



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

17 APRIL 2014
#17



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF
photosport



As you read this newsletter I'll be on my way to Las Vegas. Yes, LAS VEGAS in the good old USA. Me and my family are heading over for a wedding and will be back on the 27th, so think of me in that bloody hot dry place! But I will tough it out!

To say it was a tough old week for the Butcher would be an understatement.

Most of you will be aware that I appeared on the **Breakfast** TV show, giving my thoughts on what was happening at the club, and I want to clarify why I let my comments go public.

One of our co-owners, **Sir Owen Glenn**, was at odds with the other, **Eric Watson**. Fair enough. I have surprisingly little interest actually. That's their concern

But I did have a problem with it being done so publically. There is a forum for that kind of dispute, and it is the boardroom.

Going public, in my opinion, was only ever going to have one outcome, and that was to damage the club – the product, if you like – the **Vodafone Warriors**.

I don't have much doubt that is exactly what happened, nor is there any doubt I could have been on every TV show known to man, and every radio station too, but I declined any further comment because I didn't want to drag it all out. I had to let it go.

There is no point denying we are on a bit of a roller-coaster ride, but I will be a **Vodafone Warriors** fan until I die. That's what I am, a fan, just like the more than 22,000 people who went to Eden Park for the game against the **Bulldogs** on Sunday.

All I'd need is the money

Someone actually asked me why I did not buy into the club, and I can tell you there is one very good reason – *I don't have that kind of money!*

But there is another reason too, I am happy doing what I do, serving as an ambassador for the club.

Members ask tough questions

I must say that I enjoyed the experience of hosting a question and answer session with the members and senior **Vodafone Warriors** officials in the boss, **Wayne Scurrah**, and **Dean Bell** and **Don Mann**.

There were lots of intelligent questions, but the overriding thing to come out of it all was that the members really only want better communications. They want to know what is going on.

Who could argue with that?

Down by just one point

If you didn't see it with your own eyes you wouldn't believe it. The **Bulldogs** put the final nail into an awful week with a last minute 21-20 win at Eden Park, a nightmare end to the week.

Despite scoring four tries to three, **Trent Hodgkinson** kicked a field goal in the final minute and any hope of a

fairytale end to the week was snuffed out.

It was brilliant to see 22,160 fans in the ground cheering the boys on, but fair play, the Doggies were too good on the day – just.

I thought we struggled after we lost **Ben Matulino** with an injury. His hard-running and offloads were awesome. I also thought there was a lot to admire about **Ngani Laumape**, last year's rookie of the season, and **Konrad Hurrell**, who seemed to break the line at ease.

Say what you like but I thought the experience of the **Bulldogs** told. The **Warriors** came into the game third from bottom, the **Bulldogs** in second.

The only way was up for us after the hiding we copped last week, and I doubt many would not admit we at least looked competitive, and that is as much as most fans ask.

Super Simon stays

You will recall last week I said the **Vodafone Warriors** needed to do whatever it took to secure our captain **Simon Mannering**, because his contract was coming to an end.

Now this is a well-read newsletter I can tell you, so I was delighted when the club signed Simon for another four years.

Owner Eric Watson said it was crucial we retained

Manning. "Simon has been a real **Warrior** and he is what typifies what we want to be as a club - tough, uncompromising, turns up every week and leads from the front," he said.
I could not agree more.

Jake stays too

Jacob Lillyman was another whose contract was up, but he has signed on for another three years. I put Jacob in Simon's class - a tough, no nonsense player who is probably one of the few to escape criticism after our patchy start to the year. It's fine by me to know we have the Queenslander on board.

That's a big call

Warriors boss, **Wayne Scurrah** copped plenty last week but he says he'll quit if we don't reach the playoffs. And the boys better live up to Scurrah's confidence because club co-owner Eric Watson says if the **Warriors** miss the eight again this year, he'll accept Scurrah's resignation.

Boys dig in

The result did not go our way, but it was great to see

senior players rallying to try to reassure their younger teammates as they headed into a tough game.

The match was the first chance for coach **Andrew McFadden** to show the team can turn it around, and it could not have been much tougher than an in-form Bulldogs, fresh from wins over the **Roosters** and **Storm** in the past two weekends.

Jacob Lillyman said the team was disappointed at the sacking of **Matt Elliott**. "It wasn't something we were expecting."

He said a few of the senior players had chatted about the situation, but after a few days most of the side had accepted they just had to get on with the game. "We want to put the disappointment behind us."

And **Simon Manning** admitted it had not been an easy week but said the players were doing their best to try and put it to one side. "Obviously it is a reflection of how the team's been performing. As players we have got to take that on board. It's not just one person's fault. We have got to take responsibility."

Matt on the move

And it doesn't matter who you believe, or which camp you sit in, the other man who has come out of it all well, is the man who is leaving, **Matt Elliott**.

He is preparing to relocate across the Tasman, and maintained his dignity throughout the whole saga." I have no bitterness towards the club, in fact I am grateful for what they have done for me and my family," he wrote in his final statement on the matter.

NSW Cup and Under 20s win

The **Warriors** reserve side won 18-14 over the **Bulldogs**, and the **Under 20s** utterly demolished the Doggies 58-20.

Pity the NRL boys could not make it a clean sweep. Yes the Eden Park monkey is still on our back, with no wins from more appearances there than I can count, and yes we have gone up and down as our fortunes have played out in the media.

But I know like many of those fans on Sunday, I will stay loyal and believe that better things are ahead.

**NEXT WEEK'S NEWSLETTER
WILL SEE THE START OF REGULAR
CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE
AUCKLAND BLUES!!**

On Monday I had the pleasure and privilege of showing my new mate around Waiheke.

his name is **Hasim Rahman!** And he wants to see all NZ **Warriors** supporters at The **SUPER 8** supporting Hasim (as you can see, he is supporting the **Vodafone Warriors**) and the other heavyweight fighters as they try to KO each other on **June 4th in Auckland**. Hasim is the biggest name in boxing since black-and-white TV. Hasim is the former Lineal World Champion, 2 x WBC Heavyweight Champion, he simultaneously held the IBO/IBF & WBC belts. He knocked out **Lennox Lewis**, something **David Tua** couldn't do. He's getting back in the ring against **Kali Meehan** and some of the world's best prize-fighters! Check him out on **google**. He is a top bloke and - would you believe it - lives in Vegas!



Me and Hasim Rahman, wearing his new Vodafone Warriors jersey.



Me and Hasim holding the Vodafone Warriors jersey. He's a great bloke and a powerhouse boxer, as can be seen from the Lennox Lewis K.O. You really wouldn't want to be in the way!

See the Lennox Lewis K.O. here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABZu5v2JPuE>

And a bio of Hasim here:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasim_Rahman

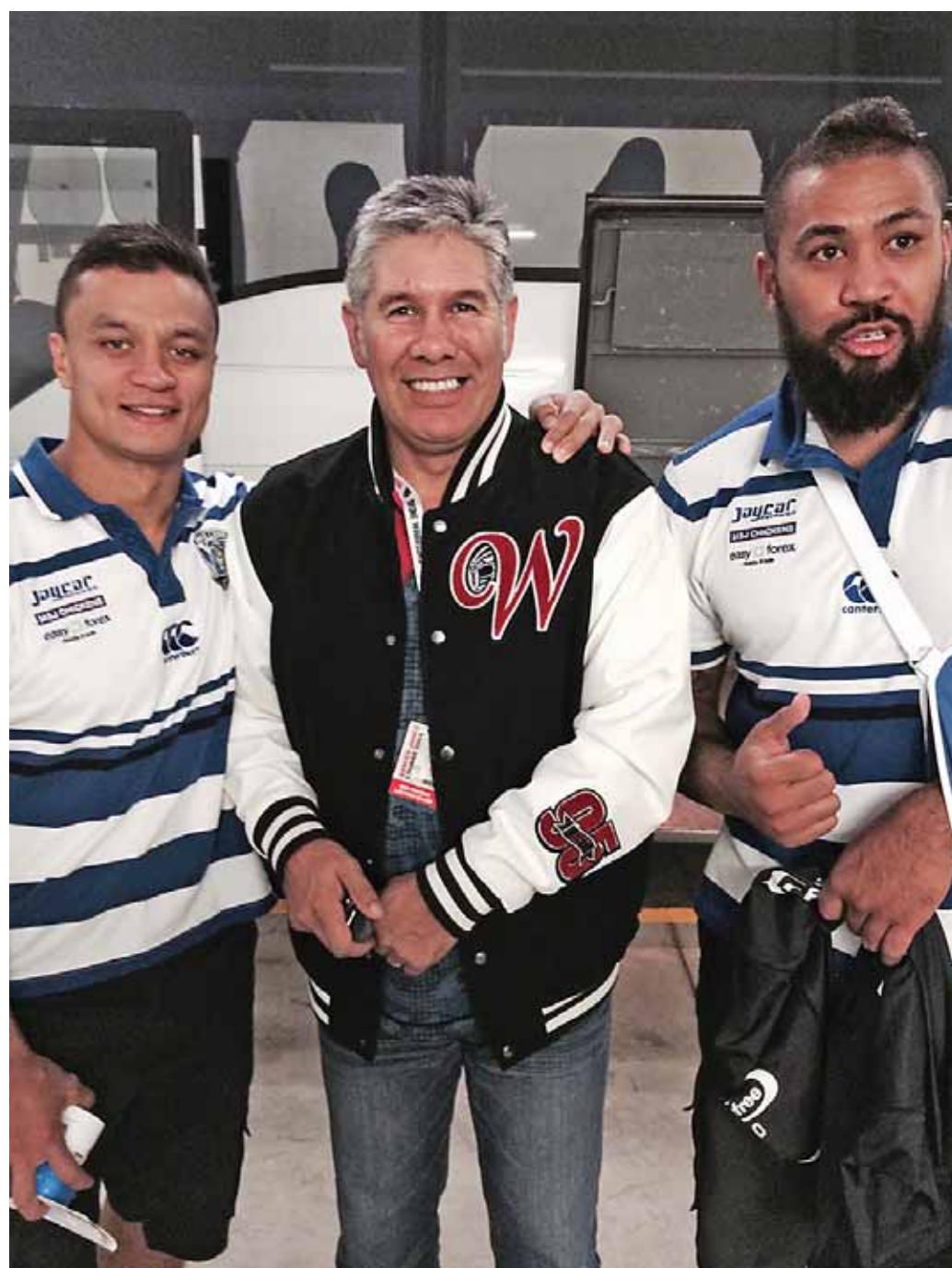
Dexter and I get chatty with some famous Bulldogs!



It was great to catch up with a good mate, Josh Reynolds, in the Bulldogs changing room. He is a top bloke.



Was great to catch up with my mate Noël Cleal, Aussie rugby league legend, who is now a scout for the Doggies.



My good mate Dexter, caught up with Bulldog players Sam Perrett & Frank Prichard. Both players have played for the kiwis.

The Lounge on Sunday... *the joint was jumping!*



Aloha!



Thanks for coming to the lounge, Members; hope you enjoyed the day!



Great to see the kids enjoying themselves at the game.



Look at me. True Vodafone Warriors fans.



Melissa and her dad, Ross, with Quinton Harriman, having a great time in the Mad Butcher's club.



Melissa and Ross, enjoying the game.



Sam Aitken and Nathan Tao; sad about the loss but still happy with the much improved performance.



Frank and wife, Sue, who flew up from Wellington for the game, with the Mt Smart Joker.



Matthew Grannis & Thomas McCallum got dressed up for the big game.



The winning ticket the TAB gave us to give away. Robert Thomson was the lucky winner on Sunday, so thanks, TAB.



Me and my mate Trevor, chilling out before the game!



Roma Thompson, Oesia Stoliatova, Holly Dean, and Amy Stewart were handing out the Hawaiian leis.



Rose and Jim from Whangarei.



Sue Gibson from Wellington.



A member puts a question to Wayne Shurra.

And it was a lounge full of WINNERS on Sunday. too!



Left: Noah Green receives a spot prize.

Ardyn and Marika.



Mark Green receives a spot prize.

Another winner.



Sandra Penerata wins the CDs.

Melissa winning two gold medals and two of the Mad Butcher's prizes, including the Sealink!

Laurie wins the sports bag plus.



Another winner.



Leroy Faavesi with his spot prize.



Eru wins a \$200 SkyCity voucher.



Austin Powers with another (slightly bemused) winner.



Rosa from Timaru wins the signed Warriors jersey.



Chris wins the Undies!



Chris wins the signed Warriors ball.



Robert Thompson wins the \$225.00 TAB ticket spot prize. Sam Tompkins is now his favourite Warrior.



The Q. & A. and interviews were revealing...



Raelene Castle talks to Sir Peter.



Brian Marsh (Marshy) ex-Mangere Hawks, Otara Scorpion and current Willemont Grand Final Host bares the Bulldogs jersey.



Jason Johns, Addington RL Christchurch, explains his love for the Bulldogs.



Ian Carpenter puts questions to Wayne Skurra.



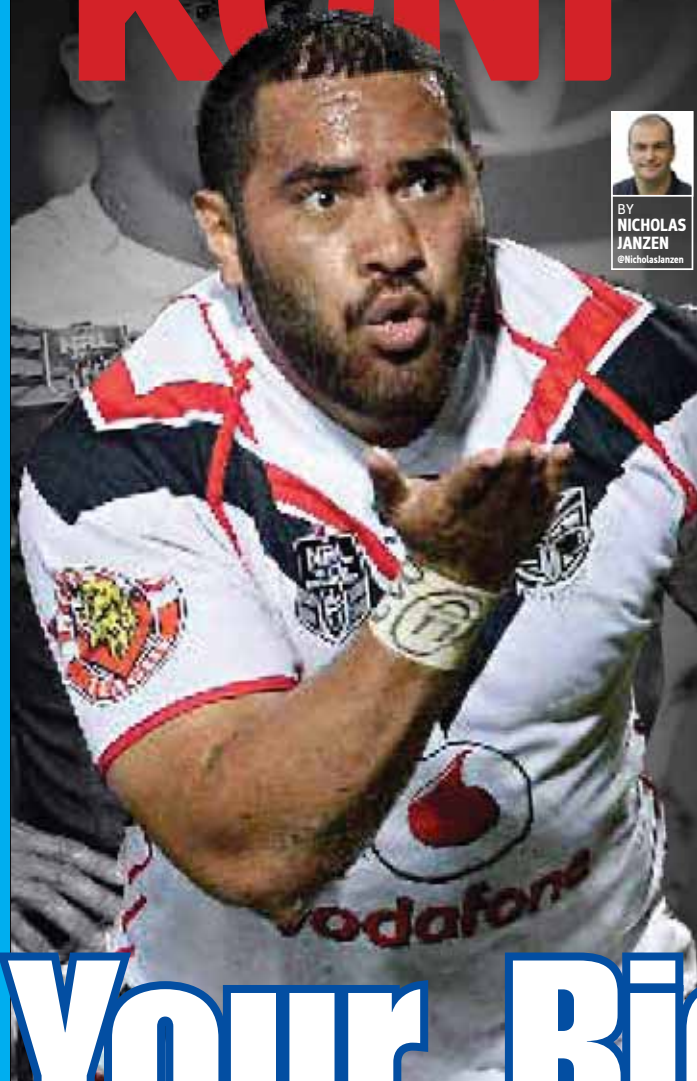
An unfortunate Bulldogs fan standing on one leg for 10 minutes.

If you didn't grab a copy of last week's Big League issue, here's what you missed!

Feature

KONI ISLAND

Warriors centre Konrad Hurrell on imitating Beyoncé; being the Warriors' funnyman... and ballooning out to 116 kilograms during an off-season holiday in Tonga.



BY NICHOLAS JANZEN
@nicholasjanzen

ELECTRIFYING Warriors centre Konrad Hurrell knew the fun had to end soon. Sure, there'd still be the social media karaoke sessions, the Instagram dress-up parties, the online dance-offs and the 'modelling' sessions on New Zealand TV, but the hilariously poor diet? It simply had to go.

After a return to his homeland of Tonga during the off-season, a break that resulted in him piling on 10 kilograms, Hurrell is determined to turn the tale on his dietary sins. "I took the off-season the wrong way," Hurrell tells *Big League* of blowing out to 116 kilograms and ultimately being dropped to NSW Cup. "I came back very overweight and the club wasn't happy. I wasn't mature. I wasn't thinking about the whole situation coming back. It was after the World Cup and I'd had a long year and needed to have a bit of time off footy. I didn't watch my weight. I came back overweight and I let the boys and the club down. I let the club down especially - they pay me enough to play footy and survive and I let them down.

"It was just food, because I don't drink or do other stuff. I didn't train at all and three weeks before coming back to pre-season I didn't watch what I was eating at all when I was in Tonga. I was enjoying myself too much. Bread, taro, carbs, too much fizzy drink and eating pork - it wasn't healthy enough for me to eat and I was having a lot of it.

"I was 10 kilos over and I'm down to my normal weight now. I just focused on it, training, and back to the habit of eating good and I dropped about nine kilograms. I'm just happy I'm back to my normal weight, back with the boys and hoping I can be here regularly."

CLOWNING AROUND
Perhaps the biggest reason for Hurrell's off-season waist expansion is his outlook on life - for the Tofoa-born Tongan every moment (and, it seems, meal) is meant to be enjoyed. That's why you'll often see him having a laugh with team-mates at training. Why you'll find him dressed up like a teenage girl alongside his mates after a shower, hamming it up on Instagram. Why he's giving his best David Hasselhoff impersonation in his underpants at the beach on YouTube. Why you'll witness him singing John Legend's *All of Me* online. And, for that matter, the Doo... Adele's *Someone Like You*. A... in Denver...



"It's just about how I grew up back at home," Hurrell, no stranger to busting out the robot in his online shorts either, says.

"In Tonga we had nothing but the loving between us and the fun stuff we had as a family...my mum and dad used to mock us. If a girl called home and my mum and dad answered they'd tell her I was with another girl - it was just something I grew up with, the fun, and it's like that here at the club. It's like a family for all us boys and I'm trying to bring it to the boys during the down times. Trying to put a smile on the boys' faces and help keep their heads up. When it comes to serious things I take them serious but when it's not I'm not."

MIDDLE MAN
Hurrell now understands better than ever that in the world's toughest rugby league competition a high level of seriousness, professionalism and dedication is required. A lack of focus resulted in him playing the first fortnight of this season in the lower grades and, on his eventual return to the top grade in Round 3, even out of his customary centre position.

"I was being used as a front-rower and a second-rower. It was fun but it's definitely not my spot," Hurrell, now back at about his 'normal' playing weight of 106kg, laughs.

"I respect the middle now. I played about 20 minutes and it felt like I played two games. It was tough and I have to pay a lot of credit to those boys who do play in the middle. I'm pretty sure myself, my centre and my...

"I just need to be mature and professional. It's my third year at the club and I've learnt my lesson. I don't have to train every day but I just need to watch what I eat, just for myself and making sure I stay on track. I'm doing OK at the moment and hopefully I'll stay in shape and keep playing NRL every week."

For 'Hurricane's' team-mates, they appreciate Hurrell's ability to lift the mood; his unique way of easing tensions in dark times, like they've endured this week in the wake of the sacking of coach Matt Elliott. Room-mate Manu Vatuvei, though, says his mate 'Ulu' shouldn't consider quitting his day job anytime soon.

"Off the field he's awesome and he's humble but once he crosses that white line he's in a different zone. He's devastating and he hurts a lot of people. I'm lucky to have him in my team and he's great to have as a roomie too - whenever I'm down he very quickly picks me back up again," Vatuvei, whose family comes from the same village in Tonga as Hurrell's, says.

"His personality around the boys, he just likes putting a smile on the boys' faces. He's a bit of a comedian. It's good to have one of those types of boys in the team."

"His family stays on the same street as mine in Tonga. My aunty actually looked after him. He and my cousin used to go to school together, so I knew of him when he came over. It's a pretty small world."

"He's pretty good at it. It's a pretty good kind of...arking. He...

Once you hear him start to sing, all you want him to do is stop, and start laughing at him. I think if I asked him to dress like Beyoncé he'd start doing it I reckon."

GETTING SERIOUS
For big-kid Hurrell, whose favourite movies are children's classics like the *Lion King*, *Shrek* and *Pocahontas*, there's some business to take care of in the immediate future. He wants to help his Warriors side out of its worrying slump, achieve his full football potential and, fittingly, have a little fun along the way. After all, he does sign off every four-pointer he scores with a kiss sent right down the barrel of the closest camera.

"It was not last year but the year before and it was Mother's Day. I called my mum and we were playing that day and I asked her what she wanted. She said if I scored a try she wanted me to blow her a kiss," Hurrell says.

"They watch every game back home in Tonga. I scored two tries in that game and blew her kisses - it's something for my mum and my family back in Tonga, just giving back a little after all the support they have given me my whole life."

"Hopefully for the future I'll keep on track, keep in shape and play every game for the whole game - I don't want to come on and off or play off the bench - and get a crack again for Tonga or maybe even the Kiwis. It'd be great to fulfil those big dreams I had as a little kid in Tonga - and...more..."

Your Big League Read!

Big League Product Watch

Time Tunnel 1982

June 9 - June 15, Vol 63, No 16

NZ TEAM IS WELL BALANCED

THOUGH the expression "a blend of experience and youth" is somewhat hackneyed, the 1982 Kiwi League team is just that.

There are nine new caps in the squad and while they may not displace any of the regular Test players they'll be breathing right down their necks.

There are some exciting prospects among the newcomers who are sure to blossom under the guiding hand of manager-coach Ces Mountford.

The three Kiwis, Dane O'Hara, James Leuluai and Gary Kemble, fresh from success with England's Challenge Cup winners Hull, were automatic selections. As well, Osen Filipaina, Mark Broadhurst, Fred Ah Kuoi, Mark Graham from Sydney and Dennis Williams (Mount Isa) are available for Tests.

So, looking at the squad in depth, in my opinion, a good and thoughtful job by the selectors from which should come a Test line-up of stature equal to the task.

Much will depend on the ability of manager-coach Mountford to mould the three factions - the Hull trio, the Sydney-based squad and the resident Kiwis - into a composite unit, although if anyone can he can.

So then to some of the Kiwi players who will be seen on the playing fields of Australia during the tour this month.

Descendants of North Taranaki/Maori chieftain Tamati (pronounced Tah-ma-tee) Waka Nini of the Ati Awa tribe, that's the Tamati cousins, Howie and Kevin. Their grandmother Rina Tamati, who lives in Waitara, still talks about the famous Ellison family of Otago. They were prominent Black players dating as far back as 1888.

Oddly, Kevin and Howie Tamati first met as under-19 Kiwis 10 years ago. Kevin, reared in Hastings, away from the homeland of Waitara, wanted to be an All Black but a shift to Wellington changed all that.

Encouraged by Clark Terawhiti, Wellington club and rep coach, he says he has no regrets and is proud to be a Rugby League Kiwi prop instead. Kevin rates Ces Mountford as the greatest as coach and Graeme West and Mark Graham as great players.

"Both have everything," and then with a twinkle in his eye, "but now Mark has money as well."

- RAY COOY

Winfield Premiership

THE electronic scoreboard at Lang Park was the envy of Sydney fans who flew to Brisbane for the State of Origin matches. It added a lot of colour to what was again another spectacular promotion. Only sour note for NSW fans came when Queensland scored a try. The scoreboard flashed the word "try" in huge lettering twice as long as it did for a NSW try.

"BRENTNALL flies here" could be the sign hanging outside Belmore for the rest of the season. "I would pay the admission price just to see Greg Brentnall catch the bombs," said Canterbury's Peter Moore after the high-flying fullback had swallooned two from Parramatta last Sunday. Anyone who has seen Brentnall leap would back him against any of the spring-heeled Victorians.

Big News

McFADDEN'S MISSION: EXORCISE THE DEMONS

Following the resignation of Matt Elliott, the Warriors have dangled a carrot in front of acting coach Andrew McFadden - be successful and be re-signed. By NICHOLAS JANZEN

INCONSISTENT performances will no longer be tolerated at the Auckland-based Warriors, with acting head coach Andrew McFadden (pictured) charged with a task no-one has yet completed: unleash the Kiwi side's potential on a weekly basis.

Former head coach Matt Elliott paid the price for another difficult start to the season by the rock-or-diamonds Warriors by resigning last Sunday and it is left to former Raiders halfback McFadden, unproven at NRL level, to lead his squad to consistent performances.

"[McFadden] got the head job. He's interim head coach and it's his until the end of the year and he'll review it when [we need to]," Warriors general manager of football operations, Dean Bell, said.

"Hopefully we might [review McFadden's contract] before then, because if all things are going well and he's taking the job how we expect, we'll move quickly to secure him."

"We're judged on our performances at NRL level and the inconsistency is something that's plagued the Warriors for a long time. We're determined to right that - we want a team that goes out and plays with pride and obviously delivers a consistent performance whatever the result is. There are teams out there that do that and we want to be one of those teams. Our members and fans deserve that and that's what we're all about."

Bell rejected suggestions Elliott had been pushed following the Warriors' abysmal 37-6 loss to the Sharks last weekend, insisting their former head coach had thrown in the towel himself. However, he couldn't be sure if Elliott would still be there had he not done so.

"Following our performance on Saturday he was asked to attend a meeting on Sunday afternoon with our chairman Bill Wavish who lives in Sydney," Bell said.

"When we got back to New Zealand the message from our chairman was that Matt had resigned."

"I can't answer that question [if he'd still be at the club had he not resigned] because he resigned and that was the end of it."

Bell also dismissed suggestions player power had influenced the situation at the club and stressed that Elliott, despite his recent departure, had left a lasting legacy at Mt Smart.

"If Matt's resigned, players had nothing to do with that. Player power comes up any time a coach resigns or is sacked - people come to that conclusion. He had a good rapport with the players, they respected him and I don't think that was an issue," Bell said.

"Matt's made a lot of positive contributions to the club since he's been here. He's been the most engaged coach as far as our junior succession planning, aligning the coaching staff and he's made us a lot more professional. There's no way he can take all the blame for our performances and the players have to look at ourselves - we all need to look at ourselves - but as we know the head coach takes the ultimate responsibility."



PARRAMATTA v BALMAIN

Belmore Sports Ground, Sunday, 13th June

FIRST GRADE STARTS 3:00 PM

PAUL TAYLOR	1	GARRY JACK	1
MICHAEL HUNT	2	JOHN GARDNER	2
STEVE KILLA	3	JOHN SHANKS	3
GRAEME ATKINS	4	WAYNE WILSON	4
BRETT KERRY	5	WAYNE WILSON	5
PETER STERLING	6	RONNY KNIGHT	6
RYAN PRICE	7	RONNY KNIGHT	7
JOHN MULLIGAN	8	STEVE RYAN	8
PETER SHARP	9	STEVE RYAN	9
STEVE DODD	10	JOHN WILSON	10
JOHN WILSON	11	JOHN WILSON	11
JOHN PHILLIPS	12	JOHN WILSON	12

Kicking Off

With the editor Fiona Bollen

ONE of the greatest criticisms of the NRL in recent times has been an accusation of them being reactive and not proactive in the management of the game. It was why the introduction of the independent commission was such a massive event for rugby league and why a change of leadership from David Gallop to Dave Smith was considered positive for the game too.

The NRL currently finds itself in one of the toughest situations it has faced in a very long time. A player remains in hospital after suffering an horrific injury incurred while playing first grade rugby league. There are opinions flying everywhere, from every corner of the game, about what needs to be done to prevent this type of injury happening again. If ever there was a danger of being reactionary, this is it.

The rules committee meets in about a month's time and they have a big decision in front of them: What is the right course of action regarding parties involved? Emotions are running high at the Newcastle and Melbourne clubs, and rightfully so, but any changes will impact all clubs and players and contribution from all stakeholders needs to be considered. Then there is the NRL's need to ensure the image of rugby league is one that encourages young kids to take up the sport and parents to happily allow them to do that.

Contact sport will always have the risk of serious injury - rugby league isn't alone in this, you can see some terrible injuries in AFL and elite level soccer - so making rash decisions on rule changes to help stem the current emotion isn't the way to go, and the approach that it seems is being taken, in waiting for the rules committee to meet to consider measured argument, is the right one.

The spirit and sense of community the game has shown in the aftermath of Alex McKinnon's injury has been overwhelmingly positive and shows the unique bond the game creates - which is one of the

SUPPORT YOUR GAME. SUPPORT BIG LEAGUE.

Who is Bill Wavish?

I thought you might like to know a bit about our chairman, so here you go!

BILL WAVISH was born in Takapuna and has spent his life split roughly equally between New Zealand, Hongkong / China and Australia.

As Chairman of **Vodafone NZ Warriors** he tries to keep a low profile, saying in his few speeches that the Club is about the players and the coaching staff, and that administrators should not be seen unless they need to take responsibility for things. How true in recent days! Bill has no hesitation in agreeing that accountability applies to all at the **Warriors** and that his undated resignation is always on the table.

In business, Bill has run some of the largest companies in Australasia: Supermarkets Director of **Woolworths** with 140,000 employees reporting to him. Executive Chairman and significant shareholder of **Myer Department stores**. Now Chairman of **Bendon** and Director and Shareholder of **Dick Smith**.

He jointly led the first foreign joint venture in China and dealt in

negotiations with two Chinese Premiers - **Deng Xiao Ping** and **Jiang Zemin**. He retains close business relationships in China.

In sport, Bill has partially owned both the **Newcastle Falcons** and **Sydney Kings** basketball teams. He is a Patron of **Sports Connect** and **Trans-Tasman Business Circle**.

In charity, he is Chairman of the **National Indigenous Culinary Institute** in Australia and **Jordan Foundation** in Tanzania.

In research, he is a Director of **Australian Age of Dinosaurs** and is an Advisor to the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation**.

He is a passionate **Kiwis** and **Warriors** supporter, and always comes to the **Mad Butcher** forum at Mount Smart or Eden Park to listen to grass roots views and to take what insults Sir Peter wishes to throw at him when interviewing him. Whilst being based in Sydney may seem unusual, most NRL meetings are in Sydney, and he enjoys a close working relationship with NRL CEO, **Dave Smith**.

This week's giveaway: a signed Vodafone Warriors jersey, plus 4 tickets to our next home game on May the 10th at Eden Park, plus passes to the lounge and 4 Vodafone Warriors scarfs.



Drawn on April 28th.

Catch me and my good mate Paul Potts on Jono and Ben, Friday night TV3 I will be on their show in a cameo part.



Ben, me and Jono hanging out.

Me and my good mate Paul Potts.



Hi! (from our young mate Bradley, who was a guest in the lounge a few times).

Thought id send you a message to cheer you up. I am doing great and feeling much better. I tried to go to school but it was all a bit much for me so I am doing correspondence. this is going really well. Still haven't put on much weight ,maybe you could send me some LOL!

Can you tell the **Warriors** I sit and watch them and think they are great. I've played a bit of softball and am doing my papers to become an umpire. I've done a bit of umpiring over the season and really loved it. Its been great getting out and hanging with my mates again.

I have my next MRI next month but I know it will be fine Hope you are well.

Please thank the people for the support they have given me, maybe something positive to put in your next newsletter.

Your Mate, Brad Woon

League in Tairua is on the up

Only four years ago Tairua had their first team of under 6s. They now proudly boast four junior teams. U7s, U9s, U11s and U13s. The team was started in town by their patron, Warren Finnerty with the help of Brett Rhind. On Sunday the 14th of April the **Tairua Taniwha** hosted the **Waihi**



The Tairua Under 9s in action. Cullen Crowe well tackled by a Waihi Warrior supported by Charlie and, following the play, Ash. This great Photo is by Michelle McEwan. You can find more of Michelle's pix on her Facebook page.

Warriors, great weather and great games. The **Mini Mod** version of the game provides for a safe, fun game that all the players get involved in, and provides great viewing for families and supporters.



Some of the Tairua Under 11 team. From left to right: Cody Westley, Cameron Kilpatrick, Maika Rhind, Hunter Crowe, Mikey Ellis, Sollie Heath, Trident Price and Carl Radford.

We hope to see you a **Warriors** game soon.
Regards
Matt Goodman



Old flag now retired to garage after travelling around North Island and the new ones take over. New flags, new start for our boys. And even have a Vodafone Warriors transfer on my plastered leg

Derek and Yvonne

Don't forget Four Nations

Tickets will go on sale next month.
Sign up to the NZRL database to register for pre-sale information.

The full Four Nations schedule is:

October 26

Australia v New Zealand, Brisbane
England v Fiji/Samoa, Brisbane

November 1

New Zealand v Fiji/Samoa. Whangarei

November 2

Australia v England, Melbourne

November 8

New Zealand v England, Dunedin

November 9

Australia v Fiji/Samoa, Wollongong

November 15

Final, Wellington

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

FRI 9 MAY



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

There will be a mystery guest speaker and the MC is Knight of the Realm, **Sir Peter Leitch**. Plus guest speakers from the NRL **Jim Doyle** Chief operating officer, **Paul Kind** head of commercial, **Phil Holden** CEO NZRL Plus a special guest from Australia.

Confirmed ex Kiwi players will be in attendance **Stacey Jones, Ruben Wiki, Roger Bailey, Graeme West, Hugh McGahan, Dane O'Hara, Gary Clarke, Monty Betham, Gary Prohm, Jerry Seuseu, Duane Mann, Dean Bell, Allan Amer, Jim Fisher, Awen Guttenbiel, Logan Swan, Bruce Castle, Kevin Tamati, Don Hammond, Erin Wigs, Dennis Williams, Des White, Owen Wright, Howie Tamati, Mark Broadhurst, Clayton Friend, Wayne Wallace, Tom Hadfield, Tony Kemp** and many more.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plus - receive this Plate courtesy of ex kiwi Gary Clarke!



This event will be broadcast live on Radio Sport.



THE MAD BUTCHER AND SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS
COMMUNITY TRUST



radio network®



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

PLUS

WIN TWO FREE TICKETS TO THE LUNCHEON on May 9 and be flown anywhere from around New Zealand to the event. This includes transfer from the Airport to the Luncheon!

Canterbury Rugby League Results 12 April 2014

Premiers

Halswell Hornets 24 bt Papanui Tigers 16
Northern Bulldogs 8 lost to Hornby Panthers 20
Celebration Lions 36 bt Linwood Keas 22
Aranui Eagles 18 bt Riccarton Knights 8

No real upsets although given the games were played in wet and slippery conditions however the scores were a little closer than expected in some games.

This Easter weekend only the Premier grade will be played with all other grades taking the Easter weekend off.

All games will be held at Crosbie Park on Easter Friday with kick off times being 1pm and 2.45pm.

Defending Premiers the **Hornby Panthers** will take on fellow unbeaten side this year the **Celebration Lions** in the match of the day in what shapes us a bruising encounter with both sides presenting size and speed across the park.

The other big game will be that between the unbeaten **Halswell Hornets** and the **Linwood Keas**. The **Keas** will be determined to right the ship after a tough battle last weekend against the **Lions**. The **Keas** are the **Hornets** bogy team and this will be a big test for the smaller **Hornets** pack.

The **Aranui Eagles** got themselves on the points scoring board with a win over the **Riccarton Knights** last weekend and this weekend play the **Northern Bulldogs** who are yet to register a point in 2014 and the final game sees two evenly matched sides in the **Papanui Tigers** taking on the **Riccarton Knights**.

Draw

Hornby Panthers vs Celebration Lions. Kick off 1pm
Aranui Eagles vs Northern Bulldogs. Kick off 1pm
Linwood Keas vs Halswell Hornets. Kick off 2.45pm
Papanui Tigers vs Riccarton Knights. Kick off 2.45pm

All games will be held at Crosbie Park on Easter Friday
18 April 2014.

www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Canterbury-Rugby-Football-League>

These are just some of the
**Lucky Winners of our
MAGAZINE GIVEAWAY.**

Congratulation's to you all

Noel Andrews: Mount Albert

Michael Owens: New Lynn

Ian Abrahams: Pokeno

Dot Eaton: Hornby Christchurch

Ben Langley: Christchurch

Liam: Christchurch

Greg Dawson: Invercargill

Richard Flanagan: Nelson

JUST ONE MORE...



Austin Powers, who was fantastic in the Lounge.

Hope you are enjoying the newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz Or if you would like to **unsubscribe** please email **Amelia** and she will delete you from the list.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can!



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The Newsletter Team

Here are the team that help me make the newsletter each week, Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it is a team effort.



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