



# Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



# Newsletter 21 AUGUST 2014 #38



**Nathan Friend scores through Beau Scott during the Knights v Warriors game at Hunter Stadium, Newcastle, on Sunday 17 August 2014.**

Photo: Paul Seiser /  
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## Slow start costly

We have been going good, quick out of the blocks, so it was a surprise when we trailed 14-0 at Newcastle after 25 minutes. But I can't help but think that despite clawing our way back into it, we gave them too much of a start.

Winger **David Fusitu'a** gave us yet another of his acrobatic finishes for his sixth try of the season and minutes later **Manu Vatuvei** got his 15th of the year – so there is plenty of strike power out wide.

When **Nathan Friend** stole his way over for his first try of the season we had fought back to 14-14, but it was downhill from there really, except for Manu showing he is up to joining the list of spectacular finishers too, crossing by staying inside the line and dotting down for try number 16 of the year.

## Juniors lose a thriller

The **Vodafone Warriors Juniors** fell 40-34 against the competition-leading **Knights** in Newcastle.

We were explosive early on and led 22-6 at one point, but that saw the **Knights** change gear and they did so with three tries before the break.

The home side continued its surge on the other side of the break and while the **Vodafone Junior Warriors** were able to respond, Newcastle just had that little bit more.

This weekend the boys play host to the fifth-placed **Roosters**, who were held to a 28-28 draw by the **Tigers**.

The stakes will be high with both teams fighting to hold their spots in the eight.

## Well done Manukau City

**Manukau City AFC**, based in Mangere East are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the club this weekend. I had the honour of being patron of the club for several years, so wish them well for the weekend. I met some great people there and had some great nights - and early mornings.

## What a stinker of a weekend

Well that was a stinker of a sporting weekend. The 12-12 **All Blacks v Wallabies** rugby test was a shocker. You could call it a battle, but that is about the most positive spin you could put on it.

Now of course we have to wait on the injury news for **Ma'a Nonu** and **Jerome Kaino**, as the test at Eden Park this weekend looms.

Eden Park is a massive fortress for the ABs and I have to say that it appears like lots of those coming to the rugby are staying on to visit Mt Smart the next day, where the **Vodafone Warriors** take on the **Roosters**.

The Sydney side are fourth and looking good, and will present a very stern test for the **Warriors**, sitting in eighth after a disappointing 28-22 loss to the **Newcastle Knights** on Sunday.

It was certainly a blow to our chances of playing finals footy, but you can only look forward.

I think we will have our biggest crowd at Mt Smart this Sunday. We had sold more than 13,000 tickets already this week and that is sure to climb, so tell your mates if they are thinking of coming to the game they better get there tickets as soon as they can from [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz). There are some great deals to be had **SO SPREAD THE WORD AND LET'S PACK MT SMART OUT ON SUNDAY.**

## Matulino makes 150

**Konrad Hurrell** returns from injury and **Ben Matulino** becomes the 10th player to appear in 150 NRL matches for the **Vodafone Warriors** in Sunday's 24th-round NRL clash against the 2013 premiership-winning **Sydney Roosters** at Mt Smart Stadium (2pm kick-off).

Matulino is also set to be the first NYC graduate from all 16 clubs to reach the milestone, having also been the first to hit the 100-game mark in 2012.

After making his NYC debut in the competition's debut season in 2008, the big Wellington-born-and-raised back rower-prop became **Vodafone Warriors** No 142 when he made his NRL debut three months later.

Matulino has been named at prop, with **Suaia Matagi**, who hasn't missed a game this season, being switched to the bench.

Hurrell will start in the centres after being sidelined with a hamstring injury, **Ben Henry** switching back to the second row, while **Sebastine Ikaiahifo** comes back at loose forward after missing the Newcastle encounter.

(See line up on p.2).

## Only two to go at Mt Smart

Round 24 sees the **Vodafone Warriors** hosting the 2013 premiers the **Roosters**, and beyond that it is only the **Titans** to come at our true home. The **Roosters** are one of teams to beat, boasting **Anthony Minichiello**, **Roger Tuivasa-Sheck**, **Michael Jennings**, **James Maloney**, **Mitchell Pearce** and **Jared Waerea-Hargreaves**. But our boys will remember their last meeting, when they played arguably their best game of the season, winning 23-12 in Sydney.

Make sure you check out this week's episode of the **League Fix - Vodafone Warriors'** great **Jerome Ropati** and **TV3's Sam Ackerman** preview the crunch match against the **Roosters** and look at the big issues in the NRL like the controversial 40/20 rule. It will be online Wednesday afternoon. Head to [www.3news.co.nz/3sport](http://www.3news.co.nz/3sport) and click on the **League Fix** icon - always a great watch!



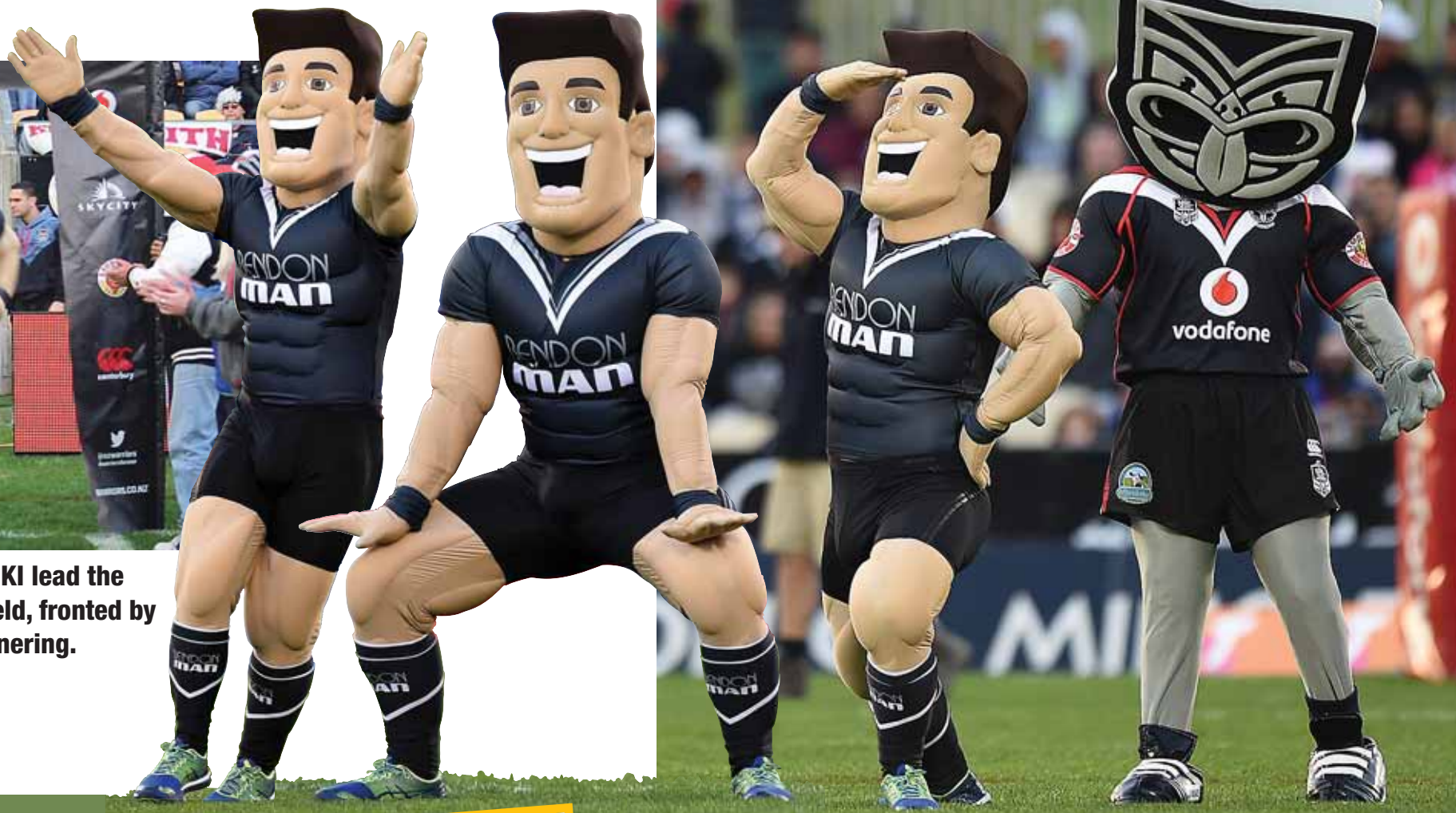
SEE THE ACTION  
HERE! →

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es\\_qlCsPRWA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es_qlCsPRWA)

Check out the moves on Bendon Man at our game against the Sharks at Mt Smart Stadium. He Challenged our mascot Tiki, to a dance off and obviously he'd been practicing!



BENDON MAN and TIKI lead the Warriors onto the field, fronted by captain, Simon Mannering.



## STACEY JONES LOUNGE LUNCH BUFFET MENU

Served from 12.00pm-2.00pm  
\$15.00 per person

### COLD SELECTION

Freshly baked bread roll and butter  
Mix leaf salad with tomato, cucumber, red onion and ranch dressing

### HOT SELECTION

Roast Lamb with garlic and rosemary gravy  
Roast Potato  
Garden peas and carrots

## LINE UP FOR THE VODAFONE WARRIORS v SYDNEY ROOSTERS Mt Smart Stadium, Newcastle. 2.00pm, Sunday, August 24

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 SAM TOMKINS          | Interchange:         |
| 2 DAVID FUSITU'A       | 14 FELETI MATEO      |
| 3 KONRAD HURRELL       | 15 SUAIA MATAGI      |
| 4 NGANI LAUMAPE        | 16 SIONE LOUSI       |
| 5 MANU VATUVEI         | 17 NATHAN FRIEND     |
| 6 CHAD TOWNSEND        | 18 JASON BUKUYA      |
| 7 SHAUN JOHNSON        | 20 SAM RAPIRA        |
| 8 JACOB LILLYMAN       | 21 DOMINIQUE PEYROUX |
| 9 THOMAS LEULUAI       |                      |
| 10 BEN MATULINO        |                      |
| 11 BEN HENRY           |                      |
| 12 SIMON MANNERING (c) |                      |
| 13 SEBASTINE IKAHIFO   |                      |



### No room in the lounge

As you know, the **Stacey Jones Lounge at Mt Smart** plays host to the **Mad Butcher Club** at every game day and this weekend the place is **sold out**. I can't remember that happening in a long time, so don't be calling me asking to get in, because there is no chance.

### Don't mess the time up!

You can get used to turning up somewhere at the same time for quite a while. We have had a run of 4pm kick-offs but **this weekend's match is at 2pm**. So don't assume it's the usual 4pm start or you are going to be sorely disappointed. The NYC game starts at 11:45am.





Training in Florida's 30-plus degree heat was a challenge for the Thunder team and their game against the Pioneers will be played in four quarters to allow for water breaks for the players.

# Rolling Thunder on tour

**T**he Auckland Police Rugby League team – known as the **Thunder** are currently in the U.S.A. and on Saturday night took on the **Pioneers** in DeLand, Florida, a representative side made up of players from 3 of the 4 teams that are in the South Eastern conference part of the larger USA Rugby League. The fourth team – the **Jacksonville Axemen** are set to play in the USARL Grand Final in a week's time against much fancied opponents **Philadelphia Fight**.

The weekend's game was played at the home ground of the **Central Florida Warriors** – Martin Stadium in DeLand. DeLand is home to the Stetson University and a mad American football town, so it was a coup for the organisers from the Central Florida Warriors and the South Eastern Rugby League when guests included the Mayor and other local body officials, all keen on seeing the great game of league.

Both teams started strongly and it was often physical. The **Thunder** ran in several unanswered tries in the first half, but despite the 64-6 score it was an entertaining match.

Game day temperatures were around the 30 degree mark so the game was played in 4 quarters allowing water breaks for the players.

The **Warriors** are a newly formed club and are hoping to align themselves more fully with the **Vodafone Warriors** with long term views of exchanges in all

departments as they try to expand their knowledge of the great game.

Rugby League in the East Coast of the USA is now starting to gain some traction after a few 'trying' years. Last year saw the **USA Tomahawks** compete in the Rugby League World Cup and although the team was mainly made up of players from Australia, Britain and France who qualified through family lineage, some local based talent was on show. The aim is to have a team made up of mainly USA based players in the future which is why they look forward to tours by teams such as the **Thunder**.

Training in temperatures as high as 38 degrees has been extremely trying for the **Thunder** with one player requiring a precautionary overnight stay in hospital for heat exhaustion. He's now fully recovered and expected to take part in the games.





# Lion Red – the nectar of the gods!

Our old friends and long time league supporters, **Lion Red**, are the match day sponsors on Sunday. They have been behind the great game of rugby league since Adam was a lad but they also hold a special place in my heart. Lion have always supported the **Mad Butcher and Suburban Newspapers Community Trust**. Let me tell you, it is not easy getting people to back you, because there is so much call on companies for their support. But **Lion** never quibbled. They jumped on board to help from day one and have been there ever since. There is no doubt in my mind that without them, and our other sponsors, the Trust would never have raised the money it has, and been able to support organisations doing good work in the community. So Lion, I salute you!



## A week for seeing the famous!

**W**hat a week I had last week. I caught up with former **All Blacks** captain **Sean Fitzpatrick** in Remuera. When I was with the **Kiwis** in the UK in 2009, the then **Kiwis** manager, **Gordon Gibbons**, got Sean to come and talk to the **Kiwis** in England and he was outstanding. He presented the test jerseys and I can well remember how honoured that player group felt that Sean was taking an interest in their code.

Then the next day I caught up with the "mother of the nation", **Judy Bailey**. That's right, the former **TV One** news presenter. And **Willie Apiata**, the soldier awarded the Victoria Cross – the highest honour possible – for his astonishing bravery in Afghanistan, when we all got together to judge the **Pride of NZ Awards** – two top Kiwis.



Former All Blacks captain, Sean Fitzpatrick, once handed out the jerseys to the Kiwis ahead of a test in the United Kingdom. A hell of a player and a good guy too.



Victoria Cross winner, Willie Apiata is a hell of a man. He is humble and really keen to use his status to help youngsters. A top Kiwi bloke.

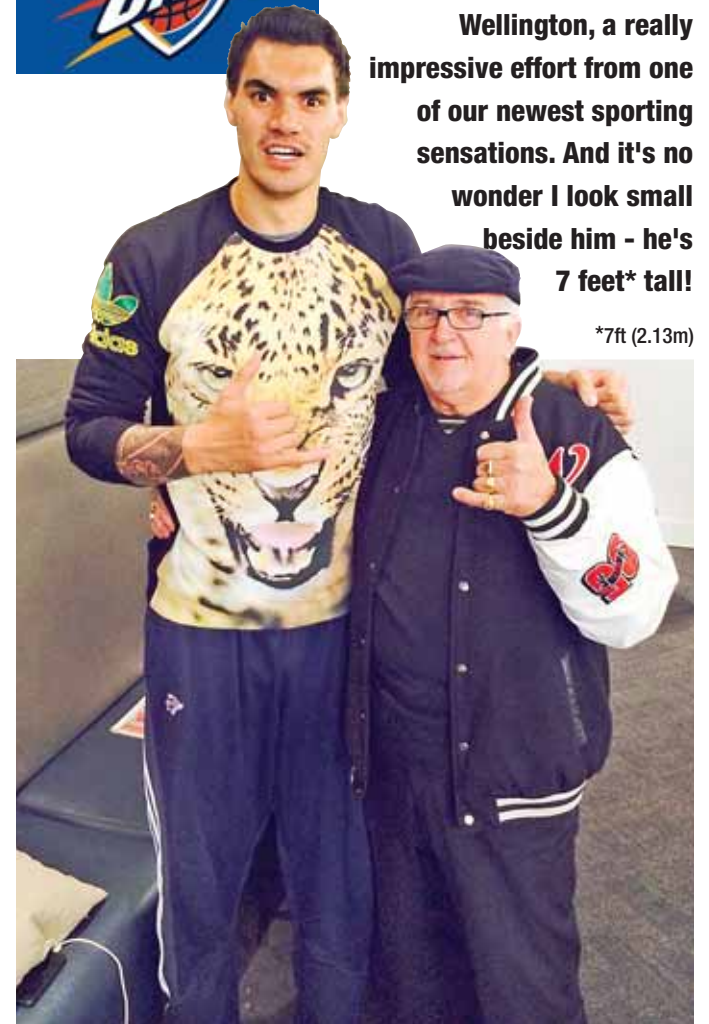
**On Saturday** I flew to Wellington, and who do I catch up with at the Auckland airport but sporting superstar **Steven Adams** and assistant coach for the **Oklahoma City Thunder**, NBA team **Mark Bryant**. What a legend he is, just google him and you will see for yourself. Adams is a monster. I felt like a dwarf next to him, but he is a big man in plenty of other ways too. He is in New Zealand with Bryant – another man mountain – doing some coaching clinics with youngsters. To get an idea of how much he is idolised, there were 400 youngsters at the clinic, and every one of them decked out in a **Thunder** T-shirt. It would be churlish not to mention fellow Wellington

basketball star, **Kenny McFadden**, who was right behind young Steven throughout his career here, and was instrumental in getting him into the United States and the best basketball league in the world. But the thing that strikes you most about Adams and Bryant, is that they are hugely nice guys. I thought they might, and pardon me for thinking it, be a little bit arrogant, being such big stars, but they were humble, friendly and really engaging. I think that might say a lot about the personality of people who have to struggle to get to the top, and certainly the fact that Adams is back in New Zealand promoting a game that has given him so much is an indication of what a good sort he is.



Steven Adams got more than 400 kids along to his training camp in Wellington, a really impressive effort from one of our newest sporting sensations. And it's no wonder I look small beside him - he's **7 feet\* tall!**

\*7ft (2.13m)



Mark Bryant is one of the assistant coaches at the Oklahoma City Thunder, and, at 6ft 9in (2.06m), he is proof of what it means to be head and shoulders taller than someone! In this case, me!







**BeardUp for the Vodafone Warriors and support the boys as they head into battle. Two Mt Smart Games to go. Round 24 sees the Vodafone Warriors hosting the 2013 premiers the Sydney Roosters. They're again one of teams to beat, boasting an all-star line-up including Sonny Bill Williams, Anthony Minichiello, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Michael Jennings, James Maloney, Mitchell Pearce and Jared Waerea-Hargreaves.**

The Vodafone Warriors will remember their last encounter with the boys from Bondi when they played arguably their best game of the 2013 season winning 23-12 in Sydney.

**Don't miss your opportunity to see some huge match-ups. Purchase your tickets today.**

## BEARD UP

**Vodafone Warriors v Sydney Roosters**

**Date: Sunday August 24, 2014**

**Mt Smart Stadium, Penrose, Auckland, NZ**

**NRL Kick-off 2.05pm**

### TIMES

**Gates Open: 11:30pm**

**NYC Kick-off: v Sydney Roosters: 11.45pm**

Mini League Kick-off: U/6s Taupo Phenix v Hukanui (Hamilton) & U/8s Hukanui v Glenfield Greyhounds : 1.15pm

Autograph Island: Player Autographs at the Warriors tent: 1.15pm

Junior Cheer Team: 1.25pm

Live Performance: Light & Shade band: 1:30pm

SKYCITY Cheer Team: 2.00pm

**NRL Kick-off: v Sydney Roosters: 2.05pm**

Half-Time Entertainment: Light & Shade band // 2.45pm

SKYCITY Cheer Team: 2:55pm

**Event Finishes: 4.00pm**

### GAME DAY DETAILS

Theme: **BeardUp for the Vodafone Warriors**

Match Day Hashtag: #BeardUp #WarriorsForever

**Entertainment: BeardUp for the Vodafone Warriors** and support the boys as they head into battle. **Warriors** have grown their beards before battle since the beginning of time, myths from beards shielding the strikes of weapons to beards giving warriors intimidating strength. With only three games left at Mt Smart we are calling you out to back the boys and get behind **Beard Up**, grow your own beard or don one of several collector beards of your favourite Vodafone Warriors such as Manu Vatuvei, Simon Mannering, Konrad Hurrell and others being given out on game day. **Lots of spot prizes to be won**, take a photo of your beard (real or fake) on instagram and tag @nzwarriors & hashtag #BeardUp to be in to win.

**Join in the activities at the North Stand**, such a Warrior Sumo Wrestling & the Beard Booth for your changes to win loads of prizes!

**Game Day Hosts: The Big Voice of the Vodafone Warriors, Nik Brown**, will be guiding you through the night with score updates, in-game commentary and at-game information supported by the lovely Tarsh Ieremia & Johnson Raela from FLAVA on the ground engaging with fans around the field. Get involved with Pukana Cam and show us your best pukana for your chance to win a \$100 Canterbury of NZ voucher.

**Music: DJ Scotty** will be playing the top 40 songs on the New Zealand chart mixed with a few classics this weekend. Keep an ear out for our NRL player try songs selected by the players themselves, celebrating their try with their favourite song.

**Match Day Sponsor: Lion Red**

**Charity Partner: Kidscan**

**Apparel:** The team will be wearing the Home Jersey on Match Day.

**Warriors Tent:** There's fun for everyone. This week we have face painting, so come get your

Vodafone Warriors face on. The Warriors passing wall is back with loads of prizes. There will also be Warriors Forever tattoos and Player signings, so come meet the players and get an autograph. Don't forget to also get yourself into the draw for your chance to win the Vodafone Warriors Road Warrior Suzuki Swift, more information at the Vodafone Warriors Tent located in the North/East corner.

### MEMBERS ONLY

**Members Lounge:** The Legends Lounge in the East Stand will be open after the match. Members will be able treated to player interviews hosted by former Vodafone Warriors great Monty Betham after the game.

**Tweet Your Seat:** 8 lucky winners will enjoy a corporate suite experience including complimentary food and beverage, simply by tweeting there seat. Tweet your seat during the game and be in to win the suite experience at the following game. Follow @nzwarriors to keep an eye out for future member promotions.

**Get on the field:** Keen to join in the activities on the field? Every game members get the chance to flank the tunnel, partake in the coin toss and sometimes even get to run the ball out. Keep your eye open on Thursday's when the Membership Newsletter hits your inbox.

### TICKETS

**There are only three games left at Mt Smart this season, don't miss out as we battle our way to the top. Adults from \$20, Children from \$10 t&c's apply head to [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz) GET TO THE GAME!**

### TRANSPORT

You can use regular service public transport to get to and from the Vodafone Warriors at Mt Smart Stadium. Penrose Station is just a short walk down O'Rourke Road to the stadium entrance, and regular route buses operate in the area.

Check regular service times and routes by using the AT Journey Planner at <https://at.govt.nz/bus-train-ferry/journey-planner/>. Please note that standard fares apply.

### BROADCAST

TV SKY Sport 2 will be covering all three matches live from 3.00pm and Maori Television will be showing the NRL match delayed at 7.30pm on Sunday  
Online NRL Digital Pass (AUS)

### LOCAL BARS AND EATERIES

If you are looking to enjoy a meal or go for a drink with your mates then here are a few suggestions:

#### Restaurants

SKYCITY has the best restaurants to choose from in Auckland including Gusto at the Grand, The Grill, Masu, The Sugar Club, DEPOT, Federal Delicatessen, Jade Dragon, Orbit, Fortuna, Bellota and Rebo | More at [www.skycityauckland.co.nz/restaurants](http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/restaurants)

#### Wendy's

Wendy's - Mt Wellington Hwy, Mt Wellington

Wendy's - 153 East Tamaki Rd, Otara

Wendy's - 704 Mt Albert Rd, Royal Oak

Wendy's - 620 Great South Rd, Greenlane

#### Bars

If you are looking for a bar, then look no further than SKYCITY. With a fantastic selection to choose from including X.O., twentyone, Bellota, Aces Bar, The Deck, Rouge Bar, Sky Lounge and Sammy's Place, you are sure to find a place perfect for you

More at [www.skycityauckland.co.nz/bars](http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/bars)





# Fundraiser for Waiheke Hospice Homecare

Saturday 4th October at Stonyridge Vineyard  
80 Onetangi Rd, Waiheke Island 7pm - Midnight

MC John Hawkesby

DJ Gareth Ross . Violinist David Rawsthorne  
Aaron Carpenter and special guests  
Live auction and silent auction  
Dress code: Evening Dress

sponsored by



\$65 donation includes canapes  
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email events @ stonyridge.com

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&  
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X.O., LEVEL 2, SKYCITY AUCKLAND

Ticket Price: \$150 per person or \$500 per group of four  
To purchase tickets visit: [www.skycityauckland.co.nz/thegoodman](http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/thegoodman)

Blue September

SUPPORT PROSTATE CANCER



R20 to participate. Host Responsibility limits apply to the service of alcohol. Limited spaces available.

GAME RESPONSIBLY





SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22ND 2014



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# FIGHT FOR CHRISTCHURCH NOVEMBER 22ND 2014

# TICKETS ON SALE NOW

## CHRISTCHURCH'S PREMIER BOXING EVENT RETURNS

This event just keeps getting bigger and better every year and has well and truly established itself as a marquee event for this great city! The Horncastle Arena is transformed to give guests an atmosphere expected at a major boxing event with the look and feel of a Las Vegas fight night, red carpet and paparazzi capturing the 1300 formally-attired guests arriving.



## WANT TO BE A CONTENDER?

We are just finalising our contenders now. If you have ever thought about getting into the ring, [click here](#) for more information or to register. You will be given three months of intense training by our professional boxing coaches who will put you on a journey that will challenge you physically, mentally and emotionally. Past contenders have described this as an amazing life experience like no other. If you're interested be quick, we only have a few spots left.



## OVER \$800,00 RAISED

Since the very first event in April 2010 Enth Degree has helped raise \$819,597 for the Christchurch Community. This year we will be working really hard to raise money for our two chosen charities, Ronald McDonald House South Island and Cure Kids.

## THE ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Fight for Christchurch is a great way to celebrate the festive season and reward staff or clients and enjoy the biggest live boxing event in Christchurch. A great Christmas function with a three course dinner and selection of beer and wines. Go to our [website](#) for more information on the packages available. With huge interest already this will be a boxing event not to be missed!



## SPONSORS





# Don't miss your Big League Read!



THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 24 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE... ON SALE THURS, AUG 21

A TEAM HASN'T WON FROM OUTSIDE THE TOP FOUR SINCE 1995. FOX SPORTS' PETER STERLING TAKES A LOOK AT WHETHER A TEAM HAS THE CHOPS TO DO IT THIS YEAR.

## FEATURES

- Nineteen years is a long time for no team from outside the top four to win the premiership. **Peter Sterling** says there are a couple this year with the ability, but a lot has to go right and it'll be a tough slog to go all the way.
- He's the unassuming captain who wants the focus to stay on his team and those around him, but **Simon Mannering** is in the form of his career and playing a big part in keeping the Warriors' finals hopes alive.
- Young Bulldogs up-and-comer **Moses Mbye** has his head screwed on and is taking his chance to lead the team around while he can.
- Statistics say it's the best debut season in decades and who are we argue. **Alex Johnston** has scored 15 tries in 12 games – well and truly signalling his arrival in the top grade.
- **BIG READ:** They have forged a friendship from their similar paths to the NRL. **Suaia Matagi** and **Manu Ma'u** helped each other stay focused and keep the belief they could make to rugby league's premier competition.

## PLUS

Tony Williams tells how home truths have helped him realise his future is in his own hands; **Kevin Walters** says it's time penalties were awarded for time wasting at scrums; *Parramatta By Numbers*; *Who's That Kid?* North Queensland's Coen Hess; *Big Clash:* Panthers v Storm match preview; *Adam MacDougall* reflects on some cheeky ballboys from his playing days.

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

Contact details: Editorial – [fiona.bollen@news.com.au](mailto:fiona.bollen@news.com.au)

Advertising: [bowie.phillips@news.com.au](mailto:bowie.phillips@news.com.au)



## THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from Thursday, Aug 21.

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Hi Sir Peter,

Attached a photo of Mum.

She has been coming to the Warriors since March 1995 and has only ever missed a game through sickness or being out of Auckland. The dates for all the games are put in the diary as soon as they become available, so she doesn't double book.

Unfortunately she only made the first game of the season at Eden Park, as in early April she had a stroke, resulting in her asphia. This means she knows what she wants to say but get the words confused trying to say them and gets very frustrated. While she was in hospital I would ring her just as a Warriors game started and she would listen to the commentary. She has spent sometime in Dunedin with my sister, and I recently went to Dunedin to bring her home. I was hoping to get her along to a game, before the season is over, however shes not confident to come along.

Kathy



That's June in the middle of the picture. I'm sure all Vodafone Warriors supporters will wish her a speedy recovery. She's a true Warriors fan and I personally want to wish her all the best.

Sir Peter

Hope you are enjoying the newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at [meelz\\_79@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz) Or if you would like to unsubscribe please email Amelia and she will delete you from the list.

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

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



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### The Newsletter Team

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



David Kemeys  
Editor at Large



Peter Leitch  
Editor



Rex Harrison  
Graphic Designer



Amelia  
Circulation

