

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

15th June 2016

## Newsletter #126

### Vodafone Warriors Win Against Knights



Bodene Thompson goes in to score through Mitch Barnett.



Danny Levi tackles Simon Mannering.



David Fusitu'a beats Jake Mamo.



David Fusitu'a dives over for the try.



David Fusitu'a scores.



Issac Luke runs out for his 200th NRL game.



Issac Luke takes on Dane Gagai.



Jacob Lillyman tackled. Jacob has just been recalled to play for QLD in the State of Origin Game 2 in Brisbane. We wish him all the best.



Simon Mannering tackled by Danny Levi.

# Nothing to Complain About

## By David Kemeys



**I**F YOU are only going to go about putting 50 points on sides, what the hell I am going to complain about? Sure the Newcastle Knights are not exactly firing, but we have all been fans long enough to know this is the sort of the game we used to cock-up, especially when, as we were, we were coming off the back of a good win the week before.

So it was an absolute delight that we won a game we bloody-well should of.

And did we, or did we not, win with a display that was pretty ruthless?

Having said that, I had a sinking nervous feeling going into halftime that if we let the Knights score first, we might give them the shot in the arm they so badly needed.

Turned out it was all one-way traffic in the second spell, particularly down David Fusitu'a's side.

Let's face it, it was far from perfect, but only a week ago people were screaming "win ugly" – just win. Now it's like we are world beaters again.

I have said it before, the roller-coaster ride that is supporting the Penrose mob frequently threatens to derail, so we should learn to enjoy it while we can.

Dealing to the last-placed Knights 50-14 has us in nibbling distance of the eight, so it's critical the momentum is retained with a win over the hapless Roosters this weekend at Mt Smart.

I will be delighted if the luck goes our way again this week.

On Saturday four of our nine tries came from repeat sets after Shaun Johnson kicked the ball into Knights defenders.

But no side sticks 50 points on another by luck, although coach Andrew McFadden admitted we have been getting the rub of the green lately. To which I can only add, about bloody time, because normally if it weren't for bad luck we would not have any luck at all.

"When you're competing hard, you make your luck - that's what we believe and that's what we're doing at the moment. The bounce of the ball sometimes goes with you, and sometimes it goes against you, and we've probably been getting a bit of luck lately."

If we can't be talented, injury-free, free-flowing, explosive, clinical, ruthless – I'll take lucky.

And because my computer screen is almost smoking that I have nothing to whinge about, I'll throw in a little one.

I am a huge Manu Vatuvei fan. Yes I know he has not covered himself in glory lately but we just do not look the same without him. His ball-carrying ability, particularly coming out of the defensive end, is remarkable.

So to see him with ice taped to his hamstring and hear that he might be again out for some time is a sickener. Now Cappy has to decide, assuming Manu is out, who to put in.

After getting four tries, Fusitu'a is not going anywhere pretty obviously.

So we are left with the Jonathan Wright or Ken Maumalo question again.

Nice to see he has done the right thing.

And great news for stalwart Jacob Lillyman, called in for the State of Origin. The Bull has been in good nick lately and it's just reward for the popular front rower.

### **Spare A Thought For The Knights**

**H**OW TOUGH must it be to be a Knights fan? They are getting flogged, they have a player roster with all sorts of holes in it, injuries have not helped and yet the fans continue to turn out to support them.

They are rock bottom and dead certs for the wooden spoon – barring some kind of miracle.

Knights coach Nathan Brown said the 50/50 plays against us were the difference.

“It's been that kind of time for us. Two of their tries were ricochets that landed back in their arms. We are an inexperienced team that's growing and obviously the personnel we chose to bring in have got to be people who can help take us forward.”

I hope so, because fans like theirs deserve something to cheer about.

### **Sam The Man Back On Song**

Sam Ackerman used to be the sports guy on TV3 and I saw his name pop up on Newshub at the weekend. What he had to say made interesting reading.

He cautioned – and who wouldn't – that the Warriors need to use the killer instinct we saw in the second 40 in particular more regularly.

“After an eye catching performance against the Broncos last weekend, nothing less than victory was acceptable and if we're honest, there were shaky signs in the first half at Hunter Stadium,” he wrote.

The guy must be a genius, because I agree with him.

“But the Warriors response showed this is a team starting to overcome the mental fragility that's plagued their recent seasons. They took their chances when they came and when they found something that worked, they didn't deviate.”

### **If You Find A Weakness, Exploit It**

David Fusitu'a is getting all sorts of plaudits for his performance against the Knights. I can't remember the last time I saw a Warrior get a haul of tries like it.

But what was most pleasing was that Shaun Johnson clearly identified a deficiency in the defence, and went to it time and time again, and Fusitu'a was the beneficiary.

Why go left when the right defends like a revolving door?

Sides at the top do exactly that. Set a game-plan that exploits the opposition's weaknesses, so it was a pleasure to at last see us do exactly that.

### **Go The Full 80**

Another tick for McFadden. Taking Shaun Johnson off when he had a little niggle, when the game was in the bag, when there was no way back for the Knights, was sensible and entirely the right thing to do.

But it was great that the side did not go into its shell when the talisman was off the park.

When Johnson came off it would have been easy to shut up shop, instead we played to the end.

Count them – that is 16 tries in a fortnight.

That sort of strike rate would boost the confidence of any side, and rightly so.

Just as importantly, we did not give up a second half point.

One thing we are always accused of is that we do not deliver against sides that we should beat, but we passed that test on Saturday with flying colours.

### **Job Done, But...**

Yes we go well in the Origin period, and yes beating Newcastle was something we should have been able to do. But the win meant it was only the second time this year we have won back to back.

With the Knights bottom of the table, we were expected to win, but we clearly remain a long way off the pace.

Letting the Knights hang around for so long, is not something you would think Melbourne or the Sharks would let happen.

And I thought the performance the week before against Brisbane, which too many wrote off as nothing much, with the Broncos backing up from Origin, was actually better.

Our first 40 minutes lacked discipline certainly, but the second period was one-way traffic.

And just as we dodged bullets against the Broncos with forward passes ruling out two Brisbane tries, how different could it have been if the Knights had not bombed a try early in the second half?

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McFadden is in my camp on this one. "I don't know if it was any better performance but it was a step forward in that we backed up," he said. "We were patchy in the first half, but the second was solid. If we had of given them anything after halftime they might of found something. But we did a good job to shut them out, we scored some points and then we showed some defensive urgency."

### **Glory Snatched Away**

Take a bow Albert Vete. Normally a prop grabbing a double would get the headlines, but big Albert did it on a weekend when Fusitu'a was touching down for fun.

Vete was the best prop on show – and that is saying something when Matulino at last looked like he remembered the way forward, Lillyman was solid, and Lisone held nothing back off the bench.

You did not need the lights on at our place when Albert went over, because his smile lit up the room.

### **Milestone For Issac**

Issac Luke has been much maligned since crossing the Tasman from Souths and putting on our jersey. But he was prominent in his 200th NRL match.

Not many make that milestone, so I was delighted when he was energetic around the park, excellent from dummy-half and generally sound all round.

I am one of those who think much of the criticism he has copped was undeserved, so credit where it is due – 200 is a hell of a milestone, and it is great to see him getting back to his best.

### **Love The Gubb**

I was chuffed to see Charlie Gubb recognised in the papers over the weekend as the new cult hero.

Charlie might well not be the finished article but he is the type of player the fans love, and rightly so, because he plays without fear, wears his heart on his sleeve, gives his all and is as touch as teak.

At 26 the boy from Wellington has a good career ahead of him and I for one will not be disappointed if he has it at Mt Smart because he keeps playing the way he does.

Charlie wants a starting spot, but even as a confirmed member of his fan club, he is probably a way off that.

"It's a goal of mine. I'd like to get to playing consistently around that 40-minute mark. That will happen when Cappy trusts me with more minutes."

### **History Happens As Clubs Hit 10,000 Mark**

The NRL says for the first time in history, all NRL clubs have secured more than 10,000 members.

And nine of 16 clubs have registered record membership numbers, making 2016 the most successful membership season in history.

The Titans were the last club to reach the milestone after their strong run, which has seen them in the top eight at the half way mark of the competition.

### **France Expands Top League**

Our game is growing. The 2016-17 season will see the French domestic competition increase to 20 clubs, with 11 in Elite 1 being joined by nine in Elite 2.

### **Country Take Ontario Origin Series**

And in Canada Country have wrapped up the three-game Ontario Origin series with a 30-12 win.

### **Jounieh Victorious**

And even in the Middle East, Jounieh Hummingbirds coach Ghassan Dandach has claimed his side's 20-6 win over AUB, in the first-ever women's league encounter in the Middle East, a landmark for the sport in the region.

### **Bring On The Roosters**

The struggling Roosters are up next at Mt Smart, giving us a really good chance to make it three from three. But yet again it is the classic Warriors banana skin game.

We will be expected to win, with the Roosters belted by Melbourne, and our confidence on a high.

How often have we been here and trudged out of Mt Smart with our tails between our legs?

### **SOME FACTS ABOUT DIABETES**

- An estimated 260,000 New Zealanders have diabetes
- Nearly 40 people per day are diagnosed with diabetes
- 1 in 4 New Zealanders have prediabetes
- More information can be found at [www.diabetes.org.nz](http://www.diabetes.org.nz) or [www.diabetesauckland.org.nz](http://www.diabetesauckland.org.nz)



# menshealthweek

TE WIKI HAUORA TĀNE 2016



This Men's Health Week, I'm asking all Kiwi blokes to go to the Men's Health Week website and find out their [Men's Health score](#). It's all about prevention. We want NZ men to be around for their families and whanau for as long as feasibly possible and simple lifestyle changes can make a massive difference.

A lot of amazing men have thrown their weight into Men's Health Week to let other guys know that it's good for families to take your health seriously and get on to seeing a doctor or whoever you need to see if you know something is not right. Don't leave it. Get on it if not for you, do it for your family.

This Men's Health Week the spotlight is on diabetes. 40 New Zealanders are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes every single day. It's far too

many. And we can change it.

When you think that some of us are more likely to develop Type 2 it's even more important to take small steps to get a better life. If you know you are not eating right, sort it out and get it right. And if you can't because we all have times in our lives when things get a bit busy and crazy, think about taking a multi-vitamin, but don't let it ride.

Maori and Pacifica are three times more likely to develop diabetes and Kiwi's from South Asia and the Middle East are more prone to develop it too. Little changes like healthy food choices and 30 minutes exercise every day can make a big difference.

Challenge your mates to find out their score. The lower the better so see if you can beat it!

## FREE HEALTH CHECK

Get into your nearest Unichem or Life Pharmacy to get your free Men's Health Pit Stop Check. Just like a car needs regular servicing, our bodies need an annual warrant of fitness, and men can talk to their local pharmacist about which screening tools are appropriate and have their blood pressure taken.



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*By John Coffey QSM*

## Jeremy Smith: No Pain, No Gain

*Jeremy Smith on the run. Four Nations Rugby League Double Header. Kiwis v Kangaroos, Eden Park. Saturday 6 November 2010 Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**J**EREMY SMITH has been doing it tough in the closing stages of his illustrious rugby league career. The former New Zealand loose forward has been co-captain of the Newcastle Knights as they have staggered from one loss to another. Most of his team-mates are terribly inexperienced, pushed into first-grade football by circumstances, clearly ahead of their time.

But doing things the hard way is nothing new for the 36-year-old Smith, the oldest player in the NRL. Not for him an easy path to sporting recognition and ultimate greatness. Smith was 24 before making his debut late in the 2004 season and, despite scoring a try on debut, he was promptly sent back to second-tier football for 2005 before finally establishing himself at 26.

Born in Christchurch, the son of Canterbury loose forward Mike Smith, Jeremy played for Woolston and Sydenham before moving to Australia with his family at the age of 13. From Altona Roosters junior club in Melbourne he moved to Queensland and the Runaway Bay Seagulls. In 2002 he attracted the attention of the Northern Eagles, the ill-fated amalgamation of Manly and North Sydney, but that came to nothing and he returned to Brisbane.

Smith was Player of the Year for Brisbane Norths, the Melbourne Storm feeder club, in 2004, leading into his first brief NRL experience. The Storm did not call him up again until 2006. This time they recognised his talents and tenacity, and Smith played in the next three grand finals, the loss to Brisbane in 2006, victory over Manly in 2007 and loss to Manly in 2008.

In 2007 the Kiwis teams which played Australia at Wellington and then toured Britain and France included two players named Jeremy Smith, causing considerable confusion. But the Melbourne one (Jeremy Jon Oscar Smith) lasted much longer than his namesake, the Parramatta scrum-half (Jeremy James Smith), who moved to British club Salford a year later.

Meanwhile, Jeremy Smith (Kiwi number 742) earned a permanent place in the Kiwis pack through to 2012. His tenure would have extended beyond that but for injuries and his non-availability for the 2013 World Cup so he could stay home with his wife and prematurely born baby. Smith therefore was not accorded a celebrated departure from the international scene, something he thoroughly deserved.

Kiwis fans who were at Suncorp Stadium on that pulsating night in November 2008 will recall it was Smith who led the exhilarating comeback in the World Cup final. Down by 10 points, the Kiwis finally worked into an attacking position and Smith carried and dragged Australian defenders to score one of the most important tries in NZRL history, sparking an eventual 34-20 triumph.

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Even after only a handful of Tests, Smith was recognised by Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney as a senior member of his squad. Smith captained the Kiwis against Tonga at Auckland in a lead-up game to the World Cup, and went on to play a leading role in the 2010 Four Nations success. The 2012 Anzac fixture at Auckland proved to be the last of his 23 Test appearances.

Smith was twice named NZRL Player of the Year, in recognition of his efforts at the 2008 World Cup and 2011 Four Nations. It was to the credit of Kearney and his selectors that they were prepared to look beyond the more flashy types and give the most prestigious individual award to a true work horse. In the days when footy jerseys had sleeves Smith would have been first to roll his up.

Another smart judge also learned to appreciate Smith. When Wayne Bennett, who had been involved with the 2008 Kiwis, joined St George Illawarra in 2009 the coaching guru lured Smith away from Melbourne, and they celebrated together after the Dragons won the 2010 grand final. When Bennett was at Newcastle in 2013 he again signed Smith, this time from Cronulla, to bolster his squad.

Only two other New Zealanders, Brent Todd (Canberra) and Steve Matai (Manly) have also appeared in four grand finals. They, like Smith, have twice tasted victory. Despite his late start, Smith has exceeded 200 NRL games for the Storm, Dragons, Sharks and Knights, and added another representative notch with the NRL All Stars in 2015. He recently announced this season will be his last.



*2012 New Zealand Rugby League Kiwi Player of the Year Jeremy Smith.*

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# VODAFONE WARRIORS

# SYDNEY ROOSTERS



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# Scott Electrical Premiership

## Round 10

By Ben Francis



**A TOP FOUR** battle between the Otangarei Knights and Moerewa Tigers took place over the weekend in the latest round of the Scott Electrical Premiership. After coming off the bye round due to the Town v Country game both teams were keen to get the early upper hand and make a push for a top two finish. After conceding two early tries, the Tigers kept applying pressure and scored two late tries themselves to lead 10-8 at the break. Otangarei responded by scoring three very quick tries to lead 22-10. However they failed to hold onto the lead as the Tigers scored two late tries to tie the game at 22 all. Neither side managed to grab a winner as the thrilling game ended in a draw. Both sides have been rattled with numerous injuries this season and played the game with 13 players each.

In another exciting match over the weekend, the Takahiwai Warriors continued their dominance this season after beating the Portland Panthers 38-22. The Panthers scored the opening try of the match, but never had the lead again as the Warriors end up 18-4 at the break. Portland muscled up in the second half but were unable to string a comeback as the Warriors won by 16 points. The win meant the Warriors also retain the Pitman Cup which is contested every time both sides play one another.

In the other match the Northern Wairoa Bulls claimed win number three this season after a comfortable 36-12 win over the Horahora Broncos.

Takahiwai remains at the top of the table, followed by Moerewa who are one competition point behind. Otangarei and Hokianga round out the top four followed by Portland, Northern Wairoa and Horahora.

Round 11 action will see Moerewa host Horahora, Otangarei will play Hokianga and Northern Wairoa will travel to Portland. Moerewa V Horahora will kick off at 1pm while the other two games kick off at 2:30pm on Saturday 18th June.

## Injuries

By Barry Ross



**I**NJURIES, OR the lack of them, have always played a major role in which teams win Premierships, State of Origins and Test matches. This is especially true in the long grind of an NRL season. If a club can continue to field its best side, or close to it, week after week, they will have a good chance of featuring in the end of season play-off matches.

There was an interesting article in Monday's Sydney Morning Herald about the Cronulla Sharks and the number of players they have used this year. Before their Monday night clash at Shark Park with the North Queensland Cowboys, Cronulla had used just 19 players in first grade in 2016, including 11 who have played in all 12 games up to that stage. Nothing changed after their excellent 13-10 win over the Cowboys and they still have used just the 19 players. It was an excellent team win against last year's Premiers, with their defence outstanding. In the 30th minute Valentine Holmes showed just what a talent he is with a brilliant solo 90 metre try. After taking an intercept 10 metres out from his own line, he still had plenty to do. He fooled Cowboys fullback Lachlan Coote with two changes of direction and then outpaced the fullback and a couple of other Cowboy defenders in the race to the try line. Sharks second rower Wade Graham was everywhere and fully deserved his NSW selection for Origin Two. But before making his Origin debut he will have an anxious time waiting for the result of his reported high tackle on Johnathan Thurston about 10 minutes from the end of the game. Cronulla centre Jack Bird was also impressive and he was named as a NSW Development player for Origin Two. Bird's time is very close. The win over the Cowboys was Cronulla's 10th successive victory this season. They have a bye this weekend and meet the Warriors in their next match at Shark Park at 5.30pm on Saturday 25 June.

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If the Sharks can continue at this low level of player usage, it is another reason to confirm their standing as a genuine Premiership chance for 2016. Before Monday's game, North Queensland had used 22 players, while the Warriors and the Newcastle Knights, have used 31 men.

Obviously how teams and coaches react to the loss of key men has a lot to do with winning and losing games. Roger Tuivasa-Sheck's injury in the 24-20 win over the Bulldogs at Wellington on 9 April was a huge loss for the Warriors but so far so good. Tuimoala Lolohea has generally done a good job at the back and at 21 years of age, has a lot of improvement in front of him. He has now played 38 first grade games and scored 88 points (14 tries, 16 goals) in these games. One of Tuimoala's most pleasing stats is his try assists number. This season it is seven so far, while last year, it was eight.

David Fusitu'a did play one game at fullback- in the 26-10 win over St. George/Illawarra at Mt. Smart on 1 May. That must have prepared him for his four tries against the Knights last Saturday. He now has seven tries from his seven games this year and a total of 16 tries in his 22 top grade games.

Congratulations to Issac Luke for reaching the 200 first grade game mark and to Jacob Lillyman for being recalled to the Queensland State of Origin side. To reach 200 NRL games is an excellent achievement and 29 year old Issac has plenty more to play. In these 200 matches, he has scored 39 tries and 137 goals for a total of 430 points. Jacob will be playing his 12th Origin game for Queensland when he runs on to Suncorp Stadium next week, on Wednesday 22 June. He will be looking for his first try at this level and will have the chance to play in his sixth Origin winning series with Queensland. Now 32, Jacob played his first Origin game at Suncorp more than 10 years ago, on 14 June 2006 in Queensland's 30-6 victory. In his 220th NRL match at Newcastle on Saturday, he caught Queensland coach Kevin Walters' eye with his 157 running metres from 17 runs, plus a try assist in his 50 minutes on the field.

Look out for Shaun Johnson to reach the 100 point mark for the 2016 season at Mt. Smart on Sunday against the Roosters. Shaun now has 94 points this year from seven tries and 33 goals, while he has a goal kicking success rate of 75 percent. The Roosters will want to atone from their terrible effort at home in Sydney on Saturday night when they were belted 46-0 by the Storm. I don't expect them to capitulate so easily at Mt. Smart and no doubt Andrew McFadden feels the same. But if they play as well as they have in their last two games, the Warriors will collect their third successive win.

Congratulations to Stacey Jones and the Warriors Intrust Super Premiership team, who are now leading their competition. Their 34-32 win over Newcastle on Saturday was much tighter than expected and with both sides picking up six tries, the Warriors got home on goalkicking. They meet the third placed Newtown Jets this Saturday afternoon at Sydney's Henson Park.



**Tickets available for Holden State of Origin in Brisbane**

Only a handful of tickets remain for the second Holden State of Origin game in Brisbane next Wednesday night.

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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 15

		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 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>
17/06 - ANZ	Rabbitohs v Eels	Eels	Rabbitohs	Eels	Rabbitohs	Eels	Eels	Rabbitohs
18/06 - WIN	Dragons v Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Storm	Dragons	Dragons	Dragons
19/06 - Mt Smart	Warriors v Roosters	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
20/06 - CBUS	Ttians v Sea Eagles	Titans	Titans	Titans	Sea Eagles	Titans	Titans	Ttians
22/06 - Suncorp	Maroons v Blues	Blues	Blues	Maroons	Blues	Maroons	Maroons	Maroons
14/06 - Hamilton	Chiefs v Wales	Wales	Wales	Chiefs	Wales	Chiefs	Chiefs	Chiefs
18/06 - Melbourne	Australia v England	England	Australia	England	England	Australia	Australia	England

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

Picks last week	6/8	6/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	7/8	6/8
Total picks	59/108	62/108	67/108	65/108	66/108	72/108	73/108

I'LL GIVE ya the tip mate, writing this stuff is a lot easier when the mighty Warriors go like good things. In my book "on a roll" don't start till around 3 or 4 wins but we are definitely looking a much better outfit with the go forward happening and the attack weapons doing the business off the back of it. Tommygun Leuluais dad James was also a Kiwi and well known as "The Finisher" in his day...you might say the Flying 4 Try Fusitua wears that title now, on the other hand the experienced Thomas is perhaps "The Starter" of many of the Warriors offensive moves. Much maligned Magic Johnson is doing his best to silence the social media rednecks and young guns Vette, Lissone and Gubb continue to spark their more established team-mates. Cappy getting close to a smile with a couple of easier nites in the sleep-sack. We need to bar up again for the Roosters raid on the Penrose House of Pain, 5pm Sunday nite, be there or be square. Bennetts Broncos got back on the horse downing the Raiders 26/18. Bustling busy Boyd made his 3 touchdowns look easy. Talking Fullbacks none was better than the Munster monster...the Storm custodian who just gets better each week. A virtually unstoppable attacker, tough on defence and fearless in the air...message to Billy Slater don't come back in a hurry you might get be disappointed. I am not joking. A "good as it gets" Storm performance destroyed the scratchy Roosters 46 to zippo. The Westie Tigers surprised a few with a clear cleanout of the restless Rabbitohs 30/14, all those learned Talkback Text and twitter types who have been bagging Shaun Johnson might switch to Greg Inglis now as he is looking off the pace for the backward Bunnies. The under the pump Eels notched up a second W sliding past the Titans 22/12. Talented pivot Norman is the last man standing so to speak with Foran, Mannah and Takarangi off the grid the Parra fortunes rest largely on the shoulders of Corey and hardman enforcer Beau Scott. Still can be handy but weighed down by the heavy penalty burden and an unpromising future in 2016.

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Comeback of the year by Peachey and the pugnacious Panthers...20 points in arrears early in the second half they put the hammer down rattling up 27 points unanswered. Ivan Cleary's boy starting to shine in the halves. Manly coach Barrett put on a show for the TV audience throwing the toys all over the Eagles viewing box. Not quite up to the standard of Bellamy or Hasler but getting there. Mondays doubleheader was highlighted by the huge arm-wrestle between Gallens gallant Sharks and JT's sharpshooting Cowboys. The boys from the Shire making it an impressive 10 in a row (now that's a roll!) with a tight 13/10 victory. Anyone who doubted Cronulla's Big Dance aspirations is looking harder at them now. To be fair the slight difference between the teams was probably down to the home crowd advantage and Valentine Holmes intercept try from his own line. This was the against the run of play turning point...had he miss-handled it was 4 or 6 points the other way and probably the opposite outcome. In the opening match the Bulldogs had too much going on for the hard working Dragons 34/16 at the death knell.

TippinTalk: Wily Bill Hayward just one off perfect this week with a well taken 7. Super Sue coming up trumps with her first 6 alongside Big Joe and yours truly Hot-tip Holloway. Solid punts all round really with Montz, JC and the Flying Dutchman right there on 5's.

## A Thrilling Win By Shontayne Hape



**A**FTER A thrilling win on the road against the Knights, the Vodafone Warriors are back at our spiritual home, Mt Smart Stadium, this week and preparing for a clash against the Sydney Roosters.

Having won our last two games, it would be fair to say the mood around Vodafone Warriors HQ has lifted massively in recent weeks.

It feels good to finally be knocking on the top eight and we are confident this is the start of something quite special.

The Roosters have had a tough season so far but we certainly aren't underestimating how tough they'll be.

They have class all over the field and the Vodafone Warriors will have to be on top of their game to get the job done this Sunday night.

Adding to the sense of the occasion is the fact the boys will be wearing a special heritage jersey this weekend in honour of our 2002 season in which the club went all the way to the grand final.

I was at the club back then and played in our season-opening game before seriously injuring my knee. I didn't play again that year but it was still great to be part of the club as we made history.

Funnily enough, the jersey we wore that year is still one of my favourites and I've got my original one safely tucked away at home.

On the membership front, things are also progressing well.

We've released a new three-game reserved seat membership this week and sales have been great.

It's fantastic to see that in spite of what has been a mixed season thus far, fans are still throwing their support behind us and joining our tribe.

We're quietly hopeful that faith will soon be repaid with more on-field performances right from the top shelf, starting on Sunday night against the Roosters.

Go the mighty Vodafone Warriors. See you on game day.



By John Deaker

## Motu Tony on Top

Former Warrior and Kiwi  
Motu Tony is now the  
Manager of Hull FC  
in the UK

*Motu Tony on the attack. Warriors v Canberra Raiders. 22nd June, 2003.  
Ericsson Stadium. Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**P**ERSEVERANCE AND patience are paying off for former Kiwi Motu Tony in his third year as the General Manager of Football at Hull FC. The club is top-of-the-table currently, in stark contrast to the eleventh and eighth placings the team obtained in his first two years with the club.

Tony knew plenty had to change when he took on the role at the club where he'd played 109 matches between 2005 and 2009. The position he'd been given by the owner ( who's also the Chairman ) at Hull FC luckily enabled him to make significant changes on and off the field which have particularly included signing many New Zealand players.

"I run half of the business which is the rugby side of it and I have a colleague who runs the office. So the two of us run the club and answer to the Chairman," he says.

"I'm fortunate I've been given a lot of responsibility but obviously with that comes a high level of accountability. But I like the challenge. It's very similar to being a professional athlete in many respects."

Moving into management ( rather than coaching ) was always the goal for Tony. In 2014 the timing of the approach from Hull FC came close to him finishing off his Masters in Business Administration at Huddersfield University. Turning round a club that he'd played 100 games for and knew the culture of was a great opportunity for him but one that he was always unlikely to get overnight results from.

"I think people just see this year and think they're going well this year but it's been a two and a half year process," he says.

"I've been in this job for three years in August and we inherited a roster that was lacking in quality and with the salary cap wasn't balanced. We identified some guys we wanted to bring in a few years ago and some of them only arrived on our doorstep pre-season."

Still only 35, it was his vast experiences as a player that Tony has been able to draw strength from during the tough initial years he's encountered.

"I'd been fortunate to be part of the first Warriors team to make the playoffs and then make a Grand Final," he reflects.

"I was also in the Kiwis team that beat Australia in a test series and the Tri-Nations final. And then I was fortunate also to be at Hull when they won the Challenge Cup and made it to the Super League Grand Final. So I'd been part of teams that had achieved things that hadn't been done before, or hadn't been done in a long time. So I knew that if you got the right people in place then great things can happen."

*Continued on next page...*

*Continued from previous page...*

New Zealanders Frank Pritchard, Sika Manu and Carlos Tuimavave have been key signings to join the club this season and make big impacts. Iafeta Paleaaesina is also another Kiwi playing at the club and working part-time as the Player Welfare Manager – a role he's likely to take on in a fulltime capacity when he hangs up his boots.

Tony says the club suits Kiwis because they can relate well to the club and the surrounding working class area. It was just last year that former Kiwi James Leuluai was inducted into Hull FC's Hall of Fame, joining fellow Kiwis Gary Kemble and Richard Swain.

Family is important to the Hull FC club and Tony says the support network of having other Kiwis around when you're based on the other side of the world is invaluable. Tony has a big family of his own to care for too: three daughters and two sons. His eldest child ( his 11 year-old son) is the only one to be born in New Zealand and arrived the week of the test against North Harbour Stadium against Australia in 2004.

Tony says his first-born loves the NRL and is fortunate to have a lot more size than Motu had coming through the grades. He's off to a rugby league high school at the end of the year so is getting every chance to follow in his father's footsteps.

As for Tony, he's not getting ahead of himself and is still coming to grips with the foreign feeling of being the top-dog getting chased by the pack.

"We were flying under the radar but now we've been top for the last 3 weeks. It's all coming together now and I'm just enjoying the ride."

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By John Deaker

## David Faiumu's Made Sacrifices To Secure A Better Life After League

*David Faiumu in action during the ANZAC international rugby league match between the Kiwis and Australia. Friday 20 April 2007. Photo courtesy [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**R**UGBY LEAGUE players are getting better at planning for life after football. Former Kiwi David Faiumu is one of many recently retired players that has had the foresight to study or gain work experience while they're still playing league, making their transition in to the 'real world' much easier. A Bachelor of Science was Faiumu's choice of study that initially helped him get work at the Huddersfield club when he hung up his boots in 2014.

Faiumu's desire to be back in New Zealand closer to his Wellington-based mother led to him applying for work in Hamilton this year. He's six weeks into that role as Kiwi Sport Rugby League Officer for the Waikato region where he's relishing the chance to continue working in the sport that he's passionate about and believes he can make a difference.

"I've managed to get into a lot of schools and most of the clubs around the region where I attend the Tuesday and Thursday trainings for 6 year olds right up to the under 18's," he says.

"I've been well received. It's about laying down the foundation. Also we have an Energizer team that's already reached out to schools and run programs on things like nutrition so that's been very helpful to have those connections built already."

To be guaranteed of work back in New Zealand Faiumu has had to spend a long period away from his family in 2016 while the English school year finishes.

"My partner works at my kids' school and the school year finishes in mid-July. Then they're all going

straight to Wellington to spend time with my mum. If some work opens up for me down there in Wellington I'll put my hand up for it."

Being back in New Zealand has provided better hours for Faiumu to watch the NRL where he played 76 games for North Queensland between 2004 and 2008. He watched more of the NRL than the Super League while he lived in England and was thrilled with the Cowboys winning their first Premiership last year. Only a few players like Jonathon Thurston, Matt Scott and Scott Bolten remained at the club from his time there but there's also many people he knows that retain strong ties to the club.

"I still love the North Queensland club and have lifelong friends there... many of them are still involved in some capacity whether it's the strength and conditioning or the managerial side of the club. So I was stoked for them. We were in the North of England screaming and crying - my partner is from Rockhampton and both my daughters were born in Queensland too."

Faiumu has enjoyed the success of the Queensland Maroons in recent years and there's also one other NRL team he's keen to see success from on his return to New Zealand.

"Yes, I've always been a Warriors supporter since I was kid," he admits.

# Vodafone Warriors NSW Team On a Roll...

**T**HE STACEY Jones coached Vodafone Warriors Intrust Super Premiership NSW team have continued their winning streak making it seven straight victories after they nervously held out the Newcastle Knights over the weekend.

With tries to Jeff Robson, Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad, Shaun Lane, Mason Lino, Man of the Match Ata Hingano and James Bell secured the 34-32 victory. Ultimately goal-kicking was the difference with the Warriors converting five of their six tries. With other results over the weekend has pushed the team to the top of the Intrust Super Premiership Table.

This was the first away trip with the NRL squad in 2016. This allowed the ISP NSW side to witness Bully's 200th NRL game and join in belting out the team song at Hunter Stadium.

The Vodafone Warriors ISP NSW team are back on a plane this Friday to Sydney to play the 3rd place Newtown Jets, who are the Cronulla Sharks Feeder Club, at Henson Park on Saturday 18th June at 3pm AEST.



**NSW Team in a huddle after the game.**



**After 7 consecutive wins we needed a photo on the field.**







In the NRL  
changing  
room for a  
joint  
celebra-  
tion.



## Vodafone Warriors Kids Footy Clinic - **Members Only**

**D**ue to the overwhelming positive feedback we received from our first ever kids' footy clinic, we will be holding a series of clinics during the next school holidays.

There will be four clinics, with each clinic lasting two days. The clinics will be separated into age-groups:

Clinic 1 – Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July- Boys, aged 11-13 years old

Clinic 2 – Thursday 14th and Friday 15th July- Boys, aged 9-11 years old

Clinic 3 – Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th July- Boys, aged 7-9 years old

Clinic 4 – Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd July- Girls, aged 7-13 years old

From today (14th June) until next Monday (20th June), as a member, you have access to register participants for the clinic of your choice before the clinic opens up to the general public.

The holiday programme run by the club will feature a range of activities which will put young fans in the shoes of world-class rugby league stars. As well as being shown around Mount Smart Stadium and the club's facilities, they'll train like a Vodafone Warrior and meet the players. Don't delay – our last holiday programme was a sell out!

Participants should bring a healthy lunch, a big drink of water, a hat, a can-do attitude and wear as much Vodafone Warriors gear as possible.

Consent Form:  
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Booking:  
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**HENSON PARK**



# ARL Rd 9 Results and Rd 10 Fixtures

**T**HE SAS Fox Memorial and Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup competition returned after Queens Birthday weekend – the final match of the first round.

Papakura have successfully defended the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster trophy in their clash against Glenora 18-16 – one of the toughest contests the Sea Eagles have encountered this season.

They are the only team in the competition to have gone through the first round undefeated.

Mt Albert added to Otahuhu's miserable season 42-16. With only one win in round 1 of the competition, the Leopards remain in danger of being relegated to the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup.

Pt Chevalier made easy work of Mangere East to secure a 46-10 win at Walter Massey Park, Richmond bounced back from their loss against Papakura winning 34-28 over Northcote while Howick fell 42-32 to Marist who sit on the edge of the competitions top 3.

Round 9 marked the official halfway point for the SAS Fox Memorial and Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup seasons.

Throughout the second round of competition, two games from the SAS Fox Memorial competition will be broadcast on Maori Television each week.

The first featured TV game will be broadcast this weekend Saturday June 18 when Papakura play Mangere East at Fowlds Park. The Hawks will challenge the Sea Eagles in what will be their fourth defence of the Roope Rooster. They are scheduled to play at 11am and will air at 3.30pm.

This weekend's ARL Lone Star Game of the round Mt Albert v Pt Chevalier will also be televised but will air on Sunday June 19, 3.30pm.

In other games, Richmond will look to shift back towards the competitions top five when they travel to Murray Halberg Park to play Marist.

Northcote will host Glenora at Birkenhead War Memorial while Otahuhu desperately chase a win when they play Howick.

## SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 9 results

Northcote 28 Richmond 34  
Mt Albert 42 Otahuhu 16  
Marist 42 Howick 32  
Papakura 18 Glenora 16  
Pt Chevalier 46 Mangere East 10

## Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 9 results

Bay Roskill 40 Glenfield 18  
Manurewa 76 Mt Wellington 10  
Manukau 0 Te Atatu 78  
Otara 14 Pakuranga 42  
Waitemata 38 New Lynn 8  
Hibiscus Coast 34 Papatoetoe 28  
Ponsonby 16 Ellerslie 54  
East Coast Bays BYE

## SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 10 Fixtures

Mt Albert v Pt Chevalier @ Fowlds Park 2.30pm  
Papakura v Mangere East @ Fowlds Park 11.00am  
Northcote v Glenora @ Birkenhead War Memorial 2.30pm  
Marist v Richmond @ Murray Halberg Park 2.30pm  
Otahuhu v Howick @ Bert Henham Park 2.30pm

## Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 10 Fixtures

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

## Televised games:

Papakura v Mangere East to air on Maori TV Saturday June 18, 3.30pm  
Mt Albert v Pt Chevalier to air on Maori TV Sunday June 19, 3.30pm





# 2 for 1 Vodafone Warriors tickets

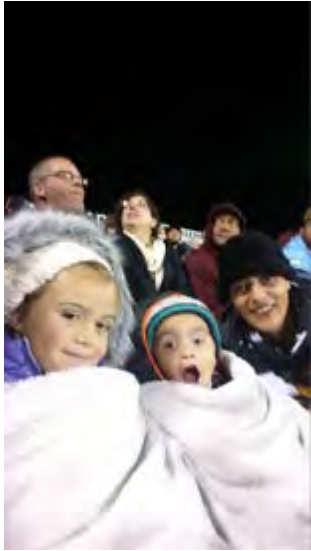
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# Reader's Mail



**H**ERE'S A photo of Ayla and Lincoln with Nana Pauline at the Warriors v Broncos at Mt Smart a few weeks ago.

Cheers, Brett



Our van we will be travelling in.



The breakfast table.



The sleeping quarters.



**S**TACEY JONES Lounge members Ian and Marcia who are touring Aussie in 7 star accommodation are now on the Sunshine Coast around 25000 kms from Melbourne. They are starting their journey which will take them to Darwin and on to the NRL Grand Final via Perth.

**Hello Sir Peter**

**M**YSELF AND Chris, son Matthew, daughter in-law Amy, grandies Jack and Isabella Jones, had the privilege of your hospitality at the mighty Warriors v Bronco's game last week. What an absolute cracker of a game second only to your hospitality, we all could not have wished for more. A grand tour with your mate Dexter of MT Smart, and the warmth of the Stacey Jones Lounge from which to watch the game!

As a supporter since 95 and as an away member I feel privileged to be a supporter. Thanks again for all you did and do for us and the Warriors and everything else you have my admiration

Cheers Phil Jones

## ARL Games Broadcast Live Nationwide On Maori TV

**Watch the future Warriors and Kiwis stars battle it out.**

Papakura v Mangere East to air on Maori TV  
Saturday June 18, 3.30pm

Mt Albert v Pt Chevalier to air on  
Maori TV Sunday June 19, 3.30pm



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# Two Line up Changes for Heritage Game

*by Richard Becht*

**T**WO LINE-UP changes have been forced by the unavailability of Jacob Lillyman and Manu Vatuvei for the Vodafone Warriors' 15th-round NRL encounter with the Sydney Roosters at Mount Smart Stadium on Sunday (6.10pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Canterbury of New Zealand).

With Lillyman called into the Queensland side for Wednesday week's second State of Origin match, rookie prop Toafofoa Sipley (21) has been brought onto the bench for his second NRL appearance.

And 2015 rookie Ken Maumalo, who has his 22nd birthday on Thursday, has been called up for his first NRL appearance of the year replacing Vatuvei.

The club's veteran try-scoring record holder picked up a hamstring strain early in the second half of Saturday's 50-14 win over Newcastle and is expected to be sidelined until round 17 (Gold Coast) or maybe after the club's round 18 bye.

After making an impressive NRL debut against St George Illawarra on May 1, Sipley has maintained his form with the Stacey Jones-coached Intrust Super Premiership side now on top of the table.

Maumalo played eight NRL matches last year but, apart from being the NRL team's 18th man against the Dragons, he has been on ISP duty until now. He has scored nine tries in 10 matches this year averaging 143 metres a game.

The Vodafone Warriors will be without a combined total of 437 NRL games with Lillyman and Vatuvei absent but they gain two monsters in Maumalo and Sipley.

Raise your scarf, like Roger, as your team take to the field.

## VODAFONE WARRIORS

- 1 Tuimoala LOLOHEA
- 2 David FUSITU'A
- 3 Blake AYSHFORD
- 4 Solomone KATA
- 5 Ken MAUMALO
- 6 Thomas LEULUAI
- 7 Shaun JOHNSON
- 8 Albert VETE
- 9 Issac LUKE
- 10 Ben MATULINO
- 11 Bodene THOMPSON
- 12 Ryan HOFFMAN (c)
- 13 Simon MANNERING

### Interchange

- 14 Nathaniel ROACHE
- 15 Sam LISONE

## VODAFONE WARRIORS

V

## SYDNEY ROOSTERS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

6.10pm, Sunday, June 19

REFEREE: Jared Maxwell

ASSIST REFEREE: Chris James

TOUCH JUDGES: Shane Rehm & Michael Wise

STANDBY: Chris Butler

REVIEW OFFICIALS: Ben Galea, Jason Robinson

SENIOR RO: Ashley Klein





# STATE OF ORIGIN



**BIG LEAGUE**

**GAME ONE 2016: Queensland 6 d. New South Wales 4**

State of Origin Game no 2 is next Wednesday in Brisbane and Vodafone Warriors JACOB Lillyman has been recalled to the Queensland team. Me and Janice are off Monday morning to the game to support our man JACOB Lillyman. - Sir Peter Leitch

## QLD:

Darius Boyd  
Cooper Cronk  
Dane Gagai  
Matt Gillett  
Aidan Guerra  
Greg Inglis  
Jacob Lillyman  
Josh McGuire  
Michael Morgan  
Corey Oates  
Justin O'Neill  
Josh Papalii  
Corey Parker  
Matthew Scott  
Cameron Smith (c)  
Johnathan Thurston  
Sam Thaiday

## Match Officials:

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

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## NSW:

Greg Bird  
Robbie Farah  
Blake Ferguson  
Andrew Fifita  
Paul Gallen (c)  
Wade Graham  
Josh Jackson  
Michael Jennings  
David Klemmer  
James Maloney  
Josh Mansour  
Josh Morris  
Matt Moylan  
Adam Reynolds  
James Tamou  
Dylan Walker  
Aaron Woods

Congratulations All Blacks for your win against Wales and good luck for the match in Wellington this Saturday. Go the All Blacks!!

# BIG LEAGUE

## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S MILESTONE ROUND 15 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with **FEATURES** and **NEWS**, plus columnist **BRENT TATE** 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

- We've passed the half-way mark of the 2016 season so it's time to take stock of how teams have performed so far this year. Some have excelled, others have disappointed. How does **your team** fare on *Big League's* mid-season report card?
- Titans prop **Ryan James** is proving a lucrative fantasy football purchase but the Gold Coast product is far more interested in delivering consistently for his home-town club.
- Dragon **Siliva Havili** shares his passion for education and the personal reason he decided to study podiatry, plus the Kiwi utility insists St George Illawarra have plenty left in the tank.
- Also, we chat with warriors CEO **Jim Doyle** about his career trajectory and how he instils a positive culture among his people; we debate the **Melbourne Storm's** premiership credentials; and **The Analyst** illustrates how every team can beat any opposition on their day.

**PLUS...** **Andrew Fifita** talks about the Blues delivering a fitting State of Origin farewell for their captain Paul Gallen and, inspired by Sydney Rooster Sio Siua Taukeiaho's Round 13 efforts, we name the Top 8 goal-kicking forwards.

**AND:** Little League, lower grade previews and a Jamie Lyon poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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Last week we run a story on Nicki who has over 270 league jerseys she has sent us a photos of some of them:



Papanui Tigers Old Boys Day, 18th June at Papanui Domain from 1PM.

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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Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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