



# Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



# Newsletter 19 SEPT 2014 #42



**Southland Rams player, Aaron Carson, on the charge in last Saturday night's game against the Tasman Titans.**

## History making rugby league team, the Southland Rams, have secured a hometown final for the South Island provincial title!

*They won a nail-biting game against the Tasman Titans 30-26 at Rugby Park in Invercargill last Saturday night. The win marked the first time the Rams had gone through the competition's round-robin section unbeaten.*

*A week earlier at Rugby Park, the Rams scored a historic win when beating Canterbury for the first time. They clash again in the final at Rugby Park on Saturday.*

*Late in last Saturday's game, the Rams were in trouble when the Titans scored a try to temporarily level the scores at 30-30. However, the referee disallowed the try deeming a forward pass had been made.*

*The Rams with their four-point buffer, defended tenaciously in the final few minutes to win.*

*Captain Chee Turuwhenua said his men would lift again for the final.*

*"We've got one more hurdle to go. It'll take a big effort from everyone, we'll be giving it our best," Turuwhenua said.*

*The camaraderie among Rams players was a strength of the team, coach Greg Dawson said.*

*"There's a good team spirit. They're out there putting their bodies on the line for each other."*

*Dawson and Turuwhenua are proud of the way the Rams have performed in all games this year. Key players Josh Gough and Matthew Low will return from injury for the final*

*"We've got a big one next week and we want to finish the job off," Dawson said.*

*Titan's coach, Phil Bergman, said the disallowed try extinguished all hope of his team winning last Saturday.*

*"That was the game for us. When Southland had the ball, we struggled to get it off them."*

*Rams' point scorers were: tries, Pehi Te Whare (three), Maka Mohi, Chez Cameron, Daniel Low; conversions, Daniel Low and Jayleel Fa'amoe-loane; penalty, Jayleel Fa'amoe-loane.*

## Call for Rams fans to show support

*By our South Island correspondent*

**T**he South Island provincial league final has been set down for Saturday afternoon in Invercargill and Southland league officials are hopeful the province gets in behind their team.

The Rams topped the round-robin series on Saturday night with a thrilling 30-26 win over the Tasman Titans and will now play Canterbury at Rugby Park at 2.30pm. It will be the first time the South Island final has been staged in Invercargill, and the Rams are also attempting to win it for the first time.

Southland District Rugby League president Cheryl Officer - who also is the Rams team manager - hoped the Southland community would get in behind the team. She described Saturday as one of the biggest games in Southland rugby league's history. It also comes on the back of two notable victories over Canterbury and Tasman in the past couple of weeks at Rugby Park.

"We are hoping a lot of people will come along to watch. We are going to give it a big push this week," Officer said.

## Rams attract attention

*By our South Island correspondent*

The Southland Rams fairytale 2014 season has captured the interest of even New Zealand's most high-profile league folk. They host the final this weekend against Canterbury at Rugby Park in Invercargill.

Their run, for a province not known for its league exploits, has prompted messages of support from some of the biggest names in New Zealand league.

Vodafone Warriors coach Andrew McFadden and captain Simon Mannering were among those providing good wishes before last Saturday's game, as was Kiwis' coach Stephen Kearney.

Sir Peter Leitch, aka the Mad Butcher, has been the most vocal supporter of the Rams efforts in recent weeks.

Via cellphone Leitch spoke to the Rams team in the changing rooms soon after the game, where he described it as "a proud night for Southland rugby league".

**You might like to send the Rams a text or email of support to show we Kiwis love battlers!**  
**Email [carpainter@xtra.co.nz](mailto:carpainter@xtra.co.nz)**  
**The coach's number for a text**  
**027 439 3275**

# Simon Mannering has capped 2014 by collecting the supreme Vodafone Player of the Year Award for a record fourth time.

It's the second straight year and the third time in the last four seasons he has won.

Mannering was consistently outstanding, appearing in all 24 games and equalling his career-best try tally of nine in a season.

The award was Mannering's second of the night. Earlier he was presented with the SkyCity Legacy Award to mark his milestone 10th NRL season for the club – joining Stacey Jones, Awen Guttenbeil, Lance Hohaia, Jerome Ropati and Manu Vatuvei.

Winger Manu Vatuvei was the Players' Player of the Year as voted on by his peers. Vatuvei had an outstanding year, scoring 17 tries in 23 appearances to lift his career tally to 135 in 194 matches.

That moved him inside the NRL's all-time top 20 try scorers as he maintained his sequence of being the club's top or top-equal try scorer in each of the last eight seasons.

He is also only the second player in the competition's history to score 10 or more tries in nine consecutive seasons.

Vatuvei was also named Club Person of the Year for his exceptional all-round contribution on and off the field, especially in the community. He has already won the NRL's Favourite Son Award this year and is a finalist for the NRL's Ken Stephen Medal.



## Red Ball Awards

Legacy Award	Simon Mannering
People's Choice	Konrad Hurrell
Club Person of the Year	Manu Vatuvei
NYC Players' Player	Sam Lisone
NSW Cup Players' Player	Agnatius Paasi
NRL Players' Player	Manu Vatuvei
Rookie of the Year	Brad Abbey
NSW Cup Rookie of the Year	Tuimoala Lolohea
NRL Rookie of the Year	David Fusitu'a
NYC Player of the Year	Sam Lisone
NSW Cup Player of the Year	Agnatius Paasi
NRL Player of the Year	Simon Mannering

There were two double winners for the club's NYC and New South Wales Cup teams as well. Co-captain and prop Sam Lisone won both the Players' Player and Player of the Year, while Agnatius Paasi did the double with the NSW Cup team.

# Q and A with JIM DOYLE

**INTRO:** *There'll be no lengthy holiday for Chief Operating Officer for the NRL, Jim Doyle, before he starts as CEO of the NZ Warriors in November. In fact, he's already having to manage his time carefully in Sydney to allow him to plan ahead to his role back in New Zealand - as he explains in this Q and A with John Deaker.*

**Q) Jim, when do you actually get your feet under the desk working at the Warriors HQ?**

**A)** November the 10th will be my first day on the job.

**Q) Some coaches and CEO's feel hamstrung by previous recruitments made at clubs before they've even arrived. Are you able to have involvement or influence on important decisions like player recruitment before that November 10th date?**

**A)** One of the things that happened was when I agreed to take on the role I spoke with Wayne, Bill Wavish and Eric – and we agreed that there'd be no staff appointments until I get there. We've put off some staff appointments recently until I get there so we can make sure we have the right people from a staff point-of-view. Then from a playing perspective the good thing being in Australia at the moment is that there's a few hours ahead of the day when you can talk to New Zealand. So I spend a bit of time talking to 'Cappy' early in the morning to talk to him about player rosters and what's happening. So I have a little bit of input but it's very limited.

**Q) So when do you actually move across the Tasman when that communicating with 'Cappy' prior to November the 10th could at least become easier?**

**A)** We actually move on November the 8th. My last day with the NRL is November the 7th – we fly out on November the 8th – and I start work on November the 10th.

**Q) You're very aware of the strengths and weaknesses of all NRL clubs – What NRL club's systems and structures would you like the Warriors to model themselves on more than any other club - and why?**

**A)** To be honest I wouldn't actually use just one in particular. As you go across the clubs there's some clubs better than others at certain things – whether that be football, commercial, marketing or membership. So I would use a combination of different clubs – not just one in particular.

**Q) Having been the CEO of the NZRL, how much potential do you think is there for you to improve the relationship between the Warriors and the NZRL?**

**A)** When at the NZRL I had a good relationship with Wayne (Scurrah). There's no doubt that a strong Warriors will have a positive impact for the game of rugby league right across the country. At the same time a strong NZRL will have a strong impact on the Warriors so it's important that they work together.

**Q) How confident are you that you'll be trusted with the power you want at the Warriors without interference from the board or the owners?**

**A)** I'm very confident. I think at the end of the day we'll all be working together. We all want the same outcome for the Warriors - to be very consistent on and off the field - and be very professional. That's exactly what the board want and what the owners want. We're all in it together - so we'll all be using collective skills, knowledge and experience to make sure that we get the success.

**Q) The future of the Under 20's Holden Cup competition is apparently under threat. This could be a huge loss for the Warriors. How hard will you try in your current role - and when you arrive at the Warriors - to retain this competition?**

**A)** There's been a lot of speculation out there – and I'm not sure what the speculation is based on. I think everybody in the game knows that to develop talent for the future you have to have pathways. Those pathways start at 16's and 18's – and it includes the 20's. It also includes the State Cups like the NSW Cup and Queensland Cup. No one disagrees that those are the right pathways - so I'm not sure why people are speculating about the demise of the Holden Cup.

**Q) You've talked in the past in the media about the family reasons associated with wanting to return to New Zealand. How is your immediate family progressing back here in New Zealand?**

**A)** My eldest daughter is 26 and she's a schoolteacher – and the other one is 22 and works for Westpac. They're living in our house in Auckland at the moment. When we came here we knew we were only here for 2 or 3 years. But when the opportunity came up at the Warriors it became an ideal time to stay involved with the game by moving back home to spend more time with the kids – so that was really the plan.

**OUTRO:** *Jim Doyle may not be about to score tries or make tackles. However it will be fascinating to see what influence he can make on the Warriors team in the next few years when critics have often highlighted them "not getting the front office right" as a key reason for the Warriors never getting close to realising the clubs huge potential.*



# Now it's all resting on the Juniors! No pressure, then!

**T**oo crook to even attend the **Vodafone Warriors** awards night this week – and I have to be crook to miss that one I can tell you.

To be fair, I feel like death warmed up, but my great mate **Dexter** stepped up to the plate to look after our guests. Meanwhile, sometimes you hear about fairytales in sport and I was delighted one happened for my great mate, **Greg Dawson**, over the weekend. You could be excused for not having heard of the bloke, but he coaches the **Southland Rams**, and they beat the **Tasman Titans** in the South Island Inter District Rugby League, and will play the **Canterbury Development 13** in the grand final this weekend.

And in what must surely be a first, the **Rams** game came after a curtain-raiser that saw the **Southland Stags** rugby team beat Northland in the ITM Cup. Rugby and league on the same field! I can't recall that ever happening. Rugby being a curtain-raiser for league in a rugby mad town like Invercargill is amazing, and **go the Southland Rams this Saturday**.

My rugby watching also extended to seeing **Richie McCaw** score an outstanding try in the **All Blacks** close win over South Africa.

## Prostate mission

After all that excitement I had to get along to Placemakers in Pakuranga on Sunday morning for the **Bikers in Blue** charity ride for prostate cancer. Hundreds of riders from all over the place converged on Pakuranga and rode out to Albany. Outstanding stuff, and great to see so many people giving of their time for a good cause (*pix pages 6 & 7*).

## Now the good stuff

Of course I love NRL finals footy, even without the **Vodafone Warriors**. South Sydney go to the preliminary finals after a 40-24 thrashing of Manly. The **Rabbitohs** were awesome in Friday night's game, bashing their way to a 40-0 lead, before Manly rallied.

Manly hardly had the ball in the first 40 and will have to do a lot better this weekend when they take on the **Bulldogs**, who threw a spanner in the **Storm's** works by beating them 28-4 on Sunday.

That means it is all over for Melbourne, and the other side eliminated was Brisbane, well beaten 32 - 20 by the **Cowboys** up in Townsville.

But the game of the round was the **Penrith Panthers** 19-18 win over the **Roosters**. It was a fabulous game and **Jamie Soward** will be the toast of the boys from the Blue Mountains after he slotted a late field goal to steal it from a **Roosters** side that looked home after a late converted try put them out to 18-12 late in the game. But a wonderful try in the corner – and sideline conversion from Soward - locked it up, before Soward had his moment.

All of which means the **Panthers** and **Souths** get a week off, the **Roosters** face the **Cowboys** on Friday and Manly play the **Doggies** on Saturday.

## Juniors run riot

And how good was it watching the eight try 44-30 demolition job the **Vodafone Junior Warriors** did on the **Roosters** in the Holden Cup? We built on a 28-14 halftime lead to stretch out to a 44-18 advantage midway through the second spell and I knew it was all over.

The result hands the **Stacey Jones**-coached side a date with minor premiers the **Newcastle Knights**, who were upset 30-22 by **St George-Illawarra**. The **Vodafone**

**Junior Warriors** shut the **Roosters** out really, streaking to a big lead in the first half. A couple of lapses let the **Roosters** stay in some sort of contact, but if there was any hope it quickly vanished when the boys shot out to a 44-18 lead.

The score might have been anything after that but injuries and stoppages slowed the flow, and the **Roosters** claimed two late tries.

And consider this - Stacey had eight players with 2013 NYC finals experience at his disposal. Five backs and three forwards were all involved in last year's campaign.

Of the finals squad last year, **Metia Lisati** and **Ngataua Hukatai** were on the wings, while **Solomone Kata** was at centre, and **Tuimoala Lolohea** and **Mason Lino** again made up the halves. Starting in the forwards were props **Sam Lisone** and **Kouma Samson**, while **Adam Tuimavave-Gerrard** was in the second row.

This is the seventh straight season the **Juniors** have reached the finals, having won the premiership in 2010 and 2011, lost the 2013 grand final, and collected a minor premiership in 2011.

No other club can compete with that record.

Canberra and Canterbury have been in the finals five times, but failed to qualify this year, while the **Roosters** were in the play-offs for the fifth time.

## NSW Cup side eliminated

But our other side in the finals series, the NSW Cup team, were over-run by the **Illawarra Cutters**, so come on the **Juniors**, keep our flag flying!

**Dominique Peyroux** and **Agnatius Paasi** returned to New South Wales Cup duty for the **Vodafone Warriors**, Peyroux in the centres, and Paasi at loose forward, but it was not enough. With the lure of making the competition's last four – and moving within one win of making the September 28 grand final – the **Warriors** and Illawarra had gone into the game at opposite ends of the form spectrum.

The **Warriors** sneaked into the finals in eighth while the **Cutters** ended the season fourth. But the **Warriors** belied their run by beating the fifth-ranked **Mounties** 36-28 in their opening finals game. The **Cutters** were out of sorts against minor premier Penrith as they slumped to a 42-6 loss last weekend.

It all counted for nothing, with the **Cutters** the better team on the night, but at least the **Vodafone Warriors** reached the finals at their first attempt with their own team in the NSW Cup.

## New faces due to be named

**Vodafone Warriors** head coach **Andrew McFadden** hopes to announce the two new assistant coaches to replace **Ricky Henry** and **Adam Mogg** soon.

"I'm hoping we'll be able to make an announcement in the near future," said McFadden. "Ricky and Adam have made great contributions and I'm grateful. Adam has put his family first, which is only right. It hasn't worked out for him, with his family back in Queensland so he has decided to go home. Ricky has really stepped up to take on more after I was appointed. He has been terrific."

McFadden said he was seeking experienced support staff. "I'm a fairly inexperienced at this level and I recognised during the season that I need the support and advice of people who have been around coaching at the top level longer than I have."

## Good luck in rugby, Sam

Forward **Sam Lousi** is leaving the **Vodafone Warriors**

after being granted a release from the last year of his contract.

His manager **Peter Brown** asked for the release and the club agreed, with Sam lining up for a spot in Super Rugby with NSW.

Mostly used in the New South Wales Cup over the last three seasons, Sam, 23, made two NRL appearances in 2012, and had one game this year. He played 44 times for the **Junior Warriors** in 2010 and 2011, and was a member of the club's NYC grand final-winning teams both seasons.

## Ten Warriors in Kiwis thinking

Ten **Vodafone Warriors** are in the **Kiwis'** train-on squad for the Four Nations tournament.

**Simon Mannering**, **Manu Vatuvei**, **Thomas Leuluai**, **Ben Matulino** and **Shaun Johnson**, are all named.

The others included are **Konrad Hurrell**, **Ngani Laumape**, **David Fusitu'a**, **Siliva Havili** and **Suaia Matagi**.

Hurrell represented Tonga at last year's World Cup but has indicated his desire to make the **Kiwis**.

Matagi, who played for **Toa Samoa** at the cup, was also named in the Samoans' train-on squad, along with clubmates **Carlos Tuimavave**, **Dominique Peyroux**, **Michael Sio** and **Brad Abbey**.

Coach **Stephen Kearney** named 21 players whose clubs missed the NRL playoffs, and further names will be added as more teams are eliminated. The wider squad will consist of about 40 players and the Four Nations roster will be named the week after the grand final.

And **Vodafone Warriors** prop Jacob Lillyman was named in the Aussie train-on squad too.

## Pirtek NZRL National Premiership

Two late tries from wing **Jeremiah Faauumu** saved defending champions **Akarana Falcons** from embarrassment, as they survived a tough examination from the **Wellington Orcas** 36-22.

With 10 minutes left, the home side were only 26-22 ahead, and were barely holding on. But they were able to manufacture a pair of opportunities for Faauumu to capitalise on.

Both sides had gone into the contest having suffered losses last week, Akarana to the **Canterbury Bulls**, and Wellington to **Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions**.

The **Central Vipers** continued their turnaround season with a resounding 74-16 win over **Northern Swords** at Wanganui. After travelling through the 2013 competition without a win, the Hawke's Bay/Taranaki/Manawatu/Wanganui combination have now registered two wins this year, having accounted for Wellington two weeks ago.

By contrast, the **Swords** have one hand on the wooden spoon, still winless through four rounds.

Meanwhile, **Counties Manukau** have put daylight between themselves and their rivals so far this season, building on their superiority with a 68-0 romp over **Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions** in Tauranga.

Unbeaten through last regular season, but knocked over in the final, the **Stingrays** seem to be on a mission to erase that memory, accounting for their opponents by an average of 55 points. **Counties Manukau** now face a grand-final rematch against **Akarana Falcons** next week and still have the premiership's other unbeaten side, the **Canterbury Bulls**, on their schedule.



**We recently took some Vodafone Fantastic Fridays competition winners on a trip with the Vodafone Warriors to Penrith.**

**Team Photo – the boys took time out from their match preparation to meet Kim and the team and pose for a photo. Young Sam Fraser, a Kiwi living in Parramatta, also snuck into the pic!**



**The lucky winners from left to right were: Campbell Clayton-Greene, Aaron Johnston, Delwyn Campbell-Greene and Kim Johnston.**

My mates from **Vodafone** recently ran a competition as part of their new **Fantastic Fridays** loyalty programme to give away a trip to go on tour with the **Vodafone Warriors**. The trip was won by a couple of cow cockys from the Hauraki Plains and I had the pleasure of travelling with them to the last game of the season in Penrith. **Kim Johnston**, her husband **Aaron** and their friends **Campbell** and **Delwyn Clayton-Greene** learnt firsthand what it is like to tour as a **Vodafone Warrior**. They were on the same flights, got personalized jerseys and even stayed in the same hotel... I couldn't get rid of them!

To be fair, they were lovely people and even though the result didn't go our way, the boys were very welcoming and they enjoyed the unique opportunity. Make sure you check out **Vodafone Fantastic Fridays** for more chances to win some great experiences with the mighty **Vodafone Warriors** in 2015!

<http://www.vodafone.co.nz/fantasticfridays/>



**Kim settling in at Panther's stadium and showing the locals her colours. A dangerous thing to do in Penrith!**



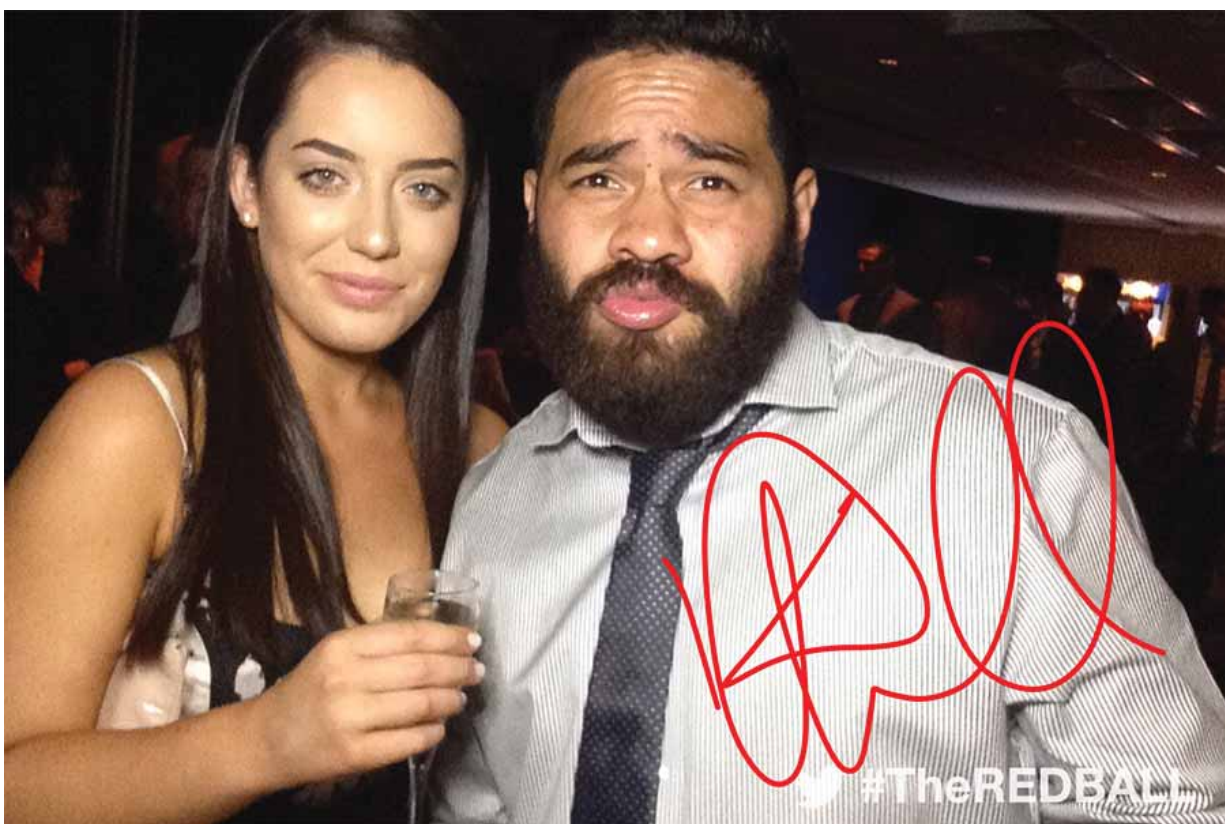
**Vodafone Warriors Captain, Simon Mannering, took time out to meet the crew. I was on hand to ensure the conversation was kept above board!**



**The team celebrating the only try of the game – the runaway try by Manu Vatuvei.**



Manu Vatuvei



Konrad Hurrell.



Stacey Jones Lounge members: Trevor, Lorna, Lorraine and David McKee from Christchurch, at the Vodafone Warriors prize giving.

**Up  
close  
and  
personal  
with  
some  
Warriors  
at the  
Red Ball  
2014.**

**Interlike Social Mirror photos**



[www.interlike.co.nz](http://www.interlike.co.nz)



Peter and Rosa from timaru with Lorna and Trevor from Manurewa.



Derek and Yvonne on the red carpet.



Trevor, Lorna, Lorraine and Dave with Chris and Odette Gaskin.



Bishop Ian Carpenter, perhaps?



Odette and Roana enjoying Ian's party trick with a napkin!



The Birthday boy with his special rose.



# BIKERS IN BLUE 2014

**AN  
AMAZING  
TURN-OUT  
FOR  
PROSTATE  
AWARENESS!**



**a great turn out  
at Placemakers on  
Sunday morning  
for Prostate Cancer  
by the Bikers in  
Blue. Well done  
to you all!**

The Prostate Cancer Foundation's Blue September Campaign roared into life last Saturday with the annual Bikers in Blue rally. Over 250 bikes and their riders converged on Placemakers Pakuranga outlet to be greeted by PCF Patron, Sir Peter. Bikes of all shapes and sizes, riders and bikes dressed in blue for the occasion turned up despite the inclement weather, along with a couple of friendly coppas to guide them across the city to their destination - Placemakers Albany outlet.



Riders dressed in their best BLUE outfits for the Bikers in Blue ride.



There was a hell of a roar as all the bikes filed out and headed out to the motorway and over the bridge. At Albany, the fine Placemakers staff fed them sausages, volunteers sold heaps of raffle tickets and keen bidders fronted for the auction. All in in all a most successful event. Thanks to Morgan, Lance and Kym and the rest of the organisers - we raised well over \$5000 for prostate cancer. A great result!





# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FORMER KIWI CAPTAIN, BILL SNOWDEN

by Barry Ross, Australian correspondent

Bill Snowden played the first of his 19 Tests at Carlaw Park on 8 July 1961, against Australia. It was a strong Aussie team, including Australian Team of the Century members, Reg Gasnier and Ken Irvine. The visitors won the tight match 10-8, drawing the series, after New Zealand had won the first game 12-10.

**B**orn in Auckland in 1935, Bill attended Auckland Grammar and in his senior year was asked to try out for the First XV Rugby side. He was lost to the 15 man game when he wasn't allowed to wear his only pair of football boots. "My boots had aluminium studs and these were not only to be used in the schools rugby games of those days," he laughed. "We were too poor to buy another pair, so I played soccer in the winter and cricket in the summer." Bill began playing Rugby League with the old City Rovers club as a seven year old, but moved to Ponsonby at age 16, because his junior club did not field senior teams. The talented halfback was playing first grade at 17 and was selected in his first Auckland representative team a few years later for a tour of the South Island. His big break came in 1959 when he was chosen in Cliff Johnson's strong team for the Australian tour. With a Test match under his belt, Bill left for England and France in late 1961, with a young and enthusiastic Kiwi team, captained by Don Hammond. Britain were the best side in the world at the time and the New Zealanders were not expected to provide them with much opposition but this was certainly not the case. New Zealand belted the Poms 29-11 in the first Test and gave them a hell of

a fright in the other two. They then went to France where they won the series.

Bill was one of the many successes on that tour, playing in all six Tests.

Back home in 1962, New Zealand hosted Great Britain after they had thumped Australia to win the series, two Tests to one. But the Kiwis didn't have the same problem, easily winning both Tests, 19-0 and 27-8, with Bill playing a key role in the series victory.

In 1963 he was vice captain of the New Zealand team to Australia, playing in all three Tests. When the Australians came to New Zealand in June 1965, Bill captained the home side in both Tests, with the series being drawn one Test all. The Ponsonby halfback became the first Maori to captain a major New Zealand tour of England and France when he led the 1965 team. He played in the first two Tests, but then suffered a groin tear which kept him on the sidelines for about two months. This was the end of his Test career, with his final game being at Bradford on 23 October 1965.

While Bill was the team's halfback, New Zealand were regarded as the world's best team. From 1936 to 1988, the best Test team in world Rugby League was awarded the Courtney Goodwill trophy. New Zealand held this

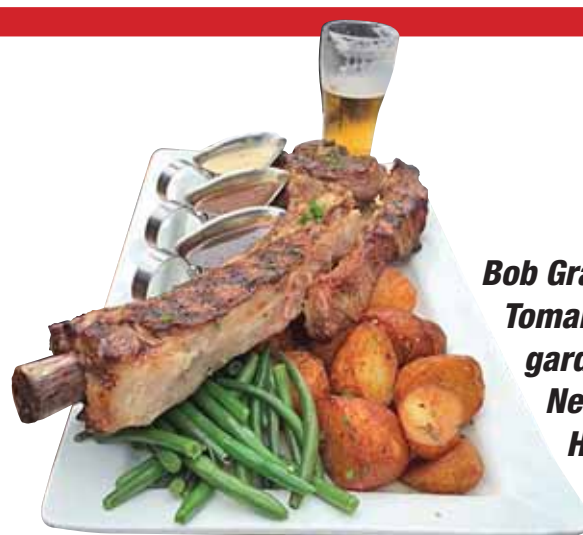
trophy from 1960 to 1965 and Bill's 19 Tests were played during this time.

His opposition halfbacks in his Test career included such greats of our game as Alec Murphy, Billy Smith, Arthur Summons, Tommy Smales and Mick Sullivan who made his name as a fearsome British winger.

In the late 1960s, Bill and a few mates came to Australia and he has been living there ever since. In the early days he tried to play with the Sydney Roosters but couldn't obtain a clearance. So he played under another name for Bondi United in the Eastern Suburbs junior league. In 1974 and 1975, he was the Roosters chairman of selectors, when Australian Team of the Century coach, Jack Gibson took them to two successive Premierships. A member of the Men of League, Bill often enjoys a coffee with his 1965 rival Billy Smith, who lives nearby.

"I played two Tests against Billy," he remembered, "and just a few minutes into second first meeting, which we won 7-5, he belted me. But I got him back later in the match."

Bill, who sadly lost his wife a few weeks ago, has a daughter and two grandsons. He lives in the Sutherland Shire not far from Cronulla beach.



**Bob Graydon's lunch: a 1.7kg Tomahawk steak in the garden bar at the Oaks, Neutral Bay. He scoffed the lot!**

**Celebrating their 20 year anniversary for coming to Sydney to watch the NRL semi finals, were Murray Hansen, Bob Graydon, Bob Essex and Brian Riley. Here relaxing with a beer at the Mercantile Hotel, in The Rocks, before the game.**

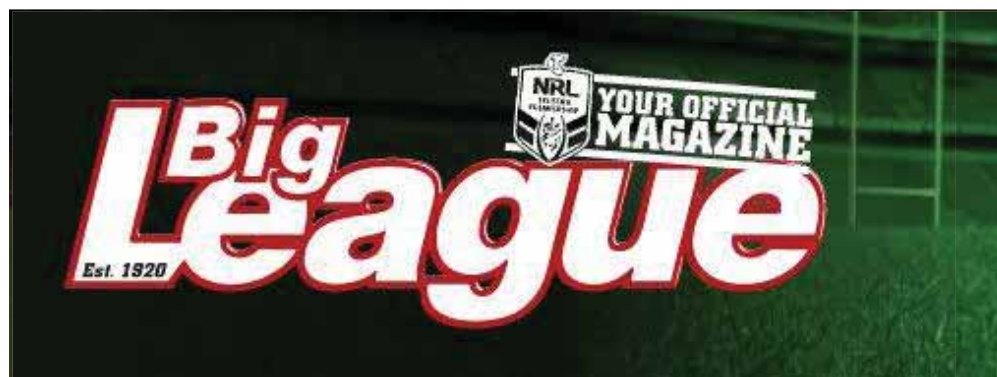


**FAR LEFT: Bob and Murray congratulating Stacey Jones after the fantastic win by the Vodafone Junior Warriors down on the sideline at Allianz Stadium.**

**LEFT: After 20 years of coming to watch the NRL semi finals, it's as exciting as the first!**

# Finals Time!

## Don't miss your Big League read this week!



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

AFTER FINISHING THE REGULAR SEASON ONE AND TWO, THE ROOSTERS AND SEA EAGLES NOW FACE A DO-OR-DIE BATTLE TO MAKE IT TO GRAND FINAL DAY.

### FEATURES

- He's quiet and likes to keep to himself, but **Sam Moa** is now the Roosters' impact man. Players don't like running at him and they definitely don't like him running at them.
- The Canterbury pack is full of stars but second-rower **Josh Jackson** is making a name for himself and many think we'll see him on the rep stage soon and for a long time.
- The **Manly Sea Eagles** have enjoyed a decade of being at the top and they face their biggest test yet of that famous resilient culture to get them through their clash with the Dogs.
- He's been quietly going about his business but **Robert Lui** has settled into life in North Queensland well and he's helping his halves partner shine.
- **BIG READ:** In big sport in the USA, the badge, or competition's logo, stands for more than just the game itself. Players respect it and don't want to let it down. But they also have full control of their own image, something sportspeople in Australia don't have, but many NRL players feel it would help improve the game's image.

### PLUS

All the finals information: NRL gamebreakers – Aidan Guerra and Steve Matai; head-to-head By Numbers; NRL Q&As – Michael Morgan and James Graham; Holden Cup previews; News: How Manly chased Graham, Soward's work behind the scenes; Top 8 Tries of 2014; Kevin Walters on what the underdog tag does.

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



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, September 18.**

### DIGITAL VERSION

Available via [www.zinio.com](http://www.zinio.com)

### THE UNTOLD STORIES

We delve into what makes Grand Finals so special and the emotions that come with it. Terry Lamb, Tim Sheens, Laurie Daley, Steve Renouf and Adam MacDougall take you through their Untold Stories from the ones they played in.

Go to Big League TV on YouTube.

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# about town

## Warriors wow hospital kidz

It's hard to know who's going to end up with the biggest smile whenever the Vodafone Warriors visit Kidz First Children's Hospital.

Middlemore Foundation community relations officer Ankita Luthra says the NRL stars are among the most eagerly awaited visitors.

"The kids just love seeing the boys come in but they seem to have a special place in their hearts for Manu

Vatuvei. When he smiles, the whole place lights up."

Vatuvei, a Kidz First ambassador with his teammate Glen Fisiiahi, was joined on the visit by Charlie Gubb, Tuimoala Lolohea, Nathan Peteru and Jerome Ropati.

■ Got a great community event you'd like to see on this page? Email us on edmc@snl.co.nz or phone 272 5863 with the details.



**Cool jammies:** Tuimoala Lolohea admires 8-year-old Matthew Wheeler's PJs.



**Star struck:** Glen Fisiiahi and Manu Vatuvei make Vanessa and Samuel Spain's day.



**Well done:** Glen Fisiiahi and Manu Vatuvei get certificates of appreciation for the Warriors' ongoing involvement with Kidz First.



**Party time:** The Warriors players were treated to a Pyjama Party cake to thank them for their support for Kidz First's Jammies in June campaign.



**Who's this:** Manu Vatuvei makes a fuss of Iziah Kitson, 2.

**The Vodafone Warriors at Kidz First cake was made by Trudie's Treats. You can see heaps of Trudie's delicious cakes on her Facebook page. Just type in the name, Trudie's Treats!**



**This way:** Nathan Peteru gets a lesson from Ethan Person, 10.



**My hero:** Young fan Brooklyn Aitagi meets Charlie Gubb at Kidz First.



**You can see all the full images shown here and many more, on Trudie's Facebook page.**



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*Wishing  
Stacey Jones's  
Holden Cup team  
**ALL THE BEST**  
for this Saturday's  
Game!*

Junior Vodafone Warriors enjoy their win over the Roosters last Saturday in Sydney.



Make sure you check out **Vodafone Fantastic Fridays** for more chances to win some great experiences with the mighty Vodafone Warriors in 2015!

<http://www.vodafone.co.nz/fantasticfridays/>

**vodafone**



On the way to the Panther's stadium: Delwyn showing her true support.

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.

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