

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

11 April 2016

Newsletter #117

Vodafone Warriors vs Canterbury Bulldogs Special Edition Newsletter

**Vodafone
Warriors
and
Canterbury
Bulldogs
Descend on
The
Capital!**



BULLDOGS V WARRIORS

THIS SAT 16 APRIL, 7:30PM, WESTPAC STADIUM



THIS SATURDAY night. The Vodafone Warriors play the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs, coached by the legend Des Hasler, at Westpac Stadium. Gates open at 6PM and kick off is at 7.30PM. This will be the only time the Vodafone Warriors play in Wellington this year as well as the only NRL game played in the capital this year. So if you want to see Rugby League played at the top level be at Westpac Stadium this Saturday night,

Game info is on the event page: <http://westpacstadium.co.nz/our-events/event/bulldogs-v-warriors/>
And JL news is here: <http://bit.ly/1S0McyjB>

Join us Under One Jersey, amongst the most passionate supporters in the NRL for what promises to be a scintillating match, as the Bulldogs make their long awaited 'home' return to Wellington.

Bulldogs fans are world renowned for being tough, proud, passionate and loyal and there is no better match day experience than taking your place amongst the blue and white faithful.

The Bulldogs have a strong historical link with New Zealand, not just because of previous home matches previously brought to the capital, but also a production line of former Kiwi greats and a number of current leading Kiwis.

With this being the only regular season game in Wellington this year, this is a match not to be missed.

Positively Wellington Tourism are running a competition at the moment too:
<http://www.wellingtonnz.com/know-wellington/bulldogs-vs-warriors-competition/>



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New Zealand's Close Connection to the Canterbury Bulldogs Continues

By John Deaker



MOST AUSTRALIAN NRL teams have strong links to New Zealand these days. There are a few that have a special connection that begun before the New Zealand Warriors even entered the competition. The Canterbury Bulldogs are one of those teams.

The Bulldogs continue their close tie-up with New Zealand when they play one of their home games for the 2016 season in Wellington this Saturday, the 16th of May. Even more than when they play at Mount Smart Stadium, the Warriors would love a packed crowd at Westpac Stadium next week ; it's hard to find any negative spin on them being able to retain 'away' games like this within New Zealand!

"We enjoy playing in different areas around New Zealand. We're a one team country and we like taking the Warriors brand across the whole of New Zealand. [After-all] We're the New Zealand Warriors," said captain Ryan Hoffman after Saturday night's loss to Manly.

The Bulldogs club's connection to New Zealand reached its peak at the same time that the Warriors entered the Australian rugby league competition back in 1995. The contribution of Kiwis legends like Jarryd McCracken and Daryl Halligan playing for the club through the early 1990's led to plenty of success for the Sydney-based club and saw the 'Doggies' claim victory in the 1995 Grand Final. While McCracken wasn't part of the winning team in 95, New Zealanders John Timu and Jason Williams were alongside Halligan in the victorious team and their second-rower that day Steve Price continues to live in New Zealand to this day. The most famous Kiwi/Bulldog remains Sonny Bill Williams ; he won the NRL Grand Final with them in his first year in first grade in 2004.

These days the Bulldogs have Kiwi representatives Sam Perritt, Curtis Rona, Greg Eastwood, Sam Kasiano and Chase Stanley in their regular starting lineup. Sadly, Wellington fans won't have the chance to see Stanley play following his hamstring strain last week – if you haven't seen it yet it's worth looking up the vision of big David Klemmer consoling an emotional Stanley in the dressing-room following his injury ; it's a cruel reminder of the highs and lows young sportsman experience these days in the cut-throat world of professional sport.

The Bulldogs have always been followed by Kiwis for much more than just their New Zealand players though. They have a history of many of their players being 'larger-than-life' personalities both on and off the field. Huge men like Kasiano, Klemmer and Tony Williams make their pack one of the most intimidating in the competition.

Sir Peter Leitch confesses to being a big Josh Reynolds fan – and people familiar with Reynolds 'bum tickle' incident at the weekend could probably understand why a man like the Butcher who's never been afraid to 'be his own man' would stick up for a mate who's copped a lot of criticism during the week despite Aiden Seizer himself clarifying via twitter that : "We are just good mates. There was nothing in it."

Another favourite of Sir Peter's is James Graham. He's not the only one to get excited about the firey English forward. Two weeks ago former NSW five-eighth Matthew Johns wrote in the Daily Telegraph that: 'James Graham is the world's best rugby league forward. No individual in the NRL does more for their football team than him... And fans love the bloke. Not just Bulldogs supporters, but fans of the game in general.'

With exciting players like the sensational Moses Mbye, Reynolds, Rona, Josh Morris and William Hopoate in their backline to compliment their star-studded forward pack the Warriors will have their hands full at Westpac Stadium on Saturday night. The match kicks off at 7.30pm and it's also a prime opportunity for Wellington rugby league fans to get along and show they are an area capable and deserving to one day host their own NRL team.

The other two matches to be played in other parts of New Zealand will be another 'away' game against the Penrith Panthers in Christchurch on May the 14th and their only 'home' game not at Mount Smart Stadium that will be against the Canberra Raiders in New Plymouth on May 21st.



Westpac | STADIUM

**THIS SATURDAY
APRIL 16
KICK-OFF: 7.30PM**



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SATURDAY APRIL 16



ROUND 7 | KICK-OFF: 7:30PM | WELLINGTON, NZ

Westpac | STADIUM

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- Open 90 minutes prior to kick off until one hour after the final whistle
- Extensive beverage offering (costs are additional)

\$ **199** PP +GST



LEGENDS CLUB

- A two-course buffet dinner
- A host and guest speaker for the evening
- Corporate VIP gate entry
- Reserved seating in the bowl
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- Extensive beverage offering (costs are additional to package price)

\$ **169** PP +GST



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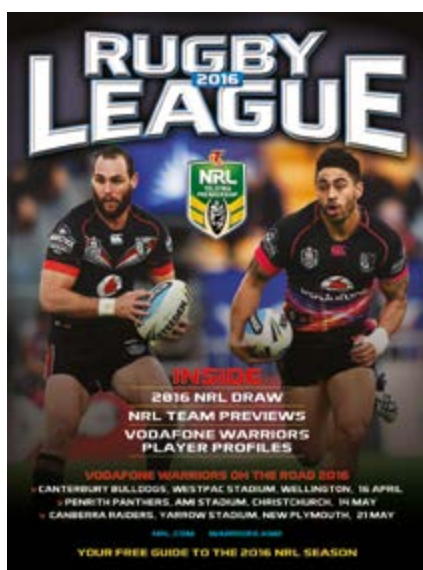


CONTACT THE BULLDOGS CORPORATE TEAM ON **02 9789 8008**
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Grand Final Hat Winners

- Bernie Wood - Queensland
- Sam Henwood - Hikurangi
- Dale Rayner - Tauranga
- Fiona Passi - Auckland
- Katrina Mckeanon - Glenwood
- Peter Harwood - Westmere
- Steve Mckeown - Timaru
- Ben Rzoska - Beach Haven
- Noel Andrews - Mt Albert
- Michael Owens - New Lynn
- Duncan Burkitt - Tauranga
- Mark Callaghan - Mt Roskill
- Barbara Osmond - Meadowbank
- Victoria Stacey - Green Bay
- Maureen Parker - Torbay
- Sue Taylor - New Plymouth
- Liz Pollock - Ashburton
- Nathan Tao - Freemans Bay
- Bryce Gibson - Mt Roskill
- Tyler Blake - Albany
- Robbie Burns - Remuera
- R. Middleton - Greenhithe
- Marcia Broughton - Patea
- Jack Stantiall - Marton
- Chris Hardie - Masterson
- Dave Clarke - Masterson
- Alison Delarue - Warkworth
- David Morris - Mangere
- Mark Gleeson - Papakura
- Jack Hans - Onehunga
- Mike Houghton - Christchurch
- Glyn Edwards - Rotorua
- Kellie Harper - Titahi Bay
- Ranjit Lala - Papakura
- Phil Lowe - Half Moon Bay
- Adam Edwards - Rotorua
- Te Haua Taua - Highland Park
- Valerie Bowden - Christchurch
- Janette Knight - Te Atatu South
- Kurt Seymour - Australia
- Mark Rayner - Tauranga
- Graham Lawson - Greenhithe
- Michael Trbuhovich - Henderson
- Rex Hohaia - Huntly
- Jarred Harper - Papamoa

Each winner will also receive a copy of Rugby League 2016 and a back copy of Big League magazine, so you can see what your missing if you don't subscribe.



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A Special Invitation...

IF YOU'RE thinking of going to Christchurch for the Panthers game then I would like to invite you to join me at Gary CLARK's Rugby League Museum in Christchurch on the Saturday at 11/30am for a BBQ, sausage and beer. Email garyclarke@paradise.net.nz to register your attendance. We will be joined by a few ex players like Shontayne Hape, Vodafone Warriors boss Jim Doyle and several other staff members like fan engagement manager Aaron Lawton. I'm looking forward to having some fun!



A couple of photos from inside the museum.



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

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Without the help of these brands the Mad Butcher Club and Newsletter wouldn't be as fantastic as it is. If you do get the opportunity please support them whenever you can.



The Newsletter Team

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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