

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

27<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## Newsletter #132



Parker  
v  
Haumono

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

# At the Parker Fight in Christchurch



Great to catch up with the legend Monty Betham at the boxing. Monty left on Tuesday for the Rio Olympics as part of Sky TV's team. Top man!



Me and Butterbean who is doing some fantastic work in the community. Very proud of this boy.



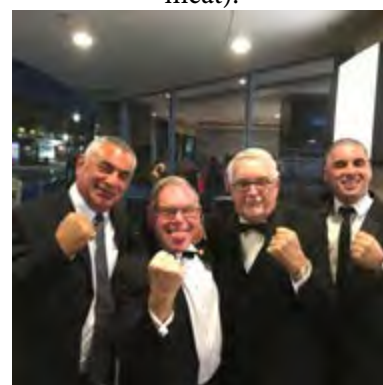
Kevin Barry giving Mike Morton from the Mad Butcher some stick after Mike won the meat raffle in the pub (no it was not mad butcher meat).



Me and my mate Dexter ready to rock the night away in Christchurch.



My grandson Matthew caught up with Joseph Parker after his win in Christchurch.



The boys ready to hit the town in Christchurch. Nino, Rodney, Butch and Daniel.



Also at the boxing 3 former Kiwis Logan Edwards, Justin Wallace, Mark Woods.



Was great to catch up with my old mate, international boxing commentator, Colonel Bob Sheridan. Bob is based in Las Vegas and has called over 10,000 fights including Muhammed Ali, George Foreman and Larry Holmes to name a few. He has been inducted into the boxing Hall of Fame and is a top bloke.

Hi all

Just wanted to give you a heads up on the feature that screened yesterday on The Hui (TV3) about the NZRL Taurahere camp on the Gold Coast this month.

Reporter Rewa Harriman visited the camp and produced an outstanding insight into the programme.

Feel free to share this coverage with your friends & community ..

[Watch full feature here](#)

**Grant Chapman**  
Communications Manager  
New Zealand Rugby League







**J**UST THE one word, and it's unprintable, on losing in golden point to Canberra. Insert the same word over the decision to ban Vodafone Warriors prop Charlie Gubb for seven weeks for a shoulder charge – and add the word wits to the end of it.

Coach Andrew McFadden was spitting tacks about it, and it is no wonder.

People complain the judiciary is inconsistent. I am less convinced, because one thing is entirely consistent. If you are a player from Penrose, expect to get a shitty hearing.

The seven match suspension Charlie has copped is laughable.

The incident, which featured Manly's Darcy Lussick, was not punished on the field, and Lussick himself thought there was nothing in it.

But hey, if you play State of Origin there is one set of rules for you, and another for anyone else. If you are a big name player and hit someone late, and break their jaw and leave them out of the game, there is another set of rules for you too. If you are from Penrose, cop this.

Before all those who get fed up with conspiracy theorists like me start spitting, consider this. If they stopped doing dumb stuff that is totally out of whack with everything else, where the Warriors are concerned, we wouldn't think we get the brown end of the stick in the first place.

McFadden called it "handing out jail terms for parking tickets", and he is quite right.

Every year we see decisions out of the judiciary that are stupid, but this one takes the cake.

It might have been a bad week for Charlie, but we are in negotiations to keep him beyond his current contract, which ends in 2017.

Cronulla are already being touted as a possibility, but recruitment manager Tony Iro says we are trying to extend his deal.

"We're trying to come to an agreement. We're still at the negotiating table in terms of getting an extension,

but we're keen on Charlie being around."

Pardon me if I don't have huge faith in our recruitment policy – Jonathan Wright, Matthew Allwood, Jeff Robson, need I say more?

Probably should, to strike a bit of balance, Bodene Thompson has been a cracking signing, and we miss him, and I don't recall anyone moaning about Roger Tuivasa Sheck or Isaac Luke either, so maybe they are not as bad as I am painting them.

At least I did have one reason to cheer this weekend, Parramatta's top-eight hopes ended when they lost 34-14 to the Titans. Good riddance. I am on record as having no sympathy for them.

The Eels have been the gift that keeps on giving this year, lurching from controversy to controversy, and that's without even taking Corey Norman into account.

He did not play against the Titans because he got eight weeks – that's one more than Gubb – for drug possession, hanging about with gangsters, making a sex tape and generally being an arse.

Parramatta have been taken over by an administrator after the salary-cap scandals that saw them fined \$1 million and docked 12 points, and, amazingly, I harbour them no ill-will going forward.

Best of luck to them I say, and their long-suffering fans, who must understand better than most what we go through as Warriors fans, because we never win anything either.

But if the Eels had made it to finals footy, having rorted the cap, it would have been a disgrace.

On the other hand, the Titans, right up there in the betting to be everyone's whipping boys, have made a decent fist of the comp this year, and are in sight of their first finals in six years.

Back at the Eels administrator Max Donnelly has sacked our old friend Daniel Anderson, the footy manager, who had been suspended since May, but was still being paid – who would know, but apparently about \$250,000 a year. That is the kind of job I'm looking for.

## More Golden Misery

Our third loss in four games –all them in golden point – this time 26-22 to the Raiders in Canberra, and what a heartbreaker after a brilliant comeback.

If there is a more under-rated player in the NRL than Raiders' captain Jarrod Croker, who scored the 82nd minute try to sink us, I will go he.

He was outstanding throughout, kicking brilliantly, scoring a hat-trick, and marshalling his troops superbly.

I hate the bastard.

We were taking bets at my house, at 22-4 down with 10 to go, and I got closest. I said we'd score three times but miss the final conversion to lose by two. Isaac Luke made a mug of me, nailing a wonderful sideline conversion that had us jumping around the room and generally scaring the crap out of the cat, and barely disturbing the dog.

Minutes later, as Croker scored, even the dog left the room, the air was so blue.

It was one play really, and credit where it is due, any side that go 100 metres from the kick-off to score in golden point deserves the points.

Having Blake Ayshford in the defensive line certainly makes it a bit easier, but let's not play the blame game.

At least we had got to see Tuimoala Lolohea, which was a big step up from last week's debacle.

He made a decent contribution, and frankly, poured more egg on McFadden's face. His reasoning for leaving Lolohea on the bench the week before was about as solid as glad wrap.

Tui was very good, and when you consider the pressure he must have felt, given the circumstances, it says much about his character.

Let me get this on the record. I like McFadden. I am in the camp that says we cannot keep chopping and changing, I believe he has to be given time to learn his craft, that he is indeed learning valuable lessons, that he has the courage to make tough decisions, and that he sticks with them.

On the other hand, too many of those decisions are just plain wrong.

If you needed evidence that the decision around the game time he gave Lolohea against the Sharks and

Manly was wrong, just ask yourself who was the catalyst for the comeback on Saturday.

## Out Of The Eight

The result on Saturday propels the Raiders into the top four, and sends us outside the eight.

The Raiders can play. They have threats all over the park, have a solid forward pack, a good spine, crafty halves and a very good fullback.

They also have Ricky Stuart, but no one is perfect.

But there will be plenty of sides looking at the improving Green machine and hoping to avoid them.

Meanwhile our run home for the finals just got even harder.

The media writers all said it was hard to criticise the boys, but I will have a go.

The start was awful. Way too slow, and the usual array of early penalties, and a defensive line that looked far from convincing.

Fortunately it was short-lived and we dominated after. Unfortunately domination is not the same as scoring points, which we didn't do.

Fortunately our final 10 minutes was exceptional, crafting a comeback that Lazarus would have been proud of. Unfortunately our execution in the other 70 minutes was not that great.

And what is about us that we are as weak as water just before halftime?

## Get Manu A Tutu

We have gotten used to seeing wingers in this comp score wonderful tries, most notably our own David Fusitua, who did exactly that in the final minutes.

But you maybe do not expect to see Manu Vatuvei doing the same thing.

When he got our first try on Saturday it was a thing of beauty – if a bit of a comedy.

He juggled here, he juggled it there, he juggled it behind him, in front of him and all the while the defence was closing in. When he finally got the ball under control he dived over in a manner that even Fusitua would have admired.

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The Herald on Sunday's Michael Burgess used the phrase a 110 kilo ballerina.

It was the big man's 150th NRL try – only the 11th player in the history of the game – and none of the others are from the modern era, to achieve the mark.

And yet there are still people who bag the bloke. Idiots.

### **Stats Incredible**

You know how many games the Vodafone Warriors have won this year when they have been behind at halftime? None.

### **Goal Vanishing**

I take you a back to the start of the year – okay, we had an exciting new signing at fullback that we had no idea would get injured - but the goal, as stated by management, was top four. Not going to happen.

We did have a fallback position. It was top six - and a home final. Not going to happen.

Never mind. Let's just revise the goal. Finals footy.

Not that long ago you would have got laughed at for even suggesting it, and here I must declare, I said, pessimistic bastard that I am, we would not make it, especially when we were playing really badly.

Our annual State of Origin revival turned fortunes around, but now we are in the annual post Origin slump, losing tight ones certainly, but still losing.

The Panthers and Titans loom, and they are both in great form.

Will it happen – our annual prayer sessions resume.

### **GGG - Gavet Goes Good**

Prop James Gavet, the ink still drying on his new contract, went well against the Raiders.

Only the day before, Gavet signed to the end of 2017, the club taking an option in his contract.

It was a move some would have wondered about, because he has been far from outstanding in his outings so far- but there are plenty who would argue you could say that about most of our props.

But he carried strongly, pulled off a couple of stunning tackles and even mowed down a Canberra back whose name I can't recall.

He had plenty to say in the weekend papers, reveal-

ing he had even considered a return to rugby if he could not make it work at Penrose.

The bloke has had some rotten luck. He has suffered cruel injuries, three of them ending his seasons in the last four years. He's also battled depression.

He came back to New Zealand and was picked up during pre-season training, and has apparently impressed everyone with his attitude around the club.

"I've always just taken the field and given my all. It doesn't matter if you are playing in front of thousands, or hundreds. That's how we get here in the first place and you have to earn your stripes," Gavet says.

"Now I've been given a new role, more about laying the platform than just impact. I'd like to stamp my mark while the other boys are out."

My favourite words – "given my all" –can't ask for more.

### **Tevaga Opens Up**

Another good piece in the weekend papers was on rookie Jazz Tevaga, who was quick to praise the care he receives at the club's Howick house, the one where young players are mentored by the Taplin family.

Tevaga said Spencer Taplin, who runs the house, made it easy for him to reveal the negative influences that were holding him back.

"He asked what I was up to outside of footy and I told the truth. He asked me what I wanted to do and made me realise I wasn't going to get there doing the stuff I was doing. To really give it a crack I had to give up that stuff, so I did."

Spencer is modest about his role, but says it was clear Tevaga was in need of direction. "That's all he was looking for, some guidance and boundaries."

Tevaga hopes his story can help others. "Playing league, that's where I get my high now."

### **You Heard It Here First**

Back the Cowboys to do a repeat, and be the first side to win back to back titles.

At the weekend the Townsville mob destroyed the Bulldogs – who don't have the cattle to go deep in the finals – and I am starting to believe they will again go all the way.

That 36-0 flogging will have made a few sides nervous.



# Fans out in Force at Game Against Raiders



Go The  
Warriors!

# Women in League: Carmen Taplin By John Deaker



**C**ARMEN TAPLIN loves people and when you talk to everyone around the Vodafone Warriors' club it quickly becomes apparent that rugby league people love having her involved with their sport. Her official title at the club is Football Operations Coordinator but in reality her life is dedicated to the Warriors because the rest of the time she helps out husband Spencer organizing their house: a 6 bedroom home in Howick which was converted into a 'home-away-from-home' for young Warriors ( and dubbed 'Autex House' ) in October last year.

Carmen is unique from most of the other people working at the Warriors HQ because of the fact she didn't grow up in rugby league circles or even watching the 13-man game. It was only when her husband Spencer started playing for the reserve team at the Manurewa Marlins in 2007 that she found herself close to the sport that her whole life now revolves around.

Part of Carmen's role ( working with Dan Floyd: Football Operations Manager ) involves liaising with players' wives and partners. She's really proud of the emphasis the club puts on catering for their needs and although it's something that the club already emphasized a lot before Jim Doyle became CEO late last year it's something that's been encouraged even more under his watch.

"A lot of the new boys to the club have said 'Wow, this is amazing' because at some clubs the partners have never met the CEO and the coach before," says Taplin.

"We have a suite that is just for the partners and their kids on game-day and we run special events for the families too. Ben Matulino's wife Courtney has been my go-to girl if I need anything. And Mel Hoffman [Ryan's wife] has been great too."

Catering for a large number of kids on game-day has become more and more important during the last year as over a dozen kids have been born into the 'Warrior family' during that time. Courtney Matulino was the first to give birth at the start of this extraordinary production cycle. Carmen jokes that there must be something in the water round the club that has led to so much 'productivity.' If that is the case Spencer must have been drinking from the same tap because Carmen became what she describes as an "Older-aged mum" back in March.

At this time Carmen showed how much she loves her job and what a poster-child she is for women in league; She barely stopped working through the period leading up to and following her daughter Ayla's arrival.

"I worked right through till the game-day on Sunday the 20th of March and then went in to hospital the next day. Ayla arrived on the Wednesday – two and a half weeks early," says Taplin.

"We joke about it now at the club but I worked right through my pregnancy and took only two weeks leave afterwards. I was working from home after that so it feels like I never stopped. That's because the club were so supportive and said I could take time off if I wanted but I love it so much and having the league boys at home it never felt like I needed to stop."

Carmen is able to juggle half her week working at home and the half other half of it at the Warriors' offices at Mount Smart Stadium. It helps that Spencer has flexibility within his schedule where he takes on the role of the leader and organizer of Autex house.

Carmen is very happy with how the Autex house project has progressed in its first season and she takes pleasure in much more than just seeing the boys get better on the field.

"The fact that these young men can cook a meal now is great. We had some boys that couldn't flip an egg when they first arrived," she says.

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“We talk to them all the time about how they’re progressing and they love it. Last night there was five of them sitting round with Spence going over video and it was great.”

Carmen is apprehensive about the inevitable time approaching where some of the boys will have to move on from the house but Spencer and her have already clarified to all the group that they’re just a phone call away.

Autex House can take great pride in Sam Lisone’s development. He had one of his best games of the season at the weekend against Canberra and though he’s been living with a family member the last few weeks he still has one foot in the door and is more than welcome back at the house any time.

Looking ahead to the weekend’s Women in League round , Carmen is looking forward to the players wearing their unique Women in League jerseys when they take on Penrith at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday night. She says people should watch out for the wives and partners to be wearing warm-up shirts that will have their man’s name on them as they create a tunnel for the team to run out on the field.

In a special first for a Women in League game-day, the Warriors will be staging a women’s game between the Akarana and Counties Manukau representative teams in the first curtain raiser (12.40pm kick-off).

It will be followed by the Vodafone Junior Warriors taking on Penrith in their 21st-round NYC encounter (2.40pm kick-off) and then the NRL contest kicks off at 5.00pm.

Apart from the women’s game and the NRL kit there’ll also be a number of other features supporting the theme including a Women in League Bay in the East Stand, Women in League halftime competition and a Women in League movie night.



**VODAFONE**  
WARRIORS

V

Rnd 23

Rnd 25

Rnd 26

**FINAL 3 GAME BLITZ**  
MEMBERSHIP  
FROM \$45

**VODAFONE**  
WARRIORS

V

**PANTHERS**

**STAND AS ONE**

**THIS SATURDAY**  
Kick off 5pm  
Mt Smart Stadium



# Six Steps to World Cup Glory

## By John Coffey QSM



**T**HE KIWIS will probably have to beat Samoa, Scotland, Tonga, France, England and Australia to reclaim the Rugby League World Cup in 2017. They play Samoa at Mt Smart Stadium, Scotland at Christchurch and Tonga at Hamilton in Pool B games, while France (in a quarter-final at Wellington), England (in a semi-final at Mt Smart) and Australia (in the final at Brisbane) are likely opponents in the sudden-death stages of the 28-match tournament.

Last week's announcement of the World Cup draw confirmed that Brisbane's majestic Suncorp Stadium is still the heart of international rugby league. It also offered New Zealand fans the chance to see the Kiwis five times at four different venues, introduced new World Cup venues Hamilton, Wellington, Darwin, Perth, Cairns and Port Moresby, and left the entire state of New South Wales with only two pool games involving Lebanon.

It was at Suncorp Stadium that the Kiwis came from two tries behind to thump the Kangaroos 34-20 in the unforgettable 2008 World Cup final. The Brisbane showplace was filled to capacity that night, mostly populated with shocked Aussies but also a fair number of ecstatic New Zealanders. This time the Kiwis have been given an opportunity to play their semi-final on home soil, while the highly favoured Kangaroos would play theirs in Brisbane.

Most World Cups produce upsets. Fiji reached the semi-finals in 2008 and 2013, while Scotland and the United States were surprise quarter-finalists in 2013. Samoa has beaten Tonga in their last two clashes in Sydney and gave New Zealand and England a tough time during the 2014 Four Nations. Samoa also tested the Kiwis at the 2013 World Cup, while Tonga was desperately unlucky not to beat New Zealand at the 1995 tournament.

The preference of Mt Smart ahead of Eden Park is to be applauded, provided promises are kept to renovate the stadium and increase capacity to 30,000. Christchurch last hosted a world tournament fixture in 1977 when Great Britain beat the Kiwis at the Addington Show Grounds. Next year's World Cup pool match against Scotland and a quarter-final (possibly between Fiji and Samoa) will also be on the site of the former Show Grounds.

Wellington's quarter-final will include the Kiwis if they qualify top of their pool. They will oppose the third-placed team from the pool consisting of Australia, England, France and Lebanon – logic suggests the winner of the France v Lebanon game at Canberra Stadium will eventually advance to play the Kiwis at Westpac Stadium, the only one of the four New Zealand venues not rectangular in shape.

New Zealand's big winner is Hamilton, which hosts Tonga's mouth-watering clashes against Samoa and New Zealand. They will be the first rugby league Tests played in a city which has vastly improved its sports facilities in recent years. Very much in Hamilton's favour was the easy access for the sizeable Polynesian communities in south Auckland. The Tongan squad will set up camp in the city before and between the matches on November 4 and 11.

Missing the cut were 2014 Four Nations cities Whangarei, which attracted 16,902 for the Kiwis against Samoa, and Dunedin, which drew 15,836 when the Kiwis met England. Wellington hosted that tournament final, when the Kiwis beat the Kangaroos in front of 25,183 fans. Because Whangarei and Dunedin have been overlooked and Wellington has just one game, Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch are clearly expected to do better.

Sydney was granted only two pool games involving Lebanon, which might be captained by Robbie Farah, against Australia and England. That decision was popular with the Lebanese community although they will need to travel into Allianz Stadium to see their heroes, with western Sydney grounds having been ignored. Parramatta Stadium (which will be under reconstruction next year) and Penrith Stadium both hosted two games in 2008.

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NSW cities Newcastle and Wollongong were also snubbed when the NSW government failed to make more than a token bid after initially offering \$4 million. Government spokesmen replied they had no money left after allocating \$1.6 billion towards stadium refurbishment and in bidding for other fixtures such as the 2015 Anzac Test. The New Zealand government got a bargain with four pool games and three finals for a modest \$1.35 million.

Scotland has a truly testing assignment, playing Tonga in Cairns, the Kiwis in Christchurch and Samoa in Cairns on consecutive weekends. There are no direct flights between Cairns and Christchurch. But Scottish coach Steve McCormick said the Bravehearts welcomed the challenge. Scotland beat Tonga 26-24 in 2013 before being over-run by the Kiwis 40-4 in a quarter-final. They already face a tough Four Nations later this year.

2017 World Cup games in New Zealand: October 28, New Zealand v Samoa at Mt Smart; November 4, New Zealand v Scotland at Christchurch and Samoa v Tonga at Hamilton; November 11, New Zealand v Tonga at Hamilton; November 18, quarter-finals at both Christchurch and Wellington; November 24, semi-final at Mt Smart. The final is at Brisbane on December 2.

### WORLD CUP AMBASSADOR

New Zealand Rugby League patron Sir Peter Leitch has been appointed ambassador for the New Zealand section of the 2017 World Cup tournament.

Sir Peter will be to the forefront of World Cup promotions and in attendance at as many of the New Zealand matches as possible.

World Cup officials have obviously chosen wisely. Few people have served so effectively in ambassador roles as Sir Peter, whether it in building a lone suburban butchery into a national chain or in raising funds for profiles of numerous charities.

**Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:**



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PANTHERS

**STAND AS ONE**

**THIS SATURDAY**

Kick off 5pm  
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VODAFONE  
WARRIORS

V

Rnd 23

+

Rnd 25

+

Rnd 26

**FINAL 3 GAME BLITZ MEMBERSHIP FROM \$45**



# Compete With Any Team

## By Barry Ross



**W**HILE THREE Golden Point losses in the last four games is heartbreaking, it does show that the Warriors are good enough to compete with any team in the competition. Two of these defeats were away games against top four teams and the Warriors held their own all over the park. While there are many positives to come from all three tight losses, the team must find a way to take the competition points from such games. How different the ladder would be if the Warriors could have won all three of these games, or even just one of them.

To get back into the match with three tries in the last 10 minutes at Canberra was a tremendous effort and a credit to every player. Ryan Hoffman set a great example as his match stats of 155 running metres from 16 runs, plus 22 tackles, indicate. At 32, he is consistently good each game. The Canberra game was his 280th first grade appearance and in his 17 games this year, he has ran for 1,911 metres, as well as making 387 tackles. That is a 2016 game average of more than 112 metres and nearly 23 tackles. This is better than his strong figures from last year when he averaged 109 metres and 20 tackles. As well as his 280 NRL games, Ryan has also played six Tests for Australia and 14 Origin matches for NSW.

The Warriors forwards have played tough, no-nonsense football for several weeks now. In his 16 games this year, Simon Mannering has run for 1,401 metres and made 732 tackles, while Jacob Lillyman has 1,509 metres and 431 tackles from his 16 games. The other three starting forwards at Canberra on Saturday also have impressive stats this year. Playing only his third top grade game, Bunty Afoa is already looking a polished first grader at just 19 years of age. He is a punishing defender, averaging 30 tackles a games, plus 86 running metres. James Gavet has run for 603 metres and made 153 tackles in his eight appearances this year, while Issac Luke has run for 1,287 metres and made 503 tackles in his 17 matches. While stats can be over used, in this case they show the excellent work-rate of the Warriors pack.

Like everyone else, I was delighted when Manu Vatuvei collected his 150th first grade try. He is just one of 11 men who have reached the 150 career try mark in 109 years. The others are Ken Irvine, Steve Menzies, Billy Slater, Andrew Ettingshausen, Terry Lamb, Brett Stewart, Matt Sing, Hazem El Masri, Nathan Merritt and Harold Horder. At 30 years of age, Manu has a few seasons left in him and if the way he scored his try against Canberra is anything to go by, he will remain a crowd favourite for some time. What a great career he has enjoyed since making his first grade debut against Souths in Sydney, way back on 23 May 2004. He has now played 218 first grade games for his 150 tries and 28 Tests for New Zealand in which he has crossed for 22 tries.

I must praise Issac Luke for his last minute conversion from the touchline, which took the game into Golden Point. This was a real pressure kick in very testing weather conditions. But Issac did the job.

The Bunker disallowed a try to the Warriors after 12 minutes or so, in what the TV commentators described as a tough call. Predictably referees boss, Tony Archer, came out and said it was the correct call, just as he had said the passive interference call in the third State of Origin was the right decision. Fox TV reported on Sunday afternoon that Archer had backed his referees at Canberra. An obvious offside by the Raiders just five metres out from their tryline was also missed early in the Canberra game. Had both these decisions had have gone in favour of the Warriors, the result could have been different. Sharks coach, Shane Flanagan, was also unhappy with the Bunker after his team's 15th consecutive win, this time over Newcastle on Sunday. Flanagan is quoted in a Sydney newspaper on Monday as saying he had a feeling the Bunker was trying to find ways to disallow tries.

With three wins in their last three matches, Manly still have a slim chance of making the final eight and they should make it four in a row this Sunday against the Knights.

This Saturday's clash with the Panthers at Mt. Smart is a big game for the Warriors. The clash between Shaun Johnson and Penrith's talented young half, Nathan Cleary, will play an important part in the result.



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

## The Mad Butchers Weekly NRL Tipping Comp.

By John Holloway

### NRL Round 21

		Sue Phelan	Joe Vagana	John Coffey	Fast Eddie	Monty Betham	Bill Hayward	High-Tackle Holloway
		<i>Maloney's Barber Shop - The best haircut in town.</i>	<i>League Legend and Machine Lease King.</i>	<i>Newsletter Columnist and Veteran Leagueie</i>	<i>Devonport Dutchman - Takin it easy...</i>	<i>The Warrior Boxer - StepsForLife</i>	<i>Link Business - Buying or Selling a Business</i>	<i>Richmond Bulldog - Old School Richmond Leagueie</i>
Date/ Venue	Game							
28/07 - ALLIANZ	Roosters v Bulldogs	Roosters	Roosters	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Broncos	Roosters
29/07 - ANZ	Bulldogs v Dragons	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs	Bulldogs
30/07 - Mt Smart	Warriors v Panthers	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors	Warriors
30/07 - ANZ	Eels v Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers	Eels	Tigers	Tigers	Tigers
30/07 - 1300Smiles	Cowboys v Storm	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Storm	Storm	Storm
31/07 - ANZ	Rabbitohs v Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Rabbitohs	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
31/07 - Brookvale	Sea Eagles v Knights	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles	Sea Eagles
1/08 - CBus	Titans v Sharks	Sharks	Titans	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks	Sharks

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

Picks last week	6/8	5/8	5/8	5/8	4/8	4/8	5/8
Total picks	86/146	85/146	98/146	90/146	94/146	100/146	103/146

**YOU KNOW** the old saying “nothing is ever as it seems” amen to that! When Wayne Bennett puts on his Clint Eastwood face and says the buckling Broncos are about to turn the corner and run back into form people listen...but gee whiz ...nobody told the Panthers. The blue mountain men stuck it up them 31/12, oops back to the drawing board for the Brisbane bumblebuns. Likewise you had to give the Bruise brother Bulldogs a show up in the far north but oh no. One JT master-class later, back on the bus, tail between legs back down the highway nursing a 36/zip pelting. The Titans continue their under the radar role quietly stealing into 7th place on points diff. This weeks victim the embattled Eels. Its hard to remember any team enduring the hardships heaped on the Parra boys this year. Their slim playoff hope evaporated now, they are under new management structure and hopefully rebuilding their reputation for a renewed tilt in 2017. Another reputation rebuild also underway at Bondi Junction after a sorry start but signs of awakening and the possibility of an upset or two still on the cards in the coming weeks. They showed fight for a while this week before the Storm pulled clear for 26/10 and a sniff at the number one spot.... Know this punters, the Melbourne Storm are a side who might give the Finals a mighty shake with savvy big game coach Bellamy running his troops into dominating form at the business end. Mind you the Cronulla Cruisers are going to take some beating, knocking over the Knights for victory number 15 on the trot they have youth and experience, size and guile and talented game breakers everywhere. Right now none better than the brilliant Benny Barba. Don't ask me why but I am not a Jason Taylor fan, it might be his big nose or the shifty eyed look even so I can't begrudge he is standing by his principles side-lining the influence of mid-field maestro Farrah to unleash the wide game of young guns Brooks, Moses, Nofoaluma and typhoon Tedesco. A side issue might also be that it allows boom prop Woods free rein with his captaincy.

Continued on next page...



No argument that Sunday arvos display underlined the wisdom of this strategy as the Westies let their hair down with some stunning long range raids crushing the Red V 25/12. The Rabbitohs and Sea Eagles went at it in the Monday niter both teams look out of sorts with the Manly mob shading it at 20/12. The TurboJet brothers, with DCE and Lyons holding the seashiders together. Sam Burgess almost fighting a lone battle for spotty Souths. So what about those Warriors another dog day afternoon eh. Honest start, a stuttering attack, some loose defending, a whirlwind finish and then a second or two of defensive indecision and its over. A bit like kissing your sister.

Tippin-Talk. Cagey stuff this and hard to make a break on the field. The Broncos tripped us all as did the homies so everyone on 5s and 4s except this weeks standout Super tip Sue Phelan on a 6.

## Rugby League World Cup 2017 Update

**A BIG WEEK** for the Rugby League World Cup 2017 with the draw announcement for New Zealand, Australia and Papua New Guinea, and Sir Peter Leitch confirmed in the role of New Zealand Chief Ambassador for the tournament.

General Manager New Zealand Operations Andrea Nelson said of Sir Peter's appointment: "We want this tournament to be the best ever and to reach out to all Rugby League fans, whether rusted on or new to the game, in a way that has them coming back for years to come. Sir Peter is second-to-none in the New Zealand league community and we are honoured to have him as part of the team and to help us spread the word."

At the launch event in Auckland, Sir Peter was joined by past and present Rugby League greats, as well as kids from the Waiuku U10s, the Pukekohe Python U-11s and Tuakau Broncos U10s to watch performances celebrating the teams taking part in pool-play in New Zealand.

Following the celebrations, there was a formal presentation to representatives of the Host City Mayors for Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton and Christchurch.

New Zealand Fixtures:

AUCKLAND – NZ V SAMOA – 28 October 2017

CHRISTCHURCH – NZ v SCOTLAND – 4 November 2017

HAMILTON – SAMOA V TONGA – 4 November 2017

HAMILTON – NZ V TONGA – 11 November 2017

CHRISTCHURCH – Quarter Final – 18 November 2017

WELLINGTON – Quarter Final –  
18 November 2017

AUCKLAND – Semi-final –  
25 November 2017

With tickets on sale from 27 October, you can sign up for pre-sale alerts at [rlwc2017.com](http://rlwc2017.com)

View the full draw here:

<http://www.rlwc2017.com/draw/>



*Rugby League International Federation CEO David Collier presents a host city ball to deputy mayor Penny Hulse of Auckland.*



*Rugby League International Federation CEO David Collier presents a host city ball to deputy mayor Justin Lester of Wellington.*



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# Scott Electrical Premiership

## By Ben Francis



**T**HE OTANGAREI Knights have beaten the Moerewa Tigers 22-20 to qualify through to the 2016 Scott Electrical Premiership final against the Takahiwai Warriors on Sunday.

The Warriors automatically qualified for the final after beating the Tigers the previous week 36-28 in the major semi-final.

The Otangarei Knights won the minor semi-final over the Portland Panthers 44-20.

The Warriors beat the Knights 26-0 in round five and 16-14 in round twelve this season.

The grand final will be played at Toll Stadium this coming Sunday (July 31st) kick-off will be at 2:30pm. Tickets to the game are \$5 for an adult and a gold coin donation for kids under 12.

The curtain raiser game will be played between Marist U18s and Moerewa U18s with the winner taking out the Sam McKendry cup. Kick-off for this game will be at 12:45.

Any more information on the grand final you can head along to [www.northernsword.co.nz](http://www.northernsword.co.nz)

## NSW Cup Game Recap

### By Joe Williams - NSW Cup Team Manager

**A**FTER A win against Manly the week before, the Vodafone Warriors Intrust Super Premiership had another trip to Australia this time being their longest trip of the year making their way to Canberra to play the Mounties in the second game of the triple header.

In tough cold and windy conditions, the Stacey Jones coached side faced top of the table Mounties in their 20th Round clash in the ISP NSW competition. Unlike the week before luck wasn't on the Vodafone Warriors side going down 32-22 at GIO Stadium.

A hat trick from fullback Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad wasn't enough to help his side to the win. Many times the Vodafone Warriors had their chances to dominate the game however opportunities weren't taken as they were guilty of turning over too much possession.

The ISP NSW team now have a much needed bye coming up this weekend which should see them finish 3rd on the table leading into the final four weeks of the regular season. With two games on the road and two games at home to finish the regular season off give the Vodafone Warriors a strong chance to host a first week finals game.



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**MARIST 18S V MOEREWAI 18S**

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# So Close, But Again So Far

## By Shontayne Hape



**A**NOTHER WEEKEND, another golden point loss!

It doesn't get any tougher than this. But, as we all know by now, the NRL is a tough competition and there is no such thing as an easy match.

For the Vodafone Warriors, our destiny remains very much in our hands and the next fortnight looms as a huge one for the club.

We are fighting it out with the Penrith Panthers and Gold Coast Titans for a spot in the top eight and they also happen to be our next two opponents.

Win both those games and we not only move up the ladder, but we dent their hopes of playing in the finals.

Lose and it doesn't bear thinking about.

There's certainly never a dull moment in this game.

On a more personal note, this will be my final column for Sir Peter's newsletter.

Last week, I handed in my resignation as a memberships coordinator at the Vodafone Warriors and, aside from helping out on game day for the rest of the year, I've already finished up at the club.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time working in the commercial department and rubbing shoulders with our passionate members.

But at the same time, some other opportunities within the game have popped up of late and I wouldn't have been able to pursue them if I was still employed by the club.

I'm going to miss being part of a great team and will still definitely be keeping a close eye on how the Vodafone Warriors go.

Thanks to everyone who made my stint so enjoyable. Let's hope the boys kick on now and reward you for your loyal support. Don't forget you can catch me on SKY SPORT on the after match after each Vodafone Warriors game.

Go the mighty Vodafone Warriors.

## Reader Mail



**S**SUPPORTING THE boys from Venice. Grant Hafford showing off his Jersey on a gondola.



**A**BLAST FROM the past four former Kiwis James Leuluai, Gary Kemble, Fred Ahkuoi, and Dane O'Hara. Black and white photo: Dane, Gary and James in their younger days.





# Heritage Jersey and Origin Pack Winners

## Winners of the State of Origin Programme/and Cameron Smith Poster

Adam Bewley, Wellington  
Jason Subritzky, Whangarei  
Tony Coll, Greymouth  
Paula Rahiri, Wainuiomata  
P.E Clifford, North Shore  
Jared Harper, Tauranga  
Aiden Scragg, Gisborne  
Gareth George, Auckland  
Jayden Bowman, Timarua  
Steve Clancy, Tauranga



## Winners Of The Vodafone Warriors Heritage Jersey Signed By Simon Mannering

Allen Vaughan, Birkenhead  
W.A Whitehead, Christchurch  
Ben Rzoska, Auckland  
Mike Sceats, Upper Hutt  
Dave Saunders, Howick  
Brad Tacon, Greymouth  
Hiria Woollen, Brisbane  
Paul Ravlich, Hamilton  
Joseph Beyer-Rieger, Nelson  
Kevin Clare, Auckland  
Andy Bentley, France  
Michelle Dennison, Hamilton  
Kellie Harper, Wellington  
Arian Curtis, Hawera  
Deborah Nordell, Napier



*It will take some time to get the jerseys signed and sent out.  
Please be patient, but they are coming.*

*Did you ever wonder how we draw our winners?*

*We'll use [www.random.org](http://www.random.org) to generate a random number which corresponds to an entry.  
Have a go, type in a range on the right and side and click generate.*

A promotional banner for the Vodafone Warriors '3 GAME BLITZ' membership. It features the Vodafone Warriors logo on the left, followed by a large 'V' symbol. To the right of the 'V' are three circular icons representing rounds 23, 25, and 26. The text 'FINAL 3 GAME BLITZ MEMBERSHIP FROM \$45' is prominently displayed on the right side of the banner.

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



The strong bonds formed in the Warriors NYC ranks are paying off in first grade as the next generation of stars sets the competition alight. By **WILL EVANS**

These are the stories you miss out on when you don't subscribe to Big League Magazine.

# Youth on the rise



**T**HE NYC competition has endured frequent criticism as an insufficient breeding ground for NRL players, but the Warriors may have a different outlook given the graduation rate of the club's under-20s side that reached consecutive deciders in 2013-14.

No less than 10 members of those grand-final teams have played regular first-grade for the Warriors this year.

David Fusitu'a (pictured, above) and Tuimoala Lolohea (inset) were blooded in the top flight in 2014; Solomone Kata, Sam Lisone and Albert Vete have been permanent fixtures since debuting in Round 1 last year; Ken Maumalo received a call-up midway through 2015 and Nathaniel Roache, Jazz Tévaga, Toafofoa Siple and Bunty Afoa have all impressed as NRL rookies this season.

Club legend and current NYC coach Stacey Jones says it was immediately obvious some of his players were destined for NRL stardom, while others got there through sheer diligence and perseverance.

"Tui, Sol and Sam were three guys you knew would definitely play first grade," Jones recalls.

"Jazz has worked really hard," he was obviously a chance [to play NRL] but as soon as this? I'm not sure."

After guiding the Warriors' NYC team to grand final glory, Jones maintained a close association with those players by taking the reins of the club's reserve grade side in 2015.

"It was always going to happen, guys moving up a grade, but I still have a lot to do with them," he says.

Fusitu'a, who is emerging as the dux of the class after overcoming

a luckless injury run, believes he received an ideal grounding in the NYC – though his rapid rise to first grade prevented him from celebrating premiership success.

"John Ackland was my coach back then and he had a way of making us young Polynesian boys gel together," Fusitu'a says.

"I would have liked to play more under-20s and play in the grand final in 2014, but I was lucky enough to make my NRL debut that year.

"The boys did the job and it was cool to see, because I grew up playing with all of them."

The 19-year-old scored seven tries in 12 rookie-season appearances on the wing – many of them spectacular airborne efforts that have become his trademark. But injuries restricted him to just three games in the centres last year and hampered the start of his 2016 campaign before his return in Round 7.

"It was hard, no player wants to be out injured," he says.

"I kept positive people around me and the fire in me to play NRL never went out. I made sure I did everything right and got on top of all

my niggles. I'm happy to be back on the field, injury-free and playing good footy."

Following a sizzling double against Brisbane and a four-try haul at Newcastle's expense, coach Andrew McFadden moved Fusitu'a from wing to fullback, where he proved much more than just an expert finisher.

Safe as a bank both under the high ball and in defence, Fusitu'a was able to adjust to the responsibilities the No.1 jersey entails and can now play both roles comfortably. He'll even take a shot at centre this weekend.

"It's heaps different at fullback, coming from the wing. I have to be really vocal on the field. I'm not the most talkative, but when it comes to game-time that's part of the job.

"Organising the defence is huge job and it's an important one, so I have to step up."

Fusitu'a enjoyed another career milestone this year, making his Test debut for Tonga against Samoa.

"It's probably my favourite game apart from my [NRL] debut," he beams.

"To represent my country and the country of my parents was a proud moment for me.

"My family's always been there. Things like my parents taking me to training and standing there in the rain... you want to repay their hard work."

His outstanding form may force him to make a call on his international allegiances sooner rather than later. A Four Nations train-on squad member in 2014, Fusitu'a is emerging as a contender for Stephen Kearney's New Zealand squad for this year's tournament.

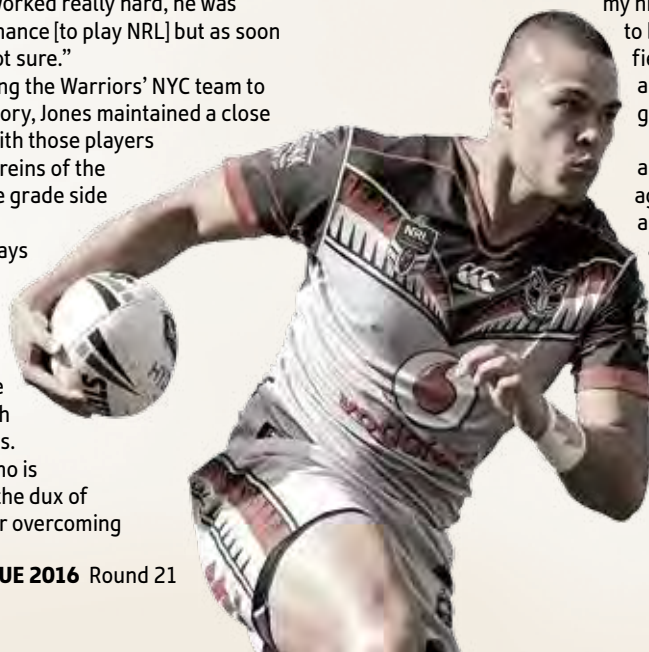
"It's a dream of mine to play for the Kiwis, but I'll cross that bridge when I come to it," he says.

"At the moment I'm just enjoying my footy and I want to do well for my club."

Injured superstar Roger Tuivasa-Sheck will reclaim the fullback role permanently in 2017, but Fusitu'a's efforts should ensure he continues to be an automatic selection in the Warriors' three-quarter line. Getting to play alongside the mates he came through the junior ranks with is the icing on the cake.

"It's quite a buzz – to be able to still play with them now is pretty special.

"The bond we built in the under-20s is still there to this day and we're probably closer than we were back then."



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# BIG LEAGUE

## BIG LEAGUE HAS GONE RETRO IN A HUGE ROUND 21 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus columnist **ANDREW VOSS** 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

- The **Bulldogs backline** failed to fire last week so the pressure is on to reach the heights they are capable of. We analyse each players' game and talk to **Sam Perrett** in a season where the Dogs finally have the calibre of backline players to match their forwards.
- Cowboys coach **Paul Green** quietly goes about his business in a winning way, so we enlisted the help of his former assistant coach **John Cartwright** to explain what has made him such an asset to North Queensland in a short amount of time.
- The Roosters have had a difficult season but one bright spot has been the introduction of **Latrell Mitchell** to first grade. Though he was moved back to the wing last week against the Storm, the 19-year-old is determined to get more time in the No.1 and fight for his spot against **Michael Gordon** in 2017.
- Also, **Peter Sterling**, **Peter Wynn**, **Brett Kenny**, **Steve Edge** and **Eric Grothe** reminisce about the old days at Parra; **David Fusitu'a** praises the under-20s for unearthing some of the Warriors' debutant guns; **Shaun Fensom** calls for calm as the Raiders look to the finals and **Mitch Moses** and **Dene Halatau** back their coach as the Robbie Farah drama continues.

**PLUS...** The Analyst looks at the different strengths of **Cameron Munster** and **Lachlan Coote** and we revisit the Top 8 moments of rugby league in TV and movies.

**AND:** Little League, lower grade previews and a retro 1970 Grand Final John Sattler poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

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# ARL Premiership Review Rd 15

## *Leopards and Tigers hope to survive the Fox*

**I**N THE Maori TV feature game the Hawks got over Richmond 23-20 to avenge their loss to the Bulldogs earlier this year, moving ahead one place (7th) and one point on the ladder.

Earlier at Walter Massey Park, Pt Chevalier scraped past Howick to win 18-12.

Ladder leaders Papakura cruised to a 46-0 win over Otahuhu to secure the SAS Fox Memorial minor premiership and with it the Rukutai Shield.

Successfully defending the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster for another week, the Sea Eagles have only one challenge remaining against Richmond in round 17 and are determined to formally secure their second trophy for the season.

Meanwhile Northcote remain dead last falling 52-30 to Marist.

Otahuhu and Northcote will play their most crucial game this weekend when they go head-to-head at Bert Henham Park with hopes to remain in the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership in 2017 - this game could possibly decide who is relegated to the Sharman Cup.

The Leopards have never been relegated and hold a tight 6.73% advantage on the points table.

Northcote have the mental advantage following their 36-8 win over Otahuhu in the first round of competition play, but a new coach and improved play from the Leopards will showcase a great game this Saturday.

With three rounds remaining, the premiership top 4 is still not settled and the race is on to see who will finish 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

There is plenty of footy action on this weekend, get out to your local field and support some grass roots rugby league.

### **SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 15 results**

Pt Chevalier 18 Howick 12  
Northcote 30 Marist 52  
Mt Albert 28 Glenora 10  
Papakura 46 Otahuhu 0  
Mangere East 23 Richmond 20

### **Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 15 results**

Te Atatu 48 Manurewa 0  
Manukau 14 Ellerslie 68  
Glenfield 12 Papatoetoe 46  
Otara 24 Waitemata 24  
Hibiscus Coast 16 East Coast Bays 17  
Pakuranga 14 Ponsonby 20  
New Lynn BYE  
Bay Roskill BYE

### **Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup Rd 16 fixtures**

Ponsonby v Bay Roskill @ Victoria Park 2.30pm  
Ellerslie v Pakuranga @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm  
Manukau v Glenfield @ Moyle Park 2.30pm  
Otara v Papatoetoe @ Ngati Otara Park 2.30pm  
Waitemata v Te Atatu @ Ranui Domain 2.30pm  
Hibiscus Coast v Manurewa @ Mountfort Park 2.30pm  
East Coast Bays v New Lynn @ Freyberg Park 2.30pm  
Mt Wellington (Withdrawn from competition)

### **SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 16 Fixtures**

SAS Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 16 fixtures  
Richmond v Pt Chevalier @ Grey Lynn Park 2.30pm  
Glenora v Mangere East @ Bert Henham Park 11am  
Otahuhu v Northcote @ Bert Henham 2.30pm  
Howick v Papakura @ Paparoa Park 2.30pm  
Marist v Mt Albert @ Murray Halberg 2.30pm



### **ARL Games Televised Live Nationwide on Maori TV**

Glenora v Mangere East to air on Maori Television Saturday July 30, 3.30pm

Otahuhu v Northcote to air on Maori Television Saturday July 31, 3.30pm



# Girls Rugby League Clinic

By Petrece Kesha - Community Relations Manager Vodafone Warriors

**O**N SUNDAY 24th July the Harvey Norman Community Warriors hosted over 60 girls and a dozen Kiwi Ferns at their first Girlpower Rugby League Clinic at Mt Smart Stadium.

Girls came from all over Auckland and even from the Waikato to participate in a Rugby League skills and drills clinic training along side some of the players from our national women's Rugby League team the Kiwi Ferns.

The girls spent the morning focusing on tackling, passing, speed and agility before having the chance to put it all together in a game. The girls certainly looked like they were having lots of fun before collecting goodie bags from the Vodafone Warriors and autographs from their favourite Kiwi Ferns.



**T**ime to enjoy a night out at the movies to celebrate the Harvey Norman Women in League Round as the Vodafone Warriors wrap up their celebrations for all of the wonderful women involved in our great game of Rugby League.

Tickets are \$15 per person and will include your choice of movie munchies either popcorn or a Kapiti Ice Cream, lucky door prize and the first 250 ticket holders through the door will also receive a Vodafone Warriors #GIRLPOWER Coffee Cup.

So gather up the girls, grab your man for a date night or fly solo but either way come along and help us to support our New Zealand Woman's Rugby League Team the Kiwi Ferns with a few laughs at the All new, All Girl Ghostbusters team.

Thanks to our wonderful supporters at Harvey Norman, SKYCITY and Sony all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Kiwi Ferns as they begin their preparations for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup.

Next Thursday (4th August) at SKYCITY Theatre doors open at 6.30pm and movie starts at 7pm.v

[Grab your ticket Here](#)





# **ST THOMAS JOURNEY TO NATIONALS**



**T**he St Thomas of Canterbury College Rugby League team hope to compete in the New Zealand Secondary schools Rugby League Tournament in Auckland. It is a long way from Christchurch and we need to raise \$10,000. The boys will be fundraising to get there, but we need your help to fund transport to Auckland, accommodation, food, and the hiring of rental vans during the Tournament.

St Thomas of Canterbury College students are passionate about rugby league, our team includes 9 South Island Representatives, and we have played at the National tournament twice before in 2013 and 2015.

Our school believes that sports that engage young people are a positive investment in the educational and life outcomes for the young people involved. Research shows that participation by youth in school sports favourably influences positive youth development and educational outcomes. Sports participation has been found to improve school achievement, increase chances of participation in further education, and increase likelihood of graduating from high school.

We would greatly appreciate your support in making this happen for our young men. To donate to our crowd funder please visit this website: <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/stthomasofcanterburyrugbyleague>

To discuss other opportunities such as Sponsor Spots, please contact us directly by email at: [tkidd@stc.school.nz](mailto:tkidd@stc.school.nz)

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Thank you for your interest in our school and your support of rugby league in New Zealand.



# NZ Age-Group Selections Named

## By Grant Chapman - NZRL Communications Manager



**NZ 16s & 18s** merit teams have been named from results at this month's NZRL National High Performance Camp at Rotorua.

Neither side has fixtures scheduled for this year, but the "paper selections" are a reward for those athletes that stood out at the national trials on the camp's final day.

Canterbury's Jordan Riki was named 16s Most Valuable Player, after scoring two tries in Team Mannering's 44-38 win over Team Luke in the early game, while Rory Ferguson from Otago was the stand-out performer for Team Bromwich in their 60-18 win over Team Johnson in the 18s match-up.

"It's a massive accomplishment to be recognised as one of the best players in the country," says NZRL talent development manager David McMeeken.

"Hopefully, their selection, along with the lessons they take away from the camp, will provide these players with a stepping stone towards future international and professional careers.

"At this level, whenever you step out on the field, there's always someone watching."

The merit teams are:

NZ 16s			NZ 18s		
Number	Player	Zone	Number	Player	Zone
1	Emanuel Tuimavave-Gerrard	Akarana	1	Mark Graham	Akarana
2	Uenuku Malesala	Counties Manukau	2	Morgan Harper	Upper Central
3	Kayal Iro	Akarana	3	Rahiri Witehira	Akarana
4	Matthew Timoko	Akarana	4	Slave Togoïu	Counties Manukau
5	Starford Toa	Akarana	5	Preston Riki	Akarana
6	Regan McClennan	Akarana	6	Kiani Marshall	Counties Manukau
7	Vito Tevaga	Akarana	7	Zae Wallace	Akarana
8	Jordan Riki	Southern	8	Caleb Uele	Akarana
9	Matagi Blade-Kamuhemu	Akarana	9	AJ (Anthony) Murray	
10	Lewis Afeaki	Akarana	10	Nathan Newton	Akarana
11	Asu Kepaoa	Akarana	11	Dylan Clark	Upper Central
12	Kakoi Togoïu	Counties Manukau	12	Fine Vakautakakala	Akarana
13	Tyler Slade	Akarana	13	Rory Ferguson	Southern
14	Josh Ka	Counties Manukau	14	Emerson Gray	Mid Central
15	Josh Rawiri	Southern	15	Wesley Veikoso	Mid Central
16	Taylor Fiu	Counties Manukau	16	Utah Ikoa	Akarana
17	Talavou Gavet	Akarana	17	Iloa Ma'afu-Roberts	Akarana





# Lolohea to fullback, Fusitu'a to centre

*by Richard Becht*

**T**UIMOALA LOLOHEA returns to the starting line-up at fullback with David Fusitu'a moving to the centres for the Vodafone Warriors' Harvey Norman Women in League encounter with the Penrith Panthers at Mount Smart Stadium on Saturday (5.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Harvey Norman).

The 21st-round NRL clash will be preceded by a women's curtain-raiser between the Akarana and Counties Manukau sides both laden with Kiwi Ferns (12.40pm kick-off) and the NYC contest between the Vodafone Junior Warriors and the table-topping Penrith side (2.40pm kick-off).

The 21-year-old Lolohea is back at fullback after being on the bench in recent weeks while Fusitu'a, who has been filling the custodian's role lately, takes over on the right edge from experienced Blake Ayshford.

After starting in the centres in the first 18 matches of the campaign, Ayshford moves to the bench this week.

In the only other change to the starting line-up, Ben Matulino will partner fellow veteran Jacob Lillyman with James Gavet, who started last week, on the interchange with Ayshford, Sam Lisone and Jazz Tevaga.

The Vodafone Warriors return to Mount Smart Stadium for the first time in four weeks, their last home appearance being Simon Mannering's 250th milestone appearance when they beat Gold Coast 27-18.

Since then they have had their second bye and suffered the disappointment of back-to-back golden point losses to Manly in Perth (14-15) and the Raiders in Canberra (22-26).

After two long road trips they now enter the last six rounds of the regular season with a programme built around four home games against the Panthers, South Sydney, Wests Tigers and Parramatta; their last two away clashes take them to Robina to face Gold Coast and Townsville to take on defending champion North Queensland.

The match against Penrith is the 38th between the two clubs with the Panthers holding a 21-15 edge overall with one match drawn.

The Vodafone Warriors lost this year's 'away' match against the Panthers 18-30 in Christchurch in May. The two teams are even at 8-8 in 16 games at Mount Smart Stadium while the visitors have won six of the last seven matches home and away.

## VODAFONE WARRIORS

1 Tuimoala LOLOHEA	11 Bunty AFOA
2 Ken MAUMALO	12 Ryan HOFFMAN (c)
3 David FUSITU'A	13 Simon MANNERING
4 Solomone KATA	
5 Manu VATUVEI	Interchange
6 Thomas LEULUAI	14 Jazz TEVAGA
7 Shaun JOHNSON	15 Sam LISONE
8 Jacob LILLYMAN	16 James GAVET
9 Issac LUKE	17 Blake AYSHFORD
10 Ben MATULINO	

## VODAFONE WARRIORS

V

## PENRITH PANTHERS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

5.00pm, Saturday, July 30



Congratulations to the Vodafone Warriors  
and Jim Doyle...

For raising over **\$12,500** for  
**League 4 Life** by  
auctioning off the Jerseys worn  
by players in Simon Mannering's  
250th NRL Game.



Vodafone 4G Redline

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