



Sir Peter Leitch's  
**MAD BUTCHER CLUB**

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



# Newsletter

29 MAY 2014  
#25

## 16 Titans v Warriors 24

FOR HIGHLIGHTS, REPLAYS, AND MATCH DETAILS GOT TO: <https://matchcentre.nrl.com/match/2014/9135/91351102/>

Ben Matulino in action.  
Photo: Jason O'Brien/www.photosport.co.nz



**Warriors 24:** David Fusitua 2, Ben Matulino, Shaun Johnson, Simon Mannering tries; Chad Townsend 2 goals.

**def. Gold Coast 16:** Dave Taylor 3 tries; Beau Henry 2 goals.

**Crowd: 18,753.**

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# Let's pack Mt Smart!

Only one thing on my mind this week – helping make sure Mt Smart is packed for the game against the **Newcastle Knights** on Sunday.

Back at Mt Smart at last - so let's fill the ground up. Even better, let's sell it out by Friday. That's only ever happened once before, for a semi-final, and I had the pleasure of putting out the "Sold Out" signs.

There is so much talk about not wanting to be at Eden Park, so making sure we get the crowds at Mt Smart is vital.

So it's a call to action from the **Mad Butcher**. Get on the phone and ring your mates, because only we can make it happen.

Let's show the club's bosses, the Auckland Council and all the doubters that we league nuts love Mt Smart. See you Sunday. Don't let me down.

## Three from three What a weekend for the mighty Vodafone Warriors – three wins from three.

The results over the weekend were outstanding, easily the best for **Vodafone Warriors** for a while. In the NSW cup we beat the **North Sydney Bears** 36 -22, the Holden Cup team – coached by club legend **Stacey Jones** – downed the **Titans** 20-16, and of course the NRL side pulled off a great away win by beating the **Titans** 24-16. Three from three is all good by me.

## This Sunday

Gates open 11.30am

NSW Cup v the Knights 11.45am

Holden Cup v the Knights 1.45pm

NRL Vodafone Warriors v the Newcastle Knights 4pm

## Special day for Super Simon

It's a very special day for our captain **Simon Mannerling**. He will play his 200th NRL game and bring up 100 games as captain of the **Vodafone Warriors**.

That's another brilliant reason we need to fill the stadium. Show your backing for a very special guy. Don't let him - or me – down, make it happen.

[http://www.warriors.co.nz/news/2014/05/26/tributes\\_mannerling\\_s\\_200\\_100\\_double.html](http://www.warriors.co.nz/news/2014/05/26/tributes_mannerling_s_200_100_double.html)

## Great deal on offer

Our match day sponsor is **Canterbury of NZ** and you can get 5 for only \$50. Now that's a **Mad Butcher** special – a booking fee applies.

Go to **Ticketek** but get in early so you don't miss out.

And check out the **win a field experience with Canterbury NZ**, where you can grab a table for you and 5 mates. Just visit **Facebook** and search out **Canterbury of NZ** for the competition details. Don't forget to like the page.

## Rugby league royalty

We will be giving away more than 1000 crowns to celebrate our return to Mt Smart. Wear one with pride and become part of rugby league royalty.

## Second half shutout

Second half tries to **Simon Mannerling** and **David Fusitu'a** backed up by a defensive shutout carried us to our 24-16 win over Gold Coast. It was our seventh straight win over the **Titans**.

It was their fifth win of the campaign, lifting us to 10 points, just outside the eight.

Our defence turned the contest. After conceding 16 first half points we tuned up our defensive efficiency in the second half to keep the **Titans** scoreless.

I am delighted with how much better our defence is now. We have restricted our opponents to an average of less than 16 points a game since **Andrew McFadden**

took over.

David Fusitu'a, called in to replace an injured **Kevin Locke**, was outstanding, I thought.

What did not impress me quite so much was the usual lopsided penalty count – 7-1 against us after only 35 minutes, and a knock on that lead to a **Titans** try that Stevie Wonder would have spotted.

## Eight is great

The **Vodafone Warriors**, as I say, are at Mt Smart on Sunday. The game sparks a run in which we play eight of our last 13 regular season games at our traditional home.

There's a terrific package on offer for all those games, just visit the club website [www.warriors.co.nz](http://www.warriors.co.nz)

## Milestone for Friend

It will be a grand occasion at Mt Smart on Sunday for **Simon Mannerling**, as I said, but another player also has a milestone to celebrate. **Nathan Friend** will play his 50th match for the **Vodafone Warriors**.

## Tooks, Toops and Campo!

Great to spend time in the company of some former **Vodafone Warriors** too. **Clinton Toopi** does a lot of work in the Aboriginal community, big **Mark Tookey** does charity work, and I've always enjoyed spending time with the hard man – **Kevin Campion**. Who will ever forget his blue under the posts at Mt Smart with **Shane Webcke**?

Campo reckons I'm like a rock star because when we went to the game I must have had my picture taken about 100 times. Being with all the Aussie-based **Warriors** fans was a blast.

## Tough time for Stacey's boys

Spare a thought for the **Vodafone Warriors Juniors**, coached by **Stacey Jones**. They got stuck on the tarmac at Auckland Airport for three-and-a-half hours.

Fair play to the airline, what are you going to do? You can't offload everyone and then have them all board again, but it must have been a bit of an ordeal all the same.

So it makes the performance the boys put in on the field all the more remarkable.

## Blast from the past

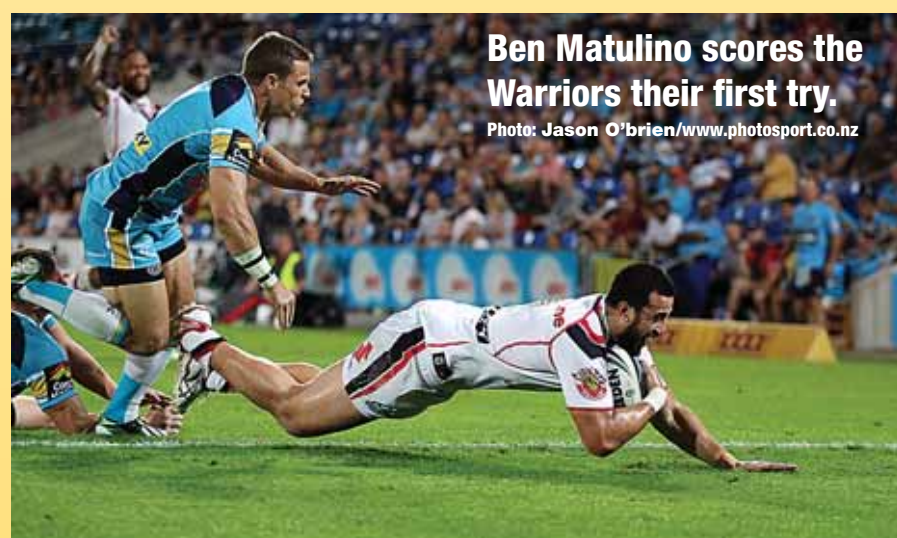
I also caught up with **Grant Young**, who played for the **Kiwis**. I haven't seen him for I don't know how long, so it was a real blast from the past. Top bloke!

## Golf, footy and more footy

I do not know how **Awen Guttenbeil**, former **Vodafone Warriors** superstar, **Kiwi**, and all round good bastard, got his job, but I wish he'd put in a word for me.

Awen was on the Gold Coast leading a tour group of about 70.

They were there to play golf, watch the **Vodafone Warriors** and stay on for the State of Origin. If that's work, I'd be willing to come out of retirement!



## Newsbrief

This weekend **West Coast combined high schools team** travel to Christchurch to take part in a high school tournament at Saint Thomas.

This Labour Weekend the mighty **Marist Rugby League Club** will hold its 90th reunion over three days.

# TRAINING DAY

**TOP RIGHT: Ex-Kiwi captain, Graeme Farrar, was rapt to meet Shaun Johnson (please not all the Kiwi papers Graeme is holding.)**



**Good to be catching up with the Vodafone Warriors after training on the Gold Coast.**



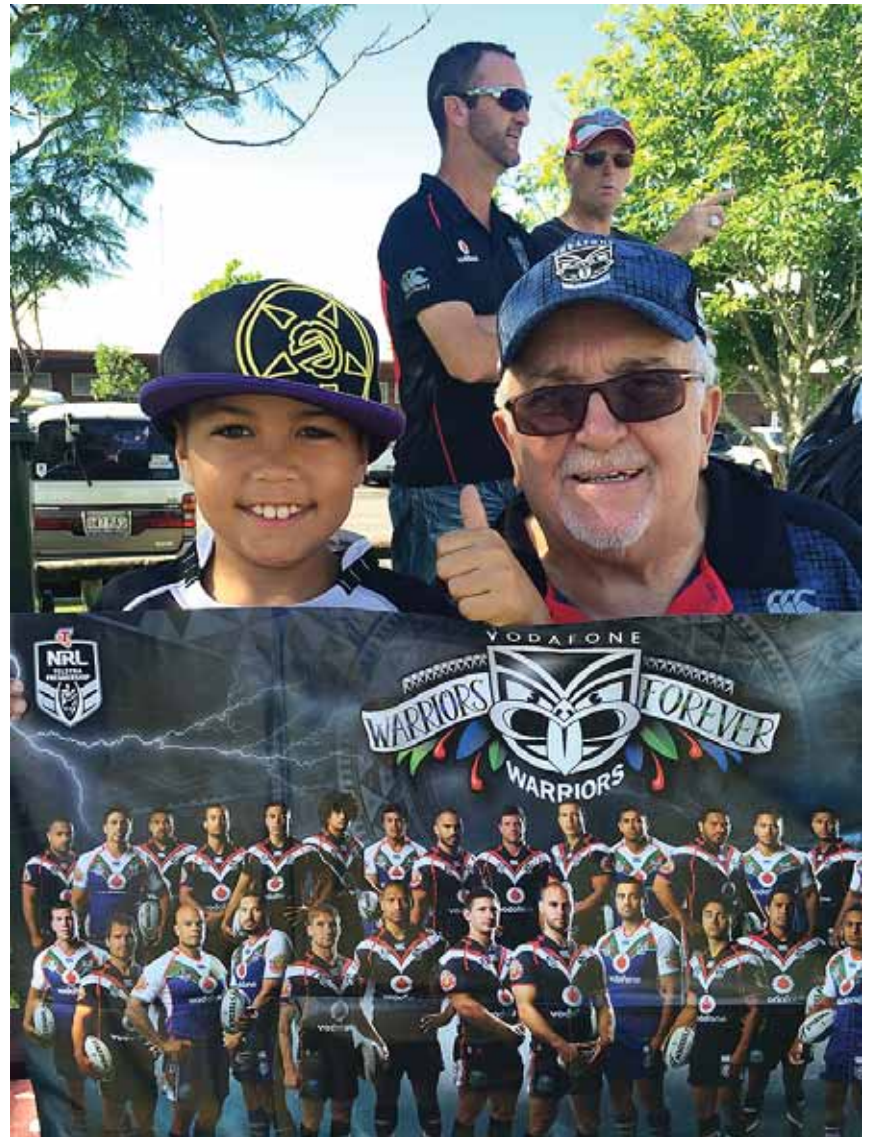
**Silica Havili was very pleased to catch up with his sister, Atesa, after training.**



**Some of the fans in Aussie who turned up to the training day**



**Captain Mannering got mobbed after the training session.**



**This young guy was pleased to get a Vodafone Warriors poster.**



**Some days, you just can't do a thing with your hair! Still, how good looking am I?**



**These boys loved watching the guys train.**



**My old mate puts in the healthy stuff in the team's special brew.**



**I even got to help out at training, mixing the special brew for the team.**

**The three musketeers: Duane (from Grab a Seat) Lloyd, one of our most loyal supporters, and Wayne, our CEO at training.**



# At the Stadium & In the Lounge



The members meeting before the game. Dean Bell talks to the members while Awen looks on in amusement!



Clinton Toopi talks to the members before the game, while Awen is in deep thought !



Two old team mates: Awen and Clinton.



It's always great catching up with old footy mates like Kevin Campion and Matt Rogers (has played State of Origin, played rugby and league for Australia ) Matt has had the following surgical operations: foot, neck, hand, groin, knee, hand again, cheekbone, ankle and shoulder. And you thought it was all glory and no pain? YEAH, RIGHT!



These boys are looking very smart in their Vodafone Warriors jerseys.



The great Kevin Campion meets the Mt Smart Joker (who had a birthday on Friday).



It was great to catch up with a former Mt Smart favourite, Mark Tookey. I should say, a very slim Mark.



Great to catch up with the coach after the game. YES, HE IS SMILING - WE DID WIN!



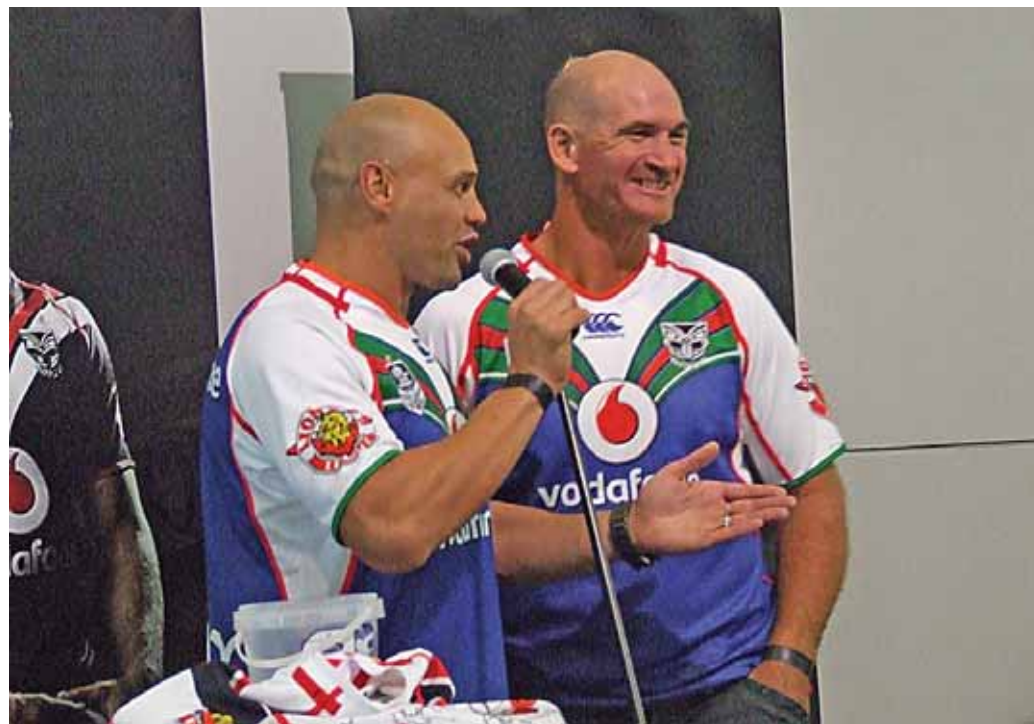
**Vossy and Awen summing up the game.**



**Vossy and Awen talking about how Cbus Stadium is like a Mt Smart home game.**



**Andrew "Cappy" McFadden addressing the fans post-match and happy with the result.**



**Awen and Grant Young having a laugh.**



**Awen and Manu discussing the game and sharing a joke or three!**



**Awen and Shaun summing up the outcome and getting prepped for next week.**



**Hanging out with the guys on the Gold Coast.**



**Chilling out with the guys on the Gold Coast.**

**ABOVE: Rear - Left to right - Wareriana, Rye, Dellcea, Isaac holding baby Nate, Avon, and Ross. Front - Jason (holding flag), and Tyrin. All residing in Brisbane.**



**These Sydney fans where very happy on Saturday!**



**Two very happy Vodafone Warriors fans at the members function before the game. Love those jerseys!**



**This guy found Simon playing rugby and brought him over to league. Thank you Paul, job well done!**



**Jacob and the rugby league legend, Kevin Campion.**



**In the changing room after the game. Russell from Vodafone, Sam, and Duane from Air NZ.**



**Having fun at the members function before the Titans game. Awen seems very happy in the background as I talk to Dean Bell, Warrior no 1. The Mt Smart Joker applauds!**



**Me and Shaun do a selfie.**

**Two old team mates catch up after the Holden Cup game. Stacey Jones (congratulations on your team's win, buddy) and Kevin Campion.**



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WE'RE COMING HOME

QUEENS BDAY WEEKEND

VODAFONE WARRIORS

VODAFONE WARRIORS V KNIGHTS

Knights NEWCASTLE

SUN 1 JUNE 4PM MT SMART

**5 TICKETS FOR \$50\***

\*ONLINE PURCHASE ONLY FEES, TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY

It's The Royal Return to Mt Smart; the **Vodafone Warriors** return to their home grounds of Mount Smart Stadium in Round 12 for a match-up against the Newcastle Knights. Grab your mates for the Royal Long Weekend with the epic ticket offer '5 for \$50' 5 tickets for \$50, or see **ALL** of the **Vodafone Warrior** home games at Mt Smart for \$100, yes that's right 8 Games at Mt Smart for only \$100! Welcome the boys back to Mount Smart Stadium and purchase your tickets today.

### Vodafone Warriors v Newcastle Knights

**Date: Sunday 1 June – Queens Birthday Long Weekend**

**Venue: Mt Smart Gates: 11:30am**

**NSW Cup: 11:40am NYC: 1:45pm**

**NRL: 4.05pm**

**Theme: The Royal Return to Mt Smart**

**Celebrations: Simon Mannering's 200th Game & 100th game as Captain.**

**Match Day Sponsor: Canterbury**

**Competition: WIN a side-of-field experience with Canterbury of NZ Royal Table for you and 5 friends!**

**Head to [facebook.com/canterburyofnz](https://www.facebook.com/canterburyofnz)**

**for competition details!**

**Don't forget to like the page!**

MAD DEAL

FULL MEMBERSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE

**8 GAMES FROM \$100\***

The Vodafone Warriors return to Mt Smart.  
Tickets at [WARRIORSFOREVER.CO.NZ](http://WARRIORSFOREVER.CO.NZ)

\*Fees, terms and conditions apply.

**And for those people lucky enough to come to the Lounge on the day...  
This will be our lucky draw for the Newcastle Knights game!**

**To celebrate coming home to Mt Smart this SUNDAY.  
Be in the Monster draw of over 30 prizes!**

- 2 x Selleys BBQ care kits
- 2 x boxes of Bendon men's underwear
- 1 Vodafone phone
- 10 x Lion Red T-Shirts
- 1 signed Vodafone ball
- 1 Lion Red hoody
- 1 signed VW jersey
- 1 Asics voucher
- 2 x Lion Red packs
- 4 x VW forever T-Shirts
- 1 members T-Shirt
- 1 pack of CDs
- 1 Panasonic Blu-ray player
- 1 Lion Red bag
- 1 Grocery hamper
- 1 Sealink to Waiheke voucher

Just make a **\$5 donation** to go in the draw



**Bendon Panasonic**





Photos courtesy of Michelle McEwan Photography



## The Taniwha are coming!

**T**he **Taniwha Rugby League Club** from coromandel are coming to Mt Smart this Sunday to play in the curtain raiser before the **Knights** game.

Our under 7s and under 9s are turning up with a group of supporters including the u11s & u13s and more than 100 fans.

The attached photos are from last Sunday vs the **Piako Eels** (Kerepehi).

You have **Austen Crowe** showing it's not the size of the dog in the fight but the size of the fight in the dog.

**Nikau**, sporting a clean pair of heels and **Karter** busting through. We are looking forward to seeing the **"Mighty Vodafone Warriors"** and hope to see you there.

## Onerahi Fire Brigade Sky Tower Challenge team

The Firefighter Sky Tower Stair Challenge took place on May 17, 2014.

Now in its tenth year as a fundraiser for **Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand** (LBC), the event has a total of 700 participants and has grown in awareness and fundraising achievement to be an iconic event recognized around the country. Firefighters participate from around New Zealand, Australia and the USA, competing in a race up 51 flights, or 1,103 Sky Tower steps with participants wearing full firefighting kit weighing 25kg.

Onerahi Volunteer brigade entered 5 members – 4 Brians and a Kyle – and raised a total of \$13,500.00.

**Brian Clancey** did the climb in 16.52. Almost 60 & he beat all the younger guys in our team. He raised a total of \$9,056.20 and got 2nd place for individual fundraising.

**Brian Powell** did the climb in 17.15.

**Kyle Thompson** (Youngest Member) did it in 18.14.

**Brian Wilson** did it in 21.17.

**Brian Redwood** did it in 21.23.

These Guys have now competed in this challenge for the past 3 years and have raised a total of \$36,000.00 by getting local sponsorship and selling raffle tickets.





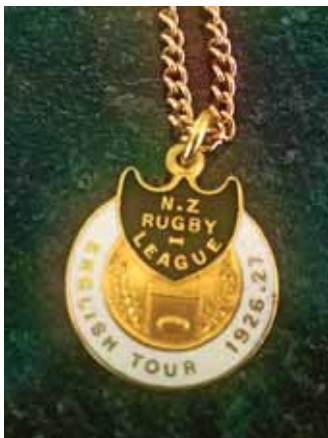
Graeme's trophy shelf.



I had the privilege of going to ex-Kiwi (Kiwi 389) **Graeme Farrar's** home for lunch on Sunday. Graeme captained the **Kiwis** in 1996 for 2 tests and played for Waikato and captained the Northern Zone team that went to Australia and were unbeaten. He showed me around his little museum, packed with some great memories.



Courtney Goodwill Trophy photo.



Margret Farrar's dad was a Kiwi. Len Mason (Kiwi #186) played 365 games for Wigan in England and this jersey is a replica jersey with his challenge cup winner's medal from 1929.

Her dad's medal, given to him by the NZRL for the English tours 1926/27.



Poster of Len Mason for the CRL centenary in 2012.



This is Graeme's first ever test match jersey when the Kiwis played Great Britain.

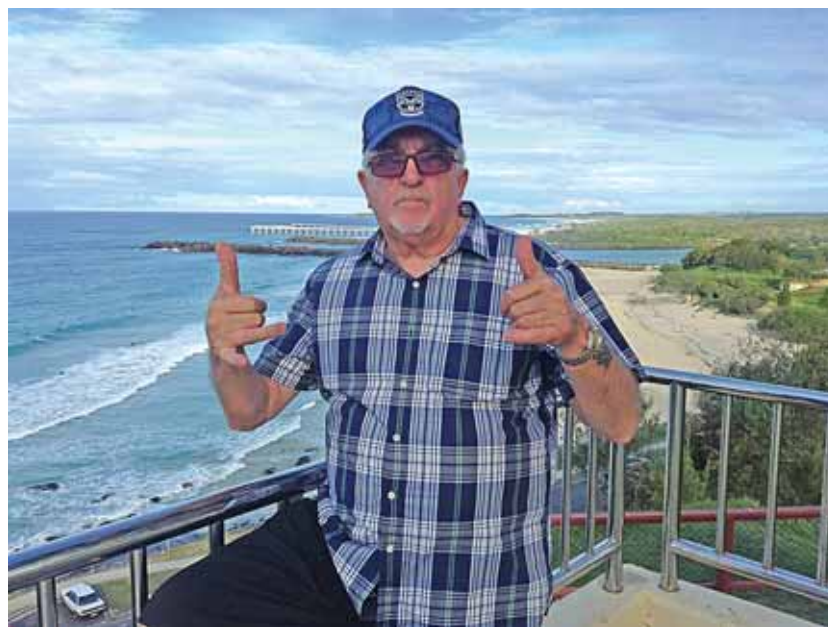
## Good as gold on the Coast

Crikey, what a week **Janice** and I have had. To be honest, I wanted to head to the Gold Coast mostly to see an old schoolmate named **Les Webb**, and the fact the boys were playing too, well that was a bonus.

What a blast it's been, although it started off a bit shakily because I left it to the last minute to find accommodation, and ended up having to pay a young man to sit on my computer for a couple of hours to find me somewhere. He did me proud and I ended up almost in the middle of the reason accommodation was so hard to find in the first place – **The Blues on Broadbeach**.

My good friend **Dexter** would love the free event and I've been so impressed I'm thinking about bringing a tour party over for it next year.

Throw in catching up with Les, a wonderful bloke, and being invited to the home of **Graham Farrier** – who captained the **Kiwis** – and meeting his lovely wife **Margaret**, and it's easy to see why I've been having such a good time.



Catching the sea air at Broad Beach.



Janice has found a new and very cuddly friend.

Totally Wireless!



The beast like you have never seen him.



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## A Knight with 2 Warriors & a Tiger

Join Sir Peter Charles Leitch (KNZM OSM - Honorary Ambassador NZ Rugby League, the 19<sup>th</sup> Vodafone Warrior) at a luncheon to celebrate 3 local lads from Auckland who went on to become legends of Rugby League International Stars Kurt Sorenson & Dane Sorenson – (Mt Wellington Warriors) & Gary "Whiz" Freeman – (Northcote Tigers) They will share stories and re-live past glories celebrating the Kiwi Rugby League Jersey



Also joining Sir Peter on the day will be more Kiwi greats such as Shane "Charlie" Varley, current Kiwi Captain - Simon Mannering & current Kiwi Coach - Stephen Kearney &

Also confirmed as joining us on the day will be more former Kiwi greats...

Tony Cole, Ray Baxendale, Clayton Friend and Logan Edwards

Ellerslie Convention Centre | Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 | Tickets: \$100 per person | Includes 2 course meal & Complimentary Drinks (Cash Bar after 3pm) | Lunch at 12pm

Bonus Offer | Free Entry ticket to the Vodafone Warriors v Brisbane Broncos Match at Mt Smart Stadium on Sat June 21<sup>st</sup> – kick off 7.30pm

To book your ticket contact: E: [diana.broomfield@fairfaxmedia.co.nz](mailto:diana.broomfield@fairfaxmedia.co.nz) or T: (09) 9259942

# History was made at Henson Park, Australia, last Saturday

Once more, well done to those three intrepid women – **Joanna Lester**, **Debbie Spillane** and **Melinda Farrell** – who made Rugby League history by being the first all-female commentary team to broadcast a senior Rugby League match directly onto the internet through **Steele Sports**: [www.steelesports.com.au](http://www.steelesports.com.au) Thanks also to **Alby Talarico** and his own great team at **Steele Sports** for helping to make this landmark media exercise all happen. And a very big thank you to our own **Olga Lauricella** who made sure that the girls were so well kitted out in pink **Jets** t-shirts.

(Photo by **Gary Sutherland Photography**).



Joanna Lester, Debbie Spillane and Melinda Farrell - the first all-female commentary team in Rugby League history, Henson Park, Saturday, 24th May 2014.

# BLUES NEWS

The **Blues'** faint playoff hopes were all but extinguished over the weekend as they suffered a 23-29 loss to Super Rugby front runners the **Sharks** at QBE Stadium.

The team certainly fronted up through their forwards against a monstrous **Sharks** pack, with **Jerome Kaino** producing another huge game along with **Keven Mealamu**, **Luke Braid** and **Peter Saili** who all toiled hard, but it wasn't enough to get the win they so desperately needed.

Attention now turns to the **Hurricanes**, in the last match before the International Test window. The boys will be back at Eden Park, which has been a sanctuary for them in 2014 – winning all five matches there.

The Development team have continued to impress, unbeaten in 2014 they produced victories over the New Zealand Under 20s and Samoa Under 20s over the past week. They have one more game on the schedule, coming up against the Cook Islands in June.



**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](mailto:meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz) Or if you would like to **unsubscribe** please email **Amelia** and she will delete you from the list.

## A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

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



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### The Newsletter Team

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



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**Peter Leitch**  
Editor



**Rex Harrison**  
Graphic Designer



**Amelia**  
Circulation

