

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

11<sup>th</sup> May 2016

# Newsletter #121

## New Zealand vs Australia



Shaun Johnson tackled by Greg Inglis and Johnathan Thurston.



Kiwis dejected after their loss.



Kevin Proctor tackled by Corey Parker.



The Kiwi Ferns after their win.



Kiwi Fern Atawhai Tupaea scores a try.



Kiwi Ferns player Kahurangi Peters fends Vanessa Foliaki.



Brandon Smith of the Junior Kiwis is tackled.



Greg Lelesiuao of the Junior Kiwis is tackled.



Ma'afaoeata Hingano of the Junior Kiwis scores a try.

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

# The Road to Redemption

## By David Kemeys



**N**O POINT trying to dodge it, the only thing anyone has been talking about is the six in the donger for the night out and prescription pills incident.

But some of the dumbest stuff I have ever seen has been published around it, and social media makes that easy.

But I did see two pieces that demanded attention – neither from mainstream journalists.

One was on Stuff Nation by someone called Jeremy Brown. He talked at length about stuffing up big style, but I will spare Jeremy the embarrassment of repeating it all, suffice to say he was as pissed as a rat –as most of us have been - and made an arse of himself – as most of us have done.

Like me, Jeremy put the pills and energy drink decision in the “poor” category.

But then he suggested something not many in the media have advocated.

It was: Accept there have been consequences, the players have been punished, and move on.

“I have always been a passionate Warriors supporter. I was frustrated these players provided so much ammunition for the circling vultures at a time the club least needed more negative attention. But I am thankful there were no cameras, social media or public interest opinions when I made a fool of myself. I don't know how I would have coped - poorly, I imagine. “

And the other person who had something worthwhile to contribute was Bodene Thompson's sister Trisha Cameron.

She took to Facebook, and among many things, had this to say: “Words hurt and can, and have, been shown to be able to kill.”

She wrote that athletes face daily hardship and she has: “Witnessed the tireless work off field, the extra gym sessions, the dieting, the injuries, the rehab. I have seen the good and the bad that comes with having a brother who plays in the NRL. I feel angry, sad, heartbroken, irritated, helpless and useless as I sit here and read the hurtful and hateful comments targeted at a loved one. I truly hope you never have to feel this way about someone you love, as everything they stand for gets questioned and criticised.”

Only an idiot would argue Bodene has not been good value for the club since he came. This year he has managed a staggering 32 tackles a game with virtually no misses, plays his butt off, and has the happy knack of coming up with great plays when needed.

That doesn't make him a saint, but nor does what has happened make him evil.

Speak as you find, Manu – and many other Vodafone Warriors – have bent over backwards to help

Kidz First Children's Hospital, where I work. I can't recall ever being able to get any media interested in coming to cover that.

So thank you Jeremy, for putting some perspective around it, and thank you Trisha. I wouldn't mind a sister like you in my corner. Actually I have two of them, and I wouldn't advise anyone to cross either.

*Continued on next page...*

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### **Boys Off The Naughty Step**

Vodafone Warriors boss Jim Doyle has confirmed the six players penalised over the late night and prescription drug use incident are back in the NRL squad.

Ben Matulino, Bodene Thompson, Konrad Hurrell, Sam Lisone and Albert Vete all trained last week while Vatuvei rejoined his team-mates this week.

All six players apologised to family, team-mates and Warriors staff.

In a statement released by the club, the players said: "We're sorry for the embarrassment we've caused everyone who works for and supports the club. We didn't meet club standards and know how much we have disappointed our families, team-mates, staff, sponsors, members and fans. Most of all, we let ourselves down.

"We have a lot of work to do to regain respect from those around us but we are fully committed to showing them how much they mean to us and how much we care for our club. We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us, especially the people at the club. Now we just want to look ahead and do all we can to help our team and the club."

### **But It's Not Over Yet**

Apology accepted, but Doyle says discussions with the players are ongoing. "We continue to work with them on welfare and education matters. We've also readdressed team standards with the entire squad."

### **Back To Business**

Team coach Andrew McFadden says his sole focus is now on football. "Today is very much about moving forward for us as a club with a huge game this weekend against Penrith in Christchurch. While there is much we have learned from the past week, we are committed to ensuring we have a squad fully focused on the primary role of preparing for and playing against the Panthers this week."

### **Make Room For Maumalo**

Vodafone Warriors winger Ken Maumalo must be eyeing a spot in Andrew McFadden's NRL team after scoring a hat-trick for the NSW Residents in their 30-16 victory over the Queensland Residents on Sunday.

The 21-year-old starred as New South Wales won the annual clash for the first time since 2013.

Maumalo made his Warriors debut in the 2015 Auckland Nines but he mainly featured in the New South Wales Cup last year.

His first NRL outing came at Parramatta in round 10 and he made eight first-grade appearances, scoring one try.

"Hopefully performances like that can put my name forward for first grade this year," he said. "It's pretty hard right now to get a crack because there are heaps of outside backs but getting a go last year was really good."

Jonathan Wright, David Fusitu'a and Matthew Allwood, who played with Maumalo for New South Wales, have all been preferred on the wing so far the season but Maumalo believes his efforts in Brisbane have given him a chance.

"It was as physical as an NRL match and we were all stuffed at the end. My lungs were blowing so it was great to hang on and get the win. It's not the first hat-trick of my career but it's certainly my most memorable."

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### **Johnson Back On Track**

Star halfback Shaun Johnson is hoping a week with the Kiwis will kick-start his season.

Johnson says his time with the Kiwis was a refreshing change given the struggles at the club but he's ready to "attack the rest of the season".

"Any time you come into the Kiwis it's a completely different environment. It's something I never take for granted. I was chomping at the bit to get into camp, it's good to be around different players. At the same time, I'm certainly looking forward to getting home and continuing what we're trying to do."

### **Home And Away?**

The New Zealand Rugby League is in discussions with the NRL over a home-and-away series against Australia from 2018.

Next year will be the last Anzac Test held mid-season, with the international schedule to be revamped under the NRL's new broadcast deal.

The NZRL are confident of playing at least one annual test against the Kangaroos after the NRL Grand Final, but are working towards expanding that to a regular series, except in World Cup years.

### **Sione Suffers Cruel Blow**

Vodafone Warriors utility forward Sione Lousi is out for the season with a knee injury

The 26-year-old made his comeback from an off-season wrist operation only a month or so ago, and after outings with the Stacey Jones-coached side, was brought on to the bench for his first NRL appearance of the season – his 50th career match – against St George.

But Lousi's stint was marred by trouble with his left knee and scans have confirmed he'll need surgery for his second ACL injury in three years.

His 2013 season was ruined by the same injury to his right knee.

### **Panthers Like Christchurch**

The Penrith Panthers have moved their home games against the Warriors to Christchurch for the next two years to create a long-term relationship with the city and its sports fans.

"We want to build a New Zealand fan base in Christchurch and help to grow the game of league in

Canterbury," general manager Phil Gould said, adding the team had an option to extend the arrangement for another two years.

"Looking around the NRL teams over the years, it is obvious how much talent this region produces and we hope that one day many of them will line up in Penrith colours."

### ***I thought I would share something from Sir Peter's Manukau Courier column - David Kemeys***

#### **A Big Shout Out To Women In Sport** *Sir Peter Leitch*

I had the pleasure of travelling to Australia last week to take in some league, and one of those games was the Kiwi Ferns up against their Aussie opposites, the Jillaroos.

The Kiwi Ferns won 26-16, and I, and many of the people in the crowd I spoke to, rated it the best game of the night.

The player of the day was Georgia Hale, whose father Laurie is a league stalwart who works for the Vodafone Warriors, but despite the score, that is not what got me thinking and wanting to praise women in sport.

Spending time with the Kiwi Ferns, and you can see some of the interviews I did with players on my Facebook page - Sir Peter Charles Leitch, opened my eyes.

While I was with them I overheard one ask another, Krystal Rota, : "How's the baby?"

Krystal has spent around nine months in the last two years in hospital with her little girl, and for her own hernia operation. She has had to train alone, running in the park when she can get away from the hospital, and training alone, often late at night or early in the morning.

That got me thinking how remarkable these athletes are. Most are juggling careers, households and families, and still finding time to make training, and the demands of playing at a high level.

Consider the men, where the players have an army of people behind them. They train, they play, they go home. Sure many have families, but I don't think it is a stretch to say the women do it tougher, so I salute them.

The Kiwi Ferns are great girls and I could not have been happier for them when they tipped the Jillaroos over.

**A**T THE test dinner last Friday night, both the Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns attended, and it was a very special night, with NZRL president Howie Tamati (former Kiwi player, captain and coach) saying a few words.

He also filled in at all the official functions in place of our chairman, who could not make it. The Kiwis were handed their test jerseys in Newcastle by Kiwi #742 Jeremy Smith on the night.

The Kiwi Ferns women were handed their jerseys from their corresponding number in the Kiwis team.

I have been to many test dinners and this would rate as one of the best, with both teams mixing with each other very well and, of course, plenty of selfies were taken on the night. - Sir Peter Leitch



Former Kiwi Jeremy Smith presenting jersey to test debutant Dallin Watene-Zelezniak.



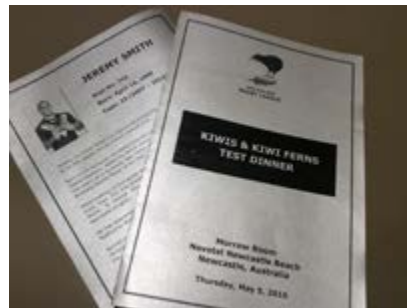
Former Kiwi Jeremy Smith presenting jersey to test debutant Manu Ma'u.

Jeremy Smith -Kiwi no 742:

- Born in Christchurch 14th April 1980
- Started playing league for Altona Roosters in Melbourne
- Brisbane Norths Player of the Year 2004
- Player over 200 first grade games
- Appeared in four grand finals
- Played 23 test for the Kiwis
- New Zealand Rugby League Player of the Year award recipient in 2008 & 2012
- Awarded Newcastle Knights Gladiator of the Year in 2015



Teuila Fotu-Moala receives her jersey from her opposite number Kevin Proctor.



Test Dinner Programme.



**C**AN'T WAIT to get to Christchurch this week to see the Mighty Vodafone Warriors play the Panthers in front of a sell-out crowd. Panthers have committed to a four year deal with the City and watch this space as to a further announcement by the Panthers.

I'm heading down on Wednesday with Janice and that night will be hosting my good mate Gary Clarke and his partner on the iconic Christchurch Restaurant Tram. We will be joined by former Kiwi coach Frank Endacott and a group of local Warriors supporters. I ran into these guys in Melbourne two weeks ago, they were looking flush after a day at Caulfield, were off to see Essendon play the Magpies before heading to the Anzac Match. I understand it was a very quiet trip home the next day!

It's going to be a great opportunity to see Christchurch and the rebuild, while I'm tucking into some tender Canterbury Lamb matched with the finest locally produced beverages. - Sir Peter Leitch





Kiwi Ferns Georgia Hale and Kristal Rota both come from very strong rugby league families.



Great to catch up with Cameron Smith the Captain of the Kangaroos and Melbourne Storm. A great guy with an impressive playing record.



Great to catch up with my mate Andrew Johns. He's a legend in the game. It would take the whole newsletter to tell you about him so check out his Wikipedia page..



Great to catch up with these ex kiwis at the Samoa v Tongan game Nigel Vagana, David Solomona, Paul Whatuira and Clinton Toopi.



I held my own press conference on Friday night. Only problem, nobody turned up!.



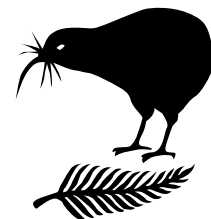
Kiwi number 762 Lewis Brown and kiwi number 732 Adam Blair who played his 35 test on Friday night.



Brad Abbey (former Warrior) now contracted to the Canterbury Bulldogs for 3 years, pictured with his proud parents Jon and Alice after the Jnr Kiwis' test. They made the decision to move across the ditch with the family and partner Makayla Mave to support both Brad and his brother Daymon, also contracted to the Bulldogs for 2 years. Brad also became a proud Dad to his 3 week old baby girl 'Imani'.



Kiwis in the changing rooms after the game on Friday night.

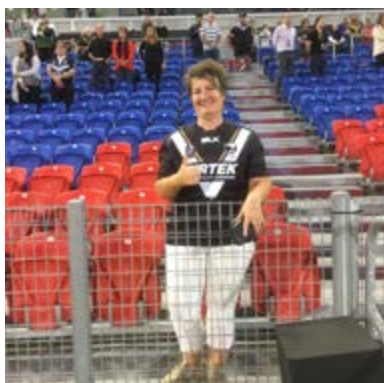


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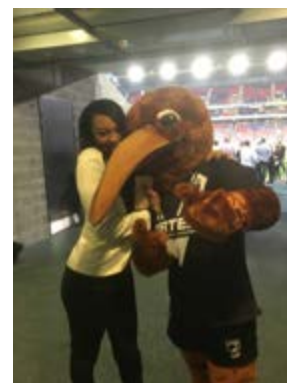
# In Aussie for the Kiwis Test



Kodi Nikorima's mother, Deb, was at the Kiwis Test to watch her son play his 5th game. She even travelled to the UK to watch last year.



Loyal Samoa fans at the Samoa vs Tonga game.



Madam Parker sang the national anthem on Friday night and loves the Kiwis mascot.



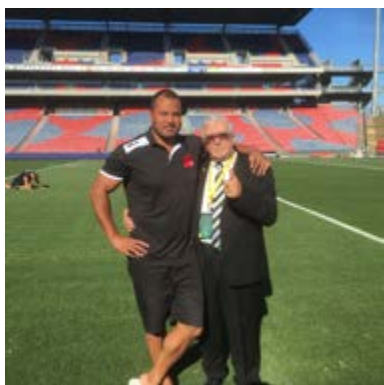
One very proud dad after the Kiwi Ferns game Laurie Hales daughter Georgia was named player of the game.



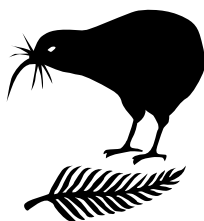
PNG supporters in traditional costume.



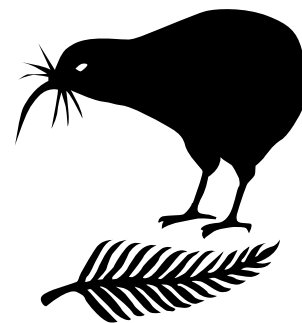
Shaun Johnson was pleased to have his brother and dad in Newcastle for support.



Was great to catch up with Former Kiwi and Warriors player Francis Meli who played for the NZ Police team in the early curtain raiser.



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## Kiwis Players Who Didn't Play in the Test on Friday Night

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. 779 - Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Injured)              | t10. 755 - Jared Waerea-Hargreaves (not selected – just returned from 8 months out with injury) |
| 2. 746 - Shaun Kenny-Dowall (withdrawn with injury) | 11. 729 - Iosia Soliola (injured)   |
| 3. 776 - Dean Whare (injured)                       | 12. 769 - Alex Glenn (withdrawn with injury)  |
| 4. 781 - Peta Hiku (withdrawn with injury)          | 13. 793 – Sio Siua Taukeiaho (injured)  |
| 5. 720 - Manu Vautevi (stood down)                  | 14. 704 – Thomas Leuluai (injured)  |
| 6. 791 - Tuimoala Lolohea (injured)                 | 15. 795 – Isaac Liu (not selected)  |
| 7. 757 - Keiran Foran (unavailable)                 | 16. 777 – Sam Kasiano (not selected)  |
| 8. 756 - Ben Matalino (stood down)                  | 17. 787 – Suaia Matagi (not selected)   |
| 9. 749 - Issac Luke (not selected)                  | 18. 789 – Bodene Thompson (stood down)  |

# NEW ZEALAND



**BACK ROW (l-r):** Dayne Norton (trainer), Karl McDonald (physiotherapist), Manu Ma'u, Martin Taupau, Jason Taumalolo, Jason Nightingale, Laurie Hale (logistics), Brent Gemmill (NZRL high performance manager), Anthony Carbone (athlete support).  
**MIDDLE ROW:** Ora Kahi (cultural advisor), Grant Chapman (media manager), Danny Levi, Kevin Proctor, Tohu Harris, Adam Blair, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Dalin Watene-Zelezniak, John Love (physiotherapist), Nadene Conlon (manager).  
**FRONT ROW:** Gerard Beale, David Kidwell (assistant coach), Kofi Nikorima, Shaun Johnson, Lewis Brown, Stephen Kearney (head coach), Jesse Bromwich (captain), Sam Moa, Jordan Kahu, Joe Webbe (peak performance coach), Greg Eastwood. **PHOTO:** NRLPhotos.com

# FERNS



**BACK ROW (l-r):** Kristina Sue, Georgia Hale, Mary-Jane Ale, Maitua Feterika, Lanurangi Veainu, Atawhai Tupaea, Kahurangi Peters, Nora Maaka.  
**MIDDLE ROW:** James Delacey (trainer), Grant Pocklington (assistant coach), Lilietta Maumau, Charmaine McMenamin, Annetta Nuuausala, Krystal Murray, Dan Keepa (technical support), Sarah Funuatanu (physiotherapist).  
**FRONT ROW:** Sonya Rogers (physio assistant), Krystal Rota, Kelly Maipi, Sarina Fiso (captain), Alan Jackson (head coach), Va'anessa Molia-Fraser, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Amber Kani, Anita Smith-McKinnon. **PHOTO:** Photosport





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# Warriors on a Roll in Christchurch

By John Coffey QSM



**T**HE WARRIORS are seeking their third consecutive Christchurch win when they play the Penrith Panthers on Saturday. After losing to Sydney Tigers (Balmain, before the amalgamation with Western Suburbs) in 1996 and Wests Tigers in 2004 and 2005, the Warriors' last two appearances resulted in wins over Wests Tigers in 2006 and Sydney Roosters in 2010.

Those five competition games were "home" matches for the Sydney clubs, and the Panthers are also bringing the Warriors to Christchurch. All five were played at Lancaster Park, which was subsequently wrecked by the earthquakes. Saturday's fixture will be at AMI Stadium, a temporary structure built for the Crusaders over the ruins of rugby league's lost and lamented Addington Show Grounds.

Canterbury's association with the Warriors was never stronger than in the early years. Frank Endacott had coached Canterbury to thrash an Auckland side stacked with British-based professionals in the 1993 inter-provincial final in front of 10,000 ecstatic fans at the Show Grounds. In early 1994 original Auckland Warriors chief executive Ian Robson came south with an armful of contracts and plenty of promises.

Endacott was signed as assistant coach along with players Mike Dorreen, Logan Edwards, Whetu Taewa, Simon Angell, Phil Bergman, Glenn Coughlan, Jason Duff and Takofe Kalauta. Only the first three of them played first grade after the Warriors entered the Winfield Cup in 1995, with Taewa featuring in the club's first try-scoring move against the Brisbane Broncos in round one.

Taewa is Warrior number 5, the first of 11 from Canterbury. The others are Edwards (21), Dorreen (25), Shane Endacott (44), Aaron Whittaker (48), Quentin Pongia (52), Terry Hermansson (60), Kane Ferris (119), Corey Lawrie (135), Lewis Brown (151) and Pita Godinet (170). Kiwis utility Brown made most appearances (84 from 2009 to 2012) and is currently with Manly after three seasons at Penrith.

The Warriors brought a pre-season game to Christchurch in 1995, beating a local side 26-12 in front of a Show Grounds attendance record of 12,811. When they lost 22-12 to the Bulldogs in the 1996 pre-season an estimated 25,000 fans turned up at Lancaster Park. But the 1997 World Club Challenge match against English club Warrington drew only 7000 to watch a 16-4 victory on a very cold and wet day. Former Warrior Nigel Vagana played for Warrington.

Dorreen, a foundation Warrior who stayed at Mt Smart for only that first season, starred in 1996 when Sydney Tigers, captained by British legend Ellery Hanley, beat the Warriors 34-22. Even the presence of former All Blacks John Kirwan and Marc Ellis could not offset another wintry day and lift the crowd above a moderate 10,000. Christchurch waited another eight years before the amalgamated Wests Tigers returned.

Coached by Tim Sheens and with Benji Marshall as an obvious attraction, the Tigers were true to their word in coming to Christchurch for three seasons, even if the NRL did not schedule their games for better weather. Caretaker coach Tony Kemp had just taken over from the departed Daniel Anderson in 2004 when the Warriors were humiliated 50-4. Mark Tookey rumbled across for the Warriors' try, briefly cheering up most of the 16,221 fans.

It was wet and cold again in 2005 as Tigers halves Scott Prince and Benji Marshall carved up the Warriors and Kiwis centre Paul Whatuira scored two tries in their 24-6 victory to provide most of the action for 18,421 shivering spectators. Todd Byrne was the Warriors' try-scorer and Stacey Jones kicked a goal.

The Warriors struck back in 2006, comfortably accounting for the Tigers 26-10 for their first New Zealand win out of Auckland in 10 attempts. But Marshall was absent through injury and crowd numbers fell to 14,675. They saw a superb performance from the Warriors, whose tries were scored by Awen Guttenbeil, Jerome Ropati, Clinton Toopi and Manu Vatuvei. Tony Martin kicked three goals.

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Sydney Roosters drew a bumper attendance of 20,271 on the worst day of the 2010 winter. Warriors fans were rewarded when Kevin Locke claimed a thrilling last-minute try – his third – after kicking ahead and wrapping his rapidly sliding body around a goal post in the act of scoring. Locke left the field by stretcher before James Maloney converted to complete the 20-18 win. Vatuvei was the Warriors' other try-scorer.

The Sydney media was amazed at the turn-out on such a terrible day and the Roosters were happy with their financial return. The trend of Sydney clubs bringing “home” games against the Warriors would have continued had the first major earthquake not struck soon afterwards. Now Penrith boss Phil Gould has picked up the baton in what is planned to be a four-year deal which includes plenty of promotional work with Canterbury juniors.

Canterbury rugby league folk are proud the Junior Warriors have this year been captained by Sheldon Pitama from the Northern Bulldogs club. But most of Canterbury's best youngsters cross the Tasman, as emphasised by 2016 Junior Kiwis Jamayne Isaako (Brisbane Broncos) and Ken Tofilau (Newcastle Knights) and Toa Samoa halves Pita Godinet (Manly) and Fa'amanu Brown (Cronulla). Now Gould is coming to check out the talent.

## Reflections on Rep Weekend

By John Coffey QSM



**D**RUM ROLL please, I'm about to make an important announcement. The Undisputed Rugby League International Man of the Year is Hull FC coach Lee Radford. Who, you ask? What side was he with among the Kangaroos, Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns, Jillaroos, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Junior Kangaroos and Junior Kiwis across the Tasman last weekend?

On an occasion when selfish NRL clubs and coaches prevented more than 60 players turning out for the above teams, Lee Radford chose the good of the international game above a vital Challenge Cup match against St Helens and released Frank Pritchard (Samoa) and Sika Manu (Tonga) to captain their respective nations in Sydney. Why did he buck the trend?

“It was hugely important for Frank to play with his brother – he wanted his parents to see that back in Australia – and obviously to captain your country is a special honour for both of them,” said Radford. “We were always going to say ‘yes’ and we're thankful they didn't pick up any knocks and we've managed to get a result as well. Rugby league's a winner.”

The “result” mentioned by Radford occurred on Monday morning (NZ time) when Hull, buoyed by their coach's goodwill gesture, travelled over to Langtree Park and gave St Helens a 47-28 hiding to make the last eight of the Challenge Cup. The only dark cloud on Radford's horizon was Pritchard being put on report and being at the mercy of the NRL judiciary.

My other big winner was women's rugby league, which must have received a major boost by the action-paced and skill-filled Kiwi Ferns victory over the Jillaroos. It was televised live by Sky Sport in New Zealand and given delayed coverage by Channel Nine in Australia. The women more than justified that recognition and hopefully opened many a previously closed mind.

It was interesting to hear a Radio Sport host announce on Saturday morning that he had switched over from the Crusaders' telecast to check out how the women were going – and never switched back to the rugby union! Apparently he was not alone. Jillaroos five-eighth Allanah Ferguson subsequently made an impressive appearance on the Sunday Footy Show.

*Continued on next page...*

Kiwi Ferns fullback Sarina Fiso and wing Atawhai Tupaea were expert finishers in claiming two tries each and Georgia Hale starred at five-eighth as they built on their Auckland Nines successes by winning 26-16. It was six tries to three and coach Alan Jackson might bring in goalkicking coach Daryl Halligan for a session or two before next year's World Cup.

Pacific passion was high at Parramatta Stadium on Saturday when the PNG Kumuls claimed their first overseas victory for 16 years when edging out Fiji by two points and soared to an even higher level as Samoa eventually got over Tonga 18-6. Suffice to ask, will rival centres Solomone Kata and Kirisome Auva'a be as totally committed again when the Warriors next play Souths?

Samoa five-eighth Fa'amanu Brown showed extreme promise at Cronulla in 2014 before having his 2015 season wiped out by injury suffered at the Auckland Nines. Now his path to first grade at the Sharks is blocked by James Maloney. The multi-talented Brown was Man of the Match against Tonga. Anyone know of an Auckland-based NRL club in need of a five-eighth?

The mention of one highly promising inside back brings us to another. Nathan Cleary guided the Junior Kangaroos to a comfortable win over the Junior Kiwis. If Ivan Cleary was still coaching the Warriors, would young Nathan have come up through our system – similar to Steve Price's netball-playing daughters -- and qualified for New Zealand on residential grounds?

International eligibility is back in the spotlight after Semi Radradra's sudden conversion from Fijian to Australian. That already equates to a profit of \$A19,350. The Kangaroos were paid \$20,000 each and the Pacific nations \$650 per man. State of Origin players receive \$30,000, which is why James Tamou has a NSW jersey but still travels on a New Zealand passport, and Auckland-born Josh Papalii is also in the Australian pack.

Even more confusing, Kodi Nikorima played for the Kiwis and younger brother Jayden for the Junior Kangaroos. Apparently Kodi still has fond memories of his land of birth, while Jayden feels he grew up as an Aussie. There must have been some confusing discussions over the Nikorima breakfast table. But one understands why the general public is also confused.

The NRL announced during the weekend that Apia will stage its first official home rugby league Test match when Samoa plays Fiji on October 8. That must have caused gasps of disbelief among some clubs. One imagines schemes being put in place to "protect" their players from such a dangerous venture. Meanwhile, Hull coach Lee Radford will be giving Frank Pritchard his best wishes for this momentous occasion in Pacific rugby league.



The Junior Kiwis line up before the International Test Match between the Junior Kangaroos and the Junior Kiwis at Pirtek Stadium, Sydney, Australia. Saturday 7 May 2016.

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



The Kiwis line up before the Trans Tasman NZRL Kiwis v Australia Test Match at Hunter Stadium.

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



The Kiwis Ferns after their win.

Photo courtesy:  
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Over 1.5 Million 'At Risk' New Zealanders



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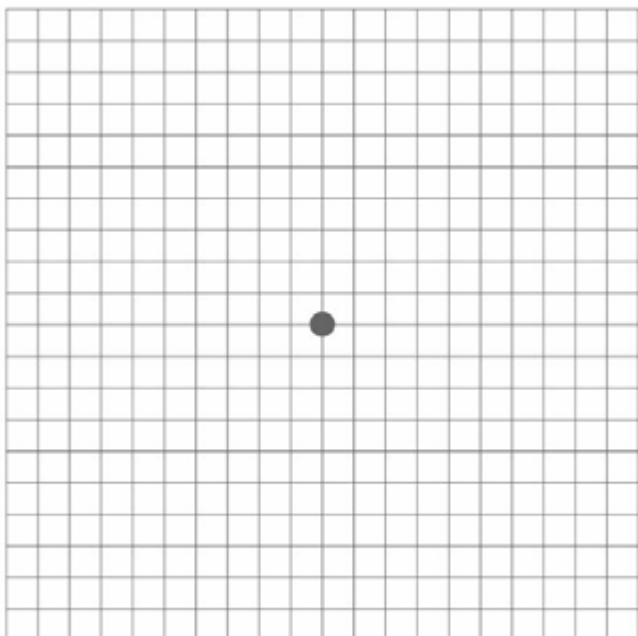
To this question many people ask “What is my Macula?” with no idea of which part of the body is affected by the macula. The macula is in the very centre of the retina at the back of the eye.

A healthy macula lets you read, recognise faces, drive a car, see colours clearly and handle any activity that requires fine vision. Macular Degeneration is an eye disease that can quickly lead to vision loss if left untreated.

One in seven New Zealanders over the age of 50 will contract this eye disease.

A recent Galaxy poll showed that 41% of New Zealanders over the age of 50 do not even know what macular degeneration is, yet it is nearly as prevalent as heart disease and half as prevalent as diabetes\*.

Far too many people are going blind because they don't know that a simple test can identify early changes and save their sight. People mistakenly think that blindness is an inevitable consequence of getting old but that's no longer the case – provided that people know the warning signs of macular degeneration and seek treatment early.



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# Feast of International Rugby League at Parramatta

By Barry Ross



**T**HERE WAS some great entertainment at Parramatta's Pirtek Stadium on Saturday. All three games were terrific and the atmosphere provided by the fans from the five visiting nations added to the occasion. The day began with the Junior Kangaroos taking on the Junior Kiwis. The young Australians deserved their 34-20 victory with their 6 tries to 4 effort. Auckland-born Jaydn Su'a had an excellent match for the young Australians. The Broncos 18 year old second rower played the full 80 minutes, ran for 219 metres and made 21 tackles. He came to Australia with his family when he was two and certainly has a big future in front of him. Kiwi halfback, Ata Hingano, also impressed with his two tries. He is 19 years of age and already has shown his talent with the Warriors Holden Cup team this year.

The Papua/New Guinea side were elated to score their first win over Fiji. Spearheaded by the Titans, David Mead, PNG played some clever football in their tight 24-22 win. Mead ran for 161 metres and also defended strongly. Now 27, Mead has played over 100 first grade matches for the Titans. The Boas brothers at the scrum base were also good for PNG. Watson Boas at halfback collected a try in each half, while his brother, Ase at five eighth, landed 4 goals. Both Boas brothers play with the Hunters in the Queensland's Intrust Super Cup. After nine rounds the Hunters were running second in this year's Intrust Super Cup, just one competition point behind the Townsville Blackhawks. The Hunters have won seven of their nine games and defeated the Blackhawks 11-10 when the two teams met at Port Moresby on 10 April. In Port Moresby, they play at the new National Stadium in front of crowds of 13,000 plus. Watson, 21, is playing his first season with the Hunters, while 26 year old Ase, is enjoying his third season with the club. The brothers were born at Rabaul and played with the Rabaul Agmark Gurias club in the PNG Digital Cup competition. There were 10 players from the Hunters in the PNG squad.

Samoa proved too strong for Tonga in what was an extremely physical clash. This was the third and final game on Saturday and a great way to end a successful day. Despite a completion rate of just over 50 percent, the Samoans were able to hold their opponents to just one try with great defence. Bronco forward, Jo Ofahengaue, 20 years of age, worked non-stop for Tonga. He ran for 162 metres and made 30 tackles in just 51 minutes of playing time.

Out in the centres Samoa's Kirisome Auva'a and Tonga's Solomone Kata had a frightening physical battle. This appeared to have boiled over just before halftime, but while the officials were digesting what happened, the two combatants were shaking hands 30 metres away. Samoa won the game 18-6, scoring three tries to one. South Sydney's Auva'a, 24 years of age, ran for 163 metres and made 28 tackles. He weighs 100 kgs and stands 186 cms. Kata, 21, weighs 97 kgs and stands 177 cms. But the clashes between the two were like big and powerful locomotives coming together.

It was pleasing to see a crowd of 15,225 in attendance on Saturday and it was another big positive with the announcement of the Samoa-Fij Test match in Apia on 8 October this year. This will be Samoa's first official home Test match. John Grant and his team are to be congratulated on this initiative. Let's have more of this. Down to Christchurch this week for the Panthers home game against the Warriors. Penrith are probably doing this for financial reasons, but I am happy the game will be played in the South Island and I hope they are rewarded with a good crowd. The forecast is looking ok and this should help with crowd numbers.

The two State of Origin coaches, Laurie Daley (NSW) and Kevin Walters (Queensland) will be watching things closely over the next couple of weeks, The first State of Origin clash for this year, is just three weeks away at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on 1 June.

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

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**Christchurch**  
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# The Pacific Island Players Put on a Great Show that Left you Wanting More

By John Deaker



**T**HE HIGHLIGHT of the representative weekend for many rugby league fans was the thrilling matches on Saturday night when Fiji took on Papua New Guinea and Tonga went head-to-head with Samoa.

Watching these players play for basically pocket-money to cover their costs was a refreshing break from the more professional and predictable football most of them have to play for their club teams each week.

There was similar passion demonstrated in the crowd at Pirtek Stadium to the great spirit the players displayed on the field. It's clear that the players and fans all take great pride in their heritage despite most of them living in Australia now. It was also huge for the occasion that the NRL flew back Frank Pritchard and Sika Manu from the UK to captain their Samoan and Tongan teams.

Most critics appraisal of both games has concluded that the performances of all four teams showed that their national teams continue to improve despite most of the players lack of opportunities to play together. This progress is more a reflection of how many top-quality players all these nations are producing than any indication their national bodies are creating a great environment for their national teams to thrive. However, Papua New Guinea's 24-22 victory over Fiji showed how much their country has been able to benefit from having the PNG Hunters playing in Queensland's Intrust Super Cup the last few years.

With the NRL basically funding these matches on

Saturday the predicament is whether the better quality of play could ever lead to any consistent meaningful progress for these nations - and also for international rugby league. Samoa is due to play a home test against Fiji in Apia on October the 8th but with the Island teams' lack of funding and the NRL already having such a long and congested season it's hard to see where the next meaningful step could be.

Rugby Union experimented with a combined Pacific Island team back in 2004 and the team ( which included future All Blacks like Sitiveni Sivivatu and Sione Lauaki ) turned in some really strong performances over the next few years - including a 41-26 loss to the All Blacks and a 25-17 win over Italy.

Based on what we saw at the weekend a Pacific Island rugby league team at even nearly full strength could be devastating. However, funding would again be a key problem as well as coming up with a meaningful schedule of matches.

Rather than just playing international opponents, a Pacific Island team in the NRL is another great concept but not one that's even a remote possibility unless a wealthy businessman tried to do what Frenchman Eric Series did when he recently attempted to get a PI team into the Super 18 rugby competition.

Rather than searching for answers maybe the best we can do is to avoid over-thinking the bigger picture and focus on what we saw so clearly at the weekend: Polynesian flair is alive and well in rugby league and is making a bigger contribution than it ever has to the 13 man game.



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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 10

Date/ Venue		Game	Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
			<i>Maloney's Barber Shop - The best haircut in town.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Link Business - Buying or Selling a Business</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
12/05 - Jubilee	Dragons v Raiders	Raiders	Dragons	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
13/05 - Pirtek	Eels v Rabbitohs	Eels	Eels	Eels	Rabbitohs	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels
14/05 - AMI Christchurch	Panthers v Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
14/05 - Suncorp	Storm v Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Storm	Cowboys	Cowboys
14/05 - Suncorp	Sea Eagles v Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos
15/05 - Hunter	Knights v Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks
15/05 - ANZ	Tigers v Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
16/05 - CBus	Titans v Roosters	Roosters	Titans	Roosters	Roosters	Roosters	Titans	Roosters	Roosters

### How they're traveling....

Picks last week	5/8	7/8	6/8	5/8	7/8	5/8	7/8
Total picks	39/72	40/72	44/72	46/72	46/72	46/72	47/72

**A**S THE dust settles on a wobbly week or two we try to get back to normality... (fingers crossed). The Kiwi B Team (no disrespect whatsoever to Jesse B and the team) gave a very creditable defensive display just a bit underdone in the attack department. High Tackle was reasonably OK with the result but would have been happier without the last minute handling lapse that gave them that 3rd try opportunity. The Aussie team has an air of old age but they got the job done, for all that the end of year tour might be the swansong for some. An opportunity this week to look forward to outcomes rather than back at results so here we go. Dragons v Raiders geez a tough pick this, The Red V at home or will the rampant Raiders have too much attack. If they turn up hungry I'll go with the Canberra crew. Eels v Rabbitohs...another toss up if punishment poison affects Parra but they will come good if home crowd sentiment spurs them. Souths just a bit shaky these days. The Panthers v Warriors. A tough task for our boys, away but at home in Trembletown, Cathedral City. The Blue Mountain boys are regaining injured troops and hitting their straps with Cartwright consistently dangerous. A question around our attitude after the big six meltdown and Cappys subsequent team selection. Fingers crossed we can come home victorious. Storm v Cowboys...The Cattle Rustlers all the way for mine, JT will unlock the Storm defence and it's all over Rover. Sea Eagles v Broncos...Bennetts Boys but not by a lot. Hunt and Milford behind the big Brissy pack will be a try too far for the Seasideers. Knights v Sharks sorry cant see Knights being in the hunt. Tigers v Bulldogs, Doggies forward firepower probably the difference here with the Tigers a bit up and down without their Front Row strongman Woods. If Tedesco also out definitely curtains for the Westies. Titans v Roosters...the reborn Roosters will be too good in this one. Cordner, Pierce and Waerea-Hargreave have provided the lift that the Bondi boys needed to change from tryers to flyers.

*Continued on next page...*

Continued from previous page...

Tipping Talk: Two of our Tippers Big Joe Vagana and Battling Monty Betham have a lot in common, both very good club players who became Warriors and both represented their country (Kiwis) and their Homeland (Samoa). They had super League careers too, Joe a long stint with the Bradford Bulls and Monty captaining Wakefield Trinity. Montz was also a Junior World Karate Champion and more lately a NZ Champion Boxer and Media personality. With sister Chante Betham-Spencer in charge Monty puts a lot of time into the fight against youth obesity through their “Steps for Life” Charity organisation. Google it. A product of the mighty Richmond Bulldogs Joe has his own business Machine Lease Ltd specialising in Construction Machinery Hire. Two boys from the hood who made good. Go The Mighty Warriors!!!!

## All Hands on Deck

By Shontayne Hape



**A**FTER A rare weekend off due to rep football, it's all stations go again in the NRL. The Vodafone Warriors have a tough assignment this Saturday night, taking on the Penrith Panthers in an “away” game in Christchurch.

Justin Wallace, the match's promoter, has done a fantastic job marketing the great game of rugby league in the Garden City. So much so, tickets have all but sold out.

It's going to be a fantastic atmosphere and we are certainly hoping our fans get behind the boys and cheer them on this weekend. We need all the support we can get.

I'll be heading down to Christchurch on Saturday morning with my colleagues in the membership team – Corey Hutchins and Georgina Temm.

We have a ton of members in Christchurch who will all be sitting together.

We are also putting on a special members-only meet-the-team event at a central city bar afterwards. I'll be the MC and there's even talk my old mate the Mad Butcher will be joining me on stage. But before that I'll be going to the butchers private function for members and his mates at Gary Clarke's rugby league museum

I certainly can't wait to see everyone down there.

Obviously it's been a tough fortnight here at the club. But after all the off-field stuff, it's fantastic to be able to focus again on footy.

I'm absolutely confident the boys who are returning to the first-grade side after being relegated to the ISP team will step up against the Panthers.

What a weekend we have coming up. It's a huge game for the club and one that could really launch our charge up the ladder.

See you in Christchurch and go the mighty Vodafone Warriors.

A promotional poster for a rugby league match between the Vodafone Warriors and the Brisbane Broncos. The background is black with a central image of a player in a red and black jersey running with the ball, surrounded by red motion lines. On the left, the Vodafone Warriors logo (a stylized face) and the text "VODAFONE WARRIORS" are displayed. Below that is a large white "V" and the text "BRISBANE BRONCOS" next to the Broncos logo (a horse head). On the right, the text "STAND AS ONE" is written in large red letters, followed by "SATURDAY JUNE 4" and "Kick off 5pm Mt Smart Stadium" in white.

# Scott Electrical Premiership Round 6

By Ben Francis



**T**HE TAKAHIWAI Warriors are now the only unbeaten team in the Scott Electrical Premiership through 6 rounds after the Moerewa Tigers lost to the Portland Panthers 40-22. The score was tied 18 apiece at the break but Portland pulled away in the second half for their second win of the campaign. The Tigers have struggled against the Panthers over the last few seasons but hope to get payback when the teams face off again in Round 13 on July 2nd.

In the weekends other game, the Otangarei Knights had to come from behind at the break to beat the Northern Wairoa Bulls 34-30. Trailing 18-14 at the break, the Knights picked up their game in the second half to pick up their third win of 2016.

Table toppers Takahiwai won their game over Hokianga by the way of default while Horahora had the bye.

Round 7 action will see Hokianga hosting Northern Wairoa, Otangarei hosting Horahora and in the big game of the week, a top of the table clash between Takahiwai and Moerewa.

Last season Takahiwai had a dominating 50-20 over Moerewa and both teams also played out a 10 all draw.

*Moses Cooper for Horahora looking forward to playing Hokianga in Okaihau this weekend after coming off a bye round.*



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UPFRONT | TEN MINUTES WITH...

# Lewis Brown

MANLY WARRINAGH SEA EAGLES

## You've moved over to Manly from Penrith, how are you liking the Northern Beaches?

I love it. It's a beautiful part of the world and a beautiful part of Sydney. I'm really enjoying it, I live 400 metres away from the beach. Having stuff like that so close by makes your days so much better. It's very pleasing to live in such a nice part of Sydney.

## It sounds like you've really embraced the beach culture...

Yeah, definitely. I bought a property up at Dee Why that's right on the beach and I head down there most days for recovery and stuff like that. It's a good vibe. I find when you walk along the beach it soothes the mind a bit and takes it off footy.

## What are some of your other hobbies away from the field?

I've got two dogs and they're like my children, I spend a lot of time with them. I also love reading books – I really enjoy autobiographies on sportsmen and other people. It's always interesting to see what others have been through. I'm currently reading a book I borrowed from one of the assistant coaches called *Legacy* – it's about a guy who spends time with the All Blacks and learns about their culture. I also really enjoy watching documentaries as well, especially true crime stuff and *Vice* magazine. I really like the ESPN ones too.

## After spending a few months on the Northern Beaches now, what are the biggest differences living there compared to western Sydney?

To be honest it's not too different. At Penrith it was very similar to here in that the team is a very humble bunch of blokes. There's also a tight culture, so it's very similar in those aspects. Obviously the scenery is the big difference. I used to have to drive an hour and a bit to the beach and now it's only a couple of metres up the road. But the people in football terms are much the same. They're very passionate about their side and that's something I enjoy. We haven't been performing too well, but we're starting to see some positives.

## You came across from New Zealand when you signed with Penrith and now you've moved to Manly. Do you envision you'll move back across the ditch when you hang up your boots or is Australia home for you now?

I always pictured that I'd move back to New Zealand – Auckland in particular. I'm from Christchurch originally, but I always thought I'd go back to Auckland. In saying that, after living here for the past few months, things can change. I'm signed here for three years, but there are no guarantees in rugby league so I have to make sure I'm performing. Who knows what will happen after three years? I'm really loving it at Manly.

## We know you were right into healthy eating when you were at the Panthers, is that something you're still passionate about?

It's a really big part of the lifestyle everyone lives now and that's a good thing. It gives a choice to everyone to take a healthy look on life. I like to look after myself. I find a change in diet gives you a bit more energy and you feel a bit better about yourself. I really enjoy that kind of stuff.

– As told to Ben Lonergan

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PHOTO: NRLPhotos.com

# THE BEAST IS BACK

Greg Eastwood declined a three-Test tour of England at the end of 2015, but he has no regrets.  
By **PAMELA WHALEY**



**HANGING IN THERE:** The 2015 Anzac Test was the last time Eastwood played for New Zealand.

**G**REG Eastwood has played 22 Tests for New Zealand and hasn't taken a single one for granted. Not his debut in 2007 when the Kiwis were pumped 30-6 by the Kangaroos in the Anzac Test, nor his first win over Australia in the 2008 World Cup final.

The 29-year-old is grateful for every black and white jersey he has been handed, which made giving up three Tests against England at the end of 2015 a hard decision.

It had been three years since Eastwood had a decent pre-season and his body was crying out - so he listened. Three seasons of football were sandwiched by the 2013 World Cup, the NRL Grand Final and the Four Nations at the end of 2014 and Eastwood wasn't in the right shape mentally or physically to travel to England.

He needed those summer days in the gym; he needed a pre-season, a chance to get his diet and training routine right once and for all.

"It was a tough decision, but I spoke to (Kiwis coach Stephen) Kearney and told him I wanted to get right for next year, because I knew I needed to have a bigger pre-season," the Kiwi-enforcer tells *Big League*.

"I needed a full one to get the body right, just to keep up with the game these days with the limited interchange.

"I wasn't in the best shape at the end of last year and I knew I had to play more minutes and work on some things.

"Knowing I was giving up three Tests in England was hard, but it was the right choice for myself."

When Kearney asked the prop to come to England, he spoke with his wife Ash and then politely declined. Eastwood wasn't sure if his

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decision would backfire, keeping him out of the Kiwis squad for the Friday's Test match in Newcastle, but he was willing to take that risk for the sake of his career. If Kearney did stick by him, he would be a better and happier player, he reasoned.

"I'm just grateful that he chose me again," Eastwood says.

"I worked really hard and it's all paid off. I couldn't be happier. I sat down with my wife and spoke to her about it because she's a big part of the decision as well. It's three Tests I missed out on but I don't regret it. I feel a lot better for it this time around, I'm just excited now."

Out of his 22 Tests, Eastwood has played Australia 11 times for five wins, the past three forming a streak that will create history if the Kiwis can score a victory on Friday night. A fourth consecutive win will equal the Kiwis' longest winning streak against the Kangaroos, set in 1952-53.

"That would be amazing," Eastwood says.

"I've only beaten them five times, so to be a part of that would be incredible.

"You hear all the talk about State of Origin but for us this is it. This is the big stage, this is what you play league for, to play in front of your country in front of your family and friends and to do your country proud."

Injuries and suspensions have whittled down the pool of available players for this Test, but somehow the Kiwi squad is still first-class. Although incumbent captain Simon Mannering was unavailable for selection through injury, Kearney has named inspirational prop Jesse Bromwich to lead the country for the first time on Friday.

The Melbourne star is regarded as one of the best props in the world and Eastwood said the Kiwis will be proud to follow him into battle.

"The guys that we have in the squad at the moment are really at the top of their game and I just try to keep up with them," he says.

"Jesse Bromwich is one of the best props in the game at the moment - he brings a lot to the squad. Then there are guys like Shaun Johnson who feed off the back of it.

"To have someone like Jesse in the team is outstanding. Tohu Harris and Kevin Proctor benefit from it at club level and they'll bring all their experience to the national team as well.

"With the guys that are around now, it's hard to get into this squad. I've just been working hard on my own game and it's paying off. I can't believe it.

"Australia want to be number one again and they're going to do anything to get it back." 🍀

## FAMILY TIES BOOST FERNS

THE sister of Kiwi heavyweight Frank Paul Nuuausala, Annetta, is set to continue the family sporting tradition after being selected in the Kiwi Ferns squad for their Test against the Jillaroos.

The Ferns are keen to continue their good record against the Australians, especially after beating them earlier in the year at the NRL Auckland Nines - though they haven't forgotten the pain of losing to the Jillaroos in the corresponding match last year.

Their coach Alan Jackson didn't have to make many changes to the victorious Nines squad, though he says the calibre of female players in New Zealand at the moment has made the selection process difficult.

"The selectors and I have had a number of sleepless nights picking this team," he tells the NZRL. "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. 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 who 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."

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## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 10 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist **DANNY BUDERUS** 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

- It's Indigenous Round and **Sam Thaiday, Johnathan Thurston** and **Greg Inglis** are faces in the **RECOGNISE** campaign, which aims to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Australian constitution. We talk to **Inglis, Justin Hodges** and **Joel Thompson** about issues facing Indigenous communities and how rugby league's profile can and has helped.

- Flying Fijian **Kevin Naiqama** has had his best season to date so far this year and according to him it's because he's the "old guy" in the Wests Tigers' backline. The 27-year-old also credits **Jason Taylor** for his form, saying finally nailing down a position in his career has let his confidence bloom.

- **Jacob** and **Daniel Saifiti** have a few problems right now – the first of which is figuring out where they can rent a house for two hulking 115kg frames – but the biggest is dealing with week-to-week first-grade football. The twins are slowly making a name for themselves and credit **Nathan Brown** for his patience with the inexperienced Knights team.

- Also, we do an in-depth analysis of how **women's rugby league** has grown, including Jillaroos players getting an allowance in Test camp for the first time ever last week; **Zeb Taia** talks longevity and being one of the NRL's top tryscorers; **Michael Morgan** and **Daly Cherry-Evans** face off for the Qld utility spot; The Analyst tries to figure out where **Penrith** are going wrong and **Danny Buderus** says the NRL should consider taking a whole round of football to the country.

**PLUS...** **Blake Green** talks how playing overseas prepared him to play for the Storm and we name the Top 8 **Indigenous ironmen**.

**AND:** Little League, lower grade previews and a Josh Dugan poster.



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# Several Players Return for Christchurch Match *by Richard Becht*

**B**EN MATULINO and Bodene Thompson have both been recalled while Tuimoala Lolohea and Thomas Leuluai return from injury for the Vodafone Warriors' 10th-round NRL match against the Penrith Panthers at AMI Stadium in Christchurch on Saturday (5.00pm kick-off).

Matulino is on the bench, Thompson in the second row, Lolohea reclaims the fullback spot and Leuluai is back in the halves.

Matulino and Thompson were among six players made unavailable for selection for the last outing against St George Illawarra while Lolohea (knee) and Leuluai (hamstring) will make their comebacks from one-match injury layoffs.

Lolohea started at fullback against Melbourne as Roger Tuivasa-Sheck's replacement. His return results in David Fusitu'a switching to the wing while Leuluai comes back to replace Jeff Robson, who partnered Shaun Johnson in the halves against the Dragons.

Thompson is the only change in the starting pack with head coach Andrew McFadden retaining Jazz Tevaga and James Gavet in the front row plus John Palavi at loose forward.

Former Canterbury-Bankstown back rower Shaun Lane, who made his club debut against the Dragons, moves to the bench alongside Matulino, Issac Luke, Charlie Gubb and Matt Allwood.

McFadden said Mannering was still recovering from an ugly facial wound he received against the Storm while Manu Vatuvei, who had been on medical leave, was being monitored after returning to training yesterday.

## VODAFONE WARRIORS

- 1 Tuimoala LOLOHEA
  - 2 Jonathan WRIGHT
  - 3 Blake AYSHFORD
  - 4 Solomone KATA
  - 5 David FUSITU'A
  - 6 Thomas LEULUAI
  - 7 Shaun JOHNSON
  - 8 Jacob LILLYMAN
  - 9 Jazz TEVAGA
  - 10 James GAVET
  - 11 Bodene THOMPSON
  - 12 Ryan HOFFMAN (c)
  - 13 John PALAVI
- Interchange
- 14 Issac LUKE
  - 15 Ben MATULINO
  - 16 Charlie GUBB
  - 17 Shaun LANE

## VODAFONE WARRIORS v PENRITH PANTHERS

AMI Stadium, Christchurch

5.00pm, Saturday, May 14

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Referee: Matt Cecchin  
Assit Referee: David Munro  
Touch Judges: Bernard Sutton & Anthony Elliott  
Review Official: Steve Chiddy  
Senior RO: Luke Patten



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SUNCORP STADIUM, BRISBANE  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 22

**HOLDEN STATE OF ORIGIN GAME III**

ANZ STADIUM, SYDNEY  
WEDNESDAY JULY 13

**T**OOK THESE guys out to lunch on Tuesday, all former Warriors and Kiwis players, to farewell Motu who heads back to the UK on Saturday. Ali Lauitiiti, Stacey Jones, Jerry Seuseu, Shontayne Hape, Motu Tony, Logan Swann and Jerome Ropati.



Good Morning,

**H**ERE IS a photo of my daughter Ravyn with the prize I won from you. Along with her beloved warriors teddy bear.

Ravyn was only 4 weeks old when she attended the 2016 Auckland 9's.

Thank you,

Aroha



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