

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

14th June 2017

#174



The Vodafone Warriors Won Against the Titans!

And we're celebrating with a giveaway!



Mafoa'aeata Hingano scores a try.

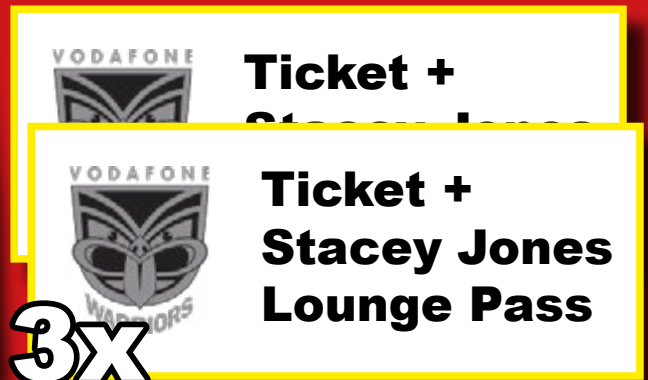


Ryan Hoffman scores the opening try.

Congratulations to Ryan Hoffman on his 300th NRL Game, scoring the first try and kicking the final conversion. What a legend!

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.nz

Vodafone Warriors Giveaway



To celebrate the Vodafone Warriors WIN over the Titans we are giving away three 2017 signed Vodafone Warriors jerseys and 3 double passes to a Vodafone Warriors home game with admission to the Stacey Jones Lounge.

Vodafone Warriors
Giveaway
P.O Box 54295
The Marina 2144,
Manukau, Auckland
New Zealand



Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email:

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address on the left.

Winner will be drawn on

27/06/17

vvvv **KEEP SCROLLING FOR ANOTHER GIVEAWAY** vvvv



Ryan Hoffman with his daughter



Ryan Hoffman, his daughter and Ben Matulino



Ryan Hoffman with his children



Ryan Hoffman with the ball from his 300th NRL game



Loyal Vodafone Warriors Fans at the Game



More Loyal Vodafone Warriors Fans



Warriors Jnr team on the field



Someone Else Can Feel The Heat For A Change

By David Kemeys

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



FLOGGING THE Warriors is a national obsession with our press, but to find an example of from zero to hero, look no further than rugby.

With the Lions here, the British press has been brutal after an unconvincing win first up, then a loss to the Blues.

I was looking forward to the Lions playing, until they did.

They were awful first up, mediocre against the Blues, and I turned them off against the Crusaders.

I have no desire to watch that style of game, but that's just me.

Now I do not profess to know a lot about rugby, but I do know a thing or two about about-faces, and the British media has done one big style.

Days ago they were bemoaning their side, now it is apparently a bit of a given they will win the three test series against the All Blacks, having beaten the Crusaders 12-3 in a snore-fest.

What has this to do with our beloved Warriors? I mention it because at least one thing you can't accuse the NZ media of, in general, is inconsistency. They flog us when we lose, and we win, well they flog us anyway.

Among the reactions to our 34-12 win over the Titans at the weekend was this gem: "The Warriors are far from out of the woods."

As an exercise in stating the bleeding obvious, that takes some beating.

There was lots of "that's all very well but it was only the Titans", a bit of "lose to the Doggies in a fortnight and you'll still be shite", and even a spot of injury to Kieran Foran will see us return to our pitiful ways, as if the writer had some kind of league crystal ball to hand.

Me, I just liked winning.

I liked it even more that it was our first win on the road since TV was in black and white.

Sure it does not prove much in the overall scheme of things, but I am taking a leaf from the British Lions journalism example, and will tell you we are a virtual shoo-in after that performance to win the comp.

It a strange way, the convincing win does little to ease the frustration many of us feel, because it just under-scores the potential we know the squad has, and highlights our inability to do it week on week.

We have now won six – and only two of those were against sides that are top eight, the Roosters, and the under-powered Broncos, so in reality, it has hardly turned our season around. But on the other hand, had we lost, I believe it would have all been over for another year.

Maybe Shaun Johnson had the right idea: "It's important we enjoy the performance because it's been tough, what's been said about us, and what we've had to cop."

He's no mug this bloke, and he absolutely gets it. "One game isn't going to change people's opinions but it's important we enjoy these wins, especially on the road."

More on the next page...

Another One That Got Away

I know there were issues around Konrad Hurrell and some of the stuff he got up to at the club, but it was great to see him prove quite a handful for us on the Gold Coast.

Konrad was hard man not to like, and I was sorry his tenure with us ended the way it did.

I was also sorry to see Ngani Laumape go, because I always felt he had plenty more to give as he really learned the ropes of our game.

Instead he is now in the All Blacks, and good luck to him.

He's only 24, and his rise in rugby has been very quick – basically a year to find his feet, a year to shine, and into the All Blacks.

Hard to find anyone in league circles now who apparently did not believe this boy was capable of big things, which is odd, because I remember plenty of people calling him a journeyman and worse in our colours.

Matt Elliott gave Laumape his debut on the wing against Cronulla in 2013 - we got thumped 28-4. Elliott was shown the door, while Laumape became Rookie of the Year.

Elliott has always been a huge fan and reckoned Ngani was easy to work with and busting to learn – not something you'd have said about everyone of in the class of 2013.

What a waste.

Foran Injury Fears May Be Unfounded

Kieran Foran's injury does not look too bad and he should be good to go against the Doggies after our week off.

And thank goodness for that.

Most would admit his arrival has been good for us, even if he has not been earth-shattering.

He adds calmness, and order to the side and his loss would be a big one.

Having said that, there are some, especially after Foran announced his departure, calling for Ata Hingano to be given more game time, since he looks most likely to take the No 6 spot next season – provided of course the much talked about (and in my view utterly farcical) signing of James Maloney does

not take place.

Plenty of us feared the worst at the sight of our five-eighth being carried off late against the Titans.

But assistant coach Steve McNamara was quick to announce a long period off was unlikely.

“Fortunately it looks like a quad strain or slight tear, nothing too serious. I think he is going to be alright going forward for the rest of the year.”

Give The Guy A Break

Speaking of Foran, there are still those baying for blood at his move to the Bulldogs, but the player has been quick to recognise all the help that has come his way since he arrived at Mt Smart.

Sure it is not the club's job to rehabilitate players, it is its job to win games, but Foran has expressed his gratitude many times, and what more do you want?

A couple of weeks ago he was even water-boy for an Ellerslie Eagles side, because he remains good friends with a bloke named Geoff Sturt, who has always stood by him.

“He was my first coach when I was four and is always keeping touch.”

Apparently Geoff has always urged Foran to help out and give back to clubs that have helped him.

That's a pretty fair effort if you ask me.

Some of you will know I work at Middlemore, home to Kidz First Children's Hospital, which the Warriors support.

One of my colleagues reported to me one day that “some player” came out for a visit. It is fair to say she is not a huge enthusiast of sport in general.

But she reported this guy was “really nice”, that he had engaged with the kids, that nothing seemed to much trouble, that he was not just visiting because he had to, and that she had taken quite a shine to him.

She had no idea who that player was, or that at the time he was going through some difficulties of his own.

It was Foran of course, and I was gutted I did not get to say hello myself.

So don't waste your time bagging the guy to me, I'm not having it.

Bench Impact Bonus

Jumping from place to place for sure, but I feel the need to commend a couple of players after the Titans win. Our interchange men, Sam Lisone and Albert Vete, were huge off the bench, and that has not always been true of our pine-riders this year. Bunty Afoa was not bad either was he?

I am the first to admit I am not the biggest Lisone fan you will find at Mt Smart, and for me he runs hot and cold and should be better than he is after the number of games he has had. Humble pie time. He was excellent on Saturday, one of our best.

Vete on the other hand, I have always thought promising, though the coaching staff clearly have not always agreed. But his strong showing came on the back of a good effort a week earlier in a side that performed poorly.

Bye Time

You did not want to be going into the bye week on the back of a loss, so the win will do the boys a lot of good in terms of morale, which can't have been sky high.

Our next game is at home to the Bulldogs on June 23.

Because we got two points of the bye this week, a win over the Doggies would make it six points in three weeks, and put us right back in the mix for the top eight.

Sound familiar?

300 Up

Churlish not to record NRL game number 300 for second rower Ryan Hoffman, who celebrated with a try and even kicked a goal -his third attempt, the other two missing.

That's quite some achievement, and good on him.

Some twats reckoned he was just here for the paycheck, and he would not even bother to put in a shift since he was in his final year.

There's zero evidence of that, and while he might well have missed the odd tackle of late, who hasn't it.

Hoffman is a thoroughly committed professional who gives his all. I wouldn't be upset to have a few more like him.

Cherrington Signs On

Former Tigers and Sharks hooker Manaia Cherrington has joined until the end of next season after Erin Clark asked the club for a release on personal grounds.

Cherrington, who got an immediate release from the Sharks, has found it tough to get a go at NRL level but has actually been a Kiwi, touring England in 2015, although he did not actually play.

"Fortunately, we were able to secure Manaia. He has come through the system with Wests as well as being involved with both the Junior Kiwis and Kiwis," recruitment boss Tony Iro said.

From Whangarei, Cherrington made 45 NYC appearances for the Tigers before playing 16 first-grade matches in 2015 and 2016.

Where To For Bodene Thompson?

Even I can join the dots. If Tohu Harris is incoming and Leivaha Pulu – who was pretty ordinary for the Titans – is incoming, then it looks likely Bodene Thompson could join Ryan Hoffman in the exit lounge.

He's off contract at the end of this season and surely if he was going to be re-signed it would have happened by now.

You don't really want to be a player in negotiations at the same time as you are having a bit of a dip in form, which is the case for the hard-working second-rower.

Surely you are bringing in Harris and Pulu as first choice second-rowers, with Simon Mannering at lock.

Don't forget there are Bunty Afoa and the emerging Isaiah Papalii in the ranks too, not to mention Ligi Sao, so a spot for Thompson might be tough to find.

That will be tough on a man who was one of our best and looked like the buy of the year when he arrived. Remember too that the poor bugger has had the rough end of the stick more than once, playing hooker and in the centres.



Do Warriors Fans Still Care?

<http://bit.ly/2svhXN7>

You can read the entire article, which caused all sorts of debate last week, by clicking on the link, but to sum it up, the article suggests a lot of supporters are on the verge of giving up.

Then there's loads of stuff about being constantly disappointed and loads more about starting not to care quite as much, and another gripe about being fed up with all the hype every year.

Apparently the passion "is not only gone, it has been replaced with almost nothing at all".

There are some wonderful lines though, especially this one: "If I am being brutally honest the Warriors are a club where careers come to die."

Then there's stuff about a lack of planning, no strategy and boss Jim Doyle being about to fall on his sword.

Have a read, but I will say this.

For a man who doesn't care anymore, it is a pretty passionate piece!

Superstore Opens

A couple of weeks ago, the Vodafone Warriors unveiled a brand, spanking new SuperStore at Mount Smart Stadium.

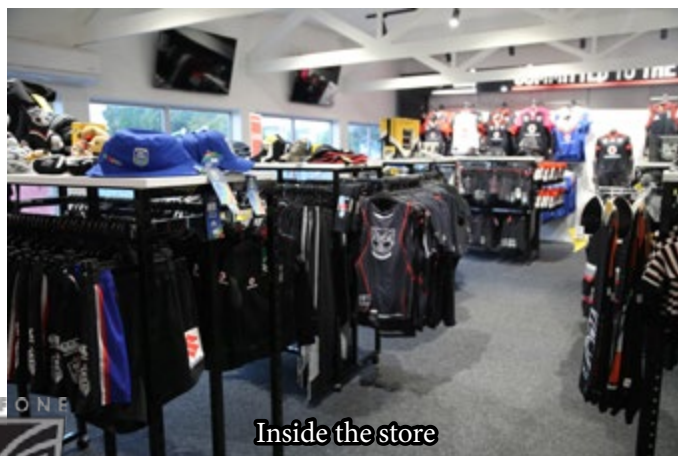
Housed in the black building by the north-eastern corner of the venue and just to the right of Gate C as you enter the ground, you can't miss it.

Complete with fitting rooms and a whole lot more space, the SuperStore is certainly going to enhance the game day experience for our members and fans. It's your one-stop shop for all Vodafone Warriors merchandise.

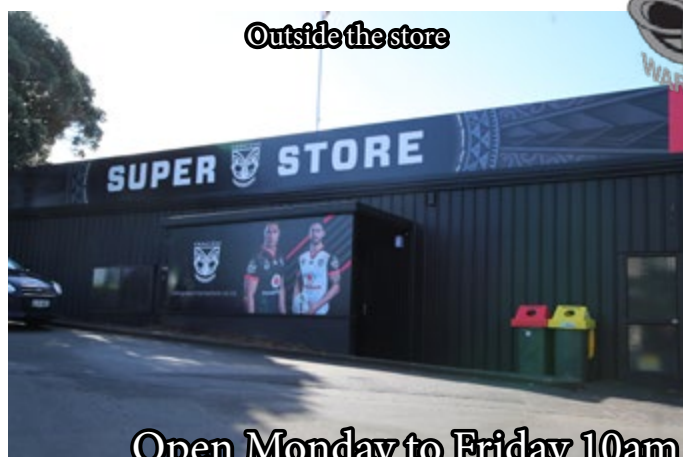
If you're planning on coming to the Bulldogs game on Friday, June 23, stop by and check it out for yourself.



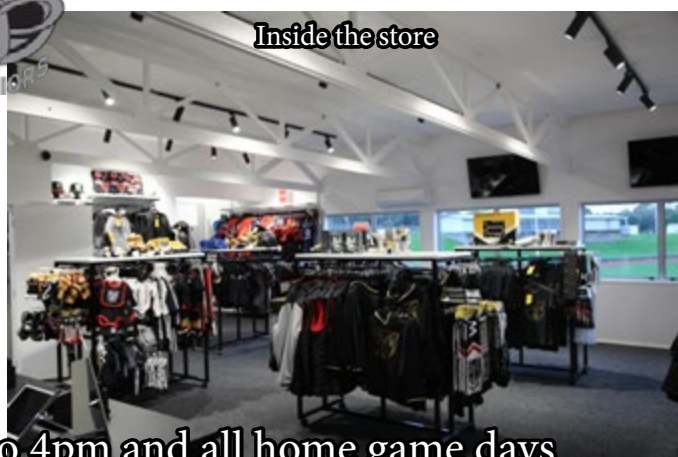
Inside the store



Inside the store



Outside the store



Inside the store

Open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm and all home game days

“Rugby League Bill” At Burwood

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)



A STEADY PROCESSION of rugby league people have been arriving at Burwood Hospital in east Christchurch since William Albert (Bill) Whitehead took up residence in Ward DG. Former and current players, coaches, administrators and supporters have been heartened to see that 85-year-old Bill's condition has improved markedly since he suffered a stroke and was first admitted to the Christchurch Public Hospital before being transferred to Burwood.

Bill is a legend in South Island rugby league circles and became known nationally as “Rugby League Bill” through frequent calls to radio talk-back hosts in fiercely debated support or defence of his favourite code. As a young man Bill drove tourist buses before joining the staff of Smith's Family Hotels, owned by 1947-49 Kiwis captain Pat Smith. Bill was a hugely popular publican at the Embassy and Tattersalls hotels in central Christchurch.

Not the least reason for his popularity was his liberal interpretation of the licencing hours. Bars were expected to close at 6pm in those days but there never seemed to be a clock in the hospitality areas of either of those esteemed establishments. Occasionally there would be unexpected and unusual entertainment, such as when Bill motored into the back bar of Tattersalls on a Honda 50 scooter, did a couple of circuits and rode out the door again.

It was a point of pride for Bill that he was never convicted of after-hours trading or serving under-age drinkers and that he defended himself in court. West Coasters arriving in town on the 11pm railcar knew where they could get a welcoming drink. Ring the doorbell three times and quick admission was assured. But there was never any panic when one ring suggested a police visit for Bill would have enough of the customers entered in the guests' register to legally cover all present.

On one occasion a police constable who lived at Tattersalls arrived “home” thirsty from a late shift, left his helmet and jacket in the office and was enjoying a beer when the bell rang just once. “Don't worry,” said Bill, “some buggers off the railcar doesn't know the rules, I'll fix 'em.” He donned the helmet and jacket and yanked open the door, only to find himself eye-to-eye with a startled sergeant and constable. Even Bill was speechless for a minute until his humour got him through.

Both the Embassy, which was the first Christchurch hotel to install a lift and featured a nightclub on the first floor, and Tattersalls were preferred accommodations for many sports, racing and entertainment personalities. Touring Australian and Great Britain rugby league teams stayed at the Embassy and some prized racing and trotting trophies were brought back in triumph to be filled for celebratory drinks in the Tattersalls bar.

The Majestic Theatre was across the road from the Embassy and when the famed Howard Morrison quartet stayed at the pub Bill persuaded two of them to play for the Marist senior reserve team in a game at Sydenham Park. Morrison was reportedly not too pleased when he found out, asking his musicians how he would have explained the appearance of the Howard Morrison Trio if one of them had been injured and missed the night's concert.

They were fun times. Professional wrestlers led by promoter Steve Rickard would arrive back from their bouts at the Theatre Royal and over a beer discuss tactics for the following week's shows on the road. The Smith hotels were headquarters of the Marist Rugby League Club, which Pat Smith helped form in 1952 and which his son, Peter, captained and coached. Bill was a long-serving senior team manager and some players were employed as barmen.

Bill did not play a lot of football. But he has been involved with the game for more than 60 years, spending decades on the Canterbury RL board of control, the New Zealand Schoolboy RL and the New Zealand Marist RL. He is still secretary of the South Island Kiwis Association. Many life memberships have been bestowed upon him and when he received a QSM in the Queen's Birthday honours he announced it stood for Queen Supports Marist.

Marist has not been in the Canterbury premier grade since 1996 but the club still has a team based at Bishopdale Park, not far from Bill's home. When they visited Bill they brought their new jerseys so he could present them. He keeps the nurses on the hop at the modern Burwood Hospital and claims he “coughed” his way into the privacy of a single room. But the Minister of Health might soon be receiving a complaint about the lack of Sky Television for Bill to watch the Warriors!

Questions

By Barry Ross



REFEREE'S BOSS Tony Archer had a tough job to explain referee Ashley Klein's decision to award a 59th minute try to Manly winger Akuila Uate against Newcastle on a very wet Friday night at Lottoland. The replay showed the Manly winger clearly lost the ball over the line and so instead of a try, it should have been a seven tackle tap to the Knights on their 22 line. The young touch judge, Jarrod Cole, was in a perfect position to see what happened and he advised Klein to go to the Bunker, but the referee ignored this advice. It was a huge decision in the context of the game, as without it and the resulting conversion, Newcastle would have won 14-12 instead of losing 18-14. Klein received a lot of criticism for not going to the Bunker before giving his decision, but later on Friday night, Archer revealed it was Bunker official and former senior referee, Jared Maxwell, who bypassed the video review process and informed Klein that the ball was grounded correctly. Maxwell controlled 272 first grade NRL games before retiring last year after an 11 season first grade refereeing career. He should have known better, especially on such a wet and slippery night. Newcastle fans, players and coaching staff are rightly seething over this decision and it is another major black mark for the Bunker. What, if anything, will happen to Maxwell? No doubt we won't see in the Bunker for a few weeks but he should be banned from doing this job for the rest of this season at least. Several media people believe Archer plays favourites and that Maxwell is among this group. And while on the Bunker, why can't Archer and the NRL allow the Bunker to overturn any outrageous and vital decisions? Perhaps a Captain's Call could be introduced for such obvious mistakes but the NRL and Archer, appear to be dead against something like that.

How good a forward is South Sydney's Sam Burgess and what a great playing career he has on his CV with more to come. Despite being on the losing side against the Broncos at Brisbane on Friday night, the talented Englishman was outstanding. He made 151 metres in his 16 carries and most of these metres came through heavy traffic. Now 28, Burgess was playing his 132 first grade match for the Rabbitohs. His try, which was his 35th for the club, came after a typical powerful burst from 12 metres out in which he broke three attempted tackles. Big Sam, 196 cms and 116 kgs, played all of the 80 minutes against the Broncos and made 36 tackles. So far in 2017, Sam has played all of Souths 13 games, totalling 914 minutes of a possible 1,040 playing minutes, which is about 88 percent of maximum game time. In the 13 games he has carried the ball for 1,978 metres, made 416 tackles and scored four tries. His junior club was Dewsbury Moor in England and he played his first game of English Super League with Bradford against Leeds on 7 July 2006, while still only 17 years of age. In four seasons with Bradford, he played 88 first team matches, scoring 17 tries and was 2007 Super League Player of the Year. His first competition game with Souths was against the Roosters on 14 March 2010 at ANZ Stadium in Sydney under coach, John Lang. He played his first Test at Huddersfield on 27 October 2007, scoring a try as a prop forward, in Great Britain's 20-14 win over New Zealand. The next week he came off the bench as Great Britain took the series with the 44-0 win over the Kiwis at Hull. From 2008, until 7 May this year, when Sam captained England in their 30-10 win over Samoa at Campbelltown, he has played 18 Tests for England collecting eight tries. He also represented the Northern Union in the Centenary match at Warrington on 21 October 2007 against the All Golds and on 13 February 2010 played for the NRL All Stars against the Indigenous All Stars on the Gold Coast. Most Australian Rugby League fans remember him for his gutsy effort for Souths in the 2014 Grand Final at ANZ Stadium on 5 October when he fractured his cheekbone and eye socket in the first tackle. Souths won this Grand Final 30-6 against the Bulldogs and Sam won the Clive Churchill Medal as the man-of-the-match. He was also named as Dally M lock of the Year in 2014 and the RLIF (Rugby League International Federation) 2014 Player of the Year. The 2014 Grand Final was his last game for Souths before returning to England to play Rugby Union with Bath in the 2014/15 season and then for England in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. With Bath he played 21 games, scoring four tries and then played five Rugby Tests for England and so became a dual International. In January 2015 at Cork, he played for England's second team, the English Saxons, in the win over the Irish Wolfhounds. After just one season in Union, he returned to South Sydney for the 2016 NRL season.

Continued on next page...

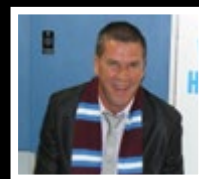
Congratulations to Ryan Hoffman on his 300 NRL games and the whole Warriors team for their efforts in convincingly defeating the Titans 34-12. Now 33, Ryan scored his 70th NRL try in the win and his first ever NRL goal. Shaun Johnson set up three tries and he now has 12 Try Assists this season to lead this table from Manly's Daly Cherry-Evans, who has 11. With a bye this week, the Warriors will be well prepared for their next match, which is at Mt. Smart on Friday night, 23 June, against the Bulldogs. I can't wait for this game as I will be in Auckland with my two sons, Nathan and David, that weekend and we will be joining Sir Peter and his many friends in his lounge for the game.

The biggest crowd ever to watch a Rugby League game in the Northern Territory saw Johnathan Thurston play his first game for nine weeks because of a shoulder injury. The clever halfback was keen to prove his fitness for the second State of Origin clash, at Sydney on 21 June. He certainly did that and dominated the match, scoring a try and setting up the Cowboys other three, in the 32-6 win over Parramatta. Queensland Origin coach, Kevin Walters, was a happy man after the game. Thurston, 34, was playing his 299th first grade game and finished with 16 points from a try and six goals. This brings his total first grade points to 2,056. Powerful forward, Coen Hess 21, also stated a strong case for his first Origin selection. Hess, who weighs 110 kgs and stands 190 cms, collected a try, ran for 146 metres and made 17 tackles in his 46 minutes on the park. The crowd figure at TIO Stadium in Darwin was 11,968.

The Toronto Wolfpack won their 10th successive Kingstone Press League One competition game on Saturday when they defeated the South Wales Ironmen, 66-0 at Merthyr Tydfil. They now have scored 602 points to just 85 in their 10 games and are leading the table.

Lions

By Miles Davis



IHAVE BEEN lucky enough to live in New Zealand for over 32 years and as I mentioned last week one of the greatest experiences during that time was following the Lions tour in 1993. Everywhere I went there was a lot of banter and a lot of magnificent Kiwi hospitality. Although this modern tour is different due to its financial focus I was still expecting that warm hospitality to be extended to this year's visitors. How wrong I was.

Since the team has landed they have been bashed by the media, both mainstream and social. They were condemned after their narrow win over the NZ Barbarians and then written off after their loss to the Blues. As a sporting team they can expect criticism if they lose a fixture but the overwhelmingly negative commentary that followed the Blues defeat was not only over the top but also very unhospitable. Where is the respect that one would normally show visitors who have travelled 12,000 miles to spend time here?

Surely if they managed to conquer the unbeatable Crusaders there would be a modicum of respect awarded to the Lions? After all the days leading up to the fixture were filled with predictions of a demolition as more pain was inflicted on the hapless

tourists. Not a chance. All that greeted the Lions was more of the same. They couldn't score a try, they will get thrashed in the tests, the referee was to blame etc, etc. They achieved what no other side has been able to do this season and still praise and respect was scarce. If tries are the sign of a good team then why aren't the Crusaders being slammed as they only managed a measly 3 points? Was the 1995 World Cup final a terrible game because there were no tries? Had any other side beaten the Crusaders in the same manner they would have been lauded for it. I remember in 2001 the All Blacks grinding out a try-less 12-3 victory over South Africa in Cape Town and rightly being rightly praised for their effort.

I have no doubt that Lions supporters will still receive the traditional warm Kiwi welcome that will create memories and friendships that last a lifetime just as I did in 1993. Why not extend that hospitality to the 41 visitors who put on red shirts twice a week and try their best to give the powerhouse that is New Zealand rugby a run for their money? Surely that is not too much to ask from a host?

Pride in the Jersey

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)



KIWIS COACH David Kidwell is determined to instil more pride in the black-and-white jersey when his 24-man squad assembles for the World Cup in October. Part of the plan is to take the Kiwis “home” to his old Hornby Panthers club when they are in Christchurch for their second pool match against Scotland on November 4. They will train on a newly-laid surface at Hornby’s Leslie Park home ground. Both Leslie Park and across-town Wainoni Park, where the Aranui Eagles play their home fixtures, are being upgraded by the Christchurch City Council to act as practice fields for the visiting World Cup teams.

It is very much on Kidwell’s mind that his players – many of whom relocated to Australia with their families at a young age, or were even born across the Tasman to New Zealand parents – need to develop a greater understanding of their homeland’s proud rugby league history and the deeds of old heroes. So it was appropriate that when Kidwell returned to Leslie Park for the announcement last week he was greeted by former Kiwis Mark Nixon, Wayne Wallace, Brent Stuart, Brian Langton and Ray Baxendale, who all have close associations with the Panthers. Nixon, Wallace and Langton were Kiwis from the club.

Hornby celebrated its centenary in 2015, when it was named NZRL Grassroots Club of the Year. Only Linwood, an original from 1913, has had a longer tenure in premier football in Canterbury but Hornby is easily the province’s most successful outfit. It has won a record 27 championships, enjoying periods of dominance in every decade except the 1970s. Eighteen players represented New Zealand directly from Hornby and in the professional era five Hornby juniors – including Kidwell – have been chosen for the Kiwis from overseas clubs.

The Kiwis front-row which humbled the Kangaroos at Brisbane in 1987, Ross Taylor, Wayne Wallace and the late Adrian Shelford, all learned their skills at Leslie Park. They were among the local heroes when a six-year-old David Kidwell pulled on his first pair of footy boots. Why rugby league and why Hornby? “Because my mother said ‘you’re going to play rugby league’ and Hornby was a good club to come to,” Kidwell said last week. His first coach was Paul Nixon, father of future Kiwi Mark. Hornby has always been a family club.

“They were legends,” he said of Taylor, Wallace and Shelford. “Whenever I get back to Christchurch, I always try to catch up with Wayne. The passion they showed for the jersey back in those days is something I want to bring back (to the Kiwis). I want young guys to know the history behind the jersey and know that they’re the custodian of it, and it’s an honour to be able to wear that jersey because of what all the people before have done.” Kidwell said past players had been extremely proud of the Kiwis emblem and had “grown another leg” when wearing it.

Kidwell made his premier debut for Hornby at 16, as a big, mobile centre. That was the launching pad for a career which included first-grade football with Adelaide, Parramatta, Warrington, Sydney Roosters, Melbourne and South Sydney – more than 240 appearances in all. Plus 25 Tests for New Zealand as a centre or second-rower and a World Cup for New Zealand Maori. He is now based in Sydney. But, even 35 years after his first game at Leslie Park, he still knows every word of the club song, “Born to be a Panther.”

Remarkably, Kidwell is not the first former Hornby Kiwi to bring a New Zealand team back to his home city. John Bray was stand-off half for the 1964 Kiwis against France before his university studies took precedence. He never forgot what happened when he nominated rugby league as his preferred winter sport at Christchurch Boys’ High School. Bray recalls he was called out at assembly in front of the entire school and told in no uncertain terms that CBHS was a proud rugby union school and rugby league would not be tolerated. Undaunted, he continued to play for Hornby.

“It took over 30 years before I managed to make a stand for rugby league at CBHS,” said Bray. “I was manager of the 1988 Kiwis preparing to play Great Britain in the World Cup semi-final in Christchurch and, with the assistance of a rugby league enthusiast on the teaching staff, we held a full training run on the hallowed first XV playing field. The next morning I attended school assembly with three of the Kiwis and spoke to the pupils. A certain master from my time would have turned in his grave. As they say, good things take time.” Bray later fashioned a distinguished career on the NZRL and now with the NZRL museum.



By Miles Davis

Paul Whatuira

Paul Whatuira in action during the Rugby League test match between the Kiwis and the Kangaroos on Friday 5 May, 2006.
Photo www.photosport.nz

PAUL WHATUIRA'S story is not just one of rugby league excellence but also one of facing some of life's darkest demons and coming out the other side.

Whatuira learned his on-field craft in one of New Zealand's rugby league hotbeds, Wainuiomata. At the age of 17 he headed north to Auckland to join the Vodafone Warriors, making his first-grade debut in 2000 at the age of 18.

After just 5 senior games that season he moved to the Melbourne Storm. His stint at the Storm, like the Warriors, did not give him the first-team football he was looking for but his next two clubs would both lead him to the holy grail of an NRL Grand Final win.

In 2002 he signed for the Penrith Panthers and was soon a regular in the starting line-up. In 2003 he was part of the side that created a piece of club history with an 18-6 Grand Final win over the Roosters. Whilst on duty with the Panthers in their World Club Challenge loss Bradford, Whatuira had his house broken into and his Grand Final ring was stolen. A couple of years later it was recovered when police raided the house of a suspected criminal.

In 2005 after 3 years, 62 games and 21 tries for the Mountain Men he signed for Wests Tigers and in his first season found himself once again taking part in the show-piece of Australian rugby league. A 30-16 win over North Queensland Cowboys saw Whatuira pick up his 2nd Grand Final winners medal in 3 years.

In 2008 he headed overseas and joined the Huddersfield Giants. Perhaps unsurprisingly Whatuira was once again almost immediately involved in the game's showpiece as the Giants made it to the Challenge Cup Final at Wembley. This time however there was to be no winner's ring as the Giants went down 25-16 to the Warrington Wolves.

Whatuira also managed 16 appearances for the Kiwis including the 2005 demolition of Australia in the Tri-Nations final in which he scored a try.

It was while at Huddersfield that internal demons that had haunted Whatuira since childhood began to come to the surface. He had been sexually abused by a family friend at the age of 6 and for most of his life had managed to suppress this traumatic incident. In 2009 the news that his partner was pregnant re-ignited the suppressed memories and created a turmoil that was to take Whatuira down a dark path. The thought of being responsible for a small child reminded him of his own childhood traumas. He became unable to sleep and was rapidly heading towards a mental breakdown. With thoughts of harming his partner and unborn child or committing suicide he admitted himself to hospital.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Unfortunately he did not immediately receive the help he needed and he discharged himself. With his inner demons gaining strength he just started to run until he came across two random strangers and assaulted them. He was arrested by police and had to be tasered to get him under control. The police immediately recognised that he was undergoing a psychotic episode and arranged for him to be admitted to the psychiatric unit at the West Yorkshire hospital. He was to spend the next 13 days in that facility, coming to terms with his breakdown and the need to open up about it and get the help he needed. Whatuira said "I should have been man enough to deal with it when I was young. Being a proud Maori, we don't really think about our true feelings. We are taught to hold it all inside. What happened to me just built up and I just let it all out on that night. I thought I was a tough league player and tried to deal with it. But I needed help from when I was young. This would not have happened if I had dealt with it earlier."

Whatuira is now using his dark experience to help others in rugby league as the Wests Tigers Welfare Officer. "I want to use my story for teenagers or youths who are dealing with a problem to get help," he said. "It is not tough to hold things inside. It will just eat you up and come out in bad ways. Suicide is not the answer."

Whilst many will rightly remember Paul Whatuira for his rugby league talents I will remember him for the strength shown in overcoming his demons and using his experience to benefit others. Sexual abuse of children is a blight on society. Not only does it destroy the lives of victims but it impacts on the ability to forge relationships throughout their lives. Any suspicion of abuse should be confronted immediately and those who have suffered in silence should be encouraged to seek help. Below are some places that help can be found.

<http://www.parenthelp.org.nz/child-abuse/>

http://www.kidsline.org.nz/Home_312.aspx

Here are some of Paul's career highlights

NRL doco about 2005 Grand Final <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTKOSLLJFTk>

2009 Challenge Cup Final – full game <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJMUeI9Ni5o>

Paul Whatuira interview about mental health <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ak1xUPNnIEY>

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



THERE'S
19 WEEKS
TO GO!

**Get your tickets
now!**

www.rlwc2017.com



By Shane Hurdell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Bay Could Compete Alone

SOLE VIPER: Hawke's Bay's Chanel Huddleston (with ball) attracts plenty of defensive attention while playing for the Central Vipers against the Wellington Orcas at the recent national women's tournament in Auckland.

HAWKE'S BAY should take their own team to the national women's rugby league tournament in future.

That was the call from Central Vipers vice-captain Chanel Huddleston after the Vipers finished third at the 2017 edition of the tournament played in Auckland at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

"While I was rapt with our third placing and as a team from two provinces [Manawatu and Hawke's Bay] we came together well but I have no doubt we would have done just as well if we took a Hawke's Bay team. It's hard to get the same fluency when you have players from two different provinces."

After the tournament Huddleston, 34, was the sole Viper selected in a 30-strong Kiwi Ferns training squad from which 25 players will be selected to attend the November-December World Cup in Australia.

"I'm optimistic, enthusiastic and hopeful of my chances of making the last cut. Based on the nationals I know I can push for an opportunity and I'm happy to play where ever I'm put. I know my best chances are in the secondrow or backrow roles but confidence in the halves roles has grown since I've been working with former Unicorns coach and standoff Alan Mason," Henry Hill School teacher Huddlestone said.

Huddlestone's first training camp with the squad will be in Auckland on Saturday.

The Vipers beat the Auckland Vulcans 22-12 in the playoff for third and finished the weekend with four wins from five games. Second-season Vipers coach John Tuala, from Palmerston North, was full of praise for the contribution standoff Huddlestone and the other Bay players, props Awhina Wainohu and Jess Bennett, utility forward and top defender Te Aroha Hunt, centre Jaimee Robin and second rower Laurae Blake, made to his team.

"They all displayed the benefits of playing those regular Mid Central Competition games. Chanel's leadership was tremendous and her experience showed," Tuala said.

Hawke's Bay Rugby League chairman Dion Te Ahu said Huddlestone's selection is proof players can still make the big time if they are prepared to put in the work.

"From the feedback I've got from the Vipers coaching staff and others in Auckland I have no doubt Chanel will make the last cut for the Cup if she continues to maintain her high standards. Her versatility - she can play in the forwards or backs - is a big asset," Te Ahu said.

"While I was thrilled for Chanel I was equally as chuffed for the Vipers who not only backed up my pick of a top-four finish but went one place better, finishing higher than an Auckland team in the process. And the Vipers contained players from only Manawatu and Hawke's Bay," Te Ahu added.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Huddleston last played for the Kiwis Ferns at the Auckland Nines in 2015 after playing a substitute's role in a 12-8 test win against the Australian Jillaroos in November 2014. She is no stranger to major international events. When she was a member of the Aotearoa Maori Sevens team Huddleston played at three Hong Kong Sevens tournaments and at Twickenham.

Should the former Hawke's Bay Tuis women's rugby team player-coach, who still holds the record for the most first-class appearances for the team with 64 from 2001-14 make the cut it will be another chapter in an outstanding comeback from an 18-month suspension. She successfully appealed to the New Zealand union and got it reduced to 14 months, after receiving the stand-down for physical and verbal abuse of a referee during a Hawke's Bay women's club rugby game in 2015.

Last year she was a key player for MAC as they won Hawke's Bay's premier women's rugby and league competitions. Her Vipers team won the Fair Play award at the weekend's nationals and manager Jackie Tuala won the Manager of the Tournament award.

Blake, who impressed coach Tuala, with her workrate was one of the Vipers tryscorers in the playoff for third.

Defending champions Counties Manukau Stingrays retained their title with a thrilling 18-14 win against last year's runners-up Akarana Falcons in the final. Auckland-based former Hawke's Bay player Annabelle Hohepa, who has been a regular Kiwi Fern over the years, has made the squad of 30.

Bulldogs v Vodafone Warriors

Gates open 5.30 pm

NYC kick off 5.45

NRL kick off 8.00

Free trains for members and ticket holders



A promotional poster for the rugby match between the Vodafone Warriors and the Bulldogs. The background is dark with blue and purple lightning effects. On the left, a silver and yellow train is shown. The text "FREE train service" is prominently displayed, with "included with match ticket" and "from 5pm with valid match day ticket" in smaller text below. The Vodafone Warriors logo and the Bulldogs logo (a bulldog's head) are shown with a "V" between them. At the bottom, the date and venue are listed: "FRIDAY JUNE 23" and "MT SMART STADIUM". On the right side, there is a photograph of two players in action, one from the Bulldogs and one from the Warriors, both holding rugby balls.

The Balloon in The Bath...

By John Holloway



THE MIGHTY Warriors, they remind me of the Balloon in the bath...no matter how far underwater you push it still pops back up!! Go Figure. A concerted effort, a rare away win, a dominant score edge at 34/12 and 2 important points. I cant believe we are level points with the Raiders who seemed like world-beaters this year but continue to stumble. Rapana still rampant but Ricky very rueful. Still an uphill battle for our boys but you know that balloon it does pops up. The Bye this week allows us time to draw breath and regather, Forans knock not serious which is more good news as was the cameo of Ata Hingano, the future five-eight. The other games. In the battle of the top two the Storm got the win over the Sharks 18/13. In a very terse and tight battle the home advantage favoured the Shireboys but the Melburnians showed why they lead the premiership race. Gallens gutsy gladiators more off the cuff but Bellammys battlers more calm and structured. They have a plan Stan!... Over the water at Lottoland, the Manly men are exactly that and stay in the hunt with a slim victory over the cellar dwelling Knights 18/14. Born again Uate a double and Walker a constant threat for the seashores. Another close run affair for the Broncos knocking over the one dimensional Rabbitohs 24/18. The once mighty Bunnies sitting in 14th spot on the ladder. Amazing finish from the prowling Panthers who won with two tries in last 2 minutes to stun the roller coaster Raiders. At 20/12 up and 78.08 on the clock it certainly looked in the bag for the green machine till Matty Moylan magic opened them up and then that man Peachy as he so often does ran in the killer blow try with a handful of seconds left. 24/20...a bit of all in push n shove style biff in this game with lightning rod Tapine as usual in the middle of things...something about his smirk sure riles em. The Mountain men are making their run now and slide into the top 8. Top billing for spitefull spat of the week was the Sunday nite set-to in the Far North at TIO Stadium (Cairns I think?). The Cattle Rustlers and the slippery Eels, both teams set the new late tackle record with repeated after pass or kick collisions. First game back Thurston was the principal target but young bull Coen Hess replied in kind delivering the hit of the night (maybe the season) to send Moses to LaLaLand . Wild play and bodies flying everywhere throughout the match but JT took the knocks and was straight back into the groove, driving the 32/6 win and taking the Cowboys into 7th slot.

The Bondi boys slipped quietly into second place with an easy win 40/18 over the toothless Tigers, our old mate Ivan Cleary has inherited a major migraine with the 15th rung Westies. For the ruthless Roosters Inglis clone Latrell Mitchell gave more evidence of his wide ranging talents, size speed, evasion, vision its all there, he has all the hallmarks of a rising superstar. The other Mitchell as in Pearce is at the advanced stage of his career but you wouldn't know it, he is in everything and playing career best footy. The Monday night match was a slight surprise with the Dragons dropping one to the battling Bulldogs 2/16, weird.

Right, lookin ahead a short round only 4 bouts. The Rabbitohs v Titans a bit ho hum who cares but of course both sets of fans do. Based on how they went round this last week any ones game. Storm and Cowboys also any ones game but at the top end of the ladder...both will lose big names to State of O which is a shame. At a pinch and playing in Melbourne The Storm might edge it. The Sharks lose important manpower but still look just a bit too good for the Tigers without Tedesco and Woods. The enigmatic Eels have Cory Norman back on board and stay intact player-wise, if they can get back to business, go to man Gutherson, Radradra, Takarangi, Moses and co could get them home but will still have their hands full with the 4th placed Dragons. Origin certs Frizzell and Dougan are a definite dent for the big Red V but having wily pom Gareth Widdup back is a big bonus. The Queensland team for Origin 2 is revealed after I write this and could have some interesting updates, loyalty is great but a result is greater. I am a maroon kinda guy but I picked the fresh and energised Blues first time up and I fear the same result next week.

Kia Kaha brothers and sisters of the struggle.

Congratulations to the Highlanders on the win over the Lions on Tuesday night! Highlanders 23, Lions 22.



Rugby League Northland Premiership Wrap

AFTER A week off due to Queens Birthday Weekend, the Rugby League Northland Premiership was back in full swing with three cracking games.

The Moerewa Tigers picked up a big away win over the Portland Panthers winning 42-16. The scores were locked up at 12-12 at the break, and after a back and forth opening 20 in the second half - The Tigers ran in four tries in the last 20 minutes to secure the win.

The Takahiwai Warriors remain unbeaten with a massive 76-14 win over the Horahora Broncos. The Warriors led 26-22 at the break, but they managed to turn on the jets in the second half - led by Taine Shelford who scored four tries in 20 minutes to set up the win. Overall, the visitors ran in 15 tries to remain two points clear at the top of the standings.

In the final game of the round, the Otangarei Knights defeated the Northern Wairoa Bulls 48-28 to remain second in the standings.

Round 10 action will see the Otangarei Knights host the Horahora Broncos - the Hikurangi Stags will face the Portland Panthers and the Northern Wairoa Bulls will host the Moerewa Tigers. Takahiwai has the bye.

British And Irish Lions Fans Are A fantastic Bunch

THE BRITISH and Irish Lions have been in the country for two weeks now, and despite some fans being far from impressed with the results on the field - off the field though, heaps of fans are in the country to support the Lions as they travel around New Zealand.

Last Tuesday I was in Auckland City and heard of an event some of the Lions players would be at so I went along.

I got speaking to a number of Lions fans who had some over for the tour - some for part of the tour and others for the entire trip.

Every fan I spoke to was friendly, happy and could only say positive things about our wonderful country which we live in.

At the event I was lucky enough to get a few photos with some of the players and get some signatures in the process.

While touring the country, the players will be attending a number of events and interacting with rugby fans - and I will guarantee a number of touring fans will be in attendance.

If you are going to any of the remaining games; or you see any fans round your town - I encourage that you speak to them or even just say hi because all the fans are so lovely and lots of them might even say hello to you or even smile.

I will be escaping the Lions fanfare for the weekend as I am heading to Sydney for the weekend until Wednesday and I am looking forward to it.

Sadly I won't be able to attend State of Origin II but I'm sure the atmosphere around the city will be electric.

I was lucky enough to attend game II in 2014 when the Blues won the series for the first time since 2005. The funny thing is I was in Sydney in 2005 when New South Wales won, so hopefully I bring my good luck for Blues fan.

Different Interpretations Of Rugby's Laws Make The Ref A Prime Target For Match-Fixers

By John Deaker



I'M NOT suggesting for a second that the referee was paid off in the Crusaders 9-3 loss to the British Lions at the weekend. HOWEVER, the refereeing performance and it's influence on the match should concern the IRB because the match should be exhibit A of why rugby is a sport where the ref could be a prime target for professional sports betters.

This century has seen people in New Zealand and Australia become more aware of the prevalence of match-fixing throughout international sports. In particular many players who are household names have been proven to be involved with spot-fixing in a popular sport like cricket.

Judged sports like boxing, diving and ice skating have provided many dodgy circumstances where officials have been alleged and even proven to be involved in rigging results over the years. Even as recently as the 2016 Rio Olympics we saw many boxing judges sent home following allegations of blatant cheating by many of the officials.

So what about referees and umpires in our most popular sports? How often have they been targeted over the years and in what sports is it likely that we've seen them genuinely bribed to influence the result of matches?

In contrast to a sport like tennis where everything is so black and white, rugby's laws lean towards it being one of the most attractive sports for people wanting to bribe a referee into 'influencing' the course of the match. It's hard to think of any other sport where so many important decisions come down to a referee's interpretations of the laws ; he could theoretically favour one team numerous times and players, fans and even administrators wouldn't be able to 100% say he got the call wrong on any of the decisions.

This was highlighted at the weekend during the Crusaders loss to the British Lions. Yes, the Crusaders were their own worst enemy - but the referee wasn't far behind! Some of the scrum rulings and the interpretation of what was a ruck or a maul was very inconsistent with the way that we see these key areas of the game refereed most of the time. There was also one instance in each half where the Lions were very lucky to not have a man yellow-carded. In a close game even just one of those men being sin-binned (everything else being equal) could have been the difference between the Crusaders winning or losing the game.

When teams are using a rush defence (as the Lions did at the weekend) there can be a massive difference between a referee strictly keeping them onside versus someone as generous as Mathieu Raynal was to the Lions defensive line at the weekend. Over the course of 80 minutes it's hard to put a points figure on how much value this can be worth to a team.

Rugby has constantly battled with trying to improve its laws since rugby went professional and the tackle ball area remains an area of huge concern open to very different interpretations of its many micro-skills. Ruling on forward passes leading up to tries has become possible for referees the last few years but it's also started to be used very inconsistently from ref to ref.

Super rugby and international referees are paid very well these days making them less exposed to anyone attempting to bribe them. However, they earn nothing like the top players do so the weekend should be a timely reminder that while we'd like to think only 30 men on the field control the outcome of rugby matches there is always one other person with a whistle in his mouth who could often be justified in putting their hand up for the MVP award at the end of the match!

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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



New Deals for Six

by Richard Becht

EXPERIENCED CENTRE Blake Ayshford, standoff Ata Hingano, 2017 NRL rookie Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad and halfback Mason Lino have all been re-signed by the Vodafone Warriors for next season and beyond.

Their contracts have now been officially registered while promising NYC players Lewis Soosemea and Joe Vuna have also been secured on new deals.

“These are all key signings for us as we continue to work towards settling our squad for next year,” said Vodafone Warriors recruitment and development manager Tony Iro.

The 157-game veteran Ayshford (29), who scored a double in Saturday’s 34-12 win over Gold Coast, has extended his stay until the end of the 2019 season after appearing in 33 games for the Vodafone Warriors so far.

Standoff Hingano (20) will remain with the Vodafone Warriors until the end of the 2020 NRL season after signing a three-year contract. After making his NRL debut late last season, he featured in the club’s first three games this year and scored his first career try when he made his sixth first-grade appearance off the bench in Saturday’s victory over the Titans.

Utility Nicoll Klokstad (21), the club’s 2016 Intrust Super Premiership player of the year, has been re-signed on a two-year contract. He was called up for his NRL debut against the Sydney Roosters on April 30 and appeared in each of the next three games against Penrith, St George Illawarra and Brisbane, scoring doubles against the Panthers and the Dragons.

Halfback Lino (23), who captains the ISP side, has also been secured for two seasons. He was used in three NRL games at the end of the 2016 season and continues to provide back-up to the NRL squad’s halves as an integral performer for the ISP team.

Wing Soosemea (19) and second rower Vuna (18), both signed on two-year deals, have been frontline performers for the Vodafone Junior Warriors after making their debuts in the grade as 17-year-olds.

Mangere East Hawks junior Soosemea has made 45 NYC appearances since 2015 scoring 25 tries including nine in 13 games this season. He also made his ISP debut last year and represented the Vodafone Warriors at this year’s NRL Nines as well as playing in the club’s NRL trial against Melbourne on the Sunshine Coast.

Vuna has played 36 NYC games, appearing 22 times last year and in all 14 games so far this season. He was also in the NRL Nines squad in February.

While announcing the re-signings, Iro also confirmed off-contract prop Toafofoa Siplely has decided to continue his career in Sydney after this season.

“We were keen for Toaf to stay and made a good offer but it hasn’t been enough to keep him here,” he said.

“While it’s disappointing to lose players who come through our system, we wish Toaf all the best.”

After playing for the club’s NYC and Intrust Super Premiership sides, Siplely graduated to make two NRL appearances last year.

Watching The Vodafone Warriors Win on The Big Screen at SkyCity



Mad Butcher enjoying his popcorn and a Warriors win



Corey Hutchins Marketing Coordinator at the Vodafone Warriors.



John and Wendy Tepuke fans from the beginning.



Keith, Selaima and Estelle Taulahi.



Central, Sonya, Nytram Su'e.



Raymond and Pio Rapira.



Charlotte McKell Memberships Coordinator, Greg Purcell, Paul Smith, Susan Turner Corporate Ticketing, Grant McKendry. Members and hosts of the View From The East Stand podcast.



Rogie, Kaycee, Rose and Sue all long time Vodafone Warriors members.



Shay, Paula, Shayla, Jessie, Jemma and Memphis.



Bianca Bush event manager Kyra McGorram Membership intern Georgina Temm Membership Team Leader Susan Turner **Corporate Boss Lady**



Great to catch up with the members of the Stacey Jones Lounge Michael Johannink, Joyce Putoho, Trevor and Lorna Warrington.



Matt Allwood is the player out injured at present. With Jane the Vodafone Warriors account And Myles Dillane.





**The St Paul's Old Boys Association and
St Paul's College Development Foundation
Trust**

**Invites you to a BBQ & Beer Evening with our own
sporting legend Mark Graham (1967-73)
Hosted by Dominic Bowden**

Mark Graham is undoubtedly one of the highest achieving sportsmen to have attended St Paul's College.

Mark's rugby league career included representing NZ Kiwis, 1977-88 (including as Captain), being inducted into NZRL Legends of League 1995 and NZ Sports Hall of Fame 1996.

TV personality, Dominic Bowden (son of Mark Bowden 1968-72), is fresh from hosting the TV series The Bachelor. He is well known as the host of many other reality TV series including New Zealand Idol, Dancing with the Stars, and The X Factor.

Dominic will interview Mark Graham about his life, views and values, mixed with questions from the floor. This will be a fun night to be enjoyed by all.

We welcome old boys and their partners, teachers, friends, family and supporters of the College.

St Paul's College Gym

Wednesday 21st June 2017

5.30pm to 8.30pm

Ticket Price \$20.00 (includes the BBQ)

Cash Bar (beer & wine)

Please RSVP by 16th June to Marie Ackland.

Email development@stpaulscollege.co.nz or text 021 179 9837.

Payment for tickets can be either

By **direct credit to the St Paul's College Development Foundation A/C 03-0252-0509014-000**

or at the door. **Eftpos** will be available.

Parking at the college is on the lower courts with entry off Moira St.



Papakura Feel the Sting

By Talei Anderson

**Howick v Papakura in Rd 9 of the SAS Fox Memorial
Premiership**

THE PAKAKURA Sea Eagles have suffered their fourth loss this season, going down to the Howick Hornets in Round 9 of the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership at Paparoa Park on Saturday.

There were some extra feelings left on the field last weekend as the clubs faced-off in memory of Lia Johnston, a long-serving life member of the Howick Hornets Rugby League Club and an aunty of former Papakura coach, Richie Blackmore.

It was also a first time clash for a number of Howick players going up against their former club, Papakura.

Finding space on the edge coupled with a fast-paced George Edwards gave the opening try to Howick centre Roydon Gillette who scored in the corner.

Within 15 minutes the home side scored in quick succession, attacking the left edge and executing without failure.

Drew Radich added the extras to anchor a 24-0 lead at the break.

Papakura were off to a slow start, and it only got worse for them after losing playmaker and captain Willie Stowers to a suspected broken collarbone.

The Sea Eagles eventually improved gaining control in the middle of the field reducing the deficit to 24-10.

But it wasn't long before Howick hit back, dashing 30 metres to score under the posts with another on the left edge.

Papakura put the final points on the board, but it wasn't enough to out-do the Hornets who secured their seventh victory winning 34-16 on the hooter.

Papakura's Roman Hifo commended Howick for their quality of footy played on the day.

"At the end of the day, they wanted it more than us... that's why they're one of the teams at the top," he said.

"There are a lot of things that we need to work on, but we'll keep chipping away at it."

Hifo admits that their emotions could have played a role in their downfall.

"A few of the boys left this year to play for Howick and I guess some played with emotions rather than playing smart."

"Come half time we knew we had to let it go and play some proper footy."

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

"It started working for us, but it was just too little too late."

Howick captain Jethro Friend said his side were pumped with the win over the defending champions.

"Everyone was looking forward to this game... they're a quality side and I'm sure come the end of the season they'll be one of the sides to beat."

Howick 34 (George Prescott, Andy Matano-Mauigoa, Roydon Gillette x4, Reece Charlie tries; Drew Radich x3 goals) Papakura 16 (Peter Oliveti, Evean Hunt, Samiu Ikahihifo tries; Francis Toetu x2 goals).

In other games, Glenora have successfully defended the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster taking down Te Atatu 30-6 at Harold Moody Reserve.

Pt Chevalier continue to lead the table beating Richmond 30-18 in a local derby at Grey Lynn Park, while Mt Albert come away with a win over Northcote 18-6.

Meanwhile out south, the Mangere East Hawks have taken a step out of the competitions last-place position with a 29-18 victory over the Marist Saints.

This weekend, the SAS Fox Memorial Premiership heads into its second round of the competition.

ARL's live stream match will be played at the Unitec Sports Field where Papakura take on Pt Chevalier.

Rugby league fans can watch the game live online from the Auckland Rugby League website at www.aucklandleague.co.nz from 2.00pm (2.30pm kick off).



Howick retain Lia Johnston Memorial Trophy

[Click here to view results, ladder and this week's fixtures.](#)

LIVE STREAMING VIDEO

SAS ARL™ FOX MEMORIAL SHIELD

LIVE!

ARL LIVE LEAGUE ACTION

P'T CHEVALIER V PAPA KURA

2:30PM UNITEC SPORTS FIELD GATE 3

17 JUNE 2017

STREAMING LIVE WWW.AUCKLANDLEAGUE.CO.NZ

RLWC COUNTDOWN: 19 Weeks to GO!

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

LAST WEEK, Rugby League World Cup (RLWC2017) accompanied Kiwis coach David Kidwell back to his junior club, the Hornby Panthers, to announce the upgrades at two rugby league fields in Christchurch.

Leslie Park and Wainoni Park, the respective home grounds of the Hornby Panthers and the Aranui Eagles, are being re-laid as Christchurch prepares to host two matches during RLWC2017.

Provided both fields are ready, the clubs will be used as training sites for international teams who play in Christchurch during the tournament.

The redevelopments at Leslie Park and Wainoni Park form a key part of the RLWC2017 legacy program, which will allow local communities to enjoy the improved facilities long after the tournament has been played.

Kidwell, who spoke along with RLWC2017 New Zealand general manager Andrea Nelson and Christchurch Deputy Mayor Andrew Turner, was delighted to be back at his junior club.

“I have a lot of good memories here, I’ve made some lifelong friends, seeing the old boys at the club turn up today, I’m humbled by that. Those guys were around when I was growing up and showed me the ways of being a rugby league player,” Kidwell said.

He was doubly happy knowing that there would be a lasting benefit for Hornby and Aranui as well as the wider Canterbury rugby league community as a result of hosting the Rugby League World Cup

“It’s really good to see Christchurch City Council (CCC) get behind this club and Aranui of course.”

“The opportunity to leave that legacy here at Hornby and also at Aranui, it’s going to be great for the community and grassroots, especially after what they went through with the earthquake.”

Tournament tickets and information at www.rlwc2017.com

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.





The Turf Hotel Richmond Rabbits Update

Kia ora everyone

WELCOME TO our weekly update. It was a beautiful day at Lower Ngawhatu as The Turf Hotel Richmond Rabbits faced off against Wanderers Wovles. This was always going to be a hard game given we are the only team to have beaten the Wolves this season so we knew it would be toughie. A lot of work and effort had gone into training leading into this game and we were carrying a few injuries with some key players out of action. This meant even Coach Nick Rangi had to strap on his boots and take to the field. Injured Sunny Morgan stepped into the game day coaching role and did a fantastic job on the sideline. Don't get too comfortable Sunny, we need you on the field!

Soul Emery was first on the scoreboard with an outstanding try, followed closely by Shane Laurence who was dangerously impressive on attack and was justly rewarded with his try. The Wolves got over the line, and then Andy McPhillips and Chris Puklowski crossed for the Rabbits to give us a 22-6 lead at half time. Knowing how easy it can be to lose a game in the 2nd half, the Rabbits knew they needed to keep up the pace for the 2nd half.

Early in the 2nd half Simon Duncan crossed for the Wolves, the first of his 3 tries of the game. Then it was Rabbits traffic all the way, with Sam Hedges crossing twice, then Ricky Matiaha and Shannon Telfar dotting down. Both Ricky and Shannon had strong games and were not only impressive on attack but also a force to be reckoned with on defence. The Wolves crossed again, then Blake Hearne on the wing dotted down for the Rabbits. There were a couple of unlucky non-tries with Josiah Burton and Mitchell Duncan-Jonas coming so close. Sio Tutiea had a strong running game and was able to gain ground for the Rabbits with his strength and skill. Man of the match went to Andy McPhillips who in his first season for the Rabbits has had an impressive season so far for us.

Final score: 46-28 to the Rabbits. A great win for the Rabbits and one we had trained for and were very happy with especially coming off a loss from the week before. Thanks to the team at The Turf Hotel for putting on a great feed and thanks to Dan at The Mad Butcher for supplying the meat. Attached is a photo of the team after the game looking pretty pleased with their effort - and so they should be.

Rabbits: 46 - Emery, Laurence, McPhillips, Puklowski, Hedges (2), Matiaha, Telfar, Hearne: Conv: 5/9 -
Wolves: 26

This week we head to Nelson Intermediate to take on Victory Phonenix. Kick off 2.30pm. See you there.

Have a great week everyone.

Another Kiwi Battler Needs Your Help!

DARREN ANDERSON has been fighting his brain tumor for the past 13 years which is amazing considering his prognosis was just 5 to 7. Over that time he has undergone 3 major brain surgeries and 2 years of chemotherapy and radiation. Darren is just recovering from his latest surgery and we have been told by his doctors in New Zealand that the treatment available here will not save his life. With full support of his specialist we have decided to undergo immunotherapy (the most promising treatment for brain tumours at the moment) in Germany. We believe, after much consideration and thorough research this will give Darren the best opportunity to continue to be an amazing father to his two boys and husband to his loving wife Hilary who has been with him since the beginning of this journey.

Darren is truly amazing the way he has coped with this tumor. It has never slowed him down until his recent diagnosis. He is an extremely talented artist and carpenter. He is also a well respected Taekwondo Leader holding a 3rd dan black belt something he achieved while still battling this beast. Darren's other passion is mountain biking and until now he has not allowed this tumor to slow him down. He has also made sure he has had the best diet and supplements to support his health.

The priority for us raising this money is his children being able to have a father to raise them through their school days and beyond.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us so far on this journey. Thank you so much

Funds raised will be used to support Darren and his family while undergoing treatment in Germany.



Darren Anderson Brain Tumor Battle Fundraiser at Addington Race Way

Friday 18th of August

5pm Start

\$45 per person which includes a buffet meal

If you would like to come along and support this great cause please contact me on adeleandaaron.coull@xtra.co.nz

Money can be paid into this bank account number please put your full name as ref.

38-9014-0050712-04



Reader Mail

Sir Peter,

IT WAS great to meet you on Saturday before the game and even better to see a Warriors victory! We are a group of 4 long standing members who host a weekly podcast called 'View From The East Stand'. We chatted briefly and you kindly gave us a business card and said we could flick you a note. You can find us online primarily through our Facebook page or our iTunes feed:

<https://www.facebook.com/View-From-The-East-Stand-Podcast-1594724054175369/>

<https://itunes.apple.com/nz/podcast/view-from-the-east-stand/id1109837278?mt=2>

All the best Paul
WAR-2454076



MY DAD Colin Pearce turned 60 on the 9th of June. He is a massive Warriors fan so we thought what better present to get him than a signed jersey. With the help of Sir Peter Leitch we were able to surprise him with a 2017 signed Warriors jersey which we got framed. He was really stoked and couldn't believe it. The jersey now takes pride of place in his home office. Thanks again to Sir Peter Leitch for organising and making his 60th birthday one to remember.

Hannah Pearce



IAN AND Marcia, Stacey Jones Lounge members enjoying the WARRIORS great away win over the TITANS last Saturday at the DYSART PUB with publican Jamie Neill and one of his lovely barmaids

Dysart is in the CENTRAL HIGHLANDS of QUEENSLAND approx 300km inland from ROCKHAMPTON and is surrounded by many COAL MINES, millions of tons of coal are exported to ASIA every year

Hi to all the Lounge Members and The Butch who is off the roster with a crook arm and a long face!



We want to wish a few sporting teams good luck for the following week:

Good luck to the All Blacks playing Manu Samoa this Friday in Auckland at 8pm.



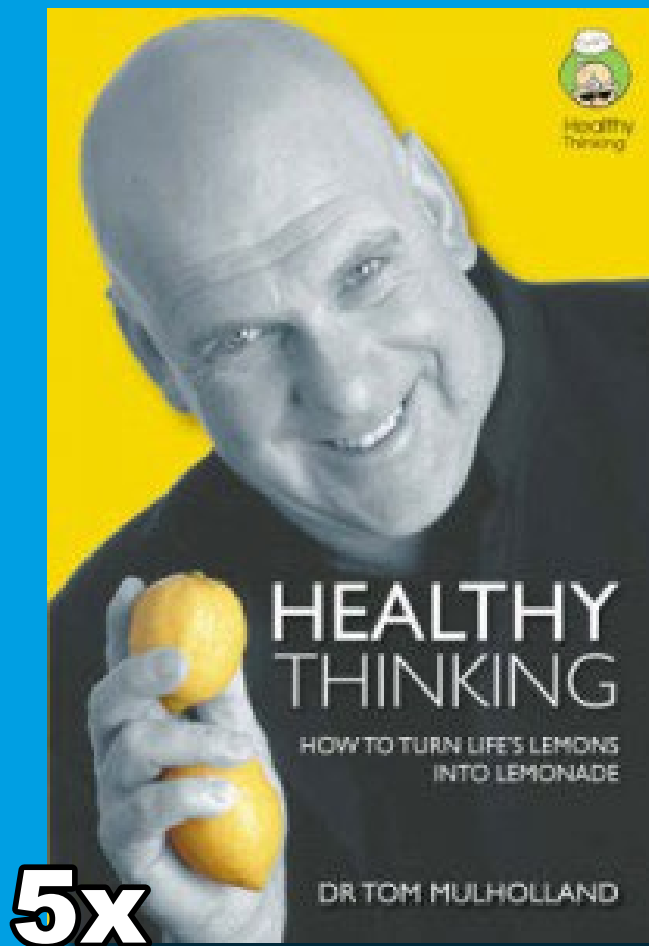
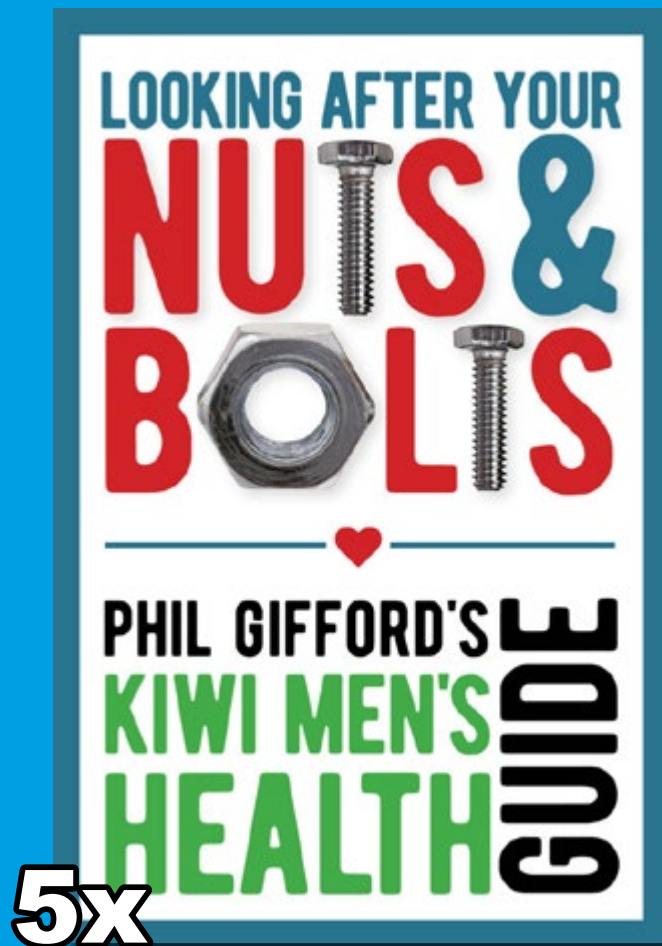
Congratulations to Team NZ for advancing to the finals and good luck on your races against Team USA next weekend.



Good luck to the Chiefs playing the Lions on the Tuesday the 20th in Hamilton at 7.35pm



Men's Health Month Giveaway



To celebrate men's health month we are giving away 5 signed copies of Phil Gifford's book Looking After Your Nuts & Bolts as well as 5 signed copies of Dr tom Mulholland's book Healthy Thinking.

Mens Health
Giveaway
P.O Box 54295
The Marina 2144,
Manukau, Auckland
New Zealand



Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Email:

To enter: YOU MUST subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch Club Newsletter.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number and email to the address on the left.

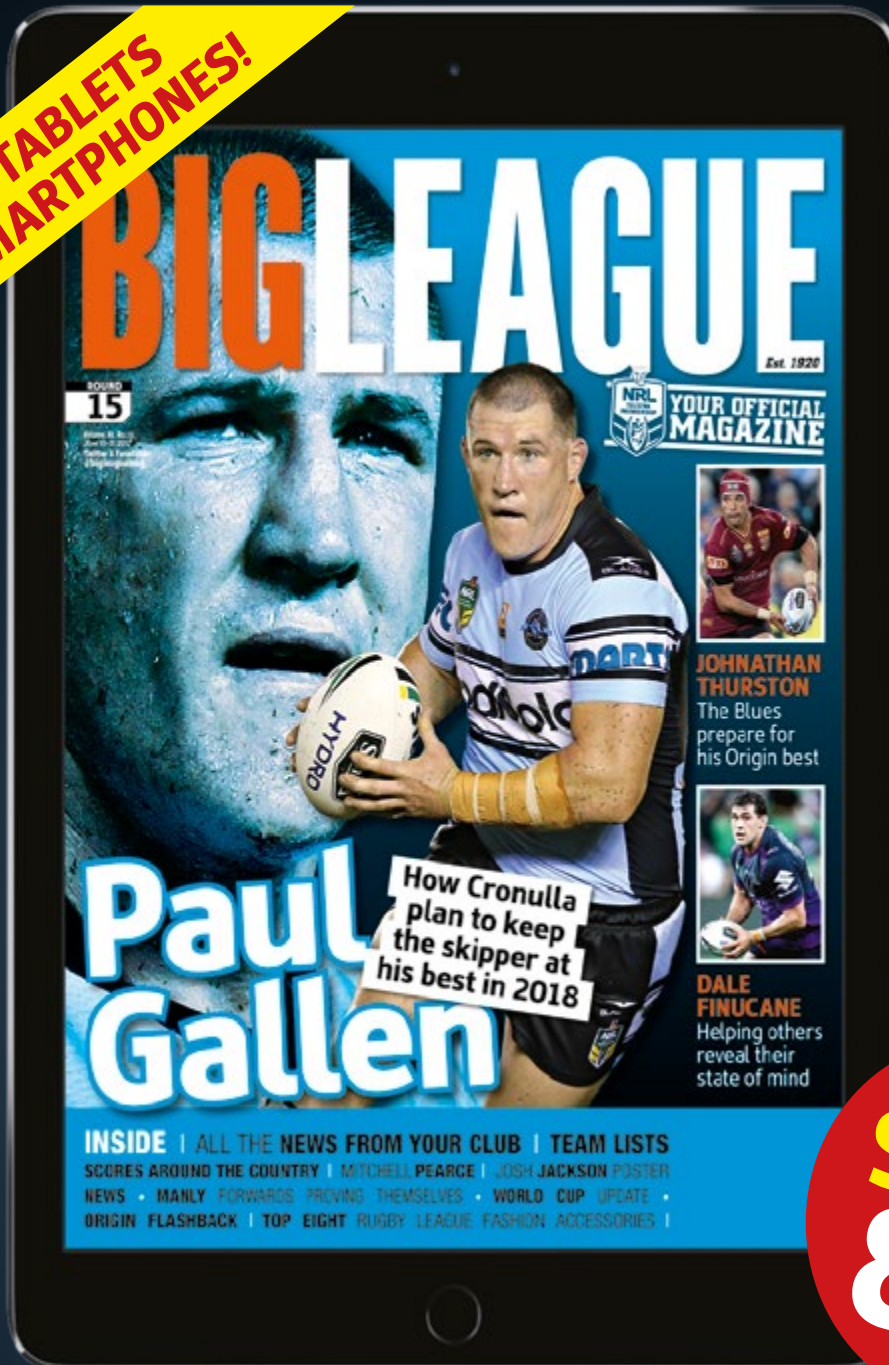
Winner will be drawn on

20/06/2017

MAD BUTCHER SPECIAL

GET YOUR *BIG LEAGUE* DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

AVAILABLE ON TABLETS
AND NOW ON SMARTPHONES!



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.



THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 15 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

- **Paul Gallen** reveals he will definitely be running around for the Sharks in 2018, and coach **Shane Flanagan** explains how the team will get the best out of their captain, who will be 37 years old and in his 18th year of football at the end of his next contract.
- Storm forward **Dale Finucane** knows he has a stereotypically masculine exterior – it led him to putting his hand up to become an NRL State of Mind ambassador and learn more about how to help people struggling with their mental health.
- Manly firebrand **Martin Taupau** says the criticism of his side's pack has rolled off their backs as they've quickly become one of the most under-rated units in the comp. "We're just trying to prove to ourselves... that we're here and we can do the job for the jersey," he says.
- Legendary Blues captain **Danny Buderus** backs **Boyd Cordner** as the man to take the Blues into a bright new future. "He's a man and a captain who was extremely focused on bringing down one of the best eras of dominance that we've seen in Australian sport. The performance he gave in Game One spoke a thousand words – he didn't need to say anything."

PLUS... The **Top 8 footy fashion moments** and **The Analyst** says **Clint Gutherson's** best position is in the halves – though he likely won't play there again following the signing of **Mitch Moses**.



ROUND 15

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, June 15

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via magsonline.com.au

Through Apple Newsstand and Google Play

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@bigleaguemag

bigleague@newslifemedia.com.au

Contact details

Editorial: maria.tsialis@news.com.au

Advertising: bowie.phillips@news.com.au

Support Bowel Cancer New Zealand and Get Your Very Own Signed Vodafone Warriors Jersey!

Signed 2017 Vodafone Warriors Playing Jersey -
#BEATBOWELCANCER

Plus 2 home game tickets!

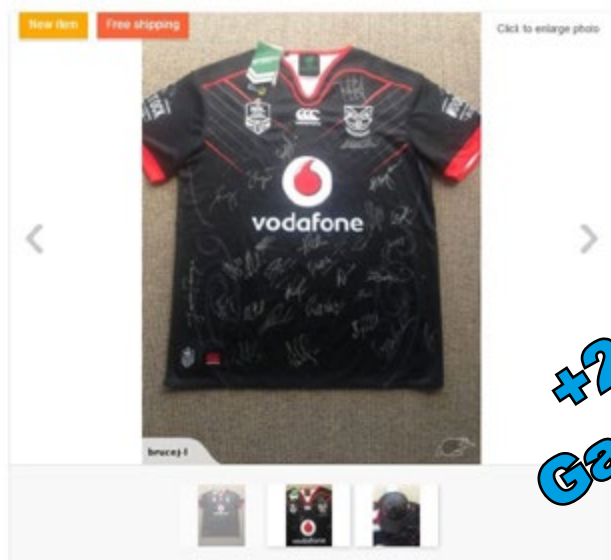
15 people added this to their Watchlist

Listing #: 1345680343
Manukau City, Auckland, NZ

Brand new 2017 Vodafone Warriors Home Jersey. Signed on the front by the playing team. Perfect for framing and display. Size XL.

Plus as an added bonus - 2 tickets to a Vodafone Warriors home game, with passes to the Sir Peter Leitch Club in the Stacey Jones lounge and a 2017 Training cap (black).

Auctioning this item to #BeatBowelCancer



**+2x Home
Game Tickets**

BID NOW

CLICK HERE:

<http://bit.ly/2taKNPD>

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