

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

# Newsletter #120

## Vodafone Warriors Defeat St George Dragons



David Fusitu'a on the run.



Issac Luke in action..



Issac Luke is tackled.



Jason Nightingale gets tackled by  
Issac Luke, Jacob Lillyman and Ryan  
Hoffman.



Ryan Hoffman on the burst.



Sione Lousi sizes up the opposition.



Solomone Kata tackles Josh Dugan.



Toafofoa Siplely dodges a tackle.



Warriors prop Jacob Lillyman fends  
off a tackle.

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

# We are All Shook Up

By David Kemeys



**N**ONE OF us know the ins and outs of the night out that saw six players banned from test footy.

Five of the six have admitted mixing prescription drugs with energy drinks. Manu Vatuvei, Ben Matulino and Bodene Thompson barred from the Kiwis, Sam Lisone from Samoa, and Konrad Hurrell and Albert Vete from Tonga. All admitted the allegations, except Hurrell, who said he went out as the driver.

Vodafone Warriors head honcho Jim Doyle said: "We're continuing to deal with this internally, focusing on player welfare. We won't be making any further comment." Good luck with that one.

The issue has descended into a farce that has seen the usual cocktail of half-arsed commentary, some journalists condemning the club, others the players.

Fans were little different, and many of those at Mt Smart were there to support the club after an awful week, regardless of where they stood, but had they known about the happy juice, opinions might have been different.

Whatever the rights and wrongs, we could do without it, because it means more bad publicity, and now the club is apparently considering if any of the players have prescription drug issues, because they could be out of football altogether until their welfare is taken care of.

It is all just another stick for the league haters to beat us with.

It is said the mix of pills and energy drinks provides a buzz without the consequences that come with boozing heavily.

The players may have dodged a hangover, but they have created an almighty headache for everyone else.

The other thing that riled recently was the Roosters carrying on when things did not go their way.

I am buggered if I know if the Vodafone Warriors get a fair go but it is a question every fan has asked. And how much sympathy do we get in Australia - the bagel, the doughnut, nil, zero, zilch.

But the Roosters do a whinge about the ref and we are all supposed to say it is a problem.

Boo bloody hoo.

Coach Trent Robinson went right off, delivering a spray at referee Ben Cummins, and suddenly it was a serious issue on all the TV shows, some guests, to their shame, siding with the Tri-Colours.

The whole thing is ludicrous. Robinson, went way too far, and this is my interpretation, alleging Cummins had it in for the Roosters, and was, effectively, a cheat.

We all get frustrated with decisions, and I confess to being in the camp that does more than its fair share of whingeing. But deep down we know there is only ever going to be one outcome, suck it up.

The Roosters outburst was nothing more than bullying. It was personal, full of malice, and went way too far. So suck it up and shut up.

They copped a huge fine but I'd advocate taking points off them, unfortunately they haven't got any.

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### What A Difference A Week Makes

**V**ODAFONE WARRIORS coach Andrew McFadden reckons it was the attitude more the result he was looking for against St George, and he got it.

After being crushed 42-0 by the Storm, and standing down six players for going out late on Tuesday night, then losing Thomas Leuluai to injury before kick-off, McFadden must have thought the footy gods had totally ignored Penrose.

But the collection of second-stringers brought in to replace those missing upset the odds and beat St George 26-10, leaving McFadden with a grin.

And those players did something we have not seen enough of this year – played with heart and commitment.

They were far from perfect, but they put their bodies on the line, tried like crazy and never quit – which is not something you could always say about previous sides.

“I saw steel in their eyes, particularly from our senior players,” McFadden said.

“I wasn’t too worried about the result. I wanted to show some spirit, some character, because it’s been a tough week.”

Can we have some more of it please...because I quite liked it.

### Charlie Breaks His Duck

Was there anything more delightful than watching Charlie Gubb score his first try for the Warriors?

He has become something of a crowd favourite with his demon tackling, hard-running style of football.

Good on you Charlie. May there be many more.

### Contracts Anyone?

Our only second half try came from the much criticised Jeff Robson, courtesy of a pass from even more criticised Issac Luke. Also on the score-sheet was Matt Ellwood, and he John Palavi, and Sione Lousi are all out of contract at the end of the season. Maybe they were keen to show what they can bring, and putting their hands up for retention.

### McFadden Eyes The Bye

Under fire coach Andrew McFadden is loving it that this week is the bye, with the Kiwis in action against Aussie on Friday night. “It’s timely that we’ve got a bye, because it’s been a big week, an emotional week and we’re going to need that time to reset ourselves, but certainly we need to make sure we build some resolve out of this,” said at the after-match press conference.

“It’s been a big week and probably not many people understand how big a week that was for the players, and how much pressure they were under, but I’m very proud. We have drawn a line in the sand, we need to back this up and we haven’t done that so far.”

### What The Papers Said

The Herald online called us a “patched-up Warriors side” and it is hard to argue with that. But they also said that side “exorcised some of the demons” of a miserable week.

“Almost anything would have been an improvement on last week’s humiliating result, and the fact the match ended in a victory is in many ways, a bonus, and an unexpected one.” Hard to disagree with that either.

### Streak Broken

It is just a statistic, but it was nice to break an 11-game, nine-season losing streak against St George.

It was even nicer to see Mt Smart defended the way it should be, with the boys stopping the Dragons scoring in the second half.

The win was our first over the Dragons since 2007, their second in 18 matches, and only their fifth in 24 games since 1995.

### The Diehards Turn Out

One of the most pleasing aspects of the game on Sunday was the crowd of 12,752. You would not have been able to claim surprise if the punters stayed away.

Perhaps it was more of a case that after the week we had, the real fans turned up, keen to show that they would support the side.

One paper called the fans “masochists”, but it really just comes with territory. If you support a side, truly support it, you endure the good, the bad and the ugly.

Continued on next page...

Miles Davis, radio personality and big time St George fan, said exactly that in the Mad Butcher Club.

### What Are You On Mate?

Anybody read Chris Rattue's Herald column, in which he listed players he'd sack, calling for the Warriors to be rid of Manu Vatuvei, Shaun Johnson, Ben Matulino, Blake Ayshford, Jonathan Wright, Issac Luke, Konrad Hurrell and Jeff Robson.

Take a chill pill.

He's a good columnist in my view, often writing contentious things that get talked about.

Whether he actually believes what he writes is quite another thing.

He called Hurrell a "waste of space", Luke "one of the dud buys of all time", said Auckland's social pages would miss Johnson "but I wouldn't", and posed the question: "How, with all the raw talent available in Auckland, does a player like Wright end up on the wing?"

In fairness, he would not be alone in his views about some of the players, but don't take it to heart – it's just a newspaper column.

### Kiwis Named

Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, the great grandson of NZ league legend Steve Watene, will be hoping for third time lucky after being picked for the Kiwis.

The 20-year-old Panthers winger has been in the Kiwis camp twice before, only to be denied by injury and suspension.

He also missed the 2015 England tour with a collapsed lung, but gets another chance in an 18-man squad named by Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney for Friday's Downer Trans-Tasman Test against Australia in Newcastle.

"When I texted Dallin to tell him, he was really, really excited," says Kearney. "We'll keep him away from the beach. In 2014, we took him down to the beach for a recovery, and he ended up rolling his ankle and breaking a bone in his foot."

With regular captain Simon Mannering sidelined by injury, Melbourne prop Jesse Bromwich, a 17-test veteran since 2012, will lead the side for the first time.

### Juniors Named

Penrith prop James Fisher-Harris, fast becoming a fixture in the Panthers premier side, headlines a Junior Kiwis side that takes on the Junior Kangaroos in Parramatta next Saturday.

Player - Club

- Brad Abbey - Canterbury Bulldogs
- Kurt Bernard - Gold Coast Titans
- Cowan Epere - Penrith Panthers
- Poasa Faamausili - Sydney Roosters
- James Fisher-Harris - Penrith Panthers
- Patrick Herbert - St George Dragons
- Ata HIngoro - NZ Warriors
- Jamayne Isaako - Brisbane Broncos
- Greg Lelesiuao - Gold Coast Titans
- Esan Marsters - Wests Tigers
- Marata Niukore - NZ Warriors
- Ofahiki Ogden - NZ Warriors
- Isaiah Papalii - NZ Warriors
- Nathaniel Roache - NZ Warriors
- Brandon Smith North - Queensland Cowboys
- Reimis Smith - Canterbury Bulldogs
- Siosifa Talakai - South Sydney Rabbitohs
- Ken Tofilau - Newcastle Knights

### Bennett Finds Spot For Betts

Denis Betts has been appointed assistant coach of the England Rugby League team by new coach Wayne Bennett.

Betts will form a key part of Bennett's back room staff as he leads England into the 2016 Four Nations tournament and the Rugby League World Cup in 2017.

Bennett said: "Denis was a wonderful player for England and as a coach is someone who gets the best out of his players. He will be keeping an eye on the games in the UK as we start to put plans in place for the forthcoming Four Nations."

England will begin their Four Nations campaign against New Zealand at the John Smith's Stadium in Huddersfield on October 29.



## NRL Steps Up Against Violence

The NRL has unveiled a series of resources in a continued stand to speak out and take action against domestic violence.

On the eve of test weekend, representative players from Australia, New Zealand, City, Country and Pacific teams gathered at Rugby League Central in a combined show of support.

Representative players included Corey Parker (Kangaroos), Ruan Sims (Jillaroos), Sarina Fiso (Ferns), James Maloney (Country), Wade Graham (City), Peni Terepo (Tonga), Stanton Albert (PNG) and Eloni Vunakece (Fiji).

The NRL has worked alongside domestic violence partners Our Watch, White Ribbon and Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia to develop additional resources and education tools in the fight against domestic violence, with a new commercial, website and additional education sessions announced today.

The NRL's domestic violence commercial will air for the first time during the Downer Test on Friday and education resources, including statistics on domestic violence, will be available online this week at [www.nrl.com/voiceagainstviolence](http://www.nrl.com/voiceagainstviolence).

### Europe Gets Serious

Delegates from Malta, Serbia, Norway and Hungary have met in Budapest for a five-day coaching seminar as part of a European Union-backed training project.

### Neighbours On The Go

For the second successive season, Bosnia's U18s will host their Serbian neighbours in Vitez. The match is preparation for an international U18s tournament in Belgrade in late June that will feature six nations.

### Viva Espana

Spain has beaten the touring Midlands Lionhearts in a two game series in Valencia, winning 46-16 in the opening game and 28-14 in the decider.

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Mounties 30 def Penrith 18  
Wests Tigers 36 def North Sydney 18  
Newtown 22 def Wentworthville 10  
Wyangong 28 def Newcastle 6  
NZ Warriors 42 def  
Canterbury-Bankstown 12

## NSW Intrust Super Premiership Round 9 Results



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I want to say a big shout out to the team at Independent Liquor for coming on board to help support our get together at Gary Clarke's Museum in Christchurch. -  
**Sir Peter Leitch**



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Ben Francis, John Deaker, Hayden Woodhead, David Kemeys, John Coffey and John Holloway the people behind the Sir Peter Leitch Club newsletter.



Ben Francis who writes for the newsletter interviewed by Miles Davis.



John Coffey interviewed by Miles Davis.



John Deaker son of legendary broadcaster Murray Deaker is interviewed by Miles Davis.



John Holloway who does the tipping column is grilled by Miles Davis for not sending in his pieces on time.



Douglas West and Mike Brown - Want to say thank you to Lorraine and Dave for a great day.



Gary Norton with Dexter.



Pam and Graeme Lee (who travel up from Tauranga to every home game) with Trevor and M8.



The Pommy brigade do make a lot of noise. Check out their shirts, if you can't see they say "Pome Bastards"



Trevor & M8 with former Warrior & Kiwi Shontayne Hape.



Trevor & M8 with John Coffey one of NZ best Rugby League writers and historians.



Simon Mannering, Sam Lotu-Liga, Alfred Ngaro, Jonathan Coleman (Minister of Health) and Ben Henry.



Eric Watson gives Alfred Ngaro National MP for Te Atatu a membership.



Eric Watson owner and chairman of the Vodafone Warriors gave a rousing talk on the plan for the Warriors.



Jonathan Coleman receives a membership from Eric Watson.



Maddie Coleman (daughter of the Minister of Sport Jonathan Coleman) receives a t-shirt from Sir Peter.



Manager director of Warriors Jim Doyle speaks about the events of the last week.



Yvonne who was celebrating a birthday presented Sir Peter with his own lord certificate.



Peseta Sam Lotu-Liga is Maungakiekie MP, Minister of Local Government, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Minister for Pacific Peoples, and Associate Minister of Health.



Miles with sons Jack and Cole.



Miles Davis talking about loyalty to a sports team.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE™

Good luck to the Kiwis, Junior Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and the NZ Police team playing in Aussie over the weekend.

# At the Vodafone Warriors Game



Craig Stokes and son Dylan at the game at 10am.



Former coach and captain of Wainioma Ken Laban now calling Rugby on SKY TV.



Jo Doyle Jims Wife and Carmen Taplin (Football Operations Coordinator & House Parent Warriors Autex House).



Kelsey Doyle (Jim Doyle's daughter) & Shani Willemsen - event & entertainment volunteers on game day..



Regina and Mutu Paranihi massive Vodafone Warriors fans.



Staunch supporter Pam and brother Rikki.



Alfred Ngaro, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Jonothan Coleman.



Alfred Ngaro, Tuimoala Lolohe, Jonothan Coleman and daughter Maddie Coleman.



Jonothan Coleman with the legend Stacey Jones.



Peseta Sam Lotu-liga, Jonathan Coleman, Jazz Tevaga and Alfred Ngaro.



Simon Mannering, Jonathan Coleman and daughter Maddie.



Simon Mannering, Jonathon Coleman and Ben Henry in the lounge..

# Warriors Membership Council

By Graeme Lee

“This year the Vodafone Warriors have introduced a membership Council which has taken over from 2015’s game day Ambassadors.

The membership council is made up of Vodafone Warriors members who serve on a voluntary basis. There are members based throughout New Zealand and away members in Australia.

On game days at Mount Smart the volunteers help out in the Members clubrooms. Primarily they are involved with helping the membership team to ensure the game day experience for members runs smoothly and act as a link between the club and members for queries and feedback.

The membership council members will also be seen out and about around the stadium helping give out game day sponsors material like try signs, team posters etc.

Current membership council members are

TeKanawa Harris, Bud Abbott, Graeme Lee, Ena Liuaga, Peter D’Orsi, David Stevens

Nga Pedersen, Pamela Lee, Emma Harper, Sharnie Hill , Albert Kapua and Natalie Richards

Away Council Members: Allan Caples, Debbie Rowley, John Burchill, Mathew Tavendale, Shannon Tutty, Vance Payne”

I have attached a photo that Geogina took of our crew on Sunday. They are as follows

Back Row: TeKanawa Harris, Bud Abbott, Graeme Lee, Ena Liuaga, Peter D’Orsi, David Stevens

Front Row: Nga Pedersen, Pamela Lee, Emma Harper, Sharnie Hill

I have also added a photo of some of the fans in the stands. All smiles as we are leading in the first half.

Thanks for letting us have a look around your lounge on Sunday, love looking at the memorabilia. Another great day at Mount Smart, Great company, great weather, great footy, brilliant atmosphere and a couple of wins. Life is good

Go the mighty Vodafone Warriors



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# Big Day Out - Mt Smart Revisited

By John Coffey QSM



**A** FEW MONTHS ago the knight whose name appears on this newsletter asked me to nominate a Warriors home match to attend. The 2pm kick-off, allowing same-day return travel from Christchurch, and a chance to see Benji Marshall play one more time persuaded me to pick the encounter with St George Illawarra, even if the Dragons had won their last 11 encounters.

As time went by there were some second thoughts. The early kick-off meant a 5.15am rise to catch the Air New Zealand red-eye flight, and the Warriors were not travelling as well as hoped. Then we had the Anzac Day mauling in Melbourne, more injuries to key players, and the relegation of six more to reserve grade. Nor was Marshall initially named by the Dragons.

But what a day. It was only my second visit to Mt Smart in the last decade. Over that time I have comfortably settled into a weekend rhythm of watching every NRL match on television, We have a Sky box at each end of the house to maintain marital bliss. That way I can utter a few expletives which are heard only by Rufus, the orange family cat who clearly favours the Tigers over the Panthers.

I was given the Dexter Traill Tour through the Warriors administration area and gymnasium, the new members' area where Jerome Ropati and Shontayne Hapi were busy in their work, under the tunnel for the 9.45am NYC kick-off, through Gordon Gibbens' corporate room and to view the quite incredible Sir Peter Leitch collection of sports memorabilia. Make time to see it.

Lunch in the Mad Butcher's Club (MBC) was most enjoyable, coinciding with the first gathering of those who put this newsletter together. While all this was going on the juniors were roasted by the young Dragons and the winless Bulldogs reserves – having already lost Shaun Lane to the Warriors – received a predictable pounding from Ben Matalino, Manu Vatuvei, Bodene Thompson and company.

Warriors owner Eric Watson visited the MBC to pledge his continuing commitment and managing director Jim Doyle reaffirmed his determination to instil and maintain high standards. Minister of Sport Jonathan Coleman replied to the question of “when will rugby league be compulsory in secondary schools?” with, “not until Sir Peter Leitch is Prime Minister”. Unfortunately, he was probably serious.

Taking a lead from Sir Peter, I watched the NRL game among the fans, sitting in a sea of Warriors colours. Despite the week's controversy, they were a happy lot, good naturedly poking fun at a lone individual in red-and-white gear. It was all totally civilised. When I was a kid on the West Coast there were mad women running amuck with umbrellas on the sidelines whacking opposing wingers!

Most of the spectators stood and cheered the pick-and-mix Warriors onto the field. They did it again when the home side led 18-6 at halftime (ain't The Bunker great?). And when the Warriors comfortably got home by 26-10 they all stood and cheered again. Boy, can I pick the right weekend to drop into Mt Smart.

There was plenty to cheer. Shaun Johnson took on the defensive line and found a way through. Matt Allwood proved Vatuvei does not have sole rights to the in-goal turf adjacent to the left corner flag. Charlie Gubb scored surely the most popular try in Warriors history. And Issac Luke put Jeff Robson across for the try which clinched victory. David Fusitu'a, Jonathan Wright, Jacob Lillyman and Jazz Tevaga were outstanding.

Throughout the day there was a clear firm opinion from all quarters that Jim Doyle had acted correctly in disciplining the wayward six. But he lit a fuse by later announcing they would not be allowed to play for the Kiwis, Samoa or Tonga this weekend. That was widely viewed as penalising those national teams, just as over-seas clubs have done to the Kiwis in the past.

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But have the Kiwis really suffered? Vatuvei is coming back from injury, Thompson has a wall of second-rowers ahead of him, and Matulino was outplayed by Jesse Bromwick as much as Luke was outplayed by Cameron Smith at Melbourne. Luke was subsequently dropped by Stephen Kearney, and Matulino's ban might have saved him from a similar fate.

Doyle gave the impression the case is not yet closed on at least one of the players. Having this weekend off gives the club time to reflect on the relief and pride felt at the win over the Dragons and plan for further redemption. The announcement of the team to play the Penrith Panthers at Christchurch on May 14 will attract more than the usual measure of interest.

## **Bondy was “Beached” from 1952 Tour**

By John Coffey QSM



**B**EN MATULINO is not the first front-rower to miss Kiwis selection because of a late night out. Rugged 1950s Canterbury prop John Bond – known universally as Bondy -- made his Kiwis debut in the memorable 25-5 victory over the Kangaroos at Christchurch in 1953. But, even now at 84 years of age, Bondy is adamant he would have toured Australia with the champion 1952 Kiwis had it not been for an indiscretion in his youth.

Bondy found his way to rugby league by accident. As a 15-year-old Kaiapoi rugby union player, he was sent down to Papanui Domain to meet a cousin. Several of his school mates were also there, they talked him into staying and playing, and within a year he was pitched into senior football. Despite his youth, Bondy was never one to take a backward step.

One of his first confrontations was with a big, grizzly Prebbleton prop, who warned Bondy to stop annoying him. So Bondy whacked him and it was all on. Someone later explained to Bondy it was not the done thing to show such little respect for Pat Smith, who was then the Kiwis captain, founder of the new Prebbleton club and mine host of the Prebbleton Hotel.

But the scuffle with Smith was not the reason Bondy missed the Australian tour five years later. Rather, it was an untimely meeting with Canterbury coach, Jim Amos, on the morning of his first match against West Coast at Greymouth in 1948. The Canterbury side, including the 17-year-old rookie prop, had travelled on the Saturday so the players could have a good night's sleep before the Sunday fixture.

“A couple of mates of mine were helping build the hospital at Reefton and came down to see me in Greymouth. I went out with them to the Stillwater dance, one thing led to another and we finished up on a beach with some nurses, watching the sun come up,” said Bondy. (I didn't point out to him the sun would actually have risen in the east – behind them).

“I got back to the team hotel about 6am and had just started climbing the stairs when I ran into Jim Amos,” he recalled. Amos asked him where he had been, and Bondy, somewhat sandy in appearance and with his shirt tail flapping and collar twisted at right angles, said the first thing that came into his head – “to church”. That's probably where Amos was going.

By 1952 Amos had just succeeded Scotty McClymont as New Zealand coach and Bondy was firing on all cylinders in a Canterbury pack which included established Kiwis Alister Atkinson and Lory Blanchard. Bondy played the first half of the early tour trial at Carlaw Park and was sent back out again during the main trial. Most of his fellow trialists felt he was certain of selection but he missed out.

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The Bond-less 1952 Kiwis won the second and third Tests across the Tasman, after which captain and loose forward Travers Hardwick retired. Blanchard suffered a season-ending injury before the Kangaroos arrived for their reciprocal tour and the Kiwis were down two Test forwards. West Coaster Bob Neilson replaced Hardwick and a 21-year-old Bond came in for Blanchard at prop.

Amos used a proven formula of blending Auckland outside backs and South Island forwards to win again at Christchurch and Wellington (where Neilson scored the winning try), only missing a clean sweep when Australia raced in two late tries at Auckland. Bondy has not forgotten his first Test, and some advice from scrum-half Jimmy Haig, who succeeded Hardwick as captain.

“I remember Jimmy Haig yelling at me, ‘I’ll boot your arse you big lazy bugger’ -- and I thought I was slogging my guts out!” he said. “Then after the game Jimmy told me ‘you went a good one young Jack. He rewarded me with the last shot at goal after Des White had kicked four out of four, even if it was from the sideline.’ Bondy was too modest to remind me he goaled that sideline conversion.

During 1954 Bondy added one Test against Great Britain before selection trials for the team to go to the inaugural World Cup in France. At last, another chance to tour. Bondy worried whether he had redeemed himself with Amos, and felt more than a little trepidation when the coach asked him to go for a walk before the team was announced at Auckland’s Station Hotel.

Amos told him New Zealand Rugby League officials insisted only men whose behaviour could be guaranteed should wear the blazer overseas. Bondy couldn’t help himself – “but I only went to church, Jim”, he blurted. “Jim laughed, put his arm around me and said I hadn’t let him down on the field that day in Greymouth.” This time Bondy was in the touring team.

The 1954 Kiwis also played two exhibition v against the Kangaroos in the United States on the way home. Amos then retired. Bondy went on to tour Britain and France with the 1955-56 Kiwis and finally toured Australia in 1956. His remarkable senior club career extended over 22 seasons from 1947 to 1968, for Papanui, Marist and as player-coach of Kaiapoi.



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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

**W**ELL WHAT a week that was... The controversy, The drama, The big Six, The Media spin, The Newbie team, The Butcher to the defence, Cappy stands strong, The gallant Warriors win.

Bit of a fairy tale really and well appreciated by the Fortress Faithfull who stood to applaud at the break and again at full time. I said last week that the lord only knew what Cappy would come up with well that doesn't change as we await the announcement of the side to face the prowling Panthers in a fortnight's time. Who does he run with... Most of the reserve grade ring-ins mounted a pretty strong case. Shaun Lane we knew was in waiting, Tevaga had already shown his ability but Siple, Allwood and Pahlavi have put their hands up strongly, decisions decisions. The bottom line for me we proved we had depth and we proved we could muster our mana when it was really needed. On a personal note I enjoyed a very good afternoon in the Stacey Jones (Marae in the Sky) lounge as one of Sir Peters guests. I can tell you that in the pre-game speeches owner Eric Watson was firmly committed to the team, the coach and the vision of a title winning, successful Warriors club. Jim Doyle also underlined the need to be firm with the clubs standards and aspirations.... and the Butcher, well he was the normal Butch, belligerent, upbeat, loyal, generous plus he even found time to give me a serve for holding up the Newsletter Publication.

The rest of the Round was also full drama. The tenuous Tigers toppled Russells Rabbits 30/22. The troubled Eels like the Warriors played past their problems to down the Bulldogs 20/12. The Panthers continued their run of ultra-close deciders putting the bite on much fancied Raiders 19/18. Rueful Ricky not alone in blowing up about the reffing and the now infamous Bunker.

The return of Mitch Pierce as expected got the Roosters crowing again guiding them to their 38 zip rout of the nackerless Knights. JT's far north cattle-rustlers were too well drilled and just too good for a depleted but game Manly outfit. 34/18. The Storm routed Titans 38 Nil and The Sharks battled over the Broncos just, 30/28.

I won't weigh into the KIWI selection except to wish that Stephen Kearney one day gets to pick from all the talent on offer. I refer mainly to casualty ward guys Foran, Mannering, Tuivasa Sheck, Whare, Leuluai, Waerea-Hargreaves (just returned) let alone stood down possibles Vatuvei, Bo Thomson and big Ben Matulino. The Coach has stated more than once that current form is not that important with guys he knows can bar up in the camp environment and grow another leg with the black jersey on their back. I guess if Issac Luke had been a little less self-critical he might have made that cut. So hooker/first 5 are question marks. But hey for all that the team bristles with NZ brawn and brilliance. Go the Kiwis!! I have to mention the Mighty Richmond Prens toppling Mt Albert... man I can die happy.

Tippin Talk: With a second 7 (one off the full house) in a row High-Tackle has cruised into the lead on 47 points. Fast Eddie (5), Montz (7) and Wily Willy Hayward (5) in striking range with 46.

The veteran JC a solid 6 for 44 and Jumpin Joe Vagana another 7 score to lift to 40 with Super Sue the rear-gunner on 39.

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# Northland Players Making their Mark

By Ben Francis



**P**ENRITH PANTHERS rookie James Fisher-Harris has been selected for the Junior Kiwis team to face Australia this weekend. Fisher-Harris has featured in all of the Panthers nine first grade games this season. Fisher-Harris was a late inclusion in the Panthers first match of the season against the Raiders and after impressing on debut, he has managed to hold a spot in the match day 17. His coach Anthony Griffin has praised Fisher-Harris for all the effort he puts in during his usual 15-20 spurts. In the Panthers 20-18 loss to the Sharks in round 8, Fisher-Harris played 54 minutes, running for 145meters, a line break, 3 tackle busts and 2 tries. Despite playing only first grade in 2016, Fisher-Harris (20) still qualifies for the Panthers Holden Cup team who currently sit atop the standings with 8 wins and 1 loss.

Fellow Northlander Elijah Taylor has been selected for the NSW Residents squad against the Queensland Residents team. These teams are made up of the best players who are currently playing in the NSW Cup and QLD cup. Warriors players Ken Maumalo, Matt Allwood and Shaun Lane also feature. Former Warriors player Omar Slaimankhel also in the team.

Another Northland player Caleb Aekins made his debut for the Panthers Holden Cup team on the weekend in their 74-10 win over the Canberra Raiders. Aekins was a late inclusion in the side and came off the bench and put up a great performance which included two tackle breaks, 16 tackles, and 56 running meters. Lots of talk has been speculated that Nathan Cleary (Son of former Warriors & Panthers coach Ivan Cleary) will be called into first grade duties after the international window so this could have been a trial to see how Aekins fared in Holden Cup action. Aekins was a part of the 2015 Hikurangi Stags team who won the Scott Electrical Premiership and played for the Northern Swords.



James Fisher-Harris. Photo courtesy of [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



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



Caleb Aekins. Photo [www.northernswords.co.nz](http://www.northernswords.co.nz).

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# Scott Electrical Premiership

## By Ben Francis



**TWO TEAMS** remain unbeaten in the Scott Electrical Premiership in 2016, they are the Takahiwai Warriors and the Moerewa Tigers. Takahiwai has a hard fought 26-16 win over the Otangarei Knights whilst the Tigers had a more convincing win, they beat the Hokianga Pioneers 66-6. In the other game the Portland Panthers beat the Horahora Broncos 72-20. This weeks games will see Takahiwai face off against the Hokianga Pioneers, Portland Panthers will clash against the Moerewa Tigers and the Northern Wairoa Bulls will host the Otangarei Knights. Many people in Northland League will be looking forward to the following weeks games when Takahiwai plays Moerewa in a top of the table clash.

## True Warriors - The Faithful Fans

### By Ben Francis



**WHAT A** game it was on Sunday afternoon between the New Zealand Warriors and the St George Illawarra Dragons. It had been one rough week for the Warriors coming off a 42-0 thrashing against the Storm, followed by the 'mid week incident' which saw six players suspended from the Warriors and international duties. All I can say about this weekend's performance is thank you, thank you to the 12,752 who showed up to Mount Smart Stadium, backed the boys and watch them win 26-10 and record their first win against the Dragons in 9 years.

You people are true fans who despite a horrid week showed up and cheered like crazy. Ryan Hoffman summed it up well saying after the match "We have had some big wins this year, but none more important than this one." Speaking to a number of people before the game, many said they had been following the club for 21 years, why would they stop now

Despite the performance being a relief to fans, it would have been a massive relief for coach Andrew McFadden who has had a very rocky week. Shaun Johnson said post game that the performance the team put on display was for him "For the coach, there has been so much talk about his role at the club, hate seeing what he had to go through."

The Warriors were missing 12 players who could be considered for the first team due to suspension or injury, and the ones who were suspended should be concerned. Tuesday 10th May the Warriors will name their team to play the Penrith Panthers in Christchurch. It will be one of the most anticipated team naming in the clubs history as fans will be waiting to see if any of the six players who were suspended will be named. Players like David Fusitu'a, Matt Allwood and James Gavet you could argue deserve to keep their spots in the 17 based on their performances on the weekend. Only time will tell if the six who were suspended will suffer even more because of the energy, fight, passion the team played with on Sunday afternoon.

I also want to add it was awesome to meet the rest of the newsletter team including John Coffey, John Deaker, John Holloway and Hayden Woodhead up in the Stacey Jones Lounge, It's fantastic working with such a great team and thanks to Sir Peter Leitch for bringing us all together. I also want to thank Shaun Johnson, for scoring the first try of the game, cause of Shaun's try I pocketed a nice \$650 after winning a \$50 bet in the Lounge. Let's hope the Kiwis get that fourth straight win on Friday night!

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephan Maier at [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz)

# International Rugby League Supremacy on the Line

By Barry Ross



**N**EWCASTLE WILL be the focus for Rugby League fans throughout the world this weekend. Not only will Friday night's Test match be important to both New Zealand and Australia, but the game's supporters in the northern hemisphere will be keen to see how their players compare to the men on show at Hunter Stadium.

The Kiwis are the rightful world champions and the Australians are desperate to regain this mantle. This will be Mal Meninga's first Test as Kangaroo coach and he will obviously be keen to start off with a victory. Coming into the job after nine years in charge of the Queensland State of Origin team, there were worries in some quarters that he would favour his former players in Australian team selections. After the team was announced, it was suggested that this was the reason Blake Ferguson was chosen instead of the in-form Bronco 21 year old, Corey Oates. Oates has been a stand-out this year and has collected eight tries in his nine games this year. Ferguson made up some ground on Saturday night with his three tries in the Roosters 38-0 win over Newcastle. Ferguson has six four pointers from his nine games in 2016. In his 119 first grade career, the 26 year old Rooster now has 68 tries or 0.57 tries per game. In his 64 top grade games, Oates has crossed for 35 tries at 0.55 a game.

In his Sunday newspaper column, Channel 9 commentator, Phil Gould, came up with interesting facts about the Australian team for Friday's Test. He pointed out that it was an ageing side, with the youngest player in the squad being powerful Fijian-born Eels star, Semi Radradra. The big winger is still only 23 and doesn't turn 24 until 13 June. Canberra forward, Josh Papalii, is also 23 and just a month older. Papalii has his 24th birthday next week. The Cowboys Michael Morgan turned 24 late last year, on 27 December.

On the other side of the scale, prop Paul Gallen is 35, lock Corey Parker has his 34th birthday the day before Friday's Test, Jonathan Thurston had his 33rd birthday on Anzac Day last week, hooker Cameron Smith is 32 (he turns 33 on 18 June), half Cooper Cronk, is 32 and bench forward, Sam Thaiday turns 31 on 12 June. The average age of the Australian 17 man team is nearly 29.

The selection of Radradra in the Australian team has brought a lot of criticism, as many believe he should be encouraged to play with his native Fiji in international matches. It is an abnormality that he is eligible for Australia but not NSW in the State of Origin competition. Broncos coach Wayne Bennett has also copped plenty of criticism for his decision not to allow his talented five eighth, Anthony Milford to play for Samoa in Saturday's Pacific Test at Parramatta Stadium against Tonga, while allowing another Bronco man, Joe Ofa-hengaue to be available for Tonga. The Samoa-Tonga Test is the third of three attractive matches at Parramatta on Saturday. At 3.15pm, the Junior Kangaroos will play the Junior Kiwis and then at 5.35pm. Papua/New Guinea meet Fiji. Samoa and Tonga clash at 7.40pm.

In a Sydney newspaper article last Saturday, Meninga said that Australian players, at the moment, do not have the same passion for the Kangaroo jersey, as players from the past. The Australian coach is the only player in the game's history to represent Australia on four Kangaroo tours and on two of these tours he was captain. After Friday, Meninga will have captained and coached his country, his State Queensland and his club, Canberra. He played 46 Tests for Australia and scored 278 points (21 tries, 99 goals). Only six of his 46 Tests were losses, so as a Test player he has a winning percentage of 87.

As I said earlier, everyone throughout Australian Rugby League are desperate for a win on Friday. While they recognise the quality of the New Zealanders, they are unhappy with the successive losses in the last three Tests against their Trans Tasman rivals.

*Continued on next page...*

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Congratulations to all the team and the coach for Saturday's excellent 26-10 win over St. George/Illawarra. Knowing that they hadn't beaten the Dragons since 2007, or 3,213 days as the Fox TV commentators said, put more pressure on everyone concerned but they certainly delivered. Shaun Johnson was always a threat to the visitors and deserved his 50th NRL try. Shaun also passed the 600 point mark in the match and now has 610 points from his 110 NRL games. All Warriors fans were pleased when Charlie Gubb picked up his first top grade try in his 16 games. Jacob Lillyman's stats were fantastic. In his 67 minutes on the park, he made 48 tackles and ran for 174 metres. Jazz Tevaga also worked hard, making his 48 tackles and 109 running metres in 71 minutes. Out wide, Blake Ayshford proved what a great buy he has been for the club. He started the season well and has got better and better with each game.

## **Foran's Story is a Reminder that Sports people are Human**

By John Deaker



**F**ROM A distance Kieran Foran appears to be living the dream. He's 25 years old, one of New Zealand's best rugby league players and earning over a million dollars a year. Foran has already captained the Kiwis because of the leadership traits he possesses; he's widely respected by his peers and one of the attributes that most clearly separates him from an average NRL player is how tough he is.

The resilience Foran displays on the field and the mature attitude he displays off it made the news more shocking last week that he'd been struggling for some time with personal problems – issues that culminated with him overdosing on prescription medicine last Wednesday night.

The news of Foran's problems shocked the rugby league world but on reflection it shouldn't have. Most people don't know him and even those that do, talk about him being a fairly private person; he's always preferred to let his play on the field do the talking.

Well-known rugby league reporter in Australia Danny Weidler wrote an article this week where he revealed he'd ignored a tip-off earlier this year regarding Foran's mental health because it seemed so out-of-character.

“At the start of this year I received a tip-off that seemed too odd to be plausible: that Foran was in a clinic... I dismissed it. I made the mistake of judging a book ... and not forgetting that behind that strong exterior he could have been fragile. And is. Foran has ongoing issues and he is doing what he can to address them. That has to be admired on every level.”

As Weidler refers to, it's a mistake for us to ever judge a book by its cover. That should especially apply to sportspeople. They have their own personal lives and most of the time they have their own coping mechanisms that they use to handle their interactions with the media and fans.

People are even less likely to wonder about a player's personal life when they've been in great form like Foran has been this season. There are actually numerous examples of sportspeople in the past that have covered up battles with depression right through successful careers and only revealed what they went through once they've hung up their boots.

The prevalence of social media these days seems likely to ensure less of these cases continue to be covered up. The great All Blacks' winger Sir John Kirwan was a man who covered up his battle with depression throughout his career but his ability to open up since then has meant he's gone on to be viewed as a leader within New Zealand society.

In Kirwan's book 'All Blacks don't cry' he wrote about the balance he'd struggled to obtain as a person when “being an extremist helped me to train to be the best I could be”.

*Continued on next page...*

“Emotional wellness is what happens when you live a balanced life,” he wrote, admitting that “The things that make you successful can also be your downfall.”

For a man like Foran that was playing first grade and test football as a teenager balance is something he's likely to have struggled with ; he's probably only ever wanted to be a professional rugby league player. It should be noted that he's achieved that task as well as any 25 year old New Zealander ever has.

The break-down of Foran's relationship following the birth of his second child earlier this year has been singled out as one of the main factors that have contributed to Foran's fall from grace. Ironically, the story broke the same week that his good mate growing up, Mitchell Pearce, was making his return to rugby league following his own personal battles. Pearce's story has been very different from Foran's because it's much more well-known the struggles Pearce has had with alcohol during his career.

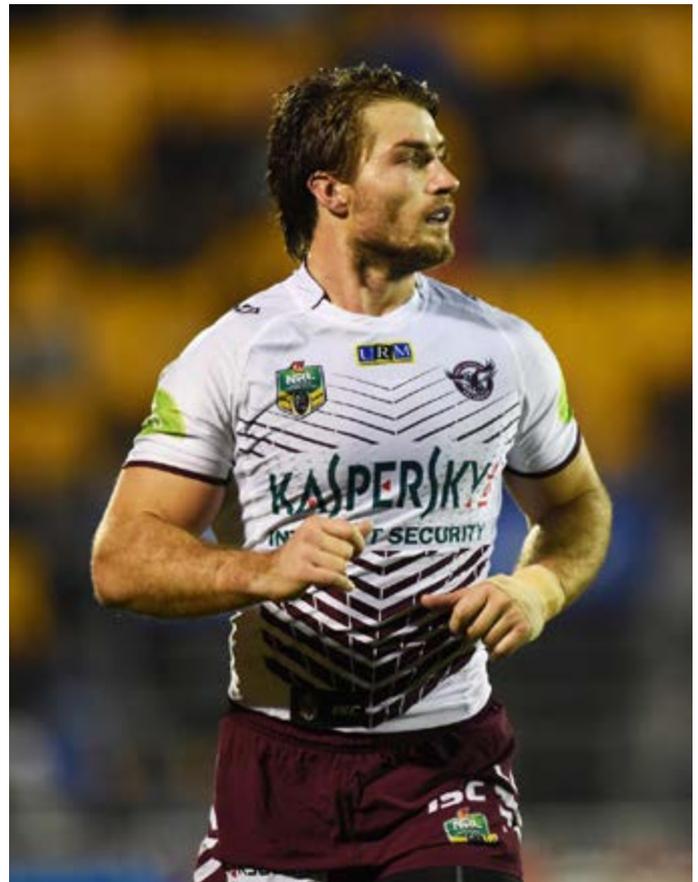
Where Pearce is similar to Foran is that fans often have the misconception that everything is easy for these young men. The proof is in the pudding and clearly that's not the case. In fact for a lot of professional footballers some things 'normal' people find easy they might find just as difficult as those 'normal' people would find tackling Manu Vatuvei at top-speed.

Guys like Foran and Pearce have hardly ever got a chance to emotionally develop or work on things other than football without some sort of external scrutiny or spotlight on their progress. Fortunately, many professional sports including rugby league have better support systems and even mental skills coaches available to assist players than they've previously had. There is no guarantee this assistance will help them in their relationships with people though. It also doesn't necessarily solve the problem many professional footballers worry about of considering what life-after-football might mean for them and their families.

Generally the media and public have been very supportive to Kieran Foran since the reports surfaced of the difficulties he's been going through. Some people ( especially on social media ) have questioned why the main-stream media are reporting on the story and even suggested it's been poor-form to not just leave Foran alone. In the real world ( ie: not social media! ) it's clear that people deserve to be given a reasonable explanation of what Foran's been going through. To not be reporting at all on someone who is such a big name in the rugby league world would be irresponsible of journalists.

Kieran Foran will hopefully come through this saga with a stronger support system around him and better mechanisms to deal with the far-from-normal life that he leads. There's a chance the public may even get to know him better as a person because he might be encouraged to bottle things up less and be a bit more transparent with his emotions.

Hopefully it serves as a timely reminder to all sports fans that these people we watch each week that might be promoted to us as being capable of super-human feats go through their own highs and lows. From only watching them on television we have almost no idea of what the person is really like and the life they live away from the sports field.



Manly's Kieran Foran during the NRL Rugby League match between the Vodafone Warriors and The Manly Sea Eagles at Mt Smart Stadium, Saturday 25 July 2015.

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

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**Venue:** Christian Cullen Lounge, Addington Raceway

**Time:** 6.30pm - 10.30pm



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# ARL - RD 4 Results and RD5 Preview

**T**HE GLENORA Bears continued their perfect start to the 2016 season on Saturday, getting over the top of the Howick Hornets 10-22 in the ARL Game of the Round #4.

That leaves the Sea Eagles and Glenora Bears as the only undefeated sides after four rounds of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership, following a convincing 10-54 win to Papakura over Northcote.

Richmond romped to their first victory of the year since returning to the Fox, taking down Premiership favourites Mt Albert 26-24 at home.

Failing to get a win in their opening encounters this season, Mangere East come away with points to beat Otahuhu 26-30.

Meanwhile Pt Chevalier shift into the competition's top three with a 26-40 win against Marist at Murray Halberg Park.

This week's Game of the Round takes us out south

**SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 4 results:**  
Otahuhu 26 Mangere East 30  
Northcote 10 Papakura 54  
Richmond 26 Mt Albert 24  
Marist 26 Pt Chevalier 40  
Howick 10 Glenora 22

**Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 4 results:**  
Ellerslie 44 Hibiscus Coast 20  
Te Atatu 44 Glenfield 12  
Papatoetoe 20 Waitemata 16  
Manurewa 32 Manukau 28  
Mt Wellington 14 Bay Roskill 38  
Pakuranga 34 East Coast Bays 22  
Ponsonby 24 New Lynn 34  
O tara BYE



## SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 5 Fixtures (Saturday May 7)

Pt Chevalier v Otahuhu @ Walker Park 2.30pm  
Mangere East v Howick @ Walter Massey 2.30pm  
Glenora v Richmond @ Harold Moody 2.30pm  
Papakura v Marist @ Prince Edward 2.30pm  
Mt Albert v Northcote @ Fowlds Park 2.30pm

## Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 5 Fixtures (Saturday May 7)

Manukau v Papatoetoe @ Moyle Park 2.30pm  
Waitemata v Pakuranga @ Ranui Park 2.30pm  
Bay Roskill v Manurewa @ Blockhouse Bay 2.30pm  
East Coast Bays v Ponsonby @ Freyberg Park 2.30pm  
Ellerslie v Mt Wellington @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm  
Glenfield v New Lynn @ Sunnynook Park 2.30pm  
Hibiscus Coast v O tara @ Stanmore Bay 2.30pm  
Te Atatu BYE

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



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# It's Been Tough

By Shontayne Hape



**I**T WOULD be fair to say it's been a tough couple of weeks here at Vodafone Warriors HQ. But thankfully last Sunday against the Dragons, the boys responded in the best way possible with a gutsy win. A massive thanks, too, to our loyal members who turned up in force last Sunday to show their support for the club.

While the spotlight has been firmly on us in the wake of our loss to Melbourne on Anzac Day and some subsequent off-field issues, we shouldn't forget we've actually won four of our last five games.

With a number of high-profile players relegated to the reserve grade team last week, fans got the chance to watch some up-and-coming talents press their claims for first-grade spots.

The young guns definitely stepped up and coach Andrew McFadden now has some tough decisions to make around who he selects for our round 10 clash against the Panthers in Christchurch on May 14.

Speaking of Christchurch and the membership team and I are getting ready for a big weekend down there.

We've confirmed an official "meet-the-team" event at the Iconic bar in the city centre after the game where members will have the chance to rub shoulders with the boys.

Due to space constraints this is a members-only event and you must register by emailing [memberships@Warriors.kiwi](mailto:memberships@Warriors.kiwi).

If you're not a member and want to attend, now's a great time to show your support for the club and sign up. You can do that for as little as \$30 by purchasing a scarf membership.

It's a bit of a quieter week here at the Vodafone Warriors. We've got the bye and the focus is firmly on Newcastle where the Kiwis take on the Kangaroos on Friday night.

As a former Kiwi, I can't wait to watch how the boys go.

Stephen Kearney has picked a fantastic squad – albeit one without some key players – and I have no doubt the monster Kiwis forward pack will lay the perfect platform for the flashy backs.

We've had a great run against the Aussies of late. Long may it continue.

Go the Kiwis and go the mighty Vodafone Warriors.

See you in Christchurch.

## Flo Clothing

**J**OE HARAWIRA, NRL Player Wellbeing Manager launches unique clothing line to help kids in need. Flo (flourish) Clothing's mission is to level the playing field so all kids can flourish both in school and in life. Last month Flo provided over 100 fresh, healthy lunches delivered in schools for kids in need. By day Joe mentors our junior elite athletes to help them make better life decisions and in the evenings and weekends he works on Flo Clothing.

It's fantastic to see our people doing amazing things both within rugby league and outside. Let's get behind Flo Clothing to help it to do more good! Check out Flo\_Clothing on FB and Instagram or visit the site <http://www.flo.kiwi/>. Keep up the good work Joe!



# One Awesome Day Out

By Lee Anne Martin

**M**OST OF us have problems right? Issues we are or are not dealing with. Whether they be love problems, money problems, the list goes on. Then there are people that are born with disabilities. Born with issues they cannot control, and have no choice over. People that are born with disadvantages and barriers that are hard to overcome. Some people that struggle with day to day activities, that a lot of us take for granted being able to do. We all need to be more aware of people with disabilities and and be supportive.

I am currently working on my business which focuses on the health, fitness and wellbeing of people with a disability.. Enabling, Empowering, and Enlightening those with disabilities, helping them physically and mentally to realize their capabilities and worth, then help guide and support them to be active members of society.

With the help of Eric Watson and the Warriors. I organised a day out at Mount Smart Stadium, for myself and 48 my disabled friends to watch the Warriors play the Dragons. Many of these people had never been to watch a game live like this before and it was an amazing day. Not only did we have front row seats, but food and beverages were supplied and brought to our seats. We also had the privilege and pleasure and were absolutely thrilled to have Sir Peter Leitch, and the Minister of Health Jonathan Coleman visiting us first. Then at the second half Eric Watson, the owner of the Warriors, came to see us with Jim Doyle, the Ceo of the Warriors. Then finally Simon Mannering came bearing gifts for everyone, bringing us all Vodafone Warriors Hats. It was a perfect day, everyone was smiling, we all felt special, and got to Support and watch the Warriors as they slayed the Dragons..

Once again thank you to Eric Watson and the Warriors for your generosity and making our day possible. Thank you Sir Peter Leitch, and Jonathan Coleman for lifting our spirits, and coming to see us, your presence alone had such a positive effect on our day. Also thank you to my 48 friends for coming with me. You were all so great and I had a wonderful day with you all. Finally a huge thank you to everyone that s understands, appreciates, and supports people with disabilities. We all need to do our part to ensure a brighter future for the next generation of people with disabilities.



Vodafone Warriors Chairman and Owner with Lee Anne Martin.

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# Manurewa Marlins Celebrate Kiwis Selection

By Grant Chapman (NZRL Communications Manager) on Tour with the Kiwis

**M**ANUREWA MARLINS will be celebrating a unique national-team double this week, when two of their own - Kiwis prop Jesse Bromwich and Kiwi Ferns Sarina Fiso - lead their respective national teams against Australia in Newcastle.

Bromwich (Kiwis #75) was named Kiwis captain for the Downer Trans-Tasman Test, after regular captain Simon Mannering was ruled out with facial injuries.

Fiso captained the women's side to series victories over the Jillaroos at the last two NRL Auckland Nines tournaments and returns to the test outfit, after missing last year's Anzac Test curtain-raiser with a knee injury.

Bromwich's elevation marks a unique achievement for the Melbourne Storm, which also provides Australian Kangaroos Cameron Smith.

"You just need to look at Jesse's performances over the past two years, when he's elevated himself to one of the premier front rowers in our game and at international level," says Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney.

"But it's more than his performances - it's everything that he brings to the table. He's a wonderful leader in his own right.

"He ticks all the right boxes. We certainly saw that in England, where Adam Blair and Issac Luke were our captains, but Jesse was part of the leadership group and really stepped up to the plate.

"It was just a matter of time that he assumed the role we've given him this week."

The Kiwis will be gunning for their fourth straight win over Australia and if they achieve it, they'll match the achievement of the 1952-53 side.

Kearney's line-up has been hit by injury and suspension, with Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Manu Vatuvei, Peta Hiku, Kieran Foran, Mannering, Issac Luke, Thomas Leuluai and Ben Matulino all missing from last year's winning Anzac Test team.

But the coach remain optimistic his players will rise to the occasion. Penrith wing Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Parramatta forward Manu Ma'u are poised to make their Kiwis debut, while Parramatta centre Brad Takairangi is next cab off the rank, should someone else fall over.

"I'm super happy with who we have and the one thing we've built over the last two years is, regardless who we have in the jumper, we have a responsibility and duty to go out there and perform," says Kearney.

"If we take close to our best performance to the contest on Friday, then I'm super confident we give ourselves a great opportunity."

Meanwhile, the Ferns will hope to build on their nines success and feature five debutants who have breathed new life into the programme. Akarana second row Annetta Nuuausala will follow older brother Frank-Paul (Kiwis #754) into the test arena.

"The selectors and I had a number of sleepless nights picking this team," says coach Alan Jackson. "The quality of the players we have in the game in New Zealand at the moment is very, very good, making this a hard job, but we're very happy with the 18 that we have.

"We've built since the Nines. The girls have been working very hard and we're looking forward to this test match.

"The Aussies have very fast backs and very strong forwards that keep working all day, so it's going to be a real challenge. They beat us by eight last year, so we're looking for a little bit of revenge."

The Kiwi Ferns face the Jillaroos at 7.25pm NZ at Hunter Stadium, Newcastle, with the Kiwis v Kangaroos following at 9.50pm NZ.

Radio Sport will carry live commentary of the men's encounter and details of live TV coverage are yet to be confirmed.



Kiwis Training in Aussie



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**P**ENRITH WING Dallin Watene-Zelezniak will hope third time is the charm, as he accepts another opportunity to pull on the NZ Kiwis test jersey this week.

The great grandson of NZ rugby league legend Steve Watene has come into Kiwis camp twice before, only to be denied his starting spot by injury (2014 Four Nations) and suspension (2015 Anzac Test).

He also missed the 2015 England tour with a collapsed lung, but has earned another chance in an 18-man squad named by Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney for next Friday's Downer Trans-Tasman Test against Australia in Newcastle.

"When I texted Dallin to tell him, he was really, really excited," says Kearney. "We'll keep him away from the beach. In 2014, we took him down to the beach for a recovery, and he ended up rolling his ankle and breaking a bone in his foot.

"He a kid that's been in our Junior Kiwis programme and I remember watching him score four tries against the Junior Kangaroos a few years ago. He's one of those kids that has always been on the cusp of making it, now he finally gets that opportunity and I'm sure he'll do a wonderful job for us."

Watene-Zelezniak (20) and bruising Parramatta forward Manu Ma'u are the newcomers on a roster aiming to defend its world #1 ranking, retain the Bill Kelly Cup and achieve a fourth consecutive win against world champions Australia.

"Two years ago, we had a few players ruled out through injury and Manu was right in the mix then, but injured his hand," says Kearney. "I just think he's shown consistency in his football since being at Parramatta and it's an opportunity for us to grow that depth of talent that we have.

"The way he's been playing is certainly what we're after."

With regular captain Simon Mannering sidelined by injury, Melbourne prop Jesse Bromwich (Kiwi #775), a 17-test veteran since 2012, will lead the side for the first time.

"You just need to look at Jesse's performances over the past two years, when he's elevated himself to one of the premier front rowers in our game and at international level," says Kearney.

"But it's more than his performances – it's everything that he brings to the table. He's a wonderful leader in his own right.

"He ticks all the right boxes. We certainly saw that in England, where Adam Blair and Issac Luke were our captains, but Jesse was part of the leadership group and really stepped up to the plate.

"It was just a matter of time that he assumed the role we've given him this week."

North Queensland powerhouse Jason Taumalolo returns to the national side, after missing its entire 2015 campaign, while NZ Warriors half Shaun Johnson and Canterbury Bulldogs lock Greg Eastwood are back, after missing the England series.

"I'm super happy with who we have and the one thing we've built over the last two years is, regardless who we have in the jumper, we have a responsibility and duty to go out there and perform," says Kearney.

"If we take close to our best performance to the contest on Friday, then I'm super confident we give ourselves a great opportunity."



*Dallin Watene-Zelezniak*

**C**RONULLA UTILITY back Gerard Beale has been summoned into the NZ Kiwis starting line-up for Friday's Downer Trans-Tasman Test against Australia in Newcastle, replacing fullback Peta Hiku.

Beale (Kiwi #767) has played seven tests for New Zealand in 2011 & 2014, and last took the field for his country in the 2014 Four Nations opener against Australia at Brisbane.

He was called into the Kiwis camp on Monday morning, after Brisbane second row Alex Glenn injured a calf for his Broncos club the night before and had to withdraw from the initial 18-man squad.

But when Hiku was also ruled out with a knee injury, Beale moved into the centres and Brisbane utility Jordan Kahu shifted to fullback.

The Kiwis have further concerns over the fitness of Sydney Roosters centre Shaun Kenny-Dowall, who sported a moon foot at the team's recovery training session on Monday. He will be given some time to prove his readiness, with Parramatta's Brad Takairangi and Melbourne forward Kenny Bromwich arriving to cover further casualties in the test build-up.

Other features of the Kiwis line-up include the use of Melbourne second row Tohu Harris in the halves and debuts for Penrith wing Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Parramatta forward Manu Ma'u

**NZ Kiwis v Australia Kangaroos**  
**9.50pm NZ, Friday, May 6**  
**Live commentary on Radio Sport.**



- 1 Jordan Kahu
- 2 Jason Nightingale
- 3 Shaun Kenny-Dowall
- 4 Gerard Beale
- 5 Dallin Watene-Zelezniak
- 6 Tohu Harris
- 7 Shaun Johnson
- 8 Jesse Bromwich
- 9 Lewis Brown
- 10 Adam Blair



- 11 Kevin Proctor
- 12 Manu Ma'u
- 13 Jason Taumalolo
- 14 Kodi Nikorima
- 15 Greg Eastwood
- 16 Martin Taupau
- 17 Sam Moa
- 18 Brad Takairangi
- 20 Kenny Bromwich



**NZ Kiwi Ferns v Australian Jillaroos**  
**7.25pm NZ, Friday, May 6**



- 1 Sarina Fiso
- 2 Lanurangi Veaimu
- 3 Maitua Feterika
- 4 Va'anessa Molia-Fraser
- 5 Atawhai Tupaea
- 6 Georgia Hale
- 7 Kristina Sue
- 8 Lilietta Maumau
- 9 Krystal Rota
- 10 Kelly Maipi



- 11 Teuila Fotu-Moala
- 12 Annetta Nuuasala
- 13 Nora Maaka
- 14 Amber Kani
- 15 Kahurangi Peters
- 16 Krystal Murray
- 17 Charmaine McMennamin
- 18 Mary-Jane Ale

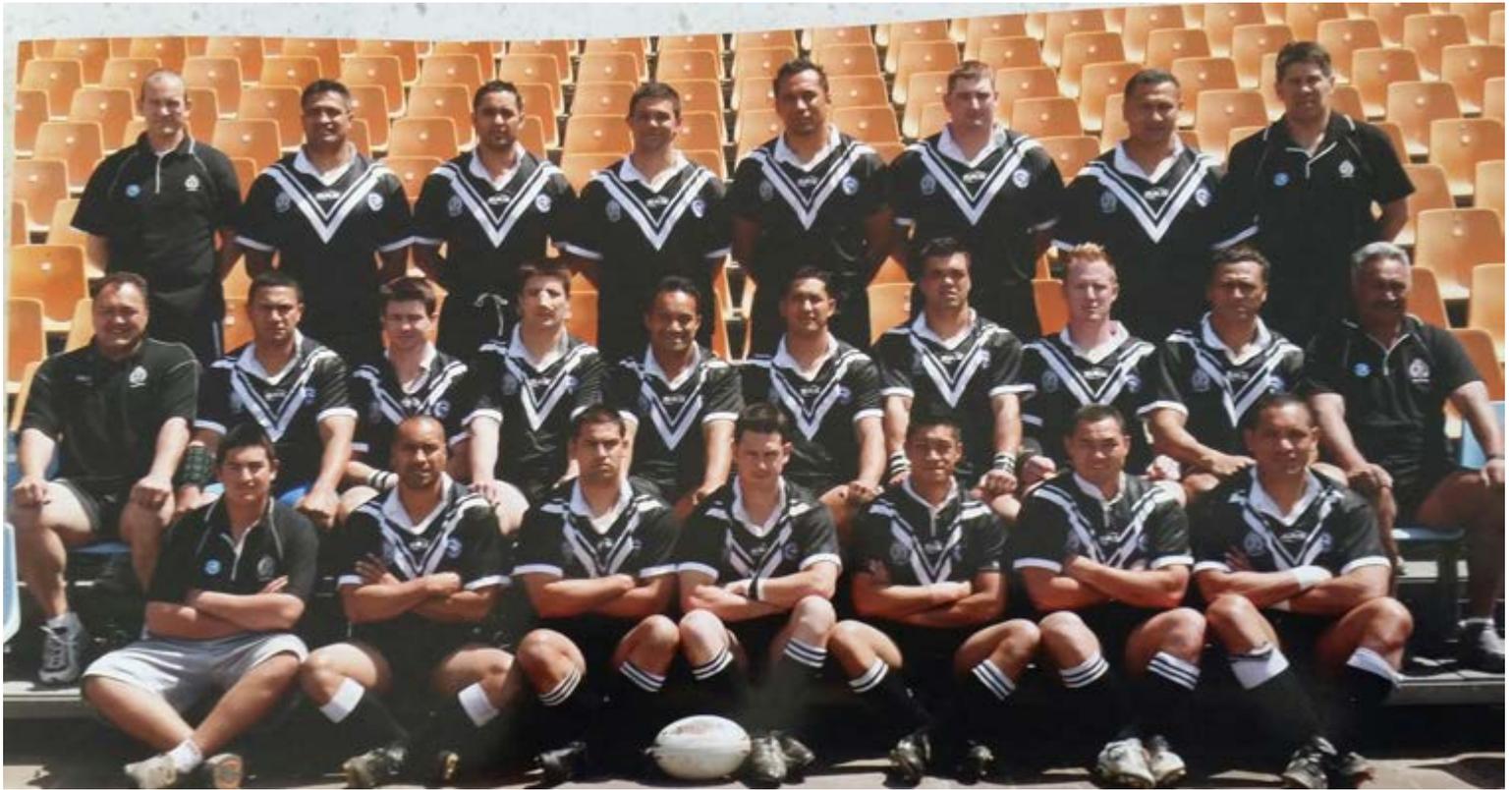


**Downer Test Details**  
**Friday, 6 May 2016**  
Hunter Stadium, Turton Road,  
Broadmeadow NSW

3.30pm – Gates open and hospitality commences  
3.45pm – Combined Australian Services Rugby League v New Zealand  
Police Force Rugby League  
5.25pm – Harvey Norman Jillaroos v Kiwi Ferns  
6.30pm – ARLC official welcome  
7.50pm – Downer Test Match: Australian Kangaroos v New Zealand Kiwis  
9.40pm – Match concludes, followed by on field presentation

*Aussie Times*

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# Harvey Norman Jillaroos Name Side to Take on Ferns in Test Match

**T**HE HARVEY Norman Jillaroos have named a side balanced with youth and experience for their clash against the Ferns on Friday 6 May as part of the double header with the Kangaroos and Kiwis.

Five Test debutants come into the squad, whilst seasoned Jillaroo Ruan Sims will run out as captain for the first time as she competes in her sixth Test Match.

Jillaroos coach Steve Folkes said the team had been preparing well in Newcastle after an extended squad commenced preparations last Friday.

“We know the job ahead of us and the team chosen has a blend of new faces, ready to take up the challenge that Test Match football brings, as well as players that have been there before and know how much it means to wear the green and gold jersey for Australia,” said Folkes.

In her debut as captain, Ruan Sims said it was a privilege to lead the team and the side was focused on the task ahead.

“I have grown up in a Rugby League family, with my brothers and I all playing the game we love,” said Sims.

“For me to reach the pinnacle and to have the opportunity to captain the Jillaroos is a tremendous honour and a moment that I will cherish for the rest of my life.”

The Jillaroos will kick off against the Ferns at 5:20pm at Hunter Stadium on Friday, before another blockbuster clash between the Kangaroos and Kiwis.

Tickets for the double header Test Match are available from just \$35 for a single pass and less than \$100 for a family pass to witness both the Jillaroos and Kangaroos take on the Ferns and Kiwis.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.nrl.com/tickets](http://www.nrl.com/tickets)

The Nine Network will broadcast the match and fans that cannot make it to the match live are encouraged to check their local television guides for kick off time.

The match will also be live streamed on the NRL Digital Pass and fans can sign up [attelstra.com/footypass](http://attelstra.com/footypass)

- 1 Samantha Bremner
- 2 Chelsea Baker
- 3 Corban McGregor
- 4 Annette Brander
- 5 Karina Brown
- 6 Allana Ferguson
- 7 Maddie Studdon
- 8 Simaima Taufa
- 9 Brittany Breayley
- 10 Heather Ballinger
- 11 Kezie Apps
- 12 Vanessa Foliaki
- 13 Ruan Sims ©
- 14 Libby Cook-Black
- 15 Kody House
- 16 Casey Karklis
- 17 Emma Young
- 18 Caitlyn Moran

Coach: Steve Folkes



# Kangaroos Team Changes

**K**ANGAROOS 19TH man Michael Jennings has withdrawn from the Australian squad as a result of injury. At this stage there are no plans to replace Jennings in the squad.

The 2016 Kangaroos squad, to play the New Zealand Kiwis in the Downer Test Match on Friday night at Hunter Stadium, is now as follows:

1. Darius Boyd | Broncos
2. Semi Radradra | Eels
3. Greg Inglis | Rabbitohs
4. Josh Dugan | Dragons
5. Blake Ferguson | Roosters
6. Johnathan Thurston | Cowboys
7. Cooper Cronk | Storm
8. Matt Scott | Cowboys
9. Cameron Smith (c) | Storm
10. Paul Gallen | Sharks
11. Josh Papalii | Raiders



12. Matt Gillett | Broncos
13. Corey Parker | Broncos

## Interchange

14. Josh McGuire | Broncos
  15. Michael Morgan | Cowboys
  16. James Tamou | Cowboys
  17. Sam Thaiday | Broncos
  - 18th man Aidan Guerra
- Coach: Mal Meninga

## Junior Kangaroos Squad

**Y**OUNG NRL prospects including Lachlan Croker (Canberra Raiders), Nathan Cleary (Penrith Panthers), Robert Jennings (Penrith Panthers), Coen Hess (North Queensland Cowboys) and Curtis Scott (Melbourne Storm) have been selected to play in the Junior Kangaroos squad to face their Kiwi counterparts on Saturdaynight at Pirtek Stadium.

The Junior Kangaroos will play the Junior Kiwis in the curtain-raiser to the Pacific Test Double Header on Saturday, May 7.

The squad, which will be coached by Justin Holbrook, will assemble in Parramatta on May the 2nd.

The 2016 Junior Kangaroos squad is:

- 1 Dylan Edwards
- 2 Curtis Scott
- 3 Robert Jennings
- 4 Tyrell Fuimaono
- 5 John Olive
- 6 Nathan Cleary
- 7 Lachlan Croker
- 8 Tevita Pangai
- 9 Jayden Nikorima
- 10 JJ Felise



- 11 Coen Hess
- 12 Jaydn Sua
- 13 Tyrone May
- 14 Junior Tatola
- 15 Jacob Host
- 16 Alex Twal
- 17 Connor Watson
- 18 Brian Kelly

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# Pacific Test Match Teams Announced

**P**ACIFIC NATIONS announced their Test Match teams this evening, ahead of matches this Saturday at Pirtek Stadium.

Players named include David Mead and Rod Griffin for PNG; Sisa Waqa and Akuila Uate for Fiji; Feleti Mateo and Joe Ofahengau and Sam Kasiano partnering with Frank Pritchard again, this time for Samoa.

Fans can look forward to two blockbuster matches between four Pacific nations, with Fiji taking on PNG in the first match, before Samoa takes on Tonga to round out the Pacific double header.

The Junior Kangaroos will also play at Pirtek Stadium on Saturday against the Junior Kiwis, with the match in honour of the ANZACs.

All four Pacific Test teams will spend the week in Western Sydney, with the city of Parramatta and Destination New South Wales ensuring plenty of excitement and activities leading into the Test matches.

Pacific ambassadors including Roy Asotasi, Joe Galuvao and Nigel Vagana will visit a series of schools on Monday and teams will host fan days later on Thursday throughout western Sydney.

Westfield Parramatta will host a Pacific showcase, also on Thursday, with cultural activities on display from all four competing Pacific nations.

In further activity, a number of Pacific youth from western Sydney will take part in a Youth Summit on Friday and Saturday, celebrating cultural diversity and developing leadership amongst Pacific communities.

On game day, a 'Big Island Festival' will take over Centenary Square in Parramatta, with plenty of food, fun and festivities for all, before the Junior Kangaroos and Kiwis kick off the first of three matches.

NRL CEO Todd Greenberg said the week-long celebrations and matches on Saturday would be well supported by the games, Pacific players and fans.

"Many of our players in the NRL come from Pacific heritage and our Pacific fans make up a huge supporter base for Rugby League, so we are very much looking forward to some exciting and passionate football on Saturday," said Mr Greenberg.

Tickets are still available, starting from \$20 for a single pass, with family passes for as little as \$60 to see all three matches.

Further information on teams, training sessions, fan days and match day times can be found at [www.nrl.com/pacifictest](http://www.nrl.com/pacifictest)

## **Papua New Guinea Kumuls**

- 1 David Mead (Gold Coast Titans)
- 2 Justin Olam (SP Hunters)
- 3 Kato Ottio (Canberra Raiders)
- 4 Nene Macdonald (Gold Coast Titans)
- 5 Stargroth Amean (SP Hunters)
- 6 Ase Boas (SP Hunters)
- 7 Watson Boas (SP Hunters)
- 8 Luke Page (Burleigh Bears)
- 9 Wartovo Puara Junior (SP Hunters)
- 10 Henry Noki (SP Hunters)
- 11 Edward Goma (SP Hunters)

- 12 Rod Griffin (Wests Tigers)
- 13 Adam Korave (SP Hunters)
- 14 Adex Wera (SP Hunters)
- 15 Brandy Peter (SP Hunters)
- 16 Willie Minoga (Townsville Blackhawks)
- 17 Kurt Baptiste (Canberra Raiders)
- 18 Timothy Lomai (SP Hunters)

Coach: Michael Marum

*Continued on next page...*

Sisa Waqa (Canberra Raiders)  
Tyrone Phillips (Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs)  
Junior Roqica (Cronulla Sharks)  
James Storer (Illawarra – Port Kembla)  
Fabian Goodall (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
Brayden Wiliame (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
Benjamin Nakubwai (Melbourne Storm)  
Maurice Kennedy (Mounties)  
Sitiveni Moceidreke (North Sydney Bears)  
Akuila Uate (Newcastle Knights)  
Korbin Sims (Newcastle Knights)

1 David Fusitu'a (New Zealand Warriors)  
2 Mosese Pangai (Townsville Blackhawks)  
3 Solomon Kata (New Zealand Warriors)  
4 Vai Toutai (Parramatta Eels)  
5 Michael Oldfield (South Sydney Rabbitohs)  
6 Feleti Mateo (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
7 Samisoni Langi (North Sydney Bears)  
8 Penni Terepo (Parramatta Eels)  
9 Sione Katoa (Penrith Panthers)  
10 Felise Kaufusi (Melbourne Storm)  
11 Sika Manu (Hull FC)

1 Tim Simona (Wests Tigers)  
2 Antonio Winterstein (North Queensland Cowboys)  
3 Kirisome Auvā'a (South Sydney Rabbitohs)  
4 Ricky Leutele (Cronulla Sharks)  
5 Matthew Wright (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
6 Fa'amamu Brown (Cronulla Sharks)  
7 Pita Godinet (Manly Warringah Sea Eagles)  
8 Sam Kasiano (Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs)  
9 Kaysa Pritchard (Parramatta Eels)  
10 Junior Paulo (Parramatta Eels)  
11 Leeson Ah Mau (St George Illawarra Dragons)

### Fiji Bati

Daniel Saifiti (Newcastle Knights)  
Kane Evans (Sydney Roosters)  
Eloni Vunakece (Sydney Roosters)  
Kevin Naiqama (West Tigers)  
Tui Kamikamica  
Tuimasi Pio Moceiwaiyevo Seci  
Ratu Jowasa Tubailagi Drodrolagi  
Etuate Tamanikaitai Qionimacawa  
Iliavi Chris Ravu

Coach: Mick Potter

### Mate Ma'a Tonga

12 Tony Williams (Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs)  
13 Joe Ofahengau (Brisbane Broncos)  
14 Nafe Seluini (Sunshine Coast Falcons)  
15 David Fifita (Cronulla Sharks)  
16 Patrick Kaufusi (North Queensland Cowboys)  
17 Siosala Vave (Manly Sea Eagles)  
18 Mickey Paea (Newcastle Knights)

Coach: Kristian Woolf

### Toa Samoa

12 Frank Pritchard (Hull FC)  
13 Sauaso Sue (Wests Tigers)  
14 Erin Clark (New Zealand Warriors)  
15 John Asiata (North Queensland Cowboys)  
16 Raymond Faitala-Mariner (Canterbury Bankstown Bulldogs)  
17 Sam Tagataese (Cronulla Sharks)  
18 Mason Lino (New Zealand Warriors)

Coach: Matt Parish



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## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE REP ROUND ISSUE...

Jam-packed with **FEATURES** and **NEWS**, plus columnist **BEN HUNT** and game analysis by **BEN IKIN**; plus **EVERY SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE TEAM LIST**, previews and team posters.

### FEATURES

- Cowboys half **Michael Morgan** has had a massive couple of years – but he says being picked for Australia tops all the other honours. Though he can't believe he's now in the same company as players in the Kangaroos squad, his team-mate **Johnathan Thurston** believes Morgan has emerged as one of the best in the world.
- **Greg Eastwood** knows he made a big gamble by withdrawing from New Zealand's three-game Test series against England last year, but it was time to look after his body after years of putting it through hell. And it's paid off, with **Stephen Kearney** trusting in him and naming him in his 24<sup>th</sup> Test.
- As if the Pacific Tests needed more passion – it doesn't come much bigger than **Frank Pritchard** and **Sika Manu** travelling from England to turn up for Samoa and Tonga. Despite their club Hull FC being locked in a tight race for glory in the English Super League, it means so much to Pritchard he says he couldn't pass up the opportunity to lead his country again.
- Also, **David Mead** says **Marcus Bai** and PNG coach Michael Marum convinced him to represent the Kumuls again and be a hero for Papua New Guinean people; **Kane Evans** credits being picked in the Fijian team as life-changing– much like it was for Jarryd Hayne in 2008; Parra great **Brett Kenny** goes off at the club's management; The Analyst anoints Kiwi captain **Jesse Bromwich** as the best in the comp and **Ben Hunt** says the Kangaroos have got their team for Friday spot on.

**PLUS...** **Josh Hodgson** breaks down the difficulties facing English Super League players who want to play rugby league full-time and we look back on the Top 8 **Mal Meninga** moments for Australia.

**AND:** Curtain-raiser teams and Jillaroos talk growing the women's game.



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# Readers Share the Faith

**A** LESSON TO keep the faith. My team Leicester City have just won the England's Premier League after 132 years. Go the Warriors.

**Bobby Vann**

---

**P**ETER YOUR support is endless and an inspiration to any sport lover. I have always followed my home team of Sunderland in the English league. To put it mildly we have had our ups and downs over the years. It seems like a life time ago that Sunderland won the FA cup 1973, (which is a life time away.) So like you my pride in my team has never faltered , that's what supporting your team is all about. The team here at SELLEYS are still ardent Warriors fans and neighbours.

Go the mighty Warriors

Regards, **Philip L Ayling**

---

**G**OD BLESS you dear Butcher. You got it right. Through thick and thin you follow your team it is a religion simple as that in or out. My team the Newtown jets have had more than their share of bad times but we never gave up and we never have an inch. I live for the day you win the comp because that is great for rugby league. Good luck this weekend and the players are the only ones who can fix this. You have a grand man in Jim Doyle best regards terry rowney the jetman

**Terry**

---

**Hi Pete,**

**G**REAT RESPONSE to the negative comments that some so called experts are making after the loss to Melbourne, Graham Lowe has done well for the game but his days are well gone and I wish he would realise that instead of trying to impress the media, on that note the media needs a rocket to keep going back to him for comments that he is always going to sensationalize, this is a tough competition and every NRL team have their moments.

Kind Regards

**Tony Coll - Former Kiwi and Kiwis Captain**

---

**N**ICE EMAIL Butch! There are so many haters out there who just jump on the band wagon and are so negative, I feel sorry that the boys have to listen to it all.

Onwards and upwards and good luck for this week. My little nephew and I will be cheering from our members seats :-)

This photo is of Boston, he wished Roger was there to help them this week as he is his favourite player

**Trudy**



# More Reader Emails

Morning Sir Peter,

**I**T WAS a great day yesterday, actually I will go further and say that it was the 'best day ever' in the lounge. To have Johnathan Coleman, Eric Watson and Jim Doyle in the lounge is an absolute credit to you and your contacts.

Nadia (and her son Taylor) loved the day and the picture attached is them with Simon Mannering (her favourite player)

Thank you Peter. I loved the day and I am still humming with the win.

Kind regards, **Don**



Hi Sir Peter

**I**D JUST wanted to say a huge thank you for his parcel that arrived yesterday. His words were "oh my I just cannot believe this" lol. A couple of little photos of appreciation and one of JD at the Dawn parade at the Titahi Bay RSA with our Governor General. Very lucky man to have had two great important men in his life this week. Thank you once again

Regards

Kellie from Porirua



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Alizay Te Amo sent in photos of how Complete Siteworks Ltd. show their support for the MIGHT VODAFONE WARRIORS.



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