

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

25th May 2016

Newsletter #123

We salute Lupesoliai La'auli Joseph Parker for his magnificent victory on Saturday night.



Joseph Parker
v
Carlos Takam



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

One of the Nicest Guys in NZ Sport

Check out me interviewing Joseph Parker on my website. [Click here.](#)

THIS WEEK I want to pay tribute to one of the nicest guys in New Zealand sport – boxer Joseph Parker. Over the weekend he beat Carlos Takam to secure a mandatory challenger spot for the IBF world heavyweight championship.

And it could not happen to a nicer guy. What you see on TV is actually what you get, a quiet, well-mannered, respectful young man who is always polite.

I have known Joseph's parents for a little while now, and they are fine people. In fact Mad Butcher owner Mike Morton had everyone around over Christmas, and they were a pleasure to be with.

My association with Joseph began a while back too, certainly in the day when Sir Robert Jones was involved. Of course Joseph then moved on to Duco Events, and fair play to them, they have invested a lot of money in their young charge's potential.

Can you even imagine the costs of going back and forth to Las Vegas, it must be telephone numbers.

Trainer Kevin Barry and Joseph have established a fabulous bond, and credit to Dean Lonergan and David Higgins at Duco, they were shrewd enough to match them up.

There can be no doubt that Joseph is where he is today because of the team behind him, and I say only this – well done Joseph, just reward for hard work.

And he is not exactly resting on his laurels is he? His next fight has already been announced, in Christchurch, against former league star Solomon Haumono. Corporate hospitality is already on sale for the July 21 bout.

Haumono, is no slouch, ranked No 12 in the WBA, and the current PABA Heavyweight Champion. In his 24 fights, he has won 21 by knockout.



After Joes win over Carlos Takam on Saturday night KB (Kevin Barry) Joseph Parker & Taylor Barry (Kevin's son).



David Higgins from Duco events, Joseph Parker and Michael Morton the director of the Mad Butcher.



From the left is the Prime Minister of Samoa Tuli'aepa, Joseph Parker, David Higgins, Kevin Barry and the Brown Buttabeen David Letele.



Lupe Soli'ai La'auli Joseph Parker, Lalogafau Dempsey Parker and Segi-ali'i David Higgins. All three Samoan Chiefs.



Joseph Signs up to be a Vodafone Warriors Member



Joe, Kevin and Izu Ugonoh undefeated Polish Heavyweight WBO #12 .



Joseph Parker (24) and his brother John (22). When Joe goes into camp in NZ his brother meets him at the airport and stays with him right up till' the fight. Now that's brotherly love.



WITNESS SPORTING HISTORY BEING MADE AT HORNCastle ARENA, CHRISTCHURCH

Corporate hospitality is on sale now for IBF World Title Mandatory Challenger Joseph Parker's next fight live at Horncastle Arena, Christchurch for the very first time in his professional career on Thursday 21 July.

Fresh off his intense and grueling 12 round win verse Frenchman Carlos Takam, Parker will fight Australian Solomon Haumono in preparation for his IBF World Title fight and in doing so, put his IBF Title shot on the line.

Australian prospect Haumono is no slouch, ranked WBA #12 and the current PABA Heavyweight Champion. In his 24 fights, he has won 21 by way of knock-out.

Parker needs big challenges and to put into practice all that he learnt from his enthralling war with Takam. He can't afford to rest on his laurels, but with so much on the line, Haumono poses a huge risk.

CORPORATE HOSPITALITY OPTIONS:

- Corporate tables of 10 from \$5,995 + GST. Includes a three-course dinner, beverages and personal table service
- Diamond individual seating - \$399 + GST. Includes 3 course boxed meals and beverages served to your premium stadium seat
- Corporate Boxes (12 or 24 pax) from \$499 + GST per person

Tickets and tables will be in hot demand for this event, so be sure to grab yours now to experience the thrill of seeing two of the world's best Heavyweights in action!

Book your corporate hospitality today by contacting Donna Churton:

Phone: 09 309 2400

Mobile: 027 545 5353

Email donna@duco.co.nz

Don't miss out on seeing Joseph Parker live in Christchurch for this Trans-Tasmin showdown. We look forward to seeing you there!

Barks Like a Dog, Looks Like a Dog - It's a Dog

By David Kemeys



THE PROBLEM with writing a column for this newsletter is that it has to be done pretty early in the week.

This is a problem because I have never calmed down by the time I write it.

By Thursday I will normally have reached the "it's only a game, and there's always next week" stage.

By Friday I will be looking forward to the match and thinking we cannot be worse than we have been.

But this week, here I sit, the rain lashing down on a Sunday, utterly despondent after a thoroughly awful outing against Canberra.

Four weeks ago I cautioned everyone to remain optimistic and to only judge after what were then our next four games - Melbourne, St George, Penrith and Canberra.

Surely, if we could tip over three of those four, and you would not have thought it impossible, things would be well and truly back on track.

Instead Melbourne made us look stupid, St George ignited a brief glimmer of hope as we got the first of the three wins I wanted, before Penrith extinguished that hope by giving us a hiding, and Canberra made us look like complete

Muppets.

The only positive I can find is that we are not playing this weekend.

Someone suggested it could be worse, we could be Newcastle, but I would not rate our chances against them after what we have served up.

As a kid I was covered in scabs from the numerous wounds I copped, and my dearly departed Mum was always telling me not to pick at them.

On Sunday, in the form of talk-back radio, I did exactly that - picked at the wound.

Unsurprisingly, there was nothing but doom and gloom.

It pains me to admit it, but talk-back radio callers were right weeks ago when they said it was over for the year, and I was wrong when I blithely claimed there was still time.

There is not.

We are awful.

In desperation I turned to the fansite to see what people were saying.

It just made it worse.

Horrible, terrible, garbage, embarrassing, humiliating, pathetic....I

could go on, but you get the gist.

One wag suggested that taking another game to New Plymouth would never happen, because Taranaki did not want us back. Harsh, but amusing.

Things really are rotten aren't they? A host of normally reliable players had days to forget. Simon Mannering looked like he was back too soon, Thomas Leuluai had an utterly forgettable night, Jonathan Wright did nothing wrong, but then again he did nothing.

Then there was Blake Ayshford, in for his defence - enough said, and Matt Allwood, who is apparently a better option than Konrad Hurrell - anyone still believe that?

Throw in a forward pack that could reasonably have been renamed the backward pack, and it was an ugly, ugly night.

On the plus side, we could still improve - say 20 percent - which would mean we would get beaten by everyone, which would still be a big step up from the absolute floggings we are taking now.

Oh joy, let's at least look forward to a week off, and then Brisbane.

Still, soon be Thursday...



McFadden Not Alone In Thinking It's All Wearing A bit Thin

COACH ANDREW McFadden is set to axe more underperformers after the 38-12 hammering we took against the Raiders.

You could be forgiven for wondering if we have a big enough squad to name a team given the lack of guts on show on Saturday.

But McFadden slammed a lack of trust among players, and said with the bye this week, a serious discussion about our effort would take place.

“We’ll get together and have another honest talk but it’s wearing pretty thin to be honest,” he said. “We deal with a fair bit of this stuff from week to week and I think it’s time for something else.”

Hard to imagine many fans would think any different.

The problem for McFadden is where is he going to find those players? He has already used 30 players this year, yet the mix is getting worse not better.

We can’t defend, but in truth, our attack looks pretty toothless too.

Defence Takes A Hammering

After horrible losses in the last two weeks, coach Andrew McFadden says he doubts the trust his side has in each other.

“Our defence gave up too many soft points and I’m not just going to blanket the whole side, I just thought we had half a dozen blokes who didn’t show the desire or urgency you need to play in first grade.”

We missed a staggering 30 tackles against the Raiders, and compounded it with shocking discipline, and way too many errors.

“It’s not good enough. To be a good defensive team you need trust and there’s clearly a lack of trust in our side at the moment. I need to find people who are willing to put their bodies on the line.”

Hoffman Must Be Wondering Why He Bothered

Spare a thought for poor Ryan Hoffman. Our captain must be sick of having to defend the indefensible.

He said after the game that team morale on the field wasn’t good at the moment.

It’s not too flash in the stands either mate.

But the Hoff did not pull any punches, saying it was clear some of the squad lacked the effort needed. “Everyone’s pretty shattered because there’s absolutely zero excuse for us to put a performance up like that. We’re prepared as well as we can be, but as the coach said, we had some individuals who didn’t want to do it.”

Maumalo Not Wanted?

Interesting story on the Stuff website at the weekend that said Ken Maumalo was on his way out of the club and headed to the Dragons until the prescription pills incident.

The story said the Dragons thought they had a deal and Maumalo would have been put straight into first grade, but we changed our minds, supposedly after our off-field issues, especially with the fallout seeing Manu Vatuvei out.

I have no idea of knowing how accurate any of this is, but it is interesting, because plenty of people have lost patience in Jonathan Wright, although coach Andrew McFadden – and this is to his credit, some would say – remains stubbornly loyal to him.

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Maumalo hasn't been seen this season, with McFadden rating Vatuvei, Wright, David Fusitu'a, Matt Allwood and Tuimoala Lolohea ahead of him.

The closest he's got to first-grade was 18th man against the Dragons and it's obvious that, like Konrad Hurrell, McFadden doesn't rate him.

Maumalo is signed for the rest of the season, and we have an option for next year.

Hurrell Issue Won't Go Away

The questions are still flying about the future of - 61 minutes this season centre – Konrad Hurrell, and coach Andrew McFadden is getting sick of it.

With Solomone Kata suspended for Saturday's game, Hurrell still could not get a recall, Matt Allwood coming in, and playing – charitably – okay.

Hurrell went to reserve grade.

McFadden faced numerous questions about it at Mt Smart. "We discussed him, but felt this was best for the team."

Doesn't look such a flash decision now does it?

Everyone knows the relationship between the pair is terrible, and Hurrell re-tweeting a Twitter comment slamming team management was incredibly stupid, but surely you have to get to a point where cutting off your nose to spite your face just won't wash.

It's bizarre, because I think we all know there is no way back for Konrad, but McFadden still insists he hasn't gone cold on him.

"I don't want this to turn into the Konrad show. I've made the decision for the team's best interest and this is what we'll go with."

Manu Getting Closer

Manu Vatuvei could be back for the Broncos on June 4. "He is close," coach Andrew McFadden says. "He's had some other stuff that has come up recently that has delayed his comeback, but he's close. We've got the bye, so we're going to manage him so he's ready to go."

Giddy Sir Peter,

WHAT AN absolutely awesome Supporters pack I received from you through your contest.

Completely exceeded the expectation of what would arrive.

A huge thank you to you and BLK.

Also, I thought your last newsletter was very good, especially Frank Endacotts thoughts on the Warriors.

Most enlightening coming from a person with an in-depth knowledge and understanding for the game.

Once again, thanks very much, see you at Mt Smart on the 4th June.

Regards,

Mark Rayner





By John Coffey QSM

All the Way With the Fiji Sevens

Jarryd Hayne of Fiji in action against USA. HSBC World Series Sevens London at Twickenham Stadium, Twickenham - 22/05/2016.

Photo courtesy of www.photosport.nz

THE FIJI Sevens team has my total support in its bid to win the Olympic gold medal at Rio de Janeiro in August, whether they continue on with a group of athletic people whose names I could not properly pronounce let alone spell, or whether they accept Jarryd Hayne's kind offer to join up and burden them with a level of media attention never before experienced.

Hayne's jump from the San Francisco 49ers obviously caught my eye, but, frankly, I don't care whether he goes to Rio or not. However, rugby union commentators on both sides of the Tasman had me reaching for the sick bucket -- especially those Aussies who revealed they condemned him because he is now ineligible for the Wallabies if his longer-term future is in their game.

New Zealand objections to Hayne clearly reflected a fear that one former rugby league star might deprive the All Black Sevens of a gold medal which many seem to believe is theirs by right. The ABs were world champions when Sevens was added to the Olympic calendar but have slipped since then as the NZRU dithers about how much support they should be given.

I can't recall watching an entire game of Sevens, but from the glimpses I have seen it seems much more akin to rugby league. Isn't it mostly about running, passing and tackling, with very little emphasis on scrum technique and place kicking for goal? In my (minority) opinion World Rugby should hand the entire Sevens game over to rugby league where it belongs.

Of course, rugby has featured in past Olympics. But that was the 15-a-side variety. Gold medals were won by Australia -- in 1908 when they beat English county Cornwall, the only other entrant, before 14 of them switched to rugby league on their return to Sydney -- and twice by a bunch of United States college students in the 1920s. It was last sighted as a demonstration sport at Berlin in 1936.

Rugby, of any code, should not be at the Olympics and neither should tennis, golf or soccer (which is largely an under-23 event). They all have more highly prized world cups, grand slams or majors of their own. But I guess these days the Olympics need enough "product" to fill television time and boost the IOC's coffers and individual officials' Swiss bank accounts.

But the hullabaloo over code-jumping Jarryd is not the reason I will be waving a little Fijian flag in August. The prospect of Fiji actually winning something at the Olympics had me delving into the record of Pacific islands at previous Games. On the basis that Fiji has tried and failed most I want it to win the gold, with Samoa taking home silver and Tonga bronze.

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It surprised me to find that Fiji has taken part at 13 of the last 15 Olympics, dating back to Melbourne in 1956. A total of 119 representatives have competed in athletics, judo, shooting, swimming and weightlifting and never been on the podium. Fiji has also been a tiny blip on the winter Olympics radar, through a cross-country skier in 1988 and 1994 and an alpine skier in 2002.

Samoa first lined up at the 1984 Olympics and has been to eight more since then with nothing to show for all that training and qualifying. Tonga also made its debut in 1984 and, unlike Samoa, gained its first winter Olympics qualifier in 2014. But the Tongans have had one taste of Olympic glory when Paea Wolfgramm won the super heavyweight boxing silver medal at Atlanta in 1996.

A massive man, Wolfgramm captured the world's (well, at least, mine) imagination when he out-pointed boxers from comparative powerhouses Belarus, Cuba and Nigeria to qualify for the final against an unknown (to me) Ukrainian named Vladimir Klitschko. There the dream ended for "The Tongan Warrior" as Klitschko comfortably won by seven points to three.

You can't feed your family on a silver medal (or the bronze he won at the Commonwealth Games in 1994), so the 140kg Wolfgramm turned professional after Atlanta and proved himself to be more than a journeyman. Powerful Paea won his first 14 bouts and between 1996 and 2001 fashioned a creditable record of 20 wins (14 by ko) and four losses (2 by ko).

A win over Cuban Olympian Jorge Luis Gonzalez set him up for a rematch with Klitschko for the vacant WBC international heavyweight title. This time the Ukrainian was heading towards world domination and knocked Wolfgramm out in just 90 seconds. Wolfgramm later beat New Zealander Jimmy Thunder but hung up his gloves after American Corey Sanders stopped him in the ninth round.

Anyone know where I can get a small Fijian flag?

Jack Jones: No Regrets after 58 Years

By John Coffey QSM



WHEN KENNY Bromwich ran onto Hunter Stadium during the Anzac Test earlier this month he became Kiwi number 796. Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Manu Ma'u also made their debuts that night, joining a roll of honour which extends back to number one, Albert Baskerville, the player-organiser, and fittingly first in alphabetical order, of the original 1907-08 All Golds.

In the last 109 years there have been many good footballers who were unlucky not to be on the list. Some were Test reserves in an era when there were no replacements, such as West Coast forward Barry Gardiner in both 1958 and 1960. Fellow Coaster, fullback Bruce Mann was selected for the 1965 tour of Britain and France only to break his jaw before departure.

Then there was Jack Jones, who would have made his Test debut against Great Britain in 1958 and probably toured Australia in 1959 only for misfortune to strike twice. Jones had transferred from the Mt Albert club in Auckland to Papanui in Canterbury in 1954 and was the best tight forward on the ground when South Island beat North 25-15 at Christchurch in 1958.

Jones played at prop for South but was subsequently named in the second-row for the New Zealand side to play the touring Lions in the first Test. But there was one problem. His right hand was strangely misshapen and "a bit sore" when he returned to work. His occupation as a boilermaker demanded plenty of tough lifting, so the 25-year-old Jones consulted his doctor.

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“The doctor said I could play but if the broken hand got injured again I could be crippled for life. It’s not like it is today. We didn’t get paid for playing football and I was engaged and looking to start my own business. Surgery was not needed. It came right with a lot of exercising. I was back on the paddock in about four weeks but there is still a lump where it was broken,” he said.

There was plenty of irony about the injury. Jones’ hand had been mangled when trodden on by North Island prop Joe Ratima, then the biggest man in rugby league. It was Ratima the selectors chose to replace Jones (ahead of the aforementioned and considerably smaller Barry Gardiner). So Ratima made a belated Test debut six years after having first toured Australia.

“Joe also worked for my brother in law in Auckland,” said Jones. “We talked on the phone. To be honest, I wasn’t too worried at the time. It was one of those things in life. I enjoyed my football but had to consider things like family and work.” The 1958 Kiwis drew the two-Test series with Great Britain and all 13 players were retained for the 1959 tour to Australia.

Jones was still very much in the selectors’ sights in 1959. He attended the national coaching school at Palmerston North and made the School XIII to play the 1958 Kiwis in the final tour trial at Carlaw Park. But Jones never made that game. He instead spent a night in Palmerston North Hospital after “I tackled a bloke from behind and his boot came up and hit me in the nuts.” He grimaced as if still feeling the pain!

Back in Christchurch, he looked on from afar as the 1959 team comprised the 13 established Kiwis from 1958, 12 players from the School XIII (he would surely have been the 13th) and Ron Ackland, previously a Test centre but now an emerging second-rower. With new caps of the calibre of Mel Cooke and Don Hammond, there were no vacancies in the Kiwis pack for years to come.

But Jack Jones has no regrets. He shared in Papanui inter-club successes alongside current or future Kiwis John Bond, Kevin Pearce, Keith Roberts, Ean Anderson and Jim Bond. These days he is immensely proud of the achievements of his six children and the success of his steel business. One of his company’s major projects was Queen Elizabeth II Park, the 1974 Commonwealth Games main stadium.

There was also a piece of very good luck in Jones’ life. In late 1953 he was working for the railways department in Wellington and booked himself to travel home to Auckland on Christmas Eve. “But I went to the boss and told him there was not much use me staying for the Christmas party because I didn’t drink, so I went home on the December 23 train instead,” he recalled.

Thus he missed being caught in New Zealand’s worst rail disaster, when the locomotive and first six carriages of the Christmas Eve express plunged into a raging Whangaehu River near Tangiwai, killing 151 of the 285 passengers. A dam holding back Mount Ruapehu’s crater lake had collapsed, creating a flash flood which weakened the bridge just before the train reached it. That puts missing a Kiwis jersey into perspective.

Former Kiwi Anthony Peter (Tony) Kriletich passed away on the 21st of May after short illness. His funeral service will be held at St Patricks Church, Seddon St, Pukekohe this Thursday at 1pm. RIP Tony a bloody good bloke.

Origin Newcomers

By Barry Ross



THERE IS plenty of interest in the five newcomers Laurie Daley has named in the NSW squad for the first Origin game of the year next week. Actually there are six new names, but Penrith's 21 year old forward has only been selected to give him some experience in the atmosphere and preparation leading into the big match. Bryce Cartwright has been named as a Development player and will not take the field on 1 June.

One of the newcomers that really impresses me, is 24 year old St. George/ Illawarra forward, Tyson Frizell. His junior club is the Corrimal Cougars, 80 kms south of Sydney near Wollongong and this is also the junior club of Ben Hornby (1 Test) and Craig Young (20 Tests). Former Kiwi Test player, Oscar Danielson (5 Tests), captain/coached the Cougars to the 1974 Illawarra first grade Premiership. Frizell has now played 81 first grade games, 69 with the Dragons, after making his first grade debut as a 19 year old with the Cronulla Sharks back in July 2011 in Brisbane against the Broncos. He averages 10 hit ups a game and when he runs the ball, he averages nine metres each carry. His tackle count is also high and this season he has made 35 a game, which was the same figure he set last season.

For powerful 25 year old Penrith winger, Josh Mansour, it was only a matter of time before he pulled on the Blue jersey. He has 73 first grade games under his belt and 36 tries. He has already played Test football, playing the first of his four Tests in 2014 as a 23 year old. He averaged 151 running metres a game last season and this season he has already totalled 1730 metres at around 155 metres per game. This year he has ran for more than 200 metres in three matches and these games were against the Broncos, the Dragons and the Eels.

Another 25 year old Penrith player is a star of the future. Matt Moylan is an exciting player in all aspects of the game. He pops up all over the field and is equally likely to make a break out wide or close to the ruck. He has played 57 first grade games.

South Sydney halfback, Adam Reynolds, probably should have already made his Origin debut. Injury caused him to miss out in 2015, but he was often mentioned as a possible selection before that. Adam is 25 and has played 103 first grade games, scoring 800 points from 16 tries, 364 goals and 8 field goals. While he hasn't been at his best with some of his goal kicking this year, he can be a match winner in this department. But where NSW will really want him to stand up is his kicking game in general play. He is one of the best at using grubbers to the in goal area and his tactical kicking from all parts of the field often leads to big metre gains for Souths.

If there was a surprise selection, it was probably 21 year old Manly back, Dylan Walker. There is no doubt that he has the ability to succeed at this level and like Mansour he too has four Tests to his credit. He also made his Test debut in 2014 while a 19 year old at South Sydney. But last September he was involved in a prescription drug scandal which could have had a devastating result.

NSW will try to dominate Queensland in the forwards and probably the key player if this is to be successful is big Cronulla man, Andrew Fifita (120 kgs, 194 cms). He is in great form at the moment and just last Saturday night in a bruising encounter with Manly, he ran for 183 metres. He also does he share of tackling and last year averaged 30 tackles a game. He has played six Tests after making his Test debut on 2013 as a 23 year old.

The performance of Fifita and 34 year old captain, Paul Gallen (32 Tests), will be important if NSW are to win next week.

I would like to give a wrap to Adam Blair after he was named as just the 22nd Bronco captain for their clash with the Wests Tigers in Brisbane this Friday night. Now 30 years of age, Adam is approaching 230 NRL first grade games with Melbourne, the Tigers and the Broncos. He has also played 35 Tests for New Zealand.

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

Macular Degeneration Awareness Week is 23-29 May 2016

Macular Degeneration is a growing epidemic

Over 1.5 Million 'At Risk'
New Zealanders



Have you had your Macula checked lately?

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.

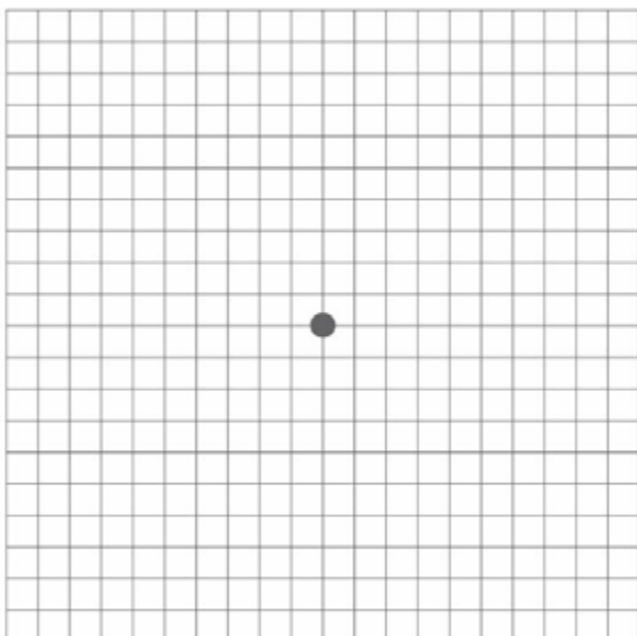
A healthy macula lets you read, recognise faces, drive a car, see colours clearly and handle any activity that requires fine vision.

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.



This test could save your sight

Detecting macular degeneration can be as simple as taking the Amsler Grid test regularly. It can be done in the comfort of your home or wherever you see a grid pattern. If the lines in the grid appear distorted or bent, then contact an optometrist without delay.

For further information contact MDNZ

www.mdnz.org.nz Phone 0800 MACULA (622 852)
info@mdnz.org.nz

Northland League Wrap

By Ben Francis



Scott Electrical Premiership

TAKAHIWAI WARRIORS bounced back from their 34-32 loss to the Moerewa Tigers last weekend with a 42-30 win over the Northern Wairoa Bulls in Round 8 of the Scott Electrical Premiership. The Warriors held a 18-4 lead at the break. The Bulls were down, but not out and fought back in the second half but the table topping Warriors were too strong at the end of the day and claimed their sixth win of the campaign.

Close behind the Warriors on the standings are the Otangarei Knights who currently sit in third place on the table after beating the Portland Panthers 30-16. It was the second time the Knights had beaten the Panthers this year after they beat them convincingly 42-8 back in round 1. In the other game the Hokianga Pioneers had a close encounter with the winless Horahora Broncos. The Pioneers won the encounter 32-28 to remain fourth on the ladder.

Next week's game see's the table topping Takahiwai Warriors play the bottom placed Horahora Broncos, the Portland Panthers will face the Hokianga Pioneers and the Northern Wairoa Bulls will play the Moerewa Tigers who are coming off the bye.

During Queens Birthday weekend, no games will be played in the Scott Electrical Premiership instead a Town Vs Country match will be played at Otaika Park on Saturday 4th June 2pm Kickoff. The Otangarei Knights, Horahora Broncos, Takahiwai Warriors and Portland Panthers will make up the Town side whilst the Northern Wairoa Bulls, Moerewa Tigers, & Hokianga Pioneers make up the Country side.

For more information on this match or Northland Rugby League you can visit <http://www.northernwords.co.nz/> for more information

I Know How the Warriors' Faithful Feel From Years of Listening to 'Black Cap Bashing'

By John Deaker



ISUPPORT THE Warriors but I'm not a real die-hard supporter like many of their most faithful fans. I'm much more passionate about the Black Caps and during the 'journey' I've had with the New Zealand cricket team I often see similarities to the roller-coaster ride that the hard-core Warriors' fans have had to navigate. One prominent similarity is that when the Warriors are performing poorly I hear many New Zealanders indulge in the equivalent of what I've called 'Black Caps Bashing' over the years.

When the National cricket team's performed poorly Black Caps-bashers have tended to make sweeping generalizations about the team that often lack any specific reasoning or evidence behind them. Cricket is a complex game and the majority of New Zealanders don't understand it very well. Similarly, rugby league isn't a sport that our nation understands well (especially compared to rugby union) and that shows through when many people constantly generalize with their criticisms of the Warriors.

The sad thing is that at times it's almost been cool for people to put the boot into the Black Caps over the years – and I sense a similar, almost vindictive vibe when I hear many people discuss the Warriors. Does it make these people feel better about themselves to constantly criticize something they don't know much about!?

The worst aspect of this constant negativity is that so much of people's criticisms lack any attempt to find solutions and constructively discuss how things can improve. Like with the Black Caps it actually gets to the stage where you think many people prefer the team to be losing so they can regurgitate their negative opinions and continue to believe they've been right about the team all along.

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Like with the Black Caps, the Warriors could (in theory) have benefited from constructive external analysis over the years. The public and media can be useful for keeping players and teams on their toes. They can raise sensitive issues and lift the expectations and accountability of the them.

Sir Graham Henry's involvement at the Warriors could provide some value. My biggest concern would be that he's in a non-paid role and it's a bit uncertain how he'll be specifically used. This casts doubt over whether he'll get enough time around the side to really grasp how they could improve. Henry was able to help rebuild the culture in the All Blacks during his reign as their head coach because it was a role he lived and breathed and a subject he knew intimately well. It may actually be his experience with the Auckland Blues (whom he won two Super rugby titles with) that helps him to give the type of advice that can assist the Warriors.

One Blues' coach (the New South Wales rugby league variety) that the Warriors have been linked to is Laurie Daley. It's questionable what the added-value Daley could provide would be. Most prominently he has absolutely no NRL coaching experience that he could reference when helping Andrew McFadden and his coaching team.

There's speculation that some senior players in the Warriors (including Shaun Johnson) might get dropped for their next match against Brisbane. This is a tactic that holds some merit (when all else fails!) as an attempt to get some key players to reflect on whether they're preparing correctly and channeling their energy accurately towards the team improving every week. The danger of this strategy is that if the communication between players and coaches isn't clear then it could sour their relationship long-term and even lead to them leaving the side or giving up the sport.

In 2004 Australian Ric Charlesworth introduced a philosophy to New Zealand cricket of keeping senior players uneasy. This ultimately contributed to legends of New Zealand cricket like Chris Cairns and Nathan Astle retiring from the sport earlier than New Zealand could afford them to.

It is obvious that Shaun Johnson is an athlete who is very wary of the public's criticism of him. The club will need to ask itself whether the negatives that could come from dropping their star halfback (such as his confidence diving even lower) outweigh the positives that dropping him could provide.

Some of the most ridiculous criticisms of the Warriors that get raised when they're not performing suggest remedies like: starting from fresh, getting rid of all the players, signing up a team of mainly Australians and even closing down the club. These actions don't make any logical sense and ignore why most true fans of the Warriors support them: because they like being able to support a local team in the NRL with more Kiwis than any other side in the competition. They love seeing the club bring through homegrown talent and thrive on beating Australian teams made up of predominantly Australians. They also enjoy seeing the Warriors develop their own unique brand of football where they play with passion and smiles on their faces. Here's hoping after the bye the players and fans both get the smiles back on their faces.



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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 12

		Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
Date/ Venue	Game	<i>Maloney's Barber Shop - The best haircut in town.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran League</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 League</i>
27/05 - Suncorp	Broncos v Tigers	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Tigers
28/05 - WIN	Dragons v Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Dragons	Cowboys	Cowboys	Dragons	Dragons
29/05 - GIO	Raiders v Bulldogs	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Bulldogs	Raiders	Bulldogs	Raiders
30/05 - Hunter	Knights v Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels

How they're traveling....

Picks last week	5/8	4/8	5/8	4/8	4/8	5/8	7/8
Total picks	47/88	49/88	52/88	54/88	53/88	56/88	56/88

TippinTalk: High-Tackle leads the way with a sparkling 6, Super-Scissors Sue gets going with a 5 alongside the old Master JC and Wily Bill Hayward. The bunch coming home with steady 4,s. Our dedication to the Warriors cause is costly but that's the way we roll. Only 4 games this week but SOO always causes disruption and a change of fortune for affected rosters so tricky waters to negotiate.

Footy Roundup: This weeks games ran basically to form with the minor shocks being the Panthers loss to the never say die Titans and the Dire Strait Eels all but shut out by the very clinical and relentless Storm. The Panthers beat themselves in reality failing to close out a match they looked in control of allowing the Gold Coast-ers to come back late. Bellamys bunch played to their usual formula suffocatingly accurate defence and Smith/Cronk/Blake orchestrating a big upfront assault, plenty of solid steel in their play. The Eels with the somewhat flakey Foran back still not quite fulfilling the promise of their big name roster. On zero points in reality their hill is now a mountain needing to win all bar one of their remaining games, I don't think so Sam!! The Rabbitohs caught the Dragons on the hop and got home 34/24. The Tigers fought tooth and nail to get past the brave Knights 20/12 and the Sharks were too sharp for the scratchy Sea Eagles winning 20/12. The Belmore Dogs of war won the battle with the Bondi boys comfortably in the end 32/20. Many expected a better showing from the resurgent Roosters but it wasn't to be. The Game of the round by a long way was the rerun of the Grand Final. Yet another

titanic Queensland arm-wrestle with a single point the separation at the bell. These two teams know each other like a husband and wife, picking the mood swings and nuances and each thinly veiled attempt at ascendancy. Mind you they stop short of the kiss and make up bit. Both outfits still favourites for the big dance but while they battle in the highlights the table-topping Sharks and Storm and maybe a fully fit Doggies could throw a spanner in the works by play off time. Right the "elephant in the room" the once were mighty Warriors. Not for the first time in the last month or so I heard a radio announcer say this morning that we are "still only 2 points off the top 8...I am not finding this the comfort it infers. In essence my worry is that if the inside group of messrs Doyle, McFadden Jones, Hoffman and co. cant find the answer to our obvious problems then an outsider like myself has no show. So I will stay silent on that. Like all faithful Warrior fans I just await the next match with a lot of uncertainty and little enthusiasm. The Butcher always says harden up no one died and that's very true but little by little dreams and hopes for the season die and my grandchildren start to think of other teams and other heroes.

On a brighter note State of Origin fever is upon us... State versus State, Mate versus Mate, Ladies bring a plate....with a bunch of newbies in the Blues and largely the usual suspects in the Maroons the rivalry unfolds in Sydney for game one. The way he has been playing of late I can't help but think that Cameron Smith is the Ace card. Bring it on.

ON the surface, the Warriors' captaincy takes on the appearance of a poisoned chalice – particularly in light of the inscrutable club's characteristically inconsistent start to 2016, coupled with a potentially destabilising player misbehaviour scandal.

But Ryan Hoffman has taken it all in his stride since stepping into the role vacated by Simon Mannering during the pre-season.

"I knew it was going to be tough, with where the club was placed and what we're trying to do," the 32-year-old told *Big League*.

"But I've enjoyed the challenge. This is something new for me, it's a job I always felt I could do and I've really enjoyed the ride so far."

The presence of Cameron Smith during a decorated 11-season tenure at Melbourne meant Hoffman only skippered the Storm in one of his 245 games for the club, but the industrious back-rower's leadership qualities and forthright manner with the media have made him the natural successor to the long-serving Mannering.

The chance to help guide a youthful, rebuilding side was part of the attraction of an Auckland sea change when he came off-contract with the Storm in 2013.

"When I was negotiating with the Warriors, 'Cappy' (coach Andrew McFadden) said he wanted me to be a leader within the club. That's the same role I had at Melbourne and it's a role I enjoy," Hoffman says.

"I had 12 fantastic years at Melbourne and I always thought I'd finish my career there, but things change and sometimes opportunities come that are too good to refuse.

"A new challenge at this stage of my career was certainly appealing."

He was thrown a massive curveball when six high-profile players were demoted for breaking team protocol by heading out for an ill-advised night in Auckland just 24 hours after the club's humiliating 42-0 loss to the Storm on Anzac Day.

Hoffman emphatically backed the club's firm stance – and believes it paid off courtesy of the virtually unrecognisable line-up's stirring 26-10 defeat of St George Illawarra in Round 9.

"I thought it was very important for us as a club. That was a huge move to drop those players and it just shows the care the coach has for this team and this club, and the standards we hold dear.

"We drew a line in the sand and said this is what we're going to accept to be a Warriors player. It was great to see the team respond and put in a very strong performance (against the Dragons).

"We set high standards for ourselves on and off the field and we expect all of our players to adhere to those standards."

During his time in Melbourne, Hoffman became the personification of the consistency, professionalism and success the Storm represents – qualities the Warriors have found painstakingly elusive in recent times.

Hoffman is eager to play his part in ironing out the deficiencies that have been holding the Warriors back.

"They've always been a team with that horrible 'p' word – potential.

"It's about trying to find the right combination, something to bring it all together. I'm confident that we're going to find that."

A 4-6 start to the season has ensured the inconsistent tag hangs over the team, but the skipper bristles at criticism that the players aren't putting in 100 per cent every week.

"That's not coming from people involved with the club, who go to training and sit in physio rooms," Hoffman retorts.

"People are going to say what they want and the only thing that we can do to stop that is win."

No one could ever question the effort of Hoffman, who has not missed a minute of his side's campaign. He wears his heart on his sleeve out on the paddock – a trait that has come to the fore since having the (C) next to his name.

"I just love playing the game and I want to win," he says.

The veteran of six Tests and 14 Origins has barely rated a mention in the pre-series NSW selection chatter, perhaps due to the emergence of the likes of Bryce Cartwright and Wade Graham as contenders.

But Hoffman has played nine-straight

matches for the Blues, was joint-winner of the Brad Fittler Medal in their 2014 triumph and is raring to go again if required by his state.

"I love playing for New South Wales. I was quite upset with the way we finished off the series last year," he says.

"I'm willing to pull the blue jersey on again if [Laurie Daley] gives me the call."

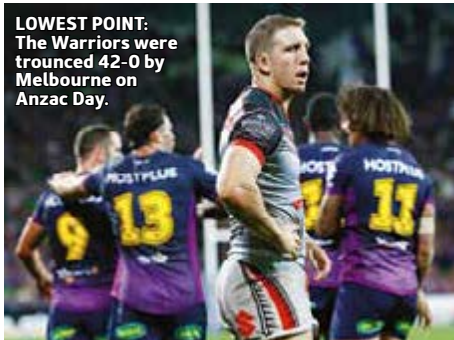
Thoughts of calling time on his NRL career are a long way from his mind. The 14-season stalwart keen to play on after his current contract expires at the end of 2017.

"I've got a year and a half to go before a decision has to be made, but I feel like I've got at least another year in me," Hoffman says.

"I love Auckland, the family has settled here really well. The town reminds me of Melbourne.

"There's always something to do and it's a vibrant city, I'm really enjoying my time here." 🍷

LOWEST POINT: The Warriors were trounced 42-0 by Melbourne on Anzac Day.



Taking the Warriors captaincy was never going to be easy, but Ryan Hoffman is in it for the long haul. By **WILL EVANS**

Up for the challenge

Onward & upward

Women's rugby league is one of the fastest-growing areas in the game, but despite its remarkable success there's still a long way to go. By **WILL EVANS**

THE history books will record the women's rugby league Test in Newcastle on Friday as a comprehensive 26-16 victory to the Kiwi Ferns, regaining the ascendancy they lost with the Jillaroos' breakthrough successes in the 2013 World Cup and the corresponding Test last year.

But the significance of another hard-fought struggle between the fierce rivals reaches far beyond the scoreline.

The match was televised on Channel Nine after the Anzac Test – while also being broadcast live on Fox Sports and Sky Sports New Zealand – providing unprecedented exposure for the women's game.

Importantly, there was no mention of the term 'curtain-raiser'. The Newcastle event gave the Jillaroos-Ferns showdown double-header billing alongside the Kangaroos-Kiwis clash for the first time.

Few would argue the ladies didn't supply a better spectacle.

"It's awesome. Every time we come together the NRL has presented us with more opportunities," Jillaroos fullback star Sam Bremner says.

"It's a step forward for the Jillaroos and the Kiwi Ferns, although we try not to get distracted by the fact it's going to be televised. We've still got a game to win – that's the most important thing.

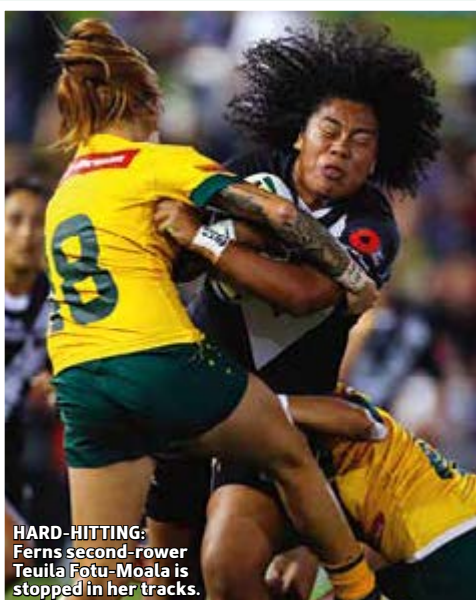
"The best thing that has happened to the women's game is the exposure. A lot of people didn't even know there was an Australian women's team. There's an instant respect

TAKING THEM ON: Back-rower Kezlie Apps tries to find a way through the Ferns' defence.

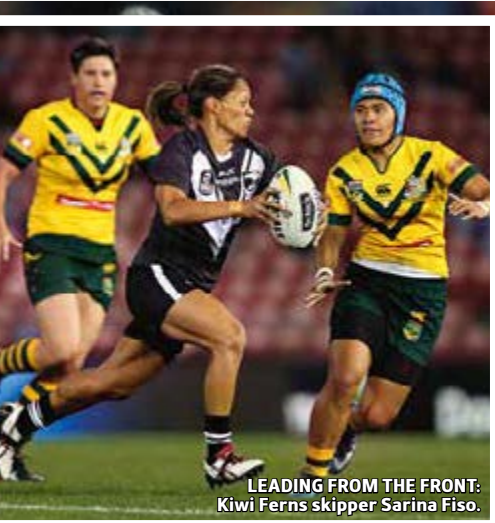


PHOTOS: NRL Photos.com: Robb Cox (Apps, Fiso); Paul Barkley (Fotu-Moata)

Article Provided by Big League Magazine. See what you miss when you don't subscribe to Big League Magazine?



HARD-HITTING: Ferns second-rower Teuila Fotu-Moala is stopped in her tracks.



LEADING FROM THE FRONT: Kiwi Ferns skipper Sarina Fiso.



because people think that girls don't play like the boys until they watch us."

The recent developments follow the runaway success of the trans-Tasman series at the Auckland Nines, the establishment of a women's All Stars match and closer associations between the Jillaroos and Kiwi Ferns and their senior men's counterparts. The Jillaroos players also received an allowance while in camp for the Test – another first.

Jillaroos coach Steve Folkes – a premiership-winning player and coach in his time with the Bulldogs – praised his players' dedication, despite the challenges of coupling sporting commitments with full-time jobs and study.

"The girls aren't full-time professionals, but that doesn't mean they're any less committed to the sport and playing for their country," Folkes said.

"Women's sport is going ahead in leaps and bounds, in soccer, cricket, netball and union – and rugby league's the same. It's growing super-quick and with the help of sponsors and the NRL, it's going along gangbusters.

"Being on television and being talked about in the press is massive for the women's game. The exposure has been like gold."

THE NINES REVOLUTION

The introduction of a three-match series between the Ferns and Jillaroos for the 2015 Nines was unquestionably one of the watershed developments in women's rugby league history.

Both teams capitalised on the ready-made capacity Eden Park crowd and bumper TV audience, displaying physicality and skill that would have made even the most cynical supporter sit up and applaud.

The 2016 series – which New Zealand won 2-1 – produced some of the highest-quality and best-supported games of the weekend.

"We love playing the Nines, but we're all very passionate about the 13-a-side game," Bremner says, stressing the Test football is still the pinnacle.

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Bremner sees TV coverage of the annual women's State of Origin match as the next logical step.

"That's always a great game. It's a big week and a massive lead-up. The NSW girls are already in training and the (match being televised) would be another step forward."

The recent unveiling of plans for under-14s and 16s girls competitions in Sydney provides an invaluable pathway – particularly given that players like Bremner didn't have access to rugby league until their late-teens.

The ultimate goal, however, remains a fully-fledged domestic competition with links to NRL clubs in place.

"I really hope so, I can see it happening," Bremner says.

"We consider ourselves professional athletes in that we juggle a profession along with being an athlete. I'm excited to see how well we could go if our number one priority was training each day and coming together and playing, to see how good we could become if it was a full-time job for us.

"(But the NRL) look after us and it's clear that they are taking steps for us to become more professional."

ACROSS THE DITCH

Women's rugby league in New Zealand has enjoyed similar growth in the wake of the Nines' success. Playing numbers and interest have increased dramatically, while the Kiwi Ferns are just as passionate and committed as their Jillaroos rivals.

"Wearing the black jersey is an honour," Ferns skipper Sarina Fiso says.

"It's brought more players into the game. We're seeing young ones coming through the grades now, which is good."

Local competitions and tournaments are beginning to thrive, but the NZRL's tenuous revenue streams make funding difficult and Fiso recognises they are behind their neighbours in that regard.

"The Jillaroos are a good reminder of where we need to be when it comes to resources and facilities," she says.

Ferns five-eighth Georgia Hale, who was crowned MVP of the 2016 Nines series and Player of the Match in last week's Test, reiterated the surge in popularity the women's game has enjoyed in New Zealand.

"Seeing fans cheering for us and all the encouragement and support on social media has lifted our game," Hale says.

"It provides more purpose for younger girls to get involved, because we wouldn't be here without that. We're grateful for all the fans and the support we've got."

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

Soon after bursting onto the representative scene, Bremner picked up the moniker 'the Billy Slater of women's rugby league'.

It was certainly intended as praise, but Bremner – and many other shining stars – are carving out reputations of their own that don't need comparisons to NRL superstars.

Jillaroos front-row stalwart and regular captain Stephanie Hancock, who was ruled out of last week's Test with injury, is a legend of the game; replacement skipper Ruan Sims (sister of Ashton, Tariq and Korbin), and fellow back-rowers Kezie Apps and Kody House are industrious and hard-hitting; and Maddie Studdon and Allana Ferguson are both classy playmakers.

Fiso, Hale, Maitua Feterika and zippy halfback Kristina Sue are just some of the Ferns garnering rave reviews in New Zealand.

New stars are emerging every season, while the overall standard is improving at an extraordinary rate. But Bremner revealed the NRL competition still has a huge influence on the women's players.

"We watch the boys and want to play as well as them," she says.

Approaching NRL stars can be a hit-and-miss proposition for the average hack, but the Jillaroos and Ferns players are accommodating, enthusiastic and articulate, with an innate sense to promote the game and paint it in the best light.

"We haven't undergone any media training or anything like that," Bremner says.

"What it comes down to is that everyone is so passionate. When you get one on one to talk rugby league, everyone just speaks from their heart and that's why everyone is so easy to chat to and will tell you all about their journey and where they want to go (with) rugby league.

"You'll find that in every single player in the Jillaroos and Kiwi Ferns."

BIG LEAGUE

THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 12 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist LARA PITT 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

- In our special halves feature, where we profile the superstars in the NRL this weekend, former coach and commentator **Matt Elliott** says **Gareth Widdop** plays better without **Benji Marshall** by his side. "With Josh [McCrone] there, there's no questioning who's in charge," Elliott says. "I think [Widdop] is heading in a direction where he needs to become the dominant playmaker."

- He's one of the most reliable and capable players in the competition and **Jarrold Croker** is well on the way to smashing the NRL's point-scoring record. After toppling **David Furner** at the Raiders, the 25-year-old has his sights set on **Hazem El Masri's** game-wide points record.

- Size has become a talking point for both Origin teams, with Maroons centre **Dane Gagai** saying he's had to dramatically change his diet to stay strong as he's gone from running 6km per game at centre to 10km per game as custodian of the Knights. In NSW, there is concern surrounding whether **Matt Moylan** will be able to handle getting pummelled by Queensland – but **Laurie Daley** has no doubts that he'll excel at state level.

- Also, **Paul McGregor** sees big things for **Euan Aitken's** future; we spend a night watching **Rugby League: The Musical**; **Lara Pitt** combs through each team's chances through the Origin period and **Nathan Peats** wishes Parra the best.

PLUS... **Danny Levi** talks Harry Potter and we remember the Top 8 best Origin-depleted wins.

AND: Little League, lower grade previews and a Dane Gagai poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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At the New Plymouth Game



Dexter's brother and Rose Barnett with Shontayne Hape.



Gavin Hill the Warriors 1st signing in 1995 with Sir Peter.



Graham Parfitt from Auckland with Sir Peter.



Isaac Fraser talking to Sir Peter.



Joanne Courtney wins a spot prize of a Auckland Nines Jersey.



Kevin Miller wins a spot prize.



Rob Dawson wins a spot prize of a Warriors Scarf.



Shontayne Hape with Marlene Malcolm.



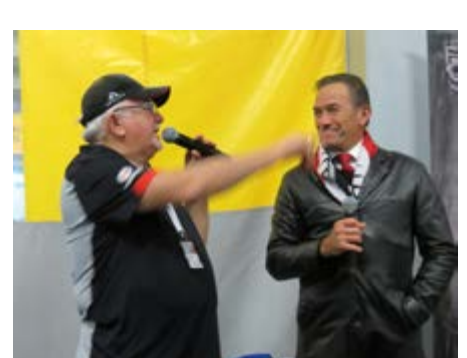
Shontayne Hape with Sir Peter.



Shontayne Hape talking to Simon Mannering and Matthew Allwood.



Sir Peter Leitch with Tania Clarke and her beautiful baby girl.



Sir Peter talking to Howie Tamati.

At the New Plymouth Game



Sir Peter with Jay Shawn.



Sir Peter, James Kirkman, Julian Kirkman and Jim Doyle.



Solomone Kata, M8 and Trevor.



Steve (Porky) Abraham from Waitara.



The Hawera Hawks and Raywne Neilson.




This young man interviewed Solomona Kata.



Tom Woollan with Sir Peter. Tom lives in Australia but travels to New Zealand to watch the Warriors.



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Elvis Presley
Private Museum**
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Taranaki,
New Zealand

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50's & 60's

Welcome to the
50's & 60's


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(Phone appointments only please)

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51 Argyle St, Hawera 4610
New Zealand

Entry by Donation

Kevin D Wasley has been an avid collector of Elvis records and memorabilia since 1959. Born in Hawera, painter and paperhanging contractor by trade, but his pride and joy is the Elvis Presley Museum.

Where we are...



Phone/Fax: (06) 278 7624
Mobile: 0274 982 942
Email: elvisroom@stra.co.nz
Web: www.elvismuseum.co.nz

If you're ever going through Hawera then check out the Elvis museum. Dexter and I popped in and were blown away. It's fantastic and if you're an Elvis fan then it's worth the trip down just to see it.

Check out the website: <http://elvismuseum.co.nz/>

On the Road with the Vodafone Warriors



Kiwi Fern Georgia Hale and Warrior Jeff Robson visit a young fan in hospital.



Kiwi Fern Georgia Hale, Warriors Solomon Kata and Jeff Robson with young fans at the signing.



Solomone Kata and with a really young fan at the signing.



Sir Peter and Solomone Kata at the Waitara Quiz night.



Warriors Fans at the Waitara RSA Bears quiz night. Corey Ahu, Hamiora McCloud, Joe Rainer and Dave Zimmerman.



At the Waitara RSA with Jerome Ropati, Solomone Kata, Georgia Hale and Jeff Robson for the Waitara Bears quiz night.



Jim Doyle and his lovely wife Joanne paid a visit to a legend Esme Tamati (93) who is the mother of Howie Tamati.



Just popped into see my mate Esme Tamaei still going STRONG at 93.



Warriors coach Andrew McFadden talks to Teri Tamati from the Waitara Bears Rugby League Club.



This tattoo is on Dennis Awa a true Vodafone warriors die hard fan great guy.



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On the Road with the Vodafone Warriors



Inside the Elvis Museum.



The kids at Hawera Primary School made this awesome poster to wish the Warriors good luck.



Jim Doyle popped into Waitara to congratulate Kay Meuli for her fantastic window display.



I loved this guys passion and his banner.



In the Sir Peter Leitch Lounge at Yarrow Stadium. Georgina, Hemi, Shontayne, Aaron, Corey, Dexter and Derek.



Great to catch up with Tom who comes over from Brisbane as well as staunch supporter Shaun.



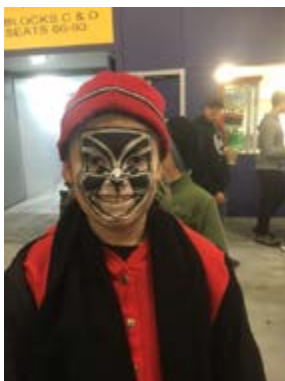
Great to meet Warrior fans Kirstie O'Neil and David Hunia.



Referees for Warriors Curtain Raiser Harley Wall, Tane Manu and Daniel Price. All top guys.



Representing Waitara! McClutchie, Solomon, Waiwiri! Keep the faith!.



Shanae Cameron went all out with the face paint.



The ball boys for the game at Yarrow Stadium were raring to go.



Can you believe the nuns made it to the game! The Australasian Premiere of Sister Act is coming to New Plymouth July 21 - August 6.

Sea Eagles on Top - Auckland Rugby League

PAPAKURA HAVE successfully defended the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster challenge trophy in their home game against Howick last weekend winning 26-12.

The Sea Eagles remain at the top of the table and are the only team without a loss in the Fox this season.

Richmond have been climbing their way to the top after upsetting premiership favourites Mt Albert and Glenora but were unable to pull one over the defending champions Pt Chevalier Pirates in the ARL Game of the Round.



The Pirates were first to put points on the board 5 minutes in, but the Bulldogs managed to get on top to lead at half-time 6-12.

The horrible weather conditions looked to be frustrating both sides, but Pt Chevalier held onto the ball to take home the 34-18 win.

The Bears started the season with a roar leading the competition for four weeks, but have since dropped behind the Sea Eagles and Pirates after falling to the Richmond Bulldogs and Mt Albert Lions.

Glenora have the chance to turn that around this weekend with a victory over Pt Chevalier at Harold Moody Park on Saturday.

Richmond have the chance to bounce back from their loss last week as they take on the current leaders Papakura at Grey Lynn Park.

Meanwhile, Otahuhu - the only team in history to have ever played in the Fox - are in danger of dropping down to the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup following another loss, going down 36-8 to Northcote and sitting at the bottom of the table.

Out south, Otahuhu will host Marist at Bert Henham Park while Mt Albert travel to Walter Massey Park to take on Mangere East.

The Hornets will look to get their sting back when they play Northcote at Paparoa Park.

SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 7 results:

Northcote 36 Otahuhu 8
Mount Albert 30 Marist 28
Papakura 26 Howick 12
Pt Chevalier 34 Richmond 18
Mangere East 24 Glenora 36

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 7 results:

Papatoetoe 4 Ellerslie 38
East Coast Bays 12 Te Atatu 28
Manukau 26 Ponsonby 42
Otara 38 Manurewa 14
Waitemata 22 Glenfield 8
Mt Wellington 14 Hibiscus Coast 20
Pakuranga 6 Bay Roskill 48
New Lynn BYE

SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 8 Fixtures (Saturday May 28)

Otahuhu v Marist @ Bert Henham Park 2.30pm
Mangere East v Mt Albert @ Walter Massey Park 2.30pm
Glenora v Pt Chevalier @ Harold Moody Park 2.30pm
Richmond v Papakura @ Grey Lynn Park 2.30pm
Howick v Northcote @ Paparoa Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 8 Fixtures (Saturday May 28)

Bay Roskill v Ponsonby @ Blockhouse Bay 2.30pm
Pakuranga v Ellerslie @ Ti Rakau Park 2.30pm
Glenfield v Manukau @ Sunnynook Park 2.30pm
Papatoetoe v Otara @ Kohuora Park 2.30pm
Te Atatu v Waitemata @ Jack Colvin Park 2.30pm
Hibiscus v Manurewa @ Stanmore Bay 2.30pm
New Lynn v East Coast Bays @ Lawson Park 2.30pm
Mt Wellington BYE

Daley Names NSW VB Blues Squad

NSW VB BLUES coach Laurie Daley has today named five debutants in a 19-man squad for Game One of the 2016 Holden State of Origin series at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on Wednesday week (1 June).

The NSW Minister for Sport, the Hon. Stuart Ayres MP, announced the 19-man squad at an official lunch at The Star's 24/7 Sports Bar.

The debutants are Tyson Frizell (Dragons), Josh Mansour and Matt Moylan (Panthers), Adam Reynolds (Rabbitohs) and Dylan Walker (Sea Eagles), An additional development player, Bryce Cartwright (Panthers) was also named.

Daley is yet to finalise positions and starting line-up with the squad announced in alphabetical order as follows:

Name - NRL Club

Greg Bird - Gold Coast Titans	James Maloney - Cronulla Sharks
Boyd Cordner - Sydney Roosters	Josh Mansour - Penrith Panthers
Josh Dugan - St George Illawarra Dragons	Josh Morris - Canterbury Bulldogs
Robbie Farah - Wests Tigers	Matt Moylan - Penrith Panthers
Blake Ferguson - Sydney Roosters	Adam Reynolds - South Sydney Rabbitohs
Andrew Fifita - Cronulla Sharks	James Tamou - North Queensland Cowboys
Tyson Frizell - St George Illawarra Dragons	Dylan Walker - Manly Sea Eagles
Paul Gallen(c) - Cronulla Sharks	Aaron Woods - Wests Tigers
Josh Jackson - Canterbury Bulldogs	DEVELOPMENT PLAYER
Michael Jennings - Parramatta Eels	Bryce Cartwright - Penrith Panthers
David Klemmer - Canterbury Bulldogs	

Holden State of Origin I Match Officials

REFEREEES ELITE Performance Manager Tony Archer said Sutton and Cummins deserved to referee the opening Origin match following their performances through the opening rounds of the Telstra Premiership, as well as their partnership in all three State of Origins in 2015.

“They have been the two leading referees in the NRL competition and deserve their selections,” Mr Archer said.

“This will be Ben’s 12th Origin appearance and Gerard’s 5th. They handled last year’s series really well and will be supported by two in-form and experienced touch judges. I am confident all officials will perform well next Wednesday night.”

The match officials for the opening Holden State of Origin match, on June 1, are:

Referee: Gerard Sutton
Assist Referee: Ben Cummins
Touch Judges: Nick Beashel, Jeff Younis
Senior Review Official: Bernard Sutton
Review Officials: Luke Patten, Ashley Klein
Standby Referee: Gavin Badger
Standby Touch Judge: Michael Wise



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4th Prize - \$1000 fuel vouchers

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15-24th prizes - \$100 grocery vouchers

Drawn under police supervision on 1st June 2016. Winners will be contacted, published in the Press Newspaper 3rd June and on the Papanui Tigers Facebook page.

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