

VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

21st June 2017

#175

Wasn't He Supposed to Sign For Us?

By David Kemeys

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



SO MUCH for the speculation about Te Maire Martin coming in to replace Kieran Foran. For those of you living in a cave, and who haven't heard, instead the Kiwis international has signed on the dotted line for the Cowboys.

Cowboys or Warriors - not much of a choice is it?

He has signed a deal with the Cowboys until the end of 2019, and considering most of would be willing to predict he will jostle out Johnathan or Matt Moylan from the halves, you'd have to wonder what the attraction of Townsville is compared to Mt Smart.

Scratch that, you would not have to wonder really would you?

Title prospect or perennial under-achiever?

Martin was wanted at the Cowboys two years ago, but chose the Panthers, apparently because he wanted to "fast-track" his career.

How'd that work out for you mate?

Still just 21, Martin has plenty to learn, but I am with those who said he had plenty to offer too, and I am gutted he has turned his back on us.

To be fair, who can blame the young man when he has the chance to learn from Thurston, who is the best there is.

He said it himself: "I'll just soak in as much as I can from JT and try and work on my game. When I turned them down before, there was a part of me that just wanted to play first grade. Penrith was a good opportunity. I didn't really look too much at the learning side of it back then. Now I have a clearer understanding."

Martin clearly did not feature in the plans of Panthers' coach Anthony Griffin, who is said to have always harboured doubts about the player's physicality, and who dropped him to reserve grade after the Panthers lost 28-2 to Cronulla early in the year.

"I got told to go back and fix it. I was being a passenger and my form was down. I wanted to get back to playing good footy in reserve grade but it was quite tough. Things happen - that's just how it works. I would have liked to have stayed. It is what it is. This is a new opportunity for me now."

It certainly is, and it is a lost opportunity for us.

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Couple that with news that coach Steve McNamara's move to the top job at the Catalans Dragons, the worst kept secret in league, has been announced.

It's easy to sit back and ask how much of a loss it will be, given that we have hardly set the world on fire, but remember coach Stephen Kearney brought him to the club, so he must have rated him highly.

Because things are not going exactly as we would like, it is easy to forget McNamara was good enough to coach England – and do a good job of it too.

On the one hand our numero uno Jim Doyle said the club didn't want to stand in his way. "It's not something we could say 'tough luck, you're contracted to us.'"

On the other hand, tough luck, you're contracted to us, but I am just being bloody miserable, and it is not so different than us getting Kearney to move from Brisbane, who did not stand in his way.

We have more coaches than decent centres certainly. So with off, that leaves us with Kearney – hardly setting the world on fire, Stacey Jones, a legend but untested, and Cappy McFadden – tried and failed.

But it's still hard to see the club bringing in another coach.

It's not just a blow for us, but the Kiwis too, since McNamara was appointed assistant coach for the World Cup year. Back to the drawing board.

The NZRL has already started the search for a replacement and Kiwis Rugby League World Cup campaign manager Shane Richardson says an announcement is not far off.

Add to that news prop Tof Siple is off to Manly. "We were keen for him to stay and made a good offer, but it hasn't been enough," recruitment manager Tony Iro said.

We will live to regret that.

Some Are Staying Though

While Martin isn't coming, and McNamara is going, at least we have secured some signatures, though the harshest of critics might wonder why.

Centre Blake Ayshford, a 157-game NRL veteran, has extended his stay until the end of the 2019 season.

Standoff Ata Hingano, who is still just 20, has signed

until the end of the 2020 season. With Martin headed to the metropolis that is Townsville, not hard to see how crucial that signature was.

Winger Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad was our 2016 Super Premiership player of the year, and he's penned a two-year deal. He got called up against the Roosters back in April, then played against Penrith, St George and Brisbane, scoring doubles against the Panthers and Dragons. He looks a great prospect.

Halfback Mason Lino captains our ISP side, and has been around so long it is hard to remember he is only 23, and he's aboard for another two seasons.

NYC players Lewis Soosemea and Joe Vuna have also got new deals. You could be forgiven for asking who? Soosemea is a wing, and Vuna a second-rower with our youngsters.

Too Much Time On My Hands

The good thing about the bye round is that you get two points, while the boys get to put their feet up.

The bad thing is that it means I have too much time on my hands, and that leads me to trying to figure out the mathematics and permutations of getting to the hallowed ground that is top eight.

It seems so long ago that it happened, but only because it is so long ago that it happened.

Me and maths are not the best of friends.

But the conventional wisdom is that 28 points will get you there – although it's only a few years since we had exactly 28 points and got beaten to the finals on for and against.

We are six and eight, for a 12 point haul. Add in four points from this weekend's bye and our second in a few weeks, and that's 16 points.

Even I can figure out that means we need at least six more wins, assuming Josh Hoffman does the kicking from now, so we will probably be okay for and against points wise.

No matter how you chop and change it, this Friday night at Mt Smart against the Doggies is going to be massive. We struggle away from home, so getting the points in Auckland is critical.

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The following week we are away to Manly, who always beat us, home or away.

Then it's that second bye I mentioned, before the Penrith Panthers come to our place. I've decided, despite the fact I think the Panthers are a good side despite not always showing what they are capable of, that one is winnable.

This prediction lark is a mug's game, but since I have been called lots of things considerably worse than mug, I have us at 20 points going into round 20 – that's four more from the byes, and four from beating the Doggies and Panthers, but losing to Manly, especially given we have to go to Perth.

Logic tells you we might as well not bother to go to Townsville, and the Sharks will be way too good even given how strong we are at home. Two losses on the bounce.

Bugger, it is starting to look like the same old story – four wins needed from our last five. We might get the first of them against the Knights, even across the ditch; but the following week the Raiders visit NZ, and they never seem too bothered by that.

The old sphincter, if I am right – and my wife says I always think I am – will be tightening because we will be on 22, having done the Knights and lost to the Raiders.

That is going to mean winning our last three – away to the Rabbitohs – not impossible; Manly's return visit to ours, and the last game of our regular season, another away trip, to the Tigers.

Looks like more bad jokes on Radio Sport about our mathematical possibility of making it.

Of course that is a load of conjecture, and anything could happen. The most favourable being we win all 10 we have to go and walk it.

Doesn't seem that likely though, does it?

SKD Shown The Door

So Shaun Kenny-Dowall got sacked by the Roosters. Cocaine will do that for you.

He has been stood down since he was charged with possessing the old Colombian marching powder last month, and the club brought the axe down last week.

“The Roosters have announced Shaun Kenny-Dowall has been released from the remainder of his playing

contract with immediate effect,” a statement on the club's website said.

And how's this for complete bullshit? Roosters chief executive Joe Kell, on the club's website: “Shaun has made a significant contribution to the Roosters' on-field success across his 13 years at the club, and for that, we thank him. The club wishes Shaun all the very best in the future.”

Yeah, right.

Kenny-Dowall still has a few years left in him, at 29, but it is hard to see those years being at another NRL club, although it is rumoured the Knights have shown interest.

He made his debut for the Roosters way back in 2007 and played 224 games, scoring 121 tries along the way – second only to Anthony Minichiello.

The whole thing is just plain sad.

How To Make A Million Dollars Vanish

The NZRL is about to report a 2016/17 surplus of \$643,000, a pleasing financial result that up from the \$342,000 surplus last year.

It's come about because the Perth test and UK Four Nations delivered returns ahead of budget.

That means there are reserves of \$1 million accumulated.

But don't get too excited, with the 2017 Rugby League World Cup - from which the NZRL receives not one brass razoo - the NZRL is expecting to cop a \$1 million loss for the 2018 financial year.

No surprise that the reserves built up will pay for that.





Changes for Bulldogs

by Richard Becht

VODAFONE WARRIORS head coach Stephen Kearney has made two personnel changes and a positional swap for Friday night's 16th-round NRL clash against Canterbury-Bankstown at Mount Smart Stadium (8.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: Suzuki).

Solomone Kata is unavailable after being given bereavement leave to fly home to Tonga following the sudden death of his older brother yesterday.

David Fusitu'a moves in from the wing to replace Kata in the centres while 2017 NRL rookie Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad has been called up for his fifth first-grade appearance.

The other change is on the bench with hooker Nathaniel Roache returning. Sam Lisone, Albert Vete and Bunty Afoa are again listed in jerseys 15-17 with James Gavet, Manu Vatuvei, Ligi Sao and Ata Hingano rounding out the extended bench.

"Our hearts go out to Sol and his family at this time," said Kearney.

"We're all thinking of him and send our deepest sympathies to the family."

Kata appeared in the last two matches against Parramatta and Gold Coast after being sidelined with an injury. His return saw Nicoll-Klokstad drop back to the club's Intrust Super Premiership side after his first four NRL outings against the Sydney Roosters, Penrith, St George-Illawarra and Brisbane.

This week's encounter – the Vodafone Warriors' fifth Friday night game this season – follows a bye round for both the home side and the Bulldogs. They're also both coming off wins, the Vodafone Warriors accounting for Gold Coast 34-12 on June 10 and the Bulldogs stopping St George Illawarra 16-2 on June 12.

Second rower Ryan Hoffman will have his first outing back home after his unforgettable 300th career appearance in Robina when he scored the Vodafone Warriors' opening try and completed their scoring with a sweetly-struck conversion of Hingano's late try.

The two teams both have 6-8 win-loss records with the Vodafone Warriors sitting 11th on the table on points for and against and Canterbury-Bankstown 12th. They're two points outside the top eight.

After St George Illawarra and Manly, the Bulldogs rank as the Vodafone Warriors' third toughest opponents since entering the competition in 1995. The win-loss ledger reads 20-13 in Canterbury-Bankstown's favour while there have been two draws.

VODAFONE WARRIORS

v

CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN BULLDOGS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

8.00pm, Friday, June 23

Vodafone Warriors

1 Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (C)	11 Bodene Thompson
2 Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad	12 Ryan Hoffman
3 Blake Ayshford	13 Simon Mannering
4 David Fusitu'a	Interchange:
5 Ken Maumalo	14 Nathaniel Roache
6 Kieran Foran	15 Sam Lisone
7 Shaun Johnson	16 Albert Vete
8 Jacob Lillyman	17 Bunty Afoa
9 Issac Luke	18 James Gavet
10 Ben Matulino	20 Manu Vatuvei
	21 Ligi Sao
	22 Mafoa'aeata Hingano



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)

Dennis Williams: Two Grand Slams

THE GREAT 1977 Auckland rugby league team which beat the Australian, British and French world championship sides to achieve an improbable Grand Slam will get back together this weekend to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of their unique feat. Kicking off a busy few days, the players are guests of honour at Friday night's NRL match between the Warriors and Canterbury Bulldogs. A team photo is on the agenda during Saturday's reunion, when captain Dennis Williams will again hold the ball surrounded by the players he led to victory over the Kangaroos 19-15, the Lions 14-10 and the Tricolours 17-0.

It was a hectic time for Williams, who also played for the Kiwis in their world series losses to Australia and Britain and victory over France. He played six international matches in only 23 days, including travelling down to Christchurch to prepare for the British Test and hurrying back to Auckland to pull on the blue and white jersey two nights later. Williams was then 23 years of age but had been a regular in his provincial and national teams for six years. The remarkable story of this country's greatest rugby league prodigy had started when a previous Kangaroos side made a brief visit to New Zealand in 1971.

Williams was only 17 when he showed his maturity in Auckland's 15-14 triumph over the Kangaroos, clinching a place in the Kiwis touring team for Britain and France. But the Kiwis had given the Australians a 24-3 hiding in the only Test match and it was felt the youngster would need to bide his time before making his Test debut. He was 17 years and 345 days old when he debuted for the Kiwis and scored a try against Rochdale Hornets in the opening tour match. But the Kiwis lost four of their six games leading up to the first Test at Salford, although wily coach Lory Blanchard had not revealed his shadow Test team.

When the Test side was initially announced Blanchard retained the very experienced Gary Woollard at stand-off half. Woollard had partnered Ken Stirling in the halves against the Kangaroos earlier in the year, but when he injured a thigh at training Blanchard had no hesitation in promoting Williams into the starting line-up. Williams turned 18 only the day before the Test and obviously had no chance of celebrating that milestone. Room-mate John Whittaker had his only reason to be nervous, for Blanchard had surprisingly switched him to fullback. Whittaker was a quality centre and wing with no experience in the No.1 jersey.

The British media gave the Kiwis no chance of winning, and when the Lions ran in two quick tries (then worth three points) and a goal to lead 8-0 after 12 minutes their predictions looked ominously accurate. Williams had not even touched the ball by then. Yet this amazing young man was to change the course of the match, and the entire tour, from the first pass he received from Stirling. Hooker Jim Fisher wrested the ball from the writhing, hotly contested scrum and Stirling moved the ball speedily to Williams. Dazzling Dennis did the rest, stepping past Roger Millward, Chris Hesketh and Derek Whitehead to score from 30 metres.

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It is one of the great New Zealand rugby league stories that the inspired Kiwis lifted their game, dominated their rivals, and walked off with a shock 18-13 win. In the second Test at Castleford the wounded Lions roared out to an 11-point lead before the Kiwis did the near impossible by winning 17-14. Williams was again at his brilliant best and Blanchard's other gamble also paid off. Whittaker proved to be such a natural fullback that British journalists would not believe he was totally unfamiliar with that role. This was the first New Zealand Test series victory on British soil since the original 1907-08 All Golds.

The Kiwis went on to win two Tests and draw the third in France to complete a Grand Slam over their three traditional rivals. Williams played in all six Tests on tour, switching to the centres for the last four of them after Bernie Lowther was injured. They were the first of a record 29 consecutive Tests for Williams, out of a career total of 31 through to 1981. He captained the Kiwis in the absence of an injured Stirling against Wales at Swansea during the 1975 world championship series. This was the infamous match when brutal Welsh prop Jim Mills stomped on Kiwis forward John Greengrass after Greengrass had scored a try.

It could be said that 1977 Auckland coach Bill Sorensen provided his team with a good omen when he appointed Dennis Williams captain for the seemingly impossible mission of taking on and beating Australia, Britain and France in the midst of an international tournament. After all, Williams knew what a Grand Slam was all about. By the end of June 1977 the other 18 Auckland players did too.

State Of Origin's Rivalry Is As Alive As It's Ever Been

By John Deaker



ICAN'T WAIT for Wednesday night. As a Queensland fan I've been hurting nearly as much as the players since the 28-4 loss in State of Origin 1. If getting revenge and regaining pride has been on my mind you can only imagine how much it's built up in the Queensland camp leading up to game 2.

There's been so many changes to the Queensland team (7 to be precise) it's hard to be certain what to expect from them. In contrast the Blues have stuck with the same 17 from game 1 for the first time since 1996 when their Phil Gould coached team secured a 3-0 series win.

Apart from getting dominated up front Queensland also looked to lack game-breakers (like Greg Inglis) during the first match. Selecting players like Thurston, Slater and Valentine-Holmes for game 2 will undoubtedly have Laurie Daley's men more worried about how they'll contain the Maroons.

The extent that their fresh selections for this match will fix the problems up front for Queensland from game 1 is anyone's guess. They badly missed Matt Scott in game 1 but maybe even more of a loss appeared to be the class and experience of Corey Parker. In light of this the most controversial head to roll from the 24 point loss in game one is probably Sam Thaiday who has been such a consistent performer for the Maroons since his Origin debut in 2006. How young men like Tim Glasby, Coen Hess and Jarrod Wallace front up to people like Andrew Fifita and David Klemmer will be crucial to the match and compulsive viewing for rugby league fans.

There have been critics that have suggested Origin's lost its spark and some of its traditional appeal over the last decade, especially through the period when Queensland were so dominant for so long. Some of the same people have accused Origin of becoming too sanitized. If those critics can't get excited about the prospects that Wednesday night has in store for them then they're simply too hard to please.

There's also the more mouth-watering prospect of a series decider at Suncorp Stadium if Queensland can get a victory in game 2. Unfortunately, I think the Blues momentum will be too strong to contain and I'm picking a win by them (as I did before game 1) by about 5 points on Wednesday night.



Auckland Rugby League Honour 1977 League Legends

By Talei Anderson

The Auckland Rugby League will pay tribute to some of New Zealand's finest league legends this weekend when all 19 players from Auckland's 1977 premier representative team come together to celebrate 40 years since their 'remarkable grand slam'.

In June of 1977, the provincial team made headlines for their magnificent and historic performance in taking down Australia 19-15 on June 1, Great Britain 14-10 on June 14 and France 17-0 on June 21.

Former Kiwis prop and Auckland player Lyndsay Proctor who played in the infamous fixtures has surpassed expectations in bringing together the entire squad this weekend to remember the nights played under the lights at Carlaw Park and their supreme victories.

"We all played part in a team that made its mark on Auckland league history," said Proctor.

"It will be 40 years this month... we're not getting any younger, and the fact that we're all here to celebrate and remember those days at Carlaw Park is wonderful.

"Looking back, it certainly was a great time for us all."

Of the 19 players to take the field of dreams that month, 14 played for the Kiwis or went on to represent New Zealand, five were named Kiwi captains and three were inducted into New Zealand Rugby League's Legends of League. Former Kiwi loose forward and Auckland player Mark Graham was also named New Zealand Rugby League's Player of the Century.

The record-setting side will be guests of honour at the Vodafone Warriors match when they play the Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs at Mt Smart Stadium on Friday June 23 (8.00pm kick-off).

On Saturday, the Auckland Rugby League will pay tribute to the side at the home of the Richmond Bulldogs (Grey Lynn Park) ahead of the SAS Fox Memorial clash between the Richmond Bulldogs and Northcote Tigers (2.30pm kick off) where clubs, players and fans can join them in celebrating their reunion of 40 years.

The day will also be streamed live online from the Auckland Rugby League website at www.aucklandleague.co.nz (2.00pm).

"I'd like to invite everyone down to the Richmond Rovers Rugby League Club this Saturday," said former Kiwis and Auckland utility back Fred Ah Kuoi.

"All 19 of us will be there to take part in celebrating 40 years and it would be great to catch up with fellow players, family, friends and all those who remember the good days at Carlaw Park."

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“We’d love to see you there!”

League legend Fred Ah Kuoi invites you to meet all 19 players of the Auckland international championship team of 1977 ([watch here](#)).

Auckland's 1977 grand slam results

June 1 Auckland 19 Australia 15

June 14 Auckland 14 Great Britain 10

June 21 Auckland 17 France 0

The team

Gary Kemble, Warren Winter, Dane O’Hara, Fred Ah Kuoi, Olsen Filipaina, Dennis Williams, Chris Jordan, Dane Sorensen, John Smith, John Wilson, Glen Taylor, Lyndsay Proctor, Dave Sorensen, Kurt Sorensen, Alan McCarthy, Mark Graham, Dave Lepper, Mark Lowe, Stan Napa, Luther Toloa.

Event details

What: 1977 Auckland international championship reunion / ARL SAS Fox Memorial live stream match Richmond v Northcote

Where: Richmond Rugby League Club (Grey Lynn Park)

When: Meet the team from 1pm / Richmond v Northcote game 2.30pm kick off

RSVP to the event ([here](#))

LIVE
STREAMING
VIDEO



ARL LIVE LEAGUE ACTION
RICHMOND V NORTHCOTE

2:30PM GREY LYNN PARK

COME DOWN MEET THE ARL 77 TEAM OF LEGENDS
24 JUNE 2017

STREAMING LIVE

WWW.AUCKLANDLEAGUE.CO.NZ

Back Up Players

By Barry Ross



THE SHARKS back-up players have done a good job in the State of Origin period. On Saturday, Cronulla came from 16-4 down early in the second half, to score an important 24-22 win over the Wests Tigers. Both sides were missing men because of State of Origin commitments. The Sharks were without five key players, while the Tigers were missing fullback James Tedesco and prop Aaron Woods. Sitting on the sidelines for the Sharks were Andrew Fifita, James Maloney, Jack Bird, Wade Graham and Valentine Holmes. Playing in the centres, 23 year old Kurt Capewell scored two of Cronulla's five tries and ran for 251 metres. It was Capewell's eighth top grade game this season and his 12th overall. Fa'amanu Brown, 22, at five eighth did well in just his third first grade match this season. Daniel Mortimer, now 28 and the son of former Bulldogs star, Peter Mortimer, became Cronulla's 511th first grader when he took the field as replacement hooker from the bench. Mortimer played in the Roosters 2013 Grand Final winning team and also played with Parramatta and the Gold Coast before joining the Sharks. In his first top grade game with Cronulla, Mortimer played 32 minutes and made 20 tackles and it was his match winning grubber kick at dummy half, from a couple of metres out from the Tigers tryline, which led to Jayson Bukuya's match winning try. It was Mortimer's 127th first grade game.

In the lead-up to Origin One, the Sharks also scored a tight and vital win. In that game, halfback Chad Townsend slotted a 78 minute field goal to give Cronulla a 9-8 victory over the Bulldogs.

In both of these games, veteran forwards, Paul Gallen and Luke Lewis, played key roles in the wins. Against the Tigers on Saturday night, 33 year old Lewis made an impressive 40 metre burst from inside his own half a minute before Bukuya scored the winning try.

Before the first grade win at Shark Park on Saturday night, the Cronulla under 20s set a new Holden Cup record when they trounced the Tigers under 20s by 84-6. This is the highest score in the history of the competition. First coach, Shane Flanagan, especially enjoyed the win, as his son Kyle, finished with 32 points from two tries and 12 goals from 15 attempts. Flanagan is the leading point scorer in this season's Holden Cup with 208 from 10 tries and 84 goals. Centre, Briton Nikora, 19, collected three first half tries. Winger, Sione Katoa, 19, did not score against the Tigers, but he leads the Holden Cup trygetters with 13. The Sharks are on top of the Holden Cup ladder with 25 competition points followed by the Dragons, 24, Penrith 23 and the Cowboys and Knights both on 18. The Sharks, Dragons and Cowboys have played 14 games, while the Panthers and Knights have played 13 matches.

There are two famous names in the Dragons Holden Cup team. Five eighth, Tristan Sailor, 19, is the son of 39 year old Wendell Sailor, who played 16 Tests for Australia. Tristan, who played juniors with the Illawarra Western Suburbs club, has played in every game for the Dragons this year and has collected 12 tries. Winger/centre, Dylan Morris, 18, is the son of Steve "Slippery" Morris (1 Test versus New Zealand in 1978) and a younger brother of Bulldog stars, Brett Morris (18 Tests) and Josh Morris (6 Tests). Dylan has played just five Holden Cup games with the Dragons but has scored four tries. Playing in the Kiama Knights first grade side at Kiama Showground in a South Coast competition game on 10 July last year, Dylan finished with four tries in Kiama's 46-16 win over Albion Park-Oak Flats.

Penrith Holden Cup second rower, Reed Izzard, is the son of Craig Izzard, 52 and nephew of Brad Izzard 55. Craig began his first grade career as a Penrith second rower, but also played with Parramatta, Balmain and the Illawarra Steelers, finishing with 119 top grade matches. Brad played 206 first grade games (73 tries), all with the Panthers, mainly as a centre and also represented NSW in four Origin matches. He also scored a try in Penrith's 19-12 win over Canberra in the 1991 Grand Final.

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Kalyn Pongia, who will join Newcastle next season, has played seven of the Cowboys 14 Holden Cup games so far this season, scoring five tries and two goals. Born in Port Hedland Western Australia to his Maori father, Andre, Kalyn is regarded as a NRL star of the future. He made his first grade debut at 18 years of age with the Cowboys in the semi final at Townsville against the Broncos on 16 September last year in the 26-20 extra time win.

It's good to see Raelene Castle's name mentioned as a possible replacement for the under pressure CEO of Australian Rugby Union, Bill Pulver. The former Netball New Zealand chief will finish up as the Bulldogs CEO at the end of this season after four years in the job. She is a good operator with plenty to offer any organisation.

At the 15,500 capacity Bislett Stadium in Oslo on Saturday, Norway defeated Sweden 38-18, after leading 18-6 at halftime. Norwegian five eighth, Mathias Vada Strenseth-Holm scored two tries and was the man of the match. Other Norwegian players to shine were prop Sjur Strand, 18 year old winger Ola Magnus Brekk, who was the youngest player from both teams, hooker Kristoffer Milligan and halfback Nathan Cummins, younger brother of Wallaby winger Nick Cummins. Half Andrew Bignell and five eighth Chris Ah Lam, were impressive for Sweden. Norway will play Denmark in August. The Norwegians intend to get together at an Oslo bar this Wednesday morning local time, to watch the second State of Origin match in Sydney.

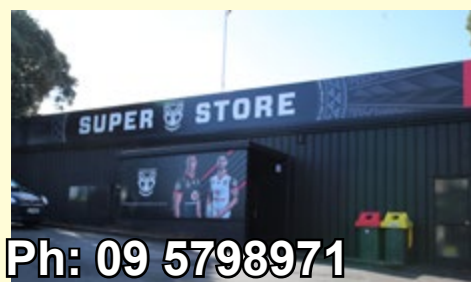
The Dragons 30 year old halfback, Josh McCrone, is set to join the Toronto Wolfpack next season. McCrone played 133 first grade games with the Canberra Raiders before moving to the Dragons for the 2016 season. After their high point scoring this season in the English third tier competition, the Wolfpack will no doubt play at a higher level next year and so will sign more well known players. On Sunday, the Wolfpack continued their unbeaten run with a 58-12 victory against Workington Town at Derwent Park in north-west England. The match was delayed more than four hours because the referee and four local players were delayed on the M6 motorway after a major traffic incident. This Saturday, the Wolfpack play Hunslett at Lamport Park in Toronto. The Director of Wolfpack rugby, 56 year old Brian Noble, who is a former great Britain Test player and coach, was awarded an MBE in the Queens Birthday Honours list.



Left to right: Nathan Cummins, Nick Cummins and Ola Maguns Brekk

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Young Kiwis on Display

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)



THE WARRIORS had last weekend off, and thus improved their NRL ranking thanks to their two bye points, but there were still opportunities to watch young New Zealanders making their way in the world's best rugby league competition. With only four NRL games played, there was also more time to catch up with some other sports, notably Team New Zealand's America's Cup challenge against defender Oracle USA. Can't say I watched much of The Greatest Tour but it has been interesting to note how many former leaguies have featured in international rugby union team lists over the last couple of weeks.

Down Melbourne way there is an ongoing contest between West Coaster Slade Griffin and Waiheke Islander Brandon Smith to succeed the great Cameron Smith as the Storm's next first-choice hooker. In State of Origin weeks coach Craig Bellamy starts with Griffin, brings on Smith for the second and third quarters and closes with Griffin. On Saturday Smith scored his second try in as many first grade appearances but Bellamy still summoned Griffin back from a head injury assessment in golden point time. He was rewarded when Griffin provided the perfect pass for Brodie Croft's field goal to beat the Cowboys 23-22.

Wests Tigers dropped to the bottom of the table when conceding two late tries to lose 24-22 to Cronulla. Losing in the last minute would have soured the memories of their first NRL tries for Esan Marsters and Malakai Watene-Zelezniak. Marsters was playing his third game in the top grade and has already alternated between second-row and centre. Of stocky build, the 20-year-old, 102kg Marsters hails from the Mount Albert Lions. Watene-Zelezniak, 25, actually made his NRL debut for Penrith alongside younger brother Dallin before moving in mid-season to the Tigers. A wing, this was his fourth first grade appearance.

Any concerns Storm fans might have had about the looming retirements of Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and Billy Slater were exorcised despite the closeness of the contest with the equally Origin-affected Cowboys. Cronk leaves at the end of this season but Smith and Slater have another year or two in mind. While Griffin and Smith have the No.9 jersey covered, Brodie Croft showed in his second NRL match why he is Junior Kangaroos captain and heir apparent to Cronk. The more established Cameron Munster can play either fullback or stand-off, while rookie centre Curtis Scott scored two tries to underline his potential.

While new stars are emerging in Melbourne, many former players are finding homes in rugby union. Champion code-hopper Sonny Bill Williams has been joined by Ngani Laumape in the All Blacks squad. According to coach Steve Hansen, Laumape is apparently back from a period in the "wilderness" at the Warriors. Fine Steve, but he obviously learned enough while at Mount Smart to catch your eye. Then there was former Canterbury Bulldog Nehe Milner-Scudder on the New Zealand Maori wing and 110kg Cooper Vuna on the Tongan wing, 13 years after his Warriors debut. I don't know if either got a chance to run with the ball.

The woeful Wallabies are suffering from another rash of ex-leaguies. Israel Folau reportedly is still worth the price of admission, but has recently linked up with Karmichael Hunt (also via Aussie Rules) and Eto Nabuli, who was a hotel porter in Fiji when "discovered" by Andrew Johns and Brad Fittler. He failed to make an impact at Penrith but played 13 times for St George Illawarra. Still waiting in the wings (literally) is Marika Koruibete, another Fijian who has downgraded from the Storm to the Rebels in Melbourne. Over in Argentina, England's winning try was scored by New Zealander Danny Solomona, who infamously broke his Castlford contract to change codes.

All of the above will be overshadowed by the America's Cup when it resumes on Sunday. The positive manner in which Team New Zealand opened its challenge is building massive support for what is often one of our more maligned sporting endeavours. The new-look team led by Australian skipper Glenn Ashby and Kiwi helmsman Peter Burling is a refreshing change from previous campaigns. Prolific fund-raiser Grant Dalton tried to be too many things to too many people at San Francisco in 2013 but has wisely hidden from the television cameras in Bermuda. Burling also presents a pleasant contrast to predecessor Dean Barker.

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Oracle's Aussie helmsman Jimmy Spithill willingly fills the role of villain. He has the perfect prickly manner to raise the ire of the over-sensitive New Zealand media. Speaking of which, the New Zealand Herald has done well to get their yachting reporter to Bermuda for the duration. But Fairfax's scribes do not have the all-important "in Bermuda" in their by-lines. And one Radio Sport host severely criticised Sky for not sending its own commentary crew over there, obviously unaware his own firm planned to shackle renowned caller Peter Montgomery to a television screen in their Auckland studio for all the preliminary rounds!

Gatland

By Miles Davis



WHILST THE Lions start to build momentum and cohesion on the field (well in their Saturday games at least) there are cracks appearing off of it. One of the tasks facing every Lions coach is unifying the players from four nations and with Warren Gatland being a Kiwi one would have thought that he would have a lack of bias that would make that task easier. Sadly he not only let his Welsh bias blatantly affect his initial squad selection but has now compounded it with his choice of replacements for injured players.

Questionable inclusions in his initial selection were his Welsh buddies Sam Warburton and Alun Wyn-Jones. Warburton had hardly played any rugby in recent times managing just over 60 minutes rugby in the 2 months before heading down under. Wyn Jones had a similar lack of activity yet both players were selected in front of fully-fit, quality players. How Joe Launchbury (who was a standout in England's 6 Nations triumph) missed out was a real head-scratcher and one wonders what Dylan Hartley has done to upset the Lions coach. For the England captain to be overlooked yet his understudy Jamie George be included is another puzzle.

Gatland's choice of replacements are not only baffling but also show disrespect towards the jersey and worthy players who have once again been overlooked. Ireland and England have been overlooked as 4 Welshmen and 2 Scotsmen have been called up. Players that would struggle to get into a first choice XV for their country have been preferred to seasoned internationals. Gatland claims that he made the decision due to those players already being within the same geographic region which would aid their assimilation into the squad. A rather lame excuse for mine.

The Lions only tour once every 4 years and are supposed to comprise the top players from the four home nations. To overlook those players is a disgrace and is liable to taint Gatland's legacy. There are already rumblings of discontent from within the camp who rightly feel that players who have been overlooked should have been given the honour of the Lions jersey.

For the last four years, and for some even longer, players have worked hard to get as far as they can in the game and put their hand up for the last of the great rugby tours. To have their jersey handed to unknown benchwarmers is nothing short of a travesty and will undoubtedly leave a sour taste in the mouth of players and fans alike. To be honest I am slightly gutted that I wasn't considered. After all I am only a bus ride away from Eden Park and was willing to clean my boots for the occasion.

PS: Having said all that it will likely not make any difference to the final result of the series with the All Blacks still a long way ahead of the competition.

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



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By Miles Davis

Fred Jackson

FAMILY LINE-UP: The Jackson family of Te Araroa produces many rugby greats. British and New Zealand rugby and league legend Frederick Stanley Jackson is pictured in the 1930s at McLean Park, Napier, with his three sons who played for the NZ Maori team – (from left) Everard Jackson, Stanley Jackson and Frederick Jackson. Everard was also an All Black.



Frederick Stanley Jackson and Sons

HISTORY IS full of Kiwi league players who have travelled to the other side of the world to enrich the UK's playing stocks and win multiple honours. Every now and then however there is the odd individual who makes the journey in the opposite direction and becomes part of the local landscape. This tale is about one of those and although his involvement in league may have been minimal by comparison, his story is one of mystery and intrigue.

Frederick Stanley Jackson (we shall call him that for the purposes of this story) came to New Zealand with the 1908 version of the British Lions (actually an Anglo-Welsh side). A goal-kicking forward he played against New Zealand in the first test and kicked a conversion in the 32-5 defeat. He also scored a try in the 22-3 win over West Coast before things started to unravel.

The tour management were under the impressions that Jackson was a rugby union player from Cornwall but whispers in the homeland started to unearth a different story. Some said he had played rugby league for Swinton under the name John Jones while others said he had played the same code for York under the name Ivor Gape. At a time when Union was trying to maintain a superior attitude of the amateur over the professional this caused a furore at HQ. A telegram was sent to New Zealand with just 5 words – Jackson suspended, return him forthwith. . A star of the tour and well-liked by his team-mates it was a sad scene in Wellington as they farewelled him on the SS Matai.

Jackson however had no intention of heading home and on arrival in Sydney he cashed in his ticket and returned to New Zealand to re-unite with a young Maori lady who he had formed a relationship with – Horowai Henderson of Te Araroa in Poverty Bay. Henderson it appears was already engaged to another so the pair eloped to Hastings to get married.

Jackson returned to playing rugby league and in 1910 was captain of the Auckland side that played Great Britain then became Kiwi No: 47 when he represented New Zealand against Great Britain in the same year. It was to be his only test but he made his mark kicking 4 goals in a 52-20 loss. Later that season he was suspended by Auckland Rugby League for assaulting an official who had insulted his Maori wife.

Jackson and his wife had 5 children (4 sons and a daughter). Son Everard went on to become an All Black prop whose career was ended when he lost his leg fighting in the Western Desert during WWII. Everard's brothers Syd (Bully) and Tutu Wi Repa represented New Zealand Maori. Jackson's grandson (Everard's son) Syd became a prominent Maori and trade union activist. His great-grandson is none other than former (and perhaps to be once again) MP and media personality Willie Jackson.

But what was Frederick Stanley Jackson's real name and who was he? Even his children did not know the truth by the time he passed away in 1957 but the likely truth is as follows.

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He was Ivor Thomas Gape from Morrision, Swansea (the name may have transformed into Gabe and he is reputed to be the cousin of RhyGabe – born Rees Gape - who made the tackle that supposedly denied All Black Bob Deans the try in 1905).

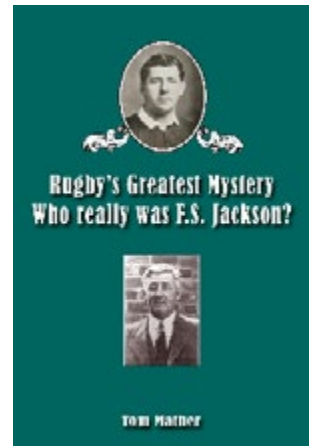
He served as a Trooper in the Boer War and played league under the assumed names stated earlier. He had apparently taken his assumed name from Sir Frederick Stanley Jackson, an English cricket captain of the early 1900's.



Everard Jackson



Horowai Henderson Age 19 just after wedding



Who was F S Jackson

Having taken his secrets to the grave the full truth will never be known but he has left his mark on New Zealand and surely there are fewer more intriguing stories in rugby league than that of Kiwi No: 47.

Black Sox on Quest for Championship Title

THE GOLDEN Homes Black Sox depart last Saturday in their quest for an unprecedented 7th softball world championship title.

The XV Mens World Softball Championship will take place in Whitehorse, Canada from July 7-16 with 17 teams from 5 continents taking part in what promises to be a highly competitive and hard fought event.

The No.1 world ranked Golden Homes Black Sox will be seeking to turn the tables on their host country rivals Canada who took the title in a thrilling 2015 championship final.

Coach Mark Sorenson along with Captain Nathan Nukunuku have selected a very exciting and balanced 17 man squad that includes a mixture of power hitters and world class athletes throughout the line-up including the 3 Enoka brothers from Auckland.

The warm up tour sees the group arrive in Vancouver on Saturday to begin preparations before taking on 16 tournament fixtures in both Vancouver Island and Victoria before travelling north to Whitehorse.

On behalf of Softball NZ I thank everyone for their continued support of our fine game and ask you to please join with me in wishing these talented world class athletes the very best in their quest to return home with a 7th championship title and cement their legacy as arguably New Zealand's most successful field based sports team.





By Shane Hurndell
Hawke's Bay Today
Sports Reporter

Harris' Return A Boost As World Cup Looms

MR CONSISTENT Tohu Harris in action for the Storm against the Cowboys on Saturday night.

TALK ABOUT typical more under the radar-type stuff from Hawke's Bay's most famous recent rugby league export Tohu Harris.

The Warriors-bound enforcer played his fifth consecutive game for the Melbourne Storm, since his return from a foot injury which sidelined him for almost two months, during Saturday night's thrilling golden point 23-22 win against the Cowboys in Melbourne. Being a Hawke's Bay-based league fan I can easily be accused of being a little biased but surely the big smoke league journos could have made more of Harris' return.

The Hasting Boys' High School product means as much to the Kiwis rugby league team as the likes of Kieran Read, Sonny Bill Williams and Danes Coles do to the All Blacks. And look how much media attention this trio have attracted when on the injury list and on the verge of comebacks.

Harris' consistency was missed during the Kiwis disappointing ANZAC test loss to the Kangaroos last month. However he again proved he is on target for a return to the international arena with a powerful 163 metres on the carry in the centres and 49 tackles during his 84 minutes of action on Saturday night.

Another Kiwi who missed the test but one more than capable of securing a World Cup berth is Nelson Asofoa-Solomona who enhanced his chances with his workrate for the Storm. Even more pleasing was the form of one of the Storm's substitute forwards Brandon Smith.

Part of the Kiwis extended squad in the buildup to the ANZAC test, Smith, didn't make the final 17 but he has 'future long-term Kiwi' written all over him. Should he continue to produce displays like Saturday night's it will be hard for Kiwis coach David Kidwell to leave Smith out of the World Cup equation.

Considering nine big-name players were out of Saturday night's game because of Origin duty it was a quality match. Both clubs showcased their depth and Kidwell would have been impressed with star Kiwi forward Jason Taumalolo's 94 metres on the carry during the first 24 minutes.

Should Harris need inspiration as he continues his quest for World Cup selection he only needs to check on the progress of his old school's 1st XV rugby team. The country's No 1 ranked team recorded its 11th consecutive win for the season with a 38-3 victory against Napier Boys' High School in a Super 8 round two fixture in Napier on Saturday.

Winger Kini Naholo, a younger brother of All Black Waisake Naholo, scored two tries to take his season tally to 30. The team has scored 610 points while conceding 50 in 11 games.

It will be interesting to see if HBHS can maintain this run when head coach, former New Zealand Secondary Schools head coach Mark Ozich, leaves the role at the end of term two to take on the assistant coaching role with the Hawke's Bay Magpies Mitre 10 Cup squad.

Former All Black Sevens player Tafai Ioasa will step up to the head coach role with HBHS.

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Magpies head coach Craig Philpott was head coach of the Baby Blacks team which won the Under-20 World Championship in Georgia on Monday morning with a 64-17 thrashing of defending champions England in the final. Magpies No 8 Marino Mikaele-Tu'u and Hawke's Bay age group prop Pouri Rakete-Stones started in the final.

Magpies pivot Tiaan Falcon and another Bay age group prop Tim Farrell both missed the final with injuries.

Meanwhile Dannevirke-based businesswoman and shearing industry legend Mavis Mullins last week became the first female to be elected or appointed to a Hawke's Bay Rugby Football Union's director's role in the union's 133-year history.

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



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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



The poster features a dark background with blue and white lightning bolts. At the top left, a yellow and grey train is shown. Text reads: **FREE train service** included with match ticket* from 5pm with valid match day ticket. Below this are the logos for Vodafone Warriors and Bulldogs. At the bottom, it says **FRIDAY JUNE 23 MT SMART STADIUM**. On the right side, there is a photograph of two rugby players in action, one in a blue and white kit and the other in a black and red kit, both holding a white rugby ball.

Homies on Top

By John Holloway

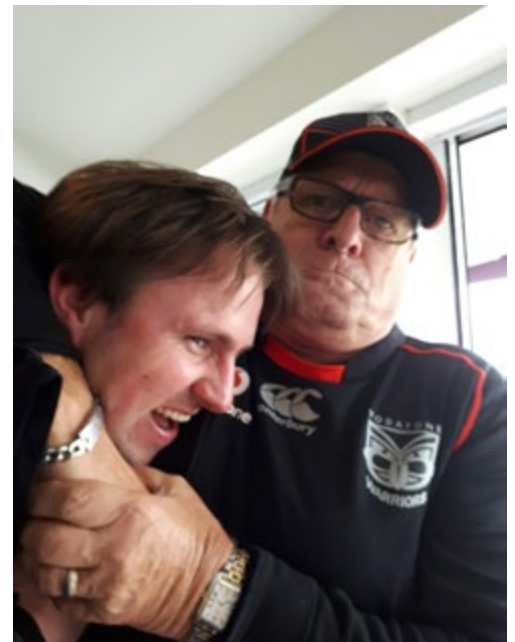


THIS PAST week I tipped the 4 NRL Home teams to win and so far so good with only the State of O to go. I am a Maroonie fan but again I think they will come second in Sydney. In saying that they stand a much better chance this week with a much changed lineup that starts the youthful rebuild process for Queensland. JTs return is a help of course but the Blues are on a confidence high now and still have the power and speed advantage up front and some serious penetration at the back. Blues by 8 my pick. When you read this the game will likely have been played over-nite so you will be able to judge my comment as cool or cold right now.

Only 4 matches played but some really good footy and talent on show. Young Crichton an up and comer for the Bunnies bagged a triple in their win over the tilting Titans 36/20. The pacy and hardworking second rower has shown rapid improvement in recent games and looks the goods, one to watch. For the Titans Ashley Taylor is the real McCoy as well albeit not getting a great deal of support from his team-mates lately which blunts his game. The Storm were at home to the Cowboys in the game of the round and it lived up to the billing. Both sides depleted of stars. Feldts try and 5 goals was not enough for the Far North Rustlers with another youngster Brodie Croft crowning a very good personal performance with the winning 1 pointer at the death 23/22. Bellamy will be smiling at the solution Croft brings to the question of Cronks replacement next year. Munster again was outstanding for the Storm. The reigning Prem Sharks were another shorn of topliners but once again performed their Houdini act, running down a gallant Tigers outfit with two strikes in the last minutes. 24/22. The Old-timers Luke Lewis, Prior, Gallen and Heighington holding the Shireboys together. Centre stand-in Capewell took his chances and was also prominent for the winners. On the other hand heartbreak for Ivan Cleary who had a boil over victory in sight. For the Westies ex Warrior Lolohia sliced through for the opening try and he and halves partner young gun Roberts did their best throughout behind a valiant pack effort. The Slippery Eels were too quick for St George who battled well but lacked finish. 24/10. Norman, French and especially Gutherson led the way for the Parratroopers and fiery second rower Nathan Brown another stirring display. Pomstar Gareth Widdup did his best for the Red V.

Round 16 beckons with 7 games only but I'll give ya the tip... anyone who can pick 7 winners this week deserves a Knighthood. OK not a proper one like the Butcher but a decent gong of some sort. A series of exciting and evenly balanced battles awaits the League faithful. Read it and weep..., Cowboys v Panthers, Raiders v Broncos, Roosters v Storm, Sharks v Sea Eagles Boom! Not to mention Warriors v Bulldogs, Tigers v Titans and Dragons v Knights.. Mate pick the eyes out of that lot. Hard to say if all the reps will slot back in but most coaches will be hungry for the win in these tight looking matchups. Pretty much all hit-outs could go either way but what the hell lets have a go. High-Tackle into the haystack with a needle, Cowboys / Raiders / Roosters / Sharks / Warriors / Tigers / Dragons. That's it team, short n sweet. Catch ya next week. Gooo the Waarriiooors

ps. High-Tackles mighty Richmond Bulldogs had a tight win over Te Atatu Roosters in the Fox... The Hawks got dumped sorry Butch.



High-Tackle Holloway defending Warriors honour

We want to wish the All Blacks, All Whites, Team NZ and of course the Mighty Vodafone Warriors all the best for their upcoming games and races.

Vodafone Warriors Giveaway



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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

CRL Legend Series No. 5: Ray Haffenden

By Will Evans - Canterbury Rugby League

LINWOOD, CANTERBURY and New Zealand Rugby League icon Ray Haffenden was recognised in last week's Queen's Birthday Honours, appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to rugby league.

A long-serving fullback for Linwood and Canterbury, Ray went on to make an enormous impact as a coach, manager and administrator.

He coached Canterbury for six seasons during the 1980s, had a successful stint as Junior Kiwis coach, and managed the New Zealand Kiwis under Bob Bailey and Frank Endacott in the 1990s.

A tireless worker for rugby league, Ray – a life member of the Linwood club and New Zealand Rugby League – held many administrative posts, and served as vice-chairman and chairman of the NZRL from 2006-16, helping steer the game's governing body through a turbulent period.

WILL EVANS caught up with Ray to chart an association with rugby league that has lasted more than half a century.

WE: How did your rugby league journey get started?

RH: My uncle got me to go down and play for Linwood when I was about eight or nine years old. I made the reps for the Under-10s and went to Greymouth, had a bit of success there as a young bloke and it sort of followed on from there.

You played in Linwood's premiership-winning teams in 1968 and '70, a great era in Canterbury club football?

Absolutely, it was a good, hard competition. I played for Linwood for 12 years in the prems, and we had our ups and downs of course, but there was certainly some very strong competition from clubs like Papanui, Hornby, Addington, always good competition against Marist thanks to Bill Whitehead and his mates. And we got good crowds at the grand finals in those days.

Did you play fullback right through your career?

That's where I was right through the grades – I think I played on the wing for Canterbury at one stage, but for Linwood I probably played in every position except hooker during my career. I enjoyed the forwards as well actually.

Who are some of the characters from those days that stand out in your memories?

I would have to say that 'Greeny', John Greengrass, was an exception to the rule. I think he came from Belfast Rugby, but as a league player he played in (17) Test matches which most people probably don't realise. He was a personality in his own right, and an awesome footballer – amazing speed for a second-rower or prop. Many times he saved my bacon at fullback when he tackled a flying winger, covering across the park – and when he hit them, they stayed hit. He didn't really like training; he used to duck off to the changing rooms when (coach) John Flanagan made us do our '660s'!

We had guys like John Rosanowski who could kick goals from anywhere, and he won us the grand final against Papanui in extra-time (in 1970). I think my mate Gary Clarke, who I spoke to yesterday, put the ball in the scrum crooked and got penalised, which was a bit rough, but 'Roso' kicked the goal. It wasn't till years later he told me he couldn't see without his glasses, that all he could see was the posts in a blur – but he still kicked the goal from 40 metres out.

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Wally Wilson is another one who comes to mind, well known in Canterbury of course, I played with Wally for a number of years. But there's so many of them that came through the game (during that era) – Paul Truscott, Lester Wilson, Lew Hudson.

But my earliest memories from the point of view of people who have had an influence on the success you have yourself, I couldn't let it go past without speaking about Jim O'Neill. He was my mentor as a young man and helped me a lot.

What were the highlights of your time playing for Canterbury?

The first game I played was against a Queensland Country side, Jim White was our captain. They had a guy, I think his name was Grimmond – he was a lot like Mocky Brereton, he had high knees when he ran. In the first few minutes he made a break down the wing and I had the job of stopping him, which I think I did, but I can always remember this guy coming towards me with his high knees, looking almost impossible to stop.

We didn't have a lot of Canterbury games in those days – I don't have any Canterbury photos, for instance, and I wouldn't have a clue how many games I played for Canterbury – but the South Island game I played in against Great Britain (in 1974) on the West Coast was a pretty big effort. We got beaten (33-2) but to play against Great Britain was a pretty special time.

Did you ever feel that you were close to breaking into the Kiwis side at any stage?

We used to have camps and trials and that sort of stuff, and I went to most of those. But it was always difficult to break the mould of the Auckland players, they always had a bit of a harder competition in those days, and I had Donny Ladner from the West Coast ahead of me as well so that made things difficult. Then Michael O'Donnell got into the Kiwis side (from Canterbury), which was great. I'm very happy with what we achieved; it was all about family, the team and the club – the club was the centre of your universe in those days because you couldn't really afford to do a hell of a lot more.

Did you coach Linwood?

Yes, I was a co-coach with John Flanagan – it might have been while I was still playing – and then took over as manager of the team, and coached a few Canterbury rep sides on the way through, Under-19s and the reserve grade side. Then I took over the Canterbury job.

You coached Canterbury in 1982, took a year off and then have another five seasons in charge – obviously there was some pretty memorable times during that era as well?

I was very lucky that I was sent to Australia by the New Zealand Rugby League. I was also the Canterbury Coaching Director, so I had a job coaching the coaches, and I went to a place called Armidale College for a week's coaching. It started about 7 in the morning and finished about 9 at night, we had kids from the age of 10 to 18, and there were about 60-70 of them and a number of coaches.

So I came back – brainwashed is probably not the right word, but very close to that, on the skills of the game, because the whole week was about skills training. Wayne Bennett was there, Benny Elias, Steve Ella, Wayne Pearce, Greg Alexander, so there was a smattering of players and real 'supercoaches' as they turned out to be. It was a real learning curve and a huge thing in my career.

I came back with all these new ideas and we were probably the first people in New Zealand to use tackle bags, for instance. I enjoyed doing that sort of coaching, so the Canterbury team was well-versed in that sort of stuff – skills and drills. At one stage we put them all through the Level 1 coaching course, so it was a learning curve. I found it a real challenge, and if you talk to some of the guys like Wayne Wallace, they'd probably say we were a bit weird in some of the things we did, but it was all about creating the environment for the players to get better.

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And you had some of the more memorable players of the 1980s in your side – Phil Bancroft, Wayne Wallace and those guys in your team?

Yes that's right. Some of them were already Kiwis and some of them went on to become Kiwis. In terms of that the Junior Kiwis team I took to Papua New Guinea probably stands out as one of the highlights of my career. Because of the communication problems they never really got the credit they deserved, but they played six games over there and won every one of them. We had Blair Harding from Canterbury, who's no longer with us, Jarrod McCracken, Whetu Taewa, Sean Hoppe, Hitro Okesene, Stephen Kearney. And the good thing was because there wasn't a lot else to do, we trained a lot together, and a lot of those guys became Kiwis and I was fortunate enough to manage the sides that they were in.

You preceded Frank Endacott as coach of Canterbury and the Junior Kiwis, and Frank went on to have a lot of success with both sides – do you like to think you played a bit of a part in that success with your stints as coach before him?

I hope that Frank doesn't mind me saying that I think the boundaries were set (during my stints as coach) and some platforms were set. I like to think that some of those players learnt from what we taught them.

You managed the Kiwis in 1990-91 under the coaching of Bob Bailey – the win over Australia in Melbourne in '91 must have been amazing to be a part of?

Absolutely, there's some very distinct memories. Bobby Fulton was coaching the Australian team, a very high profile person in the game, and he didn't take the loss very well at all. I went out to the bus and I could see Bobby Fulton, he was ducking in between the cars and leaving the ground but also hiding as he left. As he went past I jumped and the air and went "Yes!" – it's just something that came over me.

Another story that stands out is before the match I was in the lift at the hotel, nervous as anything, and there was a guy in there. Just to make conversation I said, 'Are you going to the game tonight?'. He said, 'I'd love to but I've got no tickets.' He was a Kiwi, so I asked him for his room number, found Bob (Bailey) and got a couple of tickets from him and gave them to reception to slip the tickets under his door.

We came back to the hotel later on to have a couple of drinks – and we never really got to celebrate because we were so busy – but this guy kept on following me around, he was pretty drunk. Bob asked me who this guy was, and I had no idea so I asked him. He said, 'I'm the guy you gave the tickets to, it's been the greatest night of my life.' But it wasn't the same guy from the lift – they must have gone to another room or there was some mix-up, so the wrong guy got the tickets but he had a great night.

But to be involved in that win stands out in everyone's memory. The sad thing is we were too busy to celebrate it – we certainly didn't stay out till 5 in the morning and do dumb things...

And you carried on as Kiwis manager under Frank Endacott?

That's right, and we've been friends ever since. I really enjoyed my time working with him, he's easy to get on with and the same with Bob Bailey, we knew our boundaries, and being a coach myself – I actually applied for the coaching job when Bob got it.

(Bob and I) are still very good friends, we see each other regularly, and I always have a good time when I'm with Frank – as everybody else does. I was very lucky. The support of other people around me (was great) and Canterbury was so good to me, the board was so supportive, Bevan Olsen as manager and Neville Diggs were so easy to work with that it made life so easy.

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What did you get up to between that period as Kiwis manager in the mid-1990s and your term on the NZRL board from the mid-2000s?

I moved to Auckland about 1992, and I was on the New Zealand board in the nineties as well. But we had the Bartercard Cup running in those days, so every Saturday we would do the judiciary for that, so it was quite a busy time. I've never been idle, let me put it like that. We've built the (New Zealand Rugby League) museum, which took us a few years, and there's always something to be done.

What memories will you take away from your time in the New Zealand board as vice-chairman and chairman (2006-16)?

The fact that we made a change and the fact that I got the chairmanship was not designed – I wouldn't say it was by accident, but it wasn't meant to happen the way it did. I sometimes get criticised for taking over from the previous chairman in untoward circumstances, which is complete rubbish. The previous chairman, Andrew Chalmers, resigned, as did the three independent board members at the time because we weren't in good shape. That left us in a huge hole.

We had a vote and I was appointed chairman. That was probably the toughest six months of my life, in terms of media, and we had so much to do to get the new board back together. We had a lot of work to do to get people back onto the board and to get the numbers right. We gradually succeeded in doing that, but again only with the help of a number of dedicated people, and a huge amount of heartache. It was tumultuous, quite frankly.

But we got there, and then we had the review from SPARC, and again that was a pretty torrid time for New Zealand Rugby League and all those involved. We were cut out from any sponsorship and funding from poker machine (revenue), so that was tough. It's history now, but it was tough at the time, I can tell you.

Were you able to enjoy some of the success – on and off the field – that the Kiwis and New Zealand Rugby League had during this difficult period?

We got ourselves ahead, but the reason that we were able to survive was that the Australian (Rugby League) chairman Colin Love – and to me he was one of the most respected and revered guys in the world in rugby league – phoned me up and said, 'They tell me you're not a bad sort of a bloke. I hear you're in a bit of trouble, what do you need?'

I said, 'Money'. He said he'd be over after Christmas with Geoff Carr and we'll meet. So the ARL gave us money to keep us afloat. We had a Test match coming up that year, so they gave us money from that ahead of time, and that was the only thing that saved us. If we hadn't have got that we probably would have ended up selling our property; but for the Australians we would have been in deep strife.

We formed a really close relationship with those guys from that point on, and I worked on the International board when Colin was there, and we had a really good relationship. I still talk to him very regularly. They came to our (aid), and that should never be forgotten.

You've been living in Auckland for 25 years now...do you still consider yourself a Cantabrian?

You know the old saying – you can take the boy out of Canterbury, but you can't take Canterbury out of the boy. I try to follow them as much as I can, I went to watch the ladies play (in the Women's National Tournament) and I was very pleased to see some of them make the Kiwi Ferns team. And it's always pretty special when I go home.

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

Your life memberships with Linwood must mean a lot to you?

I came down for the 100th anniversary a few years back, and I was a guest speaker. That was really fantastic, and I wore my badge for the first time.

Canterbury Rugby League has endured some tough times over the last 20 years – particularly after the earthquakes – what's your view on how the code is shaping up down here?

I would be remiss to say that I knew exactly what was going on, but I can see from afar that there's some progress. I know it's extremely difficult with the way rugby union is so strong, and I was present the day the Showgrounds were given over to the (Canterbury) Rugby Union. I was always hopeful that one day they'd give it back, and I still am. I'm not sure of the politics of what's happening at the moment, but I think they've got some good people there that are trying their very best to make things happen.

And it must be satisfying to see Christchurch host a couple of World Cup games this year?

Absolutely. Naturally all of us that played at the Showgrounds have got a very special memory of it because that's where we played most of our football. Very rarely did we play anywhere else. It was a special place to be with the Linwood ladies running the canteen and Bill Whitehead on the microphone, everybody dressed up. Great times.



Ray Haffenden

Check out the rest of the Canterbury Rugby League Legend series on their website:

www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz



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Like Father, Like Daughter As Junior Refs Program Launches

By Rebecca Brebner - Canterbury Rugby League

EVERY WEEKEND, without fail, Owen Harvey can be found either running refereeing senior games or watching over his 13-year-old daughter, Chloe, who's training to follow in his footsteps.

Owen has recently taken on the responsibility of launching a junior referees development program. Coordinated through Canterbury Rugby League, the development program is still in its infancy and is based at Canterbury Park on Saturday mornings.

The initiative was established to refine the skills of the up-and-coming referees, and to also help overcome the issue of having a scarce supply of experienced referees in the region.

Owen decided that since he was spending so much time with Chloe working on her development, he may as well oversee the other junior referees. He's aiming to establish a core group of aspiring referees, and has already had interest from several Riccarton boys aged between 10 and 14 years old.

According to Owen, the process is lengthy as it takes a while to learn all the tricks of the trade.

"It may take me the rest of the season just to get my feet into it, then I'll be looking into getting these boys used to it and hope to hit full speed ahead next year," the experienced referee says.

In the meantime, Chloe is loving the opportunity of getting her hands on the whistle. Owen says it's not surprising she's progressed so quickly into it.

"She's been watching me run around reffing my games her whole life," he explains.

Chloe, one of the only females controlling league games in Canterbury, believes the program is an excellent incentive for more young blood to train up, be inspired and get involved with the Canterbury Rugby League community.

She believes there is no downside to putting your hand up to be a part of the program.

"It's heaps of fun, really good exercise and hanging with the kids is the best part of all," Chloe says.

With the help of her father, Chloe's entering her 10th week of training and gaining the much-needed confidence to referee at a higher level.

"Dad and I have just been doing different drills and online courses."

She believes that, "with Dad's help I hope to participate in the national games and maybe ref overseas one day."

As expected, Owen is backing her 100 percent of the way.

"She's got something to strive for. I've told her, if she sticks with it, by the time she's old enough to play, she won't be playing she'll instead have a career in refereeing".

Owen says it's all still a new learning curve for him. However, he insists that the program doesn't have to be solely for junior referees – it can also include parents who are continuously on the sideline and want to increase their knowledge of the game.

Both Chloe and Owen believe that more girls need to get involved. Instead of relying on others to lead the way, they are now playing a key role in promoting refereeing in the region. In their spare time, the father-daughter duo go through various online drills, and courses to enhance their skillsets.

However, both agree that it has all been worth it for the love of the game.

"The Canterbury women involved with league love seeing her down there on a Sunday leading the way," Owen enthuses.

For those who enjoy rugby league and would love the opportunity to be a part of the program, feel free to contact Owen Harvey on 021 176 7064.





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SHOP NOW



Tuivasa-Sheck Returns To Former Primary To Support RLWC2017 Schools Competition

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

NEW ZEALAND representative Roger Tuivasa-Sheck is supporting Rugby League World Cup 2017's call for teachers to put their students in the draw for a once in a lifetime opportunity by registering for the Rugby League World Cup 2017 (RLWC2017) Education Resource.

Classes that register for the nationally available RLWC2017 Education Resource before 7 July 2017 go into the draw to "Walk Out With The World's Best" rugby league players at a RLWC2017 match in New Zealand.

During a visit this morning to his former school, Mayfield Primary, Tuivasa-Sheck spoke of his excitement that students had the chance to experience what the players do when walking out in front of a passionate crowd during the sport's major international event, the Rugby League World Cup.

"What an amazing opportunity this competition offers to have the chance to walk out with us and the other teams playing here in New Zealand during this year's Rugby League World Cup," he added.

"It's simple for teachers across the country to register for the the Rugby League World Cup 2017 Education Resource and put their class in with the chance to be part of something very special."

Tuivasa-Sheck also saw the first-hand benefits of the RLWC2017 Education Resource after taking part in activities with the students at Mayfield.

"I wish there were similar initiatives like this when I was at school. The Rugby League World Cup 2017 Education Resource is a great way for kids to learn about a range of relevant topics using rugby league inspired activities, including different countries and

cultures," he said.

The RLWC2017 Education Resource, developed in conjunction with the New Zealand Rugby League (NZRL), is a great classroom tool for primary and intermediate students.

The Resource, which is based on material from both the men's and women's Rugby League World Cups, includes engaging classroom ideas that can be used across all sections of the curriculum – mathematics, english, social sciences, art, health and physical education.

RLWC2017 General Manager New Zealand Operations Andrea Nelson said: "We're delighted that Rugby League in general is being used as an educational tool across the country through the Rugby League World Cup 2017 Education Resource.

"We're also really excited that primary school aged children across New Zealand will have the chance of being part of the sport's leading international event and we hope even more teachers can register for this Education Resource in the last few weeks, giving their students the opportunity to be part of this unique competition."

For more information on the Rugby League World Cup 2017 Education Resource or to register, [click here](#).

Tournament tickets and information at www.rlwc2017.com





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THE FIELD WITH THE PLAYERS
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Competition closes 7 July 2017. Education Resources will
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Any questions, contact Kirsty Sharp (kirsty.sharp@nzrl.co.nz).
For more information on the tournament, visit RLWC2017.com.
Rugby League World Cup 2017 • 27 October - 2 December 2017

Turn over for two activities to get you started ...



WELL-BEING • HAUORA



ROGER TUIVASA-SHECK - KIWI #779

For Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, well-being comes from eating right, drinking lots of water, being a lifelong learner and staying close to his family. "A healthy diet helps my body keep up with all the work I have to do," he says. "I eat lots of fruit, veges and meat, and I snack on things like nuts and protein shakes. Someone gave me good advice once: stick to the outside aisles of the supermarket. That's where you find fruit, veges, meat, fish and dairy products. I try not to go into the middle aisles because they're full of processed foods. I don't really eat fast foods – if I do, it would be something like sushi. I need to eat well so I can perform well and try to get a win!"

As well as eating right, Roger believes that drinking water is crucial for well-being. "It's probably the most important thing a person can do" he says. "Your body is made up of 70 percent water, so it's important to keep the water inside you to make sure all your body's systems and organs keep working well. When playing or training, I sweat a lot, so I need to replace the lost water to make sure my body recovers and I can do it all again the next day. I try and have at least eight big glasses of water a day. I always have a drink bottle in my hand."

When Roger was a student at Otahuhu College, he worked as hard in class as he did on the footy field. "As a sportsman, being well educated is key," he says. "My footy talent will help me make the team, but it's my knowledge and willingness to learn that'll help me achieve even greater things." Roger has been studying business and communications so that he can develop different skills for a career when he finishes playing rugby.

What helps Roger cope with the pressures that come from being a rugby league player? His family. "I was only 16 years old when I was selected to play for the Sydney Roosters," he says. "My family gave up their lives in New Zealand and moved to Australia to support me. When things get tough, I remember what my family did for me. That keeps me focused, grounded and humble. It's not just me I play for – I want to succeed for my whole family because they've done a lot for me."



Find out more about Roger Tuivasa-Sheck at bit.ly/RTSWarriors and see a video of him in action at bit.ly/RTSinAction

LEARNING ACTIVITIES



TALKING POINTS

'Being healthy' includes physical, mental, social and spiritual health.

What do you think league players need to do to stay healthy – on the field, through their training, and at home?

What do you think players need to do just before a game? You will see players drinking water and warming up; how do you think this helps them?

Roger talks about being humble; what does it mean to 'be humble' on the sports field?

Do you think it is important to belong to a group to be healthy? What are the kinds of groups that help us?

How do you think sports teams contribute to a healthy community?

Support your students to consider their well-being across the four dimensions of hauora – physical, mental and emotional, spiritual, and social well-being. Use a self-portrait or autobiographical story to initiate the conversation. As a class, devise strategies that support people in different areas.

Think about your community and the places, people and services that are part of it. How do groups like the local league club contribute to the physical and social health of your community? And how do other places contribute to a sense of well-being in your community?

Compare what you do to stay healthy across all four areas of hauora to what you think a league player does to stay healthy. What is the same? What is different? Discuss why that might be. What about people who play other sports?

Wellington Saints Rule Supreme

By Grant Chapman



SPORTING PERFECTION is so difficult to achieve, so when it happens, it must be celebrated.

Stand up and take a bow, Wellington Saints.

In claiming their 10th National Basketball League title – their fifth since 2010 – the capital-based club achieved 20 wins from 20 games during the 2017 season, culminating in a 108-75 win over Southland Sharks in the final, played in Tauranga.

It marked the first time any team had gone unbeaten over the course of an NBL season.

Matched up against their closest rivals over recent years, Saints trailed by three points late in the second quarter, but seized momentum with a 12-0 run to lead 44-37 at halftime.

After the break, Wellington imposed their will on the contest, outscoring their rivals 34-17 in the final period.

“I said to them after the third quarter ‘look, you can let them hang around and bring it back to under 10 if you want to or we can perfect basketball and show the country of New Zealand some of the best basketball that they’ve ever seen played,” reflected coach Kevin Braswell.

“That happened in the fourth quarter – these guys went out and just did it.”

Point guard Shea Ili lead all scorers with 31 points, including five three-pointers, and was deservedly named Most Valuable Player of the final. League scoring champion Corey Webster contributed 27 points, eight assists and seven rebounds, after averaging 26.0 points a game over the regular season.

Only three teams finished within single figures of Saints all season – Canterbury Rams (94-85) and Southland Sharks (88-86) presented them with everything they could handle on a South Island road trip in the second week, while Hawke’s Bay Hawks (98-90) pushed them in their 17th outing.

“The culture we’ve built in Wellington in the last two years has been unbelievable, and people come in and fill their roles,” said Braswell, entering playoff weekend. “That’s what gets you an undefeated record.

“There have been really good teams in this league who haven’t been able to do this and sometimes it’s the little things about culture and finding your role.

“If you’ve got guys who are willing to buy in and accept roles, everything else is easy.”

Saints’ success was reflected in the NBL regular season awards, where Webster was named Most Valuable Player, New Zealand MVP and Outstanding Guard, Tai Wesley won Outstanding Forward and Ili joining them in the All-Star Five.

Braswell was awarded Coach of the Year, having amassed a 35-5 record since retiring as a player two years ago, while Saints general manager Fran Scholey was named Administrator of the Year.

Saints roster:

Ben Anthony Jnr, Nico Buckrell, Josh Duinker, Damien Ekenasio, Leon Henry, Shea Ili, Theo Johnson, Isaac Letoa, Jordan Mills, Jordan Ngatai, Elliott Stubbins, Jackson Stubbins, Arthur Trousdell, Corey Webster, Tai Wesley

Hauraki Tigers Under 6s

By Rino Wilkinson

THE HAURAKI Tigers junior rugby league teams travel to Thames on Sunday to play amongst other teams that included the hosts, Thames South, also Piako Eels, Morrinsville Bulls and the Te Awamutu Fire hawks.

The day at Rhodes Park saw age groups compete from under 6's through to under 12's.

Overall it was an awesome day seeing parents, families and a heap of supporters cheering on these talented youngsters.

Thanks to the hosts – Thames South for the day.



Reader Mail

Hey Butcher,

IT WAS Bumpers birthday so the girls and myself got him the new Jets hoodie of which he is the first recipient and his special birthday card showing his great love of the mighty Warriors. Thought you might like it. He does so much for our club we are kissed on the arse by a rainbow to have him.. Good luck to your boys in coming weeks.

See ya

Terry Rowney - Newtown Jets



Riccarton Knights Rugby League Club Junior Fundraiser

By Renee Barclay

To whom it may concern

WE ARE hosting a quiz night on Saturday 15 June 2017 to raise funds for our Junior Riccarton Knights Rugby League Players. Our club has reached a milestone this year turning 90 years old, We have just over 90 girls & boys aged from 4 years to 14 years. We are a family orientated club that is well established and supported within our community.

As with any not-for-profit organisation having cashflow to enable us to provide our players with training gear, equipment and playing uniforms can be an uphill battle and running fundraisers is our way of ensuring we are doing all we can as a committee to provide the necessities to our young players.

We would love any donations that your company/business would be willing to make that we can then use at our quiz night for team prizes, spot prizes and raffles to make the evening a success and alot of fun for all attending.

We will mention your company during the evening and are happy to display any advertising for your company. We also have a facebook page "Riccarton Knights Juniors" and we will be sharing information about our sponsors on our page.

Your contribution & efforts would be greatly appreciated by all the members, families and our junior players of our club. The undersigned is happy to be contacted if you have any questions.

Many thanks on behalf of the Riccarton Rugby League Junior's Committee.

Kind regards

Renee Barclay

Riccarton Rugby League Club Junior's Committee

Phone: 027 242 9109 Email: juniorknightsrlc@gmail.com



RICCARTON KNIGHTS
JUNIORS
FUNDRAISING EVENT



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 15 JULY
DOORS OPEN 5.30 PM
QUIZ STARTS 6.30 PM
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CLUBROOMS
CASH BAR

\$15 PER PERSON
INCLUDES LIGHT SUPPER
TEAMS OF FOUR TO SIX
AWESOME PRIZES TO BE WON
PRIZES FOR BEST HAT
RAFFLES

Vodafone Warriors Training Night for Members



Justin, Benji and Caprice Moroney who traveled from Waiheke for the members only training night at Mt Smart.



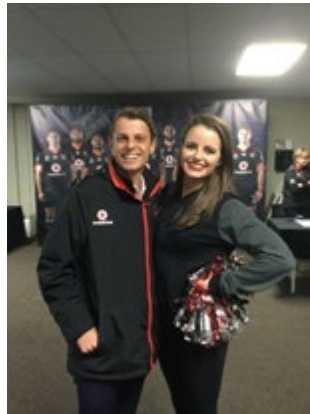
Mary Harrison, Jayden & Sandra Penarata. Loyal fans who have been to all the preseason games here and in Australia.



Siueli, Deahni, Leesa and Izrael Finau from Clendon Park. #WarriorNation.



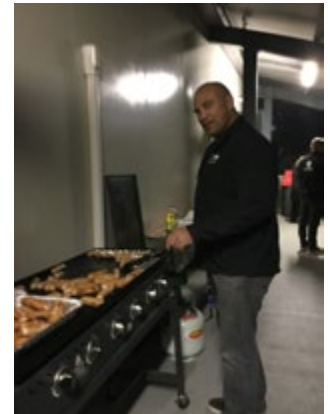
Linley Hutchinson, Bianca Bush and Charlotte McKel for the Vodafone Warriors and Bubs from the Stacey Jones lounge enjoying the evening.



Aaron Lawton - Fan Engagement Manager and Danielle Timbers - Skycity Cheerleader.



Da Mt Smart Rocker rocking Mt Smart last night.



Jerry Seuseu warrior number 50 cooking the BBQ for the members.



Some of the members who attended the function last night enjoying the speeches.



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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S HUGE ROUND 16 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

- In March 2007, **Andrew Johns** declared that **Johnathan Thurston** will be “the dominant player in the NRL for the next five to 10 years”. He was spot on and the Cowboys legend is on the horizon of his 300th NRL game. We count down all his best moments.
- The Dragons and Knights play for the **Alex McKinnon** Cup this week and three years after the tackle that left him in a wheelchair, the man in question finally feels comfortable – both personally and in his professional life – to make his mark on the world.
- Broncos halfback **Ben Hunt** writes that he was completely stunned when **Wayne Bennett** dropped him to reserve grade following his return from injury. “I knew I didn’t play well the first game against the Warriors, but I thought in the Roosters game I did some good things and I started to make strides back to where I wanted to be. I didn’t see it coming.”
- We track the evolution of statistics in rugby league, from the early days of Jack Gibson-coached teams to the high-tech gadgets used on and off the field today.

PLUS... The **Top 8 players over 35**, **The Analyst** extracts the key stats that lead to a **Warriors** win and a **Jack Wighton** poster.



ROUND 16

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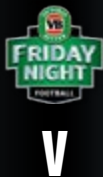
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DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 23
VENUE: MT SMART STADIUM
KICK-OFF: 8PM (NZ)
REFEREE: ASHLEY KLEIN
ASSISTANT REFEREE: PETER GOUGH
TOUCH JUDGES: BELINDA SLEEMAN & CHRIS McMILLAN
SENIOR REVIEW OFFICIAL: LUKE PATTEN
REVIEW OFFICIAL: STEVE CHIDDY
FOX LEAGUE: 5.30PM (AEST)
LIVE RADIO: ABC, TRIPLE M

#NRLWarriorsBulldogs

P	T	G	PTS		P	T	G	PTS
13	4	0	16	Roger TUIVASA-SHECK (C)	1	Will HOPOATE	8	0 0 0
4	4	0	16	Charnze NICOLL-KLOKSTAD	2	Brett MORRIS	12	3 0 12
11	3	0	12	Blake AYSHFORD	3	Josh MORRIS	14	7 0 28
14	8	0	32	David FUSITU'A	4	Chase STANLEY	1	0 0 0
13	5	0	20	Ken MAUMALO	5	Marcelo MONTOYA	9	5 0 20
10	2	0	8	Kieran FORAN	6	Josh REYNOLDS	9	3 0 12
14	4	35	86	Shaun JOHNSON	7	Moses MBYE	13	1 9 22
13	0	0	0	Jacob LILLYMAN	8	Aiden TOLMAN	14	0 0 0
14	1	5	14	Issac LUKE	9	Michael LICHAA	14	1 0 4
7	1	0	4	Ben MATULINO	10	James GRAHAM (C)	13	0 0 0
14	3	0	12	Bodene THOMPSON	11	Josh JACKSON	13	1 0 4
14	6	1	26	Ryan HOFFMAN	12	Adam ELLIOTT	14	3 0 12
12	2	0	8	Simon MANNERING	13	David KLEMMER	12	0 0 0

INTERCHANGE

5	0	0	0	Nathaniel ROACHE	14	Sam KASIANO	14	0 0 0
14	0	0	0	Sam LISONE	15	Danny FUALALO	14	1 0 4
6	0	0	0	Albert VETE	16	Greg EASTWOOD	14	0 0 0
8	0	0	0	Bunty AFOA	17	Matt FRAWLEY	10	2 0 8

RESERVES

10	2	0	8	James GAVET	18/19	Francis TUALAU	2	0 0 0
1	0	0	0	Manu VATUVEI	20	Kerrod HOLLAND	9	6 15 54
7	0	0	0	Ligi SAO	21	Asipeli FINE	1	0 0 0
4	1	0	4	Mafoa'aeata HINGANO	22	Raymond FAITALA-MARINER	6	0 0 0
					23	Brenko LEE	13	2 0 8

*The Bulldogs have received an 'additional player exemption' due to high State of Origin representation in their squad.

COACHES

Stephen KEARNEY Des HASLER

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

40 BIG LEAGUE 2017 Round 16

	WARRIORS	BULLDOGS
Position (Points)	11th (14)	12th (14)
Points For	274	194
Points Against	303	247

ATTACK		
Tries	48	36
Completions	79%	77%
Tries 0-20m	30	16
Tries 21-50m	8	11
Tries 51-100m	2	3

DEFENCE		
Tries	53	41
Tries 0-20m	18	20
Tries 21-50m	16	7
Tries 51-100m	7	5

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	3	3
Tries Conceded	4	3
Points Scored	20	14
Points Conceded	22	18
Hit Ups/Runs	175	177
Tackles	314	310
Metres Gained	1571	1528
Handling Errors	4	4
Offloads	7	11
Line-breaks	4	3
Goalkicking	77%	61%

HEAD-TO-HEAD
 Played 35, Canterbury 20, Warriors 13, drawn 2

AT MT SMART STADIUM
 Played 15, Canterbury 8, Warriors 7

WINNING FORM 2017
 WARRIORS: WLLLWLLWLLWLB Streak - 1 win
 CANTERBURY: LLWLWWWLWLLWLB Streak - 1 win

PAST 8 CLASHES
 2017 - CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 24-12 at Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
 2016 - WARRIORS D. CANTERBURY 24-20 at Westpac Stadium, Wellington
 2015 - CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 26-22 at ANZ Stadium
 2014 - CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 16-12 at Waikato Stadium, Hamilton; CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 21-20 at Eden Park
 2013 - CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 24-16 at Westpac Stadium Wellington
 2012 - CANTERBURY D. WARRIORS 32-18 at Mt Smart Stadium
 2011 - WARRIORS D. CANTERBURY 36-12 at Mt Smart Stadium

BIGGEST HEAD-TO-HEAD WINS
 WARRIORS D. BULLDOGS 34-8 at Ericsson Stadium, 2001;
 WARRIORS D. BULLDOGS 48-22 at Sydney Showground, Homebush, 2003
 BULLDOGS D. WARRIORS 54-10 at Ericsson Stadium, 2004

NEXT CLASH
 WARRIORS: v Manly at nib, 5.30pm Saturday July 1
 CANTERBURY: v Parramatta at ANZ, 7.50pm Thursday June 29

CASUALTY WARD
 WARRIORS: Nil
 CANTERBURY: Nil

Courtesy of our friends at Big League Magazine

NRL Preview

Bulldogs to attack Warriors with grit

Mt Smart Stadium Friday, 8pm

Form: The Warriors beat up an Origin-depleted Broncos in Round 12 and were too strong for an injury-affected Titans outfit a fortnight later, but apart from those two efforts there is little to suggest the Aucklanders may be about to embark on their customary mid-year surge. Opponents Canterbury have struggled for points all season and have failed to reach 20 in their past seven starts.

History: The Bulldogs have had the better of the Warriors in six of their past seven encounters and hold a comfortable lead in head-to-head clashes over 23 seasons. Canterbury were under pressure after a 0-2 start to their season when they met the Warriors at Dunedin in Round 3 and emerged with a 24-12 victory.

Danger sign: The Bulldogs must deal with the disruption of Origin stars Brett Morris, Josh Jackson and David Klemmer playing Wednesday night and then crossing the Tasman before attempting to back up for this clash. The Warriors can prepare for a home game with no such concerns.

Best Bet? The Warriors seemingly have the deck stacked in their favour but don't rule out another gritty effort by the Dogs and their propensity to repeatedly outsmart the Warriors.

Money-spinner: Consider Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Josh Morris or Chase Stanley for First Tryscorer.

by **DAVID MIDDLETON**
@Middleton_David



MICHAEL LICHAA

52
dummy-half runs in 2017



HOLDEN CUP

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 23 **VENUE:** MT SMART STADIUM **KICK-OFF:** 5.45PM (NZ)
REFEREE: KASEY BADGER **ASSISTANT REFEREE:** JAMES VELLA **TOUCH JUDGES:** ANTOINETTE WATTS & NATHAN BARKER-PRINGLE **FOX LEAGUE:** 3.30PM

WARRIORS V BULLDOGS

Lee TURNER	1	Cameron SCOTT
Israel OGDEN	2	Kiko MANU
Melino FINEANGANOFU	3	Adam KEIGHRAN
Dean KOUKA-SMITH	4	Morgan HARPER
Lewis SOOSEMEEA	5	Tui KATOA
Kane TELEA	6	Michael DOOLAN
Chanel HARRIS-TAVITA	7	Brandon WAKEHAM
Kenese KENESE (C)	8	Zac CARDASSILARIS
Eiden ACKLAND	9	Lachlan TALAU
Tayhler PAORA	10	Giordan PATEA
Tyler SLADE	11	Jayden OKUNBOR
Joe VUNA	12	Luis STRICKLAND
Chris SIO (C)	13	Hayden ASHCROFT
14 Jerome MAMEA		14 Joseph TRAMONTANA
15 Kelepi LUI, 16 Keanu DAWSON, 17 Gibson POPOALII		15 James CLARK, 16 Spike TEI
18 Preston RIKI, 20 Isaiah PAPALI'I, 21 Lewis SIO		17 Cameron TORPY, 19 Elie EL-ZAKHEM, 20 Dalton SMITH
22 Sheldon ROGERS, 23 Troy PULUPAKI, 24 Javvier PITOVAO		21 Corey MATTHEWS, 22 Ofa FINAU, 23 Alvin MAUNGAATI
		24 Soane MATAVESI
Grant POCKLINGTON		Brad HENDERSON

WELCOME WIN... The Warriors headed into the bye on a high after claiming their second win of the season against the Gold Coast. They couldn't have asked for a better start when Dean Kouka-Smith crossed in the first minute, and within half an hour he'd completed his double. Halfback Chanel Harris-Tavita was the architect, setting up two tries and making 24 tackles.

LEFT TO WONDER... The Bulldogs looked to have pulled off an astounding comeback to level scores against the Dragons after trailing 22-6 at half-time, but a late penalty proved costly as their opponents kicked ahead. There were plenty of positives in the performance, none bigger than second-rower Jayden Okunbor, who completed a hat-trick, set up a try and finished with 128 metres, seven tackle-breaks and three-line breaks.

PHOTO: Paul Barkley/NRLPhotos.com

HEAD-TO-HEAD LEADERS

AVERAGE METRES	AVERAGE TACKLES	LINE-BREAKS	STATS
Will Hopoate 179	Simon Mannering 42	Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 8	
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck 178	Aiden Tolman 39	Brenko Lee 7	
Ken Maumalo 158	Michael Lichaa 36	David Fusitu'a 7	
David Klemmer 157	Bodene Thompson 33	Blake Ayshford 5	
Jacob Lillyman 132	James Graham 33	Brett Morris 5	

NRL FANTASY

FANTASY POINTS	
Shaun Johnson 56.4	
Simon Mannering 55.3	
Aiden Tolman 47.6	
James Graham 45.2	
Josh Jackson 43.8	

Men's Health Month Book Giveaway Winners

Phil Gifford's Book

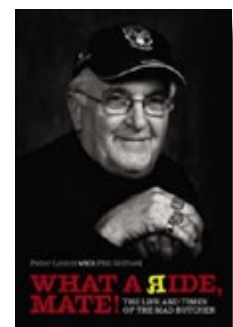
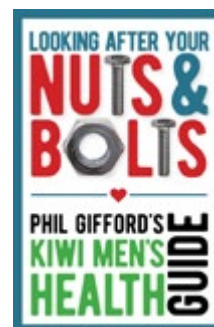
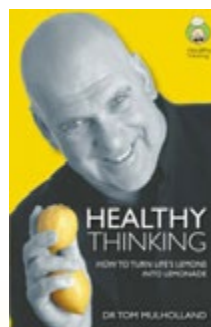
- Adrian Curtis - Taranaki
- Steve Crestani - Christchurch
- Tui & Trevor - Thames
- Mark Rayner - Tauranga
- Robert Thompson - Auckland
- Simon Coe - Burswood

What A Ride Mate

- Neil Jollky - Three Kings
- David Morris - Mangere
- Ben Rzoska - Beach Haven
- Jack Langi - Onehunga

Doc Tom's Book

- Fay Longville - Papakura
- Fiona Passi - Mangere East
- A Baxter - Picton
- Kevin Clare - Auckland
- Barry Wilson - Hokitika





Rolleston Warriors invites the community to our very first club day.
Brookside Park - Rolleston Selwyn
Saturday 24th June 2017

9.15 Selwyn Mayor will cut the ribbon with our newly installed goal posts!
9.30 First game kicks off with the remaining teams through out the morning

2.00pm Hosting senior game Burnham Chevaliers vs Woolston Rams

BBQ Fundraiser, Bouncy Castles and entertainment for the children during the day. **All are welcome!**



ROLLESTON
VODAFONE





By Joyce Putohe



THIS IS the front page of the Wairarapa times. Our old mate Dexter is pushing to get a trial game in Mastertson for the 2018 season. If it doesn't happen it wont be due to a lack of trying on Dexter's part.

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

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The Newsletter Team

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