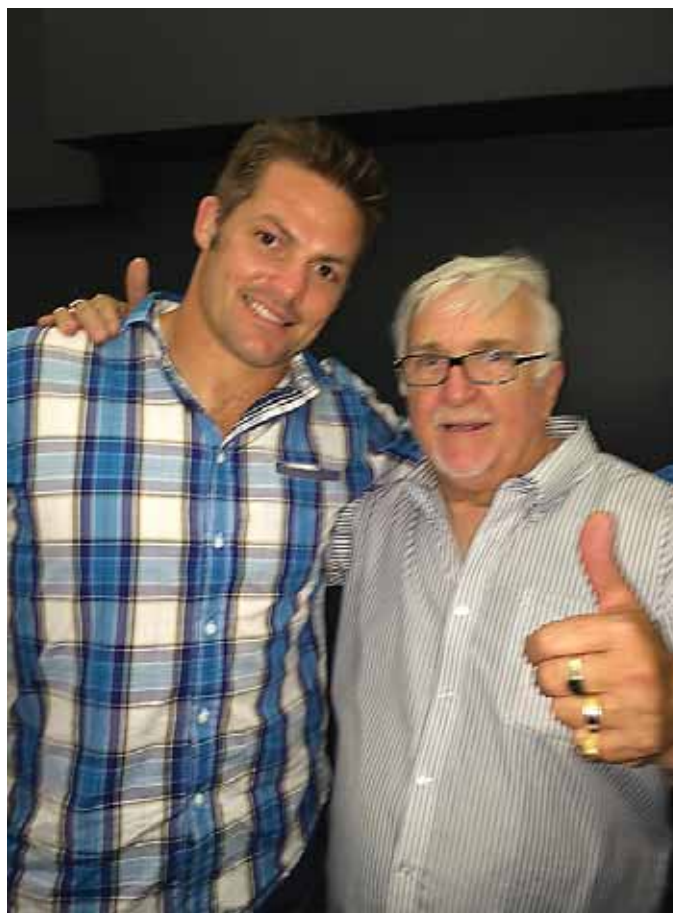
The Crowd at Mt Smart for the Bruce Springsteen concert: What a night! One of the best concerts, ever.



Julie and Jan loved the show and rocked the night away!



Elvis was in the house! And this guy was great, even looks like the king.



Look who I caught up with at Bruce Springsteen.



And I ran into this bloke while at the radio station! You may have seen him on Shortland Street.

You can watch NRL games free to air delayed on Maori TV

Maori Television is gearing up for its first NRL Telstra Premiership game of the year when the **Melbourne Storm** take on the **Manly Sea Eagles** on this Thursday at 7.30pm. The **Vodafone Warriors** make their free-to-air-television debut on Monday, March 10 at 10pm, in their clash against the **Parramatta Eels**.

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Here we go again

Sir Peter my old friend, here we go again another season of **Warriors** Hits'n'busts'n'tries galore!! There are so many exciting options on offer it puts me in mind of the double grill loaded with sizzling, meaty Mad Butcher sensations at one of your famous big barbecues. Mate, "mouth-watering" doesn't do it justice!. I sense a good vibe and comradeship has developed as the team gells with the newish coaching staff and there is an air of confidence about their workup so far. I certainly enjoyed the signs of this promise thrown up in the **Broncos** bash-up and like all of the mighty multitudes of **Warriors** faithful I look forward once again to the thrill of another charge at "The Big Dance" ticket.

You have to say that Matty has a pretty fair line-up at his disposal this term. The three new buys all look the real McCoy and slot into pivotal positions, Big bucks Bakuya in the pack, TipToes Townsend in the halves and Sam the TomCat Tomkins at the back. I reckon The Missile Matangi and Sione six-guns Lousi are ready to give StarterProps Mutz Matulino, Sammy Rap and The Lillyman a real run for their money with The Gubbster right in the mix as well. Nate the Rake Friend looks to be in prime form and talk is Mr Reliable, Tommy Lealuai, might have a (Hohaia-like) role there as well as in the halves this year.

With no disrespect to my cuzzie from the far north Elijah T., I don't think we will be disadvantaged by his decamp to Mr Cleary's Blue Mountain Crew. The undoubted talents of Captain Mannering, Bukuya, Benzine Henry. Mighty Mateo, Seb Ikahihifo and the dark horse Dr John Palavi cover all the back-row bases. Behind the engine room, Shifty Shaun Johnson is only getting better and "the chosen one" Tui Lolohea is a special project. Townsend will steer the ship in the first few weeks at least while Lealuai recovers and given he retains the excellent trial form could secure the spot. We have a bunch of centres in The Hurrellcane, Peyroux, Nippy Neilsen, JeRo-pati, and the

maturing talents of Carlos Tuimavave. Matty E has the task of finding the best attack and defence duo-combo from these contenders. The Beast, The Flying Fish, Lightning Laumape and exciting Junior talent, David Flash Fusitua, are the sideline scarper merchants and will provide plenty of thrills I reckon.

The TomCat and The Lockstar have the custodian keys. How the selection gurus manage these two top-liners is the big question.

We all know the nifty Northcote Tiger is a great tearaway and The nimble-footed newbie from Pommyland has shown his considerable talents already in the Nines and the **Broncos** hit-out. The busy Brit's roving skills and pop-up work around the ruck will open new alleyways for Shifty Shaun and between them they attract a defensive focus that in turn will create paths for Townsend to explore. You read it here first boys... its bust 'em up the middle time for sure.

Mate, did I say its exciting, cause it bloody well is... Sure Matty Elliott has some head scratchin choices to make but can sleep well knowing there is healthy depth and hot competition on the roster in 2014. Other squad young guns Sam Lousi, Bhana, Havili, Peteru, Vete and Faitala-Mariner also await their boarding passes.

You know Butch, I'm thinkin' come Sunday, we will pummel Parra and can then head home to put the Eden Park hoodoo well and truly to rest across the 3 home matches at the Mt Eden Rugga Palace. Lets hope The **Mighty Vodafone Warriors** and our kickin-kousins the "Jaffa-Blues" can make it another Fortress of Faith. I am sure your cobbers Sir Graham and the ex-Warrior wingman Sir Johnny K. will be keepin a sly well-wisher's eye on our progress as well.

Stay well and keep up the good works, Sir Pete,

Your old mate
Carlaw T. Parker



PLAY LEAGUE IN 2014!

www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz



Press Release - 3 March 2014

The annual Canterbury Rugby League pre season tournament kicks off this weekend with games being played across two venues, Murphy Park in Kaiapoi and Canterbury Park in Curletts Road.

Canterbury Park is being used for the first time for open grade rugby league after being used for a number of years by the juniors.

CRL General Manager Craig Kerr says:

"It's hopefully the beginning of a new era for our organisation at Canterbury Park as CRL look to re establish a home base for itself after the handing over of the former Rugby League Park (now AMI Stadium) to the city. Although due to come back to CRL in April 2016 the chances of that actually happening are becoming more remote by the day as the rebuild of the city struggles to gain momentum as does the chances of the proposed new stadium being completed or in fact started by then. Whilst there has been no formal discussion with council around this, common sense says it's unlikely in the timeframe remaining.

The oval at Canterbury Park provides a perfect setting for rugby league and this weekend sees the big boys having a run on it as part of the pre season tournament. Facilities there are a little scarce however we will provide tents for the teams and officials to change in

All teams have been working hard during their pre season build up and it will be interesting to see how the off season transfers between clubs impact on the respective teams as they prepare for the season proper kicking off on April 5".



The draw for 8 March 2014 is:

Canterbury Rugby League 2014 Pre Season Competition



Pool 1 at Canterbury Park
Celebration v Aranui. 1.00pm
Halswell v Papanui. 2.30pm

Pool 2 at Murphy Park, Kaiapoi
Hornby v Northern. 1.00pm
Linwood v Riccarton . 2,30pm

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SCOPE RED PRESENT
A LUKE GRAHAM PRODUCTION A HEATH DAVIS FILM

BROKE

STEVE LE MARQUAND STEVE BISLEY CLAIRE VANDER BOOM

EDITOR MATTHEW EVANS PRODUCTION DESIGNER ROGER WONG SCORE BY BEN FLETCHER

SOUND DESIGNER SASHA ZASTAWNYK CREATIVERAPPER CHRIS BLAND STORY BY HEATH DAVIS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JONATHAN PAGE PRODUCER LUKE GRAHAM DIRECTOR HEATH DAVIS

Hello readers,

When I was a kid all I ever wanted to do was play rugby league just like my father Mark Graham. I still remember vividly the smell of dencorub and the all night ice baths as my dad tried to bring out the bruises from one 80 minutes in preparation for the next. North Sydney oval wasn't exactly the softest of surfaces back then either; almost as hard as the church pews I was forced to sit on in the stands.

Unfortunately, I never had my dad's talent or his passion. As I grew older I began to fall in love in story telling, particularly film making. I soon realised this was the calling for me. What I did share with my dad however was his tenacity and never say die attitude. Forging a career in the film industry takes every bit of the determination, courage and self belief as it does to succeed on the footy field. In fact, there's probably more hard knocks and heartbreak experienced in this biz. God knows I've had more then my fair share.

So as I embark on making my first feature film - Broke - I've been forced to call upon every bit of that grit. However, like every player I can't go it alone, which is why I'm calling on my teammates to roll up their sleeves and help me spread this important message whilst raising funds for the Men of League Foundation.

Broke is the story of a former NRL great fallen on hard times. It's based on a lot of players I got to know growing up. It's timely and topical with its gambling related themes. But, above all, it is a celebration of the human spirit much like our great game is.



Luke Graham



STORY

AN AGEING RAIL WORKER, CEC, FINDS HIS FORMER FOOTY HERO TURNED WASHED UP GAMBLING ADDICT, BEN "BK" KELLY PASSED OUT ON HIS TRAIN LATE ONE EVENING AND DECIDES TO TAKE HIM IN.

THROUGH THE LOVE AND SUPPORT OF CEC AND HIS SINGLE PARENT DAUGHTER, TERRI, BK FINALLY FINDS THE COURAGE HE WAS ONCE FAMOUS FOR ON THE FIELD, OFF IT, TO TACKLE HIS DEMONS HEAD ON AND ULTIMATELY WIN BACK THE RESPECT OF THE COMMUNITY HE SO DEEPLY LET DOWN.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE FILM

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DAD AND I POSING FOR RUGBY LEAGUE WEEKLY



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PROFITS GO TO MEN OF LEAGUE

THE PRODUCERS AND CREATIVE TEAM OF THE PROJECT AIM TO DISBURSE NET PROFITS FROM THE FEATURE FILM TO THE FOLLOWING CHARITY:

MEN OF LEAGUE FOUNDATION

[WWW.MENOFLEAGUE.COM](http://www.menofleague.com)

STARTED BY RUGBY LEAGUE LEGENDS RON COOTE AND JIM HALL, THE FOUNDATION'S CHARTER IS TO ASSIST RUGBY LEAGUE PLAYERS, COACHES, REFEREES, OFFICIALS AND ADMINISTRATORS, FROM ALL LEVELS OF THE GAME AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE FALLEN ON HARD TIMES.



My Final Words

We have a film, that can inspire and really help the rugby league and greater community.

This will only be possible with the help of people and business's willing to help us get this film over the line.

The team and I appreciate your time and urge you to help in anyway you can to make this feature film a reality,

Luke Graham

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 bebies 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.





THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 1 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE...

A MASSIVE ISSUE PACKED WITH FEATURES, NEWS AND THE DEBUT OF NEW COLUMNISTS KEVIN WALTERS AND ADAM MACDOUGALL.

FEATURE

- Gold Coast Titans forward Luke Douglas is on the verge of a mammoth milestone, set to play his 195th game straight since he debuted back in 2006 for the Sharks. He talks about his journey in reaching the mark;
- Jamie Soward has settled into life at Penrith well and is ready for a big season alongside mate and new halves partner Peter Wallace;
- The Bulldogs host the Broncos and there's sure to be fireworks after a public tug-o-war over Josh Hoffman. A blossoming modern-day rivalry that's sure to produce a cracking Round 1 match;
- Parramatta have another body filling the coach's chair at Pirtek Stadium but Brad Arthur has been there before and is ready to whip the club into shape; and
- **BIG READ:** A new weekly feature that delves into a topic or issue of the game. This week, the draw. No more complaining about it, we find out exactly how it's done and whether there will be changes in the near future.

PLUS

Matt Groat has had his ups and downs the past two years, but knows his move to the Dragons on a one-year contract means it's now or never for him in 2014; Adam 'Mad Dog' MacDougall has been let *Off The Leash* and will be breaking down the hot topics in rugby league each week; Kevin Walters knows the key to premiership success and reveals what each club needs for the perfect start.

Plus: Official team lists, lower grade previews, Top 8 recruitment flops, news, Thurston by numbers and a Sharks team poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, March 6.

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Just One More

**It's Girl Guide Week, so let's get behind them!
Biscuits are available in all Mad Butcher shops.**



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.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

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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.



David Kemeys
Editor at Large



Peter Leitch
Editor



Rex Harrison
Graphic Designer



Amelia
Circulation

