



Sir Peter Leitch's **Mad Butcher Club**

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

3 February 2016

Newsletter #107

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.

Downer NRL Auckland Nines This Weekend!

I'M LIKE a cat on hot tin roof. I'm so excited I can hardly wait for the Downer Auckland Nines at Eden Park this weekend.

Of course I am hosting a lounge, and I am lining up visitors for it.

There will be a host of State of Origin stars including "King" Wally Lewis, Matt Cooper, Eric Growthe Jnr, Steve RoachE, Brent Tate and Petero Civoniceva.

I'm hoping all those involved in the Beko Legends Big Kick will drop by at some time too, that's Andrew Johns, Johnathan Thurston, Carlos Spencer and Daryl Halligan.

And on top of that Vodafone Warriors stars Issac Luke and Thomas Leuluai will be by.

Full marks to Duco and Ateed, the arm of the Auckland Council that gets involved in supporting events for our city, for doing such a great job.

Good Side Named

Vodafone Warriors halfback Shaun Johnson makes his comeback from injury at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines at Eden Park on February 6-7.

The 25-year-old leads the Warriors in what will be his third consecutive appearance at the season-opening tournament.

I'm very excited to have him back in action, and I know other fans will be too.

Four of our signings have been selected to make their debuts—Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Blake Ayshford, Jeff Robson and Henare Wells.

Three of our most experienced forwards have also been chosen in Jacob Lillyman, Ben Matulino and Ryan Hoffman, while there's also front row support from Albert Vete, Sam Lisone and Charlie Gubb.

Also on debut will be 18-year-old playmaker Ata Hingano, who won the club's TNT NYC Rookie of the Year last year.

We are in the Hunua Pool with Canterbury, Manly and Brisbane, and start our campaign against the Bulldogs at 2.20pm on February 6, and face Manly at 6.15pm. Our final pool game is the Broncos at 12.40pm on the second day.

The top two teams from each pool advance to the quarter-finals.

The full 18-man Vodafone Warriors squad is: Tuivasa-Sheck, Hoffman, Lillyman, David Fusitu'a, Solomon Kata, Tuimoala Lolohea, Johnson (c), Gubb, Wells, Hurrell, Matulino, Ken Maumalo, Jonathan Wright, Robson, Lisone, Ayshford, Vete, Hingano.

Still Time To Get In

You can still buy a ticket to the Sir Peter Leitch Lounge for \$349 (Excludes food and beverage). Just visit www.ticketek.co.nz/nines

There's reserved covered seating, great elevated views of the field, lounge access with guest speakers and a cash bar with food and beverage available.

Kiwis Get Perth Date

You will all have heard by now that my beloved Kiwis have confirmed a second trans-Tasman test, in Perth on October 15.

It will be Perth's first league test – and a nice warm-up as we prepare to defend our Four Nations title.

We could actually meet Australia four times this year, if we meet in the Four Nations final.

Perth has become a regular stopover for the NRL, with two games allocated this season, including the Vodafone Warriors v Manly on July 16.

It's All Go For Serbia

Serbia are preparing for the Rugby League World Cup Qualifiers – Europe, by going on an a two-week tour of Australia. They took part in the Cabramatta 9s and play an international against the Philippines, in the first visit of its kind by the currently 11th-ranked nation.

And In Spain

Two late tries saw Custodians Madrid take the 2016 Spanish Cup, beating holders Valencian Warrior 40-30, with winger Pedro Andujar scoring 16 points for the victors. Also staged was a development match between two new sides, and a women's game.

Even In Lebanon

The fourth season of Lebanon Schools competition kicks off with the Mt Lebanon Championship seeing four teams in action, with a double-header seeing Notre Dame de Louaise and St Joseph School begin the campaign, followed by Broumana High against Antonine International. All the teams have been in training since October.

New Look For Warriors Board

The Vodafone Warriors' board structure has been reshaped after Eric Watson became sole owner.

Under the new model Watson becomes chairman, taking over from Bill Wavis, who remains on the board as a director.

"With Eric the sole owner it's logical he should become chairman," Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle said. "It will mean he and I have a closer working relationship."

As well as Watson becoming chairman, Owen Eastwood, Cameron George and Niki Schuck have been appointed directors.

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“By bringing on Owen, Cameron and Niki, the board now includes expertise covering all aspects of the business,” Doyle said.

Southland-raised Eastwood, a lawyer, is a consultant to teams and organisations on developing high performance team culture. He has previous associations with the All Blacks, Chelsea FC, the South African cricket team, and the military command group of NATO, while he is currently retained by the City Football Group (working with Manchester City, New York City and Melbourne City), the Scotland rugby team, the executive committee of Investec and the Football Association (working with the England national football teams).

Australian-born George, the Auckland Racing Club's CEO since 2012, brings commercial, corporate, event management and fan engagement skills to the board.

Dunedin-born Schuck provides expertise in public relations and communications. She runs her own PR and talent management company.

Board: Owner and chairman, Eric Watson; managing director, Jim Doyle; existing directors, Bill Birnie, Justin Davis-Rice, Don Stanaway and Bill Wavish; new directors, Owen Eastwood, Cameron George, Niki Schuck.

Boys To Visit Otara

If you're as excited as I am about the Downer NRL Auckland Nines, come and show the boys your support on Thursday afternoon when they head to Ngatai Otara Park on the corner of Alexander Crescent and Otara Rd for a community visit.

All 18 players in our Nines squad will be in attendance, hanging out with the Otara Scorpions and their passionate supporters.

The squad is due to arrive about 5pm and will stay until 6:30pm. Players will sign autographs, run some drills - and be on the lookout for the next Manu Vatuvei!

Members Get Special Access

Vodafone Warriors members heading to the Downer NRL Auckland Nines will again be treated to exclusive access to the NRL and Sportsnet Members Lounge on Downer Auckland Nines Fan Day at Aotea Square.

Club members will be able to meet with players

from each Nines squad, create video clips with their favourite players, relax with family and friends, and receive photographic keepsakes in what is sure to be a must-attend event the day before the Nines.

With the lounge open from 10am to 4pm on Friday, it will provide club members with the perfect chance to prepare for one of the most exciting weekends of league the NRL has to offer.

Perth Deal On Offer

Vodafone warriors Members can now buy tickets for the blockbuster clash against Manly in Perth on Saturday, July 16. The NRL is promoting a special two-game package that includes a ticket to the Manly game and also the Kiwis' Test against the Kangaroos in October. It is the only option available to supporters to secure a ticket for the international.

Visit www.warriors.co.nz to check it out.

Grab A Ticket For The 'Naki

Vodafone Warriors members will get an exclusive 24-hour window to purchase individual game tickets to our home matches from midday on Thursday, when they go on pre-sale through ticketek.co.nz. Tickets to our home game in New Plymouth will also be up for grabs on ticketdirect.co.nz from 9am on the same day, with only members able to purchase for 24 hours.

Members also get a 10% discount on additional ticket purchases. Use the code **VWMEMBER2016** to access your tickets.



Downer NRL Auckland Nines Draw for this Weekend!



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

Day 1	TIME	MATCHES	
Game 1	12:30 PM	Roosters	Rabbitohs
Game 2	12:55 PM	Eels	Storm
Game 3	1:20 PM	Knights	Cowboys
Game 4	1:45 PM	Panthers	Tigers
Game 5	2:20 PM	Warriors	Bulldogs
Game 6	2:45 PM	Sea Eagles	Broncos
Game 7	3:10 PM	Dragons	Raiders
Game 8	3:35 PM	Sharks	Titans
W1	4:00 PM	NZ	Australia
Game 9	4:25 PM	Roosters	Eels
Game 10	4:50 PM	Rabbitohs	Storm
Game 11	5:15 PM	Knights	Panthers
Game 12	5:40 PM	Cowboys	Tigers
Game 13	6:15 PM	Warriors	Sea Eagles
Game 14	6:40 PM	Bulldogs	Broncos
Game 15	7:05 PM	Dragons	Sharks
Game 16	7:30 PM	Raiders	Titans

Day 2	TIME	MATCHES	
Game 17	10:35 AM	Roosters	Storm
Game 18	11:00 AM	Rabbitohs	Eels
Game 19	11:25 AM	Knights	Tigers
Game 20	11:50 AM	Cowboys	Panthers
Game 21	12:15 PM	Bulldogs	Sea Eagles
Game 22	12:40 PM	Warriors	Broncos
Game 23	1:05 PM	Dragons	Titans
Game 24	1:30 PM	Raiders	Sharks
QF1	1:55 PM	1st Waiheke v 2nd Rangitoto	
QF2	2:20 PM	2nd Waiheke v 1st Rangitoto	
QF3	3:05 PM	1st Hunua v 2nd Piha	
QF4	3:30 PM	2nd Hunua v 1st Piha	
W2	4:05 PM	NZ	Australia
SF1	4:40 PM	Winner QF1 v Winner QF2	
SF2	5:05 PM	Winner QF3 v Winner QF4	
W3	5:45 PM	NZ	Australia
Final	6:40 PM	Winner SF1 v Winner SF2	



HOST CITY

AKL
The Show
Never
Stops

**DOWNER
NRL AUCKLAND NINES**

FAN @ DAY

AOTEA SQUARE • FRI 5 FEB

This Friday!

**Meet all 288+ NRL players, plus free
family fun and giveaways.**



aucklandnz.com/nines

This Friday!



HOST CITY

2016 DOWNER
NRL AUCKLAND NINES

FAN DAY

AOTEA SQUARE • FRI 5 FEB



Kick off your ultimate weekend of league at the FREE Downer NRL Auckland Nines Fan Day. Meet the players for signings and selfies and enjoy live entertainment and activities.

MEET ALL 288+ NRL NINES PLAYERS

10AM – 11AM

North Queensland Cowboys
Manly Warringah Sea Eagles

11AM – 12PM

Sydney Roosters
Wests Tigers
St George Illawarra Dragons

12PM – 1PM

Newcastle Knights
South Sydney Rabbitohs
Penrith Panthers

1PM – 2PM

Melbourne Storm
Canberra Raiders

2PM – 3PM

Gold Coast Titans
Brisbane Broncos
Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks

3PM – 4PM

Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs
Parramatta Eels
Vodafone Warriors
Kiwi Ferns

aucklandnz.com/nines What's on in AKL

COMMUNITY CLUB PROGRAMME VISITS 2016



**MEET YOUR FAVOURITE NRL STARS AT YOUR LOCAL
AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB. FREE ATTENDANCE.**

Events This Thursday

Club	Team	Programme
Glenora Bears	Cronulla Sharks	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Hibiscus Coast Raiders	North Queensland Cowboys	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Manurewa Marlins	Melbourne Storm	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
New Lynn Stags	Sydney Roosters	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Northcote Tigers	Wests Tigers	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Otara Scorpions	Vodafone Warriors	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Pt Chevalier Pirates	Penrith Panthers	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Waitemata Seagulls (Ranui)	Newcastle Knights	5.00pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Bay Roskill Vikings	Canberra Raiders	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Mangere East Hawks	South Sydney Rabbitohs	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Marist Saints	Brisbane Broncos	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Mt Wellington	Gold Coast Titans	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Otahuhu Leopards	Manly Sea Eagles	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Pakuranga Jaguars	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Papatoetoe Panthers	Paramatta Eels	6.45pm Thursday 4 February 2016
Papakura Sea Eagles	St George-Illawara Dragons	4.30pm Friday 5 February 2016

**GET YOUR TICKETS TO THE DOWNER NRL AUCKLAND NINES TODAY
SATURDAY 6 & SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 2016**



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

» TWO DAY TICKETS FROM \$69* » KIDS HALF PRICE**

BOOK NOW

WWW.TICKETEK.CO.NZ/NINES

*Booking and venue fees apply **In most Categories

Downer NRL Auckland Nines

Corporate Hospitality For This Weekend

THIS IS the LAST chance to host your clients at 'The Greatest Weekend' of Rugby League, the Downer NRL Auckland Nines! With only ONE week left to go, we wouldn't want you to miss the chance to experience two action packed days of sporting brilliance.

Great news for Warriors fans, Shaun Johnson has been named Warriors Captain and will be lining up alongside new big star signing Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and a team stacked full of experience and speed.

See below for the corporate experience which best suits you and your clients.

Grand Bazaar (Single tickets also available)

\$9,995 + GST (including food and beverage package)

- Host up to 20 clients (10 per day)
- Unlimited access to all market food stalls and a full buffet each day
- A preloaded TAB card to purchase beverages for you and your guests
- Great entertainment and guest speakers throughout the day
- Opportunity to network with other influential industry bodies

Outdoor Corporate Reserve (Limited number available)

\$7,995 + GST (including food and beverage package)

- Host up to 24 clients (12 per day)
- Access to the Grand Bazaar with 12 premium seats and your own beverage fridge
- Limited access to the Market food stalls and full access to the buffet menu each day
- Great entertainment and guest speakers throughout the day
- Opportunity to network with other influential industry bodies

Sir Peter Leitch Lounge, Elite Seat, North Stand

\$349pp incl GST (excluding food and beverage)

- Set yourself up in the North Stand lounge with your own reserved, covered seat included
- Listen to our special guest speakers
- Exclusive access to a cash bar with a wide range of food and beverage available

For any corporate hospitality enquiries and bookings, contact Donna Churton at donna@duco.co.nz or call + 64 9 309-2400 or + 64 27 545-5353.

Downer NRL Auckland Nines Merchandise



MORE STYLES AVAILABLE AT THE EVENT!



Replica Onfield Jersey
Mens \$180
Kids \$130



Screen Printed T-shirts
Adults \$40
Kids \$35



Nines Graphic Tee
Mens \$50



Nines Event Cap
\$40



Nines Event Jersey
Mens \$150



Nines Event Singlet
\$60



Nines Event Bucket
\$40

Nines Event Basketball Singlet
\$80



The Warriors are the Hot Favourite for the Nines but will be Conscious of their Priorities

By John Deaker



THE NEW Zealand Warriors are the raging hot favourite to win the Downer Auckland Nines this week. Most bookies opened the Warriors' odds at \$4.00 to win their home tournament for the first time. It shows how much value is placed on the the Warriors' home ground advantage as well as the presence of super-stars Shaun Johnson and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck in their squad.

The biggest advantage that playing at home actually provides the Warriors with is the quality of player depth in their squad ; they've been willing to name more of their regular NRL players than most teams and players like Tuimoala Lolohea and Konrad Hurrell have the potential to cause nearly as much damage as Johnson and Tuivasa-Sheck.

One of the fascinating things about the Nines is the difficulty coaches have deciding how much to risk their star players. Tournaments regulations state that teams have to name 1 of their top 5 players in their 18 man squads – but that doesn't necessarily mean they'll be playing them all the time or even pushing one of their most valued assets back on the field if they pick up the odd strain or bruise.

This makes the Nines weekend an anxious one for the Warriors' club's management. After not making the top 8 last year there's an expectation from fans that the team needs to start getting the results on the field that the tremendous talent in their squad demands. However, CEO Jim Doyle, coach Andrew McFadden and all the players know that come September this year no one will care who won the Nines – and if the Warriors aren't still fighting it out for a place in the Grand Final no one will be saying "But we won the Nines".



THE GREATEST WEEKEND!

SAT 6 & SUN 7 FEB, 2016

EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND

» I DON'T WANT TO JINX IT, BUT I
THINK WE'LL GO CLOSE TO WINNING
THE NRL AUCKLAND NINES. «
ERIC WATSON, WARRIORS OWNER

Book now at Ticketek

**2 X DAY TICKETS
FROM \$69***
*Fees apply



This Weekend!

Win 1 of 10 Vodafone Warriors Nines Jerseys

To enter: **YOU MUST** subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club Newsletter, only one entry per person. Competition closes on **10 February 2016.**

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

Nines Jersey
Giveaway
P.O Box 54295
The Marina 2144,
Manukau, Auckland
New Zealand



Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email:
Jersey Size:



International Giveaway!

To be eligible you must be subscribed. To subscribe email:
stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

The Best Cricket Story of the Week

By John Coffey QSM



THE WEEK'S best cricket story was not New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden's momentary loss of sight and hearing which enabled the Black Caps to beat Pakistan at Eden Park. Nor was it India's last-ball Twenty/20 victory over Australia. Not even the New Zealand under-19 team's shock defeat by Nepal (no kidding) at their world tournament in Bangladesh.

It was Buller's victory over Canterbury Country in the Hawke Cup challenge at Rangiora. The only previous connection between the tiny west coast province and the symbol of supremacy among the nation's minor associations was 1910 – the year the Buller association was formed and the year the cup was presented by former England captain Lord Hawke.

That Buller had earned a cup challenge seemed to be sensational enough. It is annually lumped into the same qualifying group as Hawke Cup powerhouses Nelson and Canterbury Country, plus Marlborough and the now-in-recess West Coast. To take on holder Country the Buller boys had to beat Marlborough and then at least draw with Nelson at Nelson.

They achieved that by batting for a day and a half of the two-day match to reach 522 for seven wickets, with Andrew Duncan scoring 157 and captain Troy Scanlon 118 not out. By then the Nelson players were on their knees and conceded. It was a hilarious bus trip home to Westport, contemplating Buller's first cup challenge in 106 years.

Scanlon and his players had three weeks to come to terms with the enormity of their task. Buller has only four club teams, one of them from the local high school. Because there are only about 24 adult players, other youngsters have to be drafted in each week. Every team is accustomed to making frantic Friday phone calls to fill the gaps.

Because of the climate, there are no grass wickets to play on. The representative pitch is an artificial strip at Buller High School, while the main rugby ground, Victoria Square, has a unique wooden wicket which is covered in the footy season. So Buller players have to make the difficult adjustments of playing on grass, with its irregular bounce, pace and spin, in their away Hawke Cup games. It is much easier for other sides to switch from grass to artificial.

Star batsman Duncan played for Canterbury A (second XI) some years ago. For a time he and all-rounder Scanlon travelled the four and a half hours to Christchurch for club cricket, then drove home again. In recent seasons they have worked hard to improve club cricket in Buller and last weekend's stunning win was their deserved reward.

Country had former Black Cap Shanan Stewart as player-coach, Canterbury representative Henry Shipley, four current Canterbury A players and Scottish international Gavin Main. It was captained by former Canterbury wicketkeeper Andrew Robertson. Country had won the cup off Manawatu, defended it against North Otago, and were familiar with three-day cricket.

When the Buller lads arrived in Rangiora they were confronted by a patchy, under-prepared pitch because the original strip had been accidentally drenched by the irrigation system. There were delays on the first two days as Buller staggered to 120 and then dumbfounded the locals by dismissing them for 79. A first innings victory would be enough to win the cup.

That meant Buller had to bat for most of a third day extended to 98 overs to make up for the lost time. Only by winning outright could Country avoid embarrassment and keep the trophy. Duncan and Scanlon were the obvious hurdles for a bowling attack spearheaded by fiery young fast bowler Will Williams, who had taken a career-best 9/38 in the first innings.

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When Duncan and Scanlon went cheaply, others had to step up. Counting down the number of remaining overs was as important as scoring runs. Others had to step up, and did. Opener Michael Grafton (54) defied Country for almost four hours and 178 balls; Max McDonald took 49 balls to score and finished with eight runs from 77 balls in 101 minutes; tail ender Clinton Harvey was struck on the helmet and three times on the body but survived 23 balls and half an hour for his three not out. It was just enough.

Country required 188 runs to win in 27 overs on a pitch which had flattened out. Scanlon knew he would have to bowl 14 consecutive overs at one end, and did. Stewart was a major threat until Scanlon dismissed him for 54. Country slipped behind the required rate before accelerating towards an incredible finish. Six wickets fell but the runs still flowed.

It came down to a last-over, 18-run shootout between rival captains, Robertson and Scanlon. The target was more than halved when Robertson thumped the first two balls for four and six. But Scanlon held his nerve and, finally, Robertson needed to hit the last delivery for six to keep the cup. He could manage only a single and Buller had won by four runs.

Some of Buller's ecstatic supporters had left Westport at 5am to cross the Alps. Celebrations were sure to be wet and long, and a civic reception was soon arranged. An unprepared NZC official said decisions would have to be made about whether Buller could defend the Hawke Cup on an artificial pitch or the matches transferred to Blenheim or Nelson. But that was a problem for another day.



diabetes
new zealand



Diabetes New Zealand is the proud partner of the **FABruary 2016 launch in New Zealand** - a campaign designed to raise awareness of the obesity epidemic and the health related risks. With 1 in 4 New Zealanders estimated to have pre-diabetes, Diabetes NZ needs all New Zealanders to understand that a person's risk of progressing from pre-diabetes to type 2 diabetes can be roughly halved if they lose weight, change their diet and increase their exercise.

FABruary is a month long programme with ambassadors (Clinton Toopi, Manu Vatuva, Sam Charlton, Nickson Clark to name a few) committed to work on their Food choices, physical activity and beverage choices over the month. Check out more details by going to our website <http://www.diabetes.org.nz/Fabruary>

Super Bowl Sunday More than Just a Game

By Ben Francis



IKNOW MANY people reading this article right now won't be watching, but I defiantly will be. That's right this coming Monday, 8th February (New Zealand Time) Super Bowl 50 will be taking place between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos. Super Bowl Sunday is arguably one of the biggest annual events in America. It's like an unofficial public holiday. In America alone you can expect well over 110million TVs. Last year's Matchup between the Seattle Seahawks and the New England Patriots set a record for the biggest to audience in American history. Even sports fans watch parts of Super Bowl due to the big named artists/bands who preform at halftime (Cold Play, Beyoncé & Bruno Mars are expended to be performing this year) and also the commercials which companies pay \$5million US + to broadcast during the game. Back during the first Super Bowl companies paid \$42,500.

On the field however it should be a cracking matchup between two elite defences and to different quarterbacks, the Panthers being led by Cam Newton and the Broncos having Peyton Manning steering the ship. As said at the conclusion over every season the big question is will Peyton Manning finally retire and many believe this is the end for him. Manning spend a good portion of the season out due to injury but when he played it wasn't pretty throwing 9touchdown to 17interceptions for a future Hall Of Famer isn't pretty. But since returning Manning has been on form. A loss would hurt Manning's legacy as he has already lost two Super Bowls in his career but also won one. Manning is without doubting of the best regular season QB ever but a loss in the super Bowl will hurt his overall legacy. Manning is 13-13 in Postseason NFL games and 186-79 in regular season games. On the other side you have Cam Newton who is on a mission to make his own legacy, Newton is looking to become the first QB who has won a National Championship (College Football) Heisman Trophy (College Football player of the year) , junior college national championship and Super Bowl. To win one of those awards is hard enough let alone all the rest. The Panthers led by Newton finished the regular season with a 15-1 record which is very impressive in today's standards, only one team in NFL HISTORY has had an undefeated season and that the Miami Dolphins of 1972.

On the other side of the ball both teams have had the most dominant defences this season, the Panthers thrive in turnovers and have the chance to claim the record for most turnovers in a season if they can pull off four in this matchup. Whilst the Broncos defensive tacklers and linebackers are causing their oppositions offensive line problems which leads to Quarterback sacks. As seen in the past the way you start the game can ultimately define how the game is played out. Going back to Super Bowl 48 between the Denver Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks it was expected to be close, but the Broncos made a big mistake on the second play of the game and they went onto get crushed 43-8 a record margin.

Based on form alone this season it's very difficult to bet against the Carolina Panthers, Newton has just dominated and that defence is just amazing. If the Panthers get off to a fast start and their defence comes up with a big play it will be over quickly. I'm picking the Carolina Panthers to win 31 – 16. Newton will lead the start of this Panthers Dynasty while Manning will still go down as one of the greats who didn't achieve as much as he would have hoped.

Facts About Super Bowl You May Not Have Known

Nothing beats sports talk with your mates, but what makes it more fun is when you know stuff that they don't know, so here are some facts about Super Bowl that your mates probably didn't know about



Denver, CO, USA - Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning throws during the fourth quarter of the AFC Championship. Photo: Colorado Springs Gazette/Zuma Press/Icon Sportswire

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This year the Denver Broncos will play in their 8th Super Bowl which puts them tied for the most Super Bowl appearances in history along with the Dallas Cowboys, Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots. This will be the Panthers 2nd Super Bowl appearance.

The day after Super Bowl Sunday an average of 1.5million Americans will call in sick, in other words, the entire Auckland population would call in sick for work.

People love to eat on Super Bowl Sunday. It's the second largest food consumption day of the year only behind thanksgiving, oh and Pizza Delivery drivers involved in crashes increases by 37% on this day also.

Only 4 of the current 32 NFL team have never played in a Super Bowl, they are the Cleveland Browns, Houston Texans, Jacksonville Jaguars & Detroit Lions

Super Bowl is the second most watched annual sporting event in the world, the UEFA Champions League final draws the biggest audience every year in the world of sports.

If the Broncos win, Peyton Manning will be the first Quarter Back to win two Super Bowls with two different teams. If the Panthers win Cam Newton will become the send African American Quarter Back to win a Super Bowl. Between these two Quarterbacks, it will be the first time two Number one overall QB's will face off. Manning was the #1 pick in the 1998 NFL draft while Newton was the #1 pick in 2011. It's also the biggest age gap between two Quarterbacks in a Super Bowl with a 13year age gap between Manning (39) and Newton (26)

Back in 1967 when the first ever Super Bowl was played, the most expensive ticket purchased was \$12. In last year's Super Bowl, the most expensive ticket was just a tad more expensive at \$17,800 (All USD)



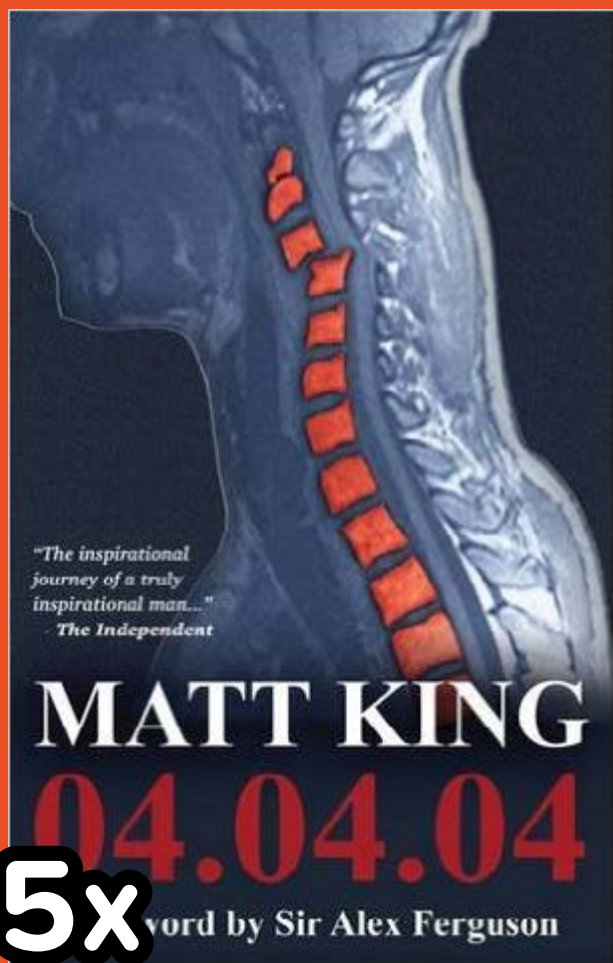
*Denver, CO, USA - Broncos wide receiver Demaryius Thomas is brought down by Patriot defenders Malcolm Butler and Jamie Collins
Photo by Colorado Springs Gazette/Zuma Press/Icon Sportswire.*

South Island Kiwis Association Meeting

The biennial Meeting of the South Island RL Kiwis Association is to be held in the Patrons premises, Woolston on February 19th. The 1977 World Cup captain Tony Coll, now Councillor Coll of Greymouth, is to be inducted as the tenth Life Member of the Association. There are only seven living, with the passing of Bob Aynsley, Mel Cooke and Keith Roberts. The others are Ian Drayton, Jim and John Bond, Allen Amer, Gary Clarke, George Menzies and Jim Fisher. New Vice Presidents to join Mocky Brereton are Raymond Baxendale, Brian Langton, Wally Wilson and Frank Endacott. The first mentioned are former Coasters (Langton from Buller) while the latter two have led and coached teams to beat Auckland. The President Mike O'Donnell, who made his Kiwi debut in 1977 when Coll was captain, will present his former captain with his certificate.

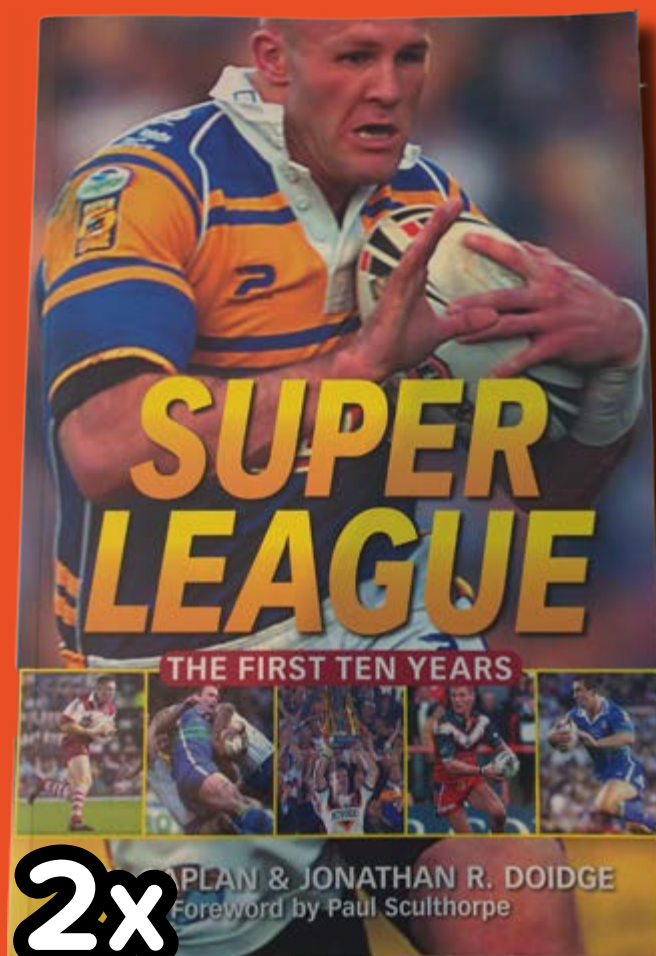
The Warriors game against St George is being held next day in Nelson.

Rugby League Book Giveaway



On the 4th April 2004, Matt King's life changed forever. Making his first tackle as a 17-year-old professional rugby player for London Broncos Academy, his neck snapped. A happy-go-lucky teenager with the world seemingly at his feet; his life, as well as his spinal cord, appeared broken. But, showing the same spirit, resilience, wit and courage that characterised him before the accident, Matt overcame the severe trauma and rebuilt his life.

5 copies to give away.



In March 1996, 100 years after its formation, Rugby League - traditionally a northern English, industrial, working-class game - undertook the biggest rebranding exercise seen in modern sport with a switch to summer and the formation of a twelve-team Super League including the introduction of a European element. Ten seasons later, a third consecutive sell-out crowd at Old Trafford brought a decade of unprecedented change and wholesale transformation to a close. **2 copies to give away.**

Book

Giveaway

P.O Box 54295

The Marina 2144,
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New Zealand



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Pressure on McCullen in Trans-Tasman Series

By Barry Ross



THE TRANS Tasman rivalry will be at its peak this week, with Australians keen to get the better of their Kiwi rivals in their own backyard. When you receive this edition of the newsletter, the ODI cricket series will have already begun. With Brendon McCullum back in the New Zealand side, fireworks are assured. At full flight, he is a wonderful batsman, a highly principled sportsman and a credit to his country. Lets hope his problem back doesn't cause him to miss any of the one day series. Statistics don't lie and an analysis of the New Zealand's captain's career, shows just how valuable he has been to Kiwi cricket since making his Test debut at Hamilton against South Africa on 10 March 2004. In the three forms of the game he has scored 14,377 runs for New Zealand. This is made up of 6,273 Test runs, 5,964 in ODIs and 2,140 in T20 internationals. Before these games with Australia, he had played 99 Tests so lets hope he reaches the century mark in the first Test at Wellington on 12 February. He has also played 256 ODIs and 71 T20s. That is a total of 426 matches for his country. Delving further into his record and you see he has smashed 100 sixes in Test matches, 191 in ODIs and 91 in T20 games. Altogether that is 382 international sixes to go with his 1,514 fours. Add to this his 489 international catches plus 34 stumpings and it is obvious how much he will be missed when he leaves the top class arena.



Brendon McCullum hooks and is caught on the boundary during the New Zealand Black Caps v Pakistan 3rd ODI cricket match. Photo: www.photosport.co.nz

In an unusual move, New South Wales take on Western Australia in a Sheffield Shield game at Christchurch this week. These matches draw paltry crowds in Sydney, so I don't believe it will provide much interest to New Zealanders. It is just a chance for some Aussie Test men, such as off spinner Nathan Lyon and wicketkeeper, Peter Nevill, to experience local conditions before the Tests series begins next week.

Thankfully Rugby League in our part of the world returns this Saturday in the Auckland Nines. I see where Shaun Johnson has been included in the Warriors squad, along with Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. No doubt Shaun will be eased back on to the scene but despite not having played any football for six months, the talented halfback could be one of the stars on Saturday. With four less defenders, he will be given plenty of opportunities to break the line. Hopefully his ankle injury will cause him no problems, both this season and down the track.

Life wasn't meant to be easy is a well used quote and it certainly won't be for the Warriors in the Nines. With Canterbury as their first opponent followed by Manly then the Broncos, they will have their work cut out. At the time of writing this piece, none of three Warriors' opponents have named their squads. But all three coaches will be keen to start 2016 on the right foot. The Bulldogs' Des Hasler, takes all competitions seriously, while Manly's Trent Barrett, will be motivated to start on the right foot in his first assignment with his new club. Wayne Bennett will not have forgotten last year's Grand Final and he would like nothing better than to begin 2016 with the tournament win.

Australian, NSW and Sharks forward, Paul Gallen, won his fifth fight on Friday at Toowoomba. He scored a fourth round TKO over Queensland-based Kiwi, Herman Ene-Purcell and probably pocketed around \$50,000 for his efforts. This was the second time Gallen has beaten Ene-Purcell, while his other victories were against Liam Messam, Hika Elliot and Bodene Thompson. He now has a 5-0 record and is keen to fight Sonny Bill Williams. "I would not call SBW out or disrespect him," Gallen is quoted as saying after Friday's win. But he left no doubt that a fight against Sonny Bill was high on his priority list.

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River Richards... A Rugby League Fanatic

Natasha Fairbrass sent in this wonderful story about a boy she knows named River Richards who lives in Melbourne but is a Rugby League and a huge Warriors fan!

RIVER RICHARDS is an absolute super star when it comes to league.

He is dedicated, passionate, humble and the biggest Warriors fan you will ever meet. He works hard to make pocket money and saves all of his birthday and Christmas money to spend on Warriors gear. He's even been saving hard towards his trip to the nines next week.

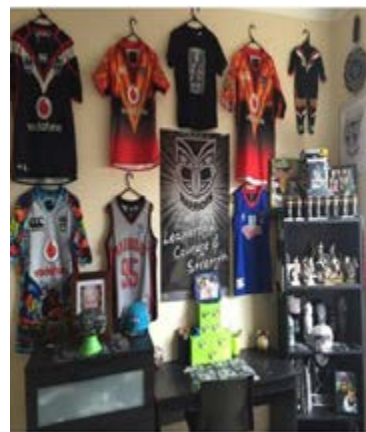
On the field River is an absolute monster, he's a small kid but has amazing speed and beautiful foot work, he's a quick thinker and a smart decision maker and although he is only 10, he's already starting to get noticed all over the place. He's played in Oceania Tag20 tournaments (and won), regional teams, won awards after trophies after awards and has the potential to take league right to the premiers.

From a personal perspective, River and his family are originally from Christchurch and now live in Melbourne. They were here during the earthquakes which really unsettled River and he struggled to settle back into normal life once the quakes died down so his parents made a really hard decision to move to Melbourne.

Living in Melbourne has really opened doors for the family and they are stronger than ever, River settled into school and new sports clubs well, they have made so many wonderful friends and life is ticking along.

Despite living in Melbourne, River is an avid and unfaltering Warriors fan, as are his family, he comes from a league mad family. His Mum, Dad, Nana and Grandad have all spent years managing and coaching league teams amongst many other types of sports in Christchurch.

River, his mum (Amanda) and his dad (Johnny) after saving money for a long time are flying into Christchurch to meet with his Grandad (Mark) and Nana (Shirley) and are then flying into Auckland to go to the nines next week.



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Phil Gould visits Canterbury Rugby League

By Will Evans - Canterbury Rugby League

CHURSTCHURCH HOSTED rugby league royalty on Friday, and the visit by Penrith Panthers GM Phil Gould heralded an ongoing bounty for the code in Canterbury.

A legendary former player and coach, and currently an influential administrator and high-profile media personality, 'Gus' Gould expressed his excitement about the Panthers' partnership with the region.

Penrith will stage its NRL Round 10 home game against the Warriors at Christchurch's AMI Stadium at 5pm on May 14, with 2016 marking the first of four seasons the Panthers will bring an official premiership match to the city.

"I've only been in the city for a few hours, but I'm already buoyed by the enthusiasm," Gould said this morning at a packed press conference at AMI Stadium.

"This journey that led to the Panthers bringing one of our home games here each year for the next four years to Christchurch began several years ago. In the initial stages for us, from a commercial perspective, we were looking to take a couple of home games a year away from our base in Penrith, which we needed to do to increase the awareness of our brand and the commercial aspects of our operation.

Christchurch's Community Need

Gould explained the process the club went through before settling on Christchurch as a viable alternate 'home' venue.

"The first home game we took away was to Bathurst, a NSW country area that the Panthers have a very strong affinity with. For the second game, we had a number of options.

"But from the time I arrived in Christchurch two and a half years ago there was just something about it – Christchurch had a different feel about it.

"Probably our motivation in the early stages for taking games away from Penrith was more based on a commercial reality.

"But there was more to this, there was a community need here that we recognised when we visited the city. From that time on, I have driven our team at the Panthers to make this become a reality. It was important that we became a part – and that rugby league as

a code, and the NRL played its part – in the rebuilding of this city and this community."

Gould's desire to assist the earthquake-stricken city's ongoing recovery was perhaps the most heartening – and surprising – aspect of the Panthers' commitment to Christchurch, while he also stressed the importance of sport in general to any community, particularly for children.

"Already, in two and a half years, I can see a distinct difference in Christchurch. They're obviously well on the way to rebuilding. I'm a sports lover, and all codes have a responsibility in assisting their community, in the education of kids and getting them involved in sports, and the team aspect of life," Gould, a premiership-winning coach with Canterbury Bulldogs and the Panthers, enthused.

"Rugby league is certainly going to play its part in Christchurch, for as long as I can help it. We're signed up for four years – I'd like to think there is no end date to this relationship. We're going to become actively involved in the communities and the schools and assist those people here on the ground.

"We would hope that serves as a source of aspiration and inspiration for young people coming through. Personally, if it's rugby league or another code, it doesn't matter, as long as they're playing sport and enjoying themselves."

Home Away From Home

He reiterated that Christchurch, and the Canterbury region, appealed on a spiritual level as much as from a commercial and practical perspective – and the Panthers' expertise in nurturing a widespread junior network is sure to prove invaluable for rugby league here.

"There's a strong rugby league history in this area. It just felt good, it felt a little bit like home to us, actually. Not unlike Penrith, and the junior league and the community we have out there.

"We take our community responsibility very seriously in the Penrith district, we have the largest junior league in the world in that area. We have nine and a half thousand registered players out there, our junior league runs from Blacktown all the way to Katoomba in the west.

Continued on next page...

“And there’s a very strong New Zealand and Polynesian demographic – over 50 percent of our junior league kids are from New Zealand or Pacific Island nations. It was important to me that our NRL team, the fellas that are playing at the top level and are so visible, that we reflected that demographic in our recruitment and the players that we develop through.”

“In time – nothing happens overnight – but in time I’d like to see our club as a source of inspiration for young footballers growing up in the Canterbury and Christchurch area that want to aspire to bigger and better things.

“Eventually (it will be) with their own team, but if they’ve got to do that through the Panthers initially, we’ll welcome them with open arms. So for us, we’re positive it’s going to be a great association.

“We intend to over-deliver on the promises that we’ve made in this commitment, and the Panthers are going to become a part of Christchurch. And for the people of Penrith, this is their home away from home for the next four years.”

While Riccarton Knights junior – and former Warriors utility – Lewis Brown moved on from Penrith to Manly during the off-season, the Panthers still have an overwhelming strong flavour in their first-grade ranks. Kiwi stars Sam McKendry, Elijah Taylor, Dean Whare, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and recent recruit Peta Hiku are all key players at the club.

The record-breaking former NSW Origin mentor said the Panthers’ squad as a whole were looking forward to being a part of Christchurch’s first NRL fixture since the Warriors took on the Sydney Roosters in a thriller on a wintry day in 2010.

“Players look forward to this sort of thing. The Bathurst game has been extremely popular and beneficial to that town in NSW country, and we’re sure that our presence here is going to help Christchurch.

“It’s a home game, it’s a risk taking it away from our home base, but if you get on our side we’ll make it a home away from home. Hopefully you’ll cheer for us as the home team.”

Boon For Canterbury Juniors

Gould also outlined the far-reaching assistance rugby league juniors and clubs will receive courtesy of Penrith’s involvement. While not the club’s primary reason for coming to Canterbury, the opportunity to

attract the cream of the region’s talent is a likely offshoot of the Panthers’ partnership with Christchurch.

“We’ll be over here and doing community work, appearances in schools and clinics, which are all about participation.

“The volunteer system in any sport, in any country, is one that’s got to be recognised and respected. It’s got to be supported, and we do that very well in our own area. So whatever we can lend to that program here is important. Not every kid is going to grow up to be an NRL player, but we want them to be an NRL fan or at least a sports-loving person who’s taking the benefit out of being a part of a team.

“There will be elite pathways, obviously, because that’s another attraction for us – it’s a strong area. Certainly any kid that has aspirations of playing higher, if the Panthers can play a part in that, we will.

“Tonight we’ve got a coach to coach program, the local coaches are coming in to listen to our High Performance Manager Matt Cameron, he’ll talk about coaching in the NRL and junior league areas.

“There are people in Christchurch with great ambition to eventually play some part in senior competitions over in Australia through the NSW Cup and eventually the NRL. That may seem a ways down the track, but you’ve got to start somewhere, and if we’re a part of that in the embryo stages then that will be great.”

The Good Of The Game

Attention for the positive steps Gould and the Panthers are putting in place in Canterbury – and the work the NRL, its clubs and people throughout rugby league are doing at grassroots level – is timely given the manner in which an off-field controversy has yet again cast a shadow across the entire game.

After a couple of cursory questions about the Penrith-Christchurch relationship, television and newspaper media were falling over themselves to grill Gould on his thoughts about the Mitchell Pearce furore.

“We need that (positive) story to be getting out there every day and I think for a lot of the work that clubs and people in rugby league do, it’s very easily washed away by controversy and different things that happen,” Gould said.

“So we try to pump out the good stories as often as we can, and hope that it drowns out the noise of the odd bad or unsavoury incident.”

An inspirational city

Gould has clearly been moved by the story of Christchurch's arduous past five years, praising its people for their character and determination to resurrect the city – all of which played a major part in compelling the Panthers to make their imprint in the region.

“I was astonished we I learned the story of how quickly this ground (AMI Stadium) went up and the reasons behind that. It was certainly inspiring at the time, and I know the people of this city have been through a tough time.

“When I visited here two and a half years ago, the earthquakes and the devastation was very raw, and I saw it myself right around the areas and the suburbs, having a look at what had happened.

“(Now) it's a totally different perception. There's a real resilience here at the moment. A lot of the raw emotion is obviously still there underneath, but it's not showing. There's a real 'rebuild' feel about it and that's just talking to people as much as what I see around in construction and all that sort of thing.

“And that's what appealed to me. It was a chance for our code and our club to play a part in the recovery of the city. Rebuilding it back into the great city that it was and will be forever. We want to be a part of the community.”

NRL Support

Gould also commended the NRL for getting behind the Panthers' initiative.

“The moment we suggested to the NRL, and Dave Smith was the CEO at the time, I said, ‘Dave, I want to take a game to Christchurch’. He said, ‘100 percent, we'll support it’. And they've been very supportive along the way.

“It's taken time, but it had to take time. I was saying (this morning) to the Mayor, Lianne Dalziel, I'm sort of glad that it did take time because it will be done right and it will be the right time for Christchurch for this sort of thing to happen.

“I think the NRL will support this enormously and they'll over-deliver on whatever promises we've made from the Panthers and it'll be a great association for Christchurch.”

Expansion Opportunities

The once-fanciful prospect of Christchurch having an NRL franchise may not be such a pipe-dream after all, according to Gould, as the League continues to consider expansion avenues.

“(I'd support it) 100 percent, and look, there are people in this city that have that long-term view as well. It's not easy, as we've seen a lot of times, it's expensive to run an NRL franchise, and it takes a lot of time.

“Even the ones that have been doing it for a long, long time they've hit hurdles along the way. It's a huge commitment, but if done right and done from the ground up there's no reason why that can't happen.

“It's got to start somewhere, and if we're a part of the start of that, I'm excited about that and if one day Christchurch says, ‘we don't need the Panthers anymore, we're coming to play you’, that's well and good too.”

Gould said the revamped second-tier NSW Cup competition may be a more realistic starting point – and is certainly an opportunity the city should be exploring.

“I'm not sure where the League's going with that, or just how expansive that will be. But that's certainly an initial goal to a long-term end.

“There will be opportunities for more and more New Zealand-based teams to play in those second-tier competitions, which are an important part of our development process. We use them extensively in our junior league and the development of our players.”

Christchurch's Gratitude

Meanwhile, Canterbury Rugby League board member Justin Wallace – one half of promoters Wallace Douglas, who facilitated the agreement with the Panthers – and Christchurch City councillor Tim Srandrett both lauded Gould and the club for their endeavours in bringing the NRL back to the region and getting involved in local development.

“Christchurch is a city that loves our sport and loves rugby league. We are proud to be hosting an NRL game and we'd like to commend the Panthers for committing one of their home games to Christchurch over the next four years,” Wallace said.

“It’s been a long six years since we last had an NRL game in Christchurch. Hosting this game represents another step in the city’s recovery. This game is also a signal to Australia and the rest of the world that Christchurch is open and ready for business.

“This game brings us back to the spiritual home of rugby league, Rugby League Park, where it all began in 1912 when Canterbury played Wellington. We have been generous enough to offer our ground to our rugby union cousins, but to be honest, it’s going to be great to have our park back on May 14th.”

Scandrett Echoed Those Sentiments:

“It’s a huge privilege for the council and Christchurch to be supporting this and we’d like to acknowledge the work Phil, Justin and Craig (Douglas) have done,”

the councillor said.

“We weighed up the economic benefit and to the community, and what these guys have done and are planning to do in our community is absolutely fantastic.

“That’s really, for us, what got it across the line – what they’re going to do with our young players, the administrators, all the volunteers. We just think it a great opportunity for Christchurch. We’re in it for the long haul for sure.”

Photo Credit: Kevin Clarke - CMGStudios



Phil Gould, the Panthers GM and Justin Wallace of Enth Degree and Tim Scandrett at the press conference.



Phil Gould, the Panthers GM and Justin Wallace of Enth Degree, announce a deal to bring the Panthers to Christchurch for the next four years. AMI Stadium, Christchurch Jan 29, 2016.

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Harvey Norman Community Warriors Launched

by Richard Becht

HARVEY NORMAN and the Vodafone Warriors have marked their new three-year partnership today by launching the Harvey Norman Community Warriors.

Through their association the two partners will introduce a range of initiatives which will engage both Harvey Norman and the Vodafone Warriors with the community.

Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle said the creation of the Harvey Norman Community Warriors would take the club's community involvement and focus to a new level.

"This is a momentous day for both of us," he said.

"As a club we pride ourselves in the way we connect with our community and we know Harvey Norman shares the same desire to make a difference to people's lives.

"With Harvey Norman on board we will lift our level of engagement to unprecedented levels, not just in and around Auckland but throughout New Zealand."

Harvey Norman chief operating officer John Slack-Smith said the company was thrilled to be able to link with the Vodafone Warriors to lead a nationwide community programme.

"Harvey Norman have been part of the New Zealand community

for nearly 19 years," he said.

"We are so proud to partner with the Community Warriors programme to extend what we can do in areas that matter most to families; in our hospitals, in our schools and supporting local community programmes.

"Vodafone Warriors fans, our customers and our staff all have the opportunity to be involved in what is genuinely a quality community programme.

The carnival event at Harvey Norman Manukau starts at 3.30pm on Monday (February 1) with the players arriving at 4.30pm to meet members and fans.

Harvey Norman Community Warriors will be on the road five times this year when the club visits Whangarei (February 13) and Nelson (February 20) for NRL trials as well as regular season NRL games against Canterbury-Bankstown in Wellington (April 16), Penrith in Christchurch (May 14) and Canberra in New Plymouth (May 21).

Vodafone Warriors community manager Petrece Kesha said new programmes will feature in the Harvey Norman Community Warriors' portfolio.

"One of the most significant is the creation of a community classroom in the West Stand at Mount Smart Stadium," she said.

"It will provide a unique learning environment for primary and intermediate school children with the benefit of enabling us to involve more players in the programmes more often.

"Harvey Norman Community Warriors will present a club values programme which will teach pupils how to use the Vodafone Warriors' values in their lives."

Kesha said the classroom would also be used to hold holiday programmes during school holidays.

The Konica Minolta-sponsored League in Libraries literacy programme will again be run and another major initiative is set to be launched next month.

A Harvey Norman Little Warriors Zone will be a key feature at every home game day at Mount Smart Stadium with activities including face painting, a photo booth, Harvey Norman autograph cards signed by non-playing players and a passing wall.

The Harvey Norman Community Bay in the West Stand will provide an opportunity for community groups to attend and experience a Vodafone Warriors home game.

Kesha said core charity partners will be involved in the Harvey Norman Community Warriors' programme including KidsCan, Kidz First Children's Hospital and Shine.

NRL Clubs to Deliver Wellbeing Messages to Communities

ALL 16 NRL Clubs and NRL ambassadors are setting out on an important blitz across Australia and New Zealand, helping to deliver wellbeing messages as part of the NRL's annual Community Carnival.

The visits will occur throughout February and March, with NRL players and ambassadors from each Club delivering a range of important health and wellbeing messages to hundreds of thousands of young fans throughout regional and rural towns.

Now in its 16th year, players and ambassadors will meet with local communities and play a role in educating school children on the importance of proper hydration, adequate sleep and developing and supporting a strong sense of belonging.

This year, Clubs, players and ambassadors are estimated to travel more than 40,000kms, visit over 1,000 schools and conduct up to 80 Junior League clinics.

NRL Chief Operating Officer Suzanne Young, said the NRL Community Carnival visits were an opportunity for Rugby League to reach out to thousands of supporters and Club fans in regional and remote areas and say thank you ahead of the 2016 Telstra Premiership season.

"Last year, players and ambassadors reached more than 250,000 school children as part of the carnival and we are expecting this year's program to have an even greater reach and impact," Ms Young said.

"Our communities are the foundations from which Rugby League draws its strength and it is important that we continue to educate not just our elite players, but communities further afield, on the importance of living active, healthy and happy lifestyles."

Professor Ron Grunstein from the national Sleep Health Foundation, acknowledged the support and positive initiative of the NRL and Clubs to engage with local communities and impress important health messages.

"The program being rolled out across Australia and New Zealand provides key messages, including the importance of sleep for young people," Professor Grunstein said.

"Healthy sleep helps young people be more attentive and learn and perform better, both as students and in their sporting activities."

Newest Vodafone Warriors Fan



BUTCH I wanted to share a photo of our newest Warrior fan, my second grandson.

James and his wife Haidee are now the proud parents of Beau Thompson born Jan 4th

As you can see from the photo he is dreaming of being a Warrior one day.

Cheers

Robert Thompson

NRL Indigenous All Stars

JAMIE SOWARD (Penrith Panthers), Edrick Lee (Canberra Raiders) and Craig Garvey (Bulldogs) have been added to the Indigenous All Stars squad ahead of the Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars at Suncorp Stadium on February 13.

The trio will replace Johnathan Thurston, Blake Ferguson and Nathan Peats, who have withdrawn from the match.

All three players have been added to the Indigenous All Stars interchange. Tyrone Roberts will now start at halfback in place of Thurston, while James Roberts will start at centre in place of Ferguson. Ray Thompson will be Coach Laurie Daley's new starting hooker, in place of Peats.

The Indigenous All Stars squad is now as follows:

No.	Player	Club	Player No.
1	Greg Inglis	South Sydney Rabbitohs	28
2	Alex Johnston	South Sydney Rabbitohs	40
3	Will Chambers	Melbourne Storm	41
4	James Roberts	Brisbane Broncos	54
5	Dane Gagai	Newcastle Knights	45
6	Ben Barba	Cronulla Sharks	23
7	Tyrone Roberts	Gold Coast Titans	49
8	Ryan James	Gold Coast Titans	24
9	Ray Thompson	North Queensland Cowboys	43
10	Sam Thaiday	Brisbane Broncos	13
11	Greg Bird	Gold Coast Titans	16
12	Joel Thompson	St George Illawarra Dragons	19
13	Chris Grevsmuhl	South Sydney Rabbitohs	50
14	Andrew Fifita	Cronulla Sharks	31
15	Tyrone Peachey	Penrith Panthers	44
16	Edrick Lee	Canberra Raiders	55
17	Jack Wighton	Canberra Raiders	39
18	Craig Garvey	Canterbury Bulldogs	56
19	Jamie Soward	Penrith Panthers	14
20	Wade Graham	Cronulla Sharks	53

NRL World All Stars

A DAM REYNOLDS, (South Sydney), Jeremy Smith (Newcastle Knights), Michael Ennis (Cronulla Sharks), Jordan Kahu (Brisbane Broncos) and Chris Lawrence (Wests Tigers) have been added to the World All Stars squad ahead of the Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars, at Suncorp Stadium on February 13.

They will replace Trent Hodkinson, Tyson Frizell, Robbie Farah, Lachlan Maranta and Sam Burgess, who have withdrawn from the match.

Paul Gallen has been shifted to lock in place of Sam Burgess, with Tom Burgess promoted to the front-row from the interchange bench.

The World All Stars squad is now as follows:



1	Roger Tulvasa-Sheck	Warriors
2	Semi Radradra	Fels
3	Jarrold Croker	Raiders
4	Josh Morris	Bulldogs
5	Antonio Winterstein	Cowboys
6	Gareth Widdop	Dragons
7	Adam Reynolds	Rabbitohs
8	James Graham	Bulldogs
9	Cameron Smith	Storm
10	Tom Burgess	Rabbitohs
11	Jeremy Smith	Knights
12	Simon Mannering	Warriors
13	Paul Gallen	Sharks
14	Michael Ennis	Sharks
15	Kane Evans	Roosters
16	Jordan Kahu	Broncos
17	Chris Lawrence	Wests Tigers
18	Nene Macdonald	Titans
19	Trent Merrin	Panthers
20	Martin Taupau	Sea Eagles

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