

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

26th April 2017

Newsletter #167



Vodafone Warriors v Melbourne Storm



Blake Ayshford on the move.



Bodene Thompson gets tackled.



Jacob Lillyman gets tackled.



Kieran Foran tackles Josh Addo-Carr.



Ryan Hoffman on the run.



Warriors celebrate after scoring opening try.

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz



Two former team mates; Greg Alexander (former Warrior and now a TV commentator) and Stacey Jones (our own Little General, now assistant coach of the Vodafone Warriors).



Vodafone Warriors v Melbourne Storm

Anzac Disappointment

By David Kemeys

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



I WAS GOING to say misery, but when you have been whacked on Anzac Day by 40 before, losing a tight one was not so much miserable as disappointing.

For 75 minutes I believed. I should have known better.

Locked up at 8-8 at halftime it was a case of which Warriors side would come out in the second 40.

Would it be the one that was less than useful in the second 40 against Canberra, in what now seems like weeks ago - or would the players put it another superb 40 like they had shown in a wonderful first half?

And can I just chuck in that the penalty count was yet again absurd. I just don't believe the Warriors commit that many offences. For years and years we have heard that we have to clean that up, and I don't think for one minute that we have not tried.

The Storm got back into it, scoring their try under the posts after penalty, penalty, and played at rulings.

None of it is ever helped with three referees, Ben Cummins, the pocket ref, and Cameron Smith.

I long for the day when a referee has the courage to tell Smith to shut the hell up and play, and let him ref.

Won't happen.

Great to see Ben Matulino back after such a long time out of the game, but all in all it was a big tick for the first 40, with all the players doing their bit, although Ken Mamaulo has to work on playing the ball.

I made a cup of tea and offered up a prayer we could do the unthinkable and stick in another tremendous 40 and nick the points virtually no one thought we had a chance of getting.

Then it was more joy, David Fusitua going in for try number two, but minutes later Cooper Cronk went in after poor Bodene Thompson got absolutely gassed playing in the centres with Solomone Kata off, and then Shaun Johnson put us ahead with a penalty you could virtually blow on any Storm tackle given the time they take to clear the ruck.

Bloody hell, we might actually do it, half an hour or so to go and 14-12 ahead.

My nerves were already shot when the Storm broke forward and we scrambled like made in defence and actually kept them out, only for them to score off the last tackle in the other corner, and being a committed Warriors fan, there is no way Josh Addo-Carr did not touch the sideline.

I could hear all the nay-sayers moaning on talkback about how shit we are.

C'mon boys, hang in there.

But no. In the sodding salary cap cheats went again and we lost 20-14.

Close, but still no cigar.

So here we go again. The haters gotta hate and we will hear no end of stuff about choking, not being an 80 minute side, poor on-field decision-making and the like.

None of which is reflective of a great game of league.

Sure we did not get the biscuit, but if we play like that more often I will be happy enough because we will beat plenty.

So it was off to bed muttering expletives and getting told off about my language by the wife, which, frankly, was a bit rich given the sprays she was coming out with during that second half.

It was so bad at one point the dog woke up with a fright and fell off the couch.

Bring on the Roosters, one point winners over St George, just like the Broncos over Souths.

Still think this game is all above aboard?

Leave The Poor Bugger Alone

Like I said last week, the Foran drama drags on. I can sum it up. Warriors boss Jim Doyle has at last admitted Kieran Foran is unlikely to stay. Get over it.

Foran wants to go back to Sydney, where his kids are. League or your children? If you answered league, you need help.

More on the next page...

Some Of This Stuff Is Truly Amazing

This circus is what you get if you sign one-year deals – known in the trade as “one and done”.

The decision to bring Foran to Auckland has been criticised by some and lauded by others, but Doyle has really let fly at all the speculation, and he has a point. Much of what is being written now is speculation on the speculation the other bloke who was speculating, was speculating about.

You know it better as bullshit. It's just the media reporting on the media.

Loyalty Costs

When it was announced Foran was coming it created a bit of a storm, but nothing like this.

The usual baggers have lined up to take a swing. Disloyal, disgraceful, blah, blah, blah.

Foran apparently “owes us”. Give me strength.

You can count the number of professional sportsmen who put a lot of stock in loyalty on one hand.

Some of the criticism has been intensely personal though, and lacking in any kind of human decency.

Players leave clubs all the time. Anyone remember James Maloney barely breaking a sweat for us in his final year after he announced he was off.

How is the situation any different than Aaron Woods at the Tigers, said to be Bulldogs bound, and booed by his own fans at the weekend?

Blunders Favour Broncos

The Broncos have survived another one-pointer, this time 25-24 over the Bunnies, causing a big stink because there was a pretty clear knock-on from Antony Milford before he grabbed the points.

But before that, Brisbane scored a try, which when converted brought the sides level, that came after Milford was tackled in goal. The ball spilt out and was picked up by a Brisbane player, who dotted down.

The Bunker gave the try, staggering Peter Sterling and Andrew Johns. “He's tackled,” Sterling said.

Johns was in doubt. “That was rotten that decision.”

Ange Lines Up For League 4 Life

A big thumbs up to Ange, from the Howick Hornets Rugby League Club, who is going to run the Waiheke half-marathon on May 6 to raise money for League 4 Life, an organisation Sir Peter is patron of.

League 4 Life was set up to support league community families who have met with hardship. Last month it gave a grant to Kiwi Fern Krystal Rota to help cover medical costs for her child.

Ange has been a volunteer at the Hornets for many years, helping out at a club her family has been involved in for generations - her grandfather even playing for the club in 1961.

“I'm no speedster, but I like to do events like this to celebrate my blessings. I've had some health struggles in the past, and from them, I've learned sometimes it is our turn to help, and sometimes it's our turn to be helped,” Ange said.

“I've seen the difference our beloved game has made to those I care about, providing not only a physical outlet during their playing careers, but also an enduring sense of community and belonging afterwards, so I'm proud to be able to do one small thing to support such a worthy cause.”

Anyone who goes out of their way to help a charity deserves our support.

Sponsor Ange through the League 4 Life page at <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/league4life>.

The Streak Goes On

The Warriors stay top of the Intrust Super Premiership after a 24-8 win over the North Sydney Bears.

We proved too strong with an abundance of strike-power out wide.

Former Warrior Dane Nielson was in the Bears line-up and was really good defensively, helping the under-fire Bears into the sheds at half-time just two points behind.

At one stage it was 8-8 but Tui Lolohea plucked an intercept and ran 90 metres to score next to the posts, boosting our confidence and Albert Vete eventually sealed it late on to continue our undefeated start to their season.



By Ricahard Becht

Matulino To Leave At End of Season

THE VODAFONE Warriors have confirmed tonight that prop Ben Matulino has informed the club he will depart at the end of the season to join the Wests Tigers.

The 28-year-old made his 197th NRL appearance in his first outing of the season in the Vodafone Warriors' Anzac Day encounter with the Storm in Melbourne tonight.

The long-serving Matulino, who is returning from an injury lay-off following knee surgery, informed club management at the weekend that he had decided to take up an offer from Wests Tigers. He said he wanted to experience living in Sydney with his family and felt he couldn't turn down the offer.

Matulino told football staff and his team-mates of his decision in the dressing room after tonight's match.

He said his focus is on finishing his last season with the Vodafone Warriors on a high after starting his NRL career with the club in 2008.

The Vodafone Warriors wish Matulino and his family all the best for the future.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

If you wish to **subscribe** to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

NO ADVERTS ARE PAID FOR IN THIS NEWSLETTER



*Kieran Foran warms up before the match against the Canberra Raiders
Photo www.photosport.nz*



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)

NRL Transfers: How We Got To This

THERE HAS been an avalanche of media comment and talkback time given to the NRL transfer system in recent weeks, rising to a crescendo when a Sydney newspaper announced Warriors stand-off Kieran Foran and Wests Tigers prop Adam Woods had both signed for the Bulldogs and Wests Tigers fullback James Tedesco was bound for the Roosters. The fallout landed in New Zealand like a tsunami, only for Warriors chief executive Jim Doyle to reply that Foran had not (yet?) put pen to paper to confirm a much anticipated return to Sydney.

Many commentators in this country were driven to a fever pitch because Warriors stars were involved in the intense speculation, particularly Foran, halves partner Shaun Johnson and front-rower Ben Matulino. Several other Warriors players are also off contract at the end of this season. The Warriors have been accused of being a club in crisis, but in fact just about every other franchise also has a long list of unsigned footballers. Doyle said there were over 200 players from the 16 clubs whose immediate futures were yet to be declared.

It is not unusual for transfer stories to bubble to the surface in mid-season; it's just that there have been many more this time than in any previous year. The reason is the kicking in of the new television contract in 2018, with its accompanying salary cap increase. That the 2018 cap has not yet been decided has further clouded the situation. The NRL's offer to the clubs and the players' association was \$8.8 million (\$9.14 million with allowances). Some clubs have offered players long and lucrative contracts in the belief it would be as much as \$10 million.

Players and their managers craftily timed their current contracts to end this season, planning to cash in big under the new cap. But negotiations between the NRL and interested parties have dragged on. Many New Zealanders find it all mindboggling. They might not be aware other systems have been tried in the past, only to be tossed out by the courts because they restricted player movements and earnings. In this country, all rugby union players, with the possible exception of Sonny Bill Williams, are subject to central NZRU contracts.

Even Australian journalists are divided on the current system. NRL360 host Paul Kent, who also writes for the Daily Telegraph, twice exchanged heated words with the Sydney Morning Herald's Andrew Webster on television last week. Kent said he revels in the controversy and speculation which is swirling around, pointing out it virtually wipes all other sports off the back pages and air waves in NSW and Queensland – and fuels many NRL360 discussions. Webster replied he became a rugby league journo to write about the actual football.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Legendary Kangaroos loose forward Ron Coote recently recalled he missed part of a season because South Sydney would not release him to Eastern Suburbs. In his day clubs virtually owned the players. Then Dennis Tutty, a one-Test Kangaroo against the Kiwis in 1967, sat out the entire 1969 season when Balmain would not release him to join Penrith. Legal action dragged on until November 1971 before the courts finally found Balmain guilty of restraint of trade. Tutty's best years were sacrificed but he freed up future players.

Twenty years later the NSWRL brought in a draft system, only for that to be crash tackled by the legal eagles. Souths junior Terry Hill had his bags packed to join Western Suburbs when Easts named him as their 1991 draft pick. Hill was forced to play for the Roosters, but the Players' Association then successfully challenged the draft in the courts. Hill was free to move to Wests, which proved to be a stepping stone to Manly and selection for NSW and Australia. The sport's administrators have shied away from a draft ever since.

For a time there was a transfer mid-season deadline. No player could be signed by another club until after June 30. But that did not dispel widespread media speculation of what jerseys certain players would be wearing the following year. The inevitable flurry of transfer announcements made during the first few days of July proved what a farce the deadline had been. No way were player-managers going to sit on their hands until one minute after midnight on June 30 to talk to potential new clubs about signing their off-contract stars.

Now there is a 10-day cooling off period after a contract is signed, allowing the player and his current club to reflect on the decision. Daly Cherry-Evans (Manly to Gold Coast) and Tedesco (Wests Tigers to Canberra) are among those who back-flipped, causing bitterness among supporters of the clubs who had celebrated marquee signings only to have their hopes dashed a few days later. That is where the annual transfer drama has got to, but at least in 2018 there will be far fewer off-contract players and the salary cap will be known.

Can Sharks Beat The Hoodoo?

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)



WE ARE now one-third of the way through the NRL minor premierships, an appropriate point in the season to ponder whether reigning champion Cronulla Sharks can clear the hurdles which have prevented any club from winning back-to-back titles in the last 24 years. Brisbane won in 1992 and 1993 but even the Broncos, with all of their depth and financial advantages, could not establish a permanent dynasty. Melbourne Storm played in four consecutive Grand Finals from 2006 to 2009 but had its 2007 and 2009 titles stripped because of salary cap rorts.

Very few sports competitions are as physically demanding as the NRL, stretching from a February pre-season to an October Grand Final, but we found out last weekend that 80 minutes can be a very long time within that long campaign. On Saturday night the Sharks lined up at home against the Gold Coast Titans on a four-match winning streak and with notable victories over the Storm in a Melbourne downpour and the Panthers on a hard and fast field at Penrith. The Storm and Panthers had opened the season as premierships favourites.

The Sharks had also given the respected Canberra Raiders a hiding on another away trip and were at odds-on to account for the injury-hit Titans. Perhaps the only doubts surrounded the Sharks' failure to capitalise on home ground advantage against the Broncos and St George Illawarra Dragons earlier in the season. Jarryd Hayne, Kevin Proctor and Konrad Hurrell were all back for the Titans, but their availability also forced coach Neil Henry to make other positional changes. And the Sharks had not conceded a try against the Storm or Panthers.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

That rare defensive feat lasted only a few minutes before Tyrone Roberts, who moved from fullback to five-eighth to make way for Hayne, scythed through a gap to set up a six-point lead. The Sharks replied with two tries but survived several dicey situations to be 10-6 in front by halftime. A penalty goal lifted the lead to six before the tenacious Titans wrested a measure of control, and two competition points, with two late tries. The unlikely hero was Auckland-born interchange forward Leivaha Pulu, who scored both in a 16-12 boilover.

Sharks fans, having shared in the club's maiden premiership in its 50th year and enjoyed the recent run of form, trudged off into the night harbouring serious doubts about whether there was going to be a repeat in 2017. The shock loss did not immediately drop the Sharks from the all-important top four, thanks to their impressive points differential. But it made their hold on third spot behind the Dragons and Storm decidedly shaky. Most puzzling is their failure to win at home, now a bigger worry with five consecutive home games looming from round 11.

The salary cap has much to do with preventing one club becoming dominant. Premiership rings increase the value of players wearing them, and also their attraction to rival clubs. But that did not apply this time. Cronulla lost just two influential players, for contrasting reasons. Fullback Ben Barba incurred a hefty drugs suspension and took off to play rugby union in France, while hooker Michael Ennis retired. Kangaroos wing Valentine Holmes seemed to be a perfect fit for Barba, while several quality players queued for Ennis' number nine jersey.

The successful 2016 formula seemed to be working again this year. Captain Paul Gallen, possibly in his last season, was again inspiring a forward pack also containing fellow veterans Chris Heighington, Luke Lewis and Matt Prior. Second-rower Wade Graham was repeating the outstanding form which has earned him NSW honours and big prop Andrew Fifita was as rampant as ever. Their back-up men included former Warriors Jayson Bukuya and Jeremy Latimore, while the capable Sam Tagataese got a run this week only because Lewis was out.

Behind them, former Warriors halves Chad Townsend and James Maloney were on song, especially with a short kicking game earning the Sharks the most goal-line restarts. Centre Jack Bird was living up to the million-dollar rating given him by the media, and Ricky Leutele, Sosaia Feki, Gerard Beale and Holmes were doing their stuff in the outside backs. When Beale was injured last weekend he was replaced at wing by Kurt Capewell. He was a comparative "newbie" after just four appearances last year but it was not his fault they lost.

The Sharks were the latest to learn there are no easy beats in this competition, something they should have already known after scraping home 19-18 against Newcastle Knights at home in round five. Favoured teams only need to be marginally off their game to crash and burn. They could not lift despite coach Shane Flanagan telling them at halftime the Titans were running harder and playing tougher. Maloney enhanced his reputation as the NRL's most penalised player and all shared in an error-ridden display which led to a surprising but inevitable result.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Whanau Element Strong In Bay

TIRELESS WORKER Hawke's Bay women's captain Deidre Hakopa makes another burst during her team's loss on Sunday.

PHOTO HAWKE'S BAY TODAY

I REMEMBER THE night when I became a fulltime rugby league fan well.

It was 1986 during my days as a sports reporter with the Taranaki Herald in New Plymouth. The late Jack Knuckey, a former New Zealand Maori, Central Districts and Taranaki player, invited me to come along and report on a premier club match between the Western Suburbs side he was coaching and the Bell Block-based Marist team.

The Western Suburbs side included Kiwis hooker Barry Harvey and his 1988 New Zealand Maori teammate Henry Katene. These were Knuckey's words to me at the after-match function.

"You are a relative of a former Kiwis player Sandy Hurndell so league is part of your whakapapa. You will love the game ... it's all about whanau."

How right he was. Those words flowed back to me yet again as I covered the Hawke's Bay league scene at the weekend.

Three sets of brothers were in the Bridge Pa premier men's team which recorded their first win in the lower North Island's Coast to Coast competition. Props Ben and Kane Tahau, scrumhalf Piripi and winger Larry Jessup and backrower and player-coach Ihaka and prop Lee Waerea created a slice of history for the 2016 Hawke's Bay Spring Competition champions in a 48-20 victory against Tainui in Palmerston North on Saturday.

When the Linton Cobras beat the Hawke's Bay women 40-12 in a Mid Central competition clash at Kirkpatrick Park in Hastings on Sunday winger Dayna Nuku turned out for the hosts and her sister Jayme Nuku was a secondrower for the Cobras. The sisters are daughters of former Hawke's Bay Unicorns forward Shayne Nuku.

For the Bridge Pa lads it was their second game in the comp and the winless Tainui side played their third. Ihaka Waerea said while the victory and three sets of brothers made it a memorable expedition through the Manawatu Gorge several other factors won't be forgotten in a hurry.

"We only travelled with 15 players and lost Ben [Tahau] with an injury in the warmup. Five minutes into the game we lost secondrower Jaamin Pere through injury and we were lucky one of our players from last year, Jeston Craig, who lives in the Wairarapa these days, came over to be a spectator and was able to help us out in Jaamin's position.

"Barry Edwards was home on holiday from Australia and had his first game for the team in the key position of standoff."

A cousin of the Waerea brothers, 17-year-old fullback Ozshaarn Waerea, finished the game with 22 points from a try and nine conversions from 10 attempts. Patrick Bartlett and David Noho scored two tries each while Craig, Edwards, the Jessup brothers and Raun Makirere-Haerewa all scored one each.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Bay women's captain and veteran forward Deidre Hakopa, 47, was a tireless worker for her team which paid the price for some poor option taking and soft defensive work in their red zone. She would have been disappointed in the manner her troops conceded 24 unanswered points during the final 27 minutes.

Secondrower Te Aroha Hunt was the Bay's player of the match with a massive defensive workrate and numerous metres on the carry. Fellow secondrower Shevaughan Dellow scored a cracker of a try for the Bay in the second half. Hunt and fullback Shaylee Tipiwai scored in the first half.

Their team missed the services of former Kiwi Fern and regular player-coach Chanel Huddleston who was on holiday.

Former Kiwi Fern Janna Vaughan was classy in the hooker's role for the Cobras. Other key architects in the visitors victory were scrumhalf Samantha McIntosh, fullback Corrineke Windle and winger Makenzie Mackay.

Vaughan and Mackay scored two tries each while centre Shayden Tipu, McIntosh and winger Ruci Malanica-gi scored one each. McIntosh kicked six conversions.

Want to know more about Steve McNamara Vodafone Warriors and Kiwis Assistant Coach?

Well tune in to Sky Sport before the Vodafone Warriors game this Sunday and watch the interview with him. They tell me it's in depth and well worth watching!



**SUNDAY APRIL 30
MT SMART STADIUM**

**Kick off: ISP 11.45am, NYC
1.45pm, NRL 4pm**



Get your photo taken down in the Harvey Norman Community Fun Zone with Vodafone Warriors players there from 3.00 - 4.00 Facepainting & Passing Wall with prizes.



DESPITE A wet start to the season, crowds are up more than two percent on last year. After seven rounds, the average crowd figure for this season was 15,558, while for the 2016 season it was 15,214. I have not used the figures from the Anzac weekend, which is round 8, because I wrote this piece before the two Anzac Day games were played. Due to excellent weather and public holidays, the Easter weekend, round 7, averaged 21,768. ANZ Stadium in Sydney hosted two games over Easter and a total of more than 64,000 were in attendance. For the Bulldogs-Rabbitohs clash on Good Friday, 35,984 saw the Bulldogs win 24-9, while on Easter Monday, a crowd of 28,249 watched the Eels come from behind to win 26-22. At Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium, 34,592 were thrilled as the Broncos got out of gaol to score a lucky 24-22 victory over the Titans. ANZ Stadium, which was the Sydney 2000 Olympic Stadium, will stage a total of 34 NRL club games in 2017, plus one State of Origin match, the Grand Final and some playoff fixtures leading into the Grand Final. Over the Anzac weekend there were three games at ANZ. These were Souths-Broncos on Friday night, Parramatta and the Panthers on Saturday afternoon and the Wests Tigers-Bulldogs on Sunday afternoon. Five clubs - Parramatta, the Bulldogs, the Tigers, the Dragons and South Sydney - use ANZ Stadium for some, or all, of their home games.

Allianz Stadium, next door to the Sydney Cricket Ground, is another Sydney central venue for our sport. So far this year, the Roosters have played three games at this venue- against the Bulldogs, Manly and the popular Anzac Day clash with St. George/Illawarra.

There have been four games at Mt.Smart for the Warriors and the average attendance at these have been more than 11,800. But the weather has not always been kind in Auckland this year and on a very wet Friday night, 10 March, only 9,811 saw the Warriors take on the Storm. These loyal fans are to be thanked for attending that match in such weather, which no doubt, resulted in a few thousand staying home.

In Sydney last Saturday, the two Sydney Aussie Rules teams played at the Sydney Cricket Ground. In good weather, 34,824 turned up to see the GWS Giants crush their cross town rivals, the Sydney Swans by 105 to 63. The night before, on Friday 21 April, just 10,555 turned up to see the wobbly Waratahs go down 26-24 to the South African Kings in the Super Rugby game. Five of the eight NRL games were played in Sydney in the just completed round eight. The crowds were Souths-Broncos at ANZ (11,083), Parramatta-Panthers at ANZ (14,070), Tigers-Bulldogs at ANZ (19,303), and Sharks-Titans at Cronulla (12,397). At the time of writing, the Roosters-Dragons clash on Anzac Day had not been played, but if the weather was good, the crowd would probably have been 35,000 plus. This would give a total of over 100,000 turning up for five Sydney Rugby League matches in round 8.

I can certainly sympathise with Rabbitohs coach, Michael Maguire after his team went down 25-24 to the Broncos. There is no doubt Wayne Bennett's team won because of some crucial and bad, refereeing decisions. Both sides copped some poor decisions, but two in the Broncos favour cost Souths seven points. Again the Bunker got it wrong. How this multi million dollar setup could have awarded the 69th minute try to Tautau Moga was beyond me at the time and probably all unbiased fans. Anthony Milford's conversion of this try tied the teams at 24-all with nine minutes to play. Referee boss, Tony Archer, has come out and publicly said the try should not have been awarded, but so what. Will anyone in the whistle blowing ranks be stood down or disciplined in any way? Surely with such a crucial decision more thought should have gone into it. The incident was shown many times and if the Bunker men needed to do this, there must have been plenty of doubt.

While he said the Moga try should not have been allowed, Archer would not agree that Milford's winning field goal came after a slight knock on, but replays suggest there was also plenty of doubt about this and it cost the Rabbitohs two competition points.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

After two good winning efforts against the Panthers and the Storm, the Sharks were ordinary at their home ground on Saturday night. They have won just one of four home games this year. Jarryd Hayne won the Anzac Medal for the best player in the game and he did plenty to help the Titans pick up their second win of 2017. While the relationship between Hayne and Titans coach, Neil Henry is said to be very cold, the Hayne Plane did the job for the coach and the club on Saturday night. Despite being down 6-12 with 20 minutes to play, the boys from the Gold Coast would not give up and deserved their 16-12 win, after two tries from replacement forward, Leivaha Pulu. Born in Auckland, the 27 year old Pulu only played 34 minutes of the match, but made 82 metres in his nine runs, as well as 13 tackles.

The Toronto Wolfpack suffered their first loss of the season when they went down 29-22 to the Salford Red Devils in a round five Challenge Cup game. Fui Fui Moi Moi, scored one of the Wolfpack's tries. Despite the loss it was a strong effort against a Super League club. The Wolfpack has won all of their five matches in the League One competition. Their next fixture is at home in Toronto on 6 May against Oxford. This will be the club's first match in Toronto and all Rugby League fans are hoping local Canadians turn up in good numbers.

League Transfers and Foran

By Miles Davis



YOU HAVE to feel sorry for Kieran Foran. He came to Aotearoa and the Vodafone Warriors to get his life and career back on track out of the glare of the distracting, negative Sydney media spotlight. With the season barely started he finds himself caught in media's full-beam once again.

You can understand the frustration of Vodafone Warriors' CEO Jim Doyle as this saga has unfolded. Doyle is usually the epitome of calm diplomacy so when he gave media a blast last week for their distorted coverage of Foran it is an indication of his deep concern that it may unsettle his star stand-off.

Let us get some things straight.

Foran was never guaranteed to be a long term signing. The Vodafone Warriors offered him sanctuary and a chance to rebuild his career and in return he offered them the services of a world class player. Sounds like a good deal to me.

Anyone who has kids can understand the angst caused by being apart from them. Some may think that spending the odd day a fortnight with them is acceptable but I for one can understand that is nowhere near enough. You want to be on hand all the time in case any of them need you. You want to be near them so you can spend time with them as they grow up. Personally I think that the sacrifice Foran has already made is more than I would be prepared to make no matter how much you paid me. It makes

perfect sense that he would like to return to Australia as soon as is possible and if we get a good season out of him I would be more than happy.

The one issue this situation raises that I do have problems with is the NRL transfer system. I find it unbelievable that players already know where they are going to be next year almost before this year has started. That system is disruptive and surely has to change. Fans are the only reason professional sports teams exist and they should always be considered and respected. They build a bond with their players and although they realise that the relationship is not going to be forever they do want to believe that that player is fully committed to the club for the season. When a player is reported to be leaving it naturally casts doubts into the mind of the fan and damages his relationship to that player.

There is plenty of time for transfers to be arranged in the off season and if that causes added pressure to the back office, players and agents then hard cheese. I strongly believe it is time to introduce a transfer window (as they have in football, or soccer if you prefer) and players can only sign for other clubs during that period. Then we fans can let ourselves believe that every player is as committed to the club as we are.



By Miles Davis

Mark Graham, his son producer Luke Graham and NZ Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney at the New Zealand premiere of the Australian Rugby League Movie - Broke. 01/06/16 Photo www.photosport.nz

Mark Graham

THERE WAS a scene in the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail where the Black Knight is guarding a bridge and refusing to let anyone cross it. He has his arms and legs cut off one by one yet still defies his attackers by saying his wounds are a 'mere scratch'. As they ride away he shouts after them "Come back here and take what's coming to you. I'll bite your legs off." If ever there was a rugby league player that epitomised the Black Knight it was Mark Graham. A true leader on the park and a man of immense courage and durability.

Graham cut his teeth at Auckland's famous Otahuhu club before venturing to Brisbane in 1979 where he had been persuaded by coach Graham Lowe to sign for the Norths club (in the days before Queensland clubs were admitted to the NRL competition the Brisbane Rugby League Premiership was the top competition in the State). He must have had an immediate impact as Norths went on to win the 1980 title for the first time in 11 years with a 17-15 win over Souths. He made an even bigger impression in the Preliminary Final on the King of Lang Park, Wally Lewis. A huge tackle from Graham had crushed the King's oesophagus causing him to swallow his tongue.

His form saw him appointed skipper of the Kiwis 1980 tour of Great Britain and France. Both series ended 1-1 which was a superb effort for a squad which was entirely domestic based other than Graham himself.

In 1981 he moved to Sydney to join the North Sydney Bears and was to spend the next 8 years there, playing 145 games and scoring 29 tries. He was at the Bears during a tumultuous period for the club and he was involved in a player revolt against the coach and a contractual dispute which saw him stand down for several games. Despite these upsets his form never suffered and he was a standout back-rower/second row in the NRL.

In 1988 he headed to England to join newly promoted Wakefield Trinity but injuries eventually forced him to retire. After a stint coaching lower grades at Norths he joined Tim Sheens at North Queensland as an assistant coach. In 1999 he was approached by his old mentor Graham Lowe to take over as coach of the Vodafone Warriors. It proved to be a tough 2 years for him as the Warriors struggled on the field and tragedy struck him off it as he lost his 13 year old son.

He also had a spell as defence coach for the Blues Super Rugby side as well as stints in Italy and Japan before his wife decided it was time to settle down in one place and that place was Gladstone on Queensland's North coast "My wife decided she didn't like that and wanted to come back to Gladstone, where she is from," Graham says. "It's quite a neat place, a very industrial-type town. There's no such thing as graffiti. It's a world away from a lot of places."

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Graham now spends his time driving giant bulldozers at the Gladstone ports and lives a relatively anonymous life which suits the ever humble legend. "I'm just an ordinary bloke who could play footy," he says. "I will retire here. This is the longest job I have ever had. In football, you're only there for two or three years and away you go to the next contract. I have been here since 2006. That's a long time for me. I reckon I have had the best life ever."

Legend is a word that was made for Mark Graham. He was voted in the Norths team of the Century, the Kiwis Team of the Century and was named New Zealand Rugby League's Player of the Century. He was also an original inductee in the NZRL Hall of Fame. I will always remember him on a miserable, cold and wet afternoon at Addington in 1988 when he led the Kiwis to a 12-10 win over Great Britain and a player in the World Cup Final. It was like he dragged his side over the finishing line. Superman couldn't have done more.

Norths v Valleys BRL Preliminary Final 1980: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17KS0uOjGXM>

Norths v Souths BRL Grand Final 1980: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I0jm4r5z338>

Kiwis v Australia 1985/86: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jl-FPBRteDU>



STATION OF ORIGIN
6
Battle against Prostate Cancer
THIS FRIDAY!

FRIDAY 28th APRIL 2017 | ASB SHOWGROUNDS | GREENLANE
Proudly Supporting - Prostate Cancer Foundation NZ
GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET \$25
DOORS OPEN 5PM | FIRST FIGHT 6PM

T&C's: Five-O Promotions reserves the right to refuse entry at any time. This ticket allows the bearer entry to the event in the general admission area only. This is a licensed event and normal liquor licensing rules will apply. Intoxicated persons may be refused entry and/or asked to leave the venue. BYO is not permitted. No refund will be given. A reasonable standard of dress is expected; no ripped clothing, no offensive clothing, no gang patches or insignia will be allowed. Smoking is not permitted inside the venue. Five-O Promotions will not be held responsible if the event is cancelled for any reason beyond their control refunds will not be given. This is a Restricted Event you must be 18 years of age or over to enter.

**Get movie deals
any day of the week**

Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays

Visit vodafone.co.nz/movies

Vodafone
Power to you



Eligible customers only. Not available to business customers. \$2.50 admin fee applies. Full terms go to vodafone.co.nz/movies. One 2 for 1 Movie Voucher offer per person, per week.

Thats the way of it...

By John Holloway



JUST FINISHING up a long Anzac/Family weekend and to be honest I only saw a few highlights and then the last two games on the Tuesday nite so I am starting off on another angle this week. I am a Warriors fan since day one 20 plus years back I am not the number 1 Warriors fan as that slot is firmly occupied by The Butcher and I am a long way down the pecking order from the Sir himself. The point I want to make is around the possible loss of Kieran Foran in 2018, I can't understand the uproar from the talkback fans and of course the manic media, he signed on the dotted for a 1 year deal and he is fullfilling that promise and to this point 4 games in doing a pretty good job for us. His Manager like all NRL player managers is doing his job and is on the lookout for the next opportunity for his guy. The same way Tohu Harris's manager set him up for us in 2018 a few months back which wasnt a problem. Cronk has just announced that he is also leaving the Storm next year not a problem. It is the way of it these days. Get over it. Of course Big Jim and the gang are doing whatever they can to retain him and while it appears a slim chance we live in hope mate. I would like him to stay on he has revived our attack bigtime. I think in essence Foran is the kind of Kiwi guy that would really like to repay the Warriors supportive lifeline and is giving strong consideration to an extension at Mt Smart but the fact that he is torn by his need to be closer to his two young kids back in OZ is a clearcut obstacle. We all agree that family comes before footy. Sobeit. My continuing thought was connected with the fact that the beleaguered Tigerfans saw fit to boo their Captain Aaron Woods a mighty player, leader and a long term home grown club Junior because he is possibly going to the Doggies, what a thankless mob. If our Faithful were to boo or slag Foran I would be mightily mightily ashamed, in saying that I am sure we wont. On the upside a little light has shifted off Foran as other events shape up...Woodsies woes, Tedesco and Moses also looking to jump the Balmain Boat, The Haynetrain out of favour with the Titans coach and looking over his shoulder at his old Homies at Parratown. The buzz around the future of Cronk and the merry go round of trades that might set off. The rumour mill also working on our boys Johnson, Matulino and the Knights sniffing around Vete. Mate if nothing changes it will all stay the same. Deep eh? Results were all over the shop this week. In Canberra Rickys Raiders stumbled to the hard charging Sea Eagles in a spiteful match. 20/18 with gamewinner Dylan Walker strutting his "look at me" attitude. The Bunnies also surprised taking the Broncos to the wire at 25/24. Milfords droppie the decider. The Cowboys got out of jail at the back end of the game finally subduing the the luckless Knights 24/12. The Titans doubled their win count to 2 knocking off the Titleholder Sharks no less 16/12. Shire Coach Flanno far from happy. Not to be outdone Clearys under-fire Westies got off the canvas to put the bite on the Bulldog 18/12. The Boo target Woods giving a man of the match display...go figure. St George got the Mitch Pierce drop goal dismissal from the Roosters in a real nail biter. 13/12. Our boys went to Melbourne and fell short just but were far from disgraced. Once again the penalty count, the error rate and a couple of lacklustre 5th tackle kicks let us down. 20/14 to Smithys assassins. So who is doing the business in Rd 9? I am thinking The Broncos to shade Penrith, Manly likewise over the Bunnies, The Cowboy at home just over The Eels, The Doggies to run second to the Raiders. The Titans to unseat the Knights, Cronulla to bounce back on the Tigers, The Warriors in another toughie at home to the Roosters. The Red V without Widdop not a a good bet against Bellamys table-topping Storm.

Mighty Warriors, Sunday 4pm Mt Smart...BE THERE.

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

Six Potential Replacements For Kieran Foran At Five-Eight

By Ben Francis



THE WARRIORS are potentially in the hunt for a new five-eight as the word on the street is Kieran Foran will link up with Des Hasler and the Canterbury Bulldogs on a three-year deal.

It was news Warriors fans did not want to hear as Foran and Shaun Johnson have proven they are a great combo in a handful of games.

With Foran possibly leaving, the Warriors should do everything to sign a quality five-eight to partner Shaun Johnson. Johnson is off contract but told the media it is unlikely he will go elsewhere

Here are six possible players who could wear the number six jersey at the Warriors in 2018 and beyond.

Josh Reynolds (Bulldogs)

If Foran joins the Bulldogs, Reynolds will most likely have to find another club to sign for and joining the Warriors could make sense for the New Zealand club. Reynolds plays a similar style of footy to James Maloney who had success at the club. He brings that aggressive style of play and has plenty of experience. Would Warriors fans want Reynolds at the club though? That is the real question.

Ata Hingano (Warriors)

Similar to Lolohea, Hingano has spent time with Johnson in the halves, but is he elite enough to take us all the way? Maybe over time but without a finals appearance since 2011, and patience running low at the club, does Stephen Kearney have time to develop Hingano into that player?

Josh McCrone (Dragons)

McCrone is likely to be shown the door by the Dragons after the club has resigned Gareth Widdop and Ben Hunt joining the team in 2018. McCrone would be a solid player at the Warriors and could bring a similar style of play like Chad Townsend, but that problem still lingers is he elite enough, is he that man to take the Warriors all the way?

Tohu Harris (Storm/Warriors)

The Kiwis international is in his last season with the Storm and is heading back to New Zealand next year, replacing Ryan Hoffman. But if the Warriors are not comfortable with the likes of Lolohea or Hingano Harris can fill the void at six after playing five-eight a number of times while at the Storm. It might not be the most ideal situation, but if you have no options, what do you do?

Rangi Chase (Castleford)

If all else fails in Australia and New Zealand, the Warriors potentially would have to look north and one player stands out, Kiwi born - England international Rangi Chase. The 31-year old has played 32 NRL games, but has spent most of his time in England's Super League. With New Zealand his home and once again with for England coach Steve McNamara at the club, is that a drawcard? Or are his best days past him?

Tui Lolohea (Warriors)

Tui Lolohea is off contract at the end of season, but has spend most of 2017 playing ISP due to Foran playing in the halves. Lolohea and Johnson have had time in the halves in the past, but where is Lolohea's best position? Is it in the halves? Or is he better off being the Warriors utility back?

See State of Origin Game 1 and go on a tour hosted by either Awen Guttenbeil or Monty Betham. See the adverts below for details!



GOLF & STATE OF ORIGIN PACKAGE!

The ultimate Golf and Footy getaway

BRISBANE & NOOSA 31 May - 5 JUNE 2017

DEAL INCLUDES:

RETURN FLIGHTS, TRANSFERS, 5 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
AND TOUR HOSTS: AWEN GUTTENBEIL AND GUY WILSON

MATCH TICKET

WELCOME AND PREMATCH FUNCTION

3 ROUNDS OF GOLF AT PERIGEAN, NOOSA SPRINGS
AND TWIN WATERS

GOLF CLINICS AND COACHING WITH GUY WILSON

PRIZE GIVING DINNER AND DRINKS

FROM

\$2,999

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

FOOTY ONLY
PACKAGE FROM
\$2,099
PER PERSON
TWIN SHARE

BOOK NOW AT GRABASEAT.CO.NZ

AIR NEW ZEALAND 
grabaseat



IOG
INSTITUTE OF GOLF
Forever evolving your game



STATE OF ORIGIN 2017

GAME 1
31 MAY 2017



STATE OF ORIGIN 2017 GAME 1

Witness the passion on display as super-star teammates go to head-to-head during Game 1 of the 2017 State of Origin Series in Brisbane. It's mate vs mate, with pride on the line for both teams.

Whether you support blue or maroon, you'll enjoy the banter on our two-night Brisbane tour with host Monty Betham.

TWIN SHARE

Land Only **\$1,295** per person

Flights Incl from **\$2,395** per person

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- 2 nights accommodation at the Hilton Brisbane (Tuesday 30 May to Thursday 1 June)
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Official ticket to State of Origin Game 1 at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane (Wednesday 31 May)
- Welcome function
- Tour hosted by Monty Betham
- The services of Global Sports & Events staff throughout

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDES:

- Return economy Air New Zealand flight from Auckland (Departs Tuesday 30 May and arrives back Thursday 1 June).
- Group airport transfers

SINGLE TRAVELLERS

Land Only **\$1,695** per person

Flights Incl from **\$2,795** per person



Lions Make it Three in a Row

By Talei Anderson

Eiden Ackland storms through for Mt Albert v Howick in Round 2 of the Fox Memorial

The Mt Albert Lions have made it three wins in a row to start the season -sitting atop alongside the Pt Chevalier Pirates- after working their way to a 24-12 win over Papakura in Round 3 of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership.

The Lions were down 6-10 at halftime, but some muscling up in the middle and control of the ruck locked their success over the defending champions at Prince Edward Park on Saturday.

Mt Albert lead the table with Pt Chevalier on 6 points, but the Pirates are ahead on differential. With only one win so far in the competition, Papakura sit 6th on the ladder following Howick, Glenora and Richmond who hold 4 points and sit inside the competitions top 5.

Mt Albert captain, Marcus Fraser, says fitness is key when going up against bigger packs.

"It doesn't get any easier," he said.

"The last few years we've had bigger sides, but our fitness hasn't always been up there. We're looking at trying to play the full 80 minutes.

"We're not the biggest pack around, but we can be the fittest... I think that's what got us over in the end."

Papakura captain Willie Stowers says urgency is what let them down.

"Even though we got the early lead, we didn't show any urgency," said Stowers.

"If we're going to play half-hearted at Fox level then we're going to get beat. We have to start showing some urgency and we have to grind it out."

Pt Chevalier continued their perfect start to the season taking care of Mangere East with a 60-40 win away at Walter Massey Park, while Marist won their first game with an 18-10 win over Richmond.

In other games, Howick managed to get a two-point lead to secure a 20-18 win over Glenora at fulltime. That result coupled with Richmond's loss gets them sitting inside the competitions top 3 ahead on differential.

Another highly anticipated match between Northcote and Te Atatu ended with a 16 all draw.

East Coast Bays have broken the Vikings winning streak in Round 5 of the Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup with a close 34-32 win at Freyberg Park on Saturday.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Hibiscus Coast bounced back from their 62-4 loss against New Lynn last week with a big 52-6 over Pakuranga, while Otahuhu took care of New Lynn 40-16.

Otahuhu together with Bay Roskill sit on 8 points to lead the table for Section 1 of the qualification series.

High-flyers Ponsonby are the only side to remain unbeaten in the competition, leading Section 2 of the qualification series with 10 points.

ARL results for Saturday April 22, 2017

SAS Fox Memorial: Round 3

Richmond 10 Marist 18
Glenora 18 Howick 20
Te Atatu 16 Northcote 16
Papakura 12 Mt Albert 24
Mangere East 40 Pt Chevalier 60

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup: Round 5

Qualification Series Section 1

Otahuhu 40 New Lynn 16
East Coast Bays 34 Bay Roskill 32
Hibiscus Coast 52 Pakuranga 6
Otago bye

Qualification Series Section 2

Papatoetoe 36 Manukau 4
Waitemata 22 Manurewa 24
Ponsonby 42 Ellerslie 18

SAS Fox Memorial fixtures for Saturday April 29: Round 4

Northcote v Pt Chevalier @ Birkenhead War Memorial 2.30pm
Mt Albert v Mangere East @ Fowlds Park 2.30pm
Marist v Te Atatu @ Murray Halberg Park 2.30pm
Howick v Richmond @ Paparoa Park 2.30pm
Papakura v Glenora at Prince Edward Park 2.30pm

Crown Lift Trucks Sharman Cup fixtures for Saturday April 29: Round 6

Qualification Series: Section 1

New Lynn v East Coast Bays @ Lawson Park 2.30pm
Otago v Bay Roskill @ Ngati Otago Park 2.30pm
Pakuranga v Otahuhu @ Ti Rakau Park 2.30pm
Hibiscus Coast bye

Qualification Series: Section 2

Ellerslie v Waitemata @ Ellerslie Domain 2.30pm
Ponsonby v Papatoetoe @ Victoria Park 2.30pm
Manukau bye
Manurewa bye

SAS Sport
ARL™
FOX MEMORIAL SHIELD

GAME OF THE ROUND #4
PAPAKURA V GLENORA
2:30PM PRINCE EDWARD PARK
29 APRIL 2017

Southland Rugby League Pictures

By Dave Loudon



These are from a game between Cooks Rugby League Club (In the green strip) and Winton warlords Rugby League Club on Saturday 01.04.17 It was a close tight game and Cooks took the win over Winton warlords .
The final Score was Cooks 32 / Winton Warlords 28.



These are from a game played today (Sunday 02.04.17) between Cooks Rugby League Club and City - Invercargill Rugby League Club. Cooks retained their winning streak from Saturday and scored 80 points over City - Invercargill's 6 points.

City- Invercargill have recently re-entered the Southland competition after some time away from the competition.



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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

RLWC 2017 Efforts Ramping Up

*By Daniel Fraser
New Zealand Media & PR
Manager RLWC 2017*

Community engagement coordinator Harley Wall with the Waikato community ambassadors.

IT'S NOW under 200 days until the Rugby League World Cup and things are ramping up here in New Zealand.

The first volunteer interviews New Zealand took place at Waikato Stadium in Hamilton last week with the quality and number of applicants leaving the team feeling incredibly confident that Hamilton's volunteers will help us deliver the greatest Rugby League World Cup ever.

People came from as far away as Christchurch to get involved in the action at what will be the first international rugby league matches ever held in the Waikato.

Tonga will take on Samoa in an all-Pacific battle on November 4 while the Kiwis face Tonga the following week on November 11. There will be no shortage of passion with both games sure to be thrilling affairs.

If you're in Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch and want to get involved in RLWC2017, volunteer applications are open here.

New Zealand's RLWC team will also be out and about at Warriors games. We'll have activations at the clash against the Roosters on April 30 at Mt Smart and the match against the Dragons in Hamilton on May 19. There will be prizes to be won so keep an eye out for us.

New Zealand is hosting seven RLWC2017 matches, tickets are available now from www.rlwc2017.com, starting at \$10 for kids, \$20 for adults and \$45 for a family of four.



New Zealand workforce manager Anna Duncan begins the interview process for volunteers.





THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 9 ISSUE...

NRL, HOLDEN CUP, INTRUST SUPER PREMIERSHIP, INTRUST SUPER CUP AND RON MASSEY CUP TEAM LISTS, PREVIEWS AND STATS + SCORES AND RESULTS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY!

INSIDE

- Wests Tigers are going through some tough times but that didn't stop local junior and winger **David Nofoluma** from re-signing – the 23-year-old even waived his 10-day cooling off period. "I love this club. It's my junior club and it's my local club," he said. "As you can tell it means a lot to me."
- Titans hooker **Nathan Peats** has struggled with injury the past few years but with the support of his partner and growing family, has changed his perspective on how he approaches the game.
- Big bopper **Coen Hess** had one goal this season – to cement a spot in the Cowboys side – which seems almost incomprehensible considering how far he has come in two months of football, even being thrown up as a smoky for the Queensland Origin side.
- Broncos halfback **Ben Hunt** runs us through days in the life of an injured player.
- We get an update on the England team, including the rookie halfback who has been compared to **Johnathan Thurston**.

PLUS... We celebrate the **Top 8 bounce-back performances**, The Analyst dissects **what has changed for the Panthers**, a **Nathan Ross** poster and **country rugby league results** from around Oz.



ROUND 9

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, April 27

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via magsonline.com.au

Through Apple Newsstand and Google Play

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

[@bigleaguemag](https://twitter.com/bigleaguemag)

bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au

Contact details

Editorial: maria.tsialis@news.com.au

Advertising: bowie.phillips@news.com.au

MAD BUTCHER SPECIAL

GET YOUR *BIG LEAGUE* DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

AVAILABLE ON TABLETS
AND NOW ON SMARTPHONES!



SAVE
81%

ONLY \$29.99

THIS INCLUDES 32 ISSUES ACROSS 12 MONTHS

So if you sign up now you will get the remainder of the 2017 season and the start of the 2018 season too!

Visit: magsonline.com.au/big-leagueNZ2017

Big League digital edition is available on all iOS6 and greater compatible devices including iPhones and android devices including tablets and smartphones. 12 month subscription includes Rounds 1-26, Final Series including bumper Grand Final souvenir edition and the Season Review. Print magazine only available to purchase at Warriors home games in New Zealand.

At the World Masters Games Touch Event

TWO GREAT former Rugby League players at the Masters games playing touch. Scott Prince played for the Cowboys, Broncos, Tigers and Titans for a total of 300 NRL games and played for Australia and Queensland. As well as our very own Monty Betham. Monty played 101 games of the Warriors and 25 for the Wakefield Trinity Wildcats plus games for the Kiwis and Samoa and to top it off was also a professional boxer. Both of these guys are fantastic and I'm proud to call them both mates.
- Mad Butcher



OUR OLD mate Dexter warming up before playing in the masters touch event, for Emirates team Dubai Exiles, with daughter and son in law.



If you wish to **subscribe** to the newsletter go to:
www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz

Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTING BRANDS!

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
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
Shane Hurndell - Correspondent