

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

25th January 2017

Newsletter #154

We Haven't Kicked Off Yet and the Crap has Already Started

By David Kemeys

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



SEEMS LIKE five minutes since Pete said I could have some time off and give the newsletter a rest, and here we are, back into it in time for the Downer NRL Nines.

But a couple of things have already caught my attention and we haven't kicked a ball in anger yet.

It seems the Manly Sea Eagles have banned mobile phones-which is hardly going to happen at Mt Smart when you have Vodafone emblazoned on everything.

But there has been a dramatic drop in social media activity at the Aussie outfit because coach Trent Barrett apparently thought giving the mobiles the brush-off would increase camaraderie.

The pesky devices are banned at all times within the team environment, and Barrett reckons he is trying to show his boys that sometimes it is just plain best to leave the phone alone.

One of the first to leap on board and back the move was none other than our released winger Jonathan Wright – or as some of his detractors at Mt Smart referred to him, “Seldom”.

“Most clubs are doing it now, but it's just for little things like when we have a feed or sit down together for coffee. There are no phones in the gym either,” he said.

“I think it's the way society is going, everyone's on their phone and not even talking to each other.”

And the other, and far more serious thing, is the news that will have shocked no one, that Newcastle Knight player Jarrod Mullen has been given the – in the words of our new star recruit Miles Davis – the Spanish Archer – El Bow, after testing positive for steroids.

In what I thought was a fantastic statement, Knights CEO Matt Gidley said: “The club is obviously extremely disappointed.”

You think?

Gidley went on to say there just wasn't much more clubs could do for players to make the consequences of drug use clear.

“I can't believe it. It's hugely disappointing, for a player I've known for 20 years. He's an experienced player. It's disappointing for everyone involved.”

Mullen is the first NRL player to test positive for steroid use since Roosters forward Martin Kennedy got two years and nine months out of the game in 2015.

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The drug they detected was Drostanolone, and you know what it is used for?

Breast cancer.

Yes indeed we take drug use really seriously in the NRL don't we?

The Cronulla Sharks have proved that already this year by re-signing Ben Barba – who got shit-canned for cocaine use only five minutes ago, did the big blub blub, and headed to re-hab.

Now fellow Sharkie Luke Lewis says Barba is “in a good place” after returning to the club.

Let's not forget, it was Barba's second positive cocaine test.

“He's a good person,” Lewis is reported to have said, along with 56 other kinds of platitude.

Bollocks, he's a drug cheat, and just like Mullen, there's no place in the game for him.

For all the talk about ethical standards in our game we really are as soft as Mr Whippy.

I'd encourage ever Vodafone Warriors fan to bring some white powder – flour would do it –and throw it in the air while chanting “Hey Ben, this is for you”, if he sets foot on Mt Smart.

We haven't even started the year and already I'm wondering why I support this game

Pete's Nines Top 10

Downer NRL Auckland Nines - Sat 4 & sun 5 Feb at Eden Park in Auckland

Tickets at www.ticketek.co.nz/nines

It's nearly upon us and I can't wait, especially with Ruben Wiki named to take part in the Vodafone Warriors squad. It should be a real blast from the past to see the big man strutting his stuff again, and let me tell you, he is as fit as a buck rat!

Anyone who thinks the clubs don't take it seriously needs to consider that there is \$2.6 million in prize-money at stake.

There are still tickets to be had, from as little as \$69, and there is also a no alcohol zone for families, which I happen to think is a first class idea.

I have been thinking a lot about the Nines and here is my top 10 reasons for loving this footy festival.

- 1) The biggest stars, Johnathan Thurston, Jarryd Hayne, Shaun Johnson –228 players in total
- 2) Ruben Wiki making a comeback for the mighty Vodafone Warriors
- 3) WBO world heavyweight boxing champion Joseph Parker is water-boy for the Warriors
- 4) Free water bottles around the stadium
- 5) The carnival atmosphere is unbelievable
- 6) 31 action-packed games with plenty of tries guaranteed
- 7) Kicking off the NRL season with a huge celebration of our game, rugby league
- 8) The new message board, so fans can get their own messages broadcast on screen
- 9) All 16 NRL clubs visiting local league clubs
- 10) Three test women's series with the Kiwi Ferns v the Australian Jillaroos. Quality football.

Parker Gets A New Job

As I mentioned, world champion boxer Joseph Parker is providing heavyweight support for the Vodafone Warriors, accepting an offer to be the team's water-boy.

The role was offered – and promptly accepted – during a surprise visit to Mt Smart, where Joseph stunned the players by greeting them in the gym as they returned from a field session.

He was wearing the 2017 Nines jersey (Te Toka Tu Toa – The Warrior Rock), and had his WBO world championship belt with him, as well as the Downer NRL Auckland Nines trophy.

“I wanted to come out to see the boys, see how they're preparing for the Nines and just to catch up with them. I always support the Warriors,” said Parker.

“I want to be there at the Nines to help them and to cheer them on. Before the title fight last year the players were there to wish me luck and I'd like to do the same for them.

“Lots of the boys have been there for me. Manu Vatuvei has been one of my closest friends from the start and there's Shaun Johnson, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck), Issac Luke and a few more. It's good to see them working hard and it inspires me to do the same.”

Back Into It In The UK

A new year of rugby league is about to start, with Saturday, January 28 seeing the first round of the Challenge Cup in the UK.

In Australia the 2017 Harvey Norman Rugby League All Stars will be played in Newcastle on Friday, February 10, and of course we have the Nines.

And that's not to mention the World Club Challenge between Cronulla and Wigan on February 19.

The old Butcher is getting excited!

Coaching Role For Cleary

As you will all know, I am a big fan of former Warriors head Ivan Cleary, and I was chuffed to see him take on a job that even a league novice would understand is going to hard yakker – coach of Lebanon.

He'll take charge of The Cedars at this year's World Cup.

We all know he has a wealth of experience, and being a top bloke will do him no harm either. Hr reckons the opportunity to guide a developing nation was too good to pass up.

“I was privileged to have been involved in the previous cup with New Zealand, so to now be head coach of a developing nation is something I'm excited about. The Lebanese Rugby League Federation has worked hard to establish its local competition and this is an important opportunity to help lift the exposure of the game.”

This year's cup is only the second time The Cedars have qualified and LRLF CEO Remond Safi said Cleary's appointment sends a message around their aspirations.

Lebanon are ranked 21 in the world, and are in Pool A with Australia, England and France.

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



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LAST CHANCE FOR NINES TICKETS

WE ARE only two weeks away from THE GREATEST WEEKEND!
Downer NRL Auckland Nines

Sat 4 & Sun 5 February, 2017

Eden Park, Auckland

If you haven't already got yours, NOW is the time to snap up your Downer NRL Auckland Nines tickets.

There is a category to suit everybody!

2 x day tickets starting from \$69

Kids tickets are only \$39 anywhere in the stadium

2 x day tickets in the Non-alcohol zone are \$99

If you're single and ready to mingle, you and all your mates can get in on the action in the Singles zone, 2 x day tickets only \$99.

And for the ultimate league fan, we have joined forces with the Vodafone Warriors to offer a Warriors & Nines ticket bundle, which includes a 2 x day Nines pass and a ticket to the first game of the Warriors season on March 5th v Newcastle Knights for \$99

Don't miss out on this high energy, action packed event!

Get your tickets now and come watch all the biggest NRL stars play!

www.ticketek.co.nz/nines

*Booking and stadium fees apply to all ticket purchases



THE GREATEST WEEKEND!

SAT 4 & SUN 5 FEBRUARY 2017
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 - » JOHNATHAN THURSTON
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Gold	Adult	\$279	» Choose your favourite sideline spot
	Child	\$39	
Silver	Adult	\$199	» Goal post view » In the fun zone
	Child	\$39	
Bronze	Adult	\$99	» Value for Money
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No alcohol zone	Adult	\$99	» Level 4 South stand » No bar service » Family friendly
	Child	\$39	

2 x Day Tickets	» From \$69
Kids Tickets	» \$39 anywhere in the stadium
Non-alcohol zone	» \$99
Singles zone	» \$99
Warriors Nines Bundle	» \$99

***booking fees, venue levy and payment processing fees are additional to ticket prices**



Happy New Year from the Team at the Downer NRL Auckland Nines

Jarryd Hayne

Hey guys – happy New Year! I hope you all had an awesome Christmas.

I'm really excited to be getting to Auckland this Feb with the guys and playing in my first ever Downer NRL Auckland Nines. I've been watching the Nines for years and am really excited to finally get down there and play. More than anything I'm looking forward to getting out there and playing against some of the best players in the game, Johnathan Thurston, Shaun Johnson and my skinny mate, MVP from last year, Corey Norman. (Parramatta Eels). Don't miss it – it's a one-of-a-kind tournament and I hope to see all my Fijian friends, my Aussie friends and of course all you Kiwi's there!

Johnathan Thurston

Happy New Year guys! I hope you've all enjoyed a special time with your families over summer.

I'm genuinely excited to be coming to Auckland to play in the Downer NRL Auckland Nines in February.

I had a taste of the NRL Nines as a fan last year and the atmosphere was incredible. I made up my mind right away that I would be back to play in the 2017 tournament and hopefully lead the Cowboys to their second Nines title.

The guys who played in 2014 when we won it have said what an amazing experience it was and it's something I can't wait to be a part of myself.

It's a one of a kind, action packed tournament and loads of fun for your mates and families. Get your tickets and come down to Eden Park to watch me and all the other big name stars play some epic footy and be a part of THE GREATEST WEEKEND!

Shaun Johnson

Happy New Year Rugby League fans! I hope you all had a great summer break. I had an amazing family holiday in Laos exploring where my Mum is from.

Back into training now and next on the agenda are the Downer NRL Auckland Nines on Waitangi Weekend. I absolutely love playing in the Nines and I can't wait to get back out there!

A heap of stars will be playing .. including legends of the game Johnathan Thurston and Jarryd Hayne and the man Ruben Wiki is making his comeback. You don't want to miss his big hits!

We're really keen to go one better this year and keep the trophy here in NZ, so get in behind us, we need as many Warriors fans at Eden Park as possible cheering us on. The atmosphere is electric and it's so much fun, so get your mates together and book your tickets right now at Ticketek and we'll see you all there at THE GREATEST WEEKEND!





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The Show Never Stops

COMMUNITY CLUB PROGRAMME VISITS 2017

MEET YOUR FAVOURITE NRL STARS AT YOUR LOCAL AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB. **THU 2 & FRI 3 FEB - FREE ATTENDANCE.**

Club	NRL Team	Programme	Location
Manurewa Marlins	South Sydney Rabbitohs	5-6.15pm Thu 2 Feb	Mountford Park, Manurewa
	Parramatta Eels	6.15-7.15pm Thu 2 Feb	
	Canberra Raiders	6.45-7.45pm Thu 2 Feb	
Mangere East Hawks	Wests Tigers	6.15-7.15pm Thu 2 Feb	Walter Massey Park, Mangere
	Gold Coast Titans	6.45-7.45pm Thu 2 Feb	
	Brisbane Broncos	6.45-7.45pm Thu 2 Feb	
Pakuranga Jaguars	Sydney Roosters	5-6pm Thu 2 Feb	Ti Rakau Park, Pakuranga
	Manly Sea Eagles	6.30-7.15pm Thu 2 Feb	
	Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs	7.15-8pm Thu 2 Feb	
Waitemata Seagulls	Penrith Panthers	5.15-6.15pm Thu 2 Feb	Ranui Domain, Ranui
	Melbourne Storm	6-7pm Thu 2 Feb	
	Cronulla Sharks	6.45-7.45pm Thu 2 Feb	
Mt Albert Lions	North Queensland Cowboys	5-6pm Thu 2 Feb	Fowlds Park, Mt Albert
	New Zealand Vodafone Warriors	6-7pm Thu 2 Feb	
East Coast Bays Barracudas	St George-Illawarra Dragons	5-6pm Fri 3 Feb	Freyberg Park, Browns Bay
	Newcastle Knights	5.30-6.30pm Fri 3 Feb	

2017 DOWNER NRL AUCKLAND NINES
SAT 4 & SUN 5 FEB 2017

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AT TICKETEK

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EPIC LEAGUE LOVERS TICKET BUNDLE!

SAT 4 & SUN 5 FEB 2017, EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND



THE ULTIMATE LEAGUE LOVERS TICKET BUNDLE!

The Downer NRL Auckland Nines are joining forces with the Vodafone Warriors to bring you an exclusive ticket bundle!

This epic league lovers ticket bundle includes a 2 x day ticket to the Downer NRL Auckland Nines on Sat 4 & Sun 5 Feb PLUS a GA ticket to the Vodafone Warriors v Newcastle Knights on Sunday 5 March, 4pm kick-off.

Mix sunshine, dress-ups, club colours, family, friends and all the biggest NRL stars including Jarryd Hayne, Johnathan Thurston, Shaun Johnson and the just announced powerhouse Ruben Wiki together in one place for 'The Greatest Weekend'. Followed by a ticket to cheer on your local home team, the mighty Vodafone Warriors at Mt Smart Stadium for their first game of the NRL season!

Get your league season off to the best possible start! Get your Nines and Warriors ticket bundle today for only \$99* (plus fees).

[CLICK HERE](#)

DATE: SAT 4 & SUN 5, FEB 2017

VENUE: EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND

NINES TICKETS ONLY: [Click here](#)

CORPORATE HOSPITALITY:

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TRAVEL PACKAGES: [click here](#)

The Other Kiwi Who “Saved” Bradford

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)



FORMER NEW Zealand Rugby League chairman Andrew Chalmers and celebrated former Kiwis, Wigan and Manly coach Graham Lowe are the new owners of the beleaguered Bradford Bulls club which has spectacularly plummeted from being world club champion as recently as 2006 through a series of financial crises to ultimate liquidation last year. Chalmers and Lowe take over a proud Yorkshire club based in a stadium which once held a world record crowd but which clearly faces a massive struggle for survival.

In recent seasons the Bulls were relegated from Super League to the tier-two Championship. Fan support and playing strength both fell in step with that demotion and the situation has further worsened in recent weeks. Players were made free agents and many of them have taken the opportunity to join other clubs. While Bradford will retain its tier-two status, it will receive only a £125,000 central grant with which to rebuild. The club has also been penalised 12 points and will be battling from season's start to avoid further relegation to tier-three.

There is much to be done before Bradford opens its season away to Hull Kingston Rovers on February 5. After speculation that Chalmers and Lowe were looking at fellow Kiwis Henry Paul and Brian McClennan as prospective head coaches, it was announced last weekend that Geoff Toovey has accepted the challenge. Lowe has utilised his Manly connection there, with Toovey having taken the Sea Eagles to the 2013 NRL grand final. The Bradford captain will be former Great Britain international back Leon Pryce.

Bradford has long been a pillar of rugby league in northern England and two clubs from the city joined the Northern Union breakaway from the London-based Rugby Football Union in 1895. Ironically, the Bulls' finest era closely preceded the recent crash. Four of the club's six championship triumphs occurred between 1999 and 2006, as did two of its five Challenge Cup victories and all three World Club Championship wins over NRL title-holders Newcastle Knights in 2002, Penrith Panthers in 2004 and Wests Tigers in 2006.

It has not all been smooth sailing over the last 122 years. Of the original clubs, Manningham won the first-ever championship and Bradford the 1906 Challenge Cup but both were soon gone. The revival being mounted by Chalmers and Lowe is actually the third. The original Bradford club switched to soccer in 1907. Fans quickly revived the team as Bradford Northern and, after years of struggling near the bottom of the table, officials in 1933 acquired a former quarry being used as a rubbish dump and created the massive Odsal Stadium.

Bradford Northern was one of the code's most powerful teams in the years after the Second World War, not least because it signed rugby union players from New Zealand. Among them were goal-kicking Wellington fullback Joe Phillips and prolific scoring wing Jack McLean, who still hold club scoring records nearly 70 years later. Phillips' fourteen goals in a match against Batley in 1952 was equalled by fellow Kiwi Henry Paul against Salford in 2000, but no-one has overhauled McLean's 63 tries in the 1951-52 season.

Phillips made 232 appearances for Bradford from 1950 to 1956, scoring 1463 points from 47 tries and 661 goals. He then spent three seasons with Keighley, for another 80 games, 20 tries and 225 goals. In those days overseas based players were not considered for the Kiwis and Phillips achieved the only representative honours available to him for Other Nationalities – a combination of New Zealanders, Australians, South Africans and Scotsmen attached to British clubs – to play against England, Wales and France, and also a Rugby League XIII.

But Phillips' greatest service was his role in reviving the club after it went broke in 1963. Attendances had dropped to a few hundred within the vast expanse of Odsal, which had been packed with an estimated 125,000 fans for a Challenge Cup replay only eight years earlier. Phillips joined former team-mate Trevor Foster to hold public meetings and implore the city's citizens to return to Odsal. They were thrilled when 14,500 supporters turned up for the comeback game against Hull Kingston Rovers in August 1964.

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Phillips served a term as club chairman. Early success was enjoyed with a Yorkshire Cup victory in 1965-66 and a Challenge Cup final (though losing to Featherstone Rovers) in 1973. Phillips died in London in 1969, aged only 44. His fellow Bradford Northern saviour, Trevor Foster, died at the age of 90 in 2005 and will be a legend as long as rugby league is played in Bradford. He would have passed away a happy man, for the renamed Bradford Bulls soon became a dominant force after Super League and summer football were introduced in 1996.

One of the most revered heroes of that period was Kiwis inside back Robbie Paul (who reinvented himself as Robbie Hunter-Paul after his 2010 marriage to Natalie Hunter). Paul spearheaded the Bulls to their many triumphs, and also persuaded older brother Henry to join the club from Wigan. But even Robbie Paul could not halt the slide which led to the latest demise. He was appointed chief executive officer in July 2013 but stepped aside last August, citing family reasons, while retaining his other club connections.

When Bradford named its Team of the Century it included five New Zealanders, Robbie Paul, Shontayne Hape, Jack McLean, Lesley Vainikolo and Joe Vagana. In addition, McLean, Joe Phillips and Henry Paul hold various scoring records that have stood the test of time. Now two more New Zealanders, Andrew Chalmers and Graham Lowe, have stepped up to play significant roles off the field. With the city of Bradford having been chosen to host the planned Rugby League Hall of Fame, it is imperative it also has a strong on-field presence.

Our Sporting United Nations

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)



WITH GLOBAL warming failing to find Christchurch over Christmas and New Year, there was plenty of incentive to watch sport on television. Much of it was disappointing, particularly the Serena Williams-led failures at the much vaunted women's tennis tournament in Auckland and the repetitious cricket encounters between the bouncer-happy Blackcaps and battling, brave but badly-bruised Bangladesh. We appear to be the only nation prepared to host the B-grade Bangers, a sad reflection of our own lowly Test ranking.

Between checking on the cricket scores here and in Australia, there were opportunities to do some mental doodling about the state of our sports scene. One topic which kept recurring whenever I watched the Blackcaps and some of the domestic T20 hit-and-giggle which was also played during the holiday period concerned the number of overseas-born players who have infiltrated our most traditional summer pastime. Not the few guest players, but those many more who have made New Zealand their current home.

We have always welcomed sporting talent from overseas, never more so than during this century. Our only fulltime participants on the prestigious United States PGA golf tours are Korean-born and United States-domiciled Lydia Ko and Danny Lee. Croatian-born Marina Erakovic has carried New Zealand tennis for a decade. Danish-born Linda Villumsen has been our most successful female road cyclist. Former South African international Irene van Dyk is in everyone's all-time Silver Ferns netball team.

Soccer has survived for decades on a succession of British accents at administration and player levels and the rugby codes have been accused of raiding the Pacific islands of talent. One reason Wanganui beat Buller in the provincial tier-three rugby union final was because it had more Fijian outside backs. In 2014 the New Zealand Herald revealed that of the 1133 All Blacks to that time 83 had been born overseas. The only Kiwis captain to have hoisted the rugby league World Cup was Sydney-born and bred Nathan Cayless in 2008.

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But no representative sport has been infiltrated as much as cricket currently is. Auckland, as well as the Blackcaps, has benefited from the influx of South Africans who have left their own country and mostly settled on the North Shore. The introduction of a controversial racial quota system in recent years has increased the exodus. Sure, a number of South Africans have previously played for England but New Zealand is undoubtedly seen as an easier path to international cricket.

By transferring the mental doodling into a few written notes I was able to come up with a full playing eleven of overseas-born players. All but one of them has already worn the black cap in one format of the game or another, in some cases all three (Tests, one-dayers and T20s). The only non-international is exciting South African-born Auckland opening batsman and wicketkeeper Glenn Phillips. He has played for New Zealand at under-19 level and is already pressing strongly for higher honours.

There is also an increasingly strong Indian influence on our first-class cricket, just as there is in England. My "Overseas-born XI" includes five players of South African heritage, four from Indian backgrounds and one each from Australia and Zimbabwe. I did not consider Wellington wicket-keeper and batsman Luke Ronchi, even though he wore Australia's baggy green cap before he pulled on a black one. Ronchi was born in Dannevirke not long before his family moved to Perth, where he learned his cricket.

My team, with their province and country of birth, is: Jeet Raval (Auckland and India), Glenn Phillips (Auckland and South Africa), Colin Munro (Auckland and South Africa), Dean Brownlee (Northern Districts and Australia), Grant Elliott (Wellington and South Africa), Colin de Grandhomme (Auckland and Zimbabwe), B J Watling (Northern Districts and South Africa), Tarun Nethula (Auckland and India), Ish Sodhi (Northern Districts and India), Jeetan Patel (Wellington and India) and Neil Wagner (Otago and South Africa).

With just one fast bowler (Wagner) supported by medium pacers de Grandhomme, Elliott and Munro, and plenty of slow bowling options in leg-spinners Nethula and Sodhi and off-spinner Patel, my line-up would clearly be better suited to turning sub-continental pitches rather than our traditional green tops which tend to later flatten out and favour the batsmen. Watling is the first-choice wicket-keeper ahead of Phillips and the very experienced Elliott would be given the captaincy responsibilities.

Some, such as Watling, came to New Zealand with their families as youngsters. Others, like Elliott and Wagner, were adults who believed their career paths were blocked in their homeland and subsequently qualified for New Zealand through residency rules. The Perth-born Brownlee was eligible for the Blackcaps because his father is a New Zealander. Of the provinces, Auckland and Northern have benefited most, though Elliott and Brownlee spent several summers in Christchurch club cricket before moving north.

Not that Canterbury is still solely relying on its traditional strong school and college nursery to fill its player pool. Outsiders are welcomed. Current opening batsman Chad Bowes arrived in Christchurch aged 23 in 2015, having captained South Africa under-19s. As mentioned, there are many more South Africans in the Auckland system, plus Hong Kong international Mark Chapman. South African-born brothers Brad, Carl and Craig Cachopa have played for a variety of provinces since first arriving in Auckland.

A few New Zealand-born players have enriched cricket in other countries. Clarrie Grimmett is still ranked among Australia's greatest spin bowlers eighty years after his retirement, while Christchurch-born fast bowler Andrew Caddick used his parents' heritage to fashion a proud Test record for England. Ben Stokes, also born in Christchurch and the son of 1982 Kiwis prop Gerard Stokes, is currently the best all-rounder in world cricket wearing the England shirt he qualified for on residential grounds while Gerard was coaching Workington Town.



BRENDON MCCULLUM ONZM has set Australian television screens alight over the past month or so. The former New Zealand Test captain has captained the Brisbane Heat to the Big Bash semi finals. His batting has been extremely entertaining and cricket fans everywhere have been thrilled with his efforts. In his seven Big Bash games, McCullum, now 35, scored 277 runs from just 162 balls with a strike rate of 171 and an average of 46.2. Add to this 16 sixes and 27 fours and it is obvious just what an asset the Kiwi has been to his Brisbane team.

Two more New Zealanders have also played a major part in the Heat's success during the 2016/17 season. They are Head Coach, Dan Vettori ONZM and Assistant Coach, Shane Bond. Vettori, also coaches the the Bangalore Royal Chargers in the Indian Premier League, while Bond is involved with the Mumbai team. Vettori, who turns 38 this week on 27 January, took 705 wickets and scored 6,989 runs in his 442 matches for New Zealand in all three forms of the game. Bond, 41, played 120 matches for New Zealand in all three forms and took 120 wickets.

After the eight regular season games for all Big Bash teams were completed on Saturday 21 January, the Heat finished in second place behind the Perth Scorchers. Both teams finished on 10 points with five wins from their eight games, but the Perth side had a higher net run rate. The four teams to contest the finals are the Perth Scorchers, the Brisbane Heat, the Sydney Sixers and the Melbourne Stars.

In the first semi final, the Scorchers play the Stars on Tuesday night at Perth, so the result will be known before this Newsletter is released. In the other semi, the Heat play the Sixers in Brisbane on Wednesday night, 25 January. The final will be held on Saturday 28 January, at a venue to be determined by the team with the best position on the final table.

The Heat have also had success this season in the Womens Big Bash. The four womens semi final sides are the Sydney Sixers, the Perth Scorchers, the Brisbane Heat and the Hobart Hurricanes. West Indian star, Deandra Dottin 25, has done well for the Heat this season. She suffered a broken cheekbone after a clash with a team-mate on 28 December chasing a ball in a match against the Stars in Brisbane. However she bounced back and in a thrilling match at Brisbane on 21 January against the Adelaide Strikers, she scored 51. Both teams finished with 127 but Brisbane won the game in the Super Over. Dottin is the first woman to score a century in a T20 International, belting nine sixes and five fours in her total of 112 not out from just 38 balls against South Africa in the 2010 Womens T20 World Cup in the West Indies. On Tuesday in Perth, the Scorchers women meet the Heat and on Wednesday the Sixers play the Hurricanes.

In other cricket news, the Australians wrapped up the One Day series against Pakistan on Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground. David Warner collected 130 runs from 119 balls and this goes well with his 113 from 95 balls in the third Test at the same venue against Pakistan on 3 January. With this innings, he became just the fifth batsman in the 140 year history of Test cricket to score a century in the first session of the first day of a Test match. Warner was 100 not out at the lunch break and the other four players are Victor Trumper (Australia) 103 vs England in 1902, Charlie McCartney (Australia) 112 vs England in 1926, Sir Donald Bradman (Australia) 105 vs England in 1930 and Majid Khan (Pakistan) 108 vs New Zealand in 1976. The fifth and final one day game with Pakistan is in Adelaide this Thursday 26 January (Australia Day) and Australia go into the clash with a 3-1 series lead. The Australian selectors have decided Warner and his opening partner, Usman Khawaja, need a rest and they have not been selected in the 14-man Australian squad for the three match Hadlee-Chappell series which begins in Auckland on Monday. Instead Shaun Marsh and Aaron Finch will open the batting for the Aussies.

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It is not long before the Rugby League season begins. There has been plenty of League news in the Australian media with probably the biggest story being the probable signing of Broncos halfback, Ben Hunt by St. George/Illawarra. The contract is supposedly worth six million dollars for five years with a one year option. It is from 2018 onwards and while the Dragons would like him for this season, Broncos coach, Wayne Bennet, has said this will not happen.

They are falling like flies in the Australia Open Tennis tournament with number one seed Sir Andy Murray being knocked out on Sunday and number two seed, Novak Djokovic going a couple of days before that. Murray, the World's number one, was favoured to win his first Australian open but now the sentimental favourite in 35 year old, Roger Federer, who was seeded at 17. Federer has won four previous Australian titles and 17 Grand Slam titles. In the womens section number one seed, Germany's Angelique Kerber, is gone and perhaps the number two seed, Serena Williams, 35, could win the tournament, which would be her 23th Grand Slam title.

Finally the 51st Super Bowl will be played in Houston Texas on Sunday 5 February (Monday 6 February in Australia and New Zealand), between the Atlanta Falcons and the New England Patriots. This is America's biggest sporting event and it is almost impossible to obtain tickets at face value. Scalpers prices for this game are estimated to be between \$3,000 and over \$12,000 US dollars, although that could be even more, now that the two participating teams are known.

The Most Exciting Sport of the Summer

By Ben Francis



FIRSTLY I hope everybody had a wonderful summer holiday, and welcome back to another year of this fantastic newsletter which I am happy to be apart of.

Along with the nice summer sun and beautiful weather, I love one thing about the Christmas period, and that is the World Darts Championships.

While some people don't enjoy the sport, I absolutely love it! I find it amazing watching these guys throw darts into a certain part of the board with such precision.

This year's tournament was a classic, we saw a number of great matches including a rematch of the greatest final ever between Phil 'The Power' Taylor and Raymond 'Barney' Van Barneveld. Between both players, they have a combined 21 World Championships, and as you'd expect it was a drama filled match.

However Van Barneveld was unable to repeat those heroics against fellow Dutchman Michael 'Might Mike' Van Gerwen, who threw a record three dart average of 114.05.

Van Gerwen faced two-time defending champion Garry 'The Flying Scotsman' Anderson in the final.

A number of records were broken in the final with 42 maximums (180's) thrown between the two, Anderson tied the record for most in a final with 22.

Anderson was up early in the final after winning two of the first three sets and it was looking likely he would extend his 17-match unbeaten run at the Alexandra Palace, but Van Gerwen went on to win 12 of the next 14 legs to then lead 6-2 and didn't look back after than, winning the match 7-3.

Despite only being 27-year old, Van Gerwen is the king of darts. He won 91% of his matches in 2016 and won 25 tournaments. He is like the All Blacks, he is that fair ahead of the Anderson in the world rankings, he could afford not to play all year and still be world No.1.

Despite what people say, Darts is a exciting sport, nothing is more exciting than watching somebody throw three darts perfectly inside the treble 20 for a perfect 180 and then hearing the crowd cheer and roar.

It's 11 months away till the next World Championships, and let's just say I am already looking forward to the next World Championships in December, and all the other tournaments also.

Give Technology the Heave-Ho

By Miles Davis



TELEVISION TECHNOLOGY in sport is harmful to society and should be dispensed with immediately. I can hear voices of dissension, many suggesting I have lost the plot and should be locked up. Let me attempt to explain my position before you have the men in white coats take me away.

I have always believed one of sport's major social benefits is the life lessons it teaches. The value of teamwork, to help others out who are struggling, to respect your opponent and, most importantly of all, to accept decisions that go against you and continue to play on strongly.

One of life's greatest assets is to be able to carry on when things are going against you and if you can't handle a bad decision on a sport's field how on earth are you going to deal with it in real life?

The introduction of technology is slowly eroding sport's ability to teach us that lesson and is creating a society that expects everything to be fair, to be able to complain about anything that goes against you. Well guess what folks - there is no Third Umpire/TV match official in the real world. There are going to be many times in life where you get stuck on the wrong end of the pineapple and you won't have two challenges at your disposal to get a decision overturned. You will just have to suck it up and get on with it.

The introduction of technology means we are creating a generation not only unable to deal with a bad decision but with a sense of entitlement. A society made up of those unwilling to accept and respect the authority of the man with the whistle, and always demanding a second opinion. It also creates officials who no longer have the courage to make decisions and enforce them for fear of being undermined by a slow-motion replay.

Technology wasn't introduced to make sport better, it was introduced to increase the power of the broadcaster, to titillate its product and give it a greater influence on the game. The man in the middle no longer controls the game, the TV producer does.

Television also slows play down, changes the rules of the game to increase its marketing potential and increasingly pushes more and more commercialism down our throats. I can't watch an NRL game without ending up hungry. Why? Because every time someone crosses the line we get a big bucket of KFC shoved in our face. (I'm convinced KFC has a deal with the TV networks ensuring so many of its commercials are shown, and therefore the referee has to go upstairs that many times).

I know many of you disagree, but mark my words - if we don't stop the increasing influence of TV on sport we'll end up with a generation of disrespectful kids who don't accept any decision - and at a time where you aren't allowed to give them a clip round the ear to bring them back into line.

Sport's value to society does not lie in getting every decision right, but in allowing us to learn to live with those that go against us.

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By John Deaker

Ruben Wiki's Nines Appearance is Inspirational Before He Even Steps on the Field

Ruben Wiki puts on the jersey for the Warriors for the 2017 NRL Auckland Nines. Photo www.photosport.nz

EVERYONE HAS different opinions on comebacks or great sportspeople having a crack at fresh challenges. One consistent theme I often hear voiced is that athletes are risking or even destroying their legacy. Sometimes people say this so critically and aggressively you'd think it was THEIR legacy!

Every situation's different but in a case like 44 year-old Ruben Wiki's appearance for the Warriors in next week's Nines his legacy is enhanced in my eyes by the fact that he has the courage and confidence to take on a fresh challenge like this that most people hadn't even considered he might be capable of.

For me as someone approaching 40 (and a bit of a fitness freak who currently works in the fitness industry) Wiki is an inspiration. Many professional sportspeople retire and quickly let the disciplines of their own training slip away. Not Wiki though.

In contrast, Wiki's probably in better shape than he was in the prime of his playing days. One of his biggest concerns in the Nines will be the unexpected – particularly the unpredictable stress on his joints in some tackles. That's where the Nines format will hopefully play into Wiki's hands – he won't encounter as many three or four man tackles as he would in the 13-man game. It's those gang tackles where you can find complicated joints like your shoulders and knees bending one way and then unexpectedly fighting against great forces coming from another angle that would be the biggest fear of the man who captained the Kiwis 18 times.

Recovery of the muscles is another challenge that becomes a lot tougher with age, but hopefully the Nines format again plays into Wiki's hands by limiting the amount of game time he plays on day 1. The 'Kava King' will of course have his secret Kava formula to call on and rejuvenate him for day 2.

Ruben Wiki's already even more of a sporting role-model in my eyes for taking on a challenge that he admitted in a media session this week makes him both "nervous and excited." As fans I hope people are realistic and understanding with their expectations. Don't expect to see him out-sprinting people or stepping 3 men to score a try, but do expect to see the fittest 44 year old you've ever seen running round on a rugby or league field proving that in small patches he can hold his own against professional athletes less than half his age.

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address on the left.

Winner will be drawn on 8/02/17

Tom McKeown

By Gary Whittle, President and Life Member, Auckland Rugby League

TOM MCKEOWN a well know Rugby League identity died on the 31st December 2016.
Tom was involved in Rugby League for some 70 years.

He played Rugby League for Ponsonby and refereed for a short while before becoming involved with Ponsonby Rugby league as the Club Secretary and Senior team manager for a number of years.

Tom was appointed as Treasurer of the Auckland Rugby League in 1978 and served until 1994 and is the longest serving Treasurer of The Auckland Rugby league.

During his term as Treasurer Tom was the Auckland Rugby League team manager for a number of years.

In 1985 he was appointed Team manager of the Kiwi's who toured Great Britain and France with Graham Lowe as coach.

He was also Kiwi manager for the 1986 tour of Australia.

Tom was elected as a Life member of the Ponsonby Rugby League Club, The Auckland Rugby League and New Zealand Rugby League.

Tom was Treasurer of Le Equipage Club which is a club comprising of sportsman a number of whom have represented New Zealand in their chosen sport.

Tom was also a Life Member of Le Equipage Club.

Over the years Tom was also a match manager for Auckland Rugby League, New Zealand Rugby League and New South Wales Rugby League.

Tom was also the returning officer for the Auckland Rugby League.

Tom was a loyal servant of The Auckland Rugby league and he will be sadly missed.

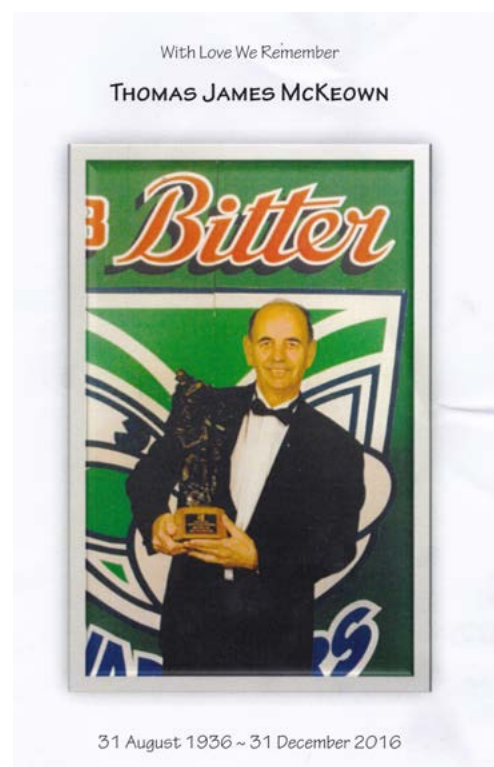
Two other life members of The Auckland Rugby League also died in 2016.

They were Dr Lloyd Drake Honorary Doctor to the Auckland Rugby League for many years.

The other life member to pass away was Des Jenkinson who had a long history with Rugby League in Auckland particularly Mt Wellington.

Des was Secretary of The Auckland Rugby League from 1983 until 1988 and was Kiwi Manager in 1985.

Both these members will also be sadly missed.



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www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

A Sneak Peak

By John Holloway



I RECENTLY SPIED an article on an Aussie League site that forecast the starting 13s for each NRL club. It was immediately apparent to me that the mighty Warriors have a same same, look with only the probable addition of Kieran Foran the difference.

I noted in particular their call on our pack (minus the injured Matulino) was Lillyman, Luke, Lisone, Thompson, Mannering and Hoffman.

That didn't light my fire in terms of improvement and update. I can find upsides, notably the experience and nous of this older brigade.

Thomson still represents our best frontline offensive weapon, Isaac Luke can be terrific if he regains premium form, and Simon Mannering is a legend and continues to prove why he is possibly the greatest Warrior yet.

The point remains that apart from Lisone I am starting to see a forward pack of guys that are yet another year older.

On the upside, when I looked a bit deeper I perked up, because the promise is in the youth brigade. It could be the year of the young guns.

For us It may be time to start the Gubster, let's have his enthusiasm and hard head approach from the get go, rather than trying to lift a flagging effort.

Albert Vete is one who benefitted from another year and is due to ratchet up a notch in aggression and attitude. I'd love to see him creating more mayhem in defence and smashing through gaps with the ball.

Size and pace are also attributes of the up-and-coming young prop Tofoa Siple, who has the promise of things to come.

Jazz Tevaga is another who has already stepped into the breach, demonstrating an energy and dynamic that has a different edge. Likewise Nathaniel Roache, who brings the speedy dart and

enterprise that can make things happen on attack.

The hard-running Bunty Afoa rounds out this youthful bunch.

Out the back look for new Kiwis Fusitua, Kata and Lolohea to progress alongside RTS, with a side-note also regarding the brilliant youngster Ata Hingano, who may well grab the No 6 jersey if Foran is not cleared of bureaucratic restrictions. Ata is the future and will bear close inspection because he has all the skills and the eye for the gap.

Magic Johnson and Manu, our mainstay big guns, will go round again.

Hopefully Mooks Kearney and the cast of a thousand assistants and footy committee can nurture and unleash these contenders in 2017.

If the youngsters stand up so will the older guys, in defence of their first grade status.

We need all of our Warriors firing to bring more enthusiasm, urgency, creativity, penetration and....there was one other thing...oh yeah, consistency.

Whoa, and guess what? We finally have a new supersize big screen and will actually be able to see what happened in the replays. There is a god!

Keep the faith....Catch ya soon with the tipping comp.

ARL Announces New General Manager

By ARL

AUCKLAND RUGBY League's (ARL) board of directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Greg Whaiapu as the new general manager of Auckland Rugby League, effective from Monday 9 January 2017.

Over the past few months the board have undertaken a review of the strategic plan and identified areas that require renewed focus and energy, including a highly skilled general manager to lead the organisation into its next exciting phase.

Recruitment for this role commenced in September of 2016, and the recruitment sub-committee were pleased with the response and talent interested in the position.

Following an intense process of interviews and ratification from the wider BOD, the talent, commitment, knowledge and passion the organisation was seeking was indeed the acting general manager, Greg Whaiapu.

"Greg has proven that he has great leadership style which has already made a positive impact on the team at the ARL headquarters," said ARL chairman Cameron McGregor.

"He has developed strong relationships with a number of people.

"From 20 years' experience working in local government, his community engagement is exceptional and the fact that he has been chairman of the largest club in NZ for a number of years means he is well aware of the issues facing the grassroots of our sport.

"Greg was the outstanding candidate from a large group of quality candidates and we are excited that one of our own has risen to lead Auckland Rugby League into the future."

At the commencement of his employment Whaiapu will resign as an elected director of Auckland Rugby League and a replacement via the constitutional voting process will begin to find his replacement on the board.

"I am very excited and optimistic for the future of Auckland Rugby League," said Whaiapu.

"I am aware of the challenges that face our game from across the sports sector and am confident that the staff of ARL will continue to support our clubs and deliver the programmes we have on offer.

"I would like to thank the board for their confidence in my appointment and the clubs who have shared their support - I look forward to working with you all."

Whaiapu played rugby league through the grades.

He has served as a senior coach for both Mt Wellington and Otara, and managed the former premier Papakura and Manurewa team Southern United.

He served as chairman of the Manurewa Marlins Rugby League Club for 15 years and Auckland Maori for 20 years before being elected on the board of Auckland Rugby League in 2016.

He has also recently completed a post graduate degree in Maori Business Management.



Greg Whaiapu

Kiwi Ferns Nines Gear Up for Repeat Win

By Grant Chapman - NZRL Communications Manager



THE KIWI Ferns team to take the field at the 2017 Nines tournament early next month has been announced.

Sarina Fiso, three time winner of the NZRL Women's Player of the year award retains her captaincy role of the 16-strong Kiwi Ferns Nines squad.

Her fellow finalists for the 2016 Women's Player of the year award, Georgia Hale and Krystal Rota, also join Fiso in gearing up to win a second consecutive Nines tournament.

Kiwi Ferns Coach Alan Jackson named his team following Saturday's trial where he says the standard seen was even higher than last year's.

"The outstanding standard of play at the trials was really pleasing and while we lose three players from last year's team, the fresh faces definitely bring an exciting element to the game," he says.

2017 Kiwi Ferns Nines Squad:

- Alexandra Cook
- Amber Kani
- Atawhai Tupaea
- Georgia Hale
- Honey Hireme (debut)
- Kahurangi Peters
- Kimiora Nati (debut)
- Krystal Rota
- Lanurangi Veainu
- Lilieta Maumau
- Luisa Gago (debut)
- Ngatokotoru Arakua (debut)
- Nora Maaka
- Sarina Fiso
- Tanika-Jazz Noble (debut)
- Teuila Fotu-Moala

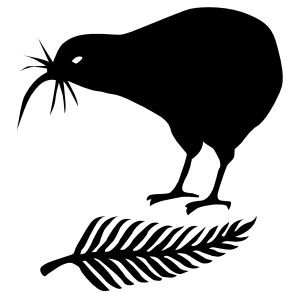
Five of the 16 women including Honey Hireme, Kimiora Nati, Luisa Gago, Ngatokotoru Arakau and Tanika-Jazz Noble are set to debut for the Kiwi Ferns Nines on February 4.

"While we've made seven changes from the winning 2016 team, I'm confident we have the right mix of experienced and new players and it's certainly exciting to have Honey Hireme back in the rugby league fold," he says.

"The women are really looking forward to the tournament that's always a special weekend and I'm looking forward to what we put out on the field," he adds.

Destructive five-eighth and winner of the 2016 Women's Nines Most Valuable Player, Georgia Hale is also one to keep an eye on.

The Auckland NRL Nines tournament will be held on February 4-5 at Eden Park.



NEW ZEALAND RUGBY LEAGUE™



My mate Andy Dunn, is a talented bloke who has won national art awards for his paintings, sent me this. I qualify as a Knight, but I am not sure about the "in shining armour" part. Not so much Sir Lancelot, as Sir Eatalot.





FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton
8pm Friday May 19



Tickets now on sale for Hamilton match

THE MEMBERS' pre-sale for tickets to our game at Hamilton's FMG Stadium Waikato against the St George Illawarra Dragons on Friday May 19 is now live.

As loyal members of the club, you get the chance to buy your tickets before anyone else in an exclusive pre-sale window and you'll also get a 10% discount*.

The pre-sale window opened at 9am this morning and you'll have until midnight on Thursday to lock in the best seats before they go on sale to the general public. Secure your tickets today and let's gone in the Tron.

Members who wish to join Vodafone Warriors Proud members in the official members' bay should look to purchase the limited allocation of gold uncovered tickets in Aisle 31-32 of the WEL NETWORKS STAND

SIR PETER LEITCH LOUNGE

For those members looking to take their game day experience to the next level, here's your chance to be entertained by the one and only Sir Peter Leitch QSM, the 19th Vodafone Warrior. Located on level three of the Brian Perry Stand, the Sir Peter Leitch Lounge gives you the opportunity to enjoy pre and post-match hospitality with covered grandstand seating to take in the match. Your ticket includes a delicious carvery and drink on arrival along with access to your own private bar.

*Members will be able to access the 10% discount at any time but seats will be available to the general public from Friday morning at 9am. The discount doesn't apply to corporate offerings.



PRE-SALE INFO

Starts: 9am, Monday, 23 January

Ends*: Midnight, Thursday, 26 January

On sale to public: 9am, Friday, 27 January

[CLICK HERE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS](#)

Premium Corporate Options



The Vodafone Warriors are also offering a range of premium corporate options in Hamilton.

Gallagher Lounge - \$1,832 + GST (table of 8)

Enjoy match day in style with our premier hospitality option. Located on the halfway line on level four of the Brian Perry Stand, the Gallagher Lounge provides you with the perfect environment in which to entertain your clients and guests.

H3 Live Lounge - \$1,890 + GST (table of 10)

Situated on level four of the Brian Perry Stand, the H Live Lounge offers a corporate lounge environment while being part of the atmosphere with covered grandstand seating. With exceptional catering and special guests, the H3 Live Lounge will give you and your clients a Vodafone Warriors experience you're sure to remember.

For more information, please contact our corporate sales manager Gordon Gibbons on 021 912927 or gordon@warriors.kiwi

Lizzie Martin

IT IS with a heavy heart I inform you all of the passing of Vodafone Warriors member Lizzie Martin on 16th January after a period of illness. Lizzie passed away in the presence of her adoring husband Hugh Lee and family on 16 January 2017, aged 45 years. Lizzie is the beloved daughter of Dorothy Martin and Peter Senior, and cherished sister of Peter Junior (Kansas in the USA). Much loved aunt of Alex, Sam and Mack (Kansas). Lizzie is the first cousin of Vodafone Warriors corporate membership manager Gordie Gibbons plus both Lizzie and her husband Hugh are close personal friends of former Vodafone Warriors general manager Don Mann.

Lizzie and her husband Hugh have been long time dedicated members of the Vodafone Warriors and the SkyCity Breakers.

Gordie and his family did a wonderful job in supporting Hugh through this time. Gordie arranged personal video messages for Lizzie from Simon Mannering, Jacob Lillyman and Ben Matulino in Lizzie's final days before passing away. The Breakers through their boss Dillon Boucher stepped up with personal messages to Lizzie in her final days.

Lizzie's funeral was at held last Saturday at All Saints Chapel, Purewa followed by a gathering of family and friends at Mt Smart stadium's Captain's Lounge. I was honoured to be able to spend time with Hugh and everyone who was at Mt Smart. I was also very proud of the many season members that also attended to pay their respects.

Lizzie is dearly loved by all her friends and family around the world. We will miss Lizzie with all our hearts but look forward to being with Hugh cheering our boys on when the season starts next month.



Lizzie is a former competitive swimmer and NZ Women's water polo representative. Her former water polo team mates formed a guard of honour for Lizzie's casket on arrival at Purewa's All Saints Chapel.



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Reader Mail

Hi Sir Peter

ON 7 Dec 2016, I began my trek (with my fiancé and others in a tour group) for Everest Base Camp. Mt Everest has a special place in all Kiwi's hearts due to Sir Edmund Hilary's achievements over 60 years ago and we felt it would be a good way to challenge ourselves and also experience a bit of what Sir Ed would have all those years ago.

I live in Melbourne but am still a proud Kiwi and thought it would be a good opportunity to show some Kiwi pride amongst the Aussies in our group by wearing some of my Vodafone Warriors gear whilst hiking. I was able to chat about league with some of the others in our team (mainly the guys/girl from Queensland) which was a good way to break up our long days. One of our Nepali guides even commented that he liked my t-shirt and I enjoyed telling him about the team

I support and about the sport.

I love supporting the Warriors. Yes, it's not easy being a fan at times, but there's no other team I'd wanna support. Doing the Everest Base Camp trek in a way gave me a bit of insight into what the boys (and staff) go through on game days: some days are good, everything goes well. Some days you just wanna quit due to fatigue, pain and frustration, but you gotta push through because there's a goal in sight and because you don't wanna let your teammates down (in my case, the other trekkers).

I made it to my goal (reaching Base Camp) and I know the team will reach theirs sooner rather than later and I for one can't wait for us to lift up that trophy on Grand Final day!

As I'm writing this, I'm still on holiday, but am looking forward to heading home in a week's time to catch up on all the Warriors news.

That's my take, hope that's what you're after. Look forward to catching up in Melbourne.

Regards,

Aaron Vincent - Vodafone Warriors Fan Based in Melbourne



BRENT VALDER who is an Ex Mad Mutchers shop owner, who now lives in Canada came home for Christmas. He went fishing out of Kawakawa Bay and wanted to us all to know how good he is. This is just some of his catch.

Well done mate yes you still have it!



WE SEND our best wishes to our good buddy Jamie in Wellington who is battling ill health. Get well soon mate.

More Reader Mail

Happy 2017 !

JUDE & I thought we'd just send you all a wee email to first of all THANK YOU so much for your support and promotion of our 'wee black book' – DUNEDIN FONEBOOK.

The idea that two 'gals from Dunedin' thought they could "just go and design, self-publish, distribute – PICK UP FROM THE DEPOT, promote & market' the city that we both love to - what turns out to be – not just Dunedin, but to the rest of New Zealand – and THE WORLD !! ... was to be honest all-consuming and then somewhat over-whelming because of the incredible response we received... and it all started from our face-book page mid-way through last year.

Our initial print-run of 4000 books arrived to us at the very end of November / start of December. We are now at the end of January, and are very proud to say that with your help – we are now getting very low on that initial print run.

We were absolutely thrilled to be interviewed by every local radio station, Kathryn Ryan on national radio, Radio Live and then have articles in NZ Life & Leisure and a truly wonderful (almost entire page) review in the Otago Daily Times.

2017 - We have popped some books aside which will be promoted at the annual OTAGO MEDICAL RE-SEARCH FOUNDATION's dinner in February.. with \$10.00 from each book sold on the night going towards the foundation.

The Dunedin branch of UNESCO (city of Literature) also reached out to us to help promote the book, and now each book that is sold will have one of their stickers inside the front cover.

With stockists in Dunedin, Gore, Wellington, Christchurch, Oamaru and Wanaka and daily interest & enquiries from ex-pats living in literally every corner of our planet ... we are now looking forward to a further 1500 books arriving to us in March, when we will endeavour to remind everyone that anyone with even an 'insy' connection to this gorgeous city of ours needs a DUNEDIN FONEBOOK proudly displayed on their coffee table or book shelf at home – so a mini re-launch will most definitely be in order ..

We are now in discussions for the next couple of ideas – so please watch this space and stay in touch ...

Thankyou again ...

“.. This little black book is about 'our' home – from a uniquely insiders perspective.

It is a celebration of a great southern coastal city .. a place of incredible beauty, majestic landscapes, and talented artists who all add to the rich tapestry of our city's fabric.

Add to this some mouth-watering recipes featuring the best in local produce – we hope you'll enjoy a place that holds dear and large in our hearts.”

Welcome to Dunedin

Love from
Michelle & Judith-
Co-Founders of the DUNEDIN FONEBOOK

I think this book is fantastic and I dont even come from Dunedin. If you want to purchase your own copy, email: michelle@theartistsroom.co.nz or call 021422562

- Sir Peter Leitch



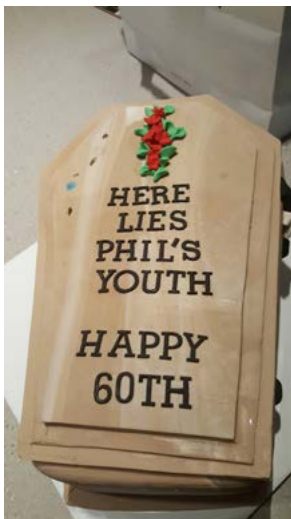
Even More Reader Mail

THESE LITTLE legends are my two brother's kids on Christmas day. I got them all Warriors Jerseys to represent the team in the deep south.

They are all big fans now their favourite Uncle is working with the club. Looking forward to seeing them again when the boys play the Bulldogs in Dunedin in March.

Cheers

Leighton Corbett - Graphic Design Assistant Warriors



Dear Sir Peter,

WHAT AN awesome surprise I got when I returned from holiday. Christmas had come again.



I will treasure this. It will be framed and will go in the sports room.

Many thanks and Warmest regards

Ro Pettigrew

PHIL PRESCOTT turned 60 On Monday. He has coached a lot of Rugby League teams including Canterbury Bulls, NZ Residents and was Assistant Coach of the KIWIS. So family thought they would give him a different Birthday cake this time. Phil is a top bloke so Happy Birthday mate your shout next time we catch up. **BUTCH**



Steve McNamara the Vodafone Warriors Assistant Coach and some of his Pommy Mates were spotted on Waiheke Island. They were of course checking out the local Rugby League Club the Waiheke Rams mascot. Also we do love his hat.

Yes... Even More Reader Mail



Xmas is a time for relaxing and perhaps a little fishing! Mad Butcher Lounge member Ian had another "rough day in the office" YEAH RIGHT !!!



HI BUTCH. A real surprise today. Really stoked to have this will take pride of place in the man cave!!!

Many thanks, Kelly Littlewood

Summer Giveaway Winners

Joseph Parker glove went to Kelly Littlewood of Hamilton.

9's Double passes for Sat/Sun

- Russell Martin from Glen Eden
- William Davis from Mt Wellington

Jersey winners

- Faye Yarker from Gore
- Ali Nolan from Kaitaia
- Dave Saunders from Howick
- Shayne Kyles from Christchurch
- Melanie Hampstead from Onehunga
- Michelle Dennison from Hamilton
- Billy Davis from Sunnyhills
- Ross Macaskill from Christchurch
- Kevin Dixon from Nelson
- Jack Stantiall from Marton
- Peter Clifford from Torbay
- Paul Papa from Otara
- John Renowden from Clarks Beach

- Chris Harrison from Mt Eden
- Alison delaRue from Warkworth
- Bruce Pert from Mt Eden
- Vicki Yarker-Jones from Tapanui
- Darryl Young from Dunedin
- Tracey Summers from NSW Australia

Consolation Prizes:

- Signed Joseph Parker Glove: Tom Woollen from Brisbane Australia
- Nines Shirt: Craig Thompson from Tauranga

All Prizes have been posted.





New screen going up at Mt Smart



The Boys are in full training mode getting ready for the Nines



Happy Birthday for Tuesday,
Tuimoala
by Joyce Putohe

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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
- Hayden Woodhead** - Graphic Designer
- Stephan Maier** - Distribution

- John Deaker** - Correspondent
- John Coffey** - Southern Correspondent
- Barry Ross** - Australian Correspondent
- Ben Francis** - Northern Correspondent
- John Holloway** - Correspondent
- Miles Davis** - Correspondent