

Sir Peter Leitch's



AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

rsletter





Shaun's just very happy!

Smiles at last!

could not be happier that the Vodafone Warriors ended their twogame losing NRL season start by beating the North Queensland **Cowboys** up in Townsville on Saturday night. I thought the whole showing was a big step-up from what has been offered so far, and the 20-16 win was just what we needed. Our defence, which has pretty much been absent, was outstanding.

There was plenty of courage and determination on show, and I always say that is the most important thing, because fans will forgive losing as long as it looks like everyone is doing absolutely everything they can, and that simply hasn't been the case until now.

It was our first win in Townsville since 2002, and just consider for a moment that Queensland is three hours behind New Zealand, so the players not only started the match at 11pm on Saturday our time, but finished it close to 1am.

Reasons to be happy

I don't think anyone could argue that when they needed it, the Vodafone Warriors found the resolve that's been missing.

We muscled up time and time again, scrambling to protect our line and deny the Cowboys. There were so many critical saves it's hard to know where to start, but when Tariq Sims hurtled towards our line and Sam Tomkins and Manu Vatuvei somehow denied him, I could hardly believe my eyes.

And then when **Scott Bolton** had a scoring opportunity, Chad Townsend squeezed the ball loose. No try but the knock on meant the Cowboys got it back and I was watching through my fingers.

With Johnathan Thurston calling the tune their winger set sail for the corner, Vatuvei scrambling across to try to force him wide. The **Cowboys** thought he'd scored, and truth be known so did I.

Not the touch judge, though. He'd spotted a foot on the touchline and despite the boos, the replays showed he was spot on.

I breathed a sigh of relief and then nearly had a heart attack when we rucked the ball out from the scrum and failed to play the ball properly to present the **Cowboys** one last chance. Mercifully it didn't happen.

Hurrell in the forwards

Didn't bringing Konrad Hurrell back pay off? He wasn't employed in the centres but as a back rower.

He was injected in the second half as the forwards began to tire and he was awesome, scoring a vital try under the posts.

Tonga Power!

Seven minutes after Konrad Hurrell scored big Sione Lousi also went over. I don't know if you realised, but that meant all four of our tries were scored by Tongans. The other two went to winger Glen Fisiiahi inside 10 minutes in the first half.

Matulino clobbered

Just to make things tougher on Saturday night we lost in-form prop Ben Matulino in the opening minutes after a collision with Tariq Sims and James Tamou left him with a head wound. That meant we had to operate for the best part of 70 minutes with only three interchange options.

Juniors get a win

David Fusitua and Tuimoala Lolohea both snared hat-tricks as the Vodafone Junior Warriors secured their first win of the season - and their first in Townsville flogging North Queensland 50-12.

With the club's New South Wales Cup side having a bye, Fusitua and Lolohea were called on to boost the NYC

Within minutes of each other they completed their hattricks early in the second half while co-captain and halfback **Mason Lino** reaped 22 points from two tries and seven conversions.

The Vodafone Junior Warriors' only other try was scored by winger Metia Lisati.

Busy old week for the Butcher

It never rains but it pours. I am off to Taupo where I have a big date on Wednesday night, at a function in support of prostate cancer.

It is a big one for me, because I have actually been asked to talk about my league, which isn't at all what I normally do, because my talks are always about my business, and perhaps my charity work. It is making me surprisingly nervous actually.

I better not bang on too late though, because I have to catch the 6.30am flight to my old hometown Wellington, where I will be helping to promote the game on Saturday against the Tigers.

Go the Black Sox

I'm very excited to have received an invitation to see the world champion Black Sox take on Australia in a threegame softball series.

It's on this Friday at 7.30pm, and on Saturday at noon and again at 3pm, and is being played at Rosedale Park.

I reckon the **Black Sox** don't get the credit they deserve, although they did, of course, do very well at the Halberg Awards, and rightly so. It was my very great pleasure to

co-present them with their trophy, with Prime Minister John Key.

The Aussies go under the name the Steelers, but my money is on the Sox. Sadly I can not be there because I am in Wellington with the Vodafone Warriors. But you can be, because it is open to the public. There's more information on the series at www.softball.co.nz.

Off to Wellington

Wednesday morning I am off to Taupo to do a speech in support of prostate cancer, then I am on Air NZ - the best airline in the world - for a flight to Wellington on Thursday

Vodafone Warriors game.

It's going to be awesome on game day. The **Jon Toogood Band** is playing, Wellington's league littlies are going to get the chance to turn out on the big stage, and there is even going to be an air-guitar competition, so I might have to get in a bit of practice for that.

Blues get it done

I was pleased to see the Blues get a win over the Cheetahs at Eden Park 40-30. I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed it. Lots of people say it is somehow not "real" rugby when it is as free-flowing and high-scoring as it was, but it's fun to watch and that's supposed to be the point isn't it?

And the Highlanders sneaked home over the Hurricanes 35-31, piling on the misery for Canes' coach Mark Hammett. I see the Chiefs lost though to the **Western Force** 18-15, a result I don't think too many fans saw coming.

Bring on Wellington

All roads lead to the capital for the Vodafone Warriors this week, as we eye a tripleheader against the **Tigers** at Wellington's Westpac Stadium on Saturday.

"We showed plenty of courage in beating the Cowboys and we'll need that and a lot more against the Tigers," said Vodafone Warriors' head coach Matthew Elliott.

"They've been outstanding over the last two weeks, showing us once again what we all know about this competition. Every week is a challenge and we need to be in the best possible shape to meet that challenge again next weekend."

While the NRL playing squad arrives in Wellington on Friday, an advance crew arrives on Wednesday for some community and promotional events, as well as being involved in activities around game day itself. Among the planned events are school visits and sponsor promotions.



Next Saturday night's clash against the in-form Tigers at Westpac Stadium in Wellington kicks off at 5.05pm. Another good result would be the tonic us fans need, but it will be really tough. The Tigers started poorly, losing to St George 44-24, but flogged the Titans 42-12 and pulled off a 25-16 upset over **Souths** at the weekend.

The Vodafone Junior Warriors launch the action at 12.40pm, followed by the Warriors New South Wales Cup side at 2.40pm.





Konrad blows a kiss to his Mum on TV.

Captain Simon Mannering grits his teeth to break the tackle of Jonathon Thurston.

Thanks to **PHOTOSPORT** for the



Volleyball festival one of largest NZ sporting participation events

With 145 teams, and over 2,000 players and officials, the New Zealand Secondary School Volleyball Championships being held in Palmerston North THIS week rate as one of the largest team sporting participation events in the country.

2014 marks the 46th consecutive running of the annual event by Volleyball New Zealand, a record that is not matched by many sports Several other strong contenders also come in the country.

As has been the case in recent years, the powerful Bay of Plenty region has again thrown up the favourites for both the Girls and Boys Championships; Western Heights

Hosted in the city's large Arena Manawatu, High School (Rotorua) for the Boys, and Tauranga's Otumoetai College for the Girls event.

> from the Bay of Plenty, with the South Island's Tasman region schools also expected to mount a strong challenge, to the North Island dominance.

The Auckland and North Harbour regions

from Auckland City will also be represented by an increased number of teams, and will be sure to have some teams in contention at least at quarter-final stage.

In all, nine divisions will be contested; five in the Girls' section and four in the Bovs'.

The tournament's first games kicked off on THIS Monday with the top division Finals late on THIS Friday evening.

Calling all Vodafone Warriors Supporters

What could be better than hanging out with your mates, having a few bevies and watching NRL?

Not much, we think, so join us on our very own same day return fan flight and you can be part of the crowd that witness the Vodafone Warriors take on the **West Tigers** at the impressive

Westpac Stadium on Saturday 29th March 2014

Oh, and on the flight home the whole team will be joining us!

Our package includes:

• Return flights from Auckland to Wellington, tickets to the **Vodafone Warriors vs West Tigers** game

• Return transfers from Wellington airport to Westpac Stadium.

Price: \$249 per person

Return flights to Wellington on Saturday 29th March (seat only)

Depart Auckland 12.45pm **Arrive Wellington 1.45pm**

Depart Wellington 9.00pm Arrive Auckland 10.00pm



CKSOKISTEELER ROSEDALE PARK 28 - 29 MARCH



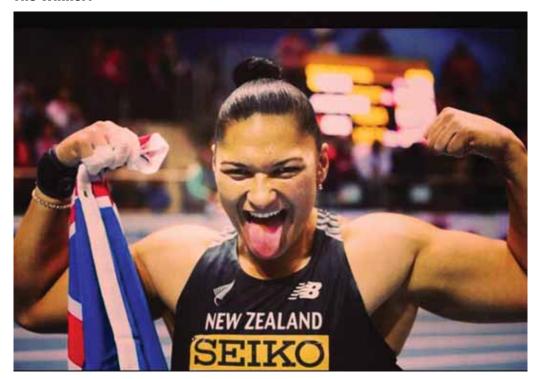


NAS WINS AGAIN 19.68 m in Melbourne

Valerie Adams with her coach Jean-Pierre Egger and Lou Johnson, physio; two key people behind Val's success.



The Winner!



Valerie Adams, the winner of 2 Olympic gold medals, and 7 world titles. Not bad for a girl from South Auckland.



Valerie with her good mate and coach, Jean-Pierre.

alerie Adams won by over four metres in Melbourne on Saturday, but she's a great athlete because she'll only settle for the best.

So Valerie says she was happy with the win, but not happy with the result. Her best throw was **19.68m** (the second placed Aussie, **Kim Mulhall** threw 15.05m) and Valerie now looks to 20 metres as her gold standard.

What's special about Valerie, is that history shows she's at her very best when the competition is the toughest. Look at how she smashed the field at the world indoor championships in Poland, coming back after surgery on her knee and ankle.

Watch out for Valerie at the New Zealand championships at Newtown Park in Wellington this Saturday. The women's shot starts at 2.10pm. Defending her national title is the reason Valerie flew back from Europe. She's done it, for no prize money, ever since she went to Switzerland to train with Jean-Pierre Egger in 2010 because she's a proud Kiwi, and holding her country's title, as she has since 2000, means a lot to her personally. A loyal, true champion.

Mystics turn it on

n Monday night I went to the netball to watch the Northern Mystics v Adelaide Thunderbirds and what a game it was.

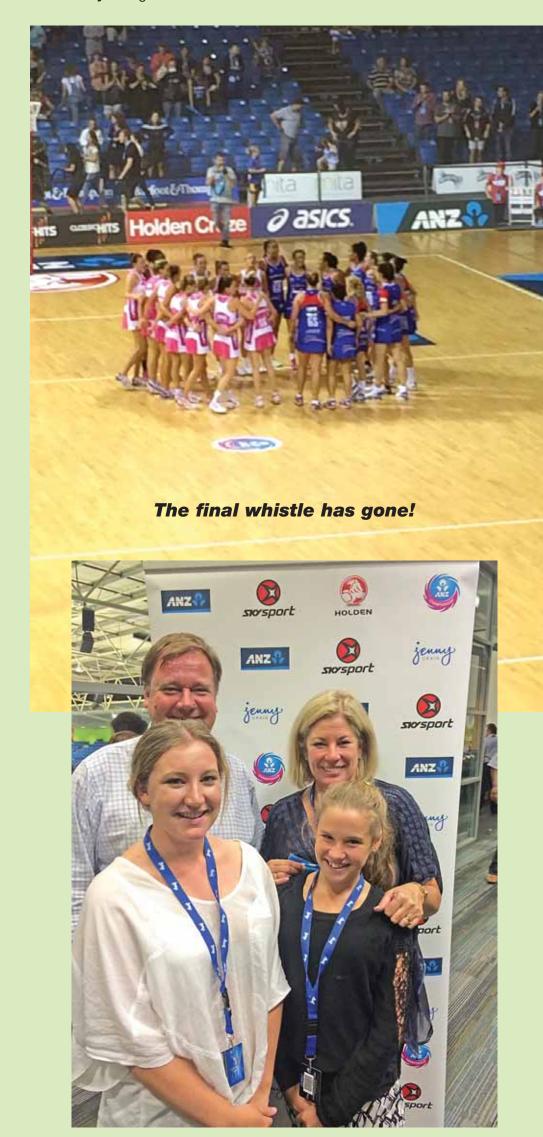
I caught up with mates **Val Adams**, **Sir Graham Henry** and **Jo Price**, which is always a pleasure.

It was one of the most exciting netball I have seen in a long time, the *Mystics* pulling off an upset by beating the champions 71-68 in extra time.

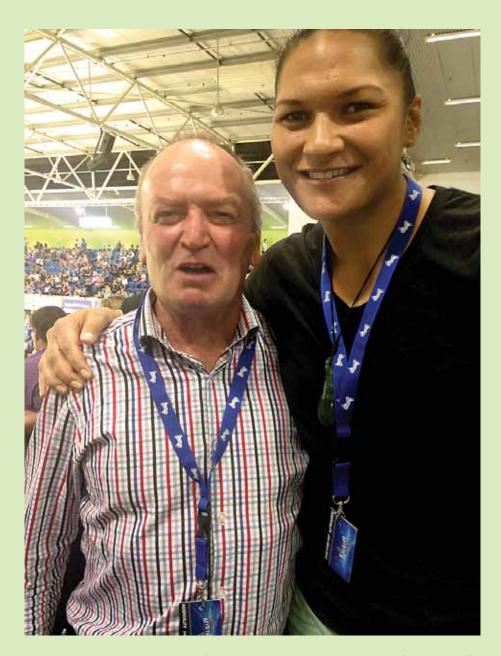
It was the *Mystics*' first win of the championship and snapped a 16-game winning streak for the Aussies. The first quarter was tight with the teams largely going goal for goal but the score blew out in the second quarter with the *Thunderbirds* on fire.

In the third quarter the *Mystics* stunned the crowd by leading by just one point, for the first time, but the *Thunderbirds* managed to sneak a goal in.

Two extra seven-minute halves saw the teams swap the lead a number of times before the cool heads off the *Mystics* got us home. Incredible.



Peter Thomson and his family at the netball. His company, Barfoot and Thomson, are great supporters of Auckland, in particular, the Auckland Blues.



Look who I saw at the Mystics netball game on Monday night: Valerie Adams and Sir Graham Henry.



Julie Paterson, CEO of the Northern Mystics and Steve Price's wife, Jo. Their daughter plays for Magic Bop.

A night with the Breakers!

Farewell CJ Bruton

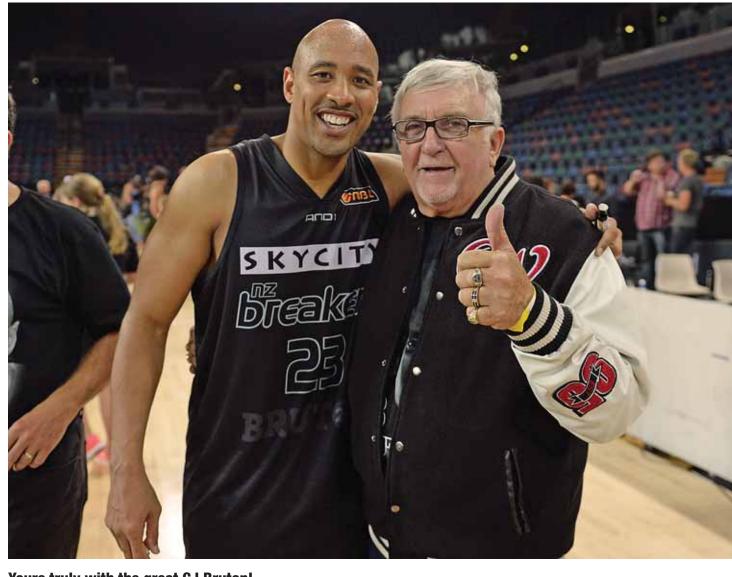
ast Friday night I went to the **Breakers** last game of the season with my good mate **Dexter**. It was CJ Bruton's last game for the club and Dex and I were part of the well over 8000 fans who turned up to salute a champion.

What a night the **Breakers** put on. They are a very slick organisation. Unfortunately they lost the game but I take my hat off to them for a great night.

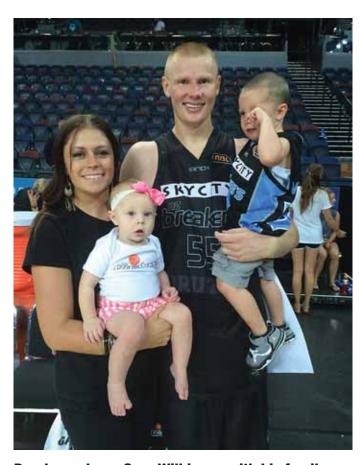
CJ deserved much better but the 95-83 defeat to the **Cairns Taipans** summed up the season.

But CJ goes out a winner in my book and I salute him. He has been huge to a club that did the unthinkable and became the first Kiwi club to snatch an Aussie title. The was key to them doing it three times.

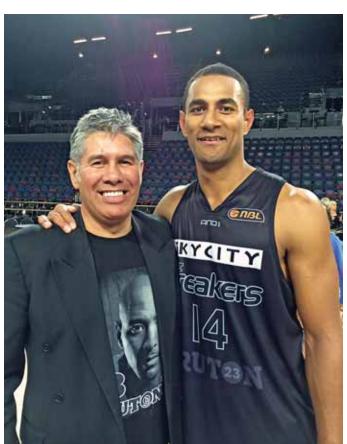
He made 179 appearances in a *Breakers* singlet and it is safe to say helped transform a middling club into a dominant one.



Yours truly with the great CJ Bruton!



Breakers player Gary Wilkinson with his family.



Dexter!



Mika Vukona, Breakers player, wanted a photo with Paul, the owner of the Breakers, chilling out before the game.



Click here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C._J._Bruton

Want to know more about C.J.?

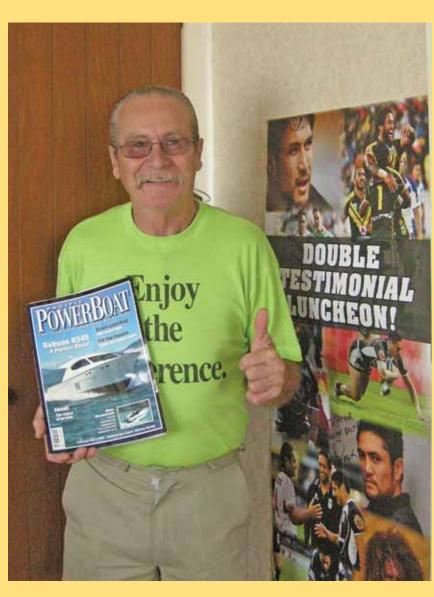
Here I am "Hanging loose" with **Nathan Howard (Abercombie** singlet on) & Bailey Sampson (CJ Bruton singlet on)



What a great day for a barbie!

Paid a visit to Cornwall Park over the weekend and did some BBQ cooking the old fashioned way.
You can't beat the Mad Butcher's meat when it's sizzling on a hot plate!





Hi Peter,

Trevor Bell would like to thank you for being a Winner of the *Pacific POWERBOAT* Magazine subscription for 12 months.

Much appreciated. A No 1 Warriors Supporter.

Trevor Bell

News from the U.K.

Covered Wakefield-St Helens yesterday: was a bit of a Samoan reunion with **Sia Soliola** and **Mose Masoe** for **Saints**, and **Ali Lauitiiti**, **Pita Godinet** and **Taulima Tautai** for Wakefield. **Saints** came from behind to win 24-16 and stay top of the table, with Soliola outstanding from the interchange bench. **Lance Hohaia** missed out with injury but could be back for next Friday's big game against Leeds, who are also unbeaten.

Louis Anderson scored a couple of tries for the **Catalan Dragons** as they got their first win of the season against Huddersfield in Perpignan on Saturday night. The **Dragons** have really missed Anderson, who was allowed to go back to Auckland for compassionate reasons just before the start of the season. It was great to see him, and them, back on form.



We've been having a few technical problems getting the Newsletter out to you, recently.

If you didn't receive last week's issue, you can still see it by going to:

http://www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz/news/



Hornby Rugby League Team travels to West Coast to play a Rep Side

Recently our under 13 team from **Hornby Rugby League** travelled to the West Coast to play a rep side.

As the club sent the Prems to defend the Thacker Shield, along with them went us and our under 11yr old team.

All three games were great as the winners of two were our Prems and 11's.

We went down to a huge West Coast side but took a lot of positives out of it.

The boys enjoyed League, Great Food and the Aquatic Centre.

It was awesome bonding for all the boys, three of whom are new to the game, and one has transferred to play in this very well-run, family orientated team.

We are very blessed to have a supportive club that makes the effort for its juniors to indulge in such events, and my thanks go to them.

So I just want to let you folk know Rugby League is alive and well in the South.

Best Regards

Antony "Woody" Smith -coach

(This is the team my little mate Liam, with Leukemia, played for. In fact, that is how I got to know him; Woody contacted me! Liam is still battling along, the little champion).









Warriors line up unchanged against Tigers

he **Vodafone Warriors** starting line-up named is unchanged from the one used in the courageous 20-16 win over the **Cowboys**.

Back rower **Feleti Mateo** finished the game in Townsville but was ruled out with a knee complaint, ending a run of 79 consecutive appearances since joining the **Vodafone Warriors** in 2011.

"We were hoping Feleti would be clear to play but his knee isn't quite right," said *Vodafone Warriors* head coach **Matthew Elliott**.

"That's disappointing but, on the other hand, it's great having Thomas back.

"He was a really important part of our spine last year. He's obviously very handy in the halves and also gives us cover at hooker.

"We probably made a mature decision not to play him last year. He's a fairly useful bench player."

While **Leuluai**'s return [See item below] is significant the match also provides two notable individual milestones with captain **Simon Mannering** leading the side for a club record 92nd time and former Cronulla and Melbourne centre **Dane Nielsen** making his 100th NRL appearance. Mannering equalled **Steve Price**'s record of 91 games as captain last weekend. He is not only just eight appearances away from 100 games in charge but he's also just eight short of becoming only the second player to rack up 200 NRL games for the club (after **Stacey Jones**, who made 261 appearances).

"Simon commands so much respect from everyone in the club," said Elliott.

"He's such a high-quality player and leader as well as being a fine person."

Mannering will achieve his record in a city which was briefly home for him before he moved to Auckland to join the *Vodafone Warriors*.

Returning home for his second outing as a *Vodafone Warrior* at Westpac Stadium will be the only genuine Wellington product in the side, prop **Ben Matulino** who was born and raised in Lower Hutt. He'll be making his 136th NRL appearance.

Leuluai returns for Capital Clash

Experienced **Vodafone Warriors** utility veteran has been sidelined since picking up **Thomas Leuluai** will make his first a groin injury during the *Kiwis*' 2013 Rugby appearance of the year in Saturday's fourthround NRL game against Wests Tigers at Westpac Stadium in Wellington (5.05pm kick-off; match day sponsor: **Vodafone**). After playing every minute of the club's NRL debut as a 17-year-old against the 24 matches last season, the 28-year-old **Bulldogs** in 2003.

League World Cup campaign last year. He was close to making a return last week but has now been fully cleared to make his comeback at a ground where he made his

He has been named on the interchange bench alongside props Jacob Lillyman and Suaia Matagi and centre Konrad Hurrell, who was used predominantly as a back rower in last Saturday night's win against North Queensland.

Click here for Video Interview with Matt Elliott and article: http://www.warriors.co.nz/news/2014/03/25/nrl round 3 leuluai makes return.html

TEAM LINE UP: VODAFONE WARRIORS v WESTS TIGERS Westpac Stadium, Wellington 5.00pm, Saturday, March 29

VODAFONE WARRIORS

- 1 SAM TOMKINS
- 2 **GLEN FISHAHI**
- 3 DANE NIELSEN
- 4 JEROME ROPATI
- 5 MANU VATUVEI
- 6 CHAD TOWNSEND
- 7 SHAUN JOHNSON
- 8 SAM RAPIRA
- 9 NATHAN FRIEND
- 10 BEN MATULINO
- 11 JAYSON BUKUYA
- 12 SIMON MANNERING (c)
- 13 SIONE LOUSI

Interchange:

- **JACOB LILLYMAN**
- 15 **SUAIA MATAGI**
- KONRAD HURRELL
- 17 THOMAS LEULUAI

HEAD COACH: MATTHEW ELLIOTT





To stay up to date with all that is happening with the

Vodafone Warriors.

and to see a gallery of the day's best photos check out

www.facebook.com/ vodafonewarriors

Cheers, The team at the **Vodafone Warriors**

2014 NRL Telstra Premiership | Secure your seats to live Rugby League in Round 4 now!

This weekend will see Rugby League action continue in Round 4 of the **2014 NRL Telstra Premiership.** The **Sydney Roosters** and **Manly** Warringah Sea Eagles will clash on Friday Night in a blockbuster 2013 Grand Final replay, whilst the *Dragons* host the **Broncos** in WIN Stadium's first game for 2014. The Warriors will face the Wests Tigers in Wellington, and the **Bulldogs** travel to Perth to take on the **Storm**. The **Gold Coast Titans** will close out the round when they clash with the **North Queensland Cowboys** in an exciting QLD Derby.

Friday, 28th March

Roosters v Sea Eagles Allianz Stadium, Sydney 7:40pm Kickoff

Dragons v Broncos WIN Stadium, Wollongong 8:00pm Kickoff

Saturday, 29th March

Bulldogs v Storm nib Stadium, Perth 4:30pm Kickoff

Warriors v Wests Tigers Westpac Stadium, Wellington 5:00pm Kickoff

Eels v Panthers Pirtek Stadium, **Parramatta** 5:30pm Kickoff

Sunday, 30th March

Rabbitohs v Raiders ANZ Stadium, Sydney 2:00pm Kickoff

Knights v Sharks Hunter Stadium, Newcastle 3:00pm Kickoff

Monday, 31st March

Titans v Cowboys Cbus Super Stadium, Robina 6:30pm Kickoff



Tonight on ZB with Tony Veitch, the rugby league legend Steve Price. An interview that will be worth listening to!

http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/auckland/shows/saturdayafternoons/

2014 VODAFONE WARRIORS – PLAYER STATISTICS

Player	Current Club				2014 NRL Statistics				NRL Career Statistics			
	M	T	G	PTS	M	T	G	PTS	M	T	G	PTS
DAVID BHANA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JAYSON BUKUYA (187)	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	62	13	0	52
RAYMOND FAITALA-MARINER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLEN FISIIAHI (163)	22	11	0	44	3	3	0	12	22	11	0	44
NATHAN FRIEND (171)	41	2	0	8	3	0	0	0	176	9	0	36
DAVID FUSITUA (189)	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SILIVA HAVILI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHARLIE GUBB (183)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
BEN HENRY (173) 32	11	3	50	1	0	0	0	32	11	3	50	
KONRAD HURRELL (172)	38	26	0	104	1	1	0	4	38	26	0	104
SEBASTINE IKAHIHIFO (176)	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
SHAUN JOHNSON (168)65	28	76	261	3	0	6	12	65	28	76	261	
NGANI LAUMAPE (180)	14	6	0	24	0	0	0	0	14	6	0	24
THOMAS LEULUAI (105)	45	8	0	32	0	0	0	0	45	8	0	32
JACOB LILLYMAN (146)	103	5	0	20	3	0	0	0	165	8	0	32
KEVIN LOCKE (152)	87	26	24	152	0	0	0	0	87	26	24	152
TUIMOALA LOLOHEA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SAMIUELA LOUSI (175)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
SIONE LOUSI (159)	33	2	0	8	2	1	0	4	33	2	0	8
SIMON MANNERING (125)	191	43	0	172	3	0	0	0	191	43	0	172
SUAIA MATAGI (181)	14	1	0	4	3	0	0	0	14	1	0	4
FELETI MATEO (164)	79	9	2	40	3	0	0	0	167	29	2	120
BEN MATULINO (142)	135	9	0	36	3	0	0	0	135	9	0	36
DANE NIELSEN (178)	20	2	0	8	3	0	0	0	99	26	0	104
JOHN PALAVI (188)	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	02	0	0	0	0
NATHANIEL PETERU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DOMINIQUE PEYROUX (182)	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	3	0	12
SAM RAPIRA (131)	154	12	0	48	3	0	0	0	154	12	0	48
JEROME ROPATI (108)	144	54	0	216	2	1	0	4	144	54	0	216
CHAD TOWNSEND (186)	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	22	3	28	68
SAM TOMKINS (185)	3	1	0	4	3	1	0	4	3	1	0	4
CARLOS TUIMAVAVE (177)	9	2	0	8 476	1	0	0	0	9	2	0	8 476
MANU VATUVEI (115)	173	119	0	476	2	1	0	4	173	119	0	476
ALBERT VETE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hope you are enjoying the newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz Or if you would like to unsubscribe please email Amelia and she will delete you from the list.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can!































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Here are the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it is a team effort.



David Kemeys Editor at Large



Peter Leitch Rex Harrison Editor **Graphic Designer**





