

What a crazy weekend of rugby league!

t all started when the Newcastle Knights beat the Sydney Citv Roosters 16-12.

Now I can't figure this out. The week before Newcastle had everything to play for. Their injured star Alex McKinnon was at the ground for the **Rise Up for Alex** round, and they were hopeless. Poor Alex, who injured his spine in a terrible accident earlier in the year, must have wished he didn't have to see it. But then, written off this week, they pull Manu Vatuvei had his ankles tapped just as the tryline as beckoning at the end of the first half, we had a try disallowed that was one of those "the ball was way out" if you are a Manly fan, and "that was in" if you are in Warriors colours. And Sam Tomkins must have been a few blades of grass short of crossing too, while Manu got held up over the line.

I wish we had got the result, just like most of the more than 19,000 fans who packed Mt Smart, but we were treated to a really good game of footy, even if I was less than impressed with some of the play I thought the referees let Manly get away with.

one out of the bag.

The Broncos, who beat us the week before, got flogged by 30 points against the Storm, the Panthers were upset by Cronulla, who have hardly won a game all year, and the Eels beat the Titans 24-18.

It all leaves the top eight wide open that is for sure.

But of course the only game we care about is the Vodafone Warriors and they went down 22-12 to Manly in a brute of a game at Mt Smart.

Sure we had Shaun Johnson out, and Feleti Mateo was also missing, but if we had taken our chances we could have won it.

Stuff – and nonsense

I seldom get worried by what they write in the papers but I was less than impressed when I read a match report that described the Vodafone Warriors as "like a rudderless ship" and said that without Shaun Johnson the Warriors had "shown they are nothing ".

Crikey dick. Fair enough, we got beat, but we got beat by the table-topping side and competed well.

The 22-12 scoreline might have been different but sometimes lady luck does not play out for you.

Keep in mind that Manly, in their past six games, have held teams to 16 or less all but once, and across the season have only leaked an average of three tries a match.

It is true though that we were dealt a blow by the late injury blow that ruled Johnson out - but the bloke is not Superman, and it is the first game he has missed since the end of 2012, and yes, we did miss him.

But I also thought that being without Feleti Mateo also took a toll.

On the positive side it was great to see Thomas Leuluai back, and he sent Konrad Hurrell over after only just over a minute. Manly barely crossed into our half in the early stages, and we went to the break in an arm wrestle with possession.

That's hardly being rudderless.

Still on the up-side of the ledger, Ben Matulino was great after the break and, again, the call that

his offload that looked to have sent Ben Henry in, was marginal.

The Vodafone Warriors kept hammering the Manly line but their defence was outstanding. Sure manly scored some late tries, but the boys never gave in, despite what Stuff.co.nz might believe. If they surrendered then how come Simon Mannering scored and the raced back to get the boys fired up to go again?

Yes, I was disappointed, but that is the nature of the game. Sometimes things don't go your way,

but on the whole, I thought it was a great game, and the boys will be just as disappointed as us fans.

Welcome to the big leagues Tuimoala

Shaun Johnson's withdrawal opened the way for Tuimoala Lolohea to make his NRL debut, so our congratulations must go to the 19-year-old.

Lolohea, who has spent most of the year playing for the club's New South Wales Cup side, appeared for us at the Nines in February and becomes Vodafone Warrior No 192.

Super Simon

Captain Simon Mannering just can't stop scoring. He has been in exceptional form this season, and over the last two months had scored seven tries in the last seven games and eight for the season. So when he crossed on Sunday those pretty special numbers went one better - eight from his last eight games and nine tries for the year.

Welcome back Sam and Thomas

Just one game into his second comeback from injury this season, Thomas Leuluai had to try and fill the boots of playmaker Shaun Johnson, and he made a pretty decent fist of it, and it was great to see veteran prop Sam Rapira back too after a two-match absence. He made his 164th career appearance for us.

Lounge goes gangbusters

Did we have a fantastic time in the lounge or did we have a fantastic time?

It was great to have my good mate Greg Dawson and the crew from Roadrunner Panel and Paint down in Invercargill with us, and how good was it to have David Fusitua and the injured Feleti Mateo drop by?

With two former All Blacks in Bruce McPhail from Hamilton, who played alongside Colin and Stan Meads in his day, and Xavier Rush, we had some genuine rugby pedigree too.

Rush retired in 2012 having made eight appearances for the All Blacks, captained the Auckland ITM Cup team, and the Blues, and having enjoyed a good career with Ulster over in the UK.

Then there was Jim Doyle, who takes over as Vodafone Warriors CEO in November, and a special treat for me, the two young lads who have been battling adversity.

The first has type one diabetes and had fits as he described having "two injections in the bum" every day, and the other, a young man battling cancer.

Both really impressed me with their bravery and attitude to life, and I always enjoy having young people like them around us on the day.

And a special thanks too, to all of you who come week after week. Win or lose we have a great time and that is all down to you. I am blessed to have such great people along week after week. See photos from the Lounge further on in this Newsletter.

Spotless pulls off a blinder

We are all quick to criticise, so I thought I would go on record and do a praise where it is due spot, to Spotless Catering. The meal on Sunday was outstanding. Beautifully cooked roast beef, carrots and peas, and what I am told is potato gratin - or potatoes with that cheesy sort of sauce as I know it.

Whatever, it was brilliant, and I highly recommend you thinking about tucking in to the meals available in the club. Great stuff and good value for money.

Time for a rest

In a world first, the **Mad Butcher** is turning off his phone, not accepting emails, and going for a holiday, where he plans to do nothing but relax.

To be honest, I might have been pushing it a bit lately and I've had to admit I'm feeling a bit tired, so it will be nice to be on the Gold Coast just chilling out.

Having said that, I might have to sneak away and have a wee peep at the Super Rugby final, where my colours will be firmly red and black, so go the Crusaders. They demolished the Sharks in their semi-final but will find the New South Wales Warratahs a bit tougher, especially in Sydney.

But I am a real Todd Blackadder fan, because I have met him a few times and a nicer bloke you would not meet. So, and this is tough for a real Blues fan, go the Crusaders, and holiday or not, go the Vodafone Warriors, after two losses on the trot, you owe us one against the Raiders.

NRL ROUND #21 – JOHNSON AND MATEO BACK

Auckland, New Zealand, July 29, 2014 -

alfback Shaun Johnson and back rower Feleti Mateo both return for the Vodafone Warriors' trip to Canberra for their 21st-round NRL clash on Sunday (2.00pm local time; 4.00pm

NZT).

Johnson (groin) and Mateo (calf) were both late defections from the line-up for last Sunday's 12-22 loss to competition leader Manly.

Johnson comes back into the halves with Chad Townsend while Mateo is on a six-man bench with Ben Matulino, Sam Rapira, Thomas Leuluai, Tuimoala Lolohea and Sione Lousi

Johnson has missed just three of a possible 79 matches since establishing himself as a first-choice selection in 2011.

Mateo played 79 consecutive matches for the club until he missed the fourth-round clash against Wests Tigers in Wellington in March.

Vodafone Warriors' head coach Andrew McFadden said both players had recovered well after being ruled out of the Manly encounter.

"We're very hopeful they'll be right to play but we have Tui and Sione there as cover if needed," he said.

capital was a 22-10 success in a one-off appearance at Manuka Oval in 2001.

"I'm not concerned about our record there," said McFadden. "This game is about focusing on ourselves and controlling what we can control.

"It's obviously a hugely important match for us in the context of the season.'

The Vodafone Warriors go into the match sitting ninth on the table after a second consecutive loss.

They're one of six teams on 22 points headed by North Queensland in seventh spot with Brisbane eighth.

The 15th-placed Raiders have an impressive record at Canberra Stadium overall with a winning percentage of better than 67 per cent but their 18-34 loss to South Sydney last night was their sixth in eight matches at the venue this year.

The match will be Ben Matulino's 147th NRL appearance leaving him in line to play his 150th game when the Vodafone Warriors host the Sydney Roosters on August 24.

The contest to be the Vodafone Warriors' top try scorer this season has tightened up with Manu Vatuvei and Konrad Hurrell both on 10, Sam Tomkins and Simon Mannering on nine and Johnson on eight. Mannering has had the distinction of scoring eight tries in his last eight appearances.

VODAFONE WARRIORS V CANBERRA RAIDERS LINE UP GIO Stadium, Canberra 2.00pm, Sunday, August 3

- SAM TOMKINS 1
- 2 NGANI LAUMAPE
- 3 KONRAD HURRELL
- 4 DANE NIELSEN
- 5 MANU VATUVEI
- 6 CHAD TOWNSEND
- 7 SHAUN JOHNSON
- 8 JACOB LILLYMAN
- 9 NATHAN FRIEND
- 10 SUAIA MATAGI
- 11 **BEN HENRY**
- 12
- SIMON MANNERING (c)
- 13 SEBASTINE IKAHIHIFO

Ex-Raiders McFadden and assistant coach Adam Mogg will be in familiar territory when they head back to the Australian Capital Territory this week.

McFadden had his second victory as Vodafone Warriors head coach against his old club at Eden Park in May - a 54-12 win but this will be his first in charge in Canberra (he was assistant coach for last year's 16-20 loss there).

The Vodafone Warriors have won just two wins in Canberra in their history with only one in 11 attempts at Canberra Stadium (a 31-24 victory in 1997 when former All Black Marc Ellis kicked five goals and field goal); the other win in the Australian



Interchange:

- 14 FELETI MATEO
- **BEN MATULINO** 15
- 16 SAM RAPIRA
- THOMAS LEULUAI 17
- **TUIMOALA LOLOHEA** 18
- 20 SIONE LOUSI

HEAD COACH: ANDREW McFADDEN

Keep Thursday the 16th of October free. That's the date of our next Legend of League luncheon at SkyCity, and we will be bring over two top names in rugby league. We are trying to get Darren Lockyer at this stage but to be confirmed.

Here's the Stacey Jones Lounge menu for the next home game on Sunday the 10th of August against the Sharks.

STACEY JONES LOUNGE LUNCH BUFFET MENU

Served from 2.30pm-4.30pm \$15.00 per person

COLD SELECTION

Freshly baked bread roll and butter Garden salad with tomato, cucumber, feta and Thousand Island dressing

HOT SELECTION

Roast chicken thigh With roast potatoes, mixed vegetables, Sage and onion stuffing and gravy

Back in the Lounge at Mt Smarti



Wayne Floyd, manager of Warriors NSW team with Sir Peter and a lady from Gisborne.



Bruce McPhail, Winger, 1959 All Blacks, the team that played the British and Irish Lions.



Rob Hewitt, who is visiting rugby league clubs around the country teaching boating safety.



Terry from Tauranga celebrated his birthday.



Interviewing another keen supporter.



Jim Doyle, 2015 Warriors CEO.



Jim Doyle takes the mike for some Q. & A.

Chatting with Southland Rugby rep, Peter Howley.



Bruce McPhail with Peter Howley, getting a bit of a rev up from Sir Peter.



And the Oscar goes to.... (Fergus MacLeod).



Fergus and Lucas.



Jayme Leary, ambassador for child cancer.



Jayme Leary and sister, Caitlin Leary. Jayme's loaded up!



Lisa, Caitlin, Brett, and Jayme Leary with Sir Lisa Leary tells Jayme's story. Peter.





Feleti Mateo and Sir Peter have a chat.





And the upshot? Feleti handles the interviews! Feleti interviews David Fusitua... Here with Jared Wilson.







...And has a chuckle with Nathaniel Peteru.



Back in control of the mike, Sir Peter discusses the game with Mark Watson from Radio Sport.





Fergus MacLeod (left) who presented about his Type 1 diabetes at the Diabetes Auckland fundraiser where Sir Peter was the MC. On the right is Fergus' friend, Lucas Bennet. Here they are enjoying the Mad Butcher's Club in the **Stacy Jones Lounge.**

Far Left: First Warriors game for Travis (right) and couldn't have experienced it with better blokes! Will be back. Go the mighty Vodafone Warriors!

Left: Sophie and her partner Nigel. Guess who their favourite player is?

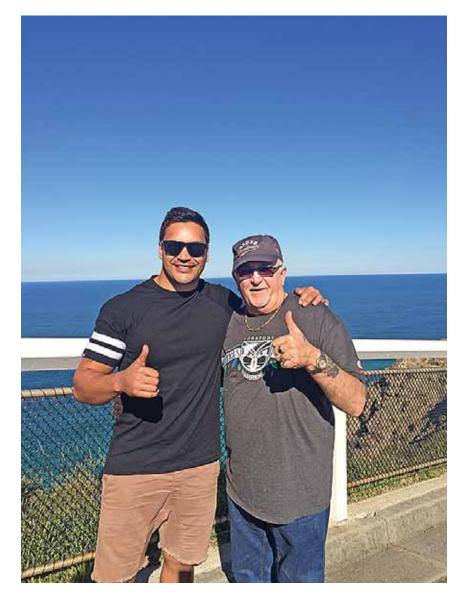


Tania Merrick with her Vodafone Warriors flag. Tania been a member since day one and her mate, Sophie Maniple, has also been a member since day one. It's not a bad flag!

Got this email from the **Waiheke Rams Rugby League Club** and thought I had to share it with you all, as this is the true Kiwi spirit – caring for others. The *Rams* is a small club battling their own fund raiser, but down this for a fellow league club! Makes me very proud to be a leaguey!

Shane Smith28 July 09:41

fyi Butch, as I know you love all things league; the **Waiheke Rams** made \$3,660.00 from our day on Sunday and donated it all to the **Rodney Rams** to help rebuild their club which was destroyed by fire. All products and services were donated by local businesses and **Reuben Wiki** donated a workout, the **Warriors** donated gear and **Sonny Bill** (who has family on the island, donated his **Kiwis** gear... p.s Waiheke won 68-14...and our 3 teams all played on the same day u8..u12.. and o.a.r seniors... Rodney have never seen such caring and were blown away with the hospitality...Grass roots league is where its at.



Shane Smith, Waiheke Rams RLC

Visiting Waiheke? Why not take the car?



Caught up with Broncos and Kiwis player, Alex Glenn, at Byron Bay on the Gold Coast this week.



Janice chilling out at the Balcony Bar & Restaurant in Byron Bay. A great little spot.

Byron Bay. What a great place to relax!



Great to see the old meat raffles are still going on in the clubs on the Gold Coast. Pity it's not Mad Butcher meat, though!



Wishing the Crusaders all the very best for the Final! Super Rugby Final (Match E) Saturday 2 August 2014 Waratahs v Crusaders ANZ Stadium, Sydney, Australia Kick-off: 19:40 local, 21:40 NZT,

Find out more, including a message from TODD BLACKADDE by going to...

TODD BLACKADDER http://crusaders.co.nz/

We had a ball at the Mardi Grast





NGHT WITH EBRATING 60 YEARS OF ROCK'N' ROLL THE CIVIC **SATURDAY AUGUST 16** 7PM

STELLAR FOUR QUARTET WITH **FULL GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT ORCHESTRA** MEMPHIS SHOWBAND



ANDY STANKOVICH AS THE VOICE OF ELVIS

AT TICKETMASTER.CO.NZ •••••••••••• 0800 111 999

Read Andy's bio and see a video clip here:

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to relive history!

For further information & interview requests: **Diana Goulding** +64 9 480 4858 +64 (0) 21 3311 03 diana@makeasplash.co.nz

From July 23 2014: **Leesa Tilley** +64 (0) 9 3766 868 +64 (0) 21 243 6899 publicity-machine@clear .net.nz

WWW.ONENIGHTWITHYOU.CO.NZ

60 YEARS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL SATURDAY AUGUST 16 | THE CIVIC | 7PM Featuring a 50-piece Ensemble | Full Concert Sound & Lighting

ixty years ago a young man from Tupelo Mississippi cut a record that sparked a global revolution. "That's All Right" forged an exhilarating new sound out of Memphis' Sun Records that galvanised the rock 'n' roll phenomenon and made Elvis Presley its first and only king. Here, now, on the 37th anniversary of Elvis' passing, that momentous event is about to be marked with a grand scale performance of rare class and dignity befitting the most gifted and

beloved showman of our time.

ONE NIGHT WITH YOU follows the unparalled story of Elvis' evolution from rockabilly hell-raiser to Hollywood heart-throb, passionate gospel singer and the ultimate Las Vegas showman. Under the command of renowned musical director, Mark Dennison, the majesty of Elvis' music will take centre stage for one night only, combining historic music footage and a mighty rock 'n' roll rhythm section, full gospel choir, harmony quartet and concert

orchestra.

In the centre spotlight is the incomparable ANDY STANKOVICH, whose uncanny vocal talent has stunned even Presley's own backing group, the Jordanaires. "He has the quality and tenor of Presley's voice and is one of the finest singers we've ever worked with" said Ray Walker of the Jordanaires after performing with Andy on stage in Nashville.



2014 Rugby League Four Nations Kiwis Supporters Tour

The 2014 Rugby League Four Nations is being hosted in Australia and New Zealand and the tournament will kick off on the 25th of October with a double header at Queensland's Home of Rugby League, Suncorp Stadium.

Join the only official Kiwis Supporters Tour as Sir Peter Leitch (The Mad Butcher) host's you for this Rugby League odyssey. If interested contact Sir Peter on **pcleitch@xtra.co.nz**

You will fly as a group to Brisbane before enjoying a pre-match function. Take in the Captain's training run and then the big one. The double header at Suncorp which will see Toa Samoa take on Sam Tomkins and the might of the English, before the main event of the evening see's our Kiwis take on the World Cup Champion Kangaroos.

This will be a great start to the tournament and what better way to kick it off than being part of the official Kiwis Supporters Tour.



CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT REMAINS THE PROPERTY OF THE EXPERIENCE GROUP NO PART OF THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE EXPERIENCE GROUP. 1

TWO INTERESTING LETTERS!

Thank you so much for making my Sir Peter... Mum (June) and Bruce McPhail so welcome to your lounge yesterday. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we might have even made a convert of the ol' All Black !! Shame the Warriors lost but hey, hopefully next time they'll find their mojo again. So thank you for an awesome day.

Raewyn Jacobs

Hi Sir Peter,

My name is **Eru Honotapu**. I'm a staunch Warrior fan from Matamata and a member of your club. I am wondering whether I can get two tickets for this Sunday's game for my wife's 84 year old Mum and her partner Bruce McPhail, who was an **All Black** in the 1950s. We are taking them to lunch at Sky City as a belated birthday gift for 'Mum' and would love to take them with us to the game afterwards. Bruce is an ex-All Black from Christchurch and has never been to a Rugby League game and we think it's about time that changed! Just hope we don't have to drag him kicking and screaming through the doors haha! Just as an aside, my wife's uncle is Peter Henderson who played for both codes back in the 1950s and was stripped of his All Black status because of it. He has now had that status reinstated and not before time!! Look forward to hearing from you and hope that

you can accommodate this request.

Regards, Eru



Goal \$200,000

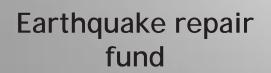
Guest Speakers including Lance Cairns, Brian McKechnie and Grant Nisbett



FUNDRAISING AUCTION LUNCHEON

Addington Raceway - Silks Lounge

Raised so far \$85,000



Friday 29th August, 12.30pm - 3pm \$1200+GST per table(10 people) Lunch, beer, wine and non alcoholic drinks included To secure your table please contact Gerard Jordan 03 322 9965. 0274 321 349 or 0274 321 339 halinajordan@yahoo.com.au

The Halswell Rugby League Club is an important part of the Halswell community in Christchurch. With over 600 people involved we touch many people from all ages. With the unfortunate events in 2011 the club has taken a bit of a beating and is in well need of repairs. We hope you can join us at our annual luncheon to help us achieve our vision of continuing providing an outstanding award winning club to the community.

Winners of - NZRL 'Grassroots' club of the year 2010, CRL New Zealand Masters most dedicated junior club 2013

Don't miss your Big League Read!



THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 21 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE... ON SALE THURS, JULY 31

SUPERHERO WEEK WE FEATURE THREE SUPER POWERS WHO WILL PLAY A HUGE ROLE IN THEIR TEAM'S RUN TO THE FINALS: CAMERON SMITH, JOHNATHAN THURSTON AND JARRYD HAYNE

FEATURES

• They're three prominent leaders in the game and **Cameron Smith, Johnathan Thurston** and **Jarryd Hayne** have evolved into great leaders and each play a crucial role in ensuring their sides perform at their best each week.

• An untimely injury in the Auckland Nines sidelined **Luke Keary**'s chances of cementing a starting spot this season, but he's back and ready to take his opportunities when he can.

• When news broke of **Darius Boyd** checking himself into a mental health clinic, we spoke to **Cory Paterson** about the changing perception of depression in rugby league.

• **Sam Perrett** has plenty of milestones in a decorated career. This week he plays his 200th but last week's game was one of the most special for the talented back.

• **BIG READ: Rugby League nurseries** play a big part in developing the young talent in game. We take you through the program of one school – The Hills Sports High – and how they're instilling professionalism in young players from an early age.

Est. 1920

MIND GAMES Players breaking

down mental health barriers

BREEDING GROUNDS

Sports schools starting professionalism young



man making his presence felt

> Three different leaders, same crucial role: The FINALS

BLK

YOURO

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from Thursday, July 31.

DIGITAL VERSION

Available via www.zinio.com

NOW AVAILABLE

PLUS

Sharks goal-kicking *By Numbers; Who's That Kid?* Manly's Tom Trbojevic; *Big Clash:* Bulldogs v Panthers match preview; *Top 8* NRL Superheroes; *Greg Alexander* says players can play their part in a coach's downfall and wonders why anyone would want the job these days; A look at the off-field dramas engulfing Wests Tigers and Manly.

GAME DAY: Official team lists for Telstra Premiership, Holden Cup, VB NSW Cup, Intrust Super Cup, Ron Massey Cup; lower grade reviews; Little League; Cowboys v Raiders cheerleaders.

Contact details: Editorial – <u>fiona.bollen@news.com.au</u>

Advertising: bowie.phillips@news.com.au

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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION





Chase for the Finals 3 game membership



Be a part of it, be there to help ride the **Vodafone Warriors** home in three crucial contests as they strive to make the playoffs. Take advantage of the CHASE FOR THE FINALS membership.

For just \$70 for adults and \$40 for children you get a general admission pass to the **Sharks** at 4.00pm on Sunday, August 10, the **Roosters** at 2.00pm on Sunday, August 17 and the *Titans* at 4.00pm on Sunday, August 24.

Not only that, but also:

- An exclusive 2014 membership cap (RRP \$20)*
- Secondary access to exclusive members-only finals pre-sale if the Vodafone Warriors take part
- Weekly exclusive members-only communication from the club

Go to www.warriorsforever.co.nz to buy yours now!

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.

VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTN

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!



team effort.

David Kemeys

Editor at Large

Peter Leitch Editor

Rex Harrison Amelia Graphic Designer Circulation

