

EWSletter #40

Greg Bird of the Titans is tackled by Ben Henry, Suaia Matagi and Sam Rapira of the Warriors during Round 25 of the NRL Telstra Premiership game, Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast Titans, Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland, Sunday 31 August 2014. Photo: Anthony Au-Yeung / www.photosport.co.nz

AZZ-O WARRIORS - TITANS

Warriors smash the Titans

he Vodafone Warriors smashed the Gold Coast Titans 42-0 in the NRL on Sunday, keeping our finals

hopes alive – just.

It means we have to win handsomely at Penrith, and hope other results go our way.

Penrith got pipped by a point, 26-25 by Manly over the weekend, so they won't be wanting to do us any favours. I will be going over for the game because I am desperate to be there to support the boys as much as I can.

But it is not only the NRL side that could do with support, because our NSW Cup side is playing finals final and the **Stacey Jones**-coached NYC team needs a win to cement a spot in the finals.

Penrith have done really well this year under former **Vodafone Warriors** fullback and coach **Ivan Cleary**. I have a huge amount of respect for Ivan, a top bloke and a wonderful friend, but I will be hoping nothing goes right for the men from under the Blue Mountains.

It's time the boys kept an old butcher happy and pulled off a miracle to get us into the eight!

Five go all the way

Five players are poised to finish the NRL regular season having played every match. **Nathan Friend, Sam Tomkins, Simon Mannering, Jacob Lillyman** and **Suaia Matagi** will make it match number 24 against the *Panthers* at Sportingbet Stadium this Sunday (8.30pm-NZT).

In the only change to the team, **Feleti Mateo** returns to an extended bench after an impressive outing for the NSW Cup side. Head Coach **Andrew McFadden** was happy with his efforts against the **North Sydney Bears** at Mt Smart Stadium.

"He really made a statement there, and that's what he needed to do. He went back, he took it in the right way and he performed. So he's certainly someone we can use." The *Vodafone Warriors* go into the last round of the regular season just outside the top eight, in 9th. Taking away all other mathematical equations a win over Penrith will see the NRL side play finals footy for the first time since 2011. Last time these two sides met back in round 16 the *Vodafone Warriors* came from 16-12 down to storm home 30-20.

Vodafone Warriors v Penrith Panthers

Sam Tomkins, Ngani Laumape, Konrad Hurrell, Dominique Peyroux, Manu Vatuvei, Thomas Leuluai, Shaun Johnson, Jacob Lilyman, Nathan Friend, Ben matulino, Ben Henry, Simon Mannering, Sione Lousi. *Interchange:* Sam Rapira, Suia Matagi, Sebastine Ikahihifo, Jayson Bukuya, Feleti Mateo.

Kiwis v England 8 November Forsyth Barr Stadium

You wanted more international rugby league and now you've got it, as four of the world's best compete for Four Nations glory this year. The NZ Kiwis won the Four Nations in 2010 and with the tournament back on home soil, there's no better time for them to do it again. Dunedin will play host to a blockbuster match, when the Kiwis play England in a repeat of their 2013 world cup semifinal. England will be out for revenge, with their loss to the *Kiwis* in the dying seconds, the *Kiwis* will want to stamp their authority on the tournament in front of a large home crowd. Get behind your team and head south! The curtain raiser will feature NZ Universities taking on South Island Selection so plenty of great footie to keep you entertained.

Vote and make Manu a winner

The NRL has announced the list of finalists for the Ken Stephen Medal, presented for outstanding work in the community. Among the nominees is our own gentle giant, Manu Vatuvei.

Manu, a father of three and husband to **Jen**, always manages to find time to work tirelessly in the community. His work with Kidz First Children's Hospital as an ambassador, and his infectious laughter can often be heard echoing through the wards as he visits with the children there.

His help with the 'Jammies in June' programme this year; which reaped 5,311 pairs of flannelette pyjamas for children admitted to hospital was a huge success. He took his warmth further when he also promoted the Warmer Homes insulation programme. That saw Manu encouraging families to take up the government subsidy and get their homes insulated to help make them warmer and drier, meaning less illness and trips to the doctor.

The 10-season-veteran has also got behind **Blue September**, which is the Prostate Cancer Foundation's national awareness campaign.

His humility off the field has seen many fans scrambling to get a photo with 'The Beast' as he is affectionately known. His professionalism also sees him leaving smiles on those he engages with.

You can make a difference by voting for Manu at nrl.com/kenstephenmedal. Voting is live to the public until midnight on Wednesday, September 10.

Otara make it back

The Otara Scorpions

will be back in the Fox for the first time in 20 vears, after a 22-16 SAS Sharman Cup final win over East Coast Bays.

It was sweet, since Otara lost to the

Richmond Bulldogs

in the final last year. Otara won the minor premiership with only two losses, and looked devastating in the final, but East Coast Bays hung in and led 16-12 at the break, before the *Scorpions* took control.

Coach Saulo Suamasi said it was about more than league for Otara. "Even when we were behind we believed. This is for our community."

Warriors too good

The Mt Wellington Warriors defended their Mandron Masonry Phelan Shield title, beating Pakuranga 37-14.

The *Warriors* dominated in almost every area.

Coach **Terry Tangata** said his side's achievement was a significant one. "I am over the moon. I was very confident we were going to do it."

Maori TV does us proud

And a big thumbs up to **Maori TV**, who screen local league. I was as crook as a dog and could not get to the finals day, but I was able to watch, and I enjoyed it tremendously. So well done **Maori TV**, the local game salutes you.

Secondary Schools chase league crown

Winning a trophy is nice, but sometimes there's more to attending the NZRL National Development: Aranui 24 Whangarei 16, Greymouth 18 Rosehill 14, Pakuranga Secondary Schools Tournament.

Greymouth High School have probably travelled further than any other school,

18 Northcote 10, Francis Douglas College 22 One Tree Hill 12, Wesley College 68 Taita 6, Papatoetoe 22 Mt Roskill 12.

continuing a proud league history into a new generation.

They've had to "adopt" a couple of players from local rivals John Paul II College to make up the numbers - a concession generously allowed by their development grade rivals.

"West Coast rugby league will celebrate 100 years next year and most of these boys play club league down there," explains coach Phil Campbell. "This tournament is a huge undertaking for them."

But one team is playging with an absent friend in their hearts. On the eve of the tourney, Taita College management had to put one of their players on a plane to Wellington, after a death in the family.

Here's the results from day one, and obviously I can't keep pace with them, but you should check the results out at NZRL National Secondary Schools Guide (September 1)

Premiership: Kelston 26 Manurewa 18, Otahuhu College 48 Papakura 8, Rotorua 28 Western Springs 20, Southern Cross 22 Westlake 0, St Paul's 16 Mt Albert 4, Aorere College 8 Tokoroa 4.

Mt Albert - runners-up 12 months ago - became the first major casualties on day two. After falling to St Paul's College on opening day, MAGS suffered a 23-14 defeat at the hands of Aorere College. With just one game remaining in pool play, Mt Albert cannot reach the semifinals. Kelston made no race of their contest against Papakura, winning 54-0.

Premiership: Otahuhu 38 Rotorua 4, Kelston 54 Papakura 0, Manurewa 42 Western Springs 22, Tokoroa 22 Westlake 16, St Paul's 26 Southern Cross 16, Aorere 23 Mt Albert 14.

Development: Whangarei 26 Pakuranga 16, Northcote 18 Rosehill 16, Papatoetoe 42 One Tree Hill 6, Wesley 44 Mt Roskill 12, Aranui HS 34 Greymouth 12, Francis Douglas 44 Taita 14.

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We're proud to announce that **Manu Vatuvei** has been nominated for the 2014 Ken Stephen Medal, presented to a player for outstanding work in the community.

Voting only takes a moment, so please show your support for Manu by sharing this throughout the company and to all your fellow staff members and give him your vote today. *FIND OUT MORE, CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW*

http://www.warriors.co.nz/news/2014/09/02/vote_for_manu_.html

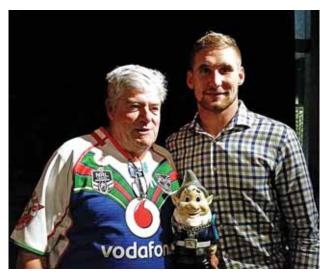
Our old m8.... Seen with Trevor at SkyCity. (M8 is Trevor's little mate)



Lorraine, Trudy and Dave at SkyCity, Sunday night.



Trevor and coach Andrew at SkyCity.



Trevor, m8 and Sam Tomkins.



Trevor, m8 and Darcy Waldagrave from Radio Sport.



Trevor, m8 and Dane Nielsen.



IN WITH A GRIN!

Shaun Johnson scores a try at the Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast Titans game on Sunday. Photo: Andrew Cornaga / www.photosport.co.nz

To see more great px of the Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast Titans game, go to www.photosport.co.nz

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Great recipes need great ingredients...



Free event at SkyCity

In Auckland more than 600 members and fans will pack out the **SkyCity theatre**, cheering the team on as they watch the match via the big screen. This is free event hosted by the club's membership team and emceed by corporate manager **Gordon Gibbons**. The night will include a Q&A with club legends, prize draws and spot prizes.

It's on from 7.00pm -10.30pm and there is a dedicated cash bar. *To register contact membership@warriors.co.nz*

The Lounge really took off on Sunday!

have been hosting a lounge in one form or another for 15 years or so and we have had some amazing times, but Sunday was something special, perhaps one of the best ever days.

I want to thank all those who turned up for our special lunch, and didn't **Spotless Catering** do us proud. We had outgoing boss, **Wayne Scurrah**, **Don Mann**, **Dean Bell** and coach **Andrew McFadden** along to speak to us, and I had nothing but positive feedback from everyone – and there were about 00 people who made the lunch.

Also along to speak to us was **Neil Cadigan**, the sports writer.

You probably know him as the author of several good league books, notably the biographies of league greats **Andrew Johns** and **Wally Lewis**, but he is a hell of a man, I can tell you, and a bloke I have enormous respect for.

His son, **Andrew** – known to all as **Cad** - walked around Oz in honour of a mate who died from a rare

form of blood cancer, myelodysplasia.

He started in Sydney on December 27, 2011, and walked through every Australian state and the Northern Territory with nothing but a pram packed with supplies, selling his own home to finance the trip.

Just days after he finished his grueling marathon Cad went to Thailand to recuperate, transcribe his diaries and write a book. But he was involved in a road accident that left him with serious brain injuries, and although he was transferred back to Sydney, he never regained consciousness and died on October 5, 2012.

Neil Cadigan told his only son as he lay unconscious that he would complete the book. It's called **A Man and A Pram**, and though I am no reader, it is a hell of a book.

Neil told me he had to step away from the book for a few months but his promise to his son always returned him to the task. "I felt compelled to finish it – I realised what a wonderful opportunity it was to tell my son's story and leave a legacy.

"Hopefully it's an inspirational story to so many people and to the hundreds who met him on his jpurney.

Of course we also had one of New Zealand's finest entertainers, **Frankie Stevens**, in the lounge, and he was outstanding.

Ventriloquist **Guy Cater**, was superb, and everyone who was there now has a new friend named Susan. It will be a long time before our man is allowed to forget that performance.

And it was a special pleasure to host the young lads from Greymouth, who are in Auckland for the Secondary Schools League Competition out at Papakura. They were terrific young men and league has a good future on the Coast if they stay with our great game.



Liz. Her first live Warriors game.





Graeme, my mate from Vodafone.





Viv Smith, who drove all the way from Wellington for the game.





Jeanette Chavass. Her son played for the Titans.



Neil Cadigan, famous rugby league writer, who now works for the Titans.

Andrew Mcfadden talks to the crowd during the lunch in the Lounge.



Don Mann, outgoing general manager.

The lunch, kindly donated by Sir Peter Leitch.



Dean Bell GM of Football Operations addresses the crowd..



Don Graham promised to put \$1000 on the bar if he won the car. Alas! He didn't win!



Frankie Stevens sung and entertained the crowd like never before!



"Beetroot" lan.



Peter Taylor (the Pom) receives a voucher for his singing.



Peter and Rosa Herron receive a voucher for coming from Timaru.



Dave McKee receives a voucher for taking photos.



Kerry, the Titan.





Kevin Masterson, original Mad Butcher Lounge Lorraine McKee receives a spot prize. member.









Paul Bartley, a lounge regular.



Guy Cater working his magic with Robbie.

Dougie West and Wayne Thomson from Glenora. Guy Cater, comedian/hypnotist, with Robbie.



Prostrate Cancer collector, Geoff, talks to the audience about the importance of Prostate **Cancer Awareness and check ups.**



Sir Peter talks to under 20s player Sam Lisone.



Michele Gibson, Manager of the West Coast **Rugby league team.**



Two guests having a laugh with Sir Peter.



Frankie Stevens had the house rocking.





Phil Campbell, coach of the West Coast Rugby League team.



Glen Fisiiahi and David Fusitua.

SIR PETER, Absolutely fantastic day! Thank you for the meal and the prizes. DRINKS **VOUCHER most appreciated... AND THE CAKE!**



Dave's 60th birthday cake held by maker, Trudy. Dave presented with a cup for photographs.

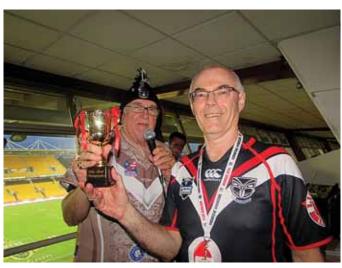




Dane Nielsen, who came up to the Lounge and spoke about his recovery from concussion.



Frankie Stevens performs.





Peter Taylor and Gorgeous Steve receive an award on behalf of The Poms.

Tony Feasey gets his award for Best Supporter. Tony flew all the way from the USA, where he played for Police RL team, and came straight to the game!

Dexter Trail receives a trophy for being Sir Trevor receives a Garden Gnome (m8 mk2?). Peter's shadow, and Lady Janice gets a new hat.





Lorraine McKee gets her award for the donations.

Lorna Warrington gets her award for the donations.



The music man, Elvis, gets his award.



This lovely young lady is our youngest member and she turns up for every game! Now if that doesn't deserve an award, I don't know what does! Good on you, dear!



Wayne Thomson, Dougie West, Osama bin Ladin.



Mike Brown and Marilyn.



The Poms sing 'Happy Birthday' to Ian Carpenter... and sing and sing and....



Karl, Jake and Kane.



Love was in the air in the Lounge on Sunday.



Well done to the staff of Spotless for making the Lounge look fantastic for our luncheon and putting on a first class meal. Top effort by your team.

THE FUTURE OF MAGIC HAS ARRIVED



Now on Each Day TILL THE 13TH OF SEPTEMBER Live at The Civic, Auckland The next generation of magic has arrived in Auckland! THE ILLUSIONISTS

2.0 -- a stunning sequel to the box-office smashing 2013 season of The Illusionists – opens tomorrow Tuesday at Auckland's The Civic theatre. Featuring seven masters of mental and optical illusion, THE ILLUSIONISTS 2.0 is a brand new production

THE ILLUSIONISTS 2.0 UTTERLY THRILLING' The Daily Telegraph

'Forget abracadabra and rabbits jumping out of hats because The Illusionists 2.0 will make you question whether Harry Potter really is the chosen one.' Adelaide Advertiser

Don't Miss This Great Show! BOOK NOW!

that will propel New Zealand audiences into the future of magic and illusion, using cutting-edge visual effects. Britain's Got Talent runner up James More played a trick on The Warriors after their training last week.

James stars in this fast-paced, high-energy powerhouse performance that gives audiences the chance to witness the magical genius of the world's greatest stars and their genre, each with a unique skill that has won them countless fans globally.

Whether it's the deadly arts of The Warrior, or the high-risk tricks and stunts of The Deceptionist, THE ILLUSIONISTS 2.0 will leave audiences rubbing their eyes in disbelief. Edgy, exciting and most of all fun, it's the perfect live entertainment show.

VENUE:	The Civic
SEASON:	Opened this week and on to Saturday 13 September
TIMES:	Tues & Sun, 6.30pm, Wed to Sat 7.30pm,
	Matinees – Sat, 2.30pm, Sun, 1pm
BOOKINGS:	0800 111 999 or ticketmaster.co.nz
TICKETS:	From \$69.90*
	Family and Under 16 ticket prices available

THIS WEEK, IN THE ROUND 26 ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE... ON SALE THURS, SEPT 4

on'i miss

A FAIRYTALE FINISH. AFTER 25 ROUNDS, PLENTY RIDES ON THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES AND THERE ARE MANY STORIES TO TELL AS WEEK ONE OF FINALS LOOMS.

FEATURES

• The **Sydney Roosters** host the **South Sydney Rabbitohs** as they have done many times before, but after this weekend the two could meet in finals for the first time since 1938. David Middleton takes a look at their early finals history against each other.

• He's the up-coming fullback that has the top dogs looking over their shoulders, but Penrith's **Matt Moylan** is just a laid-back kid from the Western Suburbs, who's making that approach to life work for him on the football field.

• The 2014 season has number of big name players hanging up their boots once the siren goes on their final game of the season. We take a look at the **retirees** who have already called time or will soon be bowing out of the game.

• **Ben Roberts** almost left the NRL at the end of last season to take up a contract in Japanese rugby, but a lifeline from the Storm gives him one last shot at a premiership and has helped him develop his game at the age of 29.

• **BIG READ:** The age-old question has almost become, who'd be a coach? We talked to some currently in the hotseat and gained some insight into what personality traits make for the best mentors.

PLUS

Holden Cup Team of the Year; Titans *By Numbers; Who's That Kid?* Gold Coast's Mitch Sharp; *Big Clash:* Cowboys v Sea Eagles match preview; Top 8 Final round thrillers.

GAME DAY: Official team lists for Telstra Premiership, Holden

INSIDE: Matt Moylan • Anthony Minichiello Final round big clashes • Ben Roberts The life of a coach • 2014 retirees

Ten teams, eight places,

players wanting to go out

We love our foo

THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from **Thursday, Sept 4.**

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Dear Sir Peter,

A NOTE Stacey jones Lounge O The atmosphere, fun a everyone enjoys the ga as well as watch the g It's always great to see them. And the lunch you put and to hear Andrew M You are a special man

We just wanted to say a huge thank-you to you, for ALL you have done for the Stacey jones Lounge Club Members at the Vodafone Warriors home games. The atmosphere, fun and laughter there is second to none, and we know how much everyone enjoys the games when they are able to spend some time in the Lounge, as well as watch the game in comfort out of the wind and rain.

It's always great to see the players when they come up, and to hear you interviewing them.

And the lunch you put on for everyone at the final home game was outstanding ... and to hear Andrew McFadden, Wayne Scurrah, Dean Bell and others was fantastic. You are a special man and we love everything about you...

The Waiheke crew,

Lindsay and Raewyn, Kaye, Stephen, and Bob and Marg. ... and thanks for reserving our table each week for us the best spot!

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IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Mad Butcher Passes 2015 A message for members of the Mad Butcher Club

For all those looking to renew your Mad Butcher Club pass please call me on **09 526 7820**, or alternatively email me on **william@ warriors.co.nz** or call **0800 839 839** to reach one of our team. We wanted to monitor the number of passes sold this year and to do so have not made the passes available to buy for the general public. If you wish to renew we can do this over the phone for you (this also the same with car parking).

At the request of Sir Peter Leitch the price will be remaining at \$150 and this will give you access to all 11 games at Mt Smart stadium.

I'm looking for someone to put together the MAD BUTCHER CLUB NEWSLETTER next year.

If you know anyone out there who can do the job and offer me a good rate, give me a call or post me an email with the relevant details.

Thanks, <mark>Sir Peter</mark>

Waiheke Island

SHOUT OUT TO:

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

It is important if you have other members listed on your account to get these set up as secondary account holders to ensure that they also get the club's communication. If you would like to know more about doing this please get in touch.

I will be reachable in work hours between 9-6 Monday to Friday.

Thank you for your support over many years and we hope you can join us once more to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Kind Regards Will Felgate // Membership Manager TRUE WARRIOR / WAR-2796833 Mobile: +64 214 30 036 Telephone: +64 9 526 7820















MORE SPONSORS ON LAST PAGE



I took the Vodafone Warriors team to play the Titans out for lunch on Saturday, along with a few of the old boys. We had a blast.



Some of the old boys at lunch on Saturday with the NRL team.





John Simon receives

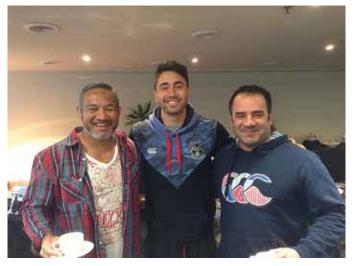
And on Friday, the old boys and I had lunch in St Heliers.





his old boys polo at the luncheon.

On Friday I took these old boys out for lunch. Can you name them?









Former Warriors captain, John Simons had a great chat to Nathan Friend at the lunch.

Current Warriors captain, Simon Mannering and coach, Andrew McFadden.

Thanks for Sunday we had a great day. As we POM's were some of the last to leave, one of the lads picked a jacket up thinking one of our group had forgotten it. lts a black Kathmandu zip-up. If anyone lost one could you give them my number and will get it back to them.

Neal Saxon 021 523 745

SIR PETER,

a big thankyou for your hospitality in the lounge on Sunday. Much appreciated and a good result with a win.

Kind Regards **KEVIN MASTERSON and** JENNIFER

Hi Peter,

Just wanted to say thank you so

much for the tickets

to the game on Sunday and for the meal to ... it was

great and my sister and brother-inlaw had a wonderful time.

I really enjoyed performing in the lounge it was a great day and I had such a good time... Thank you once again.

Take care and do look after yourself. Love Ya, Guy,

GUY CATER New Zealand Registered Master Hypnotist,

Comedian, Comedy Magician and Compere (MC)

Hi Butch

My granddaughter & I would like to thank you for your hospitality yesterday afternoon. We thoroughly enjoyed the day, from the meal through the entertainment. A great day, capped off by a great win by the Vodafone Warriors! Regards,

Keith Gleadall & Georgia Spence

Dave Robinson would be over the moon

I lost a good friend and a great supporter of league recently, with the death of **Dave Robinson**. But he will be in heaven looking down with a big grin after the **Pt Chevalier Pirates** retained the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership, beating Mt Albert 18-17.

Dave did so much for league, serving on the New Zealand Rugby League board, and contributing who knows how much through his company Autex.

His son **Mark** is a Pt Chev man too, and he is taking over the reins of the company, but I can't help but think I would have enjoyed it more if Dave had been around to share in the success. It came down to the last minute of added time, with Mt Albert missing a shot after the siren. Tied 12-12 at the end of time, Mt Albert took the lead via a field goal, but three minutes later Pt Chevalier scored in the corner. The kick gave them a five point buffer.

Then Mt Albert looked to have it, scoring in the last minute, but the conversion went wide. After being minor premiers, Pt Chevalier went in as underdogs, having lost to the *Lions* twice in the past month. But the grand final win means they now hold all of the major Auckland Rugby League trophies.

Coach Grant Pocklington summed it up: "I can't believe we have gone back-to-back, not many sides do it, and to have every major ARL trophy is outstanding."

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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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