



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter

26 November 2015

# #100

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.

**B**Y THE time you read this I will be sunning myself by the pool in Hawaii, drinking a cocktail. Actually it will be mineral water for me – the call me teetotal Pete these days.

I will be there with my two lovely daughters Angela and Julie, and of course my darling wife Janice, and we will be celebrating 50 years of marriage.

It has been a wonderful journey and to this day I can proudly boast that we have never had an argument. I can boast it, but it wouldn't be true.

All the same, she has been an amazing pillar of support and strength for me, and I do not say it often enough, but she is my rock.

We will also get a chance to catch up with our good friends Jim and Josie in Hawaii, and they can never do enough for us when we are there. Terrific people.

### Waiheke Restores Me

After all that time away with the Kiwis I have been able to spend the odd night on Waiheke Island, which is my favourite place. It is a little piece of Paradise just a ferry ride away, and I also got to visit my favourite bowling club, Surfdale, for a bit of fun, where I have to say, they know how to cook a T-Bone steak the way a mad keen meat-eater like me likes it.

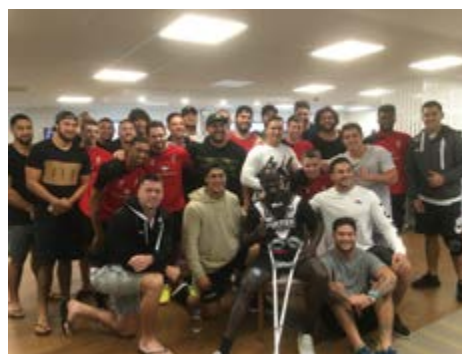
### Football Fan Pete

I quite like football, and in fact I have been involved with a few clubs, but I have developed a passion for Liverpool after me time in England. Of course we used their training facilities, and they treated us really well. So I tuned in and they were playing some manky lot called Manchester City, who are supposed to be the bee's knees. But we thrashed them 4-1.

Before I knew it I had watched the whole game.

The atmosphere at football in the UK is like nothing we see here. It is incredible.

And another thing is that you pick up the paper in Liverpool and it is nothing for their to be 10-12 pages just about Liverpool and the other club in the city, Everton. And on top of that there are more page about the clubs in the area playing in lower leagues.



Liverpool squad with Kiwis.

### Three Cheers For Volunteers

On Sunday I went along to the Auckland Rugby League's 2015 Club Volunteer Recognition Day.

The awards honour special people from all the clubs, and bring together Life Members.

I have enormous time for volunteers, the backbone of so many sports clubs and charities, and yet so often overlooked and taken for granted.

I thought I'd share with you a couple of examples from the day, no surprises that one comes from my beloved Mangere East Hawks, where Valerie Lui has been the secretary for two years, as well as the coach of her twin boys side for the last five years, all while supporting her other kids too.

What you have to remember is that Mangere Hawks is a huge club – the biggest in the country, and even the ARL said in its notes that Valerie should be re-named Superwoman.

Continued on next page...

*Continued from previous page...*

There are an almost unbelievable 3000 club members, 1500 of them in the league section.

Her citation recognised the incredibly high standards she sets in terms of club administration, and noted that with four children to look after, hers was a labour of love.

Is there any surprise that her family members are involved in the club too?

She is has a 15-year-old daughter who is netball mad, but playing was not enough. Valerie has encouraged her to take up the whistle and referee when she is not on the court herself.

“Rugby league is her passion, and no matter how difficult the task, organisation or pressure, she delivers to the highest standard and always has a smile on her face and positive words of encouragement,” the notes read.

And it is that last part that touched me - the smile and encouragement. Too often we see parents who are quick to offer all the solutions, think every game is the world cup final, and who criticise everyone who actually rolls up their sleeves and gets things done, yet they never volunteer themselves.

So I was over the moon Valerie was recognised.

As I said, we just don't do enough for our volunteers.

And just down the road at the Manukau club is where you'll find Harry Williams, and in fact you could have found him there at almost any time, because he has been volunteering around the place for a long, long time.

Harry is one of those who is the first to arrive. He marks the fields, puts the gear out, ropes the grounds, helps manage the Premiers and then often ends up being the last to leave.

And the notes about Harry mentioned his smile too.

I have been around sports clubs forever, and there are people like Harry and Valerie in almost every one. They are unfailingly positive, always ready to help, and quick with those smiles.

So join me in saluting our volunteers, and next time you see them toiling away, remember they do it so you can have a good time – so how about gifting them a smile.

They go a long way.

See more about the volunteers later in the newsletter.

### **Facebook Goes Off**

I will give things a go but I do not profess to be an expert as this social media lark. But I am a committed Facebook fan, and why would you not be. As I said before, when I was in the UK I made little videos and posted them.

I was blown away by the response.

And now I have just got my Blue Tick on Twitter, which kind of confirms you are who you say you are and gives your account credibility.

But those videos I talked about, one, of the Kiwis doing a player haka for the boys at Liverpool, has had 446,711 views, and almost 100 comments.

That is enormous, mind-blowing stuff.

And here's the thing, that one is not my most successful. One I made of the Kiwis in the changing

room clocked up 490,862 views.

Chuck in a few others I made – including one that was only a silly little post about the message board at the Kiwis hotel, which still managed 18,000 views, and we are talking about more than a million people!

[Check it out here to see my thanksgiving message from Hawaii.](#)

### **Off To Taranaki**

Taranaki is to host its first-ever NRL match after the Vodafone Warriors confirmed they are taking a regular season home game to New Plymouth's Yarrow Stadium next year.

While the opposition and the date of the match won't be known until the NRL draw is released, a deal has been reached with the New Plymouth District Council for the club's one scheduled game outside Auckland.

We've played in Wellington the last three seasons so moving to give someone else a chance is a great idea.

Of course new recruit Isaac Luke is Hawera-born and raised, so playing for his new club in Taranaki will be a career highlight.

“I've played in big matches for the Kiwis and for the Rabbitohs but this will be right up there with the biggest moments of my career,” he said.

“I'm really excited to be back home in New Zealand playing with the Vodafone Warriors but it's a huge buzz to know I'm now also going to have the chance to play in Taranaki, to have all my family and friends there. I can't wait already.”

## Price Stand Up For Ivan

Well done Steve Price. The former Vodafone Warrior, and let's just say it, league legend, did not hold back in showing his support of Ivan Cleary.

I have to say I was mightily impressed.

I am not sure there are that many former players who would stand up and put themselves on the line the way Steve has.

But he clearly thought there were things being said that he knew to be untrue, so full marks Pricey!

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



Support our sponsors as they help support this newsletter.

**BLK** PROUD APPAREL SUPPLIER TO THE KIWIS  
shop.nzrl.co.nz



**Get movie deals  
any day of the week**



Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays

Visit [vodafone.co.nz/movies](http://vodafone.co.nz/movies)

**Vodafone**  
Power to you



Eligible customers only. Not available to business customers. \$2.50 admin fee applies. Full terms go to [vodafone.co.nz/movies](http://vodafone.co.nz/movies). One 2 for 1 Movie Voucher offer per person, per week.



# Jonah Lomu

By Ben Francis



**L**IKE EVERYONE, I was in shock when I heard the news about Jonah Lomu last week. I think we all knew that this was going to happen but this soon was not expected. In the days after his passing, I learnt so much about Jonah. I was not born when Jonah took the world by storm in the 1995 Rugby World Cup, and I was too young to remember him during the rest of his All Blacks career. The Jonah I knew was the man who worked hard to live out his dream even though the odds were highly stacked against him due to his Kidney troubles.

When I was watching all the stories on Lomu, hearing amazing things from people who covered him, to people who were in his inner circle, to other players from all over world on top of what I already knew, I thought how on earth hasn't this man been given a Knighthood yet.

Jonah is a legend of the game, yes we call athletes legends every day, but Lomu is a legend, just like Muhammad Ali is a Legend of Boxing, or how Michael Jordan is a legend of Basketball.

If Rugby didn't work out for Jonah Lomu he probably would have become a world class athlete in a number of Olympic events recognised including 100m Sprint, Shot Put, Discus, High Jump and many more after holding a number of Junior Boy's School records at Wesley College which still stand today. Lomu holds the top record in 10 of the 11 events he took part in.

Jonah's greatness in Rugby was first noticed by Eric Rush who saw his skills playing a game of touch rugby. Rush then invited Lomu to a Sevens tournament. Lomu was 14 at this stage. Five years later Lomu become the youngest All Black ever when he made his debut against France in 1994. The following year at the 1995 Rugby World Cup, Jonah Lomu was invincible, nobody could stop him. He then became an international superstar in the world of sport. It was his performances at this World Cup which helped kick-start the professional era in Rugby. 1996 saw Lomu's Kidney troubles (Nephritic Syndrome) start to kick in, but he did not let that keep him down as he kept on fighting through and continue his Rugby Career. It wasn't till 2002 when Lomu retired due to his ongoing Kidney troubles in which he needed a transplant. A comeback was attempted after a successful transplant but he could not get back to his blockbusting form of old and retired for good. Lomu finished his All Blacks career having played 63 tests and scoring 37 tries.

If what he did for Rugby on the field was not enough, what Jonah did off it is also a great memory of the great man. Lomu had his hand in a number of charities including UNICEF, Kidney Kids, Prostate Cancer NZ, and many more. He even became an international Ambassador for Adidas with some of the most marketable athletes in the world with David Beckham, Lionel Messi and many other greats. Just at this year's Rugby World Cup he was a spokesman for Heineken.

I think what has shocked us the most is that Lomu appeared in great health when he was seen at the World Cup. New Zealand Prime Minister John Key even made the point that he had only seen Jonah a few days before and Jonah said he was in the best health he has been in a long time. But it is possible a Blood Clot during the flight back to New Zealand was the cause of death.

A man who completely changed a sport, a man who opened up a pathway for big players to be wingers, a man who always put others before himself, a man who would sign everybody's rugby ball before leaving the pitch, a man who contributes so much off the field, these are many great things Jonah Lomu has done. I believe if a Knighthood is offered to Jonah's family, it won't have the same feel as it would compared to if Jonah was still alive. Lomu will be remembered in many ways, his legacy will live on forever. But I will always be thinking, If it was not for Lomu where would Rugby be today. Rest In Piece Sir Jonah Lomu a LEGEND of Rugby.






# 8m Tape Measure Giveaway

Professional quality tape measure with 32mm wide, Mylar-coated blade. Specifically designed for the rigours of the jobsite. Guaranteed Tough and accurate.

- Extra Large End Hook
- Wide Blade & Large Numbers
- 4m Blade Standout
- RRP \$49.95



**10 to giveaway courtesy of DEWALT!**

  
 Dewalt  
 Giveaway  
 P.O Box 54295  
 The Marina 2144,  
 Manukau, Auckland

  
 Name:  
 Address:  
 Phone Number:  
 Email:


To enter: **YOU MUST** subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club Newsletter, only one entry per person. Competition closes on **9 December 2015**.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address.

# Kiwis Tour of England Test Programs Giveaway

We have 2 sets of programs from each of the 3 tests in the UK as well as 10 sets of programs from the 2nd and 3rd tests.



  
 UK Program  
 Giveaway  
 P.O Box 54295  
 The Marina 2144,  
 Manukau, Auckland

  
 Name:  
 Address:  
 Phone Number:  
 Email:

To enter: **YOU MUST** subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club Newsletter, only one entry per person. Competition closes on **9 December 2015**.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address.

# Now is the Time to Think Pink

By John Coffey QSM



Considering that this is Mad Butcher Newsletter number 100, it is appropriate to switch this column's content to cricket, a sport which celebrates the raising of a century. In most matches it has made little or no difference to the eventual result whether an individual player scores 100 rather than 99, but it is certainly a milestone to savour for the batsman himself.

At the remodelled Adelaide Oval this weekend Test cricket will take on a new colour – pink. The red balls which were bent out of shape so frequently at Brisbane and Perth are to be put aside and the sport's experts worldwide will study the effects of the first-ever day-night Test match. In this country it probably means more lounge room disputes over possession of the television remote as the playing hours extend deep into Coronation Street viewing.

Whatever home advantage Australia has in leading the series 1-0 will be decreased by both teams needing to adjust to the pink ball under lights. Australia, we need little reminding, thrashed an underdone Black Caps outfit at the Gabba, a traditional graveyard for overseas teams. The blokes in the baggy green caps, and particularly David Warner, maintained that momentum on the first day at Perth.

But then Ross Taylor stepped up to stand with Kane Williamson, and to continue on after the younger man had made an uncharacteristic error. Taylor was eventually the last man out for 290, denied a triple century and a New Zealand Test highest score because no-one could stay long enough with him.

Taylor's 290 is the highest Test score by a visiting batsman in Australia, surpassing Reginald (Tip) Foster's 287 for England in 1903. The only higher scores by New Zealanders at home have been Brendon McCullum's 302 against India last year and Martin Crowe's 299 against Sir Lanka in 1991, both at Wellington's Basin Reserve. I covered Crowe's innings for my newspaper and saw just about every ball of McCullum and Taylor via television.

I agree with Fairfax cricket writer Mark Genty that while Taylor lies third in terms of runs his was the best innings of the three. And that is without considering Taylor has come back from being unceremoniously stripped of the Black Caps captaincy and suffered the horrendous teeth-gritting injury he is still recovering from. He looked terribly short of match practice at Brisbane; one week later at Perth the transformation was all but unbelievable.

When Crowe fell just one run short of a triple century he also shared a world record 467-run partnership with Andrew Jones (186). It was the third innings of the match and they made up for New Zealand's dismal batting on the first day to force a draw. But this was arguably not even Crowe's finest performance of a glittering career and was at least equalled by Aravinda de Silva's 267 in the Sri Lankan innings.

McCallum breached the 300 barrier 23 years later in similar circumstances. New Zealand had again conceded a big first innings lead to India and the main requirement was to survive until a draw was secured. That the conditions favoured batting was emphasised by wicket-keeper B J Watling making 124 and all-rounder James Neesham scoring 137 not out on debut.

The Australian bowling attack mounted against Taylor was much superior to those faced by Crowe and McCullum, and the situation was far more hazardous. Starc, Johnson, Hazelwood, Marsh and Lyon were going for a series-clinching win in the second innings of a match that was still very much alive. It was disappointing the lower order seemed confused whether they should stay and assist Taylor or throw the bat at the ball in anticipation of a declaration.

My cricket-watching memories extend back to the immaculate Bert Sutcliffe and the bristling John Reid in the early 1960s. As a young journalist I was lucky to assist Dick Brittenden, my first sports editor and this country's finest cricket writer and author, during Test matches at Lancaster Park. I was even more fortunate 20 years later to succeed Dick as cricket reporter.

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from previous page...

There were other memorable double centuries, by Graham Dowling for New Zealand against India and by Australian Doug Walters and West Indian Seymour Nurse, all at Lancaster Park. Walters (who made 250) and his mate, Gary Gilmour (101), reportedly spent a long session in their hotel bar the night before sharing a partnership of 217 in about three hours. Pakistan's feisty Javed Miandad surpassed all of them with his 271 at Eden Park in 1989.

Inevitably, most very big individual scores cause games to taper off into tame draws. So I would place a double century of another sort – one in each innings – at the top of the finest New Zealand batting feats I have seen. At Lancaster Park in 1974 Glenn Turner scored 101 and 110 not out to spearhead New Zealand to its first Test victory over Australia. I can still visualise the scene, accompanied by the sweet sound of willow on leather, as wicket-keeper Ken Wadsworth handsomely stroked the winning runs through extra cover.

**Look** whose face is on the coin. I can't be sure who it is but it is someone incredibly handsome. Oh, that's right, it's me!

It's a Movember dollar and I'm giving it away to help raise funds for the cause.

Now since you have to text **BUTCH** to **2448** to **donate \$3**, I'll throw in a **VIP day at the Vodafone Warriors** for you and a mate.

Be warned, I get a full list of everyone who donates, so if there are names missing at the end of the campaign, there might well be questions!



## NZRL Community Playgroup

**N**ZRL COMMUNITY Playgroups will host their annual End of Year Fun Day at Waiuku RL Club next Wednesday, December 2.

After a year that saw tremendous growth, the programme is poised to expand beyond the Counties Manukau zone and into Akarana in the new year.

The fun day, hosted by Oscar Rocks, feature fundamental movement skills & games, water play and music.

It's an opportunity to come together with whanau, community and NZRL to share the importance of education in a safe environment, so that children are able to explore and grow.

Mark it down in your calendar ...

Waiuku Rugby League Club

Hamilton Estate Drive, Waiuku

10am-1pm

Wednesday, December 2

Contact Marissa Holland at [Marissa@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:Marissa@nzrl.co.nz)







# **NZRL Community Playgroup**

## **End of Year Fun Day**

**WED 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**

**10AM – 1PM HOSTED BY  
OSCAR ROCKS @ NZRL.  
WAIUKU**

**Liaising with NZRL play groups and community**  
Exciting opportunity to collaborate with whanau, community and organisation to share the importance of education in a safe environment so that children are able to explore.



**FUNdamental  
Movement Skills &  
Games**

---

**LUNCH**

---

**BOUNCY CASTLE**

---

**WATER PLAY**

---

**MUSIC  
& MOVEMENT**

---

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**OSCAR ROCKS @ NZRL**

Waiuku Rugby League Club

Hamilton Estate Drive  
Waiuku

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

10am – 1pm

Contact [Marissa@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:Marissa@nzrl.co.nz)



# League 4 Life

## Summer Fundraiser



Thursday **February 4**, 2016 at the **Ellerslie Racecourse**

**Come Racing!** Join us at the League 4 Life Summer Fundraiser to be held at Ellerslie Racecourse as part of the Barfoot and Thompson Twilight Summer Series. **So why not get a group together and support a great cause and have some fun at the same time.**



**Stephen McIvor**  
*MC for the Event*

**Sir Peter Leitch**  
*NZRL & League 4  
Life Patron*



Plus you never know which **league personalities** will be present.

By purchasing a ticket to the Summer Fundraiser you are making a generous donation to the League 4 Life Foundation. Your ticket price includes:

- **A donation to the League 4 Life Foundation**
- Entry into the exclusive **League 4 Life marquee**, located on the **Champagne Lawn** with sweeping views of the home straight and Winning Post
- **Gourmet BBQ buffet dinner** designed by our award winning chefs incorporating the best New Zealand ingredients, featuring hot items from the grill, a selection of salads, finished with tea and coffee
- **Complimentary drink** on arrival for each guest
- Racecourse admission, racebooks and pens
- Convenient access to betting facilities and a cash bar

**Click here to learn more and buy your ticket for only \$50!**

# Title Timing Running out for NZRL Awards Nominations

**T**HIS YEAR has been a fantastic one for New Zealand rugby league and this week is your last chance to see that the right people are rewarded for their achievements over that period.

Nominations for the 2015 NZRL Awards close 5pm Friday, with categories including Kiwis Player of the Year and Kiwis Rookie of the Year.

Last year's winners were Kiwis captain Simon Mannering and newcomer Jason Taumalolo, while past recipients include current internationals Adam Blair, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Kieran Foran, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Tuimoala Lolohea.

But the awards also cover the full range of rugby league activities at all levels, rewarding our outstanding performers among volunteers, coaches, club administrators, match officials, women and youth.

Check out the NZRL website for nomination forms and criteria, along with past winners.

## 2014 NZRL Awards Winners

Kiwis Player of the Year - Simon Mannering (NZ Warriors)

Kiwis Rookie of the Year - Jason Taumalolo (North Queensland Cowboys)

Domestic Player of the Year - Ken Tofilau (Southern)

Junior Player of the Year - Sam Lisone (NZ Warriors)

18s Player of the Year - Reuben Porter (Akarana)

16s Player of the Year - Rory Ferguson (Southern)

Women's Player of the Year - Atawhai Tupaea (Counties Manukau)

Match Official of the Year - Anthony Eliot

Male Volunteer of the Year - Jasen McCarthy (Akarana)

Female Volunteer of the Year - Maree Hawkins (Upper Central)

Grassroots Club of the Year - Hornby Panthers (Southern)

Nominations  
close 5pm  
this Friday  
so get in  
quick!

Nominations  
close 5pm  
this Friday  
so get in  
quick!

## Hauraki District's First AGM

**H**AURAKI DISTRICT hosting their very first AGM. They are in the process of being recognised as a standalone district. As of this last season, there were eight (8) clubs playing with 25 teams between the ages of 6 – 12 turning out each Sunday. A fantastic group of volunteers have made this possible and they will be striving to put out their first representative team this July at the North Island tournament.

HAURAKI DISTRICT RUGBY LEAGUE INCORPORATED

Notice of Annual General Meeting

When: Monday 7th December, 2015 – 6pm

Where: The Workingmen's Club, 407 Cochrane Street, Thames

Written nominations for Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer must be received by 5.00 pm Thursday 3rd December

All enquiries to: Interim Chair – David McMeeken

Email: david.m@nzrl.co.nz / 021 956 975

This is the very first AGM for the Hauraki District Rugby League Inc. as a recognised district.

Following the districts very first AGM, there will be a meeting for all attending delegate members. Any agenda items you wish to discuss please can you forward these on before Thursday 3rd December.

# At the Fleetwood Mac Concert



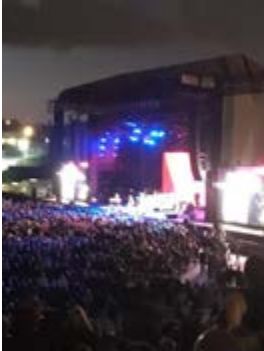
Daughter Angela and my wife Janice.



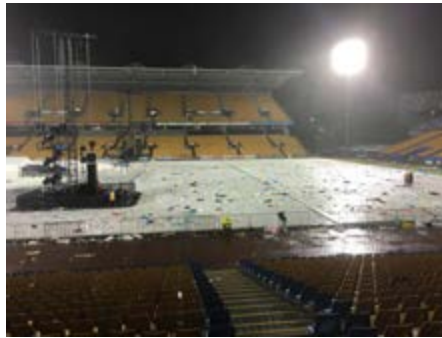
Gemma Flynn, Butch, Richie McCaw former ALL BLACKS CAPTAIN.



Me and Jan enjoying Fleetwoodmac at Mt Smart.



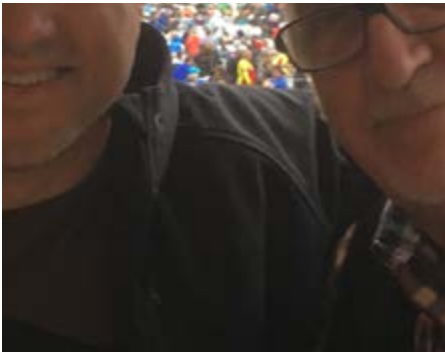
Fantastic show.



The stadium after everyone had gone home.

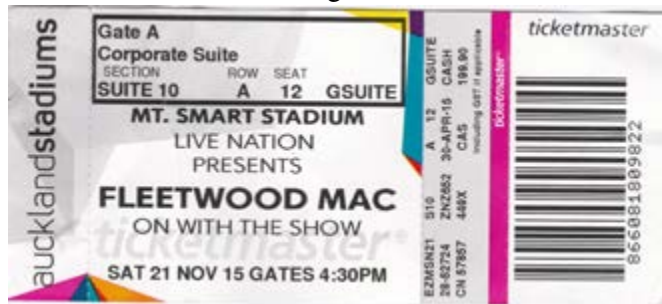


Vodafone Warriors assistant coaches Justin Morgan and Andrew Webster.



Vodafone Warriors coach Andrew and Sir Peter.

We had a great night at Fleetwood Mac on Saturday night here is a few photos from the night.



## Tui & Trevor

Hi there my friend,

**G**UESS WHO we ran into while in Las Vegas. I thought I would share this with you. The North Queensland Cowboys. I think they were just booking into Bellagio Hotel. So I got our photo with Jonathon Thurston. We had a great time there. The whole purpose of going was to see Donny & Marie Osmond.

Anyway we had a Great time.

Go The vodafone Warriors

Tui & Trevor





# What a Small World we Live in and Could I Find Sir Peter Leitch?

By Gary Hawkinson

**F**ROM A simple photo I had with Sam Thaiday in Wigan after the match I tweeted this pic to the footy show, one guy tweeted "nice one mate"

Gary Hankinson @gazhanks @NRLFootyShow

Me & Sam giving thumbs up "That's Gold!" at Wigan last Saturday 24 Feb 2015

Sir Peter Leitch @sirmadbutcher @gazhanks @NRLFootyShow nice one mate 25 Feb 2015 03:11

I had no idea who this guy was, I soon found out with a few more tweets and a link to his news letter. I had to check out his newsletter and sent off my envelope for the chance to win a prize!



I obviously didn't think anymore about actually winning a prize, little did I know what this bloke in NZ is all about; I do now, more on that later.

A few weeks later I had a parcel on my kitchen table c/o New Zealand Post, I immediately thought my god I've won that prize I opened the parcel and pulled out a hand written note.

"Well done mate you never won a prize but I'm giving you a consolation prize all you need to do is email a photo and a few words for my newsletter" Keep Well

inside, a Kiwi Shirt!! A Vodaphone Warriors magazine, poster, NRL nines programmes all this as a consolation, I did the photo and few words on my involvement with Rugby League and sent the email.

I also tweeted @sirmadbutcher mate you are MAD! Just sent you email, surprise package from you arrived, massive smile on my face Many Thanks, all the best! - 24 Mar 2015.

Sir Peter Leitch @sirmadbutcher @gazhanks my pleasure you make the newsletter this week mate 25 Mar.

Unbelievable, I made the newsletter #65 and the footy show's That's Gold segment!

I stayed in contact via twitter and established this very generous man "Sir Peter Leitch" is coming to England in November with the NZ Team I just had to meet him to personally say Thank You!

This is the next chapter of my letter trying to hunt him down, what is the itinerary where is he staying etc.. I probably seemed a bit like a stalker the amount of tweets and even getting a phone call from him, without realising how busy this man is with the touring Kiwis. I now had his personal phone number too!

I tried to arrange on several occasions to meet up without success, I went on holiday then only a few days before the 3rd test I woke him at his hotel in Liverpool he was a bit crook I felt bad about that so text was sent apologising, within a few hours he was on the phone to me! Then twitted he's back in the game!

On game day, I looked all over, where is he I couldn't see him, I even left my wife at our table on her own so I could go to look where he might be, sent another text to try and meet before the game, I was in a different part of hospitality he was in the Board Room! No access for me I'm afraid

After the game had started I received a text apologising he had only just seen my message, I text back "no worries I will get you at some point today, enjoy the game!"

Once the game was over, me and my Wife went to our lounge got our drinks, I said "I have got to go and find this man." I couldn't wait any longer I went on the hunt for this elusive man with restricted access to certain parts I thought "bugger it!" got in the lift to the top floor straight out in front of the Directors Lounge, I was just about to open the door before security could get hold of me, I stopped dead in my tracks

*Continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

This was the moment, right in front of me is the one and only “Sir Peter Leitch!” I stood right in his eye line and said “at last, how the hell are you?” he had no idea, “sorry mate who are ya?”

Holding out his hand I explained its Gary from Wigan I gave him a hug then showed him his note he wrote many months ago, a truly brilliant moment, he was thrilled I had kept his note.

Without hesitation, come on let me introduce you to someone, inside the Directors Lounge we went, no passes need when you are in this man’s company. The introduction was to a true legend of the game Alex Murphy OBE after a few minutes chatting about the game he then wanted to introduce me to his Granddaughter, again showing this note he had sent me.

The Mad butcher went off to get something, he then brought the room to a standstill holding centre stage, he continued to proceed in presenting Alex Murphy and Ray French with Kiwi caps he had the room in uproar with his humour and speeches, this was the mad butcher doing his thing “I loved it” and felt privileged to be able to witness what a great bloke “Butch” is and respected in such high regard worldwide.

I called my wife, get your arse up here leave the drinks just get here asap I need you to meet the madbutcher, so she did thankfully and the next ten minutes were great getting introduced to several members and friends of the Kiwi management. Butch pretty much showing genuine emotion talking about the fact I had still got this note, his granddaughter took this great picture to complete a great day! Well not quite??

Paula Hankinson, Sir Peter Leitch & Gary Hankinson @ DW Stadium, Wigan 14th November 2015



As Butch and I were chatting I mentioned Uncle Joe’s Mint balls a famous Wigan delicacy he had never heard of them, I said I will get you some to take home before you leave the UK.

After we had left the Directors lounge and returned to our lounge my thoughts turned to getting some “Uncle Joes” once I got them I then went to find Butch this time not too far to look, he was carrying bags and boxes from the Kiwi changing rooms to the transport vehicles outside.

I said “how come you’re doing all this stuff?” he replied “it’s what we do!” so typical of this man.

With Uncle Joes in hand a memento from Wigan with a little message on the back of a name plate off my table, my small way of showing my appreciation to this generous bloke “Sir Peter Leitch” from New Zealand

Butch took me into the inner sanctum of the media scrum; this was just unreal all of the super stars from the game being interviewed next to me, at the side of me

All this started from one twitter picture way back, so the day was completed with another picture this time taken by one of the New Zealand TV crew. It was another sign of the measure of this great man no fanfare or fuss he wanted a special place to take this photo so we completed the day said our goodbyes & best wishes

I can’t wait for the next time to be able to shake hands and say hello to a new friend!

What a small world it is and YES I found & met “Sir Peter Leitch” plus many of his friends HOW FANTASTIC!!





# NEW SEASON RANGE

PRE-ORDER 2016 VODAFONE WARRIORS GEAR

PRE-ORDER 2016 VODAFONE WARRIORS

## STREETWEAR RANGE

BUY NOW >



ORDER THE NEW RANGE NOW >

**WARRIORSSTORE.CO.NZ**  
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE



# Rovers Get Their Due in Grey Lynn Book

By Paul Little

**R**ICHMOND ROVERS are a mighty Grey Lynn institution and have been for more than a century. So it's no surprise that they get a chapter all their own in a beautiful new book about the suburb.

It's called *The Grey Lynn Book: The Life and Times of New Zealand's Most Fascinating Suburb*.

From the area's origins as a highly valued Maori stronghold to its status as one of the most desirable addresses in the country, it looks at the area's people, institutions, businesses, traditions and history. Grey Lynn and its colourful stories are brought to life in this large format, full-colour hardback book. This is a book for everyone who loves Grey Lynn or has ever wondered what's behind its cult status.

I have two signed copies of *The Grey Lynn Book* to give away. To go in the draw just email [plittle@gmail.com](mailto:plittle@gmail.com) with the subject line *Butcher's Book*.

*The Grey Lynn Book: The Life and Times of New Zealand's Most Fascinating Suburb*, by Matt McEvoy with Photographs by Stephen Entwisle, Paul Little Books, \$60. Buy online at [paullittlebooks.co.nz](http://paullittlebooks.co.nz) or Freephone 0800 GREY LYNN



## Wayne Urquhart Elected As New Auckland Rugby League Chairman

**F**OLLOWING BI-ANNUAL elections, Auckland Rugby League is pleased to announce the appointment of Wayne Urquhart as its new Chairman.

Wayne played Rugby League as an age grade junior in Auckland and a senior Christchurch before setting up a club in Whakatane in the 1980's. He is an international referee who has officiated in 5 countries. He was a long serving Chairman of Auckland Rugby League Referee's Association and is still an active senior referee.

He is Chairman of Akarana Zone, sits on the Carlaw Heritage Trust and has been on the Board of Auckland Rugby League for the past 5 years.

"I feel so very humbled to have received the level of support I have from our clubs," says Wayne.

"I feel very positive and believe there is plenty of opportunity to do some things a little bit different for our grassroots clubs going forward.

"My vision is to evolve and build the Auckland Rugby League clubs. To make our game even stronger and to improve the capability of clubs to deliver greater value to their players and whanau; which in turn translates into the capability of Auckland League to improve and grow stronger.

"There is enormous good will amongst our clubs. They focus on their week-by-week, day-by-day activities in putting competitive teams out onto the footy pitches. Our job at the Auckland Rugby League is to make the lives of club administrators as smooth and as comfortable as possible.

"There are many challenges ahead for all; our role is to be solutions focused."



# Without Volunteers there Would Be No Sport

**V**OLUNTEERS ARE vital for the smooth running of our Rugby League clubs. Without this dedicated group of people, who willingly give their time to enable others to play the sport they love, grassroots sport wouldn't exist.

In recognition of the devoted volunteers, Auckland Rugby League held their annual club nominated volunteers recognition awards at the Mount Richmond Hotel on Sunday 22nd November.

Rugby league clubs from across Auckland each nominated a loyal volunteer to recognise their hard work and efforts towards their club and were each presented with a certificate and an Auckland Rugby League history book.

Host and Special Projects Manager Selwyn Pearson says this event is very unique.

"The recipients are selected by their own clubs which is incredibly significant because they are being chosen by their peers as their clubs stand out special voluntary person," he says.

This was the third year of the modest awards afternoon created by Auckland Rugby League's Competitions Manager Patrick Carthy. He was inspired to do so after a conversation he had with Sir Peter Leitch in regards to how valuable volunteers are to our game.

Talking of Sir Peter Leitch, he rang Selwyn late Saturday afternoon, the day before the event and explained he was exhausted after the Kiwi tour to England. He had an engagement that night, but he would see how he felt in the morning, not leaving a stone unturned to attend as he felt it was important to do so because without our volunteers we wouldn't have a game and he would ring again in the morning.

This he did, and it was delightful to see him there.

Selwyn kicked the event off by welcoming everybody.

Among those who attended was: *Sir Peter Leitch Q.S.M of course, Life Members Cathy Friend Q.S.M (also ARL Director), Dr Lloyd Drake OBE, Bob Best, Tom McKeown, Arthur Hiley, Patrick Carthy, Taffy Tewheoro, Gary Whittle and Des Jenkinson, plus new ARL Chairman Wayne Urquhart, ARL Board Member Evelyn Brooker, new ARL Director Greg Whaiapu, ARL CEO John Ackland, hard-working ARL staff members, and last but not least the recipients themselves and their chosen guests.*

A special mention must go to Juanita Woodhouse

ARL Administration Manager and Patrick Carthy for putting the whole show together.



The nominated recipients were as follows: *Bay Roskill Vikings - Aaron Smith, East Coast Bays - Bryce Swainson, Ellerslie Eagles - Geoff Sturt, Glenfield Rugby League - Annitta Cleal, Glenora Bears - Darren Darling, Hibiscus Coast - Alice Brown, Howick Hornets - Maria Allan, Mangere East Hawks - Valerie Lui, Manukau Rugby League - Harry Williams, Manurewa Rugby League - Paul Ashley, Mt Albert Rugby League - Ani Cherrington, Mt Wellington Warriors - Roslyn Takerei, New Lynn Rugby League - Gareth George, Northcote Rugby League - David Close, Otahuhu Rugby League - Tusa Lafaele, Otara Rugby League - Nedaleen Taylor, Pakuranga Rugby League - Mike Slater, Papatoetoe Rugby League - Donna Harris, Ponsonby Rugby League - Arthur Langton, Richmond Rovers - Naomi Sagapolutele, Te Atatu Roosters - Pirihiira Puata, Waitemata Rugby League - George Rogers, Waiuku Rugby League - Hayden Rehu*

To you people, thank you so much for making our great game of Rugby League what it is.

Seeing our children develop disciplines which enables them to follow rules and take those disciplines onto adulthood and contribute to the community in a positive manner has to be incredibly rewarding to those who helped make this happen. Is doesn't get better than that does it?

Auckland Rugby League would like to acknowledge all those who continue to give their time and efforts into running their local club and of course, the smooth running of our games.

From coaching to carpooling, we appreciate all that you do in supporting grassroots Rugby League.

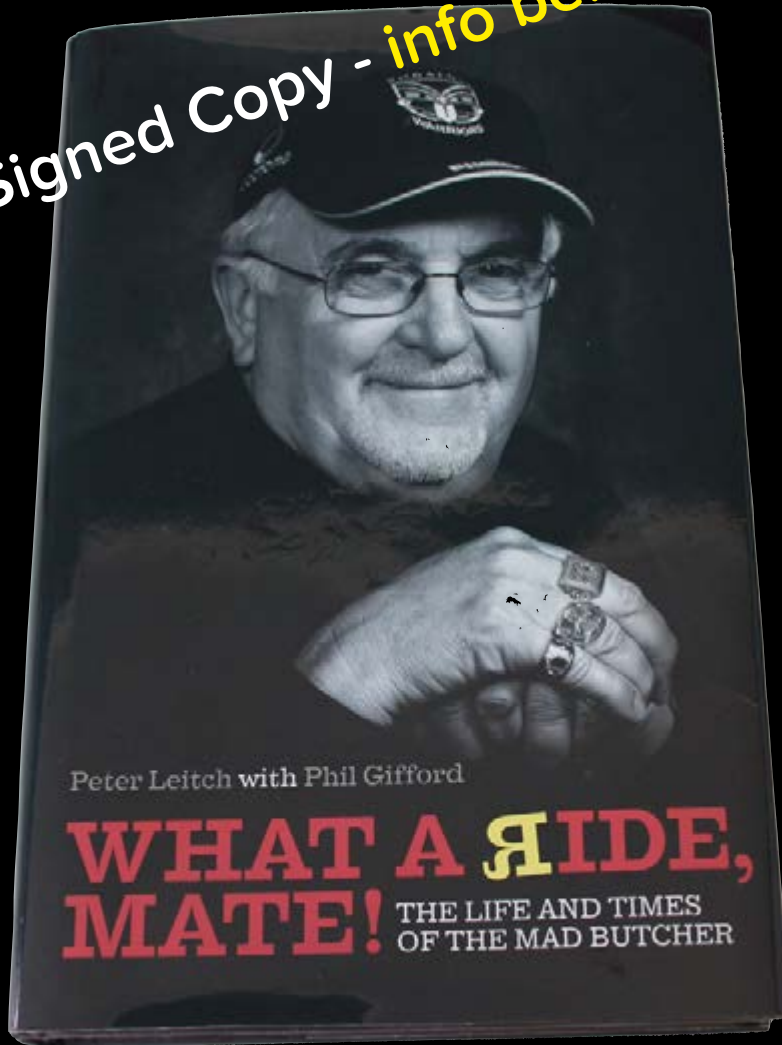
Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.



# Looking for a **Christmas Gift?**

Then take a look at my book:  
**“What a Ride Mate!”**

Signed Copy - info below



First published in 2007, this book details my life. From the blurb:

Here is what readers had to say:

To be fair, I couldn't put the book down one Sunday, so my wife had to wash the car and mow the lawns, bloody good of her.

This is an amazing yarn about a great New Zealander who has proven that with a positive attitude, self-belief along with treating people respectfully anything is possible.

The message in this book can be life changing in such a positive way, so get your copy and “enjoy the ride mate”.

- Tony Stack

I confess I thoroughly enjoyed it and particularly the little stories from your childhood and the backgrounds of your Mum and Dad. I always think understanding who our parents are, what they cared about and their approach to life, gives us great insight into who we are. I also had no idea of the sheer number of people you know and who think so highly of you. I feel privileged to tell people I know you as a mate.

- Dave

**We have just done a limited reprint of my book and as a special deal for readers you can get a copy for only \$25 including non-rural delivery inside New Zealand.**

**1) Bank Deposit:** Peter Leitch Limited 03 0219 0543640-00 Include your name in the reference. Then send an email to [pcleitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcleitch@xtra.co.nz) with your deposit details, name, address, phone number and **a short message for me to sign.**

**2) Cheque:** send a cheque made out to Peter Leitch Limited to P.O Box 54295 The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland include your Name, Address, Phone Number and **a short message for me to sign.**

Limited copies at the  
Special price of:

# \$25

Includes **NZ** Postage



# On My Way to Hawaii



Janice-and me were all smile on our Air NZ FLIGHT TO HAWAII.



Julie, Angela, Janice are all happy as we arrive at our suites in Hawaii.



Look who I found at Auckland airport La and Luk from Huntly of to Hawaii in their Vodafone warriors gear real fans even taking Vodafone Warriors shirts for the Whanau in Hawaii.



Learning the Hula.



The view form our apartment in Hawaii.



How loyal is Luk caught him shopping in Ross's in Honolulu and he even had his warriors shirt now THATS LOYAL.



My lunch in Hawaii.



Honolulu at night.



Look who I meet outside Ross's in Honolulu Dean Whare kiwi 776 with partner Natasha Lau.

# Wayne and Wendy - Jersey Winners

Hi Peter

Jersey arrived safe and sound – picture attached – he couldn't wait to wear it and show it off at work!!

Kind Regards

Wayne & Mandy

Australia



## 2016 memberships available now



**F**or just \$30 fans can be part of the Vodafone Warriors membership experience.. Support your team in 2016 and sign up today!

ADULT \$30

FAMILY (4 PACKS) \$90

### INCLUDES:

- 2016 membership scarf and lanyard
- Discounts on Vodafone Warriors official merchandise
- 10% discount on tickets to Vodafone Warriors regular season home games in 2016
- Vodafone Warriors members only merchandise

**People often stop me and say they are big Vodafone Warriors fans. So I always ask them if they are a member. As being a member is the best way to show your support for the club. For 2016 you can become a member FOR ONLY \$30! BY BECOMING A MEMBER YOU ARE TRULY A FAN EVEN I HAVE SIGNED ON!**

Get yours at: [www.warriors.kiwi](http://www.warriors.kiwi)

## Curtis Rona's New Baby

**Curtis sent me this not long after he flew back from the Kiwis tour to be with his partner:**

Hey butch made it just in time for the arrival of our new born baby!

Sapphire Anaya Rona born on Remembrance Day 11/11/2015..

Jacinta and baby are healthy in recovery & rest stage.. full credit to the New Zealand rugby league and there commitments to get me home to my whanau! Thank use once again for everything. It's been a pleasure going tour with you . Curtis Rona



Sapphire Anaya Rona.



Curtis about to leave on tour.



# Ex Kiwi Back in God's Own

By John Holloway

**I**F YOU think of Auckland and the Kiwis and North Sydney Bears And the North of England's Hull rugby league club you get a clue... I am trying not to mention the mighty Richmond Rovers because The Butcher gets up in arms being a Mangere East Hawks tragic..., team-mates back in the day included fellow Kiwis Shane Varley and Gus Fepuliae from Richmond The "Finisher" James Leauluai, Gary Kemble and Dane O'hara at Hull and the great Mark Graham at North Sydney.

Oldie but goodie leaguies will know that the clues point to the elder boy of one of our finest league families and one of the most gifted players that ever pulled on a black and white V.

An ex Kiwis captain in 79 and 84 he played 28 tests. He remains the only Kiwi that was undefeated as Captain

He has spent recent years in the USA, Phoenix Arizona on Religious studies...more recently mentoring to dis-advantaged youth and prison inmates from a fitness of spiritual mind aspect plus a fitness of physical and health basis. For those who haven't guessed yet we are talking about Fred ah Kuoi recently permanently returned to Auckland with his wife Margo and family. One of those football players that had time and space and the ability to put players into that all important gap. I saw players around him grow and improve and expand their visions. Much of the success of Richmond and the Kiwis and indeed the Bears and Hull was built on his guidance and wizardry at stand off. Fred is looking to re-establish himself back home and explore opportunities in and outside the great game. Sir Peter and Fred are old friends and no doubt you will have an opportunity to catch up with the first five maestro at one of the Butchers fund raising Lunch activities. I was lucky enough to be involved with Fred and his similarly talented and community conscious brothers the late club legend Afi, Peter, Andrew and Paul over several years at our footy home away from home Grey Lynn Park. It's worth noting that they all still put in the yards down at the park and that no less a contributor to their achievements is the younger sibling Elizabeth who is making a fine fist of managing the Richmond premiers who put the Sharman Cup in the cabinet this season and rise again to The Fox first grade for another tilt. Wikipedia will tell you the full detail of Fred's achievements but a few minutes in his company serves a better purpose in knowing the man. One of life's gentlemen and NZ's (re)gain. Welcome home Fred.



## An Ex-Kiwi Of The 50S passed Away 21Th Nov In Whakatane

**V**ERN BAKALICH 86yrs old from the Richmond Club. Played 42 times for the Kiwis with 13 Tests between 1954 and 57. In 2013 he was elected to the wingspot in the Richmond Clubs Centenary Team of the Century .

A photo is included of Vern who was a member of the all-conquering 1956 Richmond Seniors that contained no less than 7 current Kiwis.

The Captain Cliff Johnson, Tommy Baxter, Vern Bakalich, John Lasher, Jim Riddell, Joe Murray, Sel Belsham to top it off they supplied the Kiwi coach Snow Telford as well.





I HAD JUST arrive back in Auckland when they did the tournament draw for the 2016 Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines last Wednesday. Was gutted not to be there, but they tell me it was a great event held in the new Dick Smith Queen Street store.

The draw was conducted by Rugby league legend Mal Meninga (Who is an absolute top bloke!) and former New Zealand supermodel Kylie Bax, who is gorgeous to be fair. Ryan Hoffman and Andrew McFadden from the Warriors were there too, along with the Head of the NRL Football department, Nathan McGuirk.

Sounds like the only person who wasn't there was the Butcher!

The mighty Vodafone Warriors were drawn Pool Hunua - a tough but exciting pool along with 2014 Nines and 2015 NRL Grand finalists the Brisbane Broncos, the Bulldogs, and the Manly Sea Eagles – this was deemed by some as the 'pool of death'.

The tournaments' opening game will see an enthralling clash between traditional big Sydney rivals, the Roosters and the Rabbitohs, from Pool Waiheke.

NZ Warriors coach Andrew McFadden wasn't phased by the make-up of their pool.

Saying that everyone will be bringing talented teams and anyone could go out and win it on their day.

With superstar signings Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke both determined to play at the Nines and Cappy confirming that if fit they are likely to play at the Nines in what will be their first game in a Warriors jersey. I'm confident our boys will have their best tournament yet, in fact I'd love to be able to place a bet at the TAB that the Warriors boys will win the bloody thing!

All 16 clubs are contracted to bring a host of big names and talk from league corners is it will be the most star-studded yet.

If you haven't got your tickets yet you must get in! Call you friends and family and get your tickets to Eden Park for The Greatest Weekend!

We are very lucky to have this amazing weekend in Auckland, so make sure you embrace it! It's a long weekend and what better way to spend it than with all your friends and family at the Nines.

2 x day tickets from \$69 (\*fees apply) on sale at [www.ticketek.co.nz/nines](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/nines)

Waiheke	Rangitoto	Hunua	Piha
Roosters	Knights	Warriors	Dragons
Rabbitohs	Cowboys	Bulldogs	Raiders
Eels	Panthers	Sea Eagles	Sharks
Storm	Tigers	Broncos	Titans



# More Pictures from England

Thought I'd rerun these photos as Liverpool had a magnificent 4:1 victory in their last game.



James Milner (Captain) on right and Jordan Henderson (Vice Captain) on left.



Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp.



Liverpool squad with Kiwis.

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz)

## Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS! Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can.



## The Newsletter Team

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



Sir Peter Leitch  
Editor



David Kemeys  
Editor at Large



Hayden Woodhead  
Graphic Designer



John Deaker  
Correspondent



John Coffey  
Southern  
Correspondent



Barry Ross  
Australian  
Correspondent



Ben Francis  
Northern  
Correspondent