

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

2 March 2016

# Newsletter #111

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.

## Vodafone Warriors 2016 Season Kick Off Special

**W**ELL HERE we go again, another exciting NRL season is only a few days away. This is my second season at the Vodafone Warriors and I am certainly getting excited and nervous as the new season is about to start.

The football staff and the players have put in a huge amount of effort over the pre-season and they can't wait until kick off on Saturday.

The signs were positive off the back of the Nines and then the first trial against the Titans – until the team ran into a wake-up call in Nelson. The Dragons went into that trial full of intensity and aggression while we were down in those areas and paid the price.

What we do know as a result is that it really shook the players up. They were quick to make it clear they were extremely disappointed in their personal contributions, taking full ownership of what happened.

It has certainly had the effect of sharpening everyone up for the season-opening clash against Wests Tigers at Campbelltown on Saturday (7.30pm kick-off NZT). Cappy and his coaching staff have every reason to be confident in the group of players they have, but we all know that a combined team effort is required every week if we want to reach the heights we have set ourselves.

For the Vodafone Warriors this is the first real game after the difficult end we had to last season. We've played only one game – against the Bulldogs – since last meeting the Tigers and that was also at Campbelltown on what proved to be a tough day for us. It's a really difficult place to go to.

A lot has changed since then, not just in the make-up of our squad but throughout the football department. Everyone has worked so hard and now we all wait to see how this plays out.

So to everyone involved with the club – our sponsors, our members, fans and the public at large we encourage you to get on board and join the Vodafone Warriors for what should be a very exciting season.

- Jim Doyle, Vodafone Warriors CEO



## Bring It On

**T**IME FOR the talking to stop. I fly to Sydney on Friday with team ahead of our first 2016 NRL Premiership game against the Tigers at Campbelltown on Saturday (7.30pm NZT).

The venue is about 55 kilometres south-west of the city centre but there is a good train connection I hope that means plenty of Kiwi support.

The first match of the season is vital because it sets the tone for the year, and it is too long since we had a positive start.

The Tigers aren't without a problem or two. Coach Jason Taylor has been under pressure after a poor 2015, and an off season fall-out with Tigers legend Robbie Farah.

Taylor threatened to drop Farah to the NSW Cup if he remained at the club, although that will have no bearing on this weekend's game because Farah is out with a knee injury.

The clash at halfback between Shaun Johnson and Luke Brooks will be important. Brooks is a rising star, scoring 10 tries in his 23 games last year. Everyone knows how good Shaun is, so it will be a cracking contest.

The Tigers rely heavily on fullback James Tedesco, who last year ran for 3654 metres in 24 games. So Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, in his first serious outing as our new fullback, won't have it all his own way. Last year he managed 6517 metres in 27 games.

And prop Aaron Woods is another go to man for the Tigers. He managed 3268 metres in 20 games, almost identical to our own The Warriors Ben Matulino, who posted 3249 metres in 21.

But the Tigers have also lost Keith Galloway, now at Leeds, Pat Richards, at Catalan Dragons, and Martin Taupau, who joined Manly.

Let's hope the boys can do a Blues – and get off to a flying start. - **Your Mate the Mad Butcher**

### Thursday Night Start

Don't forget that the new season sees the launch of footy on a Thursday, and it all starts this week when the Parramatta Eels host Brisbane.

## Season Launched With A Bang

The 2016 NRL Telstra Premiership season officially launched last week with the 16 captains together in Sydney's Circular Quay.

Everyone was blown away by the Storm connection. Counting current Storm skipper Cameron Smith, there were five former Melbourne players there – Titans co-captain Nathan Friend, Dragons skipper Gareth Widdop, Rabbitohs' captain Greg Inglis and of course our own Ryan Hoffman.

“Those players were in the leadership group and it's good to see that transferred to when players move to other clubs,” Hoffman said.

He said Simon Mannering's decision to stand down was a brave one considering he's carried the expectations of the club since the age of 24.

“I feel for Simon. I could see what the captaincy did to him last year and he realised he had had enough. He wasn't enjoying it and therefore wasn't enjoying his football. It's an honour to be entrusted with the responsibility. I'm 32 so have maturity on my side and hopefully I can carry that forward.”

## Youngsters Get A New Challenge

A new month-long competition organised by the Vodafone Warriors for under-16 and 18 teams – including two Vodafone Warriors invitation sides – got underway at the weekend.

The Ruben Wiki Challenge Shield brings together teams from Akarana, Counties-Manukau and Samoa, as well as the Vodafone Warriors.

In the U16s Akarana beat Counties Manukau 52-16, and the Vodafone Warriors beat Samoa 56-12.

In the U18s it was Akarana 44 Counties 16, and Warriors 30 Samoa 18.

“It's a tremendous initiative and a real boost for the game in the wider Auckland area as well as for the Samoan community,” Vodafone Warriors recruitment and development manager Tony Iro said.

“This is a great development opportunity for players already in our system, as well as giving others a chance to bid for contracts with our academy and NYC squads.”

This Saturday sees Akarana v The Warriors in the U16s at 11.30am, and Samoa v Counties. The same teams meet at Under-18 level at 1.15pm.

## Players Go To School

Vodafone Warriors NRL players were out in force at nine Auckland schools last week delivering well-being messages as part of the NRL's annual Community Carnival.

It means more than 30 schools around the country have now been introduced to the club's Harvey Norman Community Warriors programme.

Twelve schools were visited in Whangarei before the trial against Gold Coast, and the community team went to 10 schools in Nelson.

## New Sponsor For NSW Cup

NSW Rugby League boss David Trodden has announced Intrust Super as the new naming rights sponsor of what was the NSW Cup for the next three years.



The competition will now be known as the Intrust Super Premiership NSW until the end of 2018.

Intrust Super CEO Brendan O'Farrell said it was fantastic to partner with NSWRL as the naming rights sponsor. "We look forward to being part of an ever-improving competition and seeing it continue to develop into a world-class competition that provides opportunities for players into the NRL."

With the start to the new season just days away the NSWRL has also highlighted a game-wide initiative to eliminate offensive behaviour on and off the field.



*Our friend Stacey Jones at the Intrust Super Premiership NSW launch on the 29th February. From left to right Raelene Castle, Stacey Jones, Former Kiwi Alex Chan (Wentworthville coach) and Andy Patmore (Canterbury-Bankstown coach).*

Captains and coaches across all competitions are now required to sign a "Respect" pledge to act in a manner that displays the core values of the game - excel-

lence, inclusiveness, courage, teamwork and respect.

The pledge aims to ensure players, coaches, officials and spectators preserve a strong relationship.

The Mounties and Penrith kick off the 2016 Intrust Super Premiership NSW season on Saturday.



*NSWRL CEO David Trodden and Intrust Super CEO Brendan O'Farrell alongside player representatives from the 12 Intrust Super Premiership NSW teams.*

## Six New Faces Named

Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden has named six new faces to play against the Wests Tigers at Campbelltown on Saturday at 7.30pm NZT.

Making his NRL debut from the bench will be 19-year-old hooker Nathaniel Roache, while the other five are new acquisitions in fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, centre Blake Ayshford, halfback Jeff Robson, hooker Issac Luke and prop James Gavet.

Mt Albert Grammar School-educated Roache, who was in the club's NYC premiership-winning side in 2014, has made 38 appearances for the Juniors over the last two seasons and also played for the New South Wales Cup side last year.

Tuivasa-Sheck (84 games), Ayshford (124), Robson (157) and Luke (188) add vast NRL experience, while 26-year-old Gavet, who has just been signed after a trial period, is back after 14 NRL appearances across four seasons with the Doggies, Tigers and Broncos. He was in our NRL squad in 2010 and 2011, after a season in the NYC in 2009.

Second rower Ben Henry returns to the NRL after a second knee reconstruction in two years.

Vodafone Warriors: Tuivasa-Sheck, Tuimoala Lolohea, Ayshford, Solomone Kata, Manu Vatuvei, Shaun Johnson, Robson, Jacob Lillyman, Luke, Ben Matulino, Henry, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering. Bench: Roache, Sam Lisone, Gavet, Bodene Thompson, Jonathan Wright, Albert Vete.



# The Changing of the Guard Starts This Week

By John Deaker



**I**T WAS no surprise to hear the word 'consistency' used by Andrew McFadden when the decision was announced why Ryan Hoffman was chosen to replace Simon Mannering as the Warriors' captain for 2016. Mannering was renowned for his consistency as a player and if the club wanted a similar example set by their captain then it was hard to look past Hoffman as the best man for the job.

"We considered other options, but Ryan's consistency as a person both on and off the field, along with the fact that he upholds all of our values at the club made him a clear candidate," McFadden said.

"He'll handle all of those off field obligations pretty easily and I don't think it will affect his performances."

Mannering had felt the weight of the pressure on his team last year – but in particular the additional workload he'd had to endure as captain was something he highlighted when stepping down.

"It's been a hard couple of seasons performance wise, but in all honesty it's not the playing side of it, it's the extra commitment outside of football that wore me down a bit... You've got quite a bit more commitment, traveling back and forth from Aussie and more stuff over here as captain," he said.

For Hoffman, the leadership change provides a fresh opportunity for him to achieve something he hasn't already accomplished in his decorated career where he's won NRL Grand Finals, played State of Origin and played for Australia.

"It's something I always thought I could do, to be a captain of an NRL club, [ but ] I never thought I would just due to circumstances," he said when taking over the role.

Those circumstances of course saw him unlikely to ever captain the Melbourne Storm in a long-term role while they were being led by the very successful Queensland and Australian captain, Cameron Smith. He has filled in on occasions though. The experience under Smith combined with the stint under Simon have made it clear to Hoffman the type of leader he wants to be.

"The best thing with Cameron and having him as leader is that he leads by example in what he does and that's exactly the same attribute Simon has," Hoffman said.

"The respect Cameron has throughout the game and from the referees, he's the type of bloke who always puts the game first and that's the leader I want to be."

The one key difference might be that Hoffman is a man who seems to relish expressing himself and while Mannering wasn't a big fan of talking to the referee, that prospect is one that the Australian is looking forward to.

"It won't change what I do on the field because I've always seen myself as quite a vocal person," he said.

"All there will be is quite a few more commitments off the field and I'll be allowed to talk to the refs now, which will be good."

Expectations are high for the Warriors in 2016 and if Ryan Hoffman is able to lead the Warriors to that elusive NRL title then he has the opportunity to fill the gap that Steve Price has left as being New Zealanders most loved Australian sportsman.



Photo courtesy of [www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

# VODAFONE WARRIORS COACHES/PLAYERS PROFILES



HERE IS ALL YOU'VE EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE **VODAFONE WARRIORS'** COACHES AND PLAYERS — INCLUDING DEBUT INFORMATION, KEY STATS, REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS AND MORE.



**ANDREW McFADDEN** HEAD COACH  
 BORN: 20 JANUARY, 1978 IN CANBERRA, ACT  
 APPOINTED: 2014  
 PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:  
 CANBERRA JERSEY FLEGG COACH (2005), CANBERRA PREMIER LEAGUE COACH (2006), LES CATALANS ASSISTANT COACH (2007-2008), CANBERRA NYC COACH (2009), CANBERRA ASSISTANT COACH (2010-2012), **VODAFONE WARRIORS** ASSISTANT COACH (2013-2014), **VODAFONE WARRIORS** HEAD COACH (2014-PRESENT)  
 PLAYING RECORD: 100 FIRST-GRADE GAMES WITH CANBERRA (1997-2001), PARRAMATTA (2002) AND MELBOURNE (2003-2004)  
 PREMIERSHIP COACHING RECORD:  
 GAMES - 43; WINS - 19; LOSSES - 24.  
 WIN PERCENTAGE: 44.18%  
 PREMIERSHIPS: NIL    GRAND FINALS: NIL    FINALS SERIES: NIL



**JUSTIN MORGAN** ASSISTANT COACH  
 BORN: 2 AUGUST, 1975 IN SYDNEY, NSW  
 APPOINTED: 2016  
 PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:  
 TOULOUSE OLYMPIQUE COACH (2005), HULL KINGSTON ROVERS COACH (2005-2011), CANBERRA ASSISTANT COACH (2012-2013), MELBOURNE ASSISTANT COACH (2014-2015)  
 PLAYING RECORD:  
 133 FIRST-GRADE GAMES WITH PARRAMATTA (1994-1999), CANBERRA (2000), **VODAFONE WARRIORS** (2001-2002)



**ANDREW WEBSTER** ASSISTANT COACH  
 BORN: 17 JANUARY, 1982 IN SYDNEY, NSW  
 APPOINTED: 2015  
 PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS:  
 HULL KINGSTON ROVERS ASSISTANT COACH (2009-2011), BALMAIN TIGERS SG BALL HEAD COACH (2012), WESTS TIGERS NYC ASSISTANT COACH/WESTS TIGERS UNDER-19 HEAD COACH (2012), PARRAMATTA NYC HEAD COACH/NRL DEVELOPMENT COACH (2013), WESTS TIGERS NYC HEAD COACH (2014)  
 PLAYING RECORD:  
 LOWER GRADE INCLUDING PARRAMATTA, BALMAIN AND RYDE-EASTWOOD

## BECOME A PART OF **OUR TRIBE**

**\$49** | 11-game junior membership

Adult 11-game membership from just **\$129**

3-game Adult flexi pass from **\$39**



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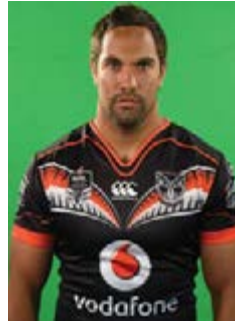
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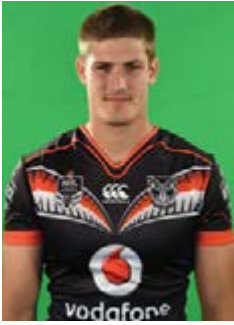




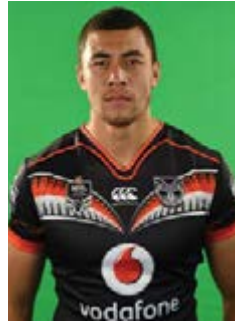
**RYAN HOFFMAN** CAPTAIN  
 BORN: 26 JANUARY, 1984 IN WODEN VALLEY, ACT  
 JUNIOR CLUB: CAMPBELLTOWN COLLEGIANS  
 POSITION: SECOND ROW  
 HEIGHT: 192CM | WEIGHT: 105KG  
 REP HONOURS: 6 TESTS AUSTRALIA (2007-09, 2012, 2014); 14 GAMES NSW (2007-08, 2013-15); FOUR NATIONS (2009, 2014); 7 GAMES CITY ORIGIN (2006-07, 2009-10, 2012-14); WORLD ALL STARS (2016)  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: MELBOURNE (2003-10 & 2012-14), WIGAN (2011)  
 FG DEBUT: MELBOURNE v MANLY, BROOKVALE OVAL, 20 APRIL, 2003 (Rd 6)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v NEWCASTLE, HUNTER STADIUM, 7 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 6)



**MATTHEW ALLWOOD**  
 BORN: 16 NOVEMBER, 1992 IN SCONE, NSW  
 JUNIOR CLUB: FARRER MEMORIAL AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOL  
 POSITION: CENTRE/WING  
 HEIGHT: 185CM | WEIGHT: 93KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: CANBERRA (2014)  
 FG DEBUT: CANBERRA v PARRAMATTA, 1300SMILES STADIUM, 8 MARCH, 2014 (Rd 4)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v BRISBANE, MOUNT SMART STADIUM, 29 MARCH 2015 (Rd 1)



**BLAKE AYSHFORD**  
 BORN: 15 APRIL, 1988 IN SYDNEY, NSW  
 JUNIOR CLUBS: PADDINGTON TIGERS, COOGEE WOMBATS  
 POSITION: CENTRE  
 HEIGHT: 190CM | WEIGHT: 100KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: WESTS TIGERS (2009-13), CRONULLA (2014-15)  
 FG DEBUT: WESTS TIGERS v BRISBANE, CAMPBELLTOWN SPORTS STADIUM, 22 MAY, 2009 (Rd 11)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS



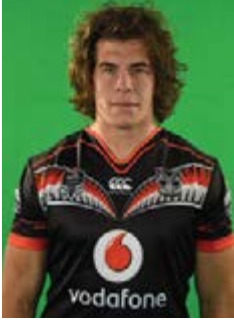
**RAYMOND FAITALA-MARINER**  
 BORN: 26 JULY, 1993 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: OTAHUHU LEOPARDS  
 POSITION: SECOND ROW  
 HEIGHT: 186CM | WEIGHT: 106KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v GOLD COAST, MOUNT SMART STADIUM, 25 APRIL, 2015 (Rd 8)



**DAVID FUSITU'A**  
 BORN: 16 OCTOBER, 1994 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MARIST SAINTS  
 POSITION: FULLBACK/CENTRE/WING  
 HEIGHT: 189CM | WEIGHT: 97KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2012-13)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA, EDEN PARK, 15 MARCH, 2014 (Rd 2)



**JAMES GAVET**  
 BORN: 19 OCTOBER, 1989 IN SYDNEY, NSW  
 JUNIOR CLUB: RICHMOND ROVERS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 189CM | WEIGHT: 108KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN (2012), WESTS TIGERS (2013-2014), BRISBANE (2015)  
 FG DEBUT: CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN v BRISBANE, ANZ STADIUM, 8 AUGUST, 2012 (Rd 23)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS



**CHARLIE GUBB**  
 BORN: 17 MAY, 1990 IN WELLINGTON  
 JUNIOR CLUB: UNIVERSITY HUNTERS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 188CM | WEIGHT: 107KG  
 REP HONOURS: QUEENSLAND RESIDENTS (2012)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v SOUTH SYDNEY, nib STADIUM, 7 JULY, 2013 (Rd 17)



**BEN HENRY**  
 BORN: 14 DECEMBER, 1991 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: BAY ROSKILL VIKINGS  
 POSITION: LOOSE FORWARD/SECOND ROW  
 HEIGHT: 185CM | WEIGHT: 102KG  
 REP HONOURS: 1 TEST NZ (2014)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v MANLY, EDEN PARK, 4 MARCH, 2012 (Rd 1)



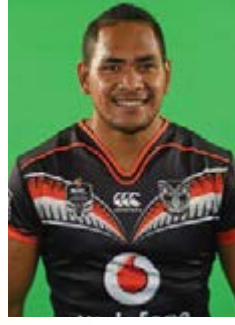
**ATA HINGANO**  
 BORN: 11 MARCH, 1997 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: PAKURANGA JAGUARS  
 POSITION: STANDOFF/HALFBACK  
 HEIGHT: 183CM | WEIGHT: 92KG  
 REP HONOURS: NZ RESIDENTS 18s (2014-15)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FIRST GRADE



**KONRAD HURRELL**  
 BORN: 5 AUGUST, 1991 IN TOFOA, TONGA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MOUNT ALBERT LIONS  
 POSITION: CENTRE  
 HEIGHT: 183CM | WEIGHT: 104KG  
 REP HONOURS: 4 TESTS TONGA (2013-15); WORLD CUP (2013); WORLD ALL STARS (2016)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v MANLY, EDEN PARK, 4 MARCH, 2012 (Rd 1)



**SHAUN JOHNSON**  
 BORN: 9 SEPTEMBER, 1990 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUBS: HIBISCUS COAST RAIDERS, NORTHCOTE TIGERS  
 POSITION: HALFBACK/STANDOFF  
 HEIGHT: 179CM | WEIGHT: 89KG  
 REP HONOURS: 14 TESTS NZ (2012-15); FOUR NATIONS (2014); WORLD CUP (2013); NZ v COOK ISLANDS (2013); JUNIOR KIWIS (2010)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v SYDNEY ROOSTERS, SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM, 4 JUNE, 2011 (Rd 13)



**SOLOMONE KATA**  
 BORN: 3 DECEMBER, 1994 IN NEIAFU, TONGA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: HOWICK HORNETS  
 POSITION: CENTRE  
 HEIGHT: 177CM | WEIGHT: 97KG  
 REP HONOURS: 1 TEST TONGA (2015)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v NEWCASTLE, HUNTER STADIUM, 7 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 1)

NOTE: FG denotes FIRST GRADE



**ALI LAUITITI**  
 BORN: 13 JULY, 1979 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MANGERE EAST HAWKS  
 POSITION: SECOND ROW/PROP  
 HEIGHT: 188CM | WEIGHT: 115KG  
 REP HONOURS: 19 TESTS NZ (1998–2006),  
 4 TESTS SAMOA (2007–10),  
 WORLD CUP (2000  
 & 2008), TRI NATIONS (2005),  
 ALL GOLDS (2007)  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: WARRIORS (1998–2004),  
 LEEDS (2004–11),  
 WAKEFIELD (2012–15)  
 FG DEBUT: WARRIORS v NORTH SYDNEY, NORTH  
 SYDNEY OVAL, 19 APRIL, 1998 (Rd 6)



**THOMAS LEULUAI**  
 BORN: 22 JUNE, 1985 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUBS: PAPATOETOE PANTHERS,  
 OTAHUHU LEOPARDS  
 POSITION: HALFBACK/STANDOFF/HOOKER  
 HEIGHT: 176CM | WEIGHT: 86KG  
 REP HONOURS: 34 TESTS NZ (2003–15);  
 WORLD CUP (2008 & 2013);  
 FOUR NATIONS (2009–11, 2014);  
 ALL GOLDS (2008)  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: WARRIORS (2003–04), LONDON  
 BRONCOS (2005), HARLEQUINS  
 (2005–06), WIGAN (2007–12)  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v BULLDOGS, WESTPAC STADIUM,  
 2 MAY, 2003 (Rd 8)



**JACOB LILLYMAN**  
 BORN: 7 MARCH, 1984 IN RICHMOND, QLD  
 JUNIOR CLUB: RICHMOND TIGERS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 182CM | WEIGHT: 105KG  
 REP HONOURS: 11 GAMES QUEENSLAND  
 (2006–08, 2011, 2014–15)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NORTH QUEENSLAND  
 (2003, 2005–08)  
 FG DEBUT: NORTH QUEENSLAND v NEWCASTLE,  
 DAIRY FARMERS STADIUM,  
 9 AUGUST, 2009 (Rd 22)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v PARRAMATTA,  
 MOUNT SMART STADIUM,  
 14 MARCH, 2009 (Rd 1)



**MASON LINO**  
 BORN: 4 FEBRUARY, 1994 IN APIA, SAMOA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MARIST SAINTS  
 POSITION: HALFBACK  
 HEIGHT: 176CM | WEIGHT: 84KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v NORTH QUEENSLAND,  
 MOUNT SMART STADIUM,  
 22 AUGUST, 2015 (Rd 24)



**SAM LISONI**  
 BORN: 19 FEBRUARY, 1994 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: OTAHUHU LEOPARDS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 184CM | WEIGHT: 103KG  
 REP HONOURS: 1 TEST SAMOA (2015),  
 JUNIOR KIWIS (2014)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 FG DEBUT: v NEWCASTLE,  
 HUNTER STADIUM,  
 7 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 1)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v PARRAMATTA,  
 MOUNT SMART STADIUM,  
 14 MARCH, 2009 (Rd 1)



**TUIMOALA LOLOHEA**  
 BORN: 23 JANUARY, 1995 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MARIST SAINTS  
 POSITION: UTILITY  
 HEIGHT: 177CM | WEIGHT: 89KG  
 REP HONOURS: 1 TEST NZ (2015),  
 1 TEST TONGA (2015)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v MANLY,  
 MOUNT SMART STADIUM,  
 27 JULY, 2014 (Rd 20)



**SIONE LOUSI**  
 BORN: 8 OCTOBER, 1989 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUBS: RICHMOND ROVERS,  
 BAY ROSKILL VIKINGS  
 POSITION: PROP/SECOND ROW/LOOSE FORWARD  
 HEIGHT: 191CM | WEIGHT: 106KG  
 REP HONOURS: 1 TEST TONGA (2010)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v GOLD COAST,  
 SKILLED PARK,  
 14 MARCH, 2010 (Rd 1)



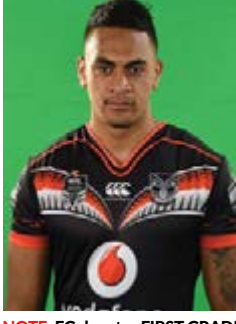
**ISSAC LUKE**  
 BORN: 29 MAY, 1987 IN HAWERA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: HAWERA HAWKS  
 POSITION: HOOKER  
 HEIGHT: 174CM | WEIGHT: 91KG  
 REP HONOURS: 36 TESTS NZ (2008–15),  
 WORLD CUP (2008 & 2013);  
 FOUR NATIONS (2009–11, 2014);  
 ALL GOLDS (2008);  
 NZ v COOK ISLANDS (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: SOUTH SYDNEY (2007–2015)  
 FG DEBUT: SOUTH SYDNEY v MELBOURNE,  
 OLYMPIC PARK, 2 JUNE, 2007 (Rd 12)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS



**SIMON MANNERING**  
 BORN: 28 AUGUST, 1986 IN NAPIER  
 JUNIOR CLUBS: TE AROHA EELS,  
 UNIVERSITY HUNTERS  
 POSITION: LOOSE FORWARD/SECOND ROW  
 HEIGHT: 192CM | WEIGHT: 105KG  
 REP HONOURS: 41 TESTS NZ (2006–15);  
 WORLD CUP (2008 & 2013);  
 TRI NATIONS (2006);  
 FOUR NATIONS (2010–11, 14);  
 NZ v COOK ISLANDS (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v BRISBANE,  
 ERICSSON STADIUM,  
 26 JUNE, 2005 (Rd 16)



**BEN MATULINO**  
 BORN: 3 JANUARY, 1989 IN LOWER HUTT  
 JUNIOR CLUB: TE AROHA EELS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 193CM | WEIGHT: 107KG  
 REP HONOURS: 23 TESTS NZ (2009–15);  
 WORLD CUP (2013);  
 NZ v COOK ISLANDS (2013);  
 FOUR NATIONS (2009–11)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v CRONULLA,  
 TOYOTA STADIUM,  
 14 JUNE, 2008 (Rd 14)



**KEN MAUMALO**  
 BORN: 16 JUNE, 1994 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: PAPATOETOE PANTHERS  
 POSITION: CENTRE/WING  
 HEIGHT: 191CM | WEIGHT: 105KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v PARRAMATTA,  
 PIRTEK STADIUM,  
 22 AUGUST, 2015 (Rd 24)

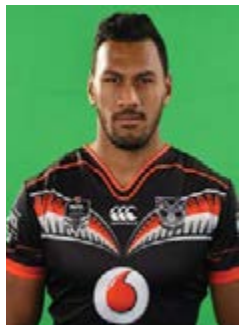


**CHARNZE NICOLL-KLOKSTAD**  
 BORN: 2 AUGUST, 1995 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: CITY NEWTON DRAGONS  
 POSITION: FULLBACK/CENTRE/STANDOFF  
 HEIGHT: 182CM | WEIGHT: 86KG  
 REP HONOURS: COOK ISLANDS (2015)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FIRST GRADE

NOTE: FG denotes FIRST GRADE

WARRIORS NRL PLAYER PROFILES CONTINUED ON p32



**JOHN PALAVI**

BORN: 31 JULY, 1992 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: RICHMOND ROVERS  
 POSITION: SECOND ROW/LOOSE FORWARD  
 HEIGHT: 187CM | WEIGHT: 103KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2011)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v PARRAMATTA,  
 PIRTEK STADIUM,  
 9 MARCH, 2014 (Rd 1)

**UPU POCHING**

BORN: 7 FEBRUARY, 1988 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MANGERE EAST HAWKS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 186CM | WEIGHT: 106KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2006)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v NORTH QUEENSLAND,  
 MOUNT SMART STADIUM,  
 15 MAY, 2010 (Rd 6)

**NATHANIEL ROACHE**

BORN: 15 APRIL, 1996 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MOUNT ALBERT LIONS  
 POSITION: UTILITY  
 HEIGHT: 180CM | WEIGHT: 90KG  
 REP HONOURS: NZ RESIDENTS 18s (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FIRST GRADE

**JEFF ROBSON**

BORN: 5 AUGUST, 1982 IN LEETON, NSW  
 JUNIOR CLUB: LEETON GREENIES  
 POSITION: HALFBACK/STANDOFF/HOOKER  
 HEIGHT: 176CM | WEIGHT: 87KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: MANLY (2004 & 2008),  
 PARRAMATTA (2009-11),  
 CRONULLA (2012-15)  
 FG DEBUT: MANLY v CRONULLA,  
 BROOKVALE OVAL,  
 23 MAY, 2004 (Rd 11)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS

**LIGI SAO**

BORN: 11 OCTOBER, 1992 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MANUREWA MARLINS  
 POSITION: PROP/LOOSE FORWARD  
 HEIGHT: 187CM | WEIGHT: 109KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: MANLY (2013 & 2015)  
 FG DEBUT: MANLY v NORTH QUEENSLAND,  
 1300MILES STADIUM,  
 15 JULY, 2013 (Rd 18)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS

**TOAFOFOA SIPLEY**

BORN: 5 JANUARY, 1995 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: RICHMOND ROVERS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 188CM | WEIGHT: 116KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2015)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FIRST GRADE

**BODENE THOMPSON**

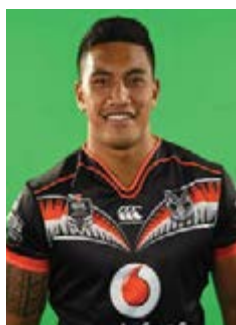
BORN: 1 AUGUST, 1988 IN TAURANGA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: TAURANGA CITY SHARKS  
 POSITION: SECOND ROW  
 HEIGHT: 185CM | WEIGHT: 107KG  
 REP HONOURS: NZ FOUR NATIONS (2014);  
 NZ MAORI (2010)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: GOLD COAST TITANS (2009-12),  
 WESTS TIGERS (2013-14)  
 FG DEBUT: GOLD COAST v NEWCASTLE,  
 ENERGYAUSTRALIA STADIUM,  
 10 MAY, 2009 (Rd 9)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v NEWCASTLE,  
 HUNTER STADIUM,  
 7 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 1)

**ROGER TUIVASA-SHECK**

BORN: 5 JUNE, 1993 IN APIA, SAMOA  
 JUNIOR CLUB: OTAHUHU LEOPARDS  
 POSITION: FULLBACK  
 HEIGHT: 182CM | WEIGHT: 93KG  
 REP HONOURS: 11 TESTS NZ (2013-15),  
 WORLD CUP (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: SYDNEY ROOSTERS (2012-15)  
 FG DEBUT: SYDNEY ROOSTERS v GOLD COAST,  
 ALLIANZ STADIUM,  
 27 JULY, 2012 (Rd 21)  
 CLUB DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FOR WARRIORS

**MANU VATUVEI**

BORN: 4 MARCH, 1986 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: OTARA SCORPIONS  
 POSITION: WING | HEIGHT: 189CM | WEIGHT: 107KG  
 REP HONOURS: 28 TESTS NZ (2005-15);  
 WORLD CUP (2008 & 2013);  
 NZ v COOK ISLANDS (2013);  
 ALL GOLDS (2008);  
 TRI NATIONS (2005-06);  
 FOUR NATIONS (2010, 2014);  
 NRL ALL STARS (2010, 2012, 2015)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v SOUTH SYDNEY,  
 SYDNEY FOOTBALL STADIUM,  
 23 MAY, 2004 (Rd 11)

**ALBERT VETE**

BORN: 24 JANUARY, 1993 IN AUCKLAND  
 JUNIOR CLUB: MANGERE EAST HAWKS  
 POSITION: PROP  
 HEIGHT: 188CM | WEIGHT: 110KG  
 REP HONOURS: JUNIOR KIWIS (2013)  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: v NEWCASTLE, HUNTER STADIUM,  
 7 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 1)

**HENARE WELLS**

BORN: 17 OCTOBER, 1992 IN TAUMARUNUI  
 JUNIOR CLUB: PAKAPURA SEA EAGLES  
 POSITION: FULLBACK/WING  
 HEIGHT: 188CM | WEIGHT: 89KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUB: NIL  
 CLUB/FG DEBUT: YET TO PLAY FIRST GRADE

**JONATHAN WRIGHT**

BORN: 8 MARCH, 1987 IN GILGANDRA, NSW  
 JUNIOR CLUB: NORTHERN LAKE WARRIORS  
 POSITION: CENTRE/WING  
 HEIGHT: 187CM | WEIGHT: 98KG  
 REP HONOURS: NIL  
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: PARRAMATTA (2009-10),  
 CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN  
 (2011-12), CRONULLA (2013-14)  
 FG DEBUT: PARRAMATTA v NEWCASTLE,  
 ENERGYAUSTRALIA STADIUM,  
 7 JUNE, 2009 (Rd 13)  
 CLUB DEBUT: v CANBERRA, GIO STADIUM,  
 15 MARCH, 2015 (Rd 2)





**HOLDEN CUP COACH:** Kelvin Wright  
**W:** +64 9 526 8822  
**M:** +64 21 421 863  
**HOLDEN CUP MANAGER:** Doug Murray  
**W:** +64 9 526 8822  
**M:** +64 21 913 476

## COACH: KELVIN WRIGHT

**Born:** November 30, 1980 **Appointed Position:** 2015  
**Previous Appointments:** Kiwi analyst (2014-15), Warriors NYC Assistant Coach (2013-14) **Personal note:** During his first season in charge Kelvin guided the NYC team to within one match of an NYC grand final. He was on the Kiwis' coaching staff for their Anzac Test win and tour to England.



## BUNTY AFOA

**Pronunciation:** Ar-for-ah **Born:** August 20, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Pt Chevalier Pirates **Position:** Prop **Height:** 188cm **Weight:** 100kg **Rep Honours:** Junior Kiwis (2015), NZ Residents 18s (2013) **Occupation:** Courier **Personal note:** Bunty became the 14th player to play 50 NYC games for the Warriors and was the club's 2015 NYC Player of the Year.



## ERIN CLARK

**Born:** September 6, 1997, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Manurewa Marlins **Position:** Halfback/Five-Eighth/Hooker **Height:** 180cm **Weight:** 94kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Residents 18s ('14-15), NZ Secondary Schools ('14) **Studying:** Personal training **Personal note:** In his NYC rookie season in 2015, Erin was the only Warriors player to appear in every game.



## KEANU DAWSON

**Born:** March 17, 1997, Hamilton, NZ **Junior Club:** Forestland Falcons **Position:** Prop/Second Row **Height:** 188cm **Weight:** 104kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Residents 18s (2015) **Occupation:** Labourer **Personal note:** Tokoroa-raised Keanu attended Kaeber Park High School. He played for the New Zealand Residents under-18s side last year.



## MATTAIS HEIMULI

**Pronunciation:** Mar-tay-us Hay-moo-lee **Born:** October 6, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Mount Albert Lions **Position:** Lock/Prop **Height:** 177cm **Weight:** 96kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Residents 18s (2014) **Occupation:** Apprentice drain layer **Personal note:** Mattais became an NYC regular late last season as an interchange forward.



## TAMATI IOANE-NIKO

**Born:** Tar-mar-tee Yo-ar-neh-Nee-ko **Born:** April 26, 1997, Auckland, NZ **Jnr Club:** Mangere East Hawks **Position:** Prop/Second Row **Height:** 188cm **Weight:** 110kg **Rep Hons:** NZ Residents 17s (2014) **Occupation:** Apprentice plumber **Personal note:** Tamati excelled at the 2014 NZRL youth tournament and broke into the Warriors NYC side.



## ZION IOKA

**Pronunciation:** Ea-ork-ar **Born:** December 20, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Glenora Bears **Position:** Five-Eighth/Halfback **Height:** 183cm **Weight:** 85kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Secondary Schools (2014) **Studying:** Bachelor of Health Science **Personal note:** Zion is back home after spending 2015 in the Storm's NYC squad.



## JAMES MAFI

**Pronunciation:** Mar-fee **Born:** March 5, 1996, Tonga **Junior Club:** Glenora Bears **Position:** Second Row **Height:** 192cm **Weight:** 111kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Secondary Schools (2014) **Occupation:** Warehouse assistant **Personal note:** James played First XV rugby union at secondary school. He lives in Autex House, the club's home for young players.



## LEVI MCBIRNEY

**Born:** July 6, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Northcote Tigers **Position:** Centre/Fullback/Wing **Height:** 188cm **Weight:** 92kg **Rep Honours:** Nil **Studying:** Bachelor of Business **Personal note:** Levi came out of secondary school rugby union, scoring three tries in six appearances for the Warriors NYC side last year.



## TYLER MOHI

**Pronunciation:** Mor-fee **Born:** November 8, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Jnr Club:** Mangere East Hawks **Pos:** Hooker **Height:** 180cm **Weight:** 80kg **Rep Hons:** NZ Residents 18s (2014), NZ Secondary Schools (2014) **Occupation:** Diploma in Applied Sciences **Personal note:** Tyler played six NYC matches during his rookie season with the Warriors.



## MARATA NIUKORE

**Pronunciation:** Mar-rar-ter Knee-oo-kor-neh **Born:** July 29, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Howick Homets **Position:** Centre/Second Row **Height:** 188cm **Weight:** 102kg **Rep Honours:** Junior Kiwis (2015) **Occupation:** Labourer **Personal note:** Marata followed his rookie season by playing both NYC and NSW Cup during 2015.



## OFAHIKI OGDEN

**Pronunciation:** Or-far-fee-fee **Born:** June 6, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Jnr Club:** Mangere East Hawks **Position:** Prop/Second Row **Height:** 192cm **Weight:** 100kg **Rep Hons:** NZ Residents 18s ('13-14) **Occupation:** Apprentice builder **Personal note:** Ofahiki underlined his durability when he missed just two NYC games during 2015.



## KOLI ONEONE

**Pronunciation:** Kor-lee Or-neh-ar-neh **Born:** August 28, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Otahuhu Leopards **Position:** Centre/Wing **Height:** 194cm **Weight:** 102kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Residents 18s ('15), NZ Secondary Schools ('14) **Occupation:** Parcel sorter **Personal note:** Koli scored a try on debut and finished with four tries in 10 NYC appearances.



## JUNIOR PAUGA

**Pronunciation:** Pong-ar **Born:** February 3, 1996, Auckland, NZ **Junior Club:** Glenora Bears **Position:** Fullback/Wing/Centre **Height:** 185cm **Weight:** 85kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Secondary Schools ('14) **Occupation:** Storeman **Personal note:** Junior ended his rookie NYC season with seven tries in 14 games. He worked for the club's community department.



## SHELDON PITAMA

**Pronunciation:** Pse-tar-mar **Born:** January 13, 1996, Christchurch, NZ **Junior Club:** Northern Bulldogs **Position:** Hooker **Height:** 175cm **Weight:** 88kg **Rep Honours:** NZ Residents 18s (2013) **Occupation:** Apprentice plumber **Personal note:** Sheldon's 2015 season was ended early by a leg injury against Gold Coast.



Courtesy of Big League Magazine





**JOSEPH PRICE**

Born: February 24, 1996, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Mangere East Hawks Position: Lock Height: 183cm Weight: 92kg Rep Honours: NZ Residents 18s (2014) Studying: Police course Personal note: The energetic 'JP' added five more appearances to his tally after playing just one game in his debut NYC season in 2014.



**CHRIS SIO**

Pronunciation: See-oh Born: October 14, 1997, Auckland, NZ Jnr Club: Marist Saints Position: Hooker Height: 174cm Weight: 91kg Rep Hons: NZ Residents 18s (2015), NZ Secondary Schools (2015) Occupation: Labourer Personal note: Chris was one of a number of 17-year-olds to make their NYC debut for the Warriors in 2015.



**LEWIS SOOSEMEA**

Pronunciation: Soo-sah-mee-ah Born: July 3, 1998, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Papatoetoe Panthers/Mangere East Hawks Position: Wing/Fullback/Centre Height: 189cm Weight: 89kg Rep Honours: NZ Residents 18s (2015), NZ Secondary Schools ('14) Studying: Student Personal note: Lewis is still at secondary school in his second NYC season.



**KANE TELEA**

Pronunciation: Tah-lee-ah Born: April 20, 1997, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Mount Wellington Warriors Position: Halfback/Fullback Height: 187cm Weight: 85kg Rep Honours: NZ Universities (2015) Studying: Sport and Recreation (Unitec) Personal note: An exciting prospect educated at union stronghold Sacred Heart College.



**TUALIMA TUALIMA**

Pronunciation: Too-a-lee-ah Too-a-lee-ah Born: February 24, 1996, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Pt Chevalier Pirates/Mount Albert Lions Position: Prop/Second Row Height: 189cm Weight: 117kg Studying: Financial management Personal note: Tualima is in his second NYC season with the Warriors after being with Manly in 2014.



**JOSEPH VUNA**

Pronunciation: Voo-nah Born: July 31, 1998, Alameda County, California Junior Club: Otahuhu Leopards Position: Second Row/Lock Height: 182cm Weight: 97kg Studying: Student, Otahuhu College Personal note: Joseph is related to former Warrior Cooper Vuna and was born in the United States.



**CHARLIE GUBB**

Born: May 17, 1990, Wellington, NZ Junior Club: University Hunters Position: Prop Height: 188cm Weight: 107kg Rep Honours: Queensland Residents (2012) Occupation: Teacher's aide Club & First Grade Debut: v South Sydney, nib Stadium (Perth), 07/07/2013 (Rd 17) Personal note: Charlie made a career-high nine NRL appearances last year. He was married during the off-season.

**ALI LAUITITI**

Pronunciation: Ah-lee Low-ah-tee-tee Born: July 13, 1979, Auckland, NZ Jnr Club: Mangere East Pos: Second Row/Prop Height: 188cm Weight: 115kg Rep Hons: 4 Tests Samoa ('07-'10), WC ('00, '08), 19 Tests NZ ('98-'06), Tri Nations ('05) Prev Clubs: Warriors ('98-'04), Leeds ('04-'11), Wakefield ('12-'15) Club & FG Debut: v North Sydney, Nth Syd Oval, 19/04/98 (Rd 6) Personal note: Ali is the father of four daughters.

**KEN MAUMALO**

Pronunciation: Mow-mar-ah Born: June 16, 1994, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Papatoetoe Panthers Position: Centre/Wing Height: 191cm Weight: 105kg Club & First Grade Debut: v Parramatta, Pirtek Stadium, 16/05/2015 (Rd 10) Personal note: Injury denied Ken his planned NRL debut in Round 1 but he eventually earned his first call-up in Round 10. He graduated from the club's champion 2014 NYC side.

**UPU POCHING**

Pronunciation: Oh-poo Poching Born: February 7, 1988, Auckland, Samoa Junior Club: Mangere East Hawks Position: Prop Height: 187cm Weight: 106kg Rep Honours: Junior Kiwis (2006) Club & First Grade Debut: v North Queensland, Mt Smart Stadium, 15/05/2010 (Rd 10) Personal note: A foundation NYC player in 2008, Upu played his only NRL game for the Warriors back in 2010.

**TOAFOFOA SIPLEY**

Pronunciation: Toah-for-for-ah Born: January 5, 1995, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Richmond Rovers Position: Prop Height: 188cm Weight: 116kg Rep Honours: NZ Residents 18s (2013) Club & First Grade Debut: Yet to make NRL debut Personal note: 'Toaf' was just minutes into his NSW Cup debut last May when a knee injury ended his season. The club's 2015 NYC captain is studying to become a phys ed teacher.

**ATA HINGANO**

Pronunciation: Ah-tah Hing-ah-nor Born: March 11, 1997, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Pakuranga Jaguars Position: Five-Eighth/ Halfback Height: 183cm Weight: 92kg Rep Honours: NZ Residents 18s (2014-15) Club & First Grade Debut: Yet to make NRL debut Occupation: Apprentice painter Personal Note: Ata was named the club's 2015 NYC Rookie of the Year. Has topped 200 points in the NYC.

**MASON LINO**

Pronunciation: Lee-nor Born: February 4, 1994, Apia, Samoa Junior Club: Marist Saints Position: Halfback Height: 176cm Weight: 84kg Rep Honours: Junior Kiwis (2013) Occupation: Accountancy internship Club & First Grade Debut: v Nth Qld, Mt Smart Stadium, 22/08/15 (Rd 24) Personal note: After recovering from shoulder surgery, 'Mase' has played in the NSW Cup and made his NRL debut.

**CHARNZE NICOLL-KLOKSTAD**

Pronunciation: Chance Nick-ah Clockstad Born: August 2, 1995, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: City Newton Dragons Position: Fullback/ Centre/Five-Eighth Height: 182cm Weight: 86kg Rep Honours: Cook Islands (2015) Club & FG Debut: Yet to make NRL debut Personal note: Melbourne's 2014 NYC Back of the Year debuted for the Cook Islands in last year's World Cup qualifier against Tonga.

**NATHANIEL ROACHE**

Born: April 15, 1996, Auckland, NZ Junior Club: Mount Albert Lions Position: Utility Height: 180cm Weight: 90kg Rep Honours: NZ Residents Under-18s (2013) Club & First Grade Debut: Yet to make NRL debut Personal note: After featuring in the Warriors' champion 2014 NYC side, 'Nate' earned a spot in the club's 2015 NRL Auckland Nines squad and played in the NRL trials against Gold Coast and Penrith.

**HENARE WELLS**

Pronunciation: Hen-ah-ree Born: October 17, 1992, Taumarunui, NZ Junior Club: Papakura Sea Eagles Position: Fullback/Wing Height: 188cm Weight: 89kg Club & First Grade Debut: Yet to make NRL debut Personal note: 'Herz' came through Kaeira Park State High School. After playing NYC for the Roosters he was with Newtown in the NSW Cup in 2013 and Burleigh in the Queensland Cup in 2014-15.





# Vodafone Warriors 2016 NRL DRAW

RD	DATE	LOCAL TIME	OPPONENT	VENUE
<b>1</b>	Sat 5 Mar	5:30pm	AT <b>Tigers</b>	Campbelltown Stadium
<b>2</b>	Fri 11 Mar	7:05pm	AT <b>Broncos</b>	Suncorp Stadium
<b>3</b>	Sun 20 Mar	4:00pm	VS <b>Storm</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>4</b>	Mon 28 Mar	4:00pm	VS <b>Knights</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>5</b>	Sun 3 Apr	2:00pm	AT <b>Roosters</b>	Allianz Stadium
<b>6</b>	Sat 9 Apr	7:30pm	VS <b>Manly</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>7</b>	Sat 16 Apr	7:30pm	AT <b>Bulldogs</b>	Westpac Stadium
<b>8</b>	Mon 25 Apr	7:00pm	AT <b>Storm</b>	AMI Park
<b>9</b>	Sun 1 May	2:00pm	VS <b>Dragons</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
6-9 May Rep weekend				
<b>10</b>	Sat 14 May	5:00pm	AT <b>Panthers</b>	AMI Stadium Christchurch
<b>11</b>	Sat 21 May	7:30pm	VS <b>Raiders</b>	Yarrow Stadium Taranaki
<b>12</b>	Bye			
<b>13</b>	Sat 4 Jun	5:00pm	VS <b>Broncos</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>14</b>	Sat 11 Jun	3:00pm	AT <b>Knights</b>	Hunter Stadium
<b>15</b>	Sun 19 Jun	6:00pm	VS <b>Roosters</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>16</b>	Sat 25 Jun	5:30pm	AT <b>Sharks</b>	Remondis Stadium
<b>17</b>	Sat 2 Jul	5:00pm	VS <b>Titans</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>18</b>	Bye			
<b>19</b>	Sat 16 Jul	3:30pm	AT <b>Manly</b>	NIB Stadium
<b>20</b>	Sat 23 Jul	3:00pm	AT <b>Raiders</b>	GID Stadium
<b>21</b>	TBC		VS <b>Panthers</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>22</b>	TBC		AT <b>Titans</b>	Cbus Super Stadium
<b>23</b>	TBC		VS <b>Rabbitohs</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>24</b>	TBC		AT <b>Cowboys</b>	1300Smiles Stadium
<b>25</b>	TBC		VS <b>Tigers</b>	Mount Smart Stadium
<b>26</b>	TBC		VS <b>Eels</b>	Mount Smart Stadium

Go to [warriors.hiwi/2016](http://warriors.hiwi/2016) to sign up as a member for 2016

# Get on Board for the Ride...

By Richard Becht



**A**FTER FOUR seasons of failing to experience post-season football, there's a shared and desperate desire among everyone connected with the Vodafone Warriors – players, staff, members and fans alike – to see the club back in the NRL's top eight. Put simply, it's a must.

Since reaching the 2011 grand final, the club hasn't been in the playoffs again despite being in contention at some point in each of the last four campaigns.

The most notable was in 2014 when a win over Penrith – or even a close loss – in the final round of the regular season would have sealed a place among the final eight teams. The factors in the misses are too numerous and convoluted to go into now but no one would argue it's time the pattern changed.

If the trial performance against the Dragons in Nelson understandably took some edge off the levels of optimism which had been building, few would disagree the Vodafone Warriors have the means needed to advance to the finals for the eighth time since the first in 2001.

In the four years they've failed to progress only three teams – Melbourne, Canterbury-Bankstown and South Sydney – have been ever-present while the Sydney Roosters, Brisbane, North Queensland, Cronulla and Manly have missed the finals just once.

The Vodafone Warriors have found themselves in unwanted territory as one of four clubs which have been absent all four seasons (Gold Coast, Parramatta and Wests Tigers being the others).

However, as long as injuries aren't the dominant influence they were in 2015, then there's every reason to believe finals football is achievable. Not least is the quality of the squad, which answers the need for

depth across all positions.

Experience is certainly in plentiful supply with new captain Ryan Hoffman, previous leader Simon Mannering, Manu Vatuvei and Jacob Lillyman all boasting 200-plus NRL appearances not to mention significant representative credentials.

Ali Lauitiiti, back where it all started, has more than 400 top-level games combining his NRL and Super League careers while Thomas Leuluai is just a few games short of 300 using the same formula.

New signing Issac Luke is approaching his 200th NRL match, Ben Matulino has topped 170, Jeff Robson has 150-plus and Blake Ayshford, Jonathan Wright, Bodene Thompson and Shaun Johnson are all in the 100-club. Throw in the likes of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Konrad Hurrell, Ben Henry and Sione Louisi plus impressive rookies such as Tuimoala Lolohea, Solomone Kata, Albert Vete and Sam Lisone and the Vodafone Warriors have sufficient troops to call on.

How the squad and the season overall plays out is open to all manner of permutations. That can wait.

What can't, is the here and now, the opening gambit of the season against Wests Tigers on Saturday at a venue – Campbelltown Stadium – which has been brutal the last two visits.

The Vodafone Warriors haven't won the first match of a season since 2009 and can claim only five other winning starts in their history in 2007, 2002, 2000, 1999 and 1996.

If the top eight puzzle is to be solved now is the time to buck that trend as well.

*Richard Becht is the Vodafone Warriors' media and communications manager*

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### COMMUNITY WARRIORS





# A Close-Up On the 2016 Coaching Staff

By John Deaker



**A**NDREW MCFADDEN'S story is fairly well known – he took over as head coach of the Warriors from Matthew Elliott in April 2014 after first linking with the Warriors as Elliott's assistant for the 2013 season. His NRL coaching experience came as the Canberra Raiders' assistant coach – the same club where he'd played most of his 100 NRL games.

McFadden's assistants Andrew Webster and Justin Morgan's stories are less well-known. The close connection between all 3 men is prominent. Justin Morgan and McFadden were team-mates at the Canberra Raiders in 2000 and then again as assistant coaches at Canberra in 2012 before McFadden joined the Warriors. Webster also coached under Morgan for 3 years at Hull Kingston Rovers from 2009 to 2011.

The fact that Morgan is just 40 yet he is the eldest of the three is significant too.

We caught up with the 2 assistant coaches for 2016 – and also NSW Cup and Under 20's coaches Stacey Jones and Kelvin Wright for a chat about their roles and the season ahead:

## JUSTIN MORGAN

**J**USTIN MORGAN'S coaching role at the Warriors started back in October 2015. He'd previously been with the club back in the 2001 and 2002 seasons when he appeared 28 times for them.

The majority of his coaching experience was acquired in the Northern hemisphere with Toulouse Olympique and Hull Kingston Rovers. He then returned to Australia as the assistant coach at Canberra for 2 years before then having 2 years at the Melbourne Storm as their defence coach.

Morgan "learnt plenty" in his time under Craig Bellamy at the Storm and sorting out the Warriors' defence is not surprisingly the main task he's been entrusted with.

"My main focus is on defence – obviously structural stuff within the team and the contact and tackling element as well," he says.

"Being at a club like Melbourne that prides itself on its defence and makes it their number 1 priority meant I learnt plenty there. I also have some ideas of my own."

Having played for the Warriors and coached against them before has made it easier for Morgan to settle in his new role. The past connection with Andrew McFadden and Andrew Webster has also made life easier for him.

"I think the combination between the two Andrews and myself promotes healthy discussion. Because there's a previous relationship we challenge each other by bringing points up," he says.

Morgan is fully aware of the thick skin a professional coach requires – but also of how rewarding the role can be for him, even compared to when he was a player.

"I always joke with people that I played the game for a while and then decided to move to the less volatile world of coaching – but that's certainly not the case," he says.

"As a coach you're obviously responsible for a number of players so the satisfaction level (compared to playing) is magnified – because it comes from sometimes more than 35 people making progress."

Morgan knows the progress the public want is more wins on the scoreboard – something not always within his control.

"We know that going in to this job though", says Morgan.



*Justin Morgan*

*Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

## ANDREW WEBSTER

**2015 WAS** Andrew Webster's first season as the Warriors' Assistant Coach, working under Andrew McFadden and concentrating mostly on the team's attack.

Webster didn't play to NRL level – and his first coaching experience was actually in rugby union as player-coach of Connecticut. He then had two seasons as Assistant coach of Hull KR in 2006 and 2007. After spending 2008 with Parramatta on work experience he then worked as assistant coach to Justin Morgan at Hull KR from 2009-2011.

Webster returned to Australia in 2012 where he coached Balmain's SG Ball team to an unbeaten season and Premiership victory. He then coached Parramatta and the Wests Tigers NYC teams in 2013 and 2014 before joining the Warriors.

Like in 2015, attack is the main area Webster will focus on this year.

"I'm in charge of all our attack – so nothing's changed there. I also work closely with Stacey Jones on the kicking game," he says.

Webster finds coaching exhilarating, in particular the ability it gives him to make an impact in a sport that he loves while working with some of the best rugby league players in the world.

"I like the adrenaline side of winning and losing in coaching," he says.

"I certainly hate losing more than anything. But it's the thrill of victories and seeing how happy the boys are plus feeling like you contributed in a way that is an amazing feeling," he says.

"To be honest, having the opportunity to be around football – to continue from playing – and being around terrific guys and something that you're passionate about and love is the enjoyable thing."

Webster is a fan of using technology as a crucial part of the coaching package.

"As a player I got a lot out of watching video. I think it was my biggest tool of learning – the visual side of it, so I've always tried to make sure I'm strong in that area," he says.

He's under no illusions about the down-side of his job though.

"I think everybody knows how cut-throat coaching is – that's probably the negative part of it - having a job one week and not the next," he says.



Andrew Webster

Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

## STACEY JONES

**2016 WILL** be Stacey Jones's second year coaching the Warriors' NSW Cup team. Jones linked up with the Warriors for the first time in a coaching capacity when he was the Junior Recruitment and Pathways Coach in 2013.

In 2014 he coached the Holden Cup team to a title - beating Brisbane 34-32 in the Grand Final.

The constant travel that other teams don't have was an area that took its toll on Jones's 4th placed team last year. He says there's no magic formula to dealing with this - it's something they just need prepare for as well as they can.

"It is what it is. We're playing in their competition... it's just about dealing with it and making sure that the players are comfortable and the team culture's good and everyone's on the same page," he says.

"Travelling away can't be seen as a chore – it's got to be seen as something that they really want to do. You're bringing together three groups – the players back from the NRL team, your local part-time players and also the Under 20's that we're trying to promote... So you need to make sure that the culture is right and that they get on the plane and enjoy each other's company.

*Continued on next page...*



Injuries right throughout the Warriors' club last year put pressure on the NSW Cup team's depth. With the usual player movements in the off-season, Jones believes the player depth that's likely to be available to him in 2016 is similar to last year.

"I think as far as depth is concerned we're in a similar position to last year – it's just that last year we did have a lot of injuries, particularly to outside backs," he says.

Coaching is hard work, especially when you encounter the hurdles Jones did last year. However, like so many players that go into coaching, the Warriors' legend continues to find aspects of coaching even more satisfying than playing.

"The coaching has its challenges but it's also a lot more rewarding at times trying to make players better and further their careers," says Jones.



*Stacey Jones*

*Photo: www.photosport.nz*

### **KELVIN WRIGHT**

2016 will be Kelvin Wright's second year in charge of the Warriors' Under 20's. He's head coach of the Junior Kiwis as well – a role he also stepped up to after doing his apprenticeship as the team's assistant coach.

As a player, Wright had plenty of success in domestic 'grass-roots' rugby league. He was part of the Auckland Lions team that won four Bartercard Cup national titles. He also led the Mt Albert Lions to Fox Memorial club titles in 2008 and 2009 and represented NZ Residents in 2006 and 2009.

Wright coached the Otara Scorpions and Bay Roskill Vikings in the Auckland club competition and assisted with Akarana Falcons 17s, before he linked up with the Warriors.

One of the toughest aspects of coaching the Under 20's is the fact that if players perform outstandingly for you they probably won't stay with you for long – the NSW Cup side or even NRL team will probably utilize their services. Wright says it's important for him to constantly remember the club's priorities.

"I can't let ego get in the way of player's development. I can't hold players back to play for me... The NRL team's sole purpose has to be to win. But underneath the NRL level we need to make sure that we are creating long-term and sustainable success for our club at the NRL level – so we need to make sure we remain player focused," he says.

Wright is hard on his players and expects high standards from them, but there are times when he has to remember that they are age-group players.

"It's about understanding where they are at and that they're going to make small mistakes along the way – so long as they don't keep repeating those mistakes," he says.

"But they are a great age and can just absorb so much on the run. I think that's what's so rewarding about their age-group is you see so much progression so fast."

Wright has been employed fulltime with the Warriors since he moved in to the head coach role with the Under 20's. With the NRL rules that require the age-grade players to work or study he has to be conscious of some players' physical state when they come to train – especially at night.

"The work can affect them," Wright says.

"We have a lot of guys that do a lot of trades and they might have had a hard day but you just have to take that in to account a bit. By the same token they're semi-professional players and need to switch on and get the job done when it's required."



*Kelvin Wright*

*Photo: www.photosport.nz*

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# Warriors Opener to be a Scorcher

By Barry Ross



**A**LL ROADS lead to Campbelltown this Saturday when the Warriors open their 2016 campaign against the Wests Tigers. The venue is about 55 kms south west of the city centre but there is a good suburban train connection and this should ensure the Kiwis have strong support. The first match of any season is vital to both teams and this is definitely the case for this clash. The Tigers coach, Jason Taylor, has been under a lot of pressure for several reasons. He was criticised after his team's poor 2015, when they finished second last and then in the off season, he had a fall-out with Tigers captain and NSW State of Origin star, Robbie Farah. Taylor threatened to drop Farah to the NSW Cup team if he remained at the club, but since then he has softened his stance, at least publicly. It will have no bearing on this Saturday's game as Farah is unavailable because of a knee injury he suffered in a trial with the Cronulla Sharks two weekends ago. Farah could be on the sidelines for the first six rounds and former Queensland hooker, Matt Ballin, who the Tigers bought from Manly, is also out of action for longer than Farah because of a knee problem. Junior Kiwi, Manaia Cherrington, will probably be the hooker against the Warriors. Only 21, Cherrington has 11 first grade games to his credit and is a talented dummy half exponent.

The clash at halfback between Shaun Johnson and Luke Brooks will play a major role in which team wins. There is no doubt that 21 year Brooks is a major talent. He scored 10 tries in his 23 matches last year, while his try assists number was 16. But the entire Rugby League world knows how good Shaun is. Before his ankle injury against Manly last year, he played 18 games, scoring eight tries with 11 try assists. Allowing for Brooks playing more games, these figures are quite similar, which illustrates what a good contest their battle will be. In other aspects of the game, it is obvious that the Tigers rely heavily on their 23 year old fullback, James Tedesco and 25 year old prop, Aaron Woods. Tedesco is a brilliant running player and last year ran for 3,654 metres in his 24 games, which is a match average of more than 152 metres. While this is impressive, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck set the bench mark with an incredible 6,517 metres in his 27 games, which is a match average of better than 241 metres and nearly 59 percent better than the Tigers man.

Woods, who does a similar job for Australia and NSW, finished with 3,268 metres in his 20 games, averaging 163 metres a game. The Warriors Ben Matulino posted 3,249 metres in 21 games last season with an average of 155 metres and while not as much as Woods, it is comparable.

Three men, who were high on the Tigers run metres list last year, will not be at Campbelltown this Saturday. Keith Galloway, who ran for 2,684 metres is playing with Leeds, Pat Richards (2,425 metres) is in France with the Catalan Dragons and Martin Taupau (2,302 metres) has joined Manly.

One thing that should be considered is the hot weather which Sydney has had for the past three or four weeks. While beaten by a better side in Canberra on Friday night, the heat probably had some impact on the New Zealand Hurricanes Super Rugby team. This article is being written six days before the Warriors game but the forecast for game day at Campbelltown is a 34 degree maximum, with a 30 percent chance of rain. The match is at 5.30pm so the major heat should be gone and the forecast could change as we get closer. But at this time of the year, Kiwis in Sydney probably feel the heat more than the locals. No doubt the coaching staff will be well prepared and I am tipping the Warriors to take the competition points and give new captain, Ryan Hoffman, a winning start.

---

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\*Colmar Brunton Feb 2016

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# Once More Into the Breach – McFadden Looks Only Forward

By David Kemeys



**H**E'S BEEN labelled by Matt Elliott, the man he replaced at the Vodafone Warriors, as the coach under the most pressure, but Andrew McFadden is not shirking from the challenge.

The well-documented losing streak end to a dismal 2015 campaign niggles at fans, something not helped by a less than impressive trial flogging at the hands of the Dragons.

But McFadden looks only one way – forward.

“There is no doubt you know the pressure is there, and I'm not unaware the spotlight is on me, but I don't dwell on it because that's just the nature of the job. The only way to change it is to have the side perform well on the field, and that has to be our focus,” McFadden said.

McFadden played for the Canberra Raiders, Eels and Storm before returning to the Raiders as Jersey Flegg coach, and going on to lead the NSWRL Premier League side. A two-year stint as assistant coach of the Catalans Dragons followed, before he returned to the Raiders, eventually becoming assistant coach.

In 2013 he joined Elliott as assistant at the Penrose club, and the following year Elliott was out and McFadden in, at first as acting coach, and later on a deal to the end of 2017 that made him the club's 10th coach since 1995.

Since then he has made no secret about his desire to change the club's culture. “Our professional standards are right up there now. The players know what is expected, and the management are very clear about the standards we want both on and off the field.”

He gives general manager Jim Doyle a lot of credit for that. “Jim has been terrific for me. He was a successful businessman in his own right and there are reasons for that. He's clear, precise and focused. He wants the same thing we all do – success.”

McFadden is not afraid to tell his players what he thinks either, rounding on an unfortunate trio last year who attended a concert just days before a game.

He also called his own club a “boat full of holes” after being walloped by the Tigers 50-16, criticising the work ethic of some of the players.

His disappointment with the 2015 season has been left behind. “People talked about losing Shaun

Johnson, but we were ravaged by injuries and suspensions. Thomas Leuluai, Jacob Lilyman, Ryan Hoffman, Ben Matulino and Manu Vatuvei were all hit, and it just proved too much for our young boys,” he said.

“But we are well past that now. It was what it was but it is in the past. People made mistakes. We dealt with it and moved on. We play the Tigers and we have a chance to get out to a winning start, something we haven't done often enough.”

While Elliott told Sydney's Daily Telegraph the club's new signings would add to the pressure, McFadden believes the opposite is true. “We have more depth with the addition of the players we have recruited, but also with bringing in Justin Morgan to work on our defensive structure. This is a very even competition and any club can beat any other on its day, so if you work on subtle things you can make big changes.

“The Dragons result aside, our pre-season has been good. We have the class of our new boys and I think we are in good shape.”

In the meantime McFadden says he's loving life in New Zealand. His wife is happy and his children have started school. “We can't speak highly enough of the place. We love the atmosphere in Auckland, and especially around the club.”

Perhaps then McFadden can agree with Elliott about something. “Pressure isn't a bad thing,” Elliott told the Telegraph. “You achieve your best under pressure.”

This weekend is the first chance to relieve some of it, but if it doesn't happen, you can be sure McFadden will be straight back to work trying to deliver what all fans long for – a winning side.



Andrew McFadden during a Vodafone Warriors training session. Tuesday 1 March 2016

Photo: Andrew Cornaga / [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



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# Warriors is All About Family

By Ben Francis



**I**T'S FINALLY that time of year again, NRL season is finally back! 26 rounds of action packed, drama filled, entertaining Rugby League.

The Warriors will be beginning their new era with a new captain in Ryan Hoffman, and a big three trio of Shaun Johnson, Isaac Luke & Roger Tuivasa-Sheck. I know most are expecting big things but after the pre-season loss to the Dragons many are panicking. Well I'm here to tell people to R-E-L-A-X, in any sport where a new core (or a big 3) it always takes time to gel and adjust and I believe in 2017 is when we will see what these three are truly capable of together.

One thing that I love about this time of year is bringing people and families together. I asked my family members on why they liked the Warriors and they all said it was partly due to me, they also things like involvement in the communities, down to earth, role models and people for kids to aspire to be like.

Speaking to lots of people in the Northland community after the Warriors recent trip up to Whangarei people were so happy with the time taken to interact with a growing rugby league community, the things like School visits, hospital visits, public signings made many of the kids happy. Also they many other community events the Warriors do during the year are school holiday programs, League in Libraries and many more.

My family currently live on the Hibiscus Coast, also known as Shaun Johnson Country (Hence the Hibiscus Flower tattoo on his arm) as this is where Johnson is also from.

Shaun Johnson does heaps for the kids on the Hibiscus Coast, doing regular school visits, giving out merchandise to kids, even giving away some memorabilia, like my sister won some game worn shorts in a raffle. Shaun also rang up a sick little boy in the community to wish him happy birthday, this kid is a massive Warriors fan and loves Shaun. Little things like this that players do make everybody happy, they don't have to do these things but they are continually taking up their time to make others happy.

One thing about Rugby League players is how honest and down to earth they are. League players like giving children guidance and talking/teaching import at life skills like teamwork. This is some of the things Ben Henry spoke about in a school visit last year at Whangaparaoa Primary School. Many of the kids were inspired by Henry's words and that what makes a good role model. Ben Henry is a role model of mine as he is a hard worker and also a young leader, somebody who I hope to see leading the Warriors one day. That is somebody who I aspire to be like and I hope many others do too.

Sports are a great way to bring people together, sports are often seen as a great escape from troubles however small or large for people. Sports brings people from all walks of life together and unites them. Sports also brings families closer together, and that is something the Warriors do, they are such a family orientated organisation it's brilliant. They most certainly bring my family closer and I guarantee that everybody in mine will be sitting on the couch or in the stands together watching every second of every Warriors game together bonding and having a fun time. Bring on the 2016 NRL season, and go the mighty Vodafone Warriors!!!



(Top) Ben Francis' little sister, Samantha, with Shaun Johnson.  
(Bottom) Samantha in her Warriors gear.



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# Shontayne Hape Fills us in...

By Shontayne Hape

**W**OW, WHAT a month it's been!

Late last year after 14 years playing both league and rugby in Europe, I finally decided to move home to New Zealand.

Having hung up my boots in 2013, I was looking for a fresh challenge. Auckland – and my old club, the Vodafone Warriors – beckoned.

Once I arrived back in New Zealand, I reached out to Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle to discuss the possibility of landing an off-field role.

Growing membership is a massive part of the club's strategic vision. After all, memberships are the lifeblood of any footy club. So when Jim offered me a job as a memberships coordinator, I jumped at the opportunity.

I've been on deck at Mt Smart Stadium since January and I'm loving every minute.

I'm part of a small, hard-working team and our job is not only to grow the club's membership base but to also look after our fantastic fans.

It's obviously been quite an adjustment getting used to the old nine-to-five routine but every day is different and it's been great to catch up with all the boys.

They've been busting their guts on the training paddock all summer and look in fantastic shape as we head into the new NRL season.

One of my key responsibilities is to look after our Australian-based members. We've got some absolute die-hard supporters over the ditch and I've enjoyed making contact with them in recent weeks.

To kick off the season, I'll be heading across to Sydney for our first game against the Wests Tigers at Campbelltown on Saturday night.

My old mate, Sir Peter Leitch, will also be joining me and we are planning to meet up with our NSW members before the game to say hi.

We've also arranged through the Tigers to have all our members sit in Bay 18 and the Vodafone Warriors players will make their way to our seats after the match to say thanks for the support.

Just as was the case when I played footy, I'm excited about game day looming large on the horizon.

Join me in wishing the boys good luck. It's going to be an epic season.

Oh, and if you haven't sorted out your memberships yet, give me a call on 021 902 680 or email me on shontayne@warriors.kiwi. As the Butcher says, you're not a true fan unless you're a member!

See you on game day.



---

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**Hi Sir Peter,**

I arrived home today to have received an unexpected but lovely surprise through the post!

This been a NZ Warriors members pack plus other goodies sent to me by your good self.

I am absolutely over the moon with this very kind gesture and would just like to say a huge thank you for sorting this for me, i can't wait to wear my Warriors scarf with pride! And the calendar you sent will take pride of place in my kitchen.

My Grandchildren have already been playing with Power Play game cards!

It's World Club Challenge weekend here in England and the Leeds Rhinos have got the North Queensland Cowboys in our game on Sunday at Headingley, here's hoping we get the win.

Not long now till the start of the NRL season (LET'S GO WARRIORS)

Good luck to the Boys in their game this weekend in Nelson in what will sadly be Captain Simon Manner-ing's last game as Captain.

Hope you and the family are well and enjoying life, once again many thanks.

**Kind regards from your Leeds mate, Gail Phillips**



**H**I, **FORMER** Kiwi Kevin Dixon from Nelson here. I was so pleased to win the Vodafone Warriors Nines Jersey in you newsletter competition. Also please thank the Vodafone Warriors for coming to Nelson we all loved having them in town!

**Hello Sir Peter,**

I got the parcel you sent me yesterday, thank you very much, I love it.

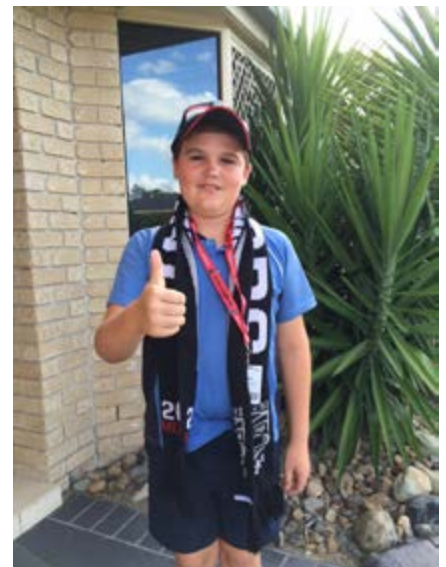
Mum took a photo of me with my Warriors gear on after school yesterday, its attached.

I love the Warriors, my favourite player is Shaun Johnson. I play league and I'm a kicker too.

I support the Titans over here in Australia and we go to every Titans game, so I'll see the Warriors play at C-Bus Stadium early August, I can't wait.

Thank you again, hopefully I will see you next year at the Auckland Nines.

**From Jak**



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Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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