



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

10 APRIL 2014
#15



Matthew Elliott at a *Vodafone Warriors* training session at Mt Smart Stadium, Wednesday 26 March 2014.

Photo: Andrew Cornaga/www.photosport.co.nz

photosport

Fulltime whistle blows for *Warriors* coach

It was with some sadness I learned on Sunday night that *Vodafone Warriors* head coach **Matt Elliott** had been let go.

There is no doubt he is a good man and I have grown very fond of him but just like in business, hard decisions have to be made and there can be only one captain in the boat.

Assistant coach **Andrew McFadden** is taking over in the interim and he is very popular with the players.

But credit to the owners, they have poured in plenty to the club, and have had to make a very hard call, now it is up to the players and the footy staff to step up and do their part.

Perhaps it is a case of the least said, the soonest mended. You just can not win them all, and that one we certainly never looked like winning.

But that is the great thing about being a *Vodafone Warriors* supporter, you never know what you are going to get, rocks or diamonds, and we must be due for some diamonds.

I will say though, that **Simon Mannering** has now played 193 games for the *Warriors* since his debut in 2005 and I was horrified to read that with his contract up at the end of the year, he might go.

I reckon every side in the NRL and Super League would be interested in him, so I hope the club is doing everything in its power to keep him.

The poor guy was left to front the media after the *Sharks* mess, and struggled to answer questions about our inconsistency.

"We definitely took a step backwards and we need to find an answer because we can't be going up and

down throughout the season. There was nothing in our preparation that said we were going to play like that."

The talking point in league at the moment, other than the goings on at the *Warriors*, is the tragic injury to *Newcastle Knights* player **Alex McKinnon**.

That's prompted the *Mad Butcher Suburban Newspapers Community Trust* to organise a lunch on May 9 at the Ellerslie Events Centre to support the New Zealand Rugby League's *League For Life* programme. It is just in its infancy really, and you can read all about it at the NZRL's website www.nzrl.co.nz, but in short, it is all about getting behind anyone for the league family who finds themselves in tough times.

The lunch is only \$100 and that pays for some amazing speakers, a three-course meal, and a *Vodafone Warriors Proud* membership.

It's the chance to join some rugby league royalty, great players of the past like **Gary Prohm**, **Graeme West**,

Hughie McGahan, **Roger Bailey**, **Lindsay Proctor**, **Stacey Jones** and many more.

The *Proud* membership everyone gets includes a membership card, lanyard and bumper sticker, and gives exclusive access to discounted match tickets to selected games in Australia – with meet the team events, and access to open training. There's also invitations to events in New Zealand too, and discounts on extra game tickets, *Warriors* gear bought online at www.warriors.co.nz, official club announcements, weekly E-newsletter, priority secondary purchasing for finals games involving the boys, and the same deal on NSW State of Origin match tickets and the grand final.

On top of that, anyone smart enough to get their mates together and buy a table of 10 gets a double pass to the *Vodafone Warriors v Canberra Raiders* game the next day at Eden Park.

Former NZRL head **Jim Doyle** – who is now number two in the entire NRL – is coming over, there's an amazing

speaker being lined up, and of course we will auction some incredible sports memorabilia.

It's a good opportunity for not all sports fans to get along for a great day and support a terrific cause.

Let's hope we never have a case like McKinnon's to deal

with, but injuries happen and it would be terrific to know we had something in place to help us deal with it.

As for last week's game, there is no point in moaning because you can not turn the clock back, but you can

look forward. And that is exactly what I am doing, looking forward to Sunday's game against the **Bulldogs**, who will be absolutely cock-a-hoop after beating the reigning premiers the **Roosters** 9-8 on Friday night.

so let's all just look forward to seeing better this weekend.

Wedding in Whitianga

Well, the *Vodafone Warriors* may not have won at the weekend, but I had a fantastic time.

With members of my family we all headed to Whitianga for a wedding, and we had a terrific time.

I had forgotten how beautiful it is in that part of the world, and I can tell you that if it were not for the drive down there, which is not my favourite, I would go more often.

As for the game itself, wedding or not, I did manage to sneak into the local pub and have a peek.



The reason we were in Whitianga over the weekend.



It's always great to catch up with family!

Beautiful Whitianga. What a great spot.



Whitianga harbour.





Met these bikers. Rough diamonds, but nice people. Sally, Don, Alan and Lucy. And I can recommend the café behind them - they served us an outstanding breakfast!



Bloody hassled by this fan - Lui Lee - in the pub!



Jodi and Jane Connolly (in the Chiefs Jersey), and Kylie Day. It was Jane's birthday and they were celebrating in the pub next to the wedding venue.



Matt McKinnon and Peter Lambert at Peter's stag do in the Whitianga pub.



Thought I would share this photo with you taken from the SeaLink car ferry at 3.15pm on Monday.

Sports fans – keep Friday, May 9, clear in your diaries!

FRI 9 MAY

The Mad Butcher and Suburban Newspapers Community Trust is hosting a special luncheon to lift awareness of the League 4 Life programme, which supports people involved in rugby league who have met hardship in their lives.

There will be a mystery guest speaker and the MC is Knight of the Realm, **Sir Peter Leitch**. Confirmed ex Kiwi players will be in attendance **Stacey Jones, Ruben Wiki, Roger Bailey, Graeme West, Hugh McGahan, Dane O'Hara, Gary Clarke, Monty Betham, Gary Prohm, Jerry Seuseu, Duane Mann and Dean Bell** and many more.

We also have ex Kiwi coaches attending **Bob Bailey, Graham Lowe, Brian McClennan**.

All the money raised by League 4 Life is used to support and meet the needs of people when they most need it. Players who suffer serious, permanent or life-changing injury are supported.

But League 4 Life goes further, by being able to help all league participants and their families when they are in need by making grants for rehabilitation and in-home equipment, providing opportunities for people involved in the game that might otherwise be impossible because of injury or hardship, and by maintaining social interaction through visits and regular contact.

The event is at the **Guineas Room, Level 3, Ellerslie Events Centre from 12pm** and the \$100 per head ticket price covers a three-course meal. There will be a cash bar.

Buy a table and you'll get two complimentary tickets to the Vodafone Warriors game the next day at Eden Park when they take on the Raiders.

A charity auction will be held that includes the boots Benji Marshall wore in his final Kiwis game, signed by the man himself, and the signed boots Michael Luck wore on his final Vodafone Warriors appearance. There will also be a one-off auction for a signed Vodafone Warriors jersey, with the winning bidder getting the opportunity to meet with their favourite player.

The proceeds of this special auction item will be used to support Newcastle Knights player Alex McKinnon, facing quadriplegia, after being severely hurt in a tackle last month.

To book your tickets contact Philippa Ivory at the NZRL on info@nzrl.co.nz or 09 571-3863 or 021-532-483.

And as a bonus everyone attending will receive a Vodafone Warriors Proud supporter membership

This event will be broadcast live on Radio Sport



THE MAD BUTCHER AND SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS
COMMUNITY TRUST



*radio*network®



For information on League 4 Life visit www.nzrl.co.nz





I grabbed this photo of my neighbour's dinghy on Waiheke.



Now you know why they call me mad – trying to row a dinghy on dry land!

Enjoying Waiheke

BULLDOGS ARE HEADING TO NZ

ROUND 10 | SUNDAY 18 MAY | WAIKATO STADIUM | KICK-OFF 4:00PM

WWW.BULLDOGS.COM.AU/TICKETS

Secure your tickets to the Round 10 NRL Telstra Premiership match between the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs and the Vodafone Warriors.

CORPORATE OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE: corporate@bulldogs.com.au

FROM ONLY
\$25 ADULT
\$10 CHILD
\$70 FAMILY

The advertisement features two players: a Bulldogs player on the left in a purple and white jersey with 'M&M's CHICKEN' and 'aycar Electronics' logos, and a Warriors player on the right in a black and white jersey with 'vodafone' and 'NRL' logos. The background is a dark, textured graphic with the team logos and match details.

**League? Win or lose,
we're lovin' it!!**



WIN

FREE MEAT FOR ONE YEAR!

\$100,000

TOTAL PRIZE POOL

SHOP AT THE MAD BUTCHER OVER THE NEXT 2 WEEKS AND GO INTO A DRAW
TO WIN **FREE MEAT FOR ONE YEAR** (MAXIMUM \$50 PER WEEK FOR 52 WEEKS)

THERE WILL BE 39 WINNERS NATIONWIDE (1 PER STORE). ALL WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED.
COMPETITION VALID FROM 7 - 20 APRIL 2014.

Vodafone Warriors v Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs

Sunday April 13th at Eden Park

Match Day Theme: Aloha April

Event Hashtag: #AlohaApril #NRLWARBUL

VODAFONE
WARRIORS

BULLDOGS
19 B 35

ULTIMATE FAN PASS
5 TICKETS FOR **\$50***

VODAFONE WARRIORS V BULLDOGS
BE THERE SUN 13 APR 4PM AT EDEN PARK.

Aloha April

WIN WITH SKYCITY
A TRIP FOR 2 TO HAWAII

FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS GO TO WWW.SKYCITY.CO.NZ

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETEK.CO.NZ *FEES APPLY. FIRST OF 3 MATCHES STARTS AT 11:45.

vodafone | SKYCITY | canterbury | grabseat | Wendy's | itava | Suzuki | A

MATCH DAY SPONSOR SKYCITY

Members Lounge:

"Get Leid" by the Vodafone Warriors. Free Lei's on entry.

- Aloha themed dress up photobooth
- Xbox games with players
- Arcade Games
- Roulette Table
- Pool Table

Chance to be upgraded to Best Seats in House (side line seating)

Other activities at the Match:

Red Zone (kids zone), themed surfing ride, bouncy castles, inflatable game development passing wall.

Half-time entertainment:

Island time performance featuring conche shell performers, island drummers, fire dancers, Tahitian & Cook island dancers with performances from Drew Neemia (main artist), Lavina Williams, Erakah, Grace Ikenasio (back up singers).

Competition:

Win a dream trip to Hawaii, simply turn up to the game, take a selfie and upload to Instagram with #AlohaApril before 4.30pm to be in the draw! Winner announced at Main Game Half-time.

Get involved:

Be a part of our Aloha April theme and dress for the occasion.

Ticket offer:

The ultimate fan pass, 5 for \$50, yes that's right 5 tickets in the East Stand for only \$50, bring your mates, your cousins, or your kids!

(booking fee applies)
Go to Ticketek to buy your tickets



HOT TEES!



The **Warriors Forever Tee** is the latest HOT item! Only available through **Playbill Merchandising** at the **Warriors Shop** – Mt Smart Stadium and online

www.warriorsstore.co.nz

Priced at a reasonable \$45 (Members \$40.50) and modelled by the wonderful **Playbill** staff at Eden Park!

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**



<http://www.playbill.com.au/>



Here's a GREAT FREE OFFER to you!

I am offering the **FIRST 20 PEOPLE** to send me a letter, TWO Books(not sold in NZ) plus a Vodafone Warriors poster **FREE**. Yes, at no charge to you! The **FIRST FIVE (5)** will get a Vodafone Warrior's scarf as well, so get posting and enjoy your weekend!



All you have to do is send a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE A.S.A.P.** to this address:

FIRST FIVE SELECTED ENTRIES GET THIS GREAT SCARF!

AND ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE write your name and address... AND PHONE!

GREAT FREE OFFER!

**P.O. Box 54295,
The Marina 2144, Manukau,
Auckland**



Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____



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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The Newsletter Team

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.



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Peter Leitch
Editor



Rex Harrison
Graphic Designer



Amelia
Circulation

