



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

07 JULY 2014
#32



Time to get our Game On!



Boy what a busy weekend I had! The highlight was going to the boxing at the Vodafone Centre on Saturday night. I'll share a few photos later in the newsletter with you. What a week coming up! Tomorrow at Mt Smart around 6.00am, I'm doing the **TV1 Breakfast show** with **Sam the Weather Man** and giving away tickets, flights from **grabaseat** and accommodation from **SkyCity** and hosted in the lounge with me and Sam, plus a few drinks and a meal, to this Saturday's game - the **Vodafone Warriors** vs the **Parramatta Eels** and at 7.30am head coach **Andrew McFadden** of the **Vodafone Warriors** will be on and at 8.30am the captain of the **Vodafone Warriors**, **Simon Mannering**, is on.

Later in the day, I'm having lunch with **David Tua** and **Shane Cameron** then later in the day flying out to Brisbane (**Air NZ** of course) for the 3rd and final **State of Origin** on Wednesday night. Thursday, it's back to Auckland to get ready for the **Vodafone Warriors'** big game Saturday night at Mt Smart against the **Eels**. Our special guest in the lounge on Saturday is former Warriors coach **Daniel Anderson**. I hope you all have a great week and share the love out there! And talking about **State of Origin**, of course our very own **Jacob Lillyman** is lining up for the **Maroons** in the last **State of Origin** game and I reckon his form is such that he should have got a start earlier if I am honest. It could not happen to a nicer guy, one of the quiet workhorses who churns out metre after metre for us, and he had an interesting suggestion during the week, calling for a **State of Origin** game to be brought to New Zealand? I thought it was a bit off the wall when I heard it, but fair play, good enough for Melbourne, good enough for us I reckon. I know I'd go, and that got me to

thinking that there are probably huge numbers here who would support it.

The NRL has already confirmed league's showpiece will return to Melbourne next year, with a match to be played at the MCG in 2015 and 2018.

Other venues such as Perth and London have been talked about, so why not New Zealand?

Lillyman says he'd support bringing a match to this side of the Tasman.

Since joining the **Warriors** in 2009, he says he's witnessed league's profile grow and he's also been impressed by the passion for **Origin** here. "It would be massive. It'd sell out in the click of a finger, and Eden Park could hold it. I think it'd be massive, especially for league in New Zealand."

Don't say you weren't asked

We hear a lot about consultation, so now is your chance. It's time to have your say if you are a member, and there's the added incentive of the chance to win a signed NRL jersey and more!

The **Vodafone Warriors** want members to complete an annual survey to help with improving and growing our tribe for 2015.

This year there was a good number of members renewing, and I for one want that to continue next season. You can help by telling the club what went well and what didn't in 2014.

The club sets a lot of store by making being a member attractive, and at the end of the day membership packages are actually tailored to suit what the fans tell the club. So don't miss out.

And as I said, as an added incentive, everyone who completes the survey goes into the prize draw to win one of four great prizes: **A signed 2014 NRL jersey, a \$100 Canterbury voucher, Dinner for two at Masu courtesy of SkyCity, and even a pair of signed 2013 NRL shorts.**

Go Val Go

Now I have to say if there is one New Zealand sports star I put on a pedestal. It's **Valerie Adams**.

Last week she was in Switzerland for the **Diamond League** event and she threw the shot put 20.42m – twice, to extend her unbeaten run to 51.

Just imagine if the **Vodafone Warriors** could put together a winning streak like that. It's unimaginable. Valerie is just a phenomenon. And she is a first class woman, too.

The way she handled herself when that Belarussian woman/man diddled her out of Olympic Gold was remarkable.

And I will never forget Val turning out to speak at a **Mad Butcher Suburban Newspapers Community Trust** luncheon some years ago when we were raising money to support hospice.

That's because Hospice is a cause very dear to Valerie's heart, because she had to nurse her own mother through her final days, and she did it with the help of Hospice.

There was not a dry eye in the house that day as Valerie opened up about her experience, and I have admired her very much ever since.

Not only that, but here is a little snippet that totally underlines what a remarkable woman she is. Every year she must plan her diary, where to train, to compete, that sort of thing. But one of the first dates she puts in her calendar has absolutely nothing to do with sport. It's the **Kidz First Children's Hospital Christmas Party at SkyCity**, and she has been going for years. Never misses.

Valerie is a very proud South Auckland girl and I tell you what, she should compete in the Diamond League, because that is what she is – a diamond. (More on Val, from **Phil Gifford** further down the Newsletter).

VODAFONE WARRIORS

PARRAMATTA EELS

BACK IN BLACK

VODAFONE WARRIORS V EELS SAT 12 JUL / 7.30PM / MT SMART

IT'S ROCK NIGHT / PRE-SALE \$10 GA PARTY STAND / DON'T MISS OUT

MATCH DAY SPONSOR TNT



*We did it for the Panthers,
let's fill Mt Smart for the Eels!*



This Saturday, 7.30pm...

Round 18: Warriors vs Eels

Mt Smart Stadium Sat 12 July 2014 7:30pm



It's **Rock Night THIS SATURDAY NIGHT** at Mount Smart Stadium so break out your mullet wig and get along to enjoy a rocking night on and off the field when the **Vodafone Warriors** take on the **Parramatta Eels** in this round 18 clash. Don't miss your chance to see some of the exciting young talent both teams have to offer by booking your tickets today. **PLUS** Get a Party Stand ticket for just \$10.

BLACK IN BLACK 'ROCK NIGHT'

MATCH-UP: Vodafone Warriors v Parramatta Eels
DATE: This Saturday, July 12, 2014
VENUE: Mt Smart Stadium, Penrose, Auckland, NZ

TIMES

GATES OPEN: 3pm
NYC KICK-OFF: v Penrith Panthers, 3:10pm
NSW CUP KICK-OFF: v Penrith Panthers, 5:10pm
NRL KICK-OFF: v Penrith Panthers, 7:30pm
EVENT FINISHES: 9:15pm
THEME: *Back in Black, Rock Night*
MATCH DAY HASHTAG: #backinblack #WarriorsForever
MATCH DAY SPONSOR: TNT is the Match Day sponsor
CHARITY PARTNER: Shine
APPAREL: The boys are Back in Black. The team will be wearing the Home Jersey on Match Day
RED ZONE/WARRIORS TENT: There's fun for everyone. The passing wall is here to stay, the kids love it, come work on your passing skills. There's also face painting, *Warriors Forever* tattoos and more! And your chance to win the *Vodafone Warriors Road Warrior Suzuki Swift*.

TICKETS

Grab your mates and come along in your best mullet hairstyle to the **Party Stand for just \$10 for Adults**, fees apply. **Adults from \$20, Children from \$10** . Terms and conditions apply. Head to **www.ticketek.co.nz**



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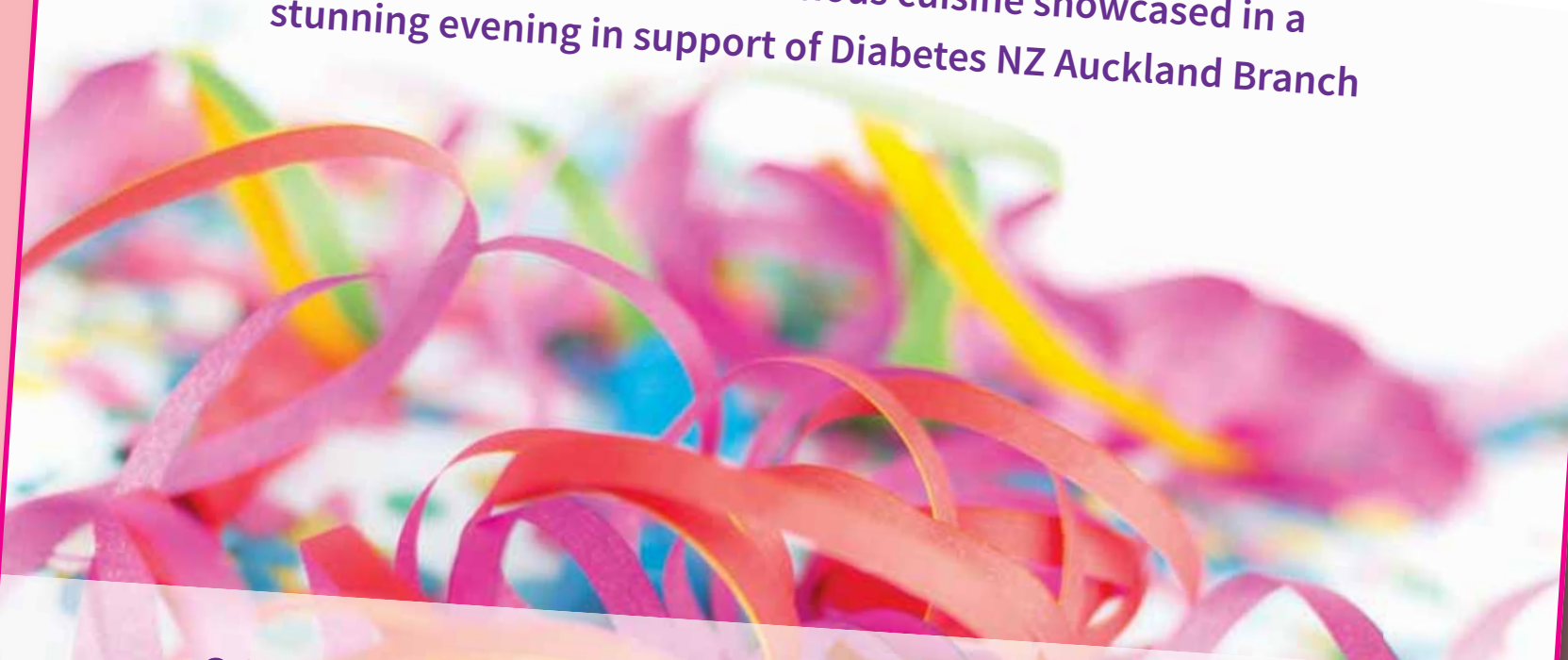
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Mardi Gras

Colour, spectacle and delicious cuisine showcased in a stunning evening in support of Diabetes NZ Auckland Branch



26 July 2014 | 7:00pm | The Floating Pavilion

Hosted by Sir Peter Leitch KNZM, QSM, PATRON NZRL

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES AVAILABLE NOW: email Jennifer at fundcorp@diabetesauckland.org.nz

Tickets: \$125 – email reception@diabetesauckland.org.nz
For more information and to win **free** tickets head to:
www.facebook.com/DiabetesNZAB or phone 0508 34 22 38



diabetes nz
auckland branch



As you can see from the poster above, Diabetes NZ, Auckland Branch, has got their annual gala coming up on the 26th of July – an exciting Mardi Gras! I'm hosting it and it's being held at **The Floating Pavilion** on the Auckland waterfront - the Mardi Gras will be an amazing night full of colour, delicious cuisine and entertainment. They will also be giving away a raffle prize on the night - **a trip to Brazil worth \$9000!**

Be sure to invite and share the event with all of your friends **PLUS have a chance to WIN two free tickets** by heading to their facebook page. DNZAB doesn't receive any government funding, so rely on events like this to carry on their vital awareness and support programmes – such as their **Mobile Diabetes Awareness Van** where they are doing **free tests for type 2 diabetes** in the community.

Be sure to invite and share the event with all of your friends **PLUS have a chance to WIN two free tickets** by heading to their facebook page. DNZAB doesn't receive any government funding, so rely on events like this to carry on their vital awareness and support programmes – such as their Mobile Diabetes Awareness Van where they are doing free tests for type 2 diabetes in the community.

For more information and to buy tickets, see the following link or call **DNZAB** on **09 623 2508**
<https://www.facebook.com/events/456736854472153/>

NRL DRAW: SIX SUNDAY GAMES CONFIRMED

Auckland, New Zealand, July 4, 2014 –

Sunday football will dominate the **Vodafone Warriors' NRL schedule for the rest of the regular season.**

The NRL today confirmed dates and kick-off times for the last six rounds of the campaign revealing Sunday fixtures for each of the **Vodafone Warriors' matches** from round 21-26.

In fact, a Sunday theme applies for the last seven rounds of the season with the club's 20th-round clash against the **Manly Sea Eagles** also fixed for

Sunday, July 27 at Mount Smart Stadium.

The only exceptions in the last nine rounds will be the **Vodafone Warriors' next two matches** which are both on Saturdays.

They'll meet the **Parramatta Eels** at Mount Smart Stadium next Saturday (July 12) followed by **Brisbane** at Suncorp Stadium on July 19. Both matches kick off at 7.30pm local time.

The only variety in the last seven games will be the kick-off times.

The Sunday home games against **Manly** (July 27),

Cronulla (August 10) and **Gold Coast** (August 31) kick off at 4.00pm local time. The remaining Mount Smart Stadium fixture against 2013 NRL champions the **Sydney Roosters** (August 24) has a 2.00pm start time.

The away games against **Canberra** (August 3) and **Newcastle** (August 17) kick off at 2.00pm local time while the final regular season match against Penrith has been scheduled for a 6.30pm start.

BUY TICKETS FOR VODAFONE WARRIORS' HOME GAMES:

<http://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=WARRIORS14#.U7YdJvmSx8E>

VODAFONE WARRIORS: REMAINING NINE GAMES

Round	Date	Opponent	Venue	Kick-off
18	Sat, July 12	v Parramatta Eels	Mt Smart Stadium	7.30pm
19	Sat, July 19	v Brisbane Broncos	Suncorp Stadium	7.30pm
20	Sun, July 27	v Manly Sea Eagles	Mt Smart Stadium	4.00pm
21	Sun, August 3	v Canberra Raiders	GIO Stadium	2.00pm
22	Sun, August 10	v Cronulla Sharks	Mt Smart Stadium	4.00pm
23	Sun, August 17	v Newcastle Knights	Hunter Stadium	2.00pm
24	Sun, August 24	v Sydney Roosters	Mt Smart Stadium	2.00pm
25	Sun, August 31	v Gold Coast Titans	Mt Smart Stadium	4.00pm
26	Sun, September 7	v Penrith Panthers	Sportingbet Stadium	6.30pm

Local times listed

New Zealand Warriors end season on Sunday streak

Friday 04 Jul 2014 2:20pm



No day of rest for the Warriors to finish the season (Photosport)

Related:
• [Tuivasa-Check happy for Miro to play on](#)
• [Lillyman welcomes HZ Origin game](#)

Unbeaten pro bowler Joseph Parker has looked down considerably for his contrasting American opponent.

New Zealand heavyweight champion Parker is big lighter than his previous fight, losing the scales at 102 kg on Friday, one day out from a showdown against the much smaller Miro in Auckland.

Parker, 22, outweighs his 38-year-old opponent by 1kg and, at 1.82m, stands 12cm taller.

The Suzuki Selection



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Mad Butcher still 'your old mate'

By Sam Ackerman
Sport Reporter

Friday 04 Jul 2014 9:02a.m.

23 Comments



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Seven years after selling one of New Zealand's most well-known franchises and after decades of giving back to the community, Sir Peter Leitch could be forgiven for taking it easy.

The 'Mad Butcher' has grown from humble beginnings as the youngest of seven children in suburban Wellington, to fame, fortune and knighthood. But he's still very much your old mate.

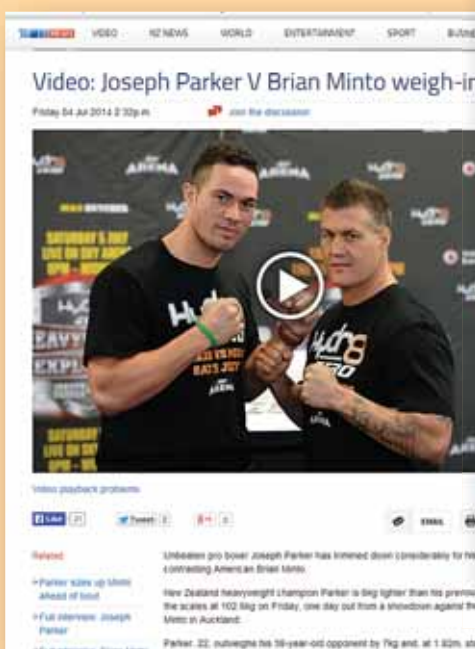
Latest Sport News



Parker cuts down for Minto fight



Warriors to end on Sunday streak



My mate **Sam Ackerman** from TV3 Sport has been kind enough to do a feature on me. You can access it via the link below.

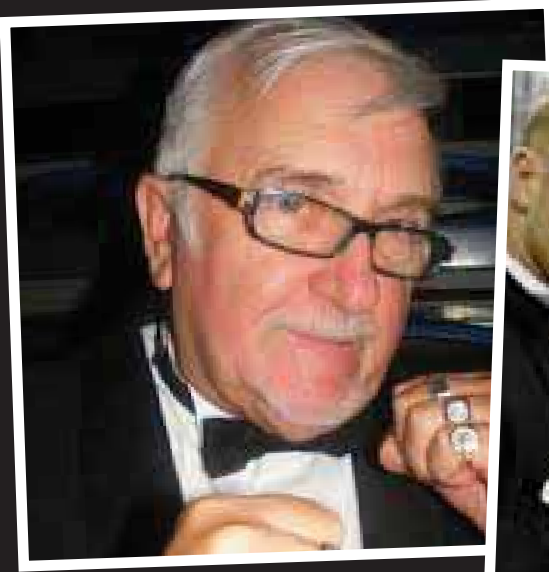
While you're there, check out the great sports items such as the Parker-Minto clash, and up-to-the-minute commentary on the Warriors. You'll find out all sorts of good stuff on

<http://www.3news.co.nz/3Sport/TheLeagueFix.aspx>

It's well worth a look!

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Mad-Butcher-still-your-old-mate/tabid/415/articleID/351381/Default.aspx>

Friday 18th July 2014
Addington Raceway - Christian Cullen Lounge



TUA CAMERON

LUNCH OF THE CENTURY

Join us for a long lunch with David Tua and Shane Cameron hosted by The Mad Butcher. An action packed afternoon with two New Zealand sports stars and Sir Peter Leitch!

This will be an afternoon not to missed so book now at

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Tables of 10 \$1500+ GST.

Ticket price includes 3 course meal, wine and beer.



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Valerie Adams' 51st successive win in Lausanne is more than just another notch on her amazing world class shot put belt, writes **Phil Gifford**. The fact she was over 20 metres twice, with a best of 20.42m, is a huge boost to her confidence. People might wonder why an injury to her left, non throwing, is a big deal. But Valerie stays so good because of the massive weights she lifts in training. Without being able to lift as she'd like she had started to slip back to the chasing pack. Speaking to her at her base in Switzerland last week she sounded much happier with training, and this result shows she's getting right back to her amazing best.

(Look out for Phil's book **"Life Amongst The Legends"** on sale on July 16).



AAF Diamond League, Lausanne, 03.07.2014, Valerie Adams (NZL)
Photo: EQ Images/www.photosport.co.nz / Pascal Muller

This is what some of the Vodafone Warriors Administration Staff get up to when they have a bye *(Thanks for the invite, guys)*



Season Member and captain of Mac4, Graeme McMillan, bringing in a fish in Rangaunu Bay off Karikari Peninsula, against the early morning sun. Graeme showed Don Mann, Dean Bell and Dave Curran how it's done.



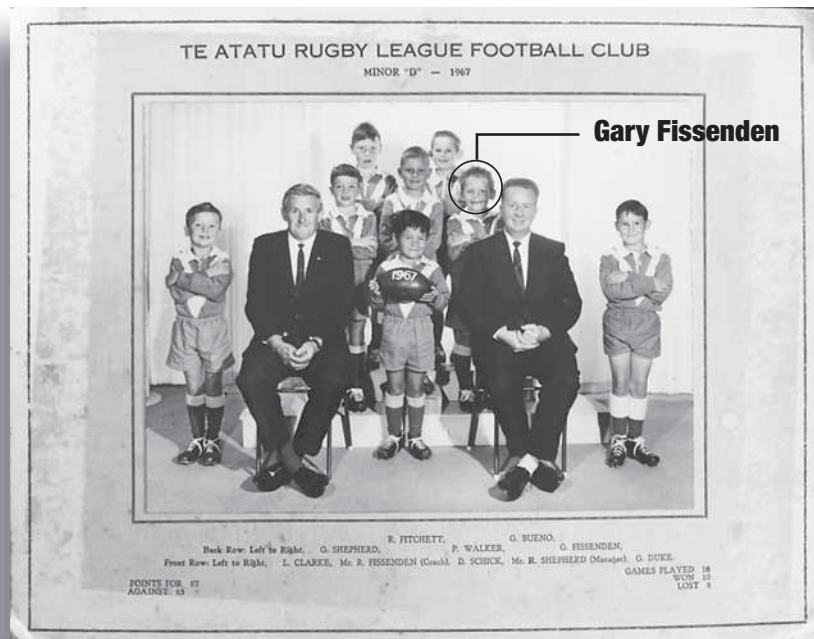
Vodafone Warriors GM Finance & Ops Dave Curran with GM Football, Dean Bell. They spent the weekend in Rangiputa in the Far North for a weekend of snapper fishing with Don Mann and his brother-in-law Graeme McMillan aboard Mac4.



The boys did very well for themselves bringing in 11 large fish.



Dave Curran left, Dean Bell right in Rangaunu Bay in the Far North aboard season member Graeme McMillan's boat, Mac4. Take note, the boys have their life jackets on doing what is right in the ocean.



The New Zealand rugby league has a new chairman, **Gary Fissenden**. He comes from a very strong rugby league background, with his passion starting back in the 60's. I thought it would be nice to learn a little bit about him. So here is a little bio he sent me:

*"We were a league family living in Te Atatu North. We did not watch rugby in our house. My two older brothers (Peter and Dave) and I played for the **Te Atatu Roosters**. Peter played rep football for Auckland and played in the senior team with Dennis Williams. He tells me stories about being coached by **Jack Fagan**. My dad coached me from midgets until about 10. I played as prop for most of my time, ending up with my last game of league being at the U21 semi final against Richmond at the Ellerslie Clubrooms. I stopped playing when I started my Master of Commerce as I just didn't have the time and I was going to have to play with the grown up men from there on. (I was too big to play 3rds).*

*My worst game of league was a 92-2 thrashing by a **Ron O'Regan** led Mt Albert side. In those days we were a bunch of smallish mainly palagi boys and we learnt to play the game for fun as it was hard work against the big pacific island sides."*

Garry Fissenden – Chairman of NZRL

Email: gary@skills.org.nz

Vodafone Warriors supporting the community and helping KidsCan reach milestone

Auckland, New Zealand, July 5, 2014

KidsCan's 'Raincoats for Kids' programme has reached the 100,000 mark with almost half of the coats being handed out since the **Vodafone Warriors** began partnering the charity last year.

Just-retired **Vodafone Warriors** veteran **Jerome Ropati** – now a club ambassador – joined Prime Minister **John Key**, Social Development Minister, **Paula Bennett** and National List MP **Alfred Ngaro** at **Lincoln Heights School** in Auckland last Friday to celebrate the handing over of the 100,000th **KidsCan** raincoat to school children.

Operating since 2005, the children's charity **KidsCan** supports more than 400 low decile schools by providing much needed items to vulnerable children including food, raincoats, waterproof trousers, shoes, socks and hygiene products.

KidsCan and the **Vodafone Warriors** formed a three-year partnership last year which has already seen 45,000 Kiwi kids receive branded **Vodafone Warriors** raincoats to keep them warm and dry.

Vodafone Warriors chief executive **Wayne Scurrah** said the club was delighted it was able to support **KidsCan** and in-need school children in such a tangible way.

"It's a special thrill for us as a club and for our players knowing how much of a difference it's making to the school kids benefiting from the programme," he said.

"Seeing the excitement on kids' faces when they find out they're all being given a raincoat is priceless, a really heart-warming experience."



These three cuties show off their brand new Vodafone Warriors raincoats.



Prime Minister John Key addresses kids.



Club ambassador and former player, Jerome Ropati, shares the love with the kids.



Jerome Ropati entertains the PM while Minister Paula Bennett checks her phone messages at Friday's function.

And here's what a former Warriors player and Club Ambassador had to say about the KidsCan special event...

It was the last day of the second term of the school holidays and I was lucky enough to be part of a special occasion. KidsCan Foundation were giving away there 100,000th raincoat to the students at **Lincoln Heights School** and I was there to witness it. I've seen some great milestones in my career, **Steve Price** and **Ruben Wiki** joining the 300th game club, my good mates **Sam Rapira**, **Manu Vatuvei** and **Lance Hohaia** reaching their 150th for the club and **Simon Mannering** and **Michael Luck** playing their 200th, but this milestone is in a class of its own (no pun intended). Thanks to **KidsCan** and the **Warriors**, 100,000 students around the country are able to brave the wet winter season and attend school with their warm, **Warriors** branded raincoats. You should've seen the look on their faces when they found out they were getting one! Kids were smiling, laughing, jumping around, dancing and high fiving one another

What made this day an experience the kids will never forget is that Prime Minister, **John Key** and

Minister of Social Development, **Paula Bennett** were there to celebrate with them. I have never met John Key before, but that guy is a pretty cool dude. He waltzed up along with Paula, made a joke about some guy swimming in a pool full of alligators and surviving (the message being you can do anything if you put your mind to it), participated in a fun quiz game with the kids and took a photo with them, sitting on the ground in what most probably was an expensive suit. That's a classy PM if you ask me. The kids loved it. I loved it because the kids loved it. That's one of the perks of my job. Yes, that's right, I don't think events like this are ever seen by the players as tasks or jobs, they're seen as bonuses because quite simply – we get to persuade children toward doing something that's beneficial for them and their community. It is a perk. In this case, we've helped them continue their education consistently, when the weather is not so consistent. This hasn't just been a one off occasion either; we've been in coalition with KidsCan and their raincoat project for 2 years now. The boys in the team enjoy it. Its gives us

a different perspective on our influence in the game and it also shows the community the other side of a footy player - that we genuinely care about their wellbeing. Everyone there had fun that afternoon. It was an event in which I know was the culmination of hard work and commitment by so many people. I would like to make special mention to those who were involved in making this happen (please excuse me, there a many people who I don't know, who were apart of this project). Well done to **Julie Chapman** and **Miriama Smith** from **KidsCan Foundation**, **Petrece Kesha**, **Vodafone Warriors** Community Manager, and to all our boys in the team, who were able to hand out these raincoats to the students in person over the years. In a time when League Players make headlines for doing the wrong things, I think the professionalism our players display in areas like this needs to be acknowledged.

Jerome Ropati



Photos from the Big Fight Night



Me, Lt Dan Hennessey and Colonel Bob Sheridan, a world famous boxing commentator.



Former Warrior and Good Mate, Logan Swan.



Me and Judith Collins, who is related to Joseph Parker.

FIGHT NIGHT



Sam Tonkins, Kevin Barry and me.



Me and Winston Peters.



Me, with a few of the Vodafone Warriors Boys.



Dexter, Me, my wife Janice and Son-in-Law Bruce.



My lovely wife Janice and my youngest daughter Julie, both looking great.



Danny from SkyCity, Judith Collins and Graham from Vodafone.



Eddie Kohlase recognised in the Queens medals this year and former Black Sox coach.



Me and Sam the weather man. You can catch us on TV1, Tuesday from 6 until 9.



Jenny May Cottin, Me, Trina Tamiti and Funny Man Wairangi Koopu.



Former Warrior Wairangi Koopu.



Minister Judith Collins and Sarah Bowman who is Sam Wallace's partner.



Jenny May Cottin from TV1.

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Legend, Stacey Jones and I just had lunch with a man that has given plenty to New Zealand rugby league: **DAVID ROBINSON** from AUTEX. Just to thank him for what he has done for league.

Thanks David



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.

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