

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

4 March 2016

Newsletter #111b

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WARRIOR NATION



Calling Out All NSW Warriors Supporters

IT'S BEEN a long wait, but the off-season is finally over, and the 2016 NRL Season is here!

Unfortunately fans in NZ will have to wait until Round 3 to cheer on the boys when they face up against the Melbourne Storm, but for now it's NSW's Warrior supporters chance to show how passionate, loud and proud they are. Round One V the West Tigers in Campbelltown, Saturday @5.30pm.

If you are a true Warrior, then the place to be is BAY 18, the official supporters bay. This is where the most passionate and loyal diehard fans will be based. BAY 18 is General Admission, so get there early to get your favourite seat. Bring your banners and flags and be ready to make some noise. Let's give our new recruits a true NSW supporter's welcome. We are Warrior Nation!

Don't forget, if you are a member make sure you contact the membership team to secure your ticket included as part of the package, of course your ticket is allocated in BAY 18, the official warriors support-

ers bay. Each game the Warriors play in Australia this year, they will come over to the supporters bay to thank you all for the support. So its up to you all to show them we are a true Warrior Nation.

Ex Warrior and now membership coordinator Shontayne Hape along with yours truly will be flying over to Sydney to join you in Bay 18, and Shontayne and I will be at the Warriors tent inside the front gates right next to the Hangi Stall...make sure you come and say hi!

Also, make sure you look at for Richard & Debbie from Warrior Nation in Bay 18. Warrior Nation is the home of Warriors Supporters in Australia. Find Warrior Nation on Facebook, and you will never left out of any supporters information.

See you at Campbelltown Stadium, Saturday 5.30pm, March 5th.

Check out NSW Warriors supporters on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/nswwarriors>

Do you know that Round the Bays is this weekend? You can help support Diabetes Auckland with their very worthwhile cause by participating!

AS YOU are well aware I have diabetes and this week's Round the Bays event provides a great opportunity to raise awareness of the disease and help support Diabetes NZ Auckland Branch – of which I am an ambassador. Diabetes is the number one chronic disease in New Zealand and affects over 100,000 people in Auckland alone.



I'd love to see as many people as possible coming along on March 6th to take part and support a cause that is very close to my heart. It's a short course, so if you're not a runner, feel free to come along and enjoy the walk or jog. If you can't make it, I'd love it if you could make a donation to Diabetes NZ Auckland Branch. Every dollar they receive really does a long way in helping them support the people of Auckland.



If you'd like to find out more about Diabetes NZ Auckland Branch and how to get involved in Round the Bays, please visit their website.

www.diabetesauckland.org.nz

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



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COMMITTED TO THE VODAFONE WARRIORS

COMMITTED TO THE GAME

Wishing Ryan and the boys all the very best for 2016 - Team CCC.

#CommittedToTheGame

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Mixed Memories of Lancaster Park

By John Coffey QSM



FIVE YEARS after the earthquake which wrecked Christchurch, our city still has a broken heart. The Press building where I worked for 44 years and the adjacent Warners Hotel which was our watering hole are gone. Other structures have yet to be demolished. Worst of all, the Anglican cathedral is still in ruins. Developers won't move into Cathedral Square until a decision is made on whether to repair or rebuild the cathedral. The next deadline for a "final" decision between the warring factions of former politicians and church people is April.

Just before Christmas, the Christchurch City Council accepted an insurance pay out which was considerably smaller than it wanted, yet another underwhelming milestone in this whole sorry saga. But that conclusion might move along such major projects as the convention centre, central library and the metro indoor sports centre. One claim and counter-claim which was not resolved concerned the stricken Lancaster Park. The insurers argued it could be restored for 50 million dollars, but the council's assessors were adamant it was unrepairable.

Lancaster Park (aka Jade Stadium and AMI Stadium) is close to the city centre and its two massive grandstands remain symbols of a previous importance as a sports venue and place where massive crowds assembled to witness, among others, Pope John Paul II, Queen Elizabeth II and Tina Turner. To some of us it was a winter symbol of prejudice, with rugby league banned from 1920 until 1996. No professional players were allowed, they said, despite welcoming highly paid English and Australian cricketers all that time.

In those 44 years at The Press I made only four winter visits to the park, none in a working capacity. I just wasn't interested in passing through the First World War memorial gates, paid for by public subscription and supposedly the entrance to a field of dreams to be shared by all of the city's youth. It was even reopened in 1920 by Dr Henry Thacker, who was not only Mayor of Christchurch at the time but also president of the Canterbury Rugby League. Even he could not prevent the rugby union from exerting control in the footy season.

But I spent thousands of hours there in the summer months playing, watching and writing about cricket. A personal highlight was opening the batting for St Albans against a young tearaway fast bowler named Richard Hadlee. There are fond memories of a first-wicket partnership of 99 with Canterbury representative John Ruston. But Hadlee had me worked out by the time he returned for his second spell and the stumps and bails flew.

Years later I had the privilege of writing about Hadlee capturing his 400th Test wicket and being presented with a bouquet of 400 roses at Lancaster Park. International and domestic cricket attracted healthy crowds in those days and security was less stringent. On one day off I helped some blokes hoist a keg of beer (and my half-dozen cans) to their mates over the back fence, to be consumed on the infamous No.5 stand.



Continued on next page...

Aerial view of Lancaster Park during the International cricket match between New Zealand and England, 1997. Photo Andrew Cornaga www.photosport.nz

Continued from previous page...

I recall ringing Walter Hadlee, Richard's father and a former New Zealand Test captain, and writing about his regret that Lancaster Park was to become Jade Stadium. I mentioned to Walter that my father, Leo, had played hockey there for Canterbury against an Indian team as a 19-year-old in 1926. Walter stunned me by replying, "yes I know, I was there." He had been 11 years old and was among the spectators as Dad, playing on with his head bandaged after being struck by the ball, set up Canterbury's only goal in a 1-2 loss.

When rugby union went professional in the mid-1990s it pushed cricket into the background. The oval was reshaped and no Test matches were held there for five years before the 2011 earthquake struck. Ironically, the need for more income had led to the return of rugby league when Great Britain toured in 1996. Many of our fans, accustomed to being close to the action at the Addington Show Grounds, complained the grandstands were too far from the sidelines.

Now there is more irony. The Crusaders currently play at what was the Addington Show Grounds (and later Rugby League Park) and their supporters are amazed how much they can actually see from being close to the game. Current Crusaders advertising calls it "our home", but it is rugby league sweat and blood which knits the soil. Meanwhile, cricket undertook a marathon search before gaining permission to fashion a boutique oval within Hagley Park. Rugby league has been left homeless in Canterbury.

I don't believe Lancaster Park will be repaired. Rugby union is lobbying for the construction of a 35,000-seat covered stadium in the city centre. The cost to rate payers and tax payers would be enormous, close to half a billion dollars. The NZRU has made no offer to contribute towards that. Despite rugby league having had a lease on its Addington ground for another 26 years, the cash-strapped city council will undoubtedly sell the valuable real estate to help pay for rugby union's new facilities.

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At My Uncle Bill's 95th Birthday

MY UNCLE Bill was 95 on Tuesday with his family Pam, BILL, Sue and wife Joan. Bill owned Leitch Cycles in Greymouth for many years. He and Joan have lived in Auckland for a number of years.



Awesome Reader Emails

Hey mate!

THANKS SOOOO much for the scarf membership pack that arrived this morning, a lovely surprise.

Allez les Warriors!

Andy in France



ALL THE best boys as you head to Tiger town. Bring home the bacon! - Joyce Putohe, Proud Vodafone Warriors Member 2453-779

Joyce Putohe put together this fantastic creation.



Giddy Sir Peter,

THANKS VERY much for the unexpected bonus which I received with my Big League Mag.

The Scarf membership is awesome.

Also enclosed is a couple of pics, while I was at the Merchandise Shop getting a 2016 Jersey, after you gave me grief for wearing a 2004 Jersey to your lounge.

Once again, thanks heaps, see you soon at Mt Smart

Regards, Mark Rayner from Tauranga

ROUND 01

WESTS TIGERS VS WARRIORS



Campbelltown Stadium
Sat 5 March
KO: 5:30 PM

The Wests Tigers will host the Warriors at Campbelltown Stadium this Saturday afternoon. This will be a high-flying, action-packed game, set to entertain the whole family. Adults from \$22

[#NRLTigersWarriors](#)

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NEXT 3 FIXTURES



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Campbelltown Stadium
5:30 PM 5 March 2016



BUY TICKETS

Suncorp Stadium
7:05 PM 11 March 2016



BUY TICKETS

Mt Smart Stadium
4:00 PM 20 March 2016

Vodafone Warriors vs Tigers Ticket Info

By Shontayne Hape

I HOPE YOUR week is going well.

Our season kicks off this weekend at Campbelltown Stadium and we are looking forward to having your support with us as the Vodafone Warriors take on the Tigers.

Our Vodafone Warriors Supporter's Bay is Bay 18 for this weekend's game.

Please see below for the ticket collection details for this Saturday's game:

- Wests Tigers Ticket Collection Window (Located at the Leumeah Road Entrance – closest to the train station)
- The ticket window opens at 1.00pm

The Vodafone Junior Warriors kick off at 3.15pm , with the NRL kick off at 5.30pm

Shontayne will be stationed at Cathys Kai Hangis near Bay 18 to meet with our NSW Warriors from 14.00pm. Also Paul Whatuira and Sir Peter Leitch (Mad butcher) will be around to say Hi.

Click [here](#) for Game Events happening on the day.

We hope that you enjoy the game and thank you for your support.



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- 2016 Member's Scarf and lanyard

visit www.warriors.kiwi or call 0800 839 839

to contact the membership team and discuss your options

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More Awesome Reader Emails

THIS WEEKEND just gone, we were fortunate enough to be able to head North to watch the Vodafone Warriors take on the Dragons in a preseason game in Nelson. The weather was superb & the crowd was outstanding. However, this was not the highlight of our trip!! Prior to the game, Sir Peter Leitch, whom is a great supporter of our local Hokitika League Club, phoned me and very smartly directed my family & our friends to where he was staying. He greeted us and hurried us along, much to our children's surprise, Ryan Hoffman appeared - as did many others from the team. The kids were absolutely astounded and rather speechless!! What an amazing opportunity to be able to see these fellas, as they casually get themselves psyched up for the game ahead!! The kids got all of their gear signed, chatted away and just looked at these boys in awe, completely start struck!! What followed was the best - Sir Peter, walked the kids, like a mother duck & his ducklings, away and set them up with a bottle of water and entertained them all with his gruff humour - they loved him!! The kids (and their parents) are still oohing and ahing of their very special time they had - and grin as they relive their candid interviews they had with the Mad Butcher!! What a hoot!!



Sir Peter, what a wonderful experience!! You're such a fabulous ambassador for league and the Vodafone Warriors, we will never forget this. So from the Ballantyne and the Wilson families of Hokitika - we would like to sincerely thank YOU and the Warriors for taking the time to see us - what an absolute privilege!!

GO THE MIGHTY WARRIORS - Kindest regards, **Kirsty Wilson**



Shay (on the left) beside his water tank with the Vodafone Warriors mural on it. He has given me an idea for my water tank on Waiheke Island.



TRUTH IS, hair's not always on your side. It slows you down, tangles you up and is in no hurry to dry. It's so hard to get it right! Think how much better life would be without it.

Shave for a Cure is back again this year from April 4th - 10th and we're on the lookout for brave Shavees.

As someone who's supported Shave in the past we're asking you to put your hair on the line this year!

The funds raised enable Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand to help Kiwis living with blood cancers – leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma. We provide practical support and information, run awareness programmes, and invest in research towards better treatments and cures. Find out more about our work at leukaemia.org.nz

Getting involved in Shave is always a huge amount of fun with many individuals organising shaves at home, their school or work place. Those who aren't keen to lose their locks can organise a 'Crazy Hair Day' and donate to sport a bad hairdo for the day – think corn rows or a mullet wig.

If Shave's not for you this year please tell someone you know who may be keen.

For more information please contact us on 0800 15 10 15 or shave@leukaemia.org.nz

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

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Vodafone Warriors 2016 Season Launch And Guess What... The Butcher FORGOT!



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.co.nz



Shaun Johnson during the season launch



Coaching team of Andrew McFadden with assistants Justin Morgan (L) and Andrew Webster

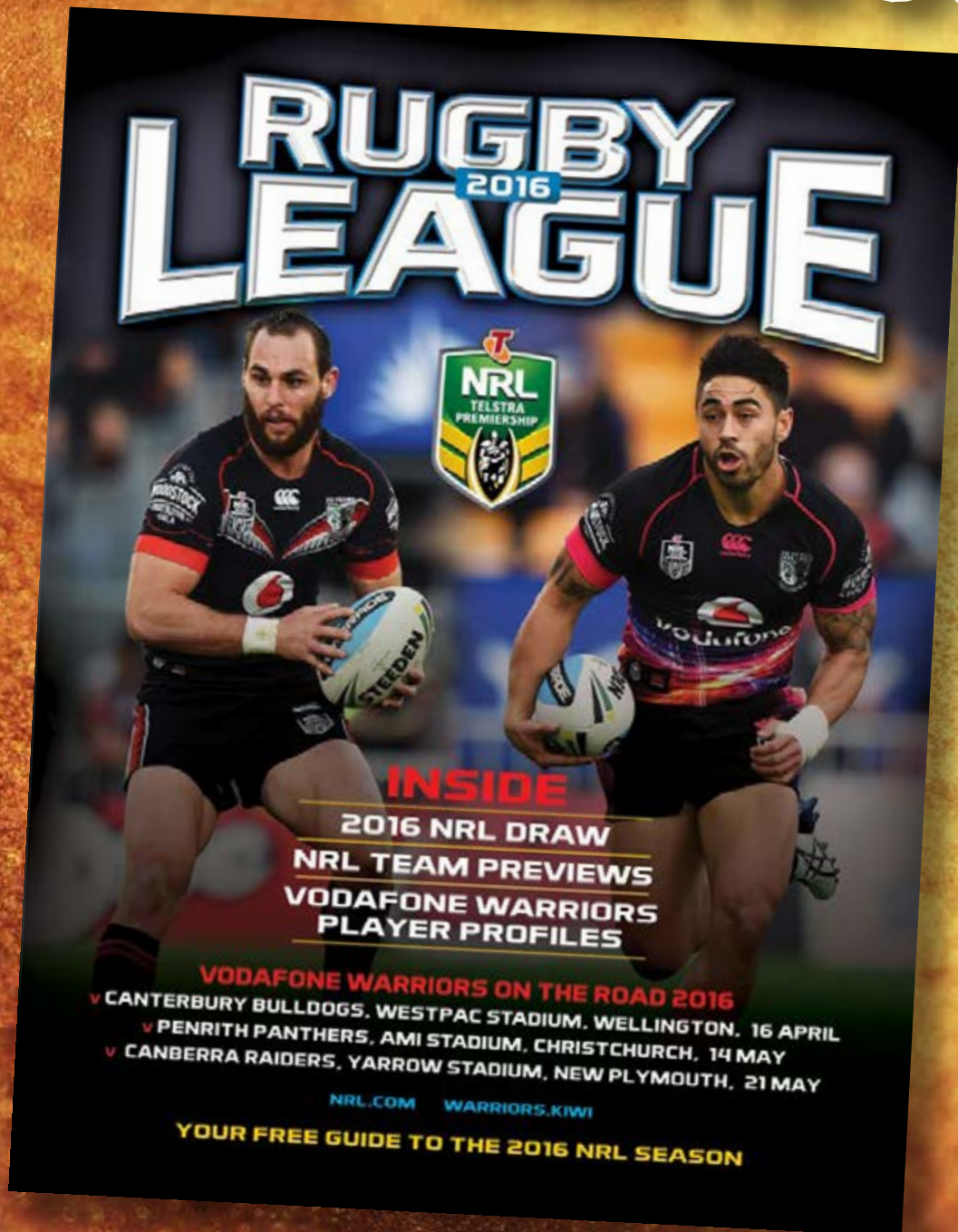


David Fusitu'a, CEO Jim Doyle, Shaun Johnson and Manu Vatuvei



Coach Andrew McFadden and CEO Jim Doyle

RUGBY LEAGUE 2016



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ANOTHER GREAT MAGAZINE FROM OLIVER LEE PUBLICATIONS



High-Tackle Holloway... I'll give ya the tip mate!

The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

NRL Round 1

		Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
		<i>Maloney's Barber Shop</i>	<i>League Legend</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer</i>	<i>Link Business</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog</i>
Date/ Venue	Game							
03/03 - Pirtek	Eels v Broncos	Broncos	Eels	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
04/03 - Brookvale	Sea Eagles v Bulldogs	Sea Eagles	Bulldogs	Sea Eagles	Bulldogs	Sea Eagles	Bulldogs	Sea Eagles
05/03 - GIO	Raiders v Panthers	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
05/03 - Campbelltown	Tigers v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
05/03 - 1300Smiles	Cowboys v Sharks	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
06/03 - ALLIANZ	Roosters v Rabbitohs	Roosters	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Rabbitohs	Roosters	Rabbitohs	Roosters
06/03 - CBUS Super	Titans v Knights	Knights	Knights	Titans	Titans	Knights	Knights	Knights
07/03 - AAMI	Storm v Dragons	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Dragons

How they're traveling....

Correct picks	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
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LET THE games begin.... here we go footy fans Round 1 picks from my learned crew of League aficionados. I should mention straight up that this column has to be submitted on the Tuesday morning of each week and I am blissfully unaware of who my fellow Tipsters have picked as their actual Tips are not sent in until the day after, Wednesday noon of each week so I can't comment on their selections in advance.... mind you I might give them a serious serve the week after. What I can say is the Round 1 match ups are really ridiculously even mate and clearly a game of chance at this early stage. We are all picking blind with no real form guide other than team sheet comparisons and notoriously fickle trial game results. Some might say the Eels v Broncos is a gimmee for the (all-but champions of 2015) Queenslanders but the Slippers are at home and bring a vaunted line-up of newly formed attack weapons to the table.

The big wing unit Rocky Radradra is a try scoring machine that now has Michael Gordon bringing up the rear, Jennings inside him plus Foran and a reborn Corey Norman making mischief up the middle. Takarangi is no centre slouch either, be warned this is as good as it gets. The big jersey numbers hold a fear factor trio in Manu "make my day" Ma'u, the Enforcer Beau Scott and Anthony Whatmaugh alongside leader Tim Manah and lively hooker Nat Peats. I like the look of long haired young giant Tepai Moeroa as well. On the other hand, the point of difference might be the settled combinations of Bennetts Bananabenders who have had a good bonding trip to pommy-land and a handy looking win performance to boot.

Kiwi Kid Kodi Nikorima shows real promise, Hunt and Milford are known and present danger and highly rated new recruit James Roberts might more than replace the old warhorse Hodges. In the bashing zone Blair, McGuire, Thaiday, McCullough, Gillett, Glenn and the perpetual pensioner Corey Parker don't take backward steps. My heart says Eels, my head says Broncos and that's the problem we Tippers will face week in week out sorting the outrights from the options from the upsets as the season unfolds.

Continued from previous page...

The same scenario attends newbie coach Trent Barretts Sea Eagles v Hot-headed Dezzy Haslars Doggies. The Brookvale Boyz have a rebuilt outfit for 2016 with big gains in Torpedo Tapau, the dynamic Dylan Walker, Nate Myles, ex Warrior homie Lewey Brown and the mercurial rake Apisai Korosau while The Belmore gang look a little down on firepower losing Hodgkinson, Lafai and Pritchard while gaining the uber promising Will Hopoate.... Mind you the Morris brothers can still dance and Rona, Reynolds and the emerging talent of Moses Mbye cant be ignored. Upfront the pack retains its size and power in aggro-Pom Graham, Klemmer, Super-size me Kasiano, Lane, Tolman, Eastward and moving mountain Tony Williams. Shut the Kennel! Heart and head in play again.

Other games throw up the same picking predicaments..... The all-conquering Cowboys and the swift surfacing Sharkies in the heat of CBus Stadium. In theory the home team has it but can you throw the house on it. SuperStar JT,s hard bitten Rustlers are running the same title winning crew and aiming at a two-peat that hasn't been achieved since 1992 / 93 when the Broncos backed up....but The Cronulla Shireboys have grown another leg adding James Monkey Maloney to the Pivot role with some handy talent out wider in the elusive Valentine Holmes, Bird, Best of Class 2012 Benny Barba and the quiet but deadly Sos Feki. The Freight-train Fafita Bros will be at full steam with Grub Ennis, Lewis, Wade Graham and the punishing pugilist Paul Galen hot on the rails. So my brothers do you get my drift, when I say even I mean Even! But hold on I hear you say....what about the mighty Warriors travellin to Tiger Country...now youre talkin.

The Campbelltown crew are not the highest rating contender on the block but have a host of young sharpshooters hell bent on upsetting the odds. The custodian Tedesco is extremely exciting... The halves combo of Brooks and Moses is gathering hype and new Captain Aaron Woods is a tough and uncompromising forward leader. Coach Jason Taylor has his sights set on a big improve on a less than salubrious run in 2015. For our guys as I said last week its time to talk the talk and walk the walk for Doyle's Destroyers, Cappys Cruisers. The Pride of Penrose, The Butchers Sizzling Sausages (did I just say that?) The Keepers of the Faith Your Team and mine the Mighty Warriors...player of the Year RT Sheck, The Lukestar, Magic Johnson, Mr Manner, The Hoff. Hurrell, Kata, Mighty Manu, Big Ben Matulino, Bo Thompson, Robson, Jake the Lilly, The Wunderkind Tui Lolohea, Tommy Gun Leuluai and Battlin Ben Henry and don't forget the legend Ali Lautiiti....there are some up n coming young guns in view too. Vete, Lisone, Roache, Hingano to name just a few.

That's the way we roll gentlepersons and they are appearing live on Stage at a Telly near you. So what are ya waitin for.... get down to the local Mad Butcher grab some quality BBQ snags and steaks and get the kitchen staff cracking on the bacon and egg pie. Ice up the cold ones and gear up for Round 1. Mate it's got me hummin that old Beatles song "8 games a week...I loo o o ove you" lol

Tell the trouble n strife if she needs you between now and early October you will be in front of the telly or at Mt Smart p.s. got something to say? Get me on: john@boys-trip.co.nz

- High-Tackle Holloway



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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 1 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with **FEATURES** and **NEWS**, plus columnist **BEN HUNT** and game analysis by **BEN IKIN**; plus **NRL**, **HOLDEN CUP**, **NSW CUP**, **QLD CUP** and **RON MASSEY CUP** team lists and a **FULL NRL DRAW**.

FEATURES

- **Kieran Foran** says he isn't afraid of the halfback curse at Parramatta, and talks about how he's looking forward to roaming on the field and leading the team off the field in his new role as co-captain.
- **Aaron Woods** is heading into the full-time captain's spot with a little help from his friend and mentor Todd Payten, who has had a similar career and life path and considers Woods one of the best young players he's ever dealt with.
- **The Storm** are heading into a crucial part of the club's history, as important players enter the final phase of their career. We talk to the people who made the Melbourne Storm happen about the future of rugby league in Victoria and how they got to where they are today.
- **Martin Taupau** is all about bettering his career with the move to Manly, but club legend Mark Carroll is convinced he's the person to fill the holes left by big-name departures and the player to bring aggression back to the Sea Eagles' side.
- A fitter and faster **Greg Eastwood** eyes securing the final contract of his career, while **Jamal Idris** puts his NRL return on hold in the hope of travelling to Africa and opening an orphanage.

PLUS... **Ben Hunt** ensures the mental demons of last year's grand final have been quashed after being forced to re-watch the game by his coach; **The Analyst**, our new columnist, picked the players who will benefit most from the new interchange rules; Parra wonder kid **Bevan French** is amazingly only on a \$20,000 contract, with the club looking to boost him to higher grades as soon as possible.

AND: Little League, lower grade previews, Top 8 Round 1 upsets, news and a Johnathan Thurston poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

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From the team at TNT Good luck boys!

Wishing our mighty
Vodafone Warriors
all the best for
2016



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