



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

16 December 2015

Newsletter #103

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.



Vodafone Warriors Members Christmas Party



PS
PHOTOSPORT

Photos:
www.photosport.nz

VODAFONE WARRIORS MEMBERS CHRISTMAS PARTY



Big John Martin with his sons Max and Noah at the Warriors family day at Ellerslie racecourse.



Chris and Odette members for 4 years.



Darrel Growden been to over 190 home games and Robbie Daly very loyal since 1995!



Jay with son Roman they sit in lower east stand bay 16.



Left Case Adams, middle Lachlan McWatt, right Kaydia Adams coming from Waiuku for the members day.



Michael Hobbs and Breanne Johnson, Warriors members enjoying the Christmas function, and looking forward to seeing the boys run out in March, following their nines title of course!



Michael Harding Cohen and Michaels proud members of the Warriors. Thanks guys.



Jo, Jim, Betty (JIMS MUM OVER FROM SCOTLAND) and Kelsey Doyle all enjoying the Vodafone Warriors Christmas Party.



Turua, Pauline, Christian, Richie, Rio Kimiora from Mount Albert.



The Mad Butchers sausages were a big hit on the Vodafone Warriors members day.



Fun times in the photo booth.

WITH CHRISTMAS just days away it seems appropriate to look back over the year. It would be wonderful to report on a terrific season for my Vodafone Warriors, but we just did not have one.

In fact it was the opposite, especially the losing streak to end the year, when we played poorly and could not buy a bit of luck.

So much had been expected, with Jim Doyle taking the helm, but it never eventuated. There are several reasons for that, but there is no point in going over old ground. Instead I prefer to look forward to next year.

And we are in great shape for that, with new and exciting players like Isaac Luke and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck joining the club, and the off-field fighting between the owners resolved, with Eric Watson taking control.

Over the weekend we had the Fans' Christmas Party, and one couple even drove all the way from Masterton to be there.

I worried no one would turn up when it bucketed down with rain, but I need not have been concerned. The turnout was magnificent and there is one thing I will say for the fans, win or lose they stand behind the Warriors.

After that we had the Vodafone Warriors staff Christmas Party, and what an event that was. Full of laughter and fun, and did my heart good to see the players interacting with each other's children, and having a terrific time.

There is certainly nothing wrong with the spirit at the club, and that is essential after the disappointment of this year.

The club has trials in Whanga-

rei and Nelson in the New Year, and games on the road in Christchurch, Wellington and in Taranaki, so the old Butcher will be doing a bit of travelling.

Kiwis Tour A Highlight For Me

There was more disappointment for me earlier in the year when I joined the Kiwis on tour to the UK and France.

I had a terrific time, met up with some great old friends, and made new ones, but the results did not go our way.

There was still time for some highlights though, like visiting Emmerdale, my favourite TV show, and in particular spending quality time with my granddaughter Kristin, who lives in the UK. I owe a vote of thanks to Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney for allowing Kristin to join us on tour.

All Blacks Restore The Smile

Of course the All Blacks put an enormous smile on my face by winning the Rugby World Cup, becoming the first team ever to win back to back and lift the cup three times. I could not have been more chuffed for Richie McCaw and the boys.

All that leaves is for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Thank you for reading.

Brits Ready To Go Again

The official launch of the 2016 season takes place on January 30 in Leeds, where fans will be able to enjoy an evening with stars as they take part in Rugby League Rocks.

After the successful launch event in 2015 Rugby League Rocks returns with opportunities for fans to meet their heroes and watch them take part in numerous chal-

lenges and fun activities.

Earlier in the day there will be a free family fun day, with games for all ages and opportunities to meet and have photographs taken with the Super League trophy, the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup, players and mascots from a range of clubs.

League Grows In UK

Sport England has released the latest grassroots sports participation figures. Since the last figure six months ago, the survey shows regular participation in league has increased by 9900. The increase comes from all formats of the game.

RFL Director of Performance and Development Jon Roberts said: "The latest figures recognise the hard work of hundreds of community clubs and coaches, schools, colleges and universities.

"Our team and our partners, continue to work hard to give participants a great way to get involved in league that's right for them."

Phil Holden Steps Down

New Zealand Rugby League chief executive Phil Holden has resigned after almost three years.

Holden tendered his resignation, essentially putting family ahead of career. He and wife Jen have two daughters, Lila (5) and Evie (2).

"When I was appointed, this was really a dream job for me," he says. "Becoming CEO of a national sporting organisation was always something I aspired to, especially New Zealand Rugby League, given my past interaction with the game and many of its stakeholders.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

“It has been everything I expected and more, but I also have a young family that I want to give more of my attention and energy to. As a family, we now have a great opportunity to make a lifestyle choice that will set us up as our girls get older.”

The Holdens will move to Greytown in the Wairarapa early in the new year.

When he arrived at NZRL in early 2013, Holden, a former provincial hockey representative, brought a marketing and commercial background that had culminated in six years as chief executive of The Lion Foundation.

Holden found an organisation that had rebuilt its reputation and influence after a dramatic Sport NZ-mandated restructure in 2009.

Holden's values-based approach has moved league to the next level. Under his watch, he has managed a shift in culture within the game, NZRL and its marquee national men's team, the Kiwis.

Holden also worked hard to reshape a funding model that has relied too heavily on returns from Kiwis tests, and one of his greatest achievements has been forging stronger ties with key partners in central government and the Australian NRL.

New Rule For Nines

A new rule will be introduced for the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines, giving teams a “free play” advantage when the opposing team makes a mistake.

The rule is aimed at allowing the team that gains possession from a mistake to attempt a high risk play without fear of losing advantage.

Under the rule, the referee will call “zero tackle” when a team gains possession from a knock on, forward pass or accidental offside.

That will signal a “free play”, which will enable the team that gains possession to have an extended advantage - and they will retain the ball even if they make a mistake.

The advantage will only be complete if the team scores, if a player commits foul play or a player with the ball is tackled. If the ball is dropped or lost before the next play the ball, the referee will order a play the ball at the point of the original infringement.

The rule also means teams can kick the ball on a turnover play and will get it back if the team that committed the error recovers it, and they will also get possession back following a tap down or strip.

Funding Success Boosts NZRL Stocks

New Zealand Rugby League is celebrating a vote of confidence from government in the latest rounds of elite and grassroots funding.

The Kiwis will receive \$400,000 next year and another \$500,000 in 2017, as they build towards the next Rugby League World Cup.

The national men's programme, which has traditionally struggled for sustained funding, is one of the few to receive increased long-term funding.

In addition, NZRL has secured \$717,000 next year, then \$640,000 for each of the next three years to consolidate and grow its governance and development of the community game through a model that consists of seven zones across the country.

While that represents a reduction

in community sport funding, it is still more than expected, given the recent Sport NZ strategic review of community funding.

Sport NZ has also pledged up to \$400,000 over two years for NZRL's legacy programme around the 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

“Historically, we know how hard it is to attract this level of support and we also acknowledge that other sports have been not been as fortunate as us in these latest funding rounds,” outgoing NZRL chief executive Phil Holden said.

Apply Now For Women In League Forum

Forty spots are available for the 2016 Women In League Forum on Saturday, February 6, run in conjunction with the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines.

The underlying aim is to inspire and empower the women who contribute so much to the game in New Zealand and Australia.

In February, the special guests included groundbreaking Canterbury Bulldogs chief executive Raelene Castle, who had made the successful transition from Netball NZ CEO to a position of authority in a largely male domain.

Speakers will share their experiences, and workshops will provide practical tools and advice to help women achieve their goals in league, whether they be personal, professional or for the benefit of the community.

The morning forum, staged at Eden Park, will culminate with the opening day of play at the NRL Nines.

To attend, you must be nominated through your zones by Friday, January 8, and successful nominations will be notified soon after.

Jillaroos Prepare

They were blind-sided in their first foray at the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines in February but Jillaroos skipper Steph Hancock says her team will be much better prepared in 2016.

A three-match series between the Jillaroos and the Kiwi Ferns will again be a feature of the Auckland Nines program after the capacity Eden Park crowd and thousands watching at home were captivated by the ferocity and skill of the female games.

In commentary on Fox Sports NRL legend Greg Alexander spoke of the way in which the first of the women's games raised the atmosphere within Eden Park significantly but unfortunately for the Jillaroos, they went down in both games on day one.

“At least next year we'll be more prepared,” Hancock said. “Playing 13-a-side and then jumping on the field and playing Nines, it's a totally different game. It's not a game for a front-rower like me but honestly at least this year we've got more of an idea of how it works.”

Congratulations to Andrew Cornaga of Photosport who won the Award for Sports Photo Best Single Image at the 2015 Sir Terry McLean National Sports Journalism Awards



2015 Sir Terry McLean National Sports Journalism Awards



JUDGES COMMENTS

The winner's portfolio stood out, apart from technical excellence, for his unique capture of three moments – Daniel Vettori's soaring catch, the instant when Warriors hooker Nathan Friend made his almost impossible upside-down, between-his-legs off load and, most particularly, Sonny Bill Williams comforting Springbok centre Jesse Kriel in the Rugby World Cup.



Winner Andrew Cornaga

Supreme Sports Journalist of the Year
Award for Sports Photography
Best Single Image



We are taking a well deserved break....

This is our **second to last newsletter** for the year (**one more next week**). We will be back on the **13th January 2016** with all our regular contributors and the content you love.



New Warriors Signings Visit CCC HQ

By Dwayne Barrie | General Manager NZ | Canterbury of New Zealand Ltd

ON WEDNESDAY 9th December the Vodafone Warriors introduced their two new signings in Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Isaac Luke to the Canterbury team.

It was a privilege to have both players visit us at our Head Office and the staff enjoyed learning more about both Roger and Isaac by way of a Q&A session which was followed by photos and autographs. Both players provided some insight into how they are enjoying being back in NZ and being part of the Vodafone Warriors and both are focused in delivering a big 2016 season. We thank both players who answered the questions from the staff without hesitation and not only provided some great answers but with plenty of humour.

From all the team at Canterbury we wish Roger and Isaac along with the entire team at the Vodafone Warriors a very Merry Xmas and Wishing you all the very best for 2016!



CCC Staff (From left – Katie, Tutz, Billy and Abriana) with Isaac Luke and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck.



CCC staff enjoy a Q&A session with new Vodafone Warriors signings Roger T and Isaac Luke.



Dwayne Barrie, General Manager NZ with new Vodafone Warriors signings in Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Isaac Luke.

The 2016 NSW Cup competition kicks-off on the weekend of 5-6 March with six stellar clashes bound to entertain all footy fans.
Click here to learn more: [NSWRL Website](#)

Meeting Mr Brown Butterbean

By David Kemeys



GETTING SENT to meet “The Brown Buttbean” turns out to be an exercise in not judging people you don’t know.

Expecting, frankly, the boxer with the biggest mouth ever, instead a quiet, humble and likeable guy introduces himself simply as Dave.

Dave Letele is nothing like his in-ring persona – the brash, super-confident, trash-talking big hitter.

Buttbean is just a role. One he takes on every time he steps in the ring, and he is bitterly disappointed after his loss at the Fight for Life, but makes no excuses.

“I was really crook and spent pretty much the whole week trying to get myself right, but I got beaten, and you can’t use that as an excuse. I thought my fitness would get me through but I was wrong.”

Duco Events boss Dave Higgins is nearby, sipping lager, but the Bean says he’ll just have water.

Higgins and Letele were in school together back in the day at Selwyn College, and it’s clear he is enjoying me being taken aback that this is not some cartoon WWE character I have come to meet.

Buttbean sponsor Mike Morton, CEO of the Mad Butcher, is close by.

“I was introduced to Dave by Dave Higgins, and he asked me if we might consider sponsoring him. Of course the Mad Butcher helped out Shane Cameron, and there was something I really liked about Dave.

“Here was this guy who had turned his life around, who was as brash in the ring as he was polite out of it. And he was committed to doing everything he could to help others. He was into the sport sure, but he was also into motivational speaking to help other people. I’m proud to be involved with him. He’s a great guy with a huge heart.”

It’s been a long journey for the man who answered a call from Duco for anyone who thought they had what it takes to survive in the ring.

Only last year, Dave admits he was fat, weighing in around 200 kilos. Today he’s - give or take - 110kgs. And it is that he is most proud of.

“I started off by knocking out the sugar. But I don’t do the crazy things, just stopped putting it in stuff. You have to be realistic or it just gets too hard. But I don’t do soft-drinks, and at the end of the day I just want people to look at me and think if he can do it, so can I.”

Letele has an army of Facebook followers – Buttbeaners. “But it’s a private thing, you have to be invited. We share our tips and journeys, and it’s always positive. We help each other.”

His website, buttbeanmotivation.co.nz, is proof he is the real deal. There are before and after snaps and he pictures of meals he cooks.

Letele has come a long way. His father was in the Mongrel Mob, then jail. He went straight, but lapsed and ended up inside again.

He packed Letele off to Australia, to his Samoan Seventh Day Adventist grandparents to get him away from the life.

He’s turned his life around, and today can be found running the Grace Foundation - an organisation that works tirelessly with disadvantaged people.

Letele was no saint either. In his early 20s he drank – and fought – heavily. He once even stabbed himself in the chest. “Stupid, angry drunk...”

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

When he came home, it was his father who put him up in a room in one of the foundation's houses. He was dead-set against his son getting into boxing. His Mum worries her boy might get hurt, and still doesn't like all the Buttabeen nonsense.

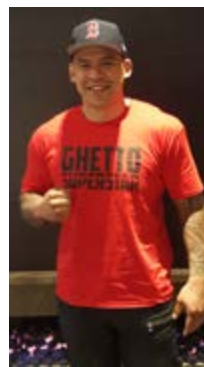
"I'm not Josph Parker, so I've done things to get attention. I'm the baddest of the bad but I just tell Mum not to read that stuff."

But being taunted as a fool must have its downside, surely? "I take it seriously, and if that means I have to play the fool to get noticed, so be it. But when you step in the ring, you still better have something to back it up. I'll admit there probably is a bit of Buttabeen in me, but my partner makes me pull my head in."

Meanwhile Higgins is tucking into some sushi. "You could say Dave saved me. I only got into the weight loss thing when he said he'd take me to Germany to watch Joseph fight. I really wanted to go and Dave said if I couldn't fit in economy, I could stay home. He gave me a job and my brief was to be the Buttabeen." The rest, as they say, is history – history still in the making.

And with his somewhat chequered background, Letele strives to be a bad man in the ring and a better one out of it.

"If you are going to belong to something, you might as well belong to something good."



The Brown Buttabeen



Brown Buttabeen v Loni 'Tongan Bear' Uhila Photo: Andrew Cornaga / www.photosport.nz

Don't Panic – Sonny Bill is Coming

By John Coffey QSM



DO I detect signs of panic in the wake of the United States beating the All Blacks Sevens not once, but twice, in that traditional rugby hotbed of Dubai? Suddenly, there is fear that New Zealand is not guaranteed a gold medal when the abbreviated version of rugby union makes its Olympic Games debut at Rio next year.

Surely those suffering from Sevens stress know that salvation (aka Sonny Bill Williams), a spectator at Dubai, is on the way via Lebanon, where he has been inspecting UNICEF refugee camps and meeting the World Cup-qualified Lebanon rugby league training squad. And we know SBW can do anything in sport – anything, that is, except get himself into a Kiwis team which beats the Kangaroos.

Most of us sports buffs are aware that 15-a-side rugby has featured in previous Olympics, and that the United States has been the reigning champion since 1924. But fewer people – at least among those I have a weekly beer with – know that New Zealand has actually shared a rugby gold medal. We did that without actually having a player lace on a boot!

Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympics at Athens in 1896, was also a French rugby referee. But rugby was, well, all Greek to the Greeks and was not played at Athens. But when Paris staged the second Olympics in 1900 rugby was included and entries were received from France, Germany and Great Britain. The French won gold by beating Germany (represented by the Frankfurt club) 27-17 and Great Britain (represented by the Moseley Wanderers club) 27-8.

American city St Louis gave rugby a miss in 1904 but it returned at London four years later. Again, there were three entries, Australasia, France and Great Britain. By coincidence, the first Wallabies were touring Britain that year and expressed interest in competing. The first Kangaroos were also in the country, but they had all been banned for life from amateur sport and were associating with those other banned rebels from the Northern Union.

Continued on next page..

Continued from previous page..

In those days Australia and New Zealand sent combined Australasian teams to the Games, so we get to reflect in the golden glory. Incredibly, there was only one match and no bronze medal at the 1908 Olympic after holder France withdrew because it could not field a team. The best English and Welsh players were touring New Zealand at the time so the England RU sent Cornwall, a county team which had already lost to the Wallabies 18-5 on their tour. The Olympic scoreline was even more one-sided, 32-3, on a foggy day at White City Stadium.

It is not a triumph that Australasian rugby union historians boast about. In 1909 fourteen of the Wallabies switched codes and played a series of matches against the Kangaroos under Northern Union rules in Sydney. Rugby union authorities predictably, and disastrously, banned them for life and, with others having retired after their British tour, they deprived themselves of all their best players. Most Sydney footy fans have ever since been going to watch their favourite players and clubs under 13-a-side rules.

After being excluded from the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm and with war cancelling the 1916 Games, rugby resurfaced at Antwerp in 1920. The United States sent a group of mostly university players from Stanford, Berkeley and Santa Clara. They arrived in Antwerp to find Czechoslovakia and Romania had withdrawn, leaving only themselves and France. Another one-game "tournament". Though they had many young men new to the sport, the Yanks beat the French 8-0. One of their players, Morris Kerskey, also took home a silver medal from the 100 metres and a gold from the sprint relay.

United States successfully defended the title at Paris in 1924, against France and Romania. The Romanians were outclassed, and the largely Californian-based Americans again upset France in the final, this time by 17-3. That caused a crowd riot and the medal presentation was held under police protection – gold for the US, silver for France, and bronze for Romania, which had conceded 98 points and scored three in its two games. Was there ever a more unworthy Olympic medal?

The pitch invasion by angry French fans and a lack of entries had given rugby a poor image. There was also a desire to include more individual events in future games and when Pierre de Coubertin stepped down as head of the Olympic movement in 1925 it lost its main advocate. An application for rugby to be included in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics was declined but there were non-medal exhibition games involving four European nations at Berlin in 1936.

Rugby's only other influence on the Olympics occurred in 1976, when 22 African countries and Guyana boycotted the Montreal Games in protest at the All Blacks touring South Africa, whose apartheid policies caused it to be banned from the Olympics from 1964. Because rugby union was no longer an Olympic sport, the IOC refused to exclude New Zealand, so world 1500m champion Filbert Bayi and many other outstanding athletes packed their kitbags and went home. It was a sad ending to rugby's undistinguished Olympic involvement.

Win Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines Passes

Just get a mate to subscribe to the Mad Butcher Club Newsletter by emailing: stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz, make sure they mention your name and you'll be in to win a double pass*.

Terms and conditions: One entry per person. Competition closes Thursday 21 January at 11.59pm and will be drawn on Friday 22 January, 2016.



Review of 2015 in Sports

By Ben Francis



FIRSTLY I want to say how awesome it was going to Cold Chisel at the Villa Maria Winery on December 6th, it was a fantastic night and great to see lots of Warriors gear at the concert. Of course Cold Chisel was the band who rocked the NRL grand final and they did the exact same for all their fans on that Sunday night.

As we hit the closing weeks of 2015, it's time to look back on 2015 and think what an incredible year it has been. It gets us excited for what's around the corner in 2016. So here are my top 5 moments from 2015

5) Japan beating South Africa - easily the biggest upset in Rugby history, four minutes into stoppage time Japan crossed the try line and the world went crazy. The look on Jean DeVilliers face is one I will never forget. The forward power and dominance showed and this game clearly showed how much Eddie Jones did for Japanese Rugby. Japan Fullback Ayumu Goromaru was easily one of the players of the tournament and his performance in the biggest game of his life showed why. Sadly for Japan fans they missed out on the Quarter finals. Potentially poor scheduling of games didn't favour them but they all won us over. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

4) Two Match Winners - I wanted both these in the top 5 but couldn't fit them in so this is the cheeky way out. Firstly the man who nobody wanted in the World Cup squad hit the winning six (funnily against the country of his birth) against South Africa to put the Black Caps in the Cricket World Cup final. I was disappointed with this cause I was dead set confident on South Africa winning the World Cup. But what a hit, after not being wanted Elliott became one of New Zealand's favourites in 2015. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

The other incredible match winner was Ekene Ibekwe buzzer beater to give the Breakers their fourth NBL Championship in five seasons. The return of Cedric Jackson was huge in the Breakers run to the title but this shot was one of the best I had ever seen. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

3) Highlanders winning the Super Rugby - what a display of Rugby from the Highlanders in 2015, when it counted most they played excellent which ultimately got them home. The core of players they have just seemed to work superbly like a well oiled machine. Marty Banks drop goal will still haunt me after I lost out on the sweepstakes with picking the score (I predicted 18-14) but the Highlanders deserved victory(21-18) They may of not had the dominant round robin but led by Aaron Smith, Lima Sopoaga in the backs and Elliott Dixon, Nasi Manu in the forwards it was destiny for the Southern men to claim victory leaving their grand final opponents (Hurricanes) the only New Zealand team without a Super Rugby Title. I found this to be the best Super Rugby final I have seen. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

2) Superbowl XLIX - voted by NFL fans as the "Greatest NFL game of all time" sums it up really, cause it was. The two most deserving and dominate teams going face to face for America's biggest sporting prize. Tom Brady Lead the New England Patriots to a 28-24 lead with minutes on the clock. Seattle Quarterback Russell Wilson lead the Seahawk's to the 1yard line with 26 seconds to play, Seattle looked like they were going to win... Till Rookie Malcolm Butler intercepted Russell Wilson's pass to give New England the victory. Just like Jean DeVilliers, the look on Seattle Cornerback Richard Sherman's face when the ball was picked off is one I will always remember. Seattle should have won, but New England were deserving winners. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

1) NRL Grand Final - Yes, sorry Rugby Fans, the All Blacks winning the World Cup doesn't make my top five. The dream story of Johnathan Thurston guiding the Cowboys to their first NRL title is hands down my favourite sporting moment of 2015. This game was also defiantly the game of 2015 it had everything. When Kyle Feldt scored the try to tie the game up, I was jumping up and down like crazy, thinking JT has his legacy in his hand. All he had to do was nail a sideline conversion. It was going over but it missed, the football gods didn't want the game to end that way. Luckily for Thurston he got the chance to kick a match winning field goal to give the Cowboys a 17-16 win over the Broncos. Like most league fans, I was happy for Thurston, we all knew how badly he wanted it and how much he was willing to sacrifice to win the Cowboys a title. He achieved that, now he will go down as one of the greats of the game. [Watch it on Youtube.](#)

Continued on next page...

What To Expect In 2016

THAT WAS the best of 2015, now here are three things I think will happen in sports in 2016

1) **The Golden State Warriors will break the 95-96 Bulls 72-10 record** - The Warriors are on track to break nearly every NBA record imaginable. They started the season 24-1 and don't look like slowing down. The only way breaking this record will be broken is if the players can stay healthy and don't miss any long periods. If they do, The Warriors I believe will have a 75-7 record. Only time will tell if that will be achieved. Last year the Warriors finished 67-15 and won the 2015 NBA championship. If you have not watched or seen the GSW play before, just go on youtube at watch some highlights. Trust me you will be impressed.

2) **The new All Blacks era** - This is how the All Blacks will line up next year Ben Smith, Nehe Milner-Skudder, Ryan Crotty, Charlie Ngatai, Julian Savea, Lima Sopoaga, Aaron Smith, Kieran Read (c) Sam Cane, Jerome Kaino, Sam Whitelock, Brodie Retallick, Charlie Faumuina, Dane Coles, Joe Moody. I know most will disagree and this is all pending injuries etc but this is the team to lead us to glory in the coming years.

3) **This will be New Zealand's most successful Olympics ever** - I think it's slipped many people's mind that the Olympics are next year. New Zealand will be looking to improve on the 13 medals they won in London 2012 and I think they will beat that mark. I'm predicting around 15-17 medals will be won. The thirteen won in London tied New Zealand with the most they have ever on at the Olympics with the other time being at Seoul in 1988. Expect our Rowers, Lisa Carrington, Blair Tuke - Peter Burling, Valarie Adams and many others to win medals in Rio 2016



Support our sponsors as they help support this newsletter.

Get movie deals any day of the week



Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays

Visit 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. One 2 for 1 Movie Voucher offer per person, per week.

Vodafone Welcomes New Warriors Signings



Vodafone CEO Russell Stanners welcoming the newest recruits and presenting them with their playing jerseys.



Isaac Luke answering all questions with humour to the Vodafone staff crowd.



Vodafone staff got up close and personal with their questions, selfies and signing session.



Vodafone's Culture Group gave a very powerful and unique welcome to the newest recruits into the Vodafone whanau.



Renee Ruka, one of the many Vodafone staff, grabs a selfie with Isaac.



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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

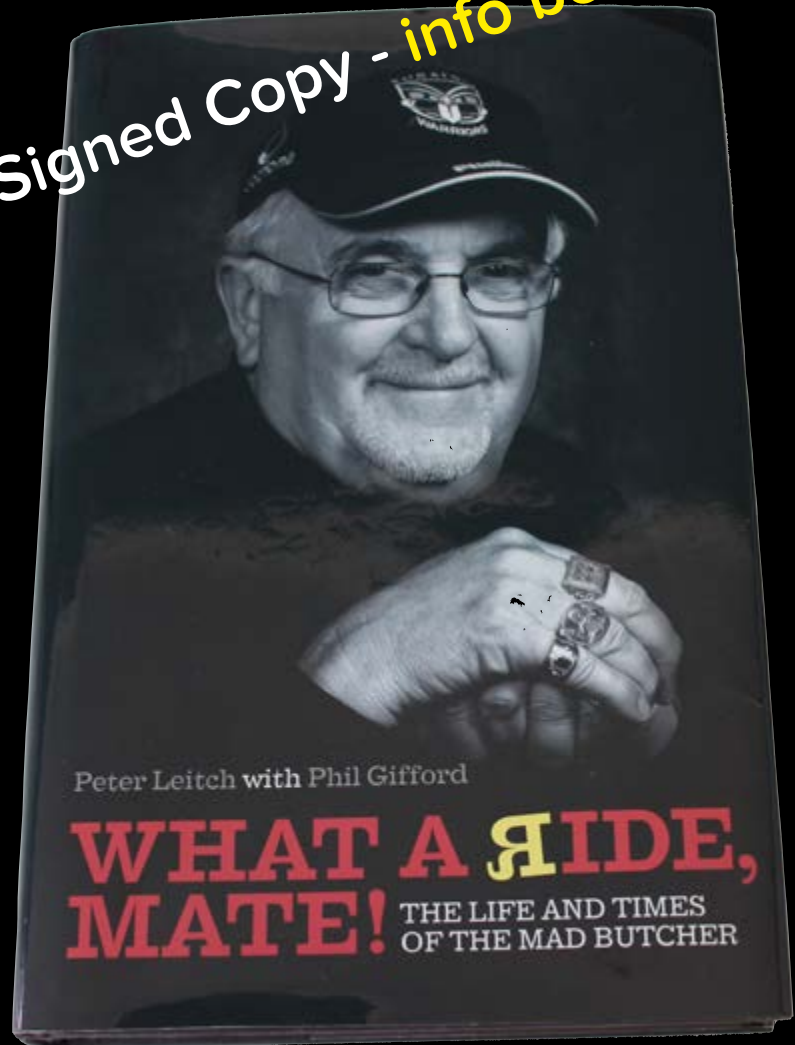
Your last chance to grab a copy before **Christmas!**



Perfect for under the Christmas tree!

Deposit **today** and I will send **tomorrow!**

Signed Copy - info below



Watch the book launch.
[Click here!](#)

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 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

Robyn Loves My Book

GOT THIS book today and by page 24 it had me in stitches, what a great read this book is, thoroughly enjoying it and would recommend it as a book to buy and enjoy the Mad Butcher's journey!

Regards, Robyn Rota
Manly, Sydney



A Wonderful Thank You from A Winner

Hi Peter,

JUST A quick e-mail to say thank you very much to you and De Walt for the extremely impressive (and manly) tape measure I won. Be assured this will be well used.

Keep up the good work and try not to overextend yourself.

God Bless

Baden



Watch Seven Sharp This Friday!



Watch Seven Sharp this Friday night on TV1 and see what we get up to with this flash car.



**WHERE TO GET THE
2015 OFFICIAL RUGBY
LEAGUE ANNUAL
IN NEW ZEALAND**

Download it now at www.zinio.com



HURRY!
LIMITED TIME ONLY

ONLY
\$NZ8.20

Lovely Thank You's from Jersey Recipients



Hi Sir Peter,

IT WAS a pleasure to meet you at the Warriors Members BBQ. We have (belatedly) posted the photo of Ethan (on your Sir Peter Charles Leitch facebook page) wearing his new Kiwi League jersey (at 3am for the third Kiwis test) and also attach one – I've also attached the video (I'm sure you don't have time but hey, you might get bored!) we took of him opening your parcel – he actually was more excited

than he let on and he wears it every second day!

Thanks again for your time, it was a pleasure to meet you and a very Merry Christmas from our family to you and yours.

With warm regards

The Clark Family

(Simon, Libby and Ethan)

A BIG THANKS from Pam Barrett to Peter for following up on a Heritage Jersey I was fortunate to win in the recent draw. Unfortunately this jersey went missing in transit and upon Peter becoming aware of this he promptly followed up and a few days later I believe with assistance from Dwayne from Canterbury a jersey arrived.

Many thanks and merry xmas.

Pam.



Dear Sir Mad Butcher,

HI MY name is Jacob and I am 11 years old. I live in Halifax and support Huddersfield Giants. I went to the match against England at the KC Stadium in Hull. I also went to a few of the training sessions you had at both Leeds and Hull. I'm very grateful you helped me get all of my photos signed, and at hull before you went to the doctors I had the privilege of watching the kiwis do their gym weight session, many thanks for that. I had a great time meeting you and the rest of the New Zealand team. . Here is a photo of me in my New Zealand Warriors kit and the photo that I got with you. Good luck in the future and all the best with the team. Have a nice Christmas. Thank you. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!!!

Jacob Hirst



KIWI CHAMPION Joseph Parker loves his Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines jersey!



Photo credit:
www.photosport.nz



WARRIORSSTORE.CO.NZ
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE

More Photos from the Vodafone Warriors Christmas Party



If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at 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