

VODAFONE



48



0

YES!



Chad Townsend
and the team
celebrates Sam
Tomkins' try.

Photographer:
Anthony Au-Yeung /
© PHOTOSPORT

Sam Tomkins slams down a try in the round 18 NRL Telstra Premiership game, against the Parramatta Eels at Mt Smart Stadium, Saturday 12th July 2014. Photographer: Anthony Au-Yeung / © PHOTOSPORT - www.photosport.co.nz



Sir Peter Leitch's
MAD BUTCHER CLUB
AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

17 JULY 2014
#33

I was quite nervous going into the **Vodafone Warriors v Parramatta Eels** game on Saturday night because I'd managed to convince myself the Eels must have something up their sleeves.

I had visited their hotel on Saturday morning to catch up with **Daniel Anderson**, our former coach and now football manager at the club.

Both teams were coming off byes and the **Eels** had **Fuifui Moimoi** coming back after eight weeks and were confident enough that they left out one of the best players in the game, fullback **Jarryd Hayne**.

Anderson is a smart cookie and I went away thinking something was brewing. I was right but for all the wrong reasons.

I need not have worried at all. It was one of the best performances I've seen from a **Warriors** team and they did it in terrible conditions.

Fullback **Sam Tomkins** was sensational and his detractors might just have to suck that one up. But really it was a game where all the players stepped up.

Explosive Joseph outdoes Sam the Weatherman

No one could have believed we were going to win 48-0 and it was hardly surprising that the Mad Butcher lounge went off after the game.

We had **TV One** Breakfast star **Sam the Weatherman** along – after I had appeared on the show earlier in the week – and we gave away some trips, which went to people from all over the country.

But the undoubted star of the show was **Joseph Parker**, the young up-and-coming boxing sensation from South Auckland.

To be fair, I sometimes have to work hard to get a bit of a silence for our guests when they take the stage and the microphone but you could have heard a pin drop when “Explosive Joseph” spoke. Such a nice bloke this young man, very humble and well grounded. It was a complete pleasure to have him with us.

Players drop by

Tui Lolohea and **Ngani Laumape** came to visit, as did the legend, **Stacey Jones**, who was down in the dumps having watched his **Vodafone Junior Warriors** get pipped at the post. The upside, I suppose, was that the NSW Cup side had a very good win over Wentworthville.

It's another busy old week for me because on Friday I am MC in Christchurch at a function with **David Tua** and **Shane Cameron**, before hopping a flight – **Air NZ** of course – back to Auckland and then on to Brisbane so I can catch the game against the **Broncos** live.

I have spent more time in Brisbane recently than in my own bed because I nipped across to the **State of Origin**



Sam Tomkins goes over for a try after a Parramatta scrum.

Photographer: Andrew Cornaga / © PHOTOSPORT www.photosport.co.nz

game too. I can tell you it is a special experience and one you should try to take in yourself when you get the chance.

Being in Brisbane also gave me a chance to meet **PJ Marsh** and **Mark Tookey**, both former **Warriors**. (You can read more about the lads in this Newsletter!) They are doing well and it always gives me great joy to catch up with our old boys. It gives me joy, but maybe not as much as smashing the Eels 48-0!

**So, go the mighty Vodafone Warriors!
We are on a roll!**

MATULINO MAKES RETURN

Ben Matulino made his return from injury last weekend against the **Parramatta Eels**. The 18th-round ‘**Back in Black**’ match was the 25-year-old Matulino's 144th career outing after missing the last two victories against Brisbane (19-10) and Penrith (30-20) following minor knee surgery.

Matulino, whose last appearance was in the second row against South Sydney in Perth on June 7, was named on the bench. “Ben's return is right on schedule,” said **Vodafone Warriors** head coach **Andrew McFadden**. “He had some cartilage trouble (in his right knee) but it's been sorted and he's ready to go again this week having missed just the two games.”

Matulino's return leaves him on target to make his 150th appearance this year; he would be the 10th to achieve the feat for the club.

HURRELL HITS FIFTY

Reaching the 50-game milestone on Saturday night was 22-year-old centre **Konrad Hurrell**, who boasts 33 tries in 49 games so far. He has scored four tries in the club's three games at Mount Smart Stadium so far this season. With a double against Penrith, Hurrell has eight in 12 games this season, two behind **Manu Vatuvei**.

VATUVEI HITS ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SIX!

Manu Vatuvei – with 128 career tries – went into last Saturday's game having scored 10 tries or more in each of the last nine NRL seasons; he is only the second player in the competition's history to achieve the feat behind North Sydney and Manly winger **Ken Irvine** who scored a record 212 tries.

Vatuvei played his 186th NRL match on Saturday, moving into outright fourth on the club's list of all-time appearances; only **Stacey Jones** (261), **Simon Mannering** (203) and **Logan Swann** (195) are ahead of the giant winger.

Mannering is also close to another milestone. His five tries in his last five games – he has six in all this season – have him sitting on 49 career tries; only Vatuvei (128), Jones (77), Francis Meli (60), Lance Hohaia (57), Clinton Toopi (57) and Jerome Ropati (54) have topped 50 for the club.

Family Day v Manly

It's **Family Day** at Mt Smart on Sunday July 27, so you can grab a **Family Pass** for just \$25. That's Mum and Dad and two kids. Kick-off is at 4pm and of course the NSW Cup side plays at 11:40am and the **Vodafone Warriors Juniors** at 1:45pm.

Suzuki steps up

Suzuki is the match day sponsor against Manly and you could win a **70" LG 3D LED Smart TV** if you can **guess how many balls the Vodafone Warriors packed into an S-Cross**. Go to www.suzuki.co.nz/guess-to-win/ to enter. The winner gets announced at half-time, plus Suzuki will also be giving away rugby league balls, so keep an eye out and catch one to win.

Support for Alex McKinnon

This weekend the **Vodafone Warriors** are getting behind the **NZ Spinal Trust** and **RiseForAlex Alex McKinnon Foundation**. **RiseForAlex** was established to provide relief to McKinnon, the **Newcastle Knights** footballer who suffered devastating spinal injuries in a tackle in March. Good on the NRL too. It's getting behind the fund, which raises money to provide Alex with ongoing financial and medical support, allowing him to focus on his recovery. You'll be able to buy a special **RiseForAlex** rubber wristband from the **Vodafone Warriors** office on game day.

Tighter than a duck's bum!

The top eight remains the same this week, the only changes being Manly go top after a 40-8 win over the **Tigers**, pushing Penrith – 35-34 winners against Brisbane - into second.

The **Vodafone Warriors** are up to sixth on 22 points but the big win has boosted our points for and against to plus 70, and also made us the leading points-scorer in the competition with 385. The **Roosters** have 375 and Manly 370.

Here's how we run-into the finals: **Broncos (a)**, **Manly (h)**, **Raiders (a)**, **Sharks (h)**, **Knights (a)**, **Roosters (h)**, **Titans (h)**, **Panthers (a)**.

Thomas gets recall

Thomas Leuluai has been confirmed to face Brisbane at Suncorp on Saturday - 9.30pm NZT.

The 29-year-old is on the interchange for what will be his 50th NRL appearance for the club.

Coach **Andrew McFadden** has also handed an NRL debut to New South Wales Cup regular and ex-**Vodafone Junior Warrior Agnatius Paasi**.

The 22-year-old prop or second rower will become **Vodafone Warrior No 191**, the seventh player to make his debut for the club this year.

"It's tough on **Charlie Gubb** and **Sam Lousi** but Aganatius deserves to have his chance," he said.

Leuluai was on the field for every minute of our 24 matches last year before a groin complaint ruined his Rugby League World Cup. He returned against the **Tigers** in April before being side-lined again.

THE LINE-UP: WARRIORS v BRONCOS

Sam Tomkins
David Fusitu'a
Konrad Hurrell
Dane Neilsen
Manu Vatuvei
Chad Townsend
Shaun Johnson
Jacob Lilyman
Nathan Friend
Suaia Matagi
Ben Henry
Simon Mannering
Sebastine Ikahihifo

Interchange:

Feleti Mateo
Ben Matulino
Agnatius Paasi
Thomas Leuluai
Jayson Bukuya.

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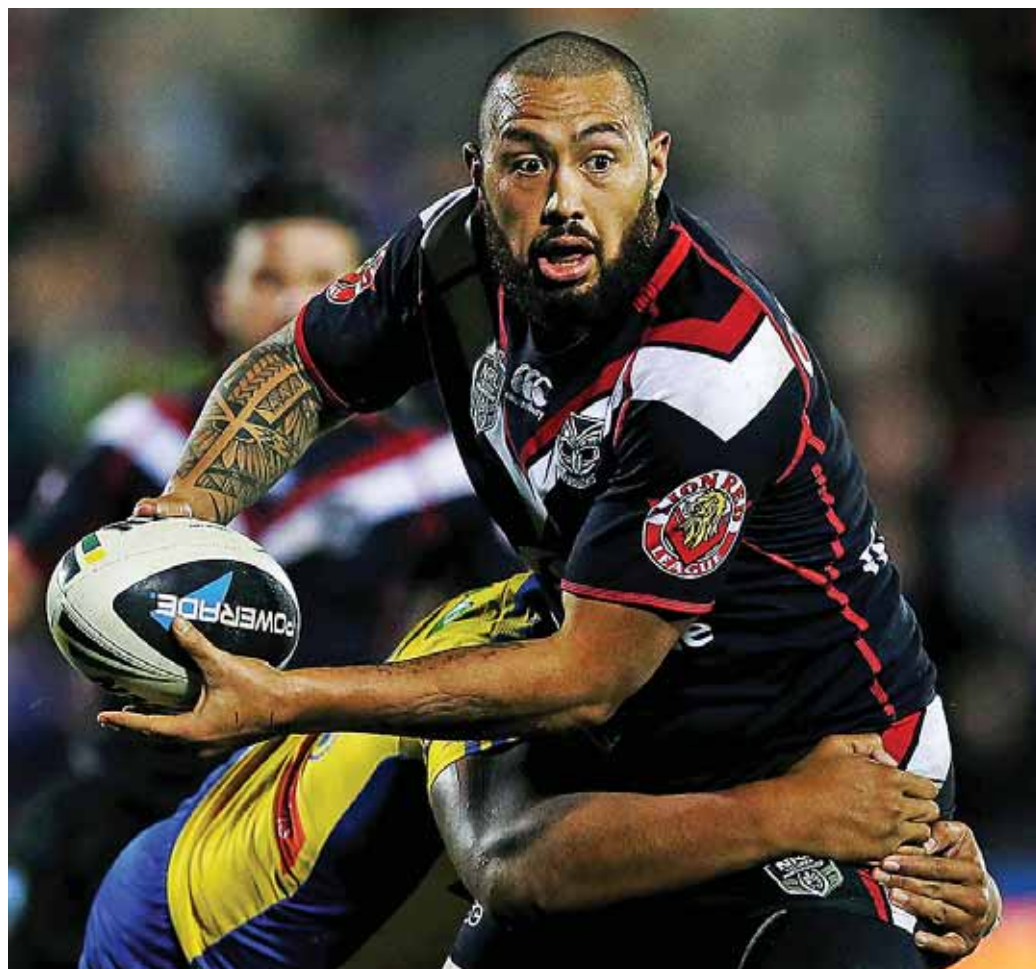
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A photo of **He Tauua** player, **Willie Pera**, receiving "player of the day" for the **Southland Rugby League** grand final. Willie was not only happy with his team's victory over **Cooks** 28-24, but was also over the moon to receive a **Vodafone Warriors** cap, **Vodafone Warriors** scarf and also a signed **Vodafone Warriors** jersey from Sir Peter Charles Leitch. Thank you so much, Butch, you're a legend and things like this keep our boys encouraged to be part of our game.

Greg Dawson

Southland Rugby League Coach



Feleti Mateo prepares to pass the ball.

RIGHT: David Fusitua crashes in for a try

Photos: ©PHOTOSPORT / www.photosport.co.nz

PHOTOSPORT have some OUTSTANDING IMAGES of last weekend's game on their website. Do check them out. All pix are copyright for editorial use but some may be available for sale as prints. Enquire online.



SHOUT OUT TO: AIR NEW ZEALAND, SKY CITY, TV1's BREAKFAST SHOW and the VODAFONE WARRIORS for helping me put together the packages we gave away on TV last week. The winners all had a blast!

AIR NEW ZEALAND 

SKYCITY
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VODAFONE
WARRIORS

ONE

Our sponsors do us proud with their ongoing support. So when you can, return the favour by availing yourself of their services!

Back in Black in the Lounge!



Sir Peter with Alex Dawson, right, and boss with the best mullets in the lounge. Sir Peter and Sam with the mullets!



Dennis Katsanos from Sky TV with Sam the Weather Man.



Sir Peter with Dennis, from Sky.



Joseph Parker, the boxer, with Sam the Weather Man from TV1's Breakfast Show.



Sir Peter with Joseph Parker and his younger brother.



Neil Saxon and Ali, part of the poms' team in the lounge.



With Tuimoala Lolohea an up-and-coming young player.



Tuimoala Lolohea with Ngani Laumape.



the Vodafone Warriors club chairman, Bill Wavish.



Sir Peter with Brendon Telfer, a legend in broadcasting in NZ.



Brendon Telfer and Dale Budge, 2 well known radio jocks.



Peter Taylor and wife Christine, with Bill Wavish, chairman of the Vodafone Warriors. Peter was celebrating 31 years of marriage.



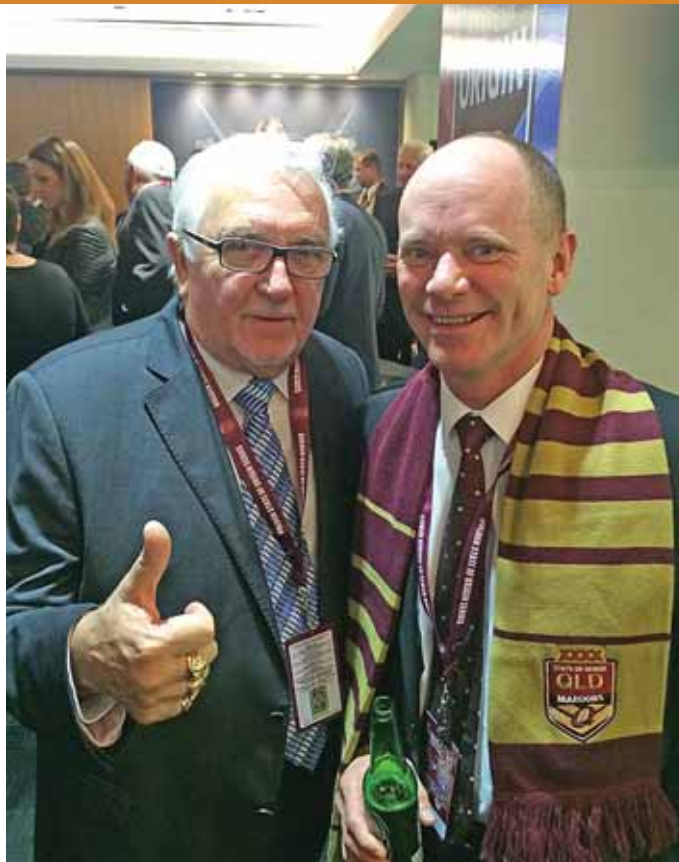
John Carlaw, who played 35 games for Warriors including 2002's grand final, with his partner.

[illegible]

In Queensland



I just had to have a selfie with swimming legend Dawn Fraser, who is a big Tigers fan and loves her rugby league.



I got to meet the QLD premier, Campbell Newman, and what a nice guy!



Always great to catch up with the King, Wally Lewis, one of the greats of rugby league.



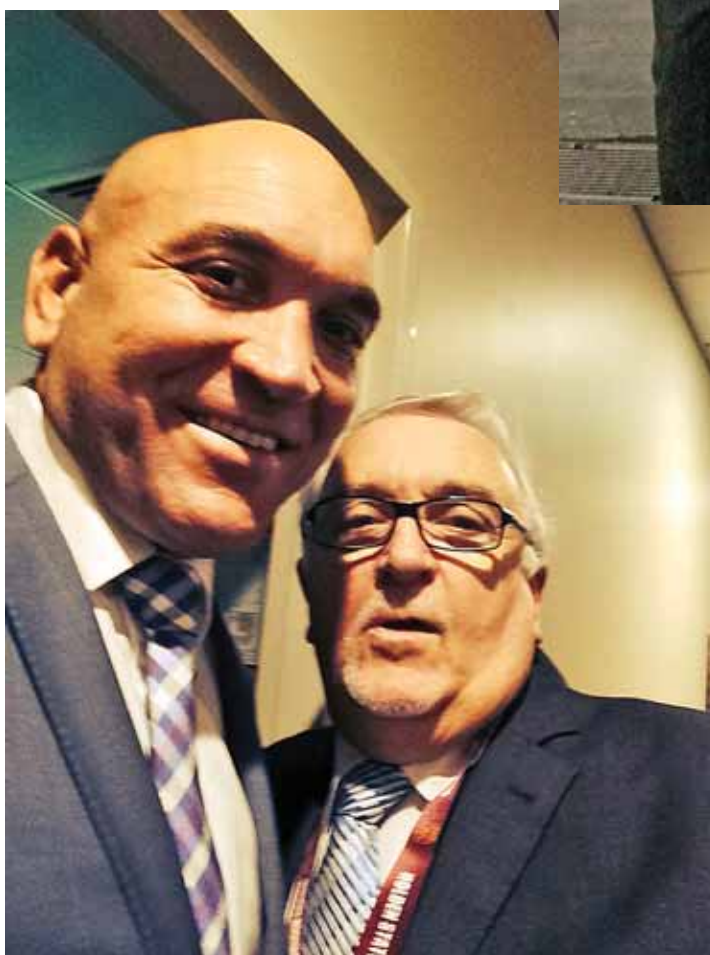
On the right, the Queensland police commissioner and on the left, the NSW police commissioner with senior sergeant Dexter Trail in the middle.



ABOVE: Me and former ex-Kiwis and Kiwis captain and coach, Howie Tamati caught up with the king, Wally Lewis after State of Origin.

FAR LEFT: Even caught up with my old mate from the Storm, Robby Kearns.

LEFT: Gordon Tallis, another legend of rugby league and a good mate of the Butcher.





A man I have a lot of respect for: John Grant played rugby league for Australia and Queensland and is chairman of the rugby league commission and in my opinion, is a top bloke.



Always great to catch up with Peter Stirling, another rugby league legend and one of the best analysts of our game I know.



Here's a blast from the past! Tony Carroll played for the Brisbane Broncos, Leeds Rhinos played for Australia and the Maroons in State of Origin and played for the Kiwis and still holds a New Zealand passport.



Another good bloke – Scott Sattler, son of the great John Sattler. Scott played State of Origin for Queensland and has played for five clubs over his career.



And I caught up with Tim Sheens, the Australian rugby league coach and former player, who has coached Penrith Panthers, Canberra Raiders, North Queensland Cowboys, and the Wests Tigers and has won a few premierships - I think four.



Now this guy and me have a few things in common. 1: his birthday is on may the 8th, same as mine; 2: he is called Mad Dog and loves rugby league. The big difference is, he played for Australia, played for the Blues in State of Origin and has won 2 premierships with the Knights! Another top bloke!



Billy Moore, former player and most famous in 1995 for chanting “Queenslander, Queenslander” over and over as the Queensland team walked down the tunnel. They won the series 3/0, and for Game 3 of this year’s State of Origin, his job was to fire up the crowd and let me tell you he had the crowd roaring. He even had me fired up. Well done, Billy, you still have it.

Read - and see - the story behind the chant here: <http://www.smh.com.au/rugby-league/state-of-origin/billy-moore-reveals-story-of-the-queenslander-cry-20130626-2owa0.html>



Catching up with a couple of great guys

P.J. MARSH was only a young 17 year old person when he left St Brendan's College in Rockhampton, and was for the first time in his life unemployed. He had no work and was destined for a life on the wrong side when he meet up with a young policeman, **Paul White***, and Paul's mate, **Adam Swift**, another local, who just loved his footie and was always available for the young blokes. "Those two found me 2 jobs," said P.J. "One serving food at Frenchville Sports Club at night and making security screens/doors in the day time. I loved serving the food at night 'cause I would have any leftover mud cake with ice cream and fruit. I thought I was living the dream. From there, Paul gave me a chance to play footie at Rockhampton Brothers. I trained really hard 'cause I didn't think I was the best but Paul gave me a chance. And from there I got a chance to play state footie and from there it just exploded. I was a skinny little 18 year old and my first professional club I played for was **Parramatta Eels**. Then in 2000 I played my first NRL game against Balmain. We gave it to them and won. Next move was to the **Warriors** with **Daniel Anderson** also from Parramatta. The **Warriors** era was the best time of my life and I still reminisce on the good days and good friends I made. And I loved the **Warriors** supporters. We made the finals for the first time and played in a NRL grand final. Awesome. Nowadays I have a beautiful wife, Kelly, and 3 great children. I'm living in Middle Mount in Central Queensland and I am sitting here with the Butch and **Mark Tookey** at the Marriott Hotel having a good old yarn about the State of Origin tonight. Having played 4 games for Queensland State of Origin, I still have a passion for the game."

**Paul White, the policeman, is now the CEO of the Brisbane Broncos and still a good mate of mine.*

MARK TOOKEY, the Warrior who once nearly scored a try from a kick off with a sidestep and a 90 metre run, offloaded to **Ivan Cleary**, passed to **Brett Webb**, who scored under the posts in Townsville against the **North Queensland Cowboys** in 2002. "Great memories. I'm now the development officer for the **Canberra Raiders** in Queensland. I have just recovered from my first marathon on the weekend on the Gold Coast. Yes, you heard right, big Tooks is now running marathons. I've got the big Tooks training crew and am also into some personal training. When I left league in 2006/7 from the **London Harlequins**, I let myself go a bit and blew out to a massive 160 kgs. A visit to the doctor's and a diagnosis of type 2 diabetes and I knew I had to change my lifestyle. So over a period of time I made a drastic change in my diet and today I weigh in at 110 kgs and am feeling fantastic and really enjoying life. I'm living in Logan between Brisbane and the Gold Coast with my lovely wife Lisa and my 2 beautiful girls. Sitting here having a great catch up with me old mate, Butch and just missing the old days. Looking forward to the game tonight and go Queensland. PS. I'm coming over in January 2015 to do the half ironman in Auckland. See you all there. I'm looking for sponsors to help get over there."



P.J. Marsh and family.



Mark Tookey, Sir Peter and P.J. Marsh.



Tooks after running the Gold Coast marathon.

**Interviews taken by
my good mate,
Dexter Traill.
Thanks, Dexter!**



*Our airline.
Our first choice!*

Hi Peter,
Just arrived in Moscow and getting the low down on some shocking news that came out a few days ago about **Rugby League being banned in Russia!** They have gone a long way down since the Russians toured the South Island in 2004 when coached by former Kiwi Coach **Bob Bailey**.
News below.

Duane

The big news is the sport of Rugby League being banned in Russia.

The governing body for Rugby League in Russia claims that the sport is banned because the Ministry of Sport in Russia believed it did not have proper security and medical practices for events organised. The Rugby League European Federation came out and said that although it was excluded, the sport does indeed comply with the standards of Medical and Security practices of Russian Sports Laws and would keep fighting to have Rugby League approved as a sport by the Russian government.

This is not the first time Rugby League in Russia has had difficulty in gaining official recognition in its homeland. In 2010, several Russian financial backers broke ties with Rugby League and sided with Rugby Union because it was introduced into the Olympic Games. Since then, Russian Rugby League has been fighting for the sport to be played and gain official acknowledgement that it is a sport in its own right. These pleas however, have landed on deaf ears, as the Sports Ministry still refuses to recognise Rugby League as an individual sport and still refuse to give financial assistance to the game.

It will be an interesting few months for the Russians because they still have European and domestic fixtures to play.



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Heres a photo of me (Ruth) and my mate Georgina Tupara, at the State of Origin game!



Hi Butch

I was wondering if you could do me a favour by seeing if you could arrange to have this photo of my new grandson, Billy, in one of your weekly newsletters. I told my son Blair, who you have met when he took a thirteen-year-old side from Hornby up to Auckland two seasons ago and enjoyed your generous hospitality, I would do my best.

Many thanks Butch and go the Warriors tonight against the Eels.

Cheers,

Brian Langton, KIWI 433

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<http://www.panasonic.co.nz/promotions/>

We wish Kevin Masters a speedy recovery, as he is back in hospital and is one of our longest serving lounge members, so we wish him all the best.

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING FUN-FILLED EVENT



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

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Tickets: \$125 – email reception@diabetesauckland.org.nz
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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.

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



Me and my Lovley granddaughter Kristin enjoy the win.

Subject: Mad Butcher Lounge.

Hi Peter,

Just wanted to drop an email thanking you for your hospitality you gave us in your Lounge Bar the other nite.

It was very much appreciated by myself and fellow Director **Adam Capovilla**.

In saying that, whenever you're in Australia next, dont be shy to look us up, we would love to return the favour.

All the Best Butch, for the rest of the season..



Jason Grant
Director, WDRLFC



A big thank you to the Warriors team for signing **Lochie's** new shirt. A very happy wee man. Thank you also to Greg Dawson and the Mad Butcher for organising some goodies for Lochie. He was over the moon to get a cap, drink bottle and poster, just to mention a couple of treasures in his parcel. Thanks again for helping this wee man out.

A very dedicated supporter xx

Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you, Sir Peter Charles Leitch, for an amazing enjoyable and very memorable night which you gave to my parents **John** and **Mary Haddock** last night. They had such a great time; they are so full of wonderful stories and it has given them wonderful memories to take away. You are a truly wonderful generous man and I thank you from the bottom of my heart . . . **Dawn Lister**

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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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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Amelia
Circulation

