



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

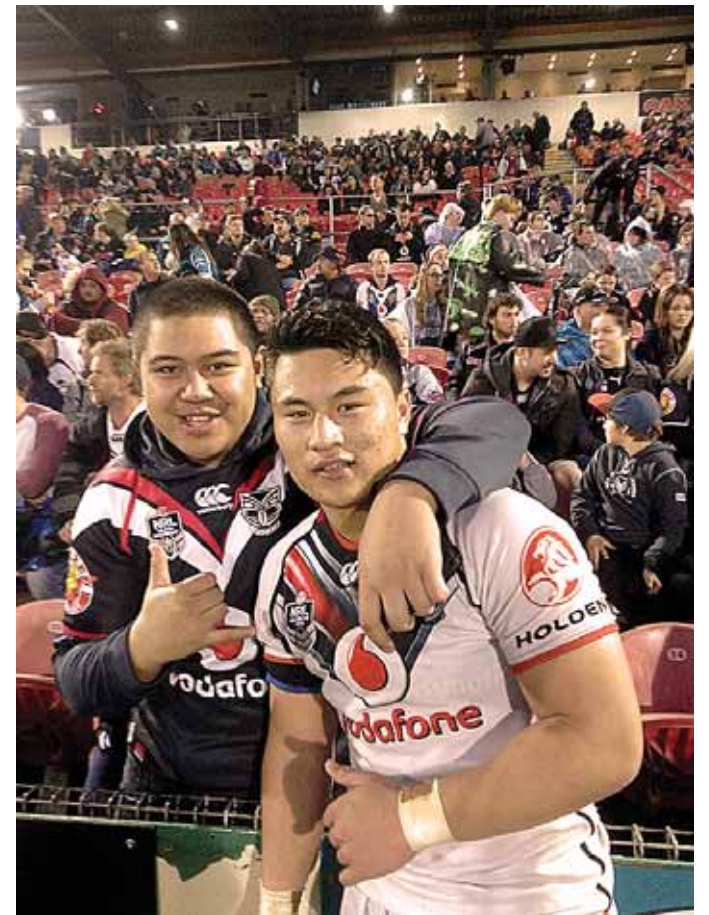


Newsletter 11 SEPT 2014 #41



A Draw's as good as a Win if it gets you In!

The coach, Stacey Jones, and his NYC Holden Cup team just got out of jail by drawing, and off to the top 8!



Mason Lino shares the love with a fan after the game.



Mason Lino co-captain of the Holden Cup team, who kicked the conversion from the side line to draw the game and go into the finals, with the legend and coach, Stacey Jones.



Solomone Kata and Jazz Tevaga share a moment after their draw on Sunday.



The coach, Andrew and CEO, Wayne of the Vodafone Warriors chat after the Holden Cup team draw to make the top 8.

You can watch scoring highlights from the Mounties v Warriors game by clicking to this link:

http://www.nswrl.com.au/news/2014/09/08/mounties_v_warriors_vb_nsw_cup_finals_wk_1.html



What's coming up next...

Well we may not have won, going down 22-6 to Penrith, but no one died. We live to fight another day and for me, personally, I had a wonderful weekend away with the team. It is always something special to travel with the boys and be part of the team environment.

I also had an ear to ear grin when **Manu Vatuvei** ran the length of the field to score our try. He has had a sensational season, and don't forget to go and vote for him for the **Ken Stephens medal**. You can do it at the club website www.warriors.co.nz.

While I was in Australia I got to share some love with our NYC team, and being there when **Mason Lino** slotted that sideline kick to draw the game 18-18 and get us into the eight was something special.

I have said it many times, but I will say it again, they are champion young blokes. To celebrate, I took them all out and shouted ice-cream – because obviously you can't be buying a youngster a beer – and you would have thought I'd given them a million bucks. It was great fun and a memory that will stay with me for a long time.

And if you think you are hurting as a fan, I can tell you that the players are just gutted. The changing room after the match was like a morgue, and even back at the hotel and in the team room, the atmosphere was sombre. It hurts them far more than it hurts us.

But I can tell you one thing I am very proud of, is the way the boys interact with the fans. There would have been a couple of hundred fans still lined up for autographs and pictures when they left the ground, and despite the disappointment, every one of our guys stopped and made time for them. It would have been so easy – and let's face it, they probably wanted to – just walk on by and get out of there. But that is not how we roll at the **Vodafone Warriors**. All is not lost of course, with the NYC and NSW teams still in the mix. The NYC team is coached by our very own league legend and Mr Nice Guy **Stacey Jones**, and he can be well satisfied with his time in charge. But I know Stacey well and he will be keen to go a lot further yet.

And our NSW side is coached by **Rowan Smith**, the son of another quality coach in **Brian Smith**. Rowan knows more about league than just about anyone I know, and

he too can be pleased with how his side has gone, especially after getting a win over the **Mounties** in week one of the finals.

NRL

Well here we are at finals time and we are not there again, but let's not dwell on that. Finals footy is something special and I can't wait for what are going to be some brilliant games. The match-ups are:

Friday:

Manly (2) v Rabbitohs (3).

Saturday:

Roosters (1) v Penrith (4);

Cowboys (5) v Broncos (8).

Sunday: Storm (6) v Bulldogs (7).

NYC

The **Vodafone Junior Warriors** begin their record seventh consecutive NYC finals campaign against the **Roosters** on Saturday (5pm NZT). You can watch it at 5pm on SkySports2.

No other club has featured in the NYC finals every season since the competition's inception in 2008.

The fifth-placed **Roosters** ended their regular season on 35 points and in the only regular season encounter between the sides, they stole a late 20-18 win at Mt Smart.

Friday:

Tigers (6) v Souths (7).

Saturday: Newcastle (1) v St George (4); Roosters

(5) v Vodafone Warriors (8);

Broncos (2) v Parramatta (3).

NSW Cup

After knocking out the **Mounties** 36-28, the **Vodafone Warriors** have the chance to move into the last four when they face Illawarra on Saturday (8.10pm NZT).

You can listen to the game on Sunday night by logging on to www.steelesports.com.au.



It was nice to catch up with former Vodafone warriors coach Ivan Cleary before the game our captain Simon had a good chat to him.

Rohan Smith's team avenged two regular season losses to oust the fifth-placed **Mounties** and will meet Illawarra, who finished the season in fourth, but were smashed 42-6 by minor premiers Penrith.

The **Vodafone Warriors** had a win and a draw against the **Illawarra Cutters** in the season, drawing 12-12 at Eden Park and winning 35-28 in Australia.

It's the first year the Auckland-based NSW Cup side has been under the **Vodafone Warriors'** sole control. Last year the joint-venture **Auckland Vulcans** finished sixth in the regular season but were eliminated 34-24 in week one of the finals by the Tigers.

The NSW Cup grand final will be played at Allianz Stadium on September 28, with the winner going on to meet the Queensland Cup's champion side on NRL grand final day at ANZ Stadium on October 5.

In the other week one finals Newcastle (2) beat Wentworthville (3) 24-12 and **Wests Tigers** (6) was eliminated after losing 26-8 to Wyong (7).

Saturday: Wentworthville v Wyong,

Vodafone Warriors v Illawarra.

Direct to week three: Penrith and Newcastle.

Special night is at hand

Next Tuesday is a special night for the **Vodafone Warriors**, with the annual prizegiving. All the sides will be involved, and of course it will be the final one for outgoing CEO **Wayne Scurrah**, and general manager **Don Mann**, who have both been fine servants of the club. I'm looking forward to attending it, because it is always a great night, and one made better by our very gracious hosts, **SkyCity**.



It's Blue September and me and my mates are throwing our support behind the Prostate Cancer Foundation's campaign to encourage men to get blue and get checked for prostate cancer!

It's simple – if you're a bloke and you're over 40, get to your doctor for an annual prostate check. If you're over 50 then do consider having both a PSA blood test and a DRE (digital rectal examination). It doesn't hurt (I promise!) and it might save your life!

Prostate cancer kills more than 600 of us blokes each year – more than the road toll! 1 in 10 men will be diagnosed with prostate

cancer during their lifetime, and the odds go up if someone in your family has had prostate cancer. Don't let you be the '1'! Get tested!

The Vodafone Warriors are lending their support as the first 'team' of Blue Face ambassadors for Blue September, along with all the great people pictured here.



Blue September Ambassadors & supporters front l-r: Ray Woolf, Shane Cortese, Kerre McIvor, Brendon Pongia, Sir Peter Leitch, Tarun Mohanbhai and David Hartnell. Back row: Stu Wilson, Tony Marsh, Darcy Perry and Buck Shelford.



Me with my mates, l-r: Manu Vatuvei, Chad Townsend and Sam Tomkins.

Join in these great events and support prostate cancer awareness and Blue September

Saturday 13 September
Placemakers Capital Scooter Challenge – Wellington to Foxton ride. Check out www.capitalscooterchallenge.com

Sunday 14 September
Bikers in Blue Ride – meet at Placemakers Pakuranga 9:30 am and ride to Placemakers Albany. Register [here](#) and get a complimentary badge and raffle ticket.

Monday 15 September
Corys Electrical "Charity Roadie" begins in Kerikeri. Watch out for the classic blue mini coming to a Corys Branch near you over the next 2 weeks.

Sunday 21 September
Chapel Bar and Bistro, Ponsonby, Blue Ball event. Get along and support Blue September by purchasing a drink. At 6pm watch your blue ball roll down Anglesea Rd in Ponsonby and maybe win a prize!

Thursday 25 September
Variety Concert – Blues, Entertainment and Buffet dinner at Smith and McKenzie Chophouse Restaurant, Hamilton. Tickets and info contact nic@smithandmckenzie.co.nz or phone 021 2061671.

Friday 26 September
Celebrity Quiz Night hosted by David Hartnell, Surrey Hotel, Grey Lynn. Tickets to this event are only \$35 and can be purchased by emailing holly@prostate.org.nz

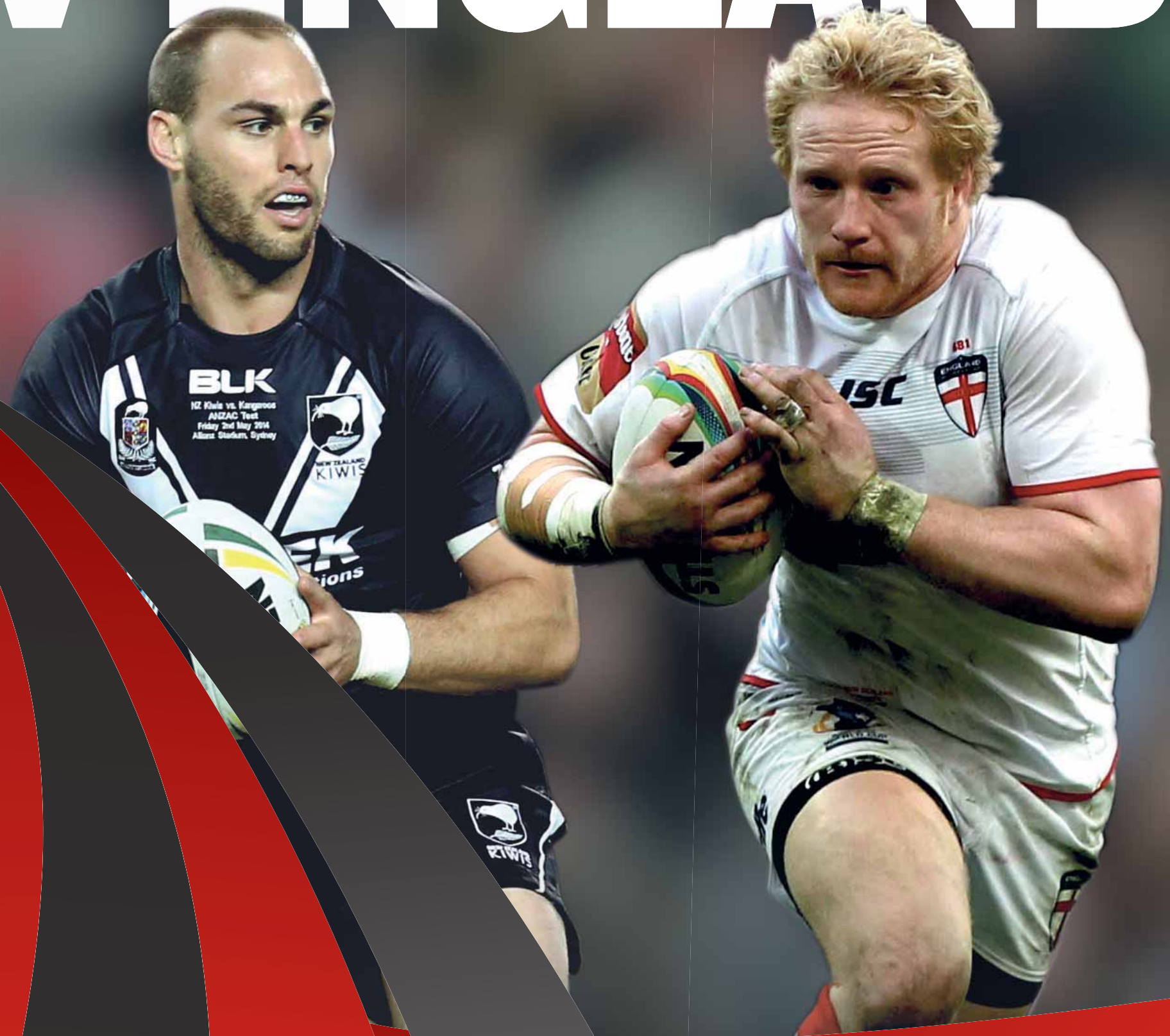
Saturday 27 September
Auckland Blues Club "Best of the Blues" Night, Juice Bar, Parnell, begins 7pm, tickets \$15 at the door.

Sunday 28 September
Distinguished Gentlemen's Ride – get out your scooter, classic or café racer and join in a fun ride around Auckland City. Register for this event at www.gentlemansride.com

Buy a blue ribbon during September at one of these outlets nationwide.



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Fans at the the Sportingbet Stadium, Sunday



Kahdejah, Jahkaya, Tyrone and Jodeci. All big fans.



Above: The Birders from Flaxmere.

Jamie's, Emma and Gus. Big fans.



Warren and Lavinia Formaly from Manurewa.

From the left back: Dean Chitty, Maisie Martin, Eridge Walker Kahutia Walker. Front row: Joshua Chitty, Iaea Walker



There were even Warriors cup cakes at the game!

Nines update and Beau Ryan in Auckland



Manu initiates Beau into the etiquette of Kava drinking.

Beau Ryan was here in Auckland last week filming *'Beau Knows Auckland'* to promote the **Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines** for *The NRL Footy Show*.

Despite the horrendously uncharacteristically poor weather in Auckland, the crew (producer Liam Doyle and presenter Beau Ryan) had a great time here.

And, despite a severe fear of heights, Beau attempted a bungee jump off the Harbour Bridge, met with some very happy Warriors fans following their last home victory at Mt Smart Stadium vs the Titans and had a kava session with the ever popular 'The Beast' Manu Vatuvei.

Following the filming they enjoyed a fabulous seafood meal at Britomart restaurant, **Ostro**. Watch out for the segment on Thursday night's **The Footy Show September 11, Sky Sport 2, 10.30pm**

In other news:

Travel packages for the **Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines 2015** are now on sale – domestic travel packages and international travel packages.

This is currently the only way to purchase tickets and get best choice of flights and accommodation in Auckland.

Demand to attend this two-day, nine-per-side knockout tournament extravaganza featuring all 16 NRL clubs and the world's greatest rugby league stars is sky high, so get in fast to avoid missing out on tickets! Flight and ticket only options are also available.

Domestic travel packages - Go to www.bcdsport.co.nz/nrl9s

International travel packages – Go to www.sportsnetholidays.com/nrl9s

Warriors fans when they book their travel package should quote their club-code WARRIORSnines – and they will receive a free Dick Smith NRL 11" inch ball featuring all 16 x NRL club logo's.

If you don't require a travel package join the waiting list for tickets **www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s** to get the chance to buy BEFORE tickets go on-sale on October 9.

Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines Sat January 31 and Sun February 1, 2015, Eden Park



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Rams' historic win one of Dawson's best moments

by JAMIE SEARLE



Canterbury's Iuma Mulitalo, middle, and Rocky Pettigrew, of Southland, wrestle for the ball, while Pettigrew's teammates, Aaron Carson, left, and Chee Turuwhenua, are in support in a South Island provincial rugby league game at Rugby Park, Invercargill, on Saturday.

PHOTO: NICOLE JOHNSTONE/FAIRFAX NZ

Coaching the **Southland Rams** to a win against **Canterbury Development** has given **Greg Dawson** one of his best moments in rugby league.

He and Southland District Rugby League chairwoman **Cheryl Officer** were beaming after the **Rams** won 30-20 at Rugby Park in Invercargill on Saturday.

It was a historic result for the **Rams**, who have shown plenty of improvement in recent seasons. It now has them eyeing a potential home final in the South Island competition. "That was memorable . . . to see the boys do that against Canterbury," Dawson said.

Officer believed from talking to senior Southland league officials, Saturday's win was the first time the province had beaten Canterbury.

Josh Gough was the **Rams** player of the day. The second of his two tries had the crowd rocking as he sped down the terrace touchline to score in the last few minutes. He intercepted a loose pass and took off.

"Josh came off his line many times to shut them down," Dawson said.

Captain **Chee Turuwhenua** ended the game with thumb and leg injuries. "The body took a few knocks but it was worth it," he said.

Dawson said Turuwhenua had experience and outstanding leadership qualities. "The whole team showed plenty of heart [on Saturday]. It was our defence that won us the game . . . at times, we put ourselves under pressure by making errors."

The opportunity to play at Rugby Park was a feel-good factor for the **Rams**, Dawson said.

Changing rooms at Rugby Park are superior to the facilities used by league players most weeks at Sandy Point and Elles Road (Invercargill) playing fields.

"The changing shed [alone] made them lift. Rugby Park's an international facility and should be used much more and by more sports."

The **Rams** take on **Tasman Titans** at Rugby Park on Saturday night. It will be preceded by two rugby games, including the Southland-Northland clash.

FINAL WHISTLE

Southland Rams 30 (Dylan Lovett, Maka Mohi, Josh Gough 2, Jayleel Fa'amoe-loane tries; Fa'amoe-loane 3 con, 2 pen).

Canterbury Development 20 (Shannon Knight 2, Rakatau Rawiri, Jason Galland tries; Angus Anderson 2 con).

The Southland Times



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September 10, 2014

Kiwi Ferns become family affair

Three sisters and two of a kind sounds like a great poker hand, and it may also hold the key to **Kiwi Ferns** hopes of toppling archrivals, Australia, in their one-off test later this year.

National women's rugby league coach **Rusty Matua** has named 10 newcomers in his 18-strong line-up for the World Cup final rematch on November 9, uniting two sets of siblings at international level for the first time.

Hooker **Hilda Peters** joins younger sisters **Rona** and **Kahurangi** on the roster, while twins **Sharnita Woodman** and **Kiwis Ferns** rookie **Shontelle Dudley** will suit up in black together for the first time.

"I think it's quite cool to have that family flavour to our team and it's something we've tried to bring into our culture moving forward," admits Matua, after last weekend's selection camp in Rotorua.

He was assistant coach when the three-time champion **Ferns** lost their grip on the World Cup last year, but feels "excited" about the prospects of rebuilding towards the next event in 2017.

"There's a whole lot of new, fresh energy in there from girls who have really put their hands up for inclusion.

"Some have been in the game for a few years, were given a few 'work-ons' and have come back as better players.

Others have come into their first training camp and impressed to the point where they couldn't be left out." Sunday's trial game finished as a 28-28 draw between two evenly matched sides focused on defence, rather than attack.

"There were some defensive techniques that we wanted to employ, so we had a session where we explained exactly what we wanted and we were really pleased with how quickly the girls picked it up," says Matua.

"But there was also some beautiful individual skill and pure athletic ability shown in the tries scored."

Others to receive a call-up after standout performances at the NZ women's tournament in May/June include top try-scorer/Most Valuable Player **Atawhai Tupaea** and outstanding forward **Teuila Fotu-Moala**.

In fact, only two players selected were absent from the national event. Veteran **Honey Hireme** was on duty with the **Black Ferns** rugby union side and **Kahurangi Peters** was injured, but both were superb in the trial, where centre Hireme scored four tries.

Most of the squad are drawn from the champion Counties Manukau team and will train together once a week until their next camp on October 10/11.

The **Kiwi Ferns** squad is

Shontelle Dudley* (Counties Manukau), **Maitua Feterika*** (Counties Manukau), **Sarina Fiso** (Counties Manukau), **Teuila Fotu Moala*** (Counties Manukau), **Honey Hireme** (Counties Manukau), **Iriana Huriwai-Sasulu*** (Counties Manukau), **Sita Kuruyabaki*** (Mid Central), **Chloe Leaupepe*** (Auckland Invitational), **Kelly Maipi** (Counties Manukau), **Laura Mariu** (Counties Manukau), **Lillietta Maumau*** (Auckland Invitational), **Krystal Murray*** (Mid Central), **Hilda Peters*** (Counties Manukau), **Kahurangi Peters** (Counties Manukau), **Rona Peters** (Counties Manukau), **Charlotte Scanlan** (Akarana), **Atawhai Tupaea*** (Counties Manukau), **Sharnita Woodman** (Counties Manukau)

*denotes new cap

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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, Sir Peter

Want to win one of 2 copies (1 signed) of Ray Warren's latest book called **The VOICE**, plus one of 2 copies of Phil Gifford's book **Cadillac Dreams?? Of COURSE you do!** Simply send a stamped envelope to

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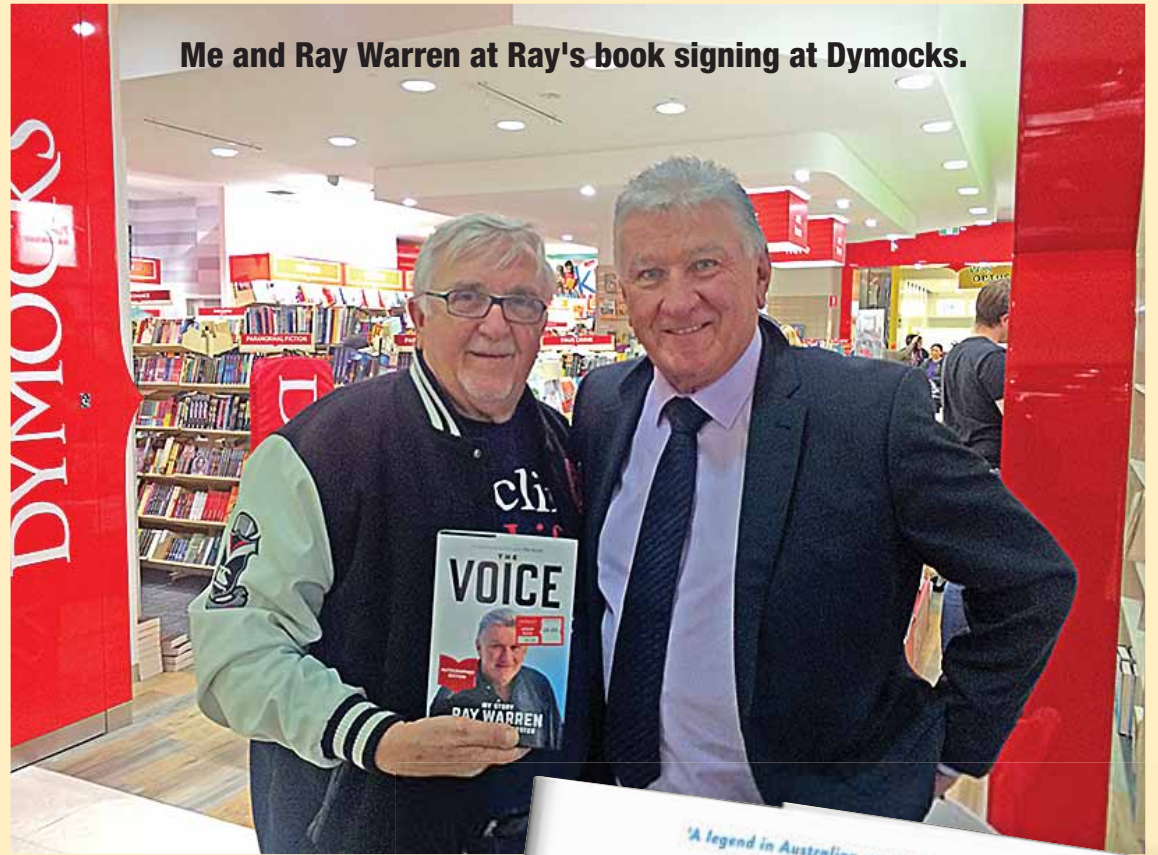
**Drawn on Friday the
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AND ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE
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I caught up with a broadcasting legend and mate Ray Warren, known as THE VOICE OF RUGBY LEAGUE and is on RADIO TRIPLE M Sydney. His nickname is RABBITS and is a top bloke. He has just put out another book, THE VOICE, and its a great read!



Me and Ray Warren at Ray's book signing at Dymocks.

Ray 'Rabbits' Warren is the legendary voice of Australian sports commentary. People tell him he must have drunk a bottle of scotch and smoked a packet of cigarettes every day to have the voice that he has. That's not the case – at least, not anymore ...

The son of a railway worker, Ray placed his first bet on a horse called Playboy at the age of just six, and won. A lifelong love of the track – and the punt – was born.

During his remarkable broadcasting career, which has now spanned almost five decades, Ray has called three Melbourne Cups, Commonwealth and Olympic Games swimming, and countless rugby league matches alongside his mates Fatty, Stereo and Gus.

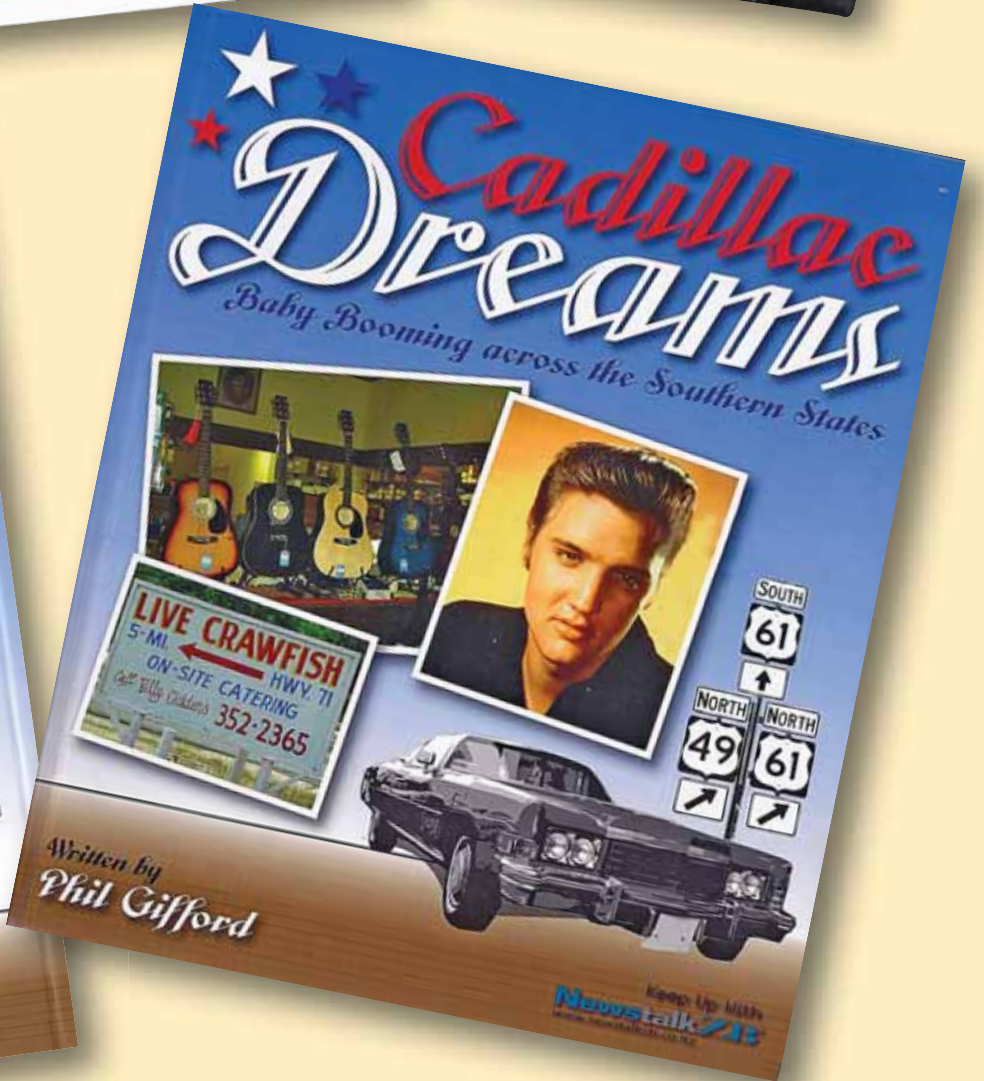
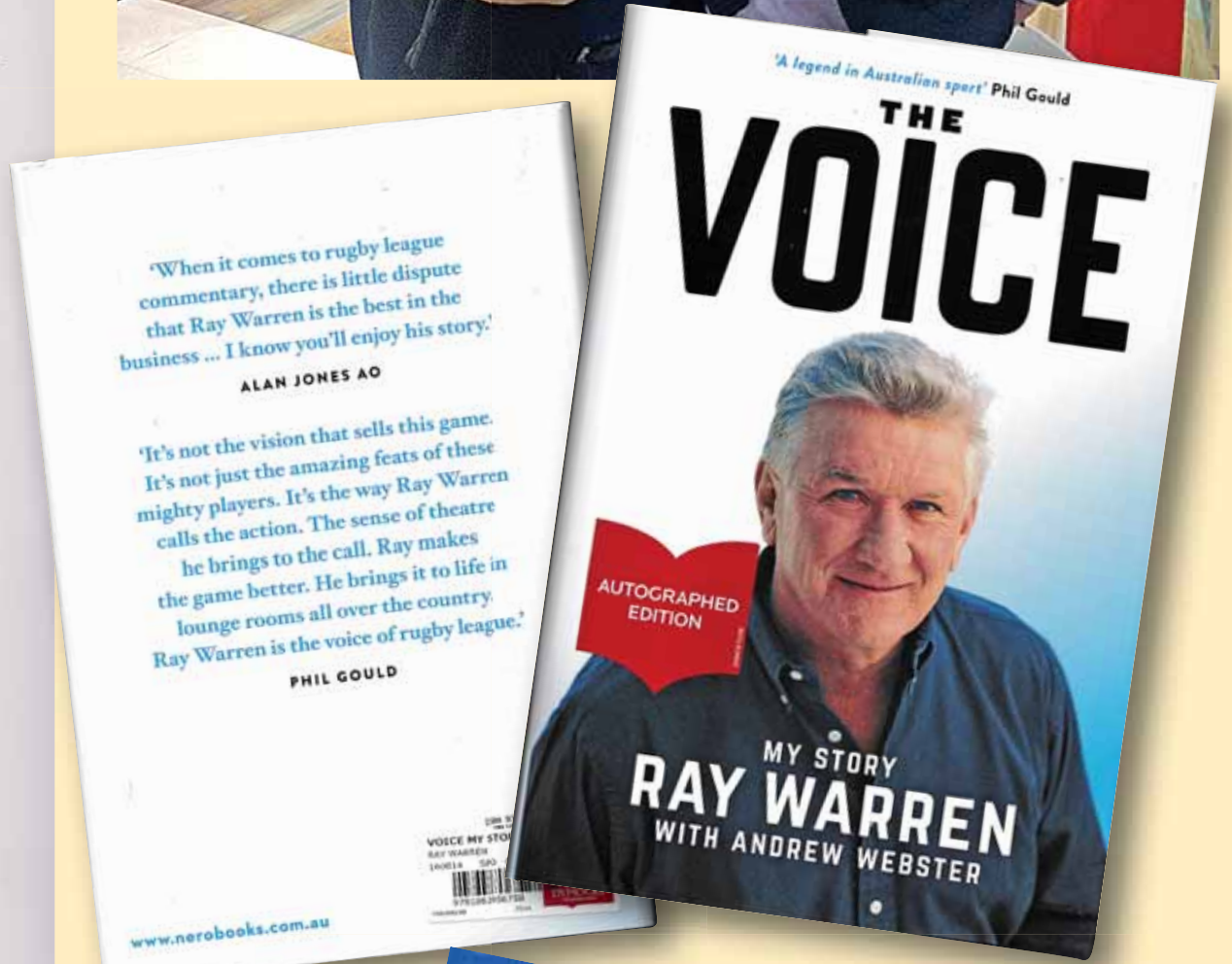
Here, for the first time, Ray reveals the man behind the microphone. He speaks of the great highs and devastating lows of his career and life in the same way he calls every sporting event: with great passion, colour and candour.



RAY WARREN is one of the most experienced sports broadcasters in Australia. The son of a railway worker, he began calling racing and rugby league in country NSW in 1966, and worked for several radio stations and Channel Ten before joining the Nine Network in 1989. In addition to being the doyen of rugby league commentators, he is 'the voice of the pool' and has broadcast Commonwealth and Olympic Games swimming, most recently at London 2012.

ANDREW WEBSTER is Chief Sports Writer for *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He has written about sport – particularly rugby league – for more than 17 years at a range of publications. He has covered Kangaroo tours, summer and winter Olympic Games, and the FIFA World Cup. He also appears regularly on Channel Nine. He has written and contributed to several books, including the widely acclaimed *Supercop: The Life and Times of Jack Gibson*.

Cover design: Peter Long
Covers and author photographs courtesy of the Nine Network





Peter Wynn, me and Ray Warren. (Please note he is holding a Vodafone Warriors Clock. #1 FAN! GOOD ON YOU RABBITS)



My prized Peter Wynn mug, given to me by the legend himself.

I took some of the staff from the Holden Cup team to meet my old mate, **Peter Wynn**, who played for Thurrock, Parramatta, NSW, Australia and won 3 premierships with Parramatta and now runs **Peter Wynn's Sport Shop** in Parramatta and is one of the best retailers I have seen at working the shop floor. Just love the guy.



The staff had a dinner on Friday night and we all had to wear a wig! From left – Laurie Hale NRL manager; me; Adam Mogg asst coach; Dan Floyd, football operations manager; Ricky Henry, asst coach. We did get some strange looks as we walked to the restaurant in Parramatta.



From the left – John Love (Physio); Peter Wynn, the legend; Kelvin Wright (asst coach); Troy Herewini (trainer); Doug Murray (manager).

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.

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



Some familiar - and famous - faces

Two greats of rugby league; Andrew and Stacey.



Three former Vodafone Warriors: Jerome, Ruben and Stacey.

Was great to catch up for lunch with my old mate Andrew Johns, who played 249 games for Newcastle 3 games for Warrington wolves in the UK, 23 games for NSW and 24 games for Australia. And one of only 2 players to have won the Golden Boot award more than once and the only player to have won the Daily M medal for the best player in the NRL 3 times, and inducted as a rugby league Immortal... but more important, a top bloke.

Andrew Johns and me at the game.



Even the coaching staff were happy to catch up with Andrew! From left assistant coach Adam Mogg, head coach Andrew McFadden, Andrew, and assistant coach Ricky Henry.



Crunch time in the NRL is finally here.

Our Finals Week One rundown



THIS WEEK, IN THE FINALS WEEK ONE ISSUE OF BIG LEAGUE – ON SALE THURS

EIGHT TEAMS REMAIN IN THE NRL COMPETITION AND THE HEAT IS NOW ON IN THE RACE TO THE DECIDER ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5.

FEATURES

- Just who has the edge when it comes to **experience in finals**? We break down who's been here before from the remaining teams and who may have the edge when it comes to crunch time.
- **Boyd Cordner** has achieved a lot in rugby league at a young age, but he's also been through a lot. We spoke to the Roosters vice-captain about how events throughout his growing up have shaped who he is today.
- The Manly Sea Eagles were there on Grand Final day last year and though they've been off their game in recent weeks, five-eighth **Kieran Foran** knows his team will flick the switch when it matters.
- Parramatta may have just missed out on finals, but one of the club's great rivals – Manly – are featuring and we spent some time with some Eels legends to understand where the hatred began – one thing though, they're willing to admit this Sea Eagles side has similar attributes to their teams of the 70s.
- **BIG READ:** Big stadiums or traditional grounds? It's the debate that kicks off this time every year. Both have their benefits but figures are showing the fans are seeking comfort over nostalgia.

PLUS

All the finals information: NRL gamebreakers; head-to-head By Numbers; NRL Q&As; Holden Cup previews; News: Souths over the mental hurdle; Pearce's new level; Top 8 Premiership-less players; Damian Lovelock; and our Cheerleader of the Year revealed!

GAME DAY: Official team lists for NRL, Holden Cup; NSW Cup, Intrust Super Cup, Ron Massey Cup; Reviews; Little League.

Contact details: Editorial – fiona.bollen@news.com.au

Advertising: bowie.phillips@news.com.au



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from
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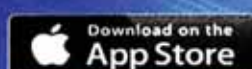
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The Newsletter Team

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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