

#### Now I am not a greedy man, so I love it when we do a clean sweep, because you just can't ask for more.

VODAFONE

Sir Peter Leitch's

In the NSW Cup we won 34-12 over the **Newcastle Knights**, in the Holden Cup it was 34-22, and of course, in the big game, **Simon Mannering**'s boys came home with a flourish to win it 38-18.

It was our second three-peat in a row, after the NSW Cup triumphed 36-22 over the **North Sydney Bears**, the Holden Cup team won 20-16 over the **Titans**, and NRL side recorded that great 24-16 win on the Gold Coast the week before. *I could get used to this!* 

# Super Simon has a milestone belter

What can you say about **Simon Mannering** that hasn't already been said. In his 100th match as captain and his 200th game for the club he was simply outstanding. He became only the second player to appear in 200 NRL

matches for the club - the other being the *Little General* **Stacey Jones** - and the first to reach 100 games as captain.

Not bad for a young man who is still only 27.

Current and former team-mates, *Kiwis* internationals and rivals including England international **Sam Burgess** showed their respect for Mannering with video



Warriors' Simon Mannering poses for a photo with his teammates, celebrating his 200th NRL appearance. Round 12 NRL Telstra Premiership game, Vodafone Warriors v Newcastle Knights, Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland. Sunday 1st June 2014. *Photo: Anthony Au-Yeung ©photosport.co.nz* 

# What a day and what a crowd

I was delighted with the more than 19,000 crowd at Mt Smart at the weekend. It would have been nice to sell the place out, but I will take 19,000.

It is so important that we get good crowds at our "spiritual" home, because with plenty of complaints about Eden Park, the Auckland Council and the powers that be at the club have to see bums on seats, which prove fans will support the team at Mt Smart.

And there was so much to cheer. **Simon Mannering** got a first half double, his first almost all his own work, while Feleti Mateo's lovely pass played a key role in his second right on halftime.

Sure we let Newcastle within four points early in the second half, but we dug in and second half tries to **Chad Townsend**, **Konrad Hurrell**, and a second for **Manu Vatuvei** gave us so much to smile about. It was our sixth win of the season - giving us a six win-six loss record at the halfway stage of the campaign.

messages, as did our old mate **Micheal Luck**. The **All Blacks**, **Valerie Adams** and **Joseph Parker** also sent messages of congratulations.

As a captain, after his game at the weekend, his record was 53 wins and 47 losses. He's also chipped in with 47 tries, averages about 28 tackles a game, and 90 metres or so.

There is so much more to come since he recently resigned to the end of the 2018, which will extend his career to 14 seasons, a record for a **Vodafone Warrior**.

And consider this. In his first year back in 2005 he was used seven times before establishing himself in 2006. Since then he has missed only 14 of a possible 206 games, seven in 2010 with a hamstring injury and another five late in 2012 with an ankle complaint. Outside that, he's missed only one game in 2009 and one last year. And remember, he almost always plays the full 80. Amazing. Was it not wonderful to see the NYC and NSW Cup teams form a guard of honour for Mannering?

I loved seeing **Sam Tomkins** get a try on his first ever outing on Mt Smart too, and I will never tire of seeing Manu Vatuvei's giant grin when he goes over – and he does go over often. He has scored nine this year and 126 in his career. When Mannering completed his double right on halftime I thought it was good reward for the dominance we had shown. But Newcastle, to their credit, really put in a good shift at the opening of the second half to get it back to 22-18. It is not often you are left gasping at a try-saving tackle, but when **Darius Boyd** lowered **David Fusitua** I couldn't ever recall seeing a better effort from a defender.

But we stayed patient, and the rewards came. **Ngani Laumape** siezed on a loose ball and flicked it to **Chad Townsend**, who crossed for his first try for the club, like Tomkins, in his first Mt Smart outing.

I knew it was in the bag then, but we iced the cake, which is so important, keeping the pressure on. **Conrad Hurrell** crossed for his 29th try in his 46th game, and at the death I got to see that Vatuvei grin again.

### **Bunnies up next**

The **Vodafone Warriors** now prepare for their most challenging away game of the season, to take on the Bunnies after a hell of a flight all the way to Perth. They will train there on Thursday and Friday and then take on the **Rabbitohs** on Saturday . It will be a long night for the fans, with the game kicking off at 11.30pm our time.

# **England players pay us a visit**

The lounge was rocking and congratulations to everyone who made that possible. It was terrific to have my old mate Tom Donnelly there, with his lovely wife, and he was on fire.

But our very special guests were the boys from the England team, here to take on the All Blacks at Eden Park on Saturday.

Danny Care, Mike Brown and Ed Slater let out a fantastic cheer when their countryman Sam Tomkins scored, but for me the highlight was our rendition of God Save the Queen for the boys. I doubt they will forget that.

And talking of rugby, there is plenty of action at North Harbour Stadium to look forward to, but more about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

### **Rocking Mt Smart**

I want to thank you all for giving me one of the best days I have had at Mt Smart for a long time., Wait a minute, it's been a long time since I've had any day at Mt Smart. But seriously, it was fantastic. The mood was terrific and with so many visitors up from the South Island, I was chuffed that the place was rocking. Our birthday boy Owen won't forget his 80th in a hurry.

### **Favourite son receives QSM**

**John Oliver Coffey**, the rugby league, cricket, yachting, etc scribe for **The Press**, then **The Christchurch Press**, for 44 years, and author, and co-author of countless **Rugby League Annuals** with the late **Bernie Wood**, received a **Queens Service Medal** in the Queen's Birthday Honours. John also supplied copy and statistics for **Rugby League Weekly** for a couple of decades in the 60s, 70s and early 80s. He also wrote several books himself and will be a popular recipient of the QSM. Rugby League Bill QSM (1986) Other holders of QSM in Canterbury is WAW2, Wally Wilson, who coached Canterbury after Frank Endacott ONZM. WAW2 also served the Surf Life Saving Assn with distinction. WAW1, our mate, Sir Peter Leitch, also received a QSM, then the KNZM.

Bringing up 50 years is no mean feat and my West Coast mates at Greymouth have done that.

The **Suburbs Rugby League Club** celebrates its 50th on April 3 next year at its clubrooms at the Australasian Hotel.

Well done to the club. A great achievement. Anyone connected to the club needs to put it in their diary. Check it out on *Facebook*:

#### Suburbs Rugby League Club Greymouth 50th Jubilee 2015

## **Congratulations to a top bloke**

Great to see All Blacks manager Darren Shand being honoured for his services to rugby in the Queen's Birthday Honours. I can tell you he is a top bloke, one of the best. I was not surprised when he was so modest about it, because he is a very humble sort of a bloke. He reckoned he was doing his dream job, so to be made an officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for doing something he loves was a surprise to him.

"It says you're being awarded for service to rugby but it hardly seems like service when you've got a job like this," he said. "It's just a wonderful thing to be part of and I love doing it," he told the Herald.



Me and Darren Shand, All Blacks manager.

# The five winners of double movie passes to go and see *Chef* are -

Grant Davidson, Lower Hutt, Wellington. Stephanie Creagh, Mangere Bridge, Auckland. Adrianne MacDonald, Lower Hutt, Wellington. Katrina Barron, Northwood, Christchurch Bernice Hoar, Sunnyhills, Auckland

Winner of the Panasonic stainless steel fridge worth \$1999 full of \$200 worth of Mad Butcher meat: **Ross MacAskill** from Christchurch.

Winner of the 3D Blu Ray player worth \$249: Janette Blake from Albany Auckland.

# There were



### some very happy winners in our great draws last weekend!

Nick, Director of Sales Panasonic, with the lucky winners envelope.

Winner of the Vodafone Smart 4 mini phone worth \$100: Trudy Falconer Forrest Hill, Auckland.

Winner of the Canterbury NZ Vodafone Warriors supporters pack worth \$270: Jessica Wiperi from Hornby Christchurch

Weekend Away winner coming up from Christchurch Friday morning, attending the luncheon with *Kiwis* Legends then off to the game the next day at Mt Smart is James Mazey !!



# Eddie Kohlhase: New Zealand Order of Merit

Softball great, Eddie Kohlhase has been honored for his over 30 years of service to New Zealand softball.

The former **Black Sox** player and coach has become a member of the **New Zealand Order of Merit**, having being named in the Queen's Birthday Honours list last weekend.

Kohlhase says the coaching side of his career is what he is most proud of. "I think you can influence people through sport. With playing you're focused on yourself and your own performance but the coach has to take the whole organisation into consideration and you're really at the top of the tree in terms of leading.

As a player Kohlhase first joined the *Black Sox* in 1983, being part of the winning world championships team in 1984 and placing second in 1988 and 1992. Injury forced his retirement in 1995 and he was appointed assistant coach of the Black Sox in 1998. The New Zealand team won the world champs in 1996, 200 and Christchurch in 2004 after which he was appointed coach of the *Black Sox* in 2004.

In 2013 after the **Black Sox** again won the world championship, Kohlhase becoming the first New Zealander to win world championships as a player and a coach.

http://www.playbill.com.au/products/Warriors-2014-Adult-Onesie-%252d-NEW-ARRIVAL%21%21.html

# Warriors 2014 Adult Onesie NEW ARRIVAL!

#### YOU ASKED FOR THEM... SO WE GOT THEM!

**Warriors Onesies in Adults sizes are in stock now.** Available in sizes XSmall up to 3XLarge. Designed to look like the team's Home Jersey with the official NRL and Warriors logo on the chest. Plus large Warriors text on the leg and across the back so there's no doubt who your team is!

#### Benefits:

- Made from sweatshirt style fabric for warmth.
- Full zip front for fast super hero outfit changes.
- Machine washable.

Our Onesies cater for all shapes and sizes! For some people they might be quite baggy, others may like to wear them snug fitting.

This table gives you an indication of what size Onesie is most



Sir peter with solomona and Gataifale Falemoe.



suitable for your dimensions:

#### SIZING:

XS Waist 65-75cm Height 150-160cm

S Waist 70-80cm Height 155-165cm

M Waist 75-85cm Height 160-175cm

L Waist 80-95cm Height 165-180cm

XL Waist 90-102cm Height 170-185cm

XXL Waist 95-107cm Height 182-200cm

XXXL Waist 100-112cm Height 182-112cm

Bruce Havea (left) & Gary Hape with the Centenary Shield following the Bulls 38-18 win over Wellington on Queens Birthday Monday. The Bulls lead 22-14 at half time. Tries to Casey Leka 2, Bruce Havea, Vinny Paul, Kyle Leka, Chris Bamford and James Baxendale. Baxendale kicked 5 conversions.

# **Rocking the Lounge at Mt Smart**



The Mad Butcher, Eric Watson, Nikki and Don Mann.



Dave McKee, Eric Watson and Lorraine McKee.



**GLenda, Eric, and Robbie.** 



the English Rugby team with Sir Peter.



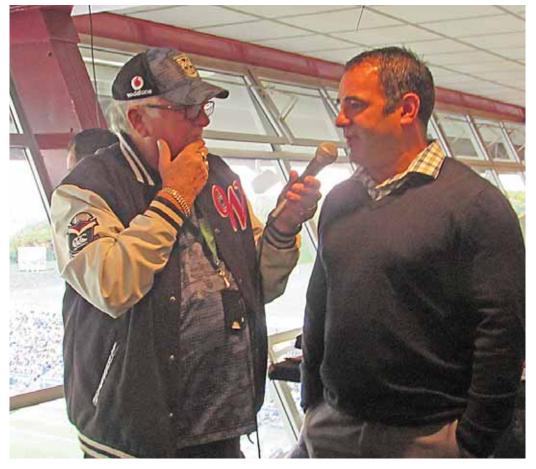


**Donnelly and family.** 



The English Rugby team having a laugh.

Sam sings HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Owen Sullivan (more pix below).



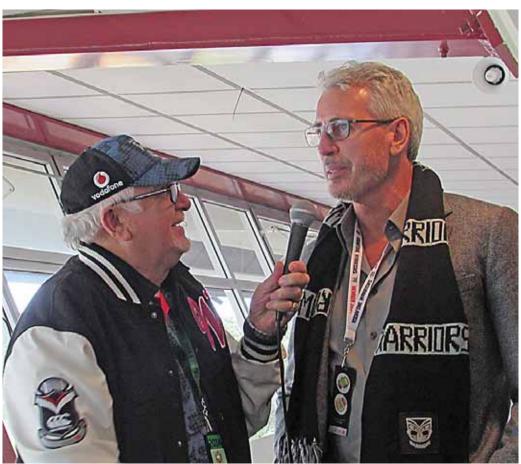
Stacey Jones with Sir Peter.



Monty Beathem and the Butcher.



George Mann (ex-Kiwi) draws a lucky number.



Interviewing Eric Watson.





The Butch with Nikki, Eric's marketing manager.

Donnelly, the All Black, lock with family.

## The day we made a 80 year old rugby man very happy!

"My father-in-law Owen Sullivan recently turned 80, so the men of the family decided to travel from chch to watch a Warriors game. None of us had watched the Warriors play live let alone ever watch a game at Mt Smart.

"Through a friend I contacted the **Mad Butcher** and last Sunday, Owen and 11 male family members attended the **Warriors v Knights** game watching from the **Mad Butcher's Lounge**. I've got to say that besides the Butcher's wicked sense of humour & his take on the Queen's language I can't say enough about his generosity & his hospitality. But even more than that was the way the Butcher treated my father-in-law and how he made him feel so special. He got to meet a few sportsmen, hug a cheerleader & watch **Simon Mannering** score 2 tries in the **Warriors** victory. He even got to hear me sing!!"

Thanks Mad Butcher, we had an absolute ball!! Cheers Bruce Houghton





Owen having a chuckle with Sir Peter.



Even got to meet some Aussie league legends.



On the Mt Smart grounds with two Aussie league players.





He even got to meet former Kiwis captain Richie Barnett Meeting former world boxing champion, HASIM RAHMAN, *aka The Rock*, (pro record 50-8-2) at the game. He may have been 80 but when this photo was taken he felt 16!

# **A Very Special Event in Eketahuna**

ver the long weekend I had the pleasure of going to the Eketahuna Rugby Club's 125th Jubilee weekend. I want to share it with you because I felt very honoured

to be there. They had some of rugby's royalty present. Sir Brian Lochore - who lead the All Blacks to 15 wins

in 18 tests during his five seasons as

captain, then went on to coach the first All Black team to win the Rugby World Cup in 1987 - was there. And what a top bloke he is.

Eric Rush, who has an amazing record in rugby as an All Black and who is regarded as our best ever Sevens player, captaining the Commonwealth Games gold

side to two medals, in 1998 and

2002, was there guest speaker, and he was as funny as any after-dinner speaker I have ever heard. He had the audience in fits of laughter.

And he did it despite a guy at the function taking a bad turn as he was speaking, and a local hitting a power pole and plunging the place into darkness.

Rushy just rocked on - outstanding. He is so funny and you also never hear him swear, which is just gold.

Then there was the local boy who went to school in the area and went on to become a famous All Black, Ruben Thorn. What a quiet achiever for the Crusaders and All Blacks he was, winning seven Super Rugby titles and playing 50 tests, in three world cups and captaining the All Blacks 21 times.

Not a bad line-up for a little North Island town, and let me tell you, you would not meet three nicer blokes.

And to top it off, Brendon Walker (commonly known as two persons) has played more than 300 games for the club. He was presented with a special jacket on the night and is a legend in Eketahuna.

Thanks to my mate, Dexter, for taking me down. I was humbled and privileged to be there. A very special moment for the Butcher.

#### It was a big night in Eketahuna with a sell out The grandstand at the crowd. What a night!

- 1st June 2014 1889 - 2014

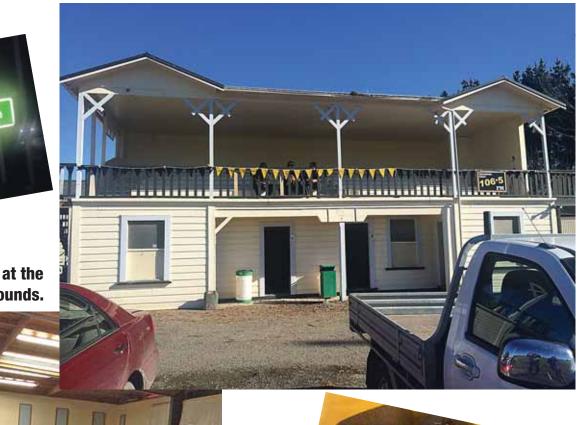
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1889

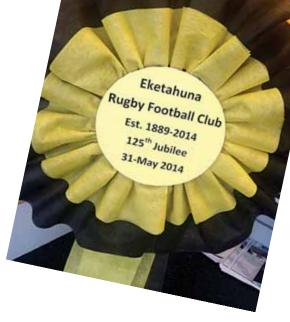
The famous Club sign as you drive into the club rooms. If you're going to have a cartoon announce your club, you could do worse than get one by Murray Ball of Footrot Flats fame! Run, Wal, run! Could someone get that bloody Dog off the field!?

Club's grounds.

50







The town went wild. 125 years - not a bad record - and still going strong.





Eric Rush had the audience under his spell!



Even the toilets are classy in **Eketahuna!** 

I was honoured to have my photo taken with three legends of Two knights and two good mates. NZ rugby. Thank you guys!



The legend of Eketahuna Rugby Club, Brendon Walker, has played over 300 games for the club and still going. He's a bloody machine!





#### The weekend just got too much for Dexter and he crashed!

My old mate Dexter dragged me out of my sick bed and took me to Eketahuna. To be fair, we had a great time and were made very welcome, but I tell you what, when you are feeling crook, that 7.30am flight out of Palmerston North with the wonderful people of Air NZ, is an early start. But it got us back in time for the big show - the return to Mt Smart, and that is all I cared about.





#### The local shops all got behind the club.

They even have their own **KIWI in Eketahuna!** 







#### KNZM, QSM, PATRON NZRL

Honorary Ambassador of the: Vodafone Warriors, NZ Rugby League, Allergy NZ, Diabetes Auckland, Prostate Cancer Foundation of NZ, Macular Degeneration NZ

### Proudly Presents... A Knight with 2 Warriors & a Tiger



**Dane Sorensen** 



Gary "Whiz" Freeman



Kurt Sorensen



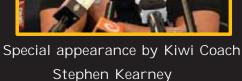
Special appearance by Kiwi Captain

#### Simon Mannering







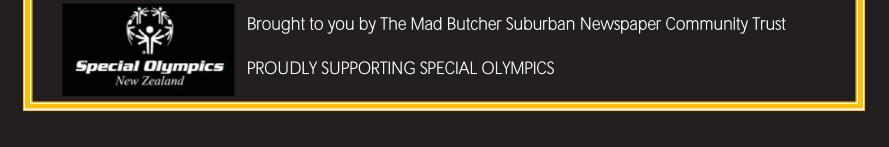


HER IS

Join Sir Peter Charles Leitch at a luncheon to celebrate 3 local lads from Auckland who went on to become legends of rugby league on the International stage. Kurt & Dane Sorensen (Mt Wellington Warriors) and Gary "Whiz" Freeman (Northcote Tigers)

They will share stories and re-live past glories celebrating the Kiwi Rugby League Jersey

: <u>diana.broomfield@fairfaxmedia.co.nz</u> or T: 09-9259942



# **Special lunch for Special Olympics**

The Mad Butcher and Suburban Newspapers Community Trust is hosting a special lunch, featuring Dane and Kurt Sorenson, and Gary Freeman, to help raise some money to support Special Olympics.

These wonderful athletes deserve our support. They do their best in every sporting endeavour but barely rate a mention, and most of what they achieve goes on only because of the dedication of a huge group of volunteers.

We take for granted the ability to play a bit of sport, and hardly spare a thought for those who might find competing a bit more of a challenge because of an intellectual disability, so I am very proud to be helping out with getting a team to Los Angeles.

It is a two-pronged attack though, because the lunch also celebrates some of our outstanding former Kiwis internationals, and having three of the very best coming in from Australia to support the event is wonderful stuff.

# THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 12 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE... ON SALE THURS, JUNE 5

MORE OF OUR ONLINE STATE OF ORIGIN SPECIAL VIDEO SERIES ARE UP. WE ASK THE GUYS TO DESCRIBE THE FEELING OF PLAYING AND FLETCH TELLS US HOW HE GOT TO KINGS CROSS ONE NIGHT. GO TO BIG LEAGUE TV ON YOUTUBE TO WATCH.

### FEATURES

Est. 1920

HOW MUCH, OO MUCH Young players already commanding the big bucks

• Willie Mason opens up about how he's finally realised what it means to be a leader in the team and why he's continued

playing even after achieving it all. Manly v Canterbury is slowly growing into a modern-day rivalry. We take at look at some of their best recent clashes;

- Gold Coast coach John Cartwright talks about the
- unpredictability of coaching, how the Titans can turn things around and their cover for Aidan Sezer; Rugby league is a big money business these days, but are
- young stars being paid too much before they've proven themselves, we take a look at the situation; • **BIG READ:** Who's the next Joey Johns? Is he even out there?

After 15 years in the top grade 'Mase' finally understands his place in the game

WILLIE MASON

PLUS: Best of Sea Eagles v Bulldogs • Origin I Review John Cartwright Q&A 
Anthony Minichiello

We love our footy!

TAGAVA1

s he out

there or is the search all in vain?

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Plus, our video series continues. Yesterday we posted the guys trying to describe what it feels like to play Origin. http://www.youtube.com/user/bigleaguetv1



The Future Stars of World Rugby

# Special offer **2 – 20 June** Let's get behind the IRB Junior World Championship 2014!

The future stars of world rugby – 336 players in 12 teams – are vying for the right to be called the best Under 20 team in the world during the seventh IRB Junior World Championship (JWC2014).

QBE Stadium, North Harbour ECOLight Stadium, Pukekohe Eden Park, Auckland

Matches are being played on 6, 10, 15 and 20 June.

We want our local community to show their support of the teams so, we're providing you with the opportunity to have a complimentary admission to all the matches on Friday 6 June (limited to the first 1,000 people through the gates) Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

MATCH DAY 2: FRIDAY 6 JUNE			
Kick-off	Pool	Match	Venue
13:35	С	Scotland v Samoa	ECOLight Stadium, Pukekohe
15:35	Α	Argentina v Italy	QBE Stadium, Albany
15:35	В	France v Fiji	ECOLight Stadium, Pukekohe
17:35	Α	England v Australia	QBE Stadium, Albany
17:35	В	Wales v Ireland	ECOLight Stadium, Pukekohe
19:35	С	New Zealand v South Africa	QBE Stadium, Albany

Simply print out this voucher and present it at the ticket counter at either QBE Stadium, North Harbour or ECOLight Stadium, Pukekohe on 6 June for one complimentary admission (limited to the first 1,000 people through the gates).

More tournament information, including match schedules can be found at irb.com/jwc.

The U20 Rugby Junior World Championship showcases the emerging talent of the top 12 nations in World Rugby. Players from past tournaments feature in International teams and top level competitions throughout the world. It is the IRB's premier age-grade tournament and the first time this event has been hosted in New Zealand. Each match day sees 3 great games at 2 venues in greater Auckland.

#### SPECIAL OFFER: JWCPN2



NEW ZEALAND

# **DON'T MISS THIS FREE SHOT at \$5 MILLION!**

The TAB are giving Kiwis one shot at \$5 million dollars simply by making your call on the 2014 Football World Cup. Register now at **www.tabchallenge.co.nz**, submit your picks for each of the 64 2014 Football World Cup games, before midnight 12 June, and if you get them all correct, you could be \$5

million dollars better off. Don't know much about football? Don't worry. Simply hit "randomise my picks" and you'll be in with a shot at the prize. There are  $5 \times 1,000$ runner up prizes for the 5 people who have the most picks correct but didn't get them all.

#### It's FREE so make sure you get amongst it and MAKE SOME NOISE on the Football World Cup!

#### www.tabchallenge.co.nz





### We are very excited to announce that we have a brand spanking NEW website! Please check it out at http://www.ascottv.co.nz/

This awesome new site has everything from products that we sell to services we can do.

Kind Regards, ASCOT TV



# New Website!!

We are proud to annouce our new website is now up and running www.ascottv.co.nz

#### We had a CONSOLATION DRAW FOR CHRISTCHURCH and the lucky winner was JANINE MILLS from Aidenfield, Chch. She won a Return Trip for 2 from Christchurch, flying Air NZ, staying at the Ibis Hotel in Ellerslie, 2 tickets to the Luncheon and 2 tickets to the Warriors v Broncos game.

And imagine my surprise when she told me that her brother is NZ league player, Julian O'Neill, who played for Waitakere City (1994–96), St. Helens (1997–2000), Wakefield Trinity (2001) and the English team, the Widnes Vikings (2002–05).

Hope you are enjoying the newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at meelz 79@hotmail.co.nz Or if you would like to unsubscribe please email Amelia and she will delete you from the list.

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

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



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**Rex Harrison Graphic Designer** 



VODAFONE



### 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.



**David Kemeys** Editor at Large

Circulation



Peter Leitch Editor