

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

10 February 2016

Newsletter #108

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What a Weekend!



Shaun Johnson dives over to score a try.



Shaun Johnson on the burst.



The crowd celebrates the Warriors victory over the Gold Coast.



The Kiwi Ferns celebrate their victory.



The Vodafone Warriors greeting their fans.



Me and the Coach all smiles after beating the Broncos.

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Downer NRL Auckland Nines - Fan Day



Caught up with me best mates from the Roosters and I love these blokes!



This Warriors fan won a Warriors Scarf membership.



Another lucky winner of a Warriors Scarf Membership pack.



Caught up with my mates from the Queensland Maroons!



Caught up with my old mate ex All Black Carlos Spencer.



Checking out all the teams playing at the Nines.



Gabrielle Maniapoto and Leara Manipz showing off their new Warriors Jerseys!



Gary Tidd and Doug Tangiiu from Otaki just out of Wellington up for the Downer NRL Auckland Nines to support the Warriors.



Gordon and Fran Russell came all the way from Leeds, England to watch the Nines!



Great to catch up with my good friend Minister Nikkikayemp she is a very lovely lady to talk to!



Great to catch up with my good mate Joseph Parker who is now no.1



Great to catch up with my mate THE LEGEND - Mal Meninga who is now coaching the



With the BIG Ben Matulino.



Hannah Langley, Mitchell Langley, Graeme Langley all the way from Christchurch up for the Nines.



I gave away some tickets to Nathan from Hamilton to the Downer NRL Auckland Nines.



I have given Henry Traisnel and Molly Whitelaw from London, England tickets to the Auckland NRL Nines.



Met this guy who is ready to cheer on the boys at the Nines.



Josh Dugan me and my mate Sam the Weather Man from TV One Breakfast at the Nines Fan Day!



These loyal Warriors supporters going to watch the NRL Nines are now MEMBERS OF THE WARRIORS!!! Hugo Garcia and Mathieu Lassarrade are from France and Patrick Laroche is from.



With my mate Billy Slater.



Was awesome to see Shaun Johnson!



With Sam the weather man and Martin Snedon from Duco Events.



Modelling at the Nines Fan Day.





Downer NRL Auckland Nines - Fan Day



With my good mate Sam the Weather man from Breakfast.



Me with my good mate Shaun Johnson!



Me with my mates Fats Tuhira Moke and Tonii Wana from Wellington for the Downer NRL Auckland Nines.



With Sam the weather man.



Met these lovely Warriors supporters this morning at Denny's and they won two tickets to my lounge at the nines!



Ringi TeMete from Tokoroa and Jason Currie from Christchurch are now Vodafone Warriors Scarf Members!



Shaun Mackereth, Kristy Osborne and David Mackereth from Morrinsville enjoying the Nines Fan Day!



Some more lucky winners of Nines Tickets.



Great to see these Warriors Supporters at the Nines Tia Murphy, Tutepourangi Murphy, Hari Murphy, Kawiti Murphy and Tihema Eades all the way from Levin.



These mad fans are from Portland Rugby League in Northland!



With my Warriors mates Albert Vete, Me and Tuimoala Lolohea.





Always lovely to catch up with my good mate Benji Marshall!



Ex-Warrior and Kiwi Logan Swann and his son Lucas at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines.



Harry Davis-Rice, Alex Klementz, Jack Davis-Rice, Leon Furburger and the fridge in the Butchers Lounge!



It was great to interview Isaac Luke!



Interviewing my good mates former All Blacks player Carlos Spencer and Cowboys great Jonathan Thurston in the Butchers Lounge.



Interviewing the LEGEND - Gorden Tallis in the Butchers Lounge!



Interviewing the legend Andrey Joey Johns.



It's always great to catch up with my good mate Stephen Kearney, who just happens to be the Kiwis coach.



Joey Johns getting lucky.



Konrad Hurrell with THE LEGEND Joey Johns.



Me and my good mate Ruben Wiki.



Was nice to catch up with Sam Lisone in the Warriors Changing room.



With my mates Former All Black Carlos Spencer and North Queensland Great Jonathan Thurston.



With my very good friend the BRON-COS LEGEND Allan Alfie Langer!



With the #NOZZ group in the Butchers Lounge!

With the King - Wally Lewis at The Grill at Sky City



It's always good to catch up with my mate THE KING - WALLY LEWIS and his lovely wife!



Me and THE KING - Wally Lewis at The Grill at Sky City..



With the FAMOUS CHEF Sean Connolly from the grill at Sky City top restaurant with top food.

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THE GREATEST WEEKEND!

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WHAT A fantastic week. It was unbelievable. From eating with State of Origin legends to the action of the Downer NRL Auckland Nines, I have not smiled so much for a long time.

But there was a highlight for me when Vodafone Warriors coach Andrew McFadden invited me to be part of the team for the Nines.

I was on the sideline, seated right next to him on the bench, and went out on to the field as McFadden did his thing. It was an incredible experience and one I will never forget.

Close But No Cigar

We made the final – the first time in the three years of the Nines - but fell to the Parramatta Eels 22-4. At the end of the day, the Eels were just better in the last match of what was an incredible two days.

Sure it was disappointing. You always want to win any final you are in, but I had a great time.

The Stars Were Out

One of the pleasures of big events like this is catching up with a lot of league friends. I don't just mean big name players, but ordinary fans who come from all over to support the tournament.

Having said that, it was a pleasure to see some stars of the game, men like “The King” Wally Lewis, who spoke in my lounge and I have to say still has incredible fan pulling power. He was completely open about his battles with epilepsy, and it was amazing to hear someone so important to our game, remind people that it is just that – a game, and that there are things far more important.

Andrew “Joey” Johns is always great fun, and there were many, many others, including new Australian coach Mal Meninga, but he was very tight-lipped about his plans on how to dethrone the Kiwis as the world's number one side.

Well Done The Kiwi Ferns

And speaking of Kiwis, the women's team, the Kiwi Ferns, were outstanding, beating the Jillaroos from Australia in their Nines series.

The games were great, the skills on par with the NRL sides on show, there were some massive hits, brilliant runs and fabulous tries. Coming out on top is always a plus, but all in all, I reckon the women's game will have received quite a boost.

Organisers Deserve A Vote Of Thanks

And I have to give a thumbs-up to Duco and the NRL. The Nines are a great event, loads of fun, and a real plus for our city. Credit where it is due, to Ateed, which is an arm of Auckland City, and let's face it, the council does not get many bouquets.

But Leon Marsh and Brett Riley have been right behind the Nines, doing everything they possibly can to support it and make it happen.

Bring On The Trials

Now it is on to Whangarei this weekend for our first full trial, the Vodafone Warriors taking on the Titans, and then on to Nelson for Simon Mannering to make his homecoming, as we face St George.

The season is getting closer. Can't wait!

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Tuivasa-Sheck Out Of All Stars

Vodafone Warriors fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was ruled out of this week's Harvey Norman League All Stars match after picking up a calf strain during the Downer NRL Auckland Nines at Eden Park.

Tuivasa-Sheck had been named at fullback for the World All Stars in Saturday's clash against the Indigenous All Stars at Suncorp.

Earlier this week Vodafone Warriors captain Simon Mannering withdrew to remain at home to support his partner Anna after the birth of the couple's second son.

But on the plus side, it was confirmed that centre Konrad Hurrell had been called into the side to replace Tuivasa-Sheck, while back rower Ryan Hoffman is in for Mannering.

Two In For All Stars

David Fifita (Cronulla) and Leilani Latu (Penrith) have been added to the Indigenous All Stars. Fifita and Latu will replace Souths pair Chris Grevsmuhl and Alex Johnston, who have both withdrawn.

Fifita has been promoted to the starting side, with Sam Thaiday shifting to the back row. Edrick Lee will start on the wing in place of Johnston.

Community Warriors All Go

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

The partners will introduce a range of initiatives to engage both Harvey Norman and the Vodafone Warriors with the community.

Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle said the move would take the club's community involvement and focus to a new level. "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 has been part of the New Zealand community for nearly 19 years," he said. "We are 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 local community programmes."

Harvey Norman Community Warriors will be on the road five times this year when the club visits Whangarei this weekend and Nelson the week after for NRL trials, as well as regular season NRL games against the Bulldogs in Wellington on April 16, Penrith in Christchurch on May 14 and Canberra in New Plymouth on May 21.

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On Board with Some League Legends

By Sir Peter Leitch



On Thursday last week as part of the buildup to the Downer Auckland Nines I was lucky enough to board the Pacific Pearl for a State of Origin legends lunch, hosted by Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic development. The feature of the lunch was a Q and A with the coaches of both Origin teams, Laurie Daley and Kevin Walters, who had both spent a few days experiencing life on board the P & O cruiseliner.

Advocates of State of Origin rivalry could argue it's even more appropriate to have Walters in the Queensland role going head-to-head with Daley considering Daley and Mal Meninga were so close after spending so many years playing as team-mates with the Canberra Raiders. The flaw in that argument is that Daley and Walters also spent some time at the Raiders together before Walters spent most of his NRL career playing for Brisbane.

It was apparent on stage together that Daley and Walters get along pretty well. Amongst other things, both coaches talked about the inevitability of a State of Origin match being played in New Zealand in the

not-to-distant future – even though Daley made it pretty clear he's a fan of New South Wales securing 2 home games at every chance they possibly can.

We heard from other Origin legends during the lunch – Brent Tate and Petero Civoniceva representing Queensland while Matt Cooper and Steve 'Blocker' Roach flew the flag for New South Wales. I even had the chance to get Gordon Gibbons up to have a chat to him about receiving the distinguished service medal award the night before at the NZRL awards night –plus congratulate him on being elected to the Auckland Rugby League's Board of Directors a fortnight ago.

A tour of the cruiseliner prior to lunch revealed a unique area for almost anything you wanted to do in your life. With Nine lounges, bars, pubs and night clubs on board the biggest problem guests probably have is trying to make up their mind what particular vibe they want to be around for each night they spend on board. Personally, I usually leave Janice to make those sort of important decisions in my life

Lifting the Curtain on the Footy Season

By John Coffey QSM



WE MIGHT still be in the first half of February, and in the midst of an Australian cricket tour, but last weekend provided a bonanza for rugby league television watchers and effectively signalled the start of the footy season. And there is plenty more to come with the British Super League under way and the World Club Series and NRL looming.

There were even television advertisements exhorting southerners to buy tickets for the Penrith Panthers' "home" game against the Warriors at Christchurch on May 14. The south has been starved of live NRL matches for five years and it is now up to the fans to turn up in big numbers during and even beyond the length of the Panthers' four-year deal.

Penrith general manager Phil Gould pledged the club's desire to honour its allegiance to a city which is still in the early stages of rebuilding from the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes. But the match organisers are aware that a near full house at the AMI Stadium (formerly Rugby League Park) is needed to encourage the Panthers to keep coming back.

The Wests Tigers, with an emerging Benji Marshall as the biggest single drawcard, came to the old AMI Stadium (Lancaster Park) for three consecutive seasons from 2004. In that first year they beat the Warriors 50-4 in front of 16,221 spectators. A crowd of 18,421 saw the Tigers win 24-6 in 2005. But in 2006 the Warriors turned it around, by 26-10, the attendance slipped to 14,675, and the Tigers never returned.

Continued on next page...

In 2010 the Sydney Roosters filled the gap, with Warriors fullback Kevin Locke scoring his third try – bravely sliding into a goalpost in the process – on fulltime to grab a thrilling 20-18 victory. Despite bitterly cold and wet weather, the crowd exceeded 20,000. Unfortunately, the earthquakes prevented any more big-time rugby league at Lancaster Park.

Last Friday Super League triple crown holder Leeds Rhinos lost their first opening round match in 16 years when beaten 12-10 by Warrington at Headingley. Leeds no longer has long serving forwards Kevin Sinfield, Jamie Peacock and Kylie Leuluai. Sinfield's captaincy and goal kicking skills were especially missed. Warrington, on the other hand, benefited from the arrival of Newcastle Knights legend Kurt Gidley.

A day later, in very wet conditions, Wigan slithered to a 12-6 home victory over Catalans Dragons, the only fully professional team in France. But one wonders what the Dragons are doing for the game in their homeland by fielding five Aussies (Pat Richards, Todd Carney, Glenn Stewart, Jason Baitieri and Dave Taylor) and three New Zealanders (Louis Anderson, Justin Horo and Krisnan Inu), plus PNG hooker Paul Aiton and Englishman Richard Myler.

Super League could really do with a "bolter" turning the traditional order on its ear, much like Leicester City in British soccer. But even after one round the perennial top trio of Wigan, St Helens and Leeds, plus enthusiastic challenger Warrington, look set to dominate. Even the input of former Kangaroos coach Tim Sheens is unlikely to work miracles at Salford City after their 42-20 first-up loss at Hull. Former Warrior Carlos Tuimavave was a try-scorer on debut for Hull.

Talking of Australian coaches in Britain, it's interesting that Wayne Bennett has joined his countrymen Trevor Bayliss (cricket) and Eddie Jones (rugby union) in charge of England national teams. Bayliss has made his mark with an Ashes triumph and a series of successes in South Africa, while Jones won first-up over Scotland. Now we have Bennett and Stephen Kearney working side-by-side at the Brisbane Broncos, while conspiring to lead the Lions and Kiwis, respectively, to Four Nations and World Cup victories at Australia's expense.

As far as I know, Darius Boyd – the sometimes troubled Kangaroos outside back who has followed Bennett from the Broncos, to Wollongong, to Newcastle, and back to Brisbane – has not yet revealed any British ancestry so that he can continue to be part of his mentor's plans for international supremacy. Surely Darius' grandad came from Wigan, Warrington or Whitehaven.

The highlight of last weekend's viewing was the Auckland Nines, a great spectacle even to one who is not overly keen on abbreviated sports. As ever, the Nines revealed plenty of emerging talent, and this time the Warriors kept the crowd in the stadium until the end. But the Parramatta Eels were worthy winners, and were just the latest visitors to capitalise on the Warriors' inability to defuse bombs and other tactical kicks.

Typically, the Sydney media wrote more about injuries – extensively quoting new Manly coach Trent Barrett – than the actual footy. The Sea Eagles were unlucky, but their most serious injury occurred without a hand on the player and another happened before the Nines even kicked off. Barrett at least stopped short of his predecessor Geoff Toovey, who would undoubtedly have demanded an investigation!

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Vodafone Warriors Pipped at the Post

By Barry Ross



WARRIORS FANS were no doubt disappointed at the loss to Parramatta in the final of the Nines. But several good things came out of the tournament. It was great to see Shaun Johnson in action again and he soon played as if had been playing last week, instead of being on the sidelines for six months. Along with team-mate, Tuimoala Lolohea, Shaun was selected in the Team of the Tournament and deservedly so. He left the field after suffering a corked thigh early in the second half of the final, but was back on some minutes later. The makeup of the Team of the Tournament generally reflected what happened on the day. There were three Parramatta Eels, two Warriors, two Titans, one man from the Storm and one from the Manly Sea-Eagles.

Manly coach, Trent Barrett, has complained about the injuries his team suffered, describing the tournament as dangerous. The Manly players were Jamie Buhner (broken jaw), Jake Trbojevic (concussion), Jorge Taufua (hamstring), Nathan Green (concussion) and Jayden Hodges (knee). There is no doubt that this is concerning for Barrett and the club, but other clubs also suffered some injury problems. How serious these are will probably not be known for a few days. The Bulldogs will be looking at Adam Elliott's dislocated shoulder, while the Storm will certainly be concerned about Cameron Munster's medial ligament.

The Warriors camp would have been pleased with the play of new signings, Jeff Robson and Blake Ayshford. These two players will be keen to make the starting first grade team, but they both know this won't be easy.

I was at the Sydney Rugby Sevens tournament for the second day on Sunday. I was very impressed with the whole occasion. The rugby was excellent, the atmosphere was buzzing, the weather was great and the singing and dressing up were all something to remember for a long time. In the final, the young Australian team did very well against the bigger and more experienced New Zealand team. I am still stunned by the Kiwis try after the bell to beat the Aussies 27-24 in the Cup final. But credit where it is due. Great teams have a way of getting out of tight situations.

The next day wasn't so pleasant either. After watching the Denver Broncos score an upset in the Super Bowl, I turned over to the cricket at Hamilton, wanting to see the Australians avenge the rugby from the day before. But this wasn't the case and I had to watch the Kiwis yet again, take the honours and retain the Chappell-Hadlee trophy. It was an excellent effort by New Zealand and it will provide a great memory for Brendon McCullum in his final One Day International match. While on the subject of the New Zealand captain, I wish him well in his 100th Test, beginning on Friday in Wellington. In the ODI, at Hamilton, I saw New Zealand's Indian-born leg spinner, Ish Sodhi, for the first time. He was impressive and I believe he will be an asset to New Zealand cricket for years to come.

On a personal note, I was delighted to see the appointment of Cameron George to the Warriors Board. I know Cameron and his family well and I have for many years. Cameron, is an intelligent and friendly man, who has done very well in his time with Auckland Racing. His father, Thomas, is currently the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in the NSW Parliament. A honest, trustworthy and personable man, Thomas has been the Member for the seat of Lismore on the far north seat of NSW, since winning office on 27 March 1999. He is currently serving his fourth successive term as the Member for Lismore. This city should be recognised by New Zealanders, because Brendon McCullum married a girl from this city of around 30,000 people. It is 740 kms north of Sydney and 200 kms south of Brisbane. Brendon married his wife Elissa in 2003.

I'm looking forward to Saturday night's Indigenous All Stars versus World All Stars clash in Brisbane this Saturday night. It is a pity that Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Simon Mannering had to withdraw from the World team, but Ryan Hoffman and Konrad Hurrell are deserved choices from the Warriors.

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Defence Wins Championship in Super Bowl 50

By Ben Francis



THE DENVER Broncos are Super Bowl 50 champions after dominating the Carolina Panthers 24-10 on the biggest day in American Sports.

Despite going into the game as underdogs the Broncos defence frustrated Cam Newton and the Panthers to record the franchises third championship and Quarterback Peyton Manning's second title.

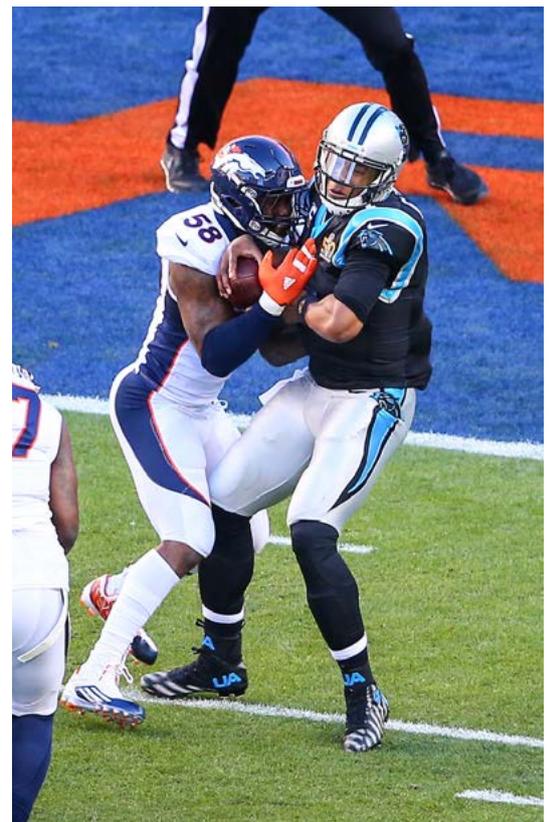
The Panthers had the better of the two offences, they had more overall yards (315-194) had more possession (32:47-27:13) but what had been their strong point all year let them down, their defence didn't get the turnovers. All year the Panthers have thrived off turnovers which then led to the offence momentum but that never arrived. Every time Cam Newton would make a big play the Broncos defence put a stop to it. There was however controversy in the first quarter with an incomplete catch by the Panthers which many believed was a catch. If that play was ruled a catch who knows how different things could have turned out. The night after being named MVP for the season Newton struggled hitting open receivers (who also struggled catching the ball) The offensive line was struggling to protect Newton and that led to the Panthers unable to build consistent offence and build momentum.

The Panthers looked like the Broncos back in Super

Bowl 48 where they lost to Seattle 43-8, nervous and rattled. The Broncos defence forced the Panthers into a season high four turnovers which sparked them into life. The defence was mainly sparked by Super Bowl MVP Von Miller who forced two of the four turnovers, had 2.5 sacks and six tackles. Both the fumbles Miller forced led to touchdowns which was the difference in the game.

So once again the great sports saying is mentioned 'Defence Wins Championships.' cause that was defiantly the case with Super Bowl 50, If the Broncos defence didn't get the four turnovers and put pressure Cam Newton, how would have the result ended up? a lot differently.

Now the question remains what now for Peyton Manning? Many now believe this will be the last game for the legendary Quarter back ending his career with two Super Bowl rings and five league MVPs. Some also believe he might have one more season with another franchise (some speculate the Los Angeles Rams) or just provide a backup/mentor role with a team. Whatever he does, Manning can defiantly go down as one of the all time greats with his two Super Bowl rings and now winning playoff record of 14-13 (tied third most of all time) and 200 all time career wins.



Top: Denver Broncos running back C.J. Anderson (22) and Denver Broncos strong safety T.J. Ward (43) sack Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) during the first quarter. **Right:** Denver Broncos outside linebacker Von Miller forces a turnover by Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton during the first quarter. Photo by Rich Graessle/Icon Sportswire.

Courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Kevin Barry on Joseph Parker

By Lee Umbers



JOSEPH PARKER'S explosive rise to the top of heavyweight boxing is on full blast with his naming as the WBO's No1 contender.

And the trainer at the heart of his shaping into a champion is delighted how the 24-year-old is keeping his feet on the ground as the world spotlight turns on the young south Auckland hero.

"I remember saying... at the very first training camp that we had in America (in 2013)..., 'Joe...at the moment you're inexperienced, you're vulnerable, we're taking some big steps... you don't really understand just how much you're going to change, and how your life is going to change in the next couple of years,' Kevin Barry said.

"So when he saw it start changing, it was almost like it wasn't such a big shock because we'd gone through it."

Barry, light heavyweight boxing silver medallist at the 1984 Olympics, took on Parker's training after being headhunted by Duco Events three years ago.

He moved the rising young sensation into his family home in Las Vegas, and quickly became a mentor, father figure and friend to the-then "young, shy quiet boy".

Barry knew what a culture shock it would be for Parker to relocate from Mangere East to the bright lights of Vegas. He pledged Parker's dad Dempsey (named after US boxing icon Jack Dempsey) and mum Sala he would nurture their son in and out of the ring.

"When they were all at the airport...when we walked through to the international departures, I said, 'When we walk through those doors, I will become Joe's guardian and I will treat him the exact same way that I... treat my own sons and daughters. And I've done that...I have a beautiful relationship with Joe's mum and dad, who thank me... for the way that I have taken care of their son, and for the way that I've loved and protected him."

Parker soon felt at ease with Barry, his wife Tanya and their children.

"When he first came to me, he was a 20-year-old baby... Loves his mum and dad, which is awesome. They've done a tremendous job of bringing him up," Barry says of the giant young KO-specialist.

"Both myself and my wife are like his second parents...when he's ringing to see how Tanya is, he refers to her as mum...there is a very special bond there. My son Taylor (20), who you see in the ring with Joe all the time, him and Joe spend an enormous amount of time together and are as close as any brothers."

Family chores include Parker putting away groceries, helping with the garden, putting his washing away and keeping his room tidy – "just like a normal child in the house" (albeit one who's knocked out 16 of his 18 professional heavyweight boxing opponents).

And like other caring father-figures, Barry has had to – very occasionally – have a stern word out of the ring. "He's... a young man who's experiencing a lot of things in life, and he's trying to grow up and he's also becoming a sporting star at the same time, so there will be a few little mistakes along the way."

The pair retain a healthy sense of humour through their intense training sessions. Barry says Parker even jokingly tells people that when his body shots miss his trainer's padded fibreglass protectors, "when he says, oh...that was an accident, he's just getting back at me for being hard on him".

Joking aside, Parker's heavy hands have broken three of the protectors. And the toll of decades of weathering the impact from training his long line of successful boxing charges resulted in surgery on two hernias a fortnight ago. Barry was at his mother's Christchurch home recovering when spoken to for this article.

Continued on next page...

Dealing with the media was something that initially fazed Parker, Barry said, but he now took in his stride.

“He would always say to me... I wish I could get up and speak like you... it just flows off your tongue,” Barry said of their early days together.

“And I said, Joe it’ll start to flow off your tongue... mate there’s no reason for you to be ever to be apprehensive when you’re up talking because the subject is Joseph Parker, and nobody knows more about Joseph Parker than you... Nobody can ask you a question you don’t know the answer to.”

And at 6ft 4in and handsome, Parker was always going to be centre of attention for more than just his sporting prowess.

“Girls love Joe,” Barry said. “He’s got a ton of charisma, he’s a good looking guy... and he’s a fun guy to be around. And at the moment everyone wants a piece of him when he goes out.”

Romantic messages came in from around the world on social media, and would-be in-laws tried to arrange introductions.

“I’ve had people come up to me and say to me, I want Joe to marry my daughter. I would have had that said to me probably 20 times... my daughter loves Joseph... do you think they could meet?”

The attention wasn’t going to Parker’s head and he remained committed to family and friends.

“He’s a guy who takes a lot of satisfaction and pride (in) being able to take care of his friends... he has a small group that were part of his entourage right in the beginning of our time together, and it’d be all the same people who sit in the dressing room and hang around with him now...”

“Mainly family members and guys who drove him to training when he never had a car in the amateurs, and people whose family had lent him money when he was going on trips overseas, and all these people who were there for him when he was just a young amateur trying to make his way. He hasn’t forgotten them, and he takes great satisfaction in keeping these guys as his team.”

Parker, increasingly popular with sponsors and possibly a handful of fights from multi-million dollar purses, was also sensible with his finances.

“He’s very good at saving. He’s not wasting his money, he’s putting it away. This year he wants to buy himself a house... in New Zealand. He’s seen other people before him crash and burn, and make serious mistakes. He doesn’t want that happen to him.”

Pastimes were fishing and music. “He loves to sing and dance... music is something that he’s very very big on... he likes a wide range, from hip hop and rap, to the old 60s, right across the board.”

Parker was also involved in charity work and would be taking part in a promotion with Cure Kids around his Christchurch fight on April 17.

It was his next fight, in this country in July, that could make New Zealand history. Barry revealed he was working on bringing out a Top 5 fighter for that bout. With Parker’s current rankings - WBO 1, IBF 6, WBC 7, WBA 11 - it would be the first time two world Top-5 heavyweights had fought here, Barry believed.

The aim was a world title shot by next year, something he was confident would happen.

“Back at the end of 2013, I said to people, our goals for 2014 were to have Joe ranked in the Top 10 by one of the organisations... we achieved that. [At the] December Fight for Life 2014, I said... our goals for 2015 were to have Joe ranked in every organisation, and in the Top 5 by one by the end of 2015. Well we achieved that.

“So we’re setting goals that people were thinking, God you’re very ambitious. But we’re setting goals that we believe we can achieve.

“Our goal for this year is to have Joseph Parker in that No 1 mandatory position at some stage... that will ensure us a world title shot in 2017.”

One of the keys to Parker’s triumphant emergence on the world boxing stage was the work done by Duco bosses Dean Lonergan and David Higgins, Barry said.

“If I told people back in 2013 that we were going to progress Joseph Parker from New Zealand, and we were going to try to take him all the way to the heavyweight championship of the world without seriously campaigning in America or the UK, people would have said I was kidding myself.

“But this is what as a team, that we’ve been able to do. This has come down to...the work that Deano’s done in the last 12-18 months, getting himself in front of the sanctioning bodies. You can’t do this by sending an email, you can’t do this by picking the telephone up. You have to have 1, a fighter that’s performing, and 2, you have to show them that you’re serious by getting on a plane and getting in front of them. And he’s [Lonergan] done this a number of times. He’s travelled enormous miles in the last 18 months.”

Barry was confident Parker had the tools in his devastating hand speed and punching power to win a world title.

“[And] great training etiquette. He is driven in his training like no other fighter I’ve worked with. And you can’t teach that. It’s just something that makes him get out of bed every morning at 5.50 and run five miles – rain, hail or shine.

“He knows how important the training is. And he gives me 100 percent in the gym every day. He never looks for an excuse. And like if there’s something that needs working on, he’s a student. He’ll work on it, and work on it, and work on it.”

Barry said should he find himself standing in the ring next to Parker as he puts the world title belt around himself - “That’ll be a very special day for me... one that’ll be a lifetime of work in the making, and it’ll be one that I will share with my family and my dad.” Legendary New Zealand boxing coach Kevin Barry snr died in 2011 at age 74. In a 60-plus year boxing career, he trained some of the country’s most successful fighters including his son and James “Jimmy Thunder” Peau.

Barry believes the resultant fame and fortune of a world heavyweight title would not alter Parker’s pleasant, modest nature.

“We will be doing everything to ensure that. In fact, there’s been a couple of little instances where people who are very close to me, and who are close to Joe, where... Joe’s said to them, if you see me changing please tell me...don’t ever let me change. So...he doesn’t want to.

“He understands that you don’t need to be a loudmouth, you don’t need to be a show-off. He needs to remain... humble – and I believe that he will.”



Sir Peter Leitch with Kevin Barry.
“Always great to catch up with Kevin”
-Sir Peter Leitch



Going a round with Kevin Barry.



Joseph Parker after his Fight for Life win. Photo Courtesy of www.photosport.nz

McCullum Saves One of His Best Wins for Last

By John Deaker



IF BRENDON McCullum wanted the ideal way to bow out of One-day cricket for New Zealand then Monday's win over Australia to secure a 2-1 series victory for the Black Caps provided almost the perfect script. The victory was made even more significant because of the huge number of players that New Zealand were missing ; when McCullum started his career with the Black Caps back in 2002 against Australia if they'd been missing half a team of first string players (like they were on Monday) the Black Caps would probably have had second-thoughts about bothering to turn up.

To have beaten Australia in a series decider without Ross Taylor, Trent Boult, Tim Southee, Mitchell Santner and Mitchell McClenaghan (and BJ Watling also unavailable) speaks volumes about the state that McCullum leaves New Zealand cricket. It also should give fans great faith that under Kane Williamson the team at full-strength can maintain the types of standards that McCullum has demanded from his troops.

It was also appropriate to see McCullum smash a quick-fire 47 off 27 balls at Seddon Park – an innings that eventually proved to be crucial in setting up the Black Caps victory. McCullum retires with a one-day average of only just over 30, so statisticians will never look back and view him as a great one-day batsman. However, most New Zealanders who have witnessed the immeasurable confidence he's given the Black Caps as a player (even before he became captain) will remember him as one of the most influential players in New Zealand cricket's history.

As a player, it's his deeds as a keeper-batsman over a long period that put him on a truly world-class level. The balance that he gave the New Zealand team when he was still able to keep was invaluable to both our test and one-day lineups for nearly a decade.

We'll now turn our attention on Friday to the tests to see if McCullum can somehow guide the Black Caps to an even more remarkable win in the test series over Australia. The injuries in the camp will make this an even tougher proposition than winning the ODI series, but with this Black Caps team and McCullum at the helm we've already come to accept that anything is possible.



Players celebrate a 2-1 series win over Australia with a team photo.



Captain Brendon McCullum batting.

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



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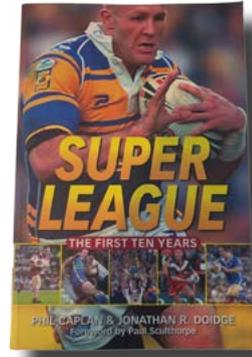
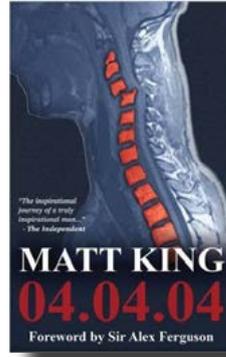
1:00pm Swords Academy v Vodafone Warriors Academy
3:00pm Vodafone Warriors NSW Cup v Vodafone Warriors NYC

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Book Winners:

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Adrian Curtis - Taranaki
John Renawden - Clarks Beach
K Roberts - Pakuranga



Jersey Winners:

Carl Hall - England
Vikki Brown - Remuera
Stacey Bateman - Napier
Alana Taylor - Christchurch
Jeanne Reihana - Te Atatu
Kevin Dixon - Nelson
Ander Chapman - Hamilton
Michael Owens - New Lynn
Garry Hankinson - Wigan, UK



Consolation Prize (T-Shirt):

Fiona Passi - Mangere

The Smallest Vodafone Warrior Fans

I love it when parents start making their children start thinking about the Vodafone Warriors from an early age like this family with their 4 weeks old.

Photos sent in by Aroha Phillips



Check out these cheeky boys...

Logan MacDonald sent in this photo of all his mates wearing the same t-shirt at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines. All the t-shirts have the same handsome bloke on the front... can you guess who?



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Celebration Day

**Sunday 21 February 2016
Glenora Rugby League Club**

Harold Moody Reserve, Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

9.45am—Official Opening

Kids activities, entertainment & auction for The Luke Tipene Trust Fund

10.00am—Glenora Premiers Trial

11.15am—Glenora Bears 18s v Vodafone Warriors 18s

1.00pm—Vodafone Junior Warriors v Vodafone Warriors Selection

2.45pm—NZ Maori v Vodafone Warriors NSW Cup

For information on how you can support please contact:

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#LUKETIPENECELEBRATIONDAY

Looking Ahead for the Kiwi Ferns

By Grant Chapman

THE NZ Kiwi Ferns came back from an opening loss to retain trans-Tasman bragging rights over Australia at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines.

And the result sets up another intense showdown on May 6, when the women are scheduled to play the curtainraiser for their male counterparts in Newcastle.

After winning the inaugural series 2-1 last year, the Kiwi Ferns found themselves immediately behind on Day One, dropping the first game 11-4.

It took a length-of-the-field effort from the Jillaroos to break the initial deadlock and they looked a dominant side by the end of 18 minutes.

“We had three or four cracks at them and just couldn’t get in,” observed Kiwi Ferns coach Alan Jackson. “It was just a one-try game, so we’re not far off.

“We just need to stay positive.”

Day Two was a completely different story, with the Ferns showing they had quickly learnt the lessons of the previous encounter.

They shut out their opponents 9-0 in Game Two, with veteran Tasha Davie clinching the result with a late five-point try.

Then, in the decider, the home side ran up 14 unanswered points, including a 50-metre effort from Kirstina Sue and sealed the victory with a converted five-point effort from captain Sarina Fiso.

“We knew we weren’t the fastest or fittest team out there,” she admitted afterwards. “We were just doing what we do to the best of our abilities and we came through in the end.

“I think a bit more experience helped us today. We lacked composure yesterday, but took that into the game this time round.

“Wearing this black jersey means so much to us – we’re so proud of all its history that goes with it.”

Georgia Hale, who made her international debut at this event last year, was named series Most Valuable Player, laying on the opening try of the decider with a pinpoint crosskick that found Mary-Jane Ale unmarked in the corner.

With five players suiting up for the first time and several veterans missing, the Kiwi Ferns suddenly have some depth to call on, as they build towards their 2017 World Cup in New Zealand and Australia.

Downer NRL Auckland Nines
Trans-Tasman Women’s Series

Game One – Australia 11 NZ 4 (Maitua Feterika try)

Game Two – NZ 9 (Mary-Jane Ale & Tasha Davie tries) Australia 0

Game Three – NZ 21 (Mary-Jane Ale, Langi Veainu, Kristina Sue & Sarin Fiso tries; Kahurangi Peters 2 goals) Australia 7





Kiwis Celebrating Waitangi Day in the UK.

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

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