

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

6th July 2016

# Newsletter #129

## Simon Mannerling's 250th NRL Game



**HAPPY 250TH SIMON FROM THE STACEY JONES LOUNGE MEMBERS.**  
Cake by member Trudie Warrington. [Click here for details!](#)

# Simon Mannering's 250th



Simon Mannering with team mates and family after his 250th NRL Match.



Simon Mannering leads the team onto the field with his children.



Simon Mannering walks onto the field with his children to play his 250th NRL game.



Simon Mannering in his 250th NRL game.



Simon Mannering in action.



Simon Mannering leaves the field after his 250th NRL Match.



A little something for Simon to remember the day from the Stacey Jones lounge team.

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

# To Celebrate Simon Mannering's 250th NRL Game We Are Giving Away 15 Heritage Jerseys Signed Personally by Simon Mannering



Win 1 of 10 Heritage Jerseys in your choice of size,  
signed by Simon Mannering.

**Jersey Giveaway**  
P.O Box 54295  
The Marina 2144,  
Manukau, Auckland  
New Zealand



**Name:**  
**Address:**  
**Phone Number:**  
**Email:**  
**Jersey Size:**

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to  
Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.

Then post a stamped addressed  
envelope with your name, address, phone  
number and email to the  
address on the left.

*Winner will be drawn on 19/07/16*

# State of Origin Souvenir Giveaways



Win 1 of 10 State of Origin  
Souvenir Packs consisting of 1  
Poster and 1 Official Program.

State of Origin  
P.O Box 54295  
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New Zealand



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Then post a stamped addressed  
envelope with your name, address, phone  
number and email to the  
address on the left.

*Winner will be drawn on 19/07/16*

# Winning is – and here's a surprise – good

By David Keméys



**S**OMETIMES I am dumbfounded by what our league writers have to say. Don't get me wrong, on the whole, I think they are pretty bloody good. David Long over at Stuff, who I worked with, is a good bloke, and a fine writer, Michael Burgess at the Herald I know less well, but is also a top bloke – he even got me to look after his flatmate at the match on Saturday, and takes it in good spirit when I have a bit of a pop.

But he can relax this week, because it is Long I am about to take issue with.

His article at the weekend in the wake of the win over the Titans was jaw-droppingly obvious.

“The Warriors have once again lived up to their reputation of being strong through the State of Origin period,” he wrote. “The 27-18 win over the Titans was the Warriors' fourth win in five games. They've transformed from a club appearing to be in crisis, to one of the most consistent sides in the NRL. However, they have a bad reputation for falling away at the business end of the season.”

Right, so the stunning piece of media wisdom this week is that we need to keep winning.

I am sure coach Andrew McFadden will be incredibly grateful for having read that.

I shouldn't take the piss really, because in fairness to Long, it was Ben Matulino who was really saying all this stuff, and Dave was just reporting it. “We'll have to wait and see how we are after the bye,” Matulino said of their first game back - Manly on July 16. “The main thing for us is we've been getting our preparation right.”

And thank goodness for that. The dismal football we were subjected to seems a long time ago now and Long is 100 percent right. Keep winning and those 15,000-plus crowds will keep turning up.

Who knows what McFadden has been doing differently, but whatever it is, it's working, because the team we are seeing at the moment is nothing like the rabble we saw earlier in the year.

That's why I was not broken-hearted by the news Jeff Robson was out – gone to Parramatta. In fairness, I have to report that I thought Robson was a very savvy signing. But I only ever imagined he would fill in here and there, in the event of an injury.

He should have been good, given his experience, plugging a hole, but instead he started the year and we all know that was a failed experiment.

Before we get too tough on the bloke, I have huge respect for him. He left his wife and daughter behind in Sydney, and his little girl has special needs. That must be incredibly tough, and say what you like about his on-field performances – he gave his best, and that is as much as we can ask.

So while his departure was on compassionate grounds, what I took from it was that someone in the club was prepared to admit he was not crucial to us, so he could go.

That is good management, and we need to applaud it. There is nothing wrong with bringing in players, but if after having been given a chance, we can not get the best out of them, don't hang on endlessly. Free up the salary cap and move on – especially in special circumstances like Robson's.

I don't think many fans would disagree there are others who need to be hit in the arse by the door. If we can shift Konrad Hurrell because he is not rated, there is no reason to keep journeymen players who will only ever contribute minimally.

I say all of this because releasing Robson indicates to me that McFadden is maturing as a coach. It is easy to forget that he is not hugely experienced.

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But if he is getting to a point where he is confident enough to make big calls, some of them mightily unpopular – attention his team selection for the Sharks, and especially if has become a gaffer who can call time on failed players, that is fine by me.

There is only one rule for coaches – back me, or sack me.

We have been down the sack me path repeatedly, and McFadden must have had some sleepless nights earlier in the year.

But the club has backed him, and we fans need to too.

So maybe, having made fun of Dave Long, it turns out he is right all along.

Win and the faith will continue, fall to post-Origin mediocrity and don't be surprised if you start hearing the "same old Warriors" calls.

### **Leuluai Off**

You will all have heard by now that Thomas Leuluai has been granted a release from the last year of his contract on compassionate grounds so he can go back to England at the end of season.

We will miss the 31-year-old there is no doubt, and this is one with big echoes of the Robson decision.

Leuluai started his second stint with us in 2013 after returning from eight seasons in England, and I challenge anyone to point to a game where he has let us down.

Tommy asked to go and while the club was keen to keep him, the release was granted.

It has to be seen in the same light as the Robson decision. The club has to be of a view that it has the players – or the time, given he is staying to the end of the season – to succeed without him.

"His leadership qualities and professionalism have been invaluable but for now he's fully committed and passionate about giving the Warriors all he can," boss Jim Doyle said.

Leuluai's wife Natalie is English and the couple has a baby daughter.

"I've loved being in familiar surroundings even though we've had our share of challenges but we've reached a point where we would like to go back. I

can't thank the club enough for their understanding," Tommy said.

Good luck to the bloke I say. It's easy to forget he was just 17 when he played his first game for us back in 2003. He will make it 78 against Manly, and he has racked up an impressive 304 first-grade appearances overall - 189 for Wigan and 38 for the London Broncos. On top of that he has also has played 34 tests for the Kiwis.

### **Confidence Works Wonders**

Speaking of Ben Matulino, he was outstanding on Saturday night, and that is not something we have always been able to say about his performances so far this season.

To say his has been an up and down year is something of an understatement. But on Saturday he resembled the player we know he can be, charging at the line and not shying away for the hard yards.

It's all, according to the big fellah, down to growing confidence. "We've been training well and it's good transferring it to the field. This month has been important. Our season could have been over if we'd have lost a couple more games, but it's good we responded."

Shaun Johnson, injured leg and all, showed once again what he is capable of, and what so many of us have been missing, on Saturday night.

When he split the defence and danced 50 metres to the line the blistering pace we know he has was not there, but he was still able to beat defenders and leave tacklers in his wake, and at a pace that while down on his best, was still pretty bloody good.

He's another who puts it all down to a lift in the mood around the club.

"We're building. As players we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves. We've dug ourselves out of a tough situation. It's been hard work but we've got to be ready to go again."

Even McFadden says the bye will give us time to take stock and get ready to make the eight. "It's been a consistent run. We've competed and played well. We need to use the bye to freshen up and refocus for those last weeks."

### **Johnson Eyes Recovery**

Our halfback Shaun Johnson has battled with a leg injury for the last three weeks but is determined to be fully fit to face Manly.

Given we have to hike all the way to Perth, you'd hope so.

Of course we have the bye this weekend, and the big push to make the eight ahead of us.

Johnson's quad injury was kept pretty quiet but it has been evident it has been nagging at him, and handing over the kicking duties to Issac Luke must have kept some of the pressure off, but having Johnson back to his best will be critical to our run-in.

We all remember how awful we were when he suffered his horror broken leg last season, and no one wants to see a repeat of that.

Johnson has not trained fully recently, with our medical people keeping strict tabs on his workload, but where would we be without him? He has scored – even injured – great tries against the Roosters and now the Titans, so the answer is pretty bloody obvious.

"I've had a few light weeks, so I'll get it right over this week with the bye and it should be fine. I want to get back into kicking. If I manage it right there should be no reason why I can't get back into all of that stuff."

### **Hoff And Manu For Manly**

Veteran wing Manu Vatuvei should be fit to play against Manly. He told me so himself when the boys visited the children at Kidz First Hospital recently.

He's missed the last three games with a hamstring injury, with his place taken by Jonathan Wright, and the less said about that the better, and Ken Maumalo, who has made a great fist of it.

Captain Ryan Hoffman, who missed the Titans game with a virus, should be back too.

### **Talk About Arm Wrestle!**

It seems like almost every match we have to stay in the grind, win the arm wrestle blah, blah, blah. But on Saturday that was incredibly obvious to anyone watching.

It was a strange old game. The first half was not, I thought, vintage footy by any stretch of the imagination.

The second lifted, and to be fair, possession started to even up a bit and our completion rate was much stronger. But it was certainly one of those games where the cliché about the arm wrestle was dead right.

We did not hit the lead until the final quarter, but it always felt like we would – provided we hung in there.

The Titans are a much maligned side. They were given no chance at the start of the year, and have surprised plenty of people with their results, and the way they play. In coach Neil Henry they have a good leader, and adding Konrad Hurrell to their mix will do them no harm that is for sure.

Shaun Johnson was the first to praise them. "They scrambled hard, they were in our faces and they put us under pressure. Our ability to stay in it was probably the most pleasing thing."

### **Mannering's Milestone**

It was a pleasure to be in the ground to cheer Simon Mannering as he turned out for game 250 for us – on the same night Bunty Afoa turned out for game No 1.

Afoa did not let himself down, and that is something Mannering will be chuffed with, because as we all know he is not one to hog the limelight, and always puts the interests of the team first.

He has been a machine and there is no doubt he will go on to become our most capped player, and he deserves to.

It was also fitting he got to captain the side for the night.

Captain Mannering – how I miss that!

### **Lisone Gets Better And Better**

Having mentioned our league writers at the start, I neglected David Skipwith, from the Herald – who I don't know from a bar of soap, but I thoroughly enjoyed his piece on Sam Lisone, a much under-rated player, who seldom gets a lot of credit.

Lisone has now played more than 30 games for us, though somehow you kind of think of him as a rookie still.

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At just 22, big Sam has got better and better – according to me anyway. His debut season was a bit up and down, but he seems to be growing into the role, and with some quality front-rowers at the club, we are well served in that area.

One of the most interesting things in Skipwith’s article was the gem that Sam sometimes just doesn’t feel like it – which when you think about it, is hardly surprising.

“I’m learning how to build up for it because some days you don’t feel like that. I’m slowly learning more each week, getting the hang of the game and learning when and where to rest.

“I was just running around like a headless chicken and trying to get into anything and everything. Now I’m just a bit smarter.”

[Hit the link to read the full story – it’s worth it.](#)

### England Wants World Cup

It is a long way off yet but England has launched a bid for the 2021 Rugby League World Cup. They believe they can get a million spectators, double the number achieved in 2013.

Twelve stadiums across the country would be used – including some iconic football grounds like Old Trafford.

The host country for the tournament, which will grow to 16 teams, will be decided later this year, but the Poms have to be in a with a shout, especially given that they have already secured a £15m government backing pledge to help support the bid.

Their government also confirmed another £10m for league infrastructure in the north of England.

## Sky City Cheerleaders with the Vodafone Warriors



The ladies welcome you to SkyCity Auckland “meet the team” event held at Andys Burger bar on Sunday night!



SCCT Danielle Timbers showing off a signed Warriors jersey to the fans at Andys burger bar “meet the team” event this past Sunday.



SKYCITY CHEER LEADERS Vikki Wiltshire and Danielle Timbers with Simon Mannering helping him celebrate 250 games with the Vodafone Warriors this past Sunday at Andys burger bar in Skycity.



Player of the day.

**Photos courtesy of Momentum Productions**



The SCCT with Warriors mascot TIKI take a moment to pose for fan photos right before kick off on Sunday at Mt Smart.



Tiki and cheerleader Jane Strickland posing with Warriors fans at the Mt Smart home game this past Sunday!



# In the Stacey Jones Lounge



Sean Tighe, 15, travelled all the way up from Wanganui and was pleased to have a photo with the bosses wife Joanne Doyle.



It was great to have former Warriors Fullback Wade McKinnon. Wade is now a Firefighter at Auckland Airport.



Graeme Hill, also a Firefighter, is lucky to be alive after an incident at a fire.



Jackson Tunnicliffe talks about his favourite Vodafone Warriors player.



Michael Pitama NYC captain originally from Christchurch.



Sheldon Wright NYC coach with Michael Pitama the NYC captain.



Mathew Allwood and Charnz Nicholl-Klokstad talk to the Butcher.



Great to Roger Tuivasa-Sheck in the lounge.



Butch, Mathew Allwood share a joke with Stacey Jones.



Stacey Jones with Charnz Nicholl-Klokstad.



Toafofoa Sipley and Roger Tuivasa Sheck talk to the crowd.



Two young fans Morgan Baker and Campbell Norton.



By John Deaker

## Monty Betham's Proud to be Heading to the Rio Olympics

*Sky TV Rio 2016 Presenters Scotty Stevenson, Monty Betham, Melodie Robinson and Andrew Mulligan. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**M**ONTY BETHAM is thrilled to be heading off to Brazil next month as part of Sky's commentary team for the 2016 Olympics. Going to Rio is significant for Betham because he'll be venturing into uncharted territory in his broadcasting career by covering many sports he's unfamiliar with. The 2008 runner-up in *Dancing With the Stars* has proven his willingness to embrace and overcome challenges in the past though and this opportunity to work on many different sports excites him.

"I'm covering equestrian, cycling, canoe slalom, hockey and some swimming," he says.

"I was buzzing just to be on the short-list and be thought of originally. Then it was a very proud moment to make the [Sky TV ] team and now I'm looking really forward to it."

Doing his research for Rio is even more important than usual because of the sports he's covering. Betham's so intent on doing a good job that he's already done most of his preparation.

"I need to show respect to the athletes that have worked so hard to be the best in their sports," he says.

"You need to have an understanding of the general event so the competitors respect what you say and they know that you've done your homework. Then it'd be nice to think that they understand I've been there and competed at an elite level in other sports so I know the ins-and-outs of what it takes to perform."

Betham's always looked a natural on-screen and that helped him survive some of the tough times early-on working in the media when unlike as a sportsman ( who gets extensive coaching ) it was very much a case of "Sink or swim" in 2007 when he was thrown in the deep end doing some sideline-eye roles for rugby league.

Like as a sportsman, natural ability can only get someone to a certain level and the rest needs to be worked at. Betham has found the way he watches television has changed over time as he tries to pick up pointers that he can learn from. He's also found his time on radio and the Living Channel very good for developing his broadcasting ability in different areas where the requirements contrast so much from each other.

Betham's better known to some people for his boxing ability and his boxing coaching than he is as a former Kiwi and NZ Warriors' league player. On June 30th he'd been due to defend his New Zealand Cruiserweight boxing crown against James Langton in a bout which also would have also featured the IBO Asia Pacific belt up for grabs. Unfortunately, a week out from the fight he had to pull out due to a back injury and some complications relating to it.

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Betham's not totally writing off his boxing career yet because it's something he loves. However, he realizes it may have to take more of a backseat as other areas of his life consume more time.

One area he's very proud of but not able to spend as much time on as he'd like is the Monty Betham Steps-for-life Foundation that he launched back in 2011. His sister Chante handles the daily operations of the not-for-profit charity that aims to empower New Zealand's youth and their families to live healthier lives.

At 38 years old Betham provides a positive role-model for the next generation. He hasn't always practiced what he preaches to kids these days though. He believes he could have done more of the "extras" back when he was playing professional league and his diet is definitely something that's only improved as he's become more aware of its importance.

"Nutrition became an important part of my boxing career after I'd retired from league. I didn't focus on it back then [with the league] because you were either in the fat brigade and you needed to lose weight to play, or you were fine. I didn't realize that with nutrition comes a greater level of competitiveness and it can add an extra 10% to how effective you are."

One thing that's apparent with Monty Betham is his life is never boring. It'll be fascinating to hear him covering sports like equestrian at Rio - and no doubt he'll have his fair share of critics even before he opens his mouth. Betham's proven to be very adaptable in the past though and it'd be a brave man that'd bet against him overcoming the challenges that will come his way next month during Sky's broadcasting of the 2016 Olympics. Go support Monty's Charity, Steps for Life, here: <http://www.stepsforlife.co.nz/>

## NSW Cup Game Recap

By Joe Williams - NSW Cup Team Manager

**UNLIKE THEIR** 1-point victory over North Sydney Bears the week before, the Vodafone Warriors Intrust Super Premiership NSW Team were unable to repeat a late win with a 16-18 loss to the Wests Tigers in their round 17 clash at Mt Smart Stadium over the weekend.

Also unlike the week before instead of welcoming back players coach Stacey Jones had lost both Ata Hingano and Bunty Afoa. This meant again a reshuffled side with Erin Clark coming into the halves and Marata Niukore backing up after playing for the NYC team to join the bench.

A penalty goal at halftime gave the Wests Tigers a 12-10 over the Vodafone Warriors which proved to be the difference by the end of the game. Tries to Jonathan Wright, Tomas Aoake and Erin Clark and Mason Lino converting 2 from 3 goals gave the Vodafone Warriors their 18 points however it wasn't enough to stop the Wests Tigers.

After another tough contest the Vodafone Warriors have another home game this weekend against Illawarra Cutters, whom have overtaken them to finish top of the ladder after round 17. With both the NRL and NYC teams having a bye this weekend still gives Vodafone Warriors fans a chance to support their club.

### Support the NSW Team on Saturday, here are the details:

Entry: FREE!

Date: Saturday 9th July 2016

Venue: Mt Smart Stadium Field #2

Parking: Free through O'Rorke Road

Gates Open: 12:45pm

ISP NSW Kick-off: 1:00pm

*Jazz Tevaga attacks the line for the Warriors in the NSW Cup match against the Tigers. Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*





By John Coffey QSM

## The Man with The Safe Hands

*Ray Haffenden at the 2015 New Zealand Rugby League Awards, Maritime Room, Auckland. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**S**OMEONE ONCE described Ray Haffenden as “the man with the safe hands”. That description would have been accurate as far back as the 1960s when he was a polished fullback for the Linwood Keas in Christchurch, during the 1980s when he achieved considerable success as a representative team coach, or at any time during the last decade as he helped guide the New Zealand Rugby League out of its most serious financial crisis.

Haffenden stepped down as deputy chairman of the NZRL at last week’s annual meeting but that does not signal the end of a lifetime of service to a sport he has graced in so many ways. When he returned for his second term on the national body the NZRL was millions of dollars in debt and the Kiwis were in tatters. On-field recovery was swift, for he soon presided, as chairman, over a maiden World Cup triumph in 2008. That was to be the easier part.

Off-field recovery would take longer. In early 2008 it was revealed \$1.7 million had been lost on the Kiwis’ Centenary Test – a 58-0 hammering from the Kangaroos in Wellington – and subsequent ill-fated tour of Britain. The Sunday News counted 54 people on that junket led by chairman Andrew Chalmers, who resigned soon afterwards. One who made his feelings known was Peter Leitch, who was then the NZRL’s honorary ambassador.

“This is not good for the game and the problem is no-one is ever held accountable,” the future knight said. “It’s bloody time the gun was pointed at people and they should explain their actions. I feel gutted as a rugby league fan because we seem to be putting out one bushfire after another. I have to say I feel sorry for the current chairman Ray Haffenden. Ray’s a bloody good bloke and has stepped up to the plate when the ship was sinking.”

During the next 12 months Haffenden had the contrasting experiences of cheering the Kiwis to their 34-20 World Cup victory and dealing with a review which found the NZRL had no funds after losing \$2.2 million in 2006 and 2007. Many sponsors had walked away, player numbers had dropped from a 1990s high of 40,000 to just 16,000, and radical changes were needed to the board and the game in general throughout the country.

Haffenden, who had previously spent four years on the NZRL during the 1990s, reacted in typical fashion. He studied the balance sheets to grasp the extent of the damage, worked the phones to consult people in the districts who felt alienated during the previous regime and met with anyone whose input could be relevant to what was a massive rescue mission. When the new board was appointed Haffenden became deputy chairman.

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Maybe Haffenden recalled his time as Canterbury coach when another very important rescue operation was required. "When I started coaching Canterbury (in the mid-1980s) they didn't play that often and they had lost a bit of pride in the red-and-black jersey," he told The Press. He used his business acumen to find backers to pay "for blazers, trousers and ties. We got a bit of pride back in the Canterbury jersey." And it showed in the results.

In 1985 Canterbury overcame a tough Taranaki side in New Plymouth to bring home the hotly-contested Rugby League Cup. Over three days Haffenden coached South Island (12-12) and Canterbury (22-22) to draw against a Kiwis-studded Auckland team at Greymouth and Christchurch, respectively. Two weeks later powerful British club St Helens was beaten 30-24. It was the start of a great decade of results for Canterbury.

Haffenden went on to coach the Junior Kiwis for two years, playing a role in the development of stars such as Sean Hoppe, Jarrod McCracken and Stephen Kearney. In 1990 he challenged Bob Bailey for the Kiwis coaching job. Although Bailey was appointed, Haffenden made such a favourable impression he became team manager. He later managed Frank Endacott's Kiwis teams on tour to Papua New Guinea and at the 1995 World Cup in Britain.

A team-mate of Kiwis forwards Bill Noonan and John Greengrass at Linwood, Haffenden was in the club's grand final winning teams of 1968 and 1970, and the losing grand final in 1974 during one of the 103-year-old club's most illustrious eras. Alongside him in Canterbury backlines were Kiwis Mocky Brereton, Eddie Kerrigan, Bruce Dickison and Graeme Cooksley, and he played for South Island against the 1974 Great Britain tourists.

Proud of being a one-club man, Haffenden played for Linwood from the ages of eight to 32, managed and coached senior teams and served on club committees before a work transfer took him to Auckland. That long and varied grassroots experience served him well at the top level. As mentioned earlier, Haffenden is not retiring altogether. He remains chairman of the Kiwis Association, a member of the NZRL Museum committee and Southern Zone president.

## Vodafone Warriors v Tigers - [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



Thomas Leuluai looks to pass.



Shaun Johnson scores.



Solomone Kata sizes up the competition.



Bodene Thompson heads for the try line.



Bodene Thompson runs to score.



Bodene Thompson scores a try and celebrates with Issac Luke.



**A POSSIBLE KIWIS** Test backline at the start of the 2016 season might have consisted of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck at fullback, Manu Vatuvei and Jordan Kahu on the wings, Dean Whare and Peta Hiku in the centres, and Kieran Foran and Shaun Johnson as the halves. Last weekend only Johnson was still standing, and in recent weeks he has been bravely battling along on one leg for most of the time.

Looking ahead to the Four Nations tournament in Britain in October and November, Tuivasa-Sheck, Whare, Hiku and Foran are already ruled out for the season. Indeed, there are serious doubts about Foran's long-term future even after he recovers from his shoulder injury. The other three all face long rehabilitations from knee injuries which in an earlier era might have ended their careers.

We are not short of wings thanks to the enduring excellence of Vatuvei, Jason Nightingale and Sam Perrett, the outstanding form of Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Jordan Rapana, and the finishing skills of Sosaia Feki and Antonio Winterstein, who both toured with previous Four Nations squads without getting a game. Not to mention sensational Fijian-born and Auckland-raised Suliasi Vunivula at the Melbourne Storm.

Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney will be longing for Kahu to return to action, not just for the good of the Kiwis but also the Brisbane Broncos. Kahu impressed in the centres against England last year and at fullback against Australia in May. He has played predominantly on the wing for the struggling Broncos, where Kearney is assistant coach to newly-appointed England head coach Wayne Bennett.

Johnson, handicapped by a quad injury, has not been the only Warriors back operating below full fitness. Thomas Leuluai, the logical replacement for Foran, has also been in the wars and could be moving house in October. Versatile Tuimoala Lolohea has been wearing more leg strapping than Cardigan Bay. Meanwhile, highly promising Wests Tigers half Te Maire Martin is sidelined indefinitely.

Looking further afield, South Sydney centre Bryson Goodwin – who played for the Kiwis in 2009 and 2013 and therefore could mathematically be expected to return in 2017 – is currently out with a broken arm. Even the seemingly unbreakable Manly man Steve Matai, though no longer a Kiwis contender, finally succumbed to his neck problem, has undergone surgery and is sidelined for the season.

Kiwis fans have been watching in horror as Four Nations candidates have hit the deck. On Friday night, when Melbourne thrashed the Broncos, Kiwis utility Tahu Harris was forced off with a rib injury and never returned. In the last minute we saw a Broncos trainer manipulate Kodi Nikorima's shoulder back into its socket after it popped out in a seemingly harmless collision. On Sunday Rapana had a similar problem in Canberra.

Kearney has variously used Harris at stand-off and centre in recent seasons without success. So has Melbourne coach Craig Bellamy. But Harris is a second-row forward and no more than a stop-gap choice in the backs. Similarly, Alex Glenn made no impact at left centre for the Broncos against the Storm and that flank was cruelly exposed when the diminutive Nikorima joined him out as an emergency winger.

New Zealand will struggle through the Four Nations with a makeshift backline but the chances of protecting our Number One international ranking – already shaky after the 2-1 series loss in England and the Anzac Test defeat – are not good. In both of those contests we hoped a powerful pack would be enough. But we were dreaming if we thought the British and Australian forwards would not be competitive.

A possible current Kiwis backline could comprise Kahu, Nightingale, Gerard Beale, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Watene-Zelezniak, Leuluai and Johnson. Kenny-Dowall has made an impressive return from injury but Beale is no more than solid. The Titans' Josh Hoffman is also a contender. Interestingly, the Bulldogs recently moved Curtis Rona (another to tour without playing for the Kiwis) from wing to centre with pleasing results.

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There is not the slightest hint Benji Marshall will be recalled, though Kearney has denied the door is closed on the former captain. Instead, his priority has been creating depth for the 2017 World Cup. A recent NZRL email newsletter which includes Kearney's weekly comments on Kiwis performing well in the NRL pointedly overlooked a Man of the Match performance by Marshall for the Dragons in round 16.

Footnote: Leaving the battered Kiwis backs for a moment, Warriors second-rower Bodene Thompson, another player who did not get on the field during the 2014 Four Nations, is fast earning himself a second chance. Thompson has been outstanding on attack and defence, and as Johnson's minder, all season. Let's just hope he does not have to make his Kiwis debut as a makeshift centre!

## Impressive By Barry Ross



The Warriors were impressive in their win over the Titans on Saturday. It wasn't an easy game and with scores locked at 12-all with just 18 minutes to go, the result could have gone either way. Although the Titans have only seven wins compared to nine losses, they were only beaten in Golden Point time by the Bulldogs, while competition leaders, Cronulla, struggled to defeat them by five points. In that clash with Cronulla at SharkPark on 10 April, the Titans led the home team 18-14 with less than 20 minutes to play.

On Saturday, coach Andrew McFadden would have been pleased with the defensive effort of his team. The Warriors had to make 320 tackles while the visitors made 310, but the Titans missed nearly twice as many tackles as their opponents (35 to 21). The penalties (5-all) and errors (7-all) were even, while the Warriors ran for 1,690 metres to the Titans 1,448. The players aim for a 100 percent completion rate but before the game coach McFadden would have taken the 84 percent with which they finished.

There were many positives for the coach and his team to take into next week's bye round. Still not at top fitness, a piece of Shaun Johnson magic in the 65th minute set the Warriors on the way to victory. Everyone involved in our game are thrilled by the Kiwi halfback's talent, speed acceleration and skill. The Fox TV commentators were quick to praise his try after his 65 metre run in which he beat five or six players. Another player to stand out was Bodene Thompson. He runs hard and straight and finished with the most running metres (161) and most tackles (46).

Congratulations to Simon Mannering for reaching his 250 first grade game mark. He played his usual solid all round game but the tackle he made in the 54th minute to force the Titans defender back into the in-goal area, was one of the game's highlights. I think I heard the TV commentator say that it was his 7,284th tackle in first grade football, which is an incredible number. But after studying the Warriors website, I see he has made more than this. According to the site, he has made 7,352 tackles from the beginning of the 2006 season up to and including Saturday's match with the Titans. Actually there should be more added, as Simon began his first grade career as an 18 year old against the Broncos on 26 June 2005 at Ericsson Stadium and his 2005 tackle counts are not included on the website. With 41 Tests for the Kiwis and now 137 games as captain of the Warriors, Simon has given plenty to all levels of New Zealand Rugby League.

I am big fan of Raiders captain, Jarrod Croker. Now 25, he has scored 1,298 points from his 180 first grade matches. This is made up of 91 tries and 467 goals. After making his debut on 22 March 2009, against the Roosters, he is playing his eighth successive season in first grade. During this time he has an 81 percent career goalkicking success rate. In the Raiders exciting 29-25 win over the Knights on Sunday, Jarrod collected two tries and landed three goals from three attempts. With 170 points, he is leading the Individual Point Scoring list for this season.

*Continued on next page..*

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At 184 cms and 93 kgs, he is not a big centre but he does the job against all of his opponents. The Goulburn Stockmen junior is certainly a valuable player for the Raiders. In representative football, he played for NSW Country and the All Stars in 2015, the Prime Minister's XIII in 2014, NSW under 18s in 2008 and the Australian Schoolboys in 2007.

Good to see the Warriors Toyota Cup side score their third successive win, after they defeated the Titans by 14-12. They still have a bit of work to do to finish in the top eight sides, but they have the players to do this. What a great stat, centre Junior Pauga finished with on Saturday. He totalled 312 metres from 22 runs against the Titans. In his 16 games this year, he has run for 2,268 metres and made 190 tackles. That is a match average of 142 metres and 12 tackles.

I must mention the Australian under 17 girls basketball team who won the FIBA World Championship at Zaragoza in Spain on Saturday, (Sunday morning Sydney time). Not many countries beat the USA at any level in basketball, but our girls, who are known as the Sapphires, did, winning their semi final 73-60 against the Yanks. Then in the final they defeated Italy 62-38. Australian Ezi Magbegor won the MVP (Most Valuable Player of the Tournament) award, while she and two of her team-mates, along with an Italian and a Chinese, were named in the five person Team of the Tournament. With Australians, Ben Simmons and Thon Maker recently being selected in the top 10 NBA draft, Australian basketball is on a real high.

The bye has come at the right time for the Warriors. It gives several players, such as Shaun Johnson, extra time to work on and recover from, injuries. Now sitting in the top eight, the Warriors can go on and make the play offs. Their next game is against Manly at Perth on 16 July. This is the beginning of an important month, as they play three of their four games in this time, away from home.

## Vodafone Warriors Final 3 Rounds Confirmed

	ROUND 21: 30-31 JULY	VENUE	DATE	TIME
NRL	PANTHERS	MT SMART	SATURDAY 30 JULY	05:00:00 PM
NYC	PANTHERS	MT SMART	SATURDAY 30 JULY	02:45:00 PM
LA-DIES	AKARANA V COUNTIES	MT SMART	SATURDAY 30 JULY	12:40:00 PM
	ROUND 23: 13-14 AUGUST	VENUE	DATE	TIME
NRL	RABBITOHS	MT SMART	SATURDAY 13 AUGUST	07:30:00 PM
NYC	RABBITOHS	MT SMART	SATURDAY 13 AUGUST	05:15:00 PM
	ROUND 24			
CUP	MOUNTIES	MT SMART # 2	SATURDAY 20 AUGUST	13:00:00 PM
	ROUND 25: 27-28 AUGUST	VENUE	DATE	TIME
NRL	TIGERS	MT SMART	SUNDAY 28 AUGUST	04:00:00 PM
NYC	TIGERS	MT SMART	SUNDAY 28 AUGUST	01:45:00 PM
CUP	PANTHERS	MT SMART	SUNDAY 28 AUGUST	11:45:00 AM
	ROUND 26	VENUE	DATE	TIME
NRL	EELS	MT SMART	SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	06:00:00 PM
NYC	EELS	MT SMART	SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER	03:45:00 PM
CUP	TBC - FINALS		TBC	TBC





# Northland Wrap Up and Origin Thoughts

By Ben Francis



## Scott Electrical Premiership Round 13

**T**HE TOP four teams in the Scott Electrical Premiership have been confirmed after the latest round of action. The Takahiwai Warriors, Otangarei Knights, Portland Panthers and Moerewa Tigers have all secured a spot in the playoffs.

The Otangarei Knights secured finals berth after beating the Northern Wairoa Bulls 54-36 at Fishbone Park. With the loss, it meant the Portland Panthers would secure a top four spot even if they lost. The Panthers ended up going down 58-36 against the Moerewa Tigers.

The Portland Panthers and Otangarei Knights will finish fourth and third respectively regardless of results. However the Minor Premiership is on the line as the Takahiwai Warriors host the Moerewa Tigers. The winner of this epic clash will claim the Minor Premiership. Back in round seven, the Tigers claimed an epic 34-32 victory over the Warriors. That loss is the Warriors lone loss this season.

In the other match next week the Horahora Broncos will play the Otangarei Knights. This match is the last chance for the Broncos to claim a win this season. Both clashes will kick off at 2:30pm. The Portland Panthers have the bye, along with the Northern Wairoa Bulls who have a bye as the Hokianga Pioneers have defaulted.

Both semi final games and grand final will be played at Toll Stadium.

### Exciting Opportunity For Northland Youngsters

Before every Warriors home, it's always great to see the young players running around on Mount Smart Stadium while the respective teams do their warm ups.

This weekend was extra special for a number of young Northlanders from Marist Brothers Rigby League club as they got the chance to travel down to Mount Smart Stadium to play the Ellerslie Eagles. It was the Under nines team who took part in this amazing game. Congratulations to the kids who took part, it would have been amazing playing on the same field as your heroes.

## Tedesco Selected For Game 3

West Tigers fullback James Tedesco was named in the New South Wales squad for State of Origin three which will take place on Wednesday 13th July at ANZ Stadium in NSW.

Tedesco becomes the sixth West Tigers to wear the Blue jersey with the others being Scott Hill, Brett Hodgson, Keith Galloway, Robbie Farrah and Aaron Woods. Former halfback Scott Prince represented Queensland back in 2004 also.

Even though fans were delighted with Tedesco's inclusion, they are also annoyed. The reason why they are annoyed is because Tedesco will not be able to take part in the Tigers game against the Bulldogs on Saturday night. The Tigers are currently in twelfth position on a clustered NRL and one win outside the top eight.

Some fans are not happy that Tedesco was picked in a game which is considered non relevant as Queensland have already wrapped up the series. With the game being considered non relevant, Tigers fans are worried that Tedesco might get injured and won't be able to take part in the clubs finals run. Tedesco has missed a number of games this season due to a shoulder injury.

I believe fans would have preferred Tedesco not have to make his debut at such a crucial time of the season with the Tigers and also in a game which NSW can win, but can't win the series. So the question I ask is, if you were in charge of selection for NSW would have you selected Tedesco for Game three? Or would have you waited till next season and stuck with Matt Moylan.

I believe that because NSW can not win the series and Tedesco was their preferred option at the start of season, I think it's smart giving him a run. It is a risk as he is injury prone, but Tedesco and the Tigers will be better off with his time in Origin.

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



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

*The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.*

By John Holloway

## NRL Round 18

		Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
<b>Date/ Venue</b>	<b>Game</b>	<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>
08/07 - Pirtek	Eels v Roosters	Eels	Eels	Eels	Eels	Roosters	Eels	Eels
09/07 - ANZ	Bulldogs v Tigers	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
10/07 - Pepper	Panthers v Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Panthers	Sharks	Panthers	Panthers	Panthers
11/07 - GIO	Raiders v Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Raiders	Cowboys	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
<i>All the rest have byes</i>								

### How they're traveling..

Picks last week	6/8	7/8	7/8	7/8	6/8	6/8	6/8
Total picks	73/128	76/128	85/128	78/128	83/128	89/128	90/128

**T**HE ROOSTERS crowed early but got rundown and plucked 24/20 by Belmores bashem Bulldogs. Loss number 12 for the Bondi boys and finals footy a forlorn hope now. The Doggies on their day can beat anyone so remain a threat from their 4th spot. Storm/Broncos who woulda thought!!! Crikey 48/6 is a mother of a whopping! Big trouble in Brizzy Town. Bennett staying calm but I think it's a bit like the duck on the pond... drifting nicely on the surface but legs going like crazy underneath. He wont be happy. As I noted after last weeks hiding the much vaunted Hunt/Milford axis is dead in the water..right across the period that they were banned from Origin selection (and \$30,000 each game payments) coincidence?? On the other hand Storm boss Bellamy smiling all the way to the bank. Go the Homies...what a way to celebrate Warrior great Simon Mannerings 250th match. The gods conspired a Hoffman virus to give the Captains band back to our main man on his big day...then we got the W 27/18 to ice his achievement. The mighty Warriors lift again on the table as we move to the big months ahead. We will need improvement to maintain progress but the good news is we have a fair amount of room for that. We released halves veteran Robson last week and now Tommygun Leuluai is away back to Pommyland at season end and he will be missed but the standoff door opens for Lolohia and or rising young gun Ata Hingano, we will survive. The Tigers surprised a few hunting down the favoured Panthers 34/26 with Teddyboy Tedesco on hi revs. Mansour as usual tried hard for the black cats with 245 metres, 3 linebreaks and a terrific try. The Parra-troopers were up 18 nil at the start and then stayed toe to toe with the Sharks for most of the game before falling to the late Shire onslaught.34/24. A Club record 12th win on the trot for the pride of Cronulla and the big dance is a tantalising possibility for their nicely balanced roster. The Eels not in a good space. What about those Raiders, up into 6th now. The bigman pack with the wily Hodgson scheming and so lethal on back-attack with Sezer, Austin, Croker, Leilua, Wighton and Jumpin Jordan Rapana who just never gives up on anything. His instinct to chase hard and get involved resulted in the winner try in golden point time. With the Knights ahead 22/zip after only the same amount of minutes things looked bleak but come the second half the Green machine cranked into gear and went to work. 25 each in overtime and then the winning Rapana run. Raider Coach Sticky Ricky having a much happier season than many before. The Cowboys were clinical and clearcut 20/0 winners over the rudderless Rabbits.

*Continued on next page..*

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Hardly a shot fired by the Souths outfit and the BOSS JT and his boys never looked in trouble. Mr Crowes crew out of sorts and not a runner for the 8 this season. The weekend rounded out with the Sea Eagles downing the Dragons at Brookvale. The red V looked good early but Barretts dogged Manly men wore them down quickly for a big lead at the break and remained unrelenting throughout for a much needed and dominating 36/6 result. Origin comin up...looks more even with both sides copping injuries and changes. Lozza has thrown the dice with Tedesco/Dugan etc but will that be enough...only one team has Smith, JT and Cronk eh.

Tippin Talk...everybody on the money this week Big Joe, JC and Fast Eddie banking 7s and the rest of us hitting 6s. A short sharpie this coming week with 4 tricky little origin affected matches.

## ARL Rd 12 Results and Rd 13 Preview

**A**CTIVITY AT the top and bottom of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership ladder have capped off another huge round of footy.

Marist have bounced back from their loss in round 11 to beat Mangere East in the feature TV game of the round 23-16.

Earlier at Murray Halberg Park, Glenora continued their winning streak taking care of Otahuhu 34-22.

Despite holding a 16-0 lead over the Pirates at half time, Northcote were unable to keep in front to fall 46-16.

The race for survival heats up for Northcote and Otahuhu who remain in last position.

Papakura cruised to a 44-16 win over Mt Albert, successfully defending the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster.

The Roope will be on the line again when the Sea Eagles play Northcote at home.

Richmond sit fifth on the ladder, only two points in front of Howick after their 34 all draw on Saturday.

### SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 12 results

Otahuhu 22 Glenora 34  
Northcote 16 Pt Chevalier 42  
Marist 23 Mangere East 16  
Howick 34 Richmond 34  
Papakura 44 Mt Albert 16

### Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 12 results

Bay Roskill 86 East Coast Bays 10  
Ellerslie 64 New Lynn 12  
Manukau 10 Waitemata 46  
Otara 30 Te Atatu 42  
Glenfield 12 Hibiscus Coast 54  
Pakuranga 14 Manurewa 26  
Ponsonby 70 Mt Wellington 8  
Papatoetoe BYE



### SAS Fox Memorial Rd 13 Fixtures

Mangere East v Otahuhu @ Walter Massey Park 2.30pm  
Pt Chevalier v Marist @ Walker Park 2.30pm  
Papakura v Northcote @ Prince Edward Park 2.30pm  
Mt Albert v Richmond @ Harold Moody 11am  
Glenora v Howick @ Harold Moody 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 13 Fixtures  
Te Atatu v Hibiscus Coast @ Jack Colvin 2.30pm  
New Lynn v Otara @ Lawson Park 2.30pm  
Mt Wellington v Glenfield @ Thompson Park 2.30pm  
Ellerslie v East Coast Bays @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm  
Manurewa v Ponsonby @ Mountfort Park 2.30pm  
Waitemata v Bay Roskill @ Ranui Domain 2.30pm  
Papatoetoe v Pakuranga @ Kohuora Park 2.30pm  
Manukau BYE

# John Palavi

NEW ZEALAND WARRIORS

**How did you become interested in studying medicine?**

It was part of a program that our high school was running. We went to Auckland Hospital and me and another guy ended up in a theatre where they were performing surgery. There were some medical students in there watching and they asked us what year (of med school) we were in. We said we'd just wandered off from a school program. They apologised afterwards because they didn't know if we were OK seeing the blood and everything.

**After you finished high school you went to university, about the same time you were playing NYC?**

I went to university straight from high school but had to put my studies on the backburner when I got signed full-time. I've been trying to do a few papers when I can, but with training I've only been able to do one paper per semester when you'd normally do four. The club has been really good about it. Welfare Manager Jerry Seuseu has been helping me out a lot with the funds and finding papers that fit around the schedule.

**Most under-20s players are doing apprenticeships or study that's probably less intensive than medicine...**

I guess so. Trying to get into med school, there's a lot of competition. When I was training and playing for the under-20s, going to school and trying to get other stuff sorted it was hard, but I got used to it.

**What would your dream job in the medical field be?**

Probably a surgeon, but that's another five or six years of study and then you've still got your placement because you're only a junior. You have to work your way up.

**Is it comforting have a career to fall back on that you're excited about?**

I enjoy footy so much; travelling every week and playing with the boys, but then I think about the future and the challenges that will come with it, meeting new people in a different work environment. I'm excited about everything.

**Is there a temptation to get in and be the doctor when players go down with serious injuries?**

I try not to, but it's always good having a chat with (veteran Warriors doctor) 'Doc' Mayhew and the physios, even grabbing some of their books. We have a psychologist as well, so it's interesting talking to him and how athlete's minds work and how they handle pressure.

**Have you had much work experience in hospitals?**

Not much because of training and travelling. But if there's (an opportunity) to go in to the hospitals, I do. Most of the stuff I do has been in mental health.

**How is it being involved with the NRL's State of Mind program?**

It's been a real eye-opener. I've had a few mates who took their own lives, so I put my hand up and said I really wanted to be involved. It was good to use rugby league as a voice to get (mental health awareness) into the community and local clubs. It gets to people when they're younger and they know who they can go to. They can talk about their problems before they really encounter the pressures of professional rugby league and the things that come with it.

**Does seeing ambassadors like yourself involved with State of Mind make players more comfortable about talking about mental health?**

It's good, because there are only a few people at the clubs that people can go and talk to. It's good to have someone, doing the same training and going through the same things as you who players can talk to. If they want to talk about something we're always there to help.

**Is mental health something you can also see yourself being involved in long-term?**

Absolutely. I'm trying set up a talk at my old school (St Paul's College). I want to help the younger generation to talk about their feelings, instead of walking around like everything's all right when really there's stuff that's getting to them.

- As told to Will Evans

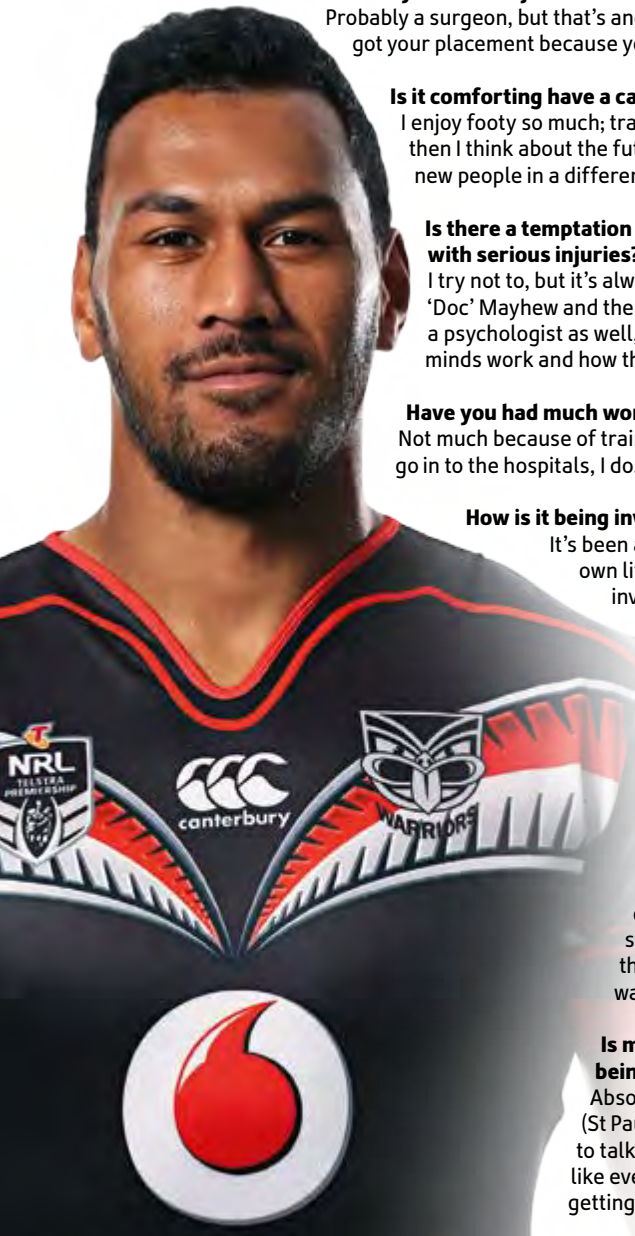


PHOTO: Stephen Barker

Enduring his own hardships, including a misguided youth and depression, has helped drive James Gavet to give back to the community in whatever way he can. By **MICHAEL BURGESS**

**W**ARRIORS prop James Gavet is a little bit different to your typical NRL player. Not only does he have a background that few could contemplate, he also spends his days off bringing a little cheer to those less fortunate.

While his fellow players might be relaxing with family or friends, watching television, challenging each other on PlayStation or doing some media work, Gavet can regularly be found on the streets of Auckland, handing out food parcels to the under privileged.

It's a remarkable gesture from a remarkable man – and it's not a recent initiative either. He was a regular volunteer at a Sydney soup kitchen during his time at Wests Tigers and also used to help homeless people who slept rough near his house. Last year, in the midst of a season at the Broncos that was ruined by injury, Gavet could be often spotted in the Fortitude Valley area, offering a smile and sustenance to those on the fringes of society.

Gavet's inspiration comes principally from his family, who have a strong presence in their local community and are known for their random acts of kindness. They've run public BBQs in a local park and devote their time and energy to those who need it most.

"My family have always been givers," says Gavet. "It's just the way they are. That's had a big influence on me."

The 27-year-old is also driven by his own well-documented and difficult journey to the NRL. There were alcohol and drug issues in his early teens, he got caught up with gangs and even spent a week sleeping rough, affecting his ability to harness his obvious league talent. The final straw was enduring three season-ending injuries in the space of four years between 2012 and 2015. It was like a curse.

"Everyone has a past," says Gavet. "I was struggling with a few demons and to overcome them I needed good people around me, whether it was family, friends or even a random person. A lot of people [who need help] don't have family or friends anymore. All it takes is for someone to randomly come up to them, whether it does or doesn't change their life, even if it just helps one per cent, we're willing to do that."

Gavet's crusade began in Sydney when he was going through tough times himself – battling homesickness and depression and having made only 13 NRL appearances across three seasons.

"My brother and I used to volunteer at a soup kitchen in Ashfield whenever we had a spare couple of hours on a day off," says Gavet. "We'd help prepare the food and then have a meal with them. You hear some heart-wrenching stories and it helps you appreciate everything you have."

Gavet also took the time to befriend a homeless man outside a local convenience store.

"He was a really old man, but a great guy," says Gavet. "Three or four nights a week we'd get him some food and hang out with him for an hour or so. Sometimes we invited him to come back and use our shower or crash the night, but he wasn't having it. He was a proud 'old-school' type; he'd say 'never mind, these chips and this coke will do'. But he enjoyed our company and it went both ways."

Gavet's selfless work continued when he relocated to Brisbane in 2015, despite another frustrating campaign which was again cut short by injury.

"I'd go out with a mate or on my own," recalls Gavet. "I'd buy up some food packs and hand them out around the inner city or in Fortitude Valley. It's about doing what you can."

Gavet's deeds came to public attention after he posted a short video on social media, but it's not news to his team-mates.

"He was doing it for months before it came out," says Warriors prop Albert Vete. "He's not looking for attention; that's just his genuine heart."

"It's pretty special nonetheless. I know how hard it is on your day off – all you want to do is rest and recover. For him to do that speaks volumes. He went through his own tough phase and now he's moving in the right direction and changing his life."

"How much he's changed over time, it's staggering," says fellow team-mate Ben Matulino. "But he's giving back to the community and that's a massive gesture."

# PAIN RELIEF



PHOTO: Gregg Porteous

James Gavet in the NRL		
Year	Club	Games
2012	Bulldogs	1
2013	Wests Tigers	0
2014	Wests Tigers	12
2015	Broncos	1
2016	Warriors	6

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Happy Birthday to my lovely wife Janice! Thanks to Trudie Warrington for the lovely cake, everyone with their lovely kind words on her card and Joyce for the lovely flowers!



Lady Janice at the Sir Mad Butchers members lounge celebrating a her birthday as well as a great win by the Warrior's.

**T**HE LOVELY cake Simon is holding on the front page and Janice's cake was made by lounge member Trudie Warrington. You can contact her for a cake of your own:

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