



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

30th December 2016

Newsletter #150

Shaun Makes a Promise

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



Not much to report, whinge on, make up lies about, but I will say this, for a bloke who cops endless criticism, Shaun Johnson does some pretty cool stuff.

Our halfback was to appear at the first day of a three-day festival in quake-hit Kaikoura, but it had to be postponed because of high winds that kept him and his partner, Silver Fern Kayla Cullen, stranded in Christchurch.

Johnson said they were disappointed and immediately promised he and Kayla would commit to a new date, probably in January.

Not bad for a guy who is –according to arseholes – up himself.

And lots has been written about the Panthers not returning to Christchurch, not least in this very newsletter. (See below)

The organisers talked about being terribly disappointed, the usual stuff.

It turns out that TV might have had a big part in the decision to keep the Panthers home game against the Vodafone Warriors in Aussie.

“The television schedule only left us options that did not work for the local organising team or for the Panthers, so we are looking at options for the following years,” event organiser Justin Wallace said.

Christchurch will be, rightly, a bit miffed. It is a blow for the fans, the council which supported this year’s game, sponsors, hotels, the airports, bars....and most of all, league lovers in the South Island.

Wallace said this year’s match sold-out AMI Stadium.

“We already had a number of new activities in the pipeline in the build-up and on match day, and many corporate partners who were keen to come on board, so it is a bitter pill to swallow.”

And hardly surprising, but the loss in the Four Nations final has seen Australia go back to number one in the world league rankings, the Kiwis slipping to second.

The Kiwis are the only other nation to head the standings.

The biggest leap was by Scotland, who leapt from ninth to fourth in the rankings, something Scotland Rugby league boss Keith Hogg was rightly pleased with.

“This is a very exciting moment for Scotland. It is testament to the hard work so many players, staff and volunteers have put in over many years. It’s a real boost for the sport.”

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Rugby League International Federation rankings are based on the relative strength of opponents, game scores, different competitions that carry various weighting points, with more recent games carrying greater weighting.

If you think the game is not growing around the world, here's the Top 40 – yes 40!

1. Australia	15. Papua New Guinea	29. Sweden
2. New Zealand	16. Russia	30. Netherlands
3. England	17. Jamaica	31. South Africa
4. Scotland	18. Belgium	32. Niue
5. Samoa	19. Spain	33. Philippines
6. France	20. Malta	34. Chile
7. Fiji	21. Lebanon	35. Vanuatu
8. Ireland	22. Ukraine	36. Latvia
9. Wales	23. Germany	37. Solomon Islands
10. USA	24. Czech Republic	38. Hungary
11. Serbia	25. Cook Islands	39. El Salvador
12. Canada	26. Norway	40. Morocco
13. Italy	27. Denmark	
14. Tonga	28. Greece	

Well Done Charlie

Pleased to see good South Auckland boy Charlie Faumuina score a try for the All Blacks against Italy. He is a great bloke who works tirelessly for his club and I know he does lots of stuff in schools, and is a popular bloke around the Papatoetoe Rugby Club.

Fundraising for Kidz First Children's Hospital brings me into contact with Charlie from time to time, and he is one of the best visitors who ever sets foot in the place, scooping up armfuls of kids and happily getting his hands painted and generally being a big softie.

So it was nice to see him named the Counties-Manukau Supreme Sportsperson of the Year in a gala event at the Vodafone Events Centre on Sunday night.

His win was no mean feat, beating out Valerie Adams and a host of others for the big prize. Valerie was Sportswoman of the Year, and she has won that title, since 2002, 14 times, only missing out last year, when it went to young equestrian Chelsea Thorn

Another Gong For Sea Eagles

The Papakura Sea Eagles were named Team of the Year at the same awards event. The Eagles are really connected with their community, and there is so much more to that club than winning titles.

They did that in spades this season, but they also work hard to be more than a sports club, raising money for charity, and doing everything in their power to turn out good people.

Maori Sports Awards

The awards were also held in Manukau over the weekend, with Olympic canoeist Lisa Carrington named Senior Sportswoman of the Year, and it is impossible to argue with that.

Peter reckons now he is home he is headed for Waiheke, where he claims to be a demon in the old kayak.

He'll need to blow the cobwebs off his kayak after so long away, but I'm not convinced by his claim that given a few weeks back in training, he'd take Lisa.

Yeah right.

International Giveaway

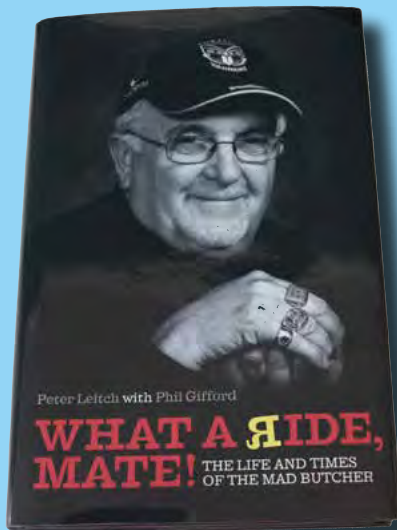
Win 1 of 10 Awesome Prizes



5x 2016 9s Shirts Large



1x Signed 2016 Kiwis Jersey
(Signed by Kiwis Squad)



3x Personally Signed Copies of
What a Ride Mate



1x Signed 2016 9s Shirts
(Signed by Warriors Squad)

Giveaway
P.O Box 54295
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Manukau, Auckland
New Zealand



Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email:

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.
Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address on the left.

Winner will be drawn on 14/12/16

Christchurch Loses in NRL Draw

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



AN EXCITED caller to Radio Sport last Thursday described the release of the 2017 NRL draw as “like Christmas”, much to the surprise of the studio host. But I knew exactly how he felt. It is a time when the fans sit down and plan their seasons, decide whether they need to make early plans to attend their club’s away games, or maybe even persuade a daughter her particular choice of wedding day might not be the most suitable.

Several times I escaped the Christchurch winter on “Warriors watch”. One match against the Gold Coast Titans at Robina fell on a weekend adjacent to a State of Origin decider at Brisbane which was also Darren Lockyer’s farewell to the Maroons. Another time the NRL pitted the Warriors against the Titans and Brisbane Broncos in sunny south-east Queensland on consecutive weekends. Two footy games, ten days in Surfers. Bliss.

But southern fans believed they would watch an annual game in Christchurch after Penrith Panthers agreed to a four-year deal to play the Warriors here. In May the former Rugby League Park was sold out to its 17,669 capacity. Phil Gould and company left in good spirits with a 30-18 victory. “After tonight it will be very enticing for teams to bring more games here. I’m sure we will look at it as well,” said Warriors coach Andrew McFadden.

Panthers coach Anthony Griffin was delighted with the result, even if his new “home” crowd cheered lustily for the opposition. Penrith had announced Christchurch was to be its “home away from home” with the dual purpose of creating a new fan base in the South Island and developing a strong relationship with the Canterbury Rugby League and its talent pool. Both NRL clubs made promotional visits to local schools and clubs.

So last Thursday one naturally looked for the date when the Panthers would be returning. Only there wasn’t one. Instead, the Panthers’ home match against the Warriors will be at Pepper Stadium on May 13 (the same tenth round as last season). If the Warriors had “looked at it as well” then they must have looked away again and placed their round 19 home fixture against the Panthers at Mount Smart Stadium.

I don’t really like kicking my old newspaper in an era when it is struggling for credibility, but it is difficult not to be critical. The Press hailed the success of the Panthers’ first visit and even resurrected the prospect of a future NRL franchise being based in Christchurch. While that was obviously pie in the sky, one did expect some reaction to the Panthers’ snubbing of the city in 2017. But...not one word in The Press on Friday.

A check of the Panthers website revealed they are giving their supporters the Warriors game for free. Describing it as a “bonus game”, the club was “delighted to confirm Pepper Stadium will host eleven home games in 2017, with the club’s loyal members and sponsors to enjoy the extra home game at no additional cost. The club will not be taking a home game to Christchurch in 2017. The Panthers board of directors instead decided to reward Panthers members and sponsors with another game at Pepper Stadium.”

Penrith’s twelfth home match, against the Canberra Raiders in round 14, will be played at Carrington Park, Bathurst, where the Panthers have a long standing relationship with the NSW country town and they are continuing to honour it. The only public gripe from the Penrith club about the draw was not getting a lucrative home match with the neighbouring Parramatta Eels.

While the Panthers directors sought fan approval across the Tasman, Christchurch match organiser Justin Wallace released a statement later on Friday expressing disappointment and blaming television schedules which “only left us options that did not work for the local organising team or for the Panthers, so we are looking at the options for the following years.”

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The Press belatedly came up with a story buried among the general news on Saturday, saying the cancellation will rob the Christchurch economy of an estimated \$10 million and was a setback for rugby league in the city. Foxtel Australia was blamed by Wallace, who said they wanted an 8.30pm kick-off on a Sunday, a time unsuitable for families. Wallace looked forward to the NRL having control of the draw in 2018.

If Cantabrians want to see the Warriors live in 2017 they will need to make a four and a half hour road trip to Dunedin, where the Canterbury Bulldogs have transferred their home fixture in round three. It just happens to be on Friday night, March 17, St Patrick's Day. By choosing Dunedin, the Bulldogs have turned their backs on Wellington, their own former "home away from home".

The catalyst for the Bulldogs taking the NRL indoors at Forsyth Barr Stadium was a Justin Bieber concert in Sydney which forced officials to find an alternative venue. The big shed alongside Otago University claims a maximum football capacity of 30,000 though only half that number watched the Kiwis edge out England in their 2014 Four Nations clash. A big percentage of them travelled down from Christchurch.

That was one of three most enjoyable trips I made to Dunedin in fairly quick succession, the others being for Fleetwood Mac and Neil Diamond concerts. However, potential visitors in 2017 should book their accommodation NOW, not just because motel operators will increase prices for the "Warriors weekend" but because there are never enough beds in Dunedin for major events. Warriors fans who do not react quickly will find themselves staying in another town!

Waiheke Island Bowling and Cosmopolitan Club

Knock Out Darts Tournament

THIS Saturday 3rd December at 3PM

\$10 Entry / \$300 1st Prize / Spot Prizes

Ring Margaret on 021771132 or 3727108 to Enter



While I was in the UK I had the chance to go visit the set of my favourite TV show, Emmerdale. Go check out all the photos on my Facebook page.

[Click here](#)



CRICKET, WARM weather and a cold beer go nicely together and this will be the case in Sydney this Sunday, 4 December. Australia meet New Zealand in a day/night ODI match at the Sydney Cricket Ground and sports fans on both sides of the Tasman are looking forward to the clash. Sunday's game is the first of three, with the other two at Canberra on 6 December and Melbourne on 9 December. The Aussies will be confident for the three game series, following their third Test victory last Sunday at Adelaide over the touring South Africans. The young and rejuvenated side did well after badly losing the first two Tests and the series against the Springboks. After the three ODIs against the Kiwis, the Australian meet Pakistan in three Tests. The first of these is at Brisbane on 15 December, the second at Melbourne on 26 December and the third in Sydney on 3 January.

The Australian women have won their five match ODI series with South Africa. The Australian girls won the first three games to take an unbeatable 3-0 series lead. Last Sunday, 27 November at Coffs Harbour the sides tied, both scoring 242 all out. They played their fifth and final game, again at Coffs Harbour on Tuesday 29 November. In February-March, the Aussie girls take on New Zealand in six ODI matches, with three games in both countries. The first is in Melbourne on 17 February, then 80 kilometres south at Geelong on 19 February, followed by Adelaide on 22 February. They then meet in Auckland on 26 February, followed by two games in Mount Maunganui on 2 and 5 March. This will be an interesting and tight, six games.

The popular Big Bash League begins its sixth season on Tuesday night 20 December. Eight teams throughout Australia compete in this competition and this year, seven games will be beamed live into the American TV market, through the NBC network. The eight sides are the Sydney Thunder, Sydney Sixers, Hobart Hurricanes, Perth Scorchers, Brisbane Heat, Adelaide Strikers, Melbourne Renegades and Melbourne Stars. There will be 32 games, then two semi finals and the Final on 28 January at a venue decided upon by the best record of the two competing sides. The games are set down for prime time evening viewing and TV ratings are high. On some nights, two games are screened, such as on Saturday 14 January when the Sixers play the Thunder at the Sydney Cricket Ground beginning at 6.10pm local time and then over in Perth with a three hour time difference, the Scorchers meet the Stars at 6.15pm local time which is 9.15pm in Sydney. The Channel 10 network have the TV rights for this season but when their contract expires, the other channels will be keen to take it on. Back in 2013, Channel 10 paid Cricket Australia \$20 million a year for five years for the TV rights. Each of the eight teams also has a womens side which competes in the Womens Big Bash League and matches are usually played as early games to the mens fixtures. The Womens Big Bash began last season and this season Channel 10 will telecast 12 of their games.

Each of the mens teams have a salary cap of \$1.4 million and can use this to sign no more than 18 players, including a maximum of two overseas men and a minimum of two rookies. It is interesting to analyse the overseas players who are involved for the coming tournament. More names will be added to this list in the coming days. At the moment there are Hurricanes (Stuart Broad from England and Kumar Sangakkara from Sri Lanka), Scorchers (Ian Bell and David Willey both from England), Stars (Kevin Pietersen and Luke Wright both from England), Strikers (Kieron Pollard from the West Indies and Adil Rashid from England) and Heat (Brendon McCullum from New Zealand). So far the Renegades, Sixers and Thunder have no overseas signings, but they do have strong and experienced teams. The Sixers include names like Mitchell Starc, Brad Haddin, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon and Nic Maddinson. The Thunder is captained by Shane Watson and has Usman Khawaja and Pat Cummins on its books, while the Renegades include Aaron Finch, Peter Siddle, James Pattinson, Cameron White and Matthew Wade. The Renegades have also signed 45 year old left handed wrist spinner, Brad Hogg from the Scorchers. Other players to watch include the Hurricanes 33 year old, Shaun Tait. Known as the "Wild Child," Tait bowled the second fastest ball ever recorded, 161.1 kilometres per hour, for Australian against England at Lords in 2010. Another express bowler, 35 year old left arm Mitchell Johnson, although retired at the end of last season, has joined the Scorchers. South African-born offspinner, Johan Botha, will play as a local with the Sixers after recently being granted Australian citizenship. Now 34, Botha has played five tests, 78 ODIs and 40 T20Is for South Africa.

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Although the Wallabies were beaten by Ireland they did play some good rugby. They will be highly motivated for their final tour game, this Saturday against England at Twickenham and will be home next week.

There is plenty of Rugby League news in the Australian media, mostly about the 16 clubs dissatisfaction with NRL with Commission Chairman, John Grant. The Kangaroos are back home except for a few that have gone sightseeing in Europe for a couple of weeks, plus Valentine Holmes who has joined Kiwi, Jason Taumalolo for NFL tryouts in Los Angeles.



You and a mate could share \$20,000 at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines

You and a mate could be pulling a Kia Sorento across Eden Park at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines.

The further you haul the Sorento within the time limit, the more cash you win - up to \$20,000!

To be into win you'll also need to be inside Eden Park at the Auckland Nines on 5 Feb when the winners are drawn.

TXT KIA to 5900 to register your interest.

Attention All Ex Kiwis, Managers & Coaches

There is a reunion this Friday night at Gary Clarke's Museum in Christchurch.

Contact Bill Whitehead QSM to register on 03.3599984

Note: this is a private function for Ex Kiwis,
Coaches, Managers etc only!

Fuifui Moimoi Joins Rugby Leagues Newest Team

By Ben Francis



FUIFUI MOIMOI is one of the most well known names in Rugby League. 201 games for the Parramatta Eels, 45 games for Leigh Centurions 12 Tests for the Kiwis and eight for Tonga. You can't deny Moimoi is a fan favourite.

But where has Moimoi gone? Well I can tell you that he has left the Centurions to take up a opportunity at the newest professional rugby league team who are looking to take the rugby league world by storm... The Toronto Wolfpack. That's right the Toronto Wolfpack, and yes that is Toronto in Canada!

The Wolfpack is a new rugby league team which will play in the Kingstone Press League One competition (England's third division). What makes the Wolfpack even more special is that they are Canada's first professional rugby league team and the worlds first transatlantic sports team.

The man behind it all is Canadian rugby league Chairman Eric Perez.

Perez has two main goals. Get the Wolfpack to the Super League and grow the game in North America. Bringing Moimoi to the club will be a great way to try complete both goals. They have also recruited a top-notch coaching staff with Paul Rowley coaching the team and former Great Britain player and coach Brian Noble has been named the director of rugby.

They have also announced a broadcasting deal to have all their games played on tv in Canada and a new kit sponsor. Things are falling into place.

Perez is hoping to get more big name players to the club in the coming years to be a part of something special.

"It is our goal to get promoted first time around and make a big investment in year two and then get some more well-known Australian superstars to come over at the backend of our second season," said Perez.

"We're self-funded, we're paying for all the clubs to come out and have paid for the privilege of being in the league.

The Wolfpack play their first pre-season game at Hull on January 22 then face Wigan before their opening league game at London Skolars. Oxford are the first team to head to Canada on May 6 and league fixtures will be in blocks, four in the UK and four in Canada. The Wolfpack will pay for teams to fly to Canada. Perez acknowledges teams might find it hard traveling to Canada, but also thought that this is the best chance to to make the lower divisions more "professional."

Knowing what the Wolfpack are trying to achieve, it is hard not to get behind the team and support them if you are a rugby league fan. I will be following the progression of the Wolfpack and I hope many of you people reading this will do the same.

To find out more on the Toronto Wolfpack, visit their website at www.torontowolfpack.com/



Fuifui Moimoi

Photo courtesy of www.photosport.nz

League Done and Dusted

By John Holloway

Author RRLFC Centenary Book & Richmond Player, Coach and Supporter



MY WIFE breathed a large sigh of relief two Sundays back when I turned off the TV and said “well that’s the League all done and dusted till March next year.” She suffers thru my weekly back to back game TV sessions and thinks its ridiculous that I am still on the sofa with Santa almost climbing down the chimney...I didn’t dare mention that there was one last All Blacks v Froggies game as well this weekend just past.

Looking back there is a sense of disappointment. Firstly the mighty Warriors were 10th best and not as mighty as we all hoped, As usual we had a fairly good roster but not the consistency of effort to go the extra mile. In racing terms, we were slow out of the gate, made ground over the middle distance failed to finish on, beaten several lengths. At International level our Kiwis were under-manned and under-whelming... incoming boss David Kidwell getting a bit of a hospital pass with only a few weeks in the top job and it showed. The Butcher was with the Tour and doing his best to rark up support but even he couldn’t stop a polished Aussie outfit determined to do the business. In the other code even Shag Hansens AB Heroes had their aura dented by a couple of upsets. Firstly the media had a field day with the little halfbacks toilet tryst then we had the Irish overjoyed with the Chicago result and rightly so, turning into whinging wallies when they got beaten up at home. When the flying Froggies pushed the jaded ABs to the limit in their Tour finale I was almost glad to put all this behind me and withdraw into footy denial mode for the summer then “BOOM” the NRL 2017 DRAW was released and bugger me the lights came back on!!!

As if by magic all was forgotten . I got back in the zone. The mind game begins. Mate hold all bets, the Knights at home for the opener, Friday games, heaps of early home games. Now suddenly I can’t wait for Friday March 5 to roll around so I can get my butt back to Mt Smart. Back to a bit of banter with the butcher, high fives with the usual stadium suspects, acoldie in the members tent and a wave to Monty B behind the mike, a juicy burger from Anna Washer in the Famous White Lady foodwagon...maybe the other outlets for a whitebait fritter or the german Sausage hot dog with Saukraut to top up..... then into my Bay 33 season ticket seats with my son-in-law, my grandson Jack and various whanau and friends. Yup, the big buzz starts all over again. OK I know its 4 months away and we are all well accustomed to the hype of promo and promise

around an invigorated and enhanced line-up. But what the hell stay with me here.

Running the Cutter we have two World Cup Winning Coaches Kearney and Pommy McNamara, Cappy McFadden, The Little General Stacey, Gridiron Guru Mangini who coached the Jets and the Browns in the NFL...not sure what he brings probably a scout for NFL prospects?, Advisory Board members Big Jimmy Doyle, the august Sir Graham Henry with AwenG and Southlander Owen Eastwood, an interesting and possibly influential asset who brings a strong sporting background to the board. He is a consultant to teams and organisations on developing high performance team culture. He has been associated with the All Blacks, the Chelsea Football Club, the South African cricket team and the military command group of NATO no less. Cripes this bunch will need their own stand.

On the paddock the high card on the table is the probable addition of Kieran Foran who would for certain take a large measure of playmaking and defensive pressure off “Magic Johnson” and hopefully allow him the extra freedom to more fully express his undeniable talent. Then you have the cool custodian TV Sheck back on deck, Mannering rested up. Hoffman,Matulino (due to fire), Issac Luke (can improve) Bo Bruiser Thompson, The Gubbster, newly minted Kiwis Kata and Fusitua, long suffering Lolohia and Big Manu Vatuvei who has plenty to prove. Not forgetting the young guns lookin to move up a notch, Lisone, Siple, Tevanga, Roache, Vete and maybe some opportunity for the hugely talented half/standoff Ata Hingano.

Our boys are back in pre-season work up now apart from the Kiwi contingent who return to the coal face after the Xmas training break. I am looking forward to a few weeks down at the bach myself, a lot of relaxation, a lot of kaimoana and a couple of Heinekens no doubt. Hopefully the thoughts of Footy will recede a little as I enjoy the activity with my whanau especially my Mokos on the beach and in the water. ...but I know that it won’t be long before my mate Willymans secret code text messages start coming in.... “64 SUKO” “55 SUKO” “32 SUKO”. Worked it out?.. Took me a while I can tell you --- Sleeps Until Kick Off!!! Talk about Keepin the Faith.

Right that’s it for now, I will be back next year with the MB Tipping Comp so till then have a happy healthy Xmas and great New Year. Save your Prezzie cards for the neat new Jerseys. Stay Cool.



Credit: Fairfax Media NZ / The Press

NOVEMBER 2016 EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

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100% OF THE DONATIONS MADE TO THE
NOVEMBER 2016 EARTHQUAKE APPEAL
WILL GO TO HELP THOSE AFFECTED.



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AS YOU go through life, you come across some very special people. I encountered one of these people at one of the Four Nations games. A guy called me over to the sideline and handed me an envelope, asking if I would donate it to the earthquake appeal in New Zealand. I didn't know the guy and being busy with the game I didn't open the envelope until I got home too New Zealand. It contained 100 pounds (about \$170) which I have since passed on to the Red Cross appeal. The moral of the story is that I had never met this man, but he was prepared to trust me with his money, which was very humbling. This man's name was Dennis Halliday, he had no connection with New Zealand at all. He just wanted to share the love. I think we can all learn something from Dennis.

- Sir Peter Leitch

Here Is What The Red Cross Sent Back To Dennis

Hello Dennis

IJUST WANTED to let you know how much we appreciate your generous and kind donation toward helping kiwis affected by the earthquakes. Your friend Sir Peter Leitch got in touch with us last week and relayed the story of how you met.

Your donation has converted to NZD \$169 – please see the receipt attached. We're all incredibly touched to be in your thoughts, it means so much to know that people on the other side of the world are reaching out to help, many, many thanks again.

Red Cross Disaster Welfare and Support Teams are on the ground in the upper South Island providing assistance to those who need it most. Helping to ensure families are safe, have clean water and the support they need to get through the coming weeks.

Thank you so very much for ensuring that the people affected will be supported as they rebuild their communities.

Warmest regards

Kate Dixon



I gave my Christmas order to the man himself.



New Vodafone Warriors Coach, Stephen Kearney with the football jersey I bought for him (my early Christmas present for him) at Manchester City. He is a big fan of the club.



Some of the Christmas decorations I saw in the UK

Riccarton Win Queenstown Nines Tournament

By Andrew Marmont

THE RICCARTON Knights have won the second Queenstown Nines rugby league tournament in an extra-time golden try win.

Following in the footsteps of Christchurch club Hornby last year, the Knights overcame the South Pacific Eagles in South Island final with minutes remaining in the second half of extra-time.

Ten teams entered this year, two more than 2015. It included three from Christchurch (Linwood Keas, Hornby Panthers, Riccarton Knights), two clubs from Dunedin (South Pacific, Kia Toa Tigers), one from Auckland (Point Chevalier Pirates) plus a side made up of mostly Queenstown players (Tumeke Natives).

In a treat for leaguies, an ex-Warrior Old Boys side also entered. Awen Guttenbeil, Syd Eru, Mark Horo and Gavin Hill were part of their coaching group.

The tournament was a success for rugby league in the deep south, with all four semi-finalists coming from Dunedin or Christchurch. The crowd were also up from last year in a day that had both glorious sunshine and heavy rain.

The standard of play was generally good with some great off-loading skill on display in the greasy conditions.

Tournament director Pace Begdgood was pleased with the day and had high hopes for the future of the tournament. He had to turn away teams from other parts of the country due to high interest.

“We love league. We’ve never run an event before but wanted to give guys an opportunity to play a sport in a local known for its scenery, snowboarding and other things.”

Rugby union and snow sports dominate the winter activities in Queenstown. Since the Queenstown rugby league club disbanded a few years ago, league has all but been extinct.

Begdgood wants to replicate the national rugby sevens tournament held in Queenstown held from 2010-2013 that generated almost 10,000 spectators a day.

Judging by the solid turnout yesterday, rugby league is slowly making inroads into getting league back on the map in Queenstown.



ARL Introduces Girls Competition for 2017

THE AUCKLAND Rugby League is introducing a pilot series of rugby league Nines for girls aged 13-17 years for the 2017 season.

The Nines will be played on Saturdays in line with the junior boys' competition, and will consist of an under 15's and under 17's grade.

As part of the inaugural competition, the Auckland Rugby League held their first muster day on Sunday November 27.

Held at Bay Roskill Rugby League Club, girls interested in playing rugby league were invited to join some of New Zealand's Kiwi Ferns in training skills and drills.

Kiwi Fern – and Vodafone Warriors community coordinator/ambassador – Georgia Hale also provided mouth guards and water bottles on the day.

Girls' grade committee member Caroline Matamua said the implementation of these grades is part of a 5 stage process.

"There has been a positive response in support of these much needed grades for Auckland and New Zealand Rugby League as a whole. It is also part of the NZRL World Cup legacy plan," said Caroline.

"Club support is vital and we are heartened by all the support and encouragement."

The girls' grade committee will continue to work with clubs to promote the competition through introductory trainings and muster days.

Auckland Rugby League will also promote the series together with the Downer NRL Auckland Nines AT-EED club programme where six Auckland rugby league clubs will host NRL teams and neighbouring clubs in February 2017.

Stage 4 will see registrations and club teams finalised ahead of the 2017 season.

"A big thank you and well done to all those who turned up for the first muster day on Sunday."

"Many thanks to our Kiwi Ferns and representative players for being great role models and aspiring our young female players, Unaloto Sili and Bay Roskill Rugby League Club for the gear and hosting the day, and to the committee and club leaders for a job well done."

Girls Nines details:

- Two grades - Girls U/15 and U/17
- Will be played every Saturday and align with the 2017 junior boys competition



Aoraki Rugby League

By Steve Mckeow

109 YEARS ago South Canterbury had a three team competition comprising of Railways, Temuka, Timaru. This local comp lasted approximately 5 years before folding and all the local players having their life bans cleared if they agreed never to play league again.

Another first of the time was the first ever provincial match was played between South Canterbury and Southland at the Caledonia grounds in Timaru in 1909.

In the late 80's the Timaru Warriors sprung to life playing in the Canterbury 2nd and 3rd division but by 2010 the club had largely folded.

In 2014 Nathan Robinson tried to start the Timaru Titans with the intention of playing in the Otago comp. But this failed to get off the ground mainly for the same reasons that the Timaru Warriors failed, players not wanting to travel. Nathan Robinson is a dual rugby international having played tests for the Cooks in union and league and is still part of the South Canterbury rugby union 7's setup.

In 2015 Steve Mckeown attempted to get the Timaru Outlaws up and running and playing the Otago comp but this failed for the same reasons as the Titans and Warriors.

Steve Martin of the Southern Zone Rugby League suggested that Nathan and myself get together and see if we can work together on something.

Out of this coming together Nathan Robinson had a very good idea....why don't we start a local comp played in spring after the union season that way we wont have to go head to head with them at this early stage. It was a eureka moment.

The Timaru Outlaws were already up and running and functioning as a club albeit with no players. Nathan then setup the Country Cowboys representing the Temuka, Geraldine and Pleasant Point area. With these two clubs setup we then approached the Ashburton Barbarians who have been a long established club playing in the Canterbury 3rd division to play in our local comp at the end of the Canterbury season.

At this point we decided to set up the Aoraki Rugby League to oversee our first club season.

In September of 2016 the first local South Canterbury/Mid Canterbury rugby league season got under way. In front of a crowd of about 250 to 270 people the Timaru Outlaws hosted the Country Cowboys. The Timaru Outlaws ran out winners of this historic clash 38 - 28.

Over the next month the three teams went head to head with no easy games and no teams throwing in the towel despite a few score line blow outs.

Eventually the Outlaws and the Cowboys would meet again in the very first Aoraki Rugby League grand final with the prize being the Duncan McGregor Memorial Cup. In front of a healthy crowd of about 300+ people Outlaws and Cowboys both scored four tries with the Outlaws winning thanks to some accurate kicking from Henry Race.

And so onto the first locally run representative fixture in 109 years with the Aoraki Rugby League representative selection taking on the Canterbury Cook Islanders in Ashburton on the 8th of October. The Canterbury Cooks ran out 60 - 10 winners with the Aoraki boys being stunned by the pace and power of the Cooks but all agreed that with more matches under our belt the Aoraki boys would soon improve.

There was another first for Aoraki Rugby League in a young man named Ofa Manuofetoa being offered and accepting an NRL contract with the Newcastle Knights. At 17 years of age, standing 6'2 and weighing in at 105kg the big winner has the world at his feet.

Aoraki RL Spring Club Competition

By Grant Chapman - NZRL Communications Manager



CONGRATULATIONS TO Timaru Outlaws, winners of the three-team Aoraki RL spring club competition.

Outlaws beat Country Cowboys 26-24 for Duncan McGregor Memorial Cup in the first local club comp in more than a century.

The third team were Ashburton Barbarians and at the culmination of the short season, an Aoraki Invitation side took on Canterbury Cook Islands in a representative fixture, going down 60-10.

Organisers are confident of adding at least a fourth team for the 2017 competition.



Reader Mail

Hi Sir Peter

THANKS FOR the great newsletters you having been putting out for us Vodafone Warriors and Kiwi League fans

I live in Sydney and last week the Vodafone Warriors invited me to the NRL 2017 draw release. The NRL wanted some fans from each club to come and represent them and have a chat to NRL boss Todd Greenburg plus they provided a free BBQ. I got a photo of us Warriors fans at the NRL 2017 draw release with Mr Greenburg

In the photo from left to right is

Nick, Matt, Todd, Debbie and Karlos we all have been living in Sydney for a few years and have got to know each other due to bumping into each at Warriors games in Sydney. We hope to meet more supporters as the Vodafone Warriors have games in Sydney next year against the Dragons, Panthers, Eels, Rabbits and Tigers plus road trips to Canberra and Newcastle.

It was a great day and going over the draw the Warriors certainly have been given a good chance to play semi final footy next season. I was wondering if you could put this photo in your next newsletter #150 as this is the start of the 2017 season

Thank you Butch

Regards Matt





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ELLERSLIE *update*

THE NEW Zealand Herald Christmas Carnival - where traditions are started and memories are made! The iconic New Zealand Herald Boxing Day Races begins the carnival with fun, fashion, entertainment and racing which is followed on the 29th of December and New Year's Day.

Hospitality Options

Cuvée is one of the best locations oncourse! Tickets are \$280.25 and include a stunning gourmet buffet lunch and all day beverage package

Silks offers a traditional, premium indoor raceday dining experience. Tickets are \$166.25 and include a gourmet buffet lunch and a drink on arrival

The Herald on Sunday Champagne Lawn is the perfect outdoor location to wine and dine away a summer's day. Tickets are \$147.25 and include a gourmet buffet lunch and a drink on arrival

Fashions in the Field competition

Fashions in the field makes The New Zealand Herald Boxing Day Races one of the most fashionable racing events in the country. There are four categories including Under 25 Racewear, Canvas Ladies Racewear, Hawaiian Airlines Ascot Lady (over 45 years) and InStitchu Mens Racewear. There are amazing prizes up for grabs in each category as well as an overall prize.

Registrations for Fashions in the Field will open on our website from Monday 5th December.

Family Entertainment

Hawaiian Airlines are giving away 400,000 air miles!

Kelly Sports will be oncourse all day with a huge variety of sport and activities for kids

Loads of other family entertainment including face painters, a bouncy castle, trampolines, a swing ball park and more

Amazing dance performances in the birdcage

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Members Christmas Event with a Chance to Make a Difference

by Richard Becht

THE VODAFONE Warriors invite you to help them get into the spirit of giving this Christmas by supporting Lifewise's campaign to reduce homelessness at this year's members' Christmas event.

The annual members' Christmas gathering will be held at Bert Henham Park in Otahuhu on December 10 (8.00am – 10.30am).

The day will include an exclusive viewing of the NRL training run (starting at 8am), followed by a signing session and a visit from Santa – along with plenty of fun activities for the children.

To help aid homelessness and get into the spirit of giving – the Vodafone Warriors will have a barbeque on site with all the proceeds going to Lifewise. Collection bins will also be available for members to donate items such as non-perishable food, blankets, clothing and shoes.

Lifewise is a community social development organisation which aims to help those in need by challenging injustices, developing sustainable solutions, cultivating caring communities and promoting optimism and hope.

If you would like to learn more about Lifewise [CLICK HERE](#).

2017 Vodafone Warriors members are invited to register by clicking the button below or emailing memberships@warriors.kiwi to attend the Christmas event with the details of those attending.

Haven't renewed for 2017 yet? Stuck for Christmas presents?

With kids' memberships just \$49 for all 11 games at Mt Smart - along with a junior pack for 2017 you can get the young ones sorted by heading to www.warriorsforever.co.nz



Vodafone Warriors Staff



Aaron Lawton, fan engagement manager.



Bianca Bush, events and entertainment manager; Shani Willemsen, memberships coordinator.



Bodie Friend, brand and communications team leader.



Hamish Sanford, marketing intern, and Leighton Corbett, graphic design assistant.



Bridie Reeves, NRL performance analyst.



Charlotte McKell, memberships coordinator.



Corey Hutchings, marketing coordinator.



Georgina Temm, memberships team leader.



Georgia Hale, community ambassador; Yuval Eyal, memberships sales coordinator.



Shanice Wiki, receptionist.



Neelam Patel, assistant accountant; Linley Hutchinson, accounts and health & safety; Susan Turner, season memberships accounts.



NRL assistant coaches Stacey Jones and Steve McNamara; Aaron Walsh, NRL psychologist.



Richard Becht, media manager.

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If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephan Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

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Without the help of these brands the Sir Peter Leitch Club and Newsletter wouldn't be as fantastic as it is. If you do get the opportunity please support them whenever you can.



The Newsletter Team

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

Sir Peter Leitch - Editor
David Kemeys - Editor at Large
Colin MacKenzie - Assistant Editor
Hayden Woodhead - Graphic Designer
Stephan Maier - Distribution

John Deaker - Correspondent
John Coffey - Southern Correspondent
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John Holloway - Correspondent
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