



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

24 APRIL 2014
#18



You know you're in Las Vegas the moment you enter the airport! Their welcome sign is unlike any other. In this week's Newsletter I want to share some of the great sights this city has to offer. It really is the most over-the-top place you could ever find yourself in. But first.... Some Rugby / League News!

The Blues return to Eden Park this Friday for the first time in almost a month, hoping to get their season back on track. While the boys may be struggling on the road, their record at home in 2014 boasts three wins from three, including two bonus point victories.

The team cannot wait to run out again at Eden Park in their special Anzac Day match against the **Waratahs** (kick-off 5.35pm).

To celebrate 100 years of club rugby at Eden Park, **Ponsonby** and **North Shore**, two of the oldest clubs in the city, will play a curtain raiser to kick off at 3pm. After that match we'll have all our regular pre match entertainment but with an Anzac twist – the **New Zealand Navy Band** will be on hand to entertain as well as a traditional performance of the last post. It will be well worth making an afternoon of it and coming along to the ground nice and early! If you haven't got your tickets yet and want to be a part of the action, you can purchase tickets through ticketmaster online or come in and visit us at the Eden Park ticket office.

THE BLUES PLAY THE WARATAHS ON ANZAC DAY. JOIN THE GAME.

FRIDAY 25 APRIL, 5.35PM, EDEN PARK

Tickets from ticketmaster.co.nz or 0800 111 999 (transaction fees apply).

Travel on trains and special event buses included in your pre-purchased game ticket (please check at.co.nz for full details). theblues.co.nz

JOIN THE GAME

Attend Follow Engage



BULLDOGS ARE HEADING TO NZ

ROUND 10 | SUNDAY 18 MAY | WAIKATO STADIUM | KICK-OFF 4:00PM

WWW.BULLDOGS.COM.AU/TICKETS

Secure your tickets to the Round 10 NRL Telstra Premiership match between the Bulldogs and the Vodafone Warriors.

CORPORATE OPTIONS AVAILABLE: corporate@bulldogs.com.au

FROM ONLY
\$25 ADULT
\$10 CHILD
\$50 FAMILY

THE BATTLE CONTINUES

A Message from Jerome

Hey Butch, and Newsletter members...

Just emailing to say thank you for helping me and my wife during the last 2 weeks through my latest injury. Every injury I get increases the difficulty of dealing with it and can therefore put a lot of strain on the family. However, I am very thankful for the messages of concern and best wishes I get from Warriors members, Warriors fans and readers of your newsletters which encourage me to stay strong. Also, receiving messages of support from Lance Hohaia, Lui Anderson, Iafeta Paleaesina, Ali Lau'iti'iti and Pita Godinet has helped me stay positive. Please let them all know that I'm very grateful for that. I'm recovering, back in the gym training and on the mend. I do hope I can get back to my best very soon so I can help this team that I love. Hope you are well Sir Peter. Be safe!

Kind regards
J. Ropati



Jerome Ropati consoled by team mates after breaking his jaw.
 Photo: Grant Down / www.photosport.co.nz

ANDREW VOSS: *On Passion*

Passion.

It's such an essential element in sport.

A team with talent is always capable of doing well. But combine that talent with passion and a desire to never give in, then you really have a recipe for winning. And when it comes to the fans, it's passion that provides the atmosphere at grounds for athletes to perform, just like in the NRL.

All of the above is my way of leading in to giving a rap to one of the most (if not THE most) passionate rugby league supporter on the planet.

The Mad Butcher.

Sorry ... should I say, Sir Mad Butcher.

I even reckon if the chips were really down, and an injury crisis hit the Warriors, you could throw him a jumper.

Sure the Butcher would probably get 'butchered', but it wouldn't be due to any shortage of passion. And I reckon he would give some decent lip too.

I love the sport of rugby league and have done so since I first started running around the backyard at my mum's place with an old leather football tucked under my arm while listening to the radio call of legendary commentator, Frank Hyde on Sydney radio.

I was 6 years old at the time.

But it would be a couple of years on before I started attending matches.

And one of the standout memories of going along to the ground was just that thrill of being part of the crowd. My local was Leichhardt Oval, home to the Balmain Tigers.

The Tigers used to have a supporter who the Mad Butcher reminds me of. A great league man, Laurie Nicholls.

Rain, hail or shine, and no matter what the temperature, Laurie would be there, wearing his trademark singlet, shadow boxing with more venom than a top ranked heavyweight, and leading the chant of Tiiiiggarrsssss!

As a young fella I was just as fascinated to watch Laurie doing his thing as I was the game. It was wonderful entertainment.

It's been over a decade since Laurie sadly left us, but his spirit lives on in the tunnel at Leichhardt, and the memory of him I'm sure makes many others like myself smile.

I feel so very fortunate to have lived the life I have in rugby league. The matches I have been to. The occasions. The countries. And the people I have met.

It is the greatest sport in my opinion, and I honestly don't know how my life would have panned out without my passion for rugby league.

There's that word again.

Whether I'm calling a test match among a crowd of over 70 thousand as I had the chance to do at Old Trafford in last year's world cup, on deck at a state of origin, or even commentating on a schoolboy match ... I just love what I do. Strangely, calling the footy and not becoming a star player, was my childhood dream.

Every game I have a ball.

And don't tell the bosses... but I'd do it for nothing.

See you at the footy.



**The sign says it all!
Iconic images are everywhere and it just wouldn't be Vegas without an Elvis impersonator!**



The best way to see Vegas!



Went to the Shelby Centre and were treated to viewing some wonderful Mustangs and Cobra cars on display in the car park, as the fan club were hosting a weekend.

<http://www.shelbyamerican.com/index.asp>

<http://www.shelbyamerican.com/moving/movingpage.asp>

The great man gave back to the community.



My grandson, Rueben, caught up with a friendly Vegas policeman.

CARROLL SHELBY FOUNDATION

Helping Kids in the Race for Life...

The Heart of a Legend

Legendary racer and automotive manufacturer Carroll Shelby, following years of heart-related difficulties, which culminated in a successful heart transplant, created the Carroll Shelby Children's Foundation™ in October 1991. The organization is dedicated to providing assistance for acute coronary and kidney care for young people who share many of the same afflictions. In 2009 the Foundation took another beat and expanded its reach to become the Carroll Shelby Foundation™ helping kids from their first heartbeat through their education years.

WHAT WE DO

To date the Carroll Shelby Foundation™ has helped numerous youngsters undergo major coronary surgeries and help charities and children worldwide raise money.

In addition to providing seed monies to launch healthcare programs and facilities, the Foundation also provides grants to organizations conducting research in the fields of coronary and organ transplant management. The Foundation provides scholarship money to kids dedicated to enhancing their lives through continuing educational opportunities in the automotive field. Shelby, who waited years before receiving his own heart transplant, was keenly aware of the difficulties and expense involved in heart surgery and the often-lengthy process to locate a suitable donor organ. He created the Foundation because he realized that many needy children would have their lives cut short without some type of financial assistance.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Carroll Shelby Foundation™ is dedicated to providing financial support for children and medical professionals to help overcome life-threatening health issues worldwide and promoting continuing educational development.



Just one of the cars in the Shelby car park.



NOT Paris, France, not Paris, Texas... Paris Vegas!



Where we stayed in Las Vegas.



I even got to hold a python - for a price!



One of the many fascinating shops along the Strip.



Only in the USA! This guy on the strip was making a killing. And yes, he was well padded up - no harm done!



Paris at night... No, waitaminnit!



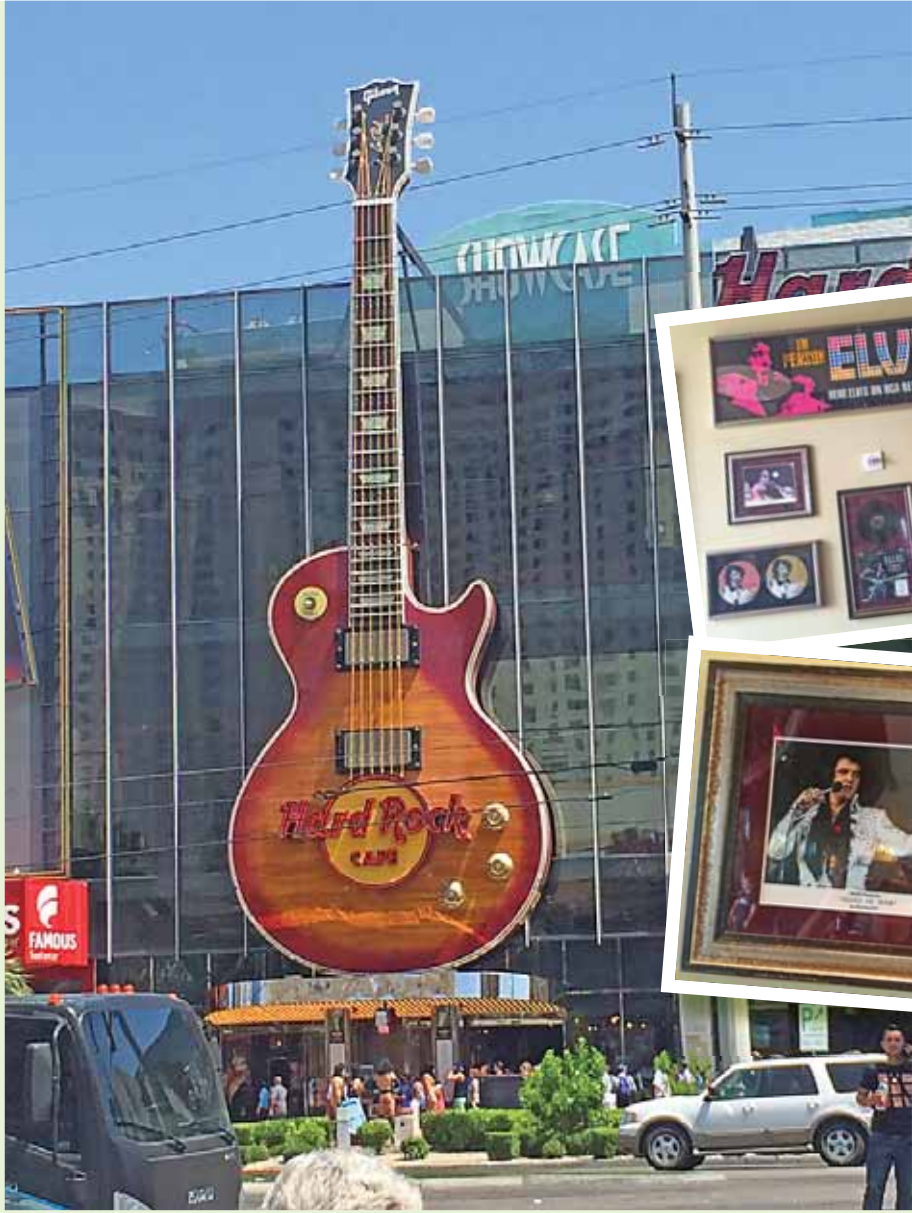
You catch up with all sorts on the strip in Las Vegas!



Loved this sign on the strip!

This is a facsimile of the Montgolfier Brothers' hot air balloon, the first balloon to carry people (and animals), way back in 1783. Today, this version is used to advertise shows on the Strip.





The famous Hard Rock Cafe. Pretty 'hard' to miss!
The insets show some of the Elvis memorabilia inside the Cafe.



You can bet this is a kids' favourite!



Far Left: Lady Liberty catches some sun in the Desert!

Left: Coca Cola - just had to be that little bit bigger than everyone else!

Yes, you'll find them all on the Las Vegas strip - the big brands, gear shops and food chains.

<https://www.hooters.com/Home/Default.aspx>

And I just had to have a look in this place.
But I never stayed for long... Yeah, right!





Left: I loved this sign! The cafés and restaurants go to real extremes to outdo one another in order to attract customers. Bikers would just love the Harley Davidson Café.



Amazing who - and what - you meet on the Street. Here I am talking to a Transformer!



...And a cowboy! Toy Story's Woody.



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

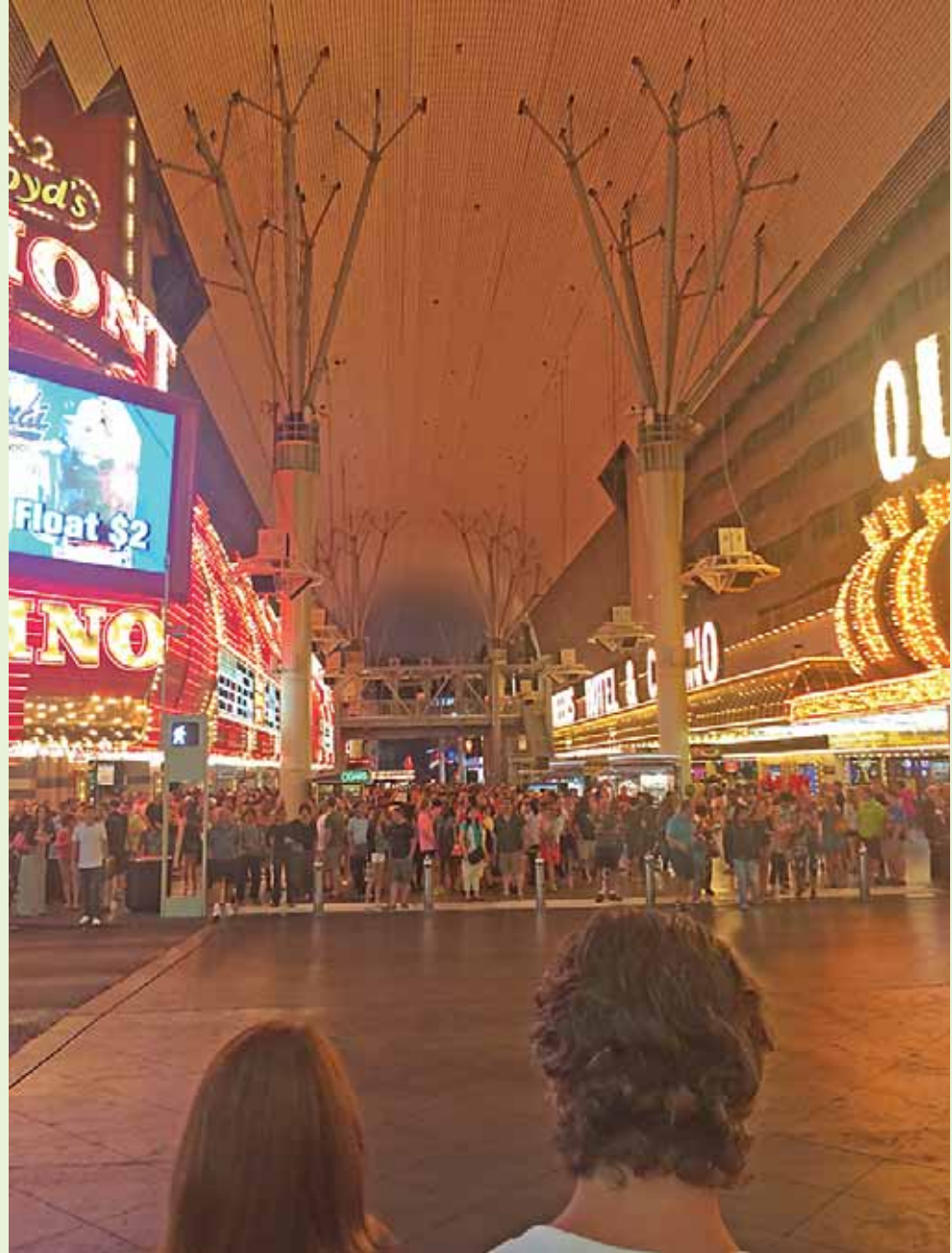
I also had the pleasure of meeting world famous Rapper, Waka Floka (Juaquin Malphurs), on the Strip In Vegas.



And it wouldn't be Vegas without the dazzling Showgirls.



Just a hint of Times Square in this large sign advertising the top shows in town.



Below: Downtown Las Vegas is where all the action is and Fremont Street is probably one of the most famous and most photographed streets on the planet! This part of the Street has been roofed over and promotional material is projected onto its curved surface.



Went to a great show in downtown Fremont St



The star of the Show, Frankie Scinta, and me. Frankie is a fantastic showman – can sing, make you laugh, and works the room so well.

Find out more about this great town at:
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/las-vegas>

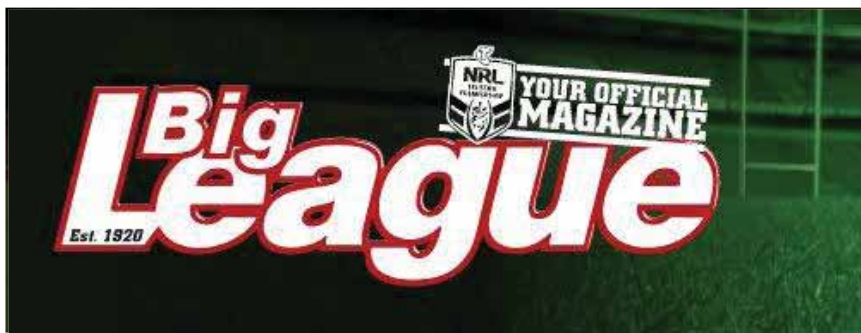


Evening into night. Vegas looks amazing during the day, but night-time is the real show, when the thousands of illuminated signs turn Fremont and other streets as bright as midday!



Las Vegas - The Fremont Street Experience





THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 8 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE...

RUGBY LEAGUE FEATURES DOWN THE EASTERN SEABOARD FOR ANZAC DAY, WE CHAT TO A FEW PLAYERS FEATURING IN THE GAMES AND THOSE FOR WHOM THE DAY HAS SPECIAL MEANING

FEATURES

- **Brenton Lawrence** could well have been serving abroad for the armed forces, like many of his family members, if fate had taken him down a different path;
- Canterbury captain **Michael Ennis** has matured the past few years and he's ready to star for the Blues if needed, but is firmly focused on leading the Bulldogs into the finals;
- With his 200 games fast approaching **Sam Thaiday** opens up about everything he's learnt during his time at the Broncos;
- It's one of the biggest clashes on the NRL calendar, but Dragons lock **Trent Merrin** has the added emotion of running out for his 100th match this Friday;
- **BIG READ:** CEOs and general managers. They're charged with making some of the biggest decisions impacting the game, we spend some time with rugby league's 'big wigs'.

PLUS

A look at rugby league at war; The Top 8 post-try celebrations; Sharks keeping a keen eye on Benji; Stephen Kearney lines up his back-up players; *Big Debate*: Should the use of the video referee be limited?; Adam MacDougall looks at the scrutiny on refereeing; Albert Kelly *By Numbers*; Dragons v Roosters *Big Clash* match preview by Warren Smith; *Who's That Kid?* Cowboys' Andrew Niemoeller; the Round 7 Team of the Week; Sea Eagles Cheerleaders.

GAME DAY: Official team lists for Telstra Premiership, Holden Cup, VB NSW Cup, Intrust Super Cup, Ron Massey Cup; lower grade reviews; Little league; and Canberra Raiders team poster.

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THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, April 24.

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via www.zinio.com

NOW AVAILABLE

Free 30-day trial on new subscriptions through Apple Newsstand and Google Play.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



On Sale NOW! Your Big League Read.

This week's giveaway: a signed Vodafone Warriors jersey, plus 4 tickets to our next home game on May the 10th at Eden Park, plus passes to the lounge and 4 Vodafone Warriors scarfs. *BUT HURRY!!* Drawn on April 28th.

All you have to do is send a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE BEFORE 28 APRIL, 2014 to this address:**

AND ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE write your name and address... AND PHONE!



WARRIORS JERSEY

P.O. Box 54295,

**The Marina 2144, Manukau,
Auckland**

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Phone: _____



vodafone

A big thanks to **vodafone**, for the assist in transferring the photos in this week's Newsletter.

If you're travelling overseas, talk to **vodafone** about their for worry-free data options.

<http://www.vodafone.co.nz>

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

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

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The Newsletter Team

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



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