



Sir Peter Leitch's
MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

17 OCT 2014
#46

This Saturday at Mt Smart

our aim is to beat the Aussies

**And to show Mt Smart is the home of rugby league
NOT NORTH HARBOUR**

**LET'S FILL MT SMART TO SHOW THE COUNCIL
WHERE WE WANT TO STAY**

7pm kick off Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos

**5pm PIRTEK NZRL NATIONAL PREMIERSHIP FINAL
Akarana Falcons v Counties Manuaku Stingrays**

Entrance

\$5 adults,

**children 12 years
and under**

FREE

**Make a big banner and share in
lots of prizes. Winning banner
gets four 2015 season tickets
to the Vodafone Warriors.**

**SPREAD THE WORD AND
LET'S FILL MT SMART!**



Kodi Nikorima

- Broncos.
- 20yrs.
- Fullback.



Addin Fonua-Blake

- Dragons.
- 18yrs.
- Prop.



Josh Aloiai

- Eels.
- 18yrs.
- Loose Fwd.



Zach Dockar-Clay

- Eels.
- 19yrs.
- Half.



Danny Levi

- Knights.
- 18yrs.
- Hooker.



Joseph Tapine

- Knights.
- 20yrs.
- Second Row.



Chance Peni

- Knights.
- 19yrs.
- Wing.



Sione Katoa

- Panthers.
- 19yrs.
- Utility.



Sam Manuleleua

- Rabbitohs.
- 19yrs.
- Wing.



Braden Uele

- Roosters.
- 19yrs.
- Prop.



Taane Milne

- Roosters.
- 19yrs.
- Centre.



Nelson Asofa-Solomoana

- Storm.
- 18yrs.
- Second Row.



Lamar Liolevave

- Tigers.
- 18yrs.
- Second Row.



Manaia Cherrington

- Tigers.
- 20yrs.
- Hooker.



Te Maire Martin

- Tigers.
- 19yrs.
- Half.



Watson Heleta

- Tigers.
- 19yrs.
- Centre.



Adam Tuimavave-Gerrard

- Warriors.
- 20yrs.
- Utility.



Sam Lisone

- Warriors.
- 20yrs.
- Prop.

The Junior Kiwi Team

If ever there was a great chance for rugby league fans to show Auckland City we love Mt Smart it comes this Saturday when the Junior Kiwis play Australia at 7pm.

You can talk the talk but at some stage you have to walk the walk, and that stage is Saturday.

And it will only cost league fans:

\$5 – with Under 12s free

As you know there are all sorts of plans to move the **Vodafone Warriors**, and they all come down to dollars.

You can take flower boxes for a few million in Queen St, and you can take millions for offices for people who can't process a building application without dynamite strapped to their backsides, and you can take millions of dollars for any other hare-brained scheme the council comes up with.

But few chances to show the council how much us poor league fans love Mt Smart come up.

There has been talk of a march down Queen St but they are a dime a dozen, and this Saturday gives us the chance to do something totally different.

We can get a good crowd out for the **Junior Kiwis** as well as show the council our support for Mt Smart. It is a two-pronged attack, and let's face it, you don't normally get a great crowd for the **Juniors**, so if we can get good numbers we will really make a statement. I was on my sickbed at Waiheke when I rang **Vodafone Warriors** chairman **Bill Wavish** and he thought it was a bloody good idea.

Within five minutes I had an email from him that he had sent to **Wayne Scurrah** our outgoing CEO, outlining an action plan. I have to say, Bill is a superb chairman, and you can not ask for more.

So I'm calling on as many of you as possible to get along on Saturday night.

I always reckon if we are playing Aussie at anything, it is time for real fans to turn out, and remember:

\$5 – with Under 12s free

At that price we can all afford to contribute to making the atmosphere at Mt Smart electric. Imagine what it would be like rattling around at Eden Park or dragging yourself to Albany.

And there is also the chance to see the final of the **Pirtek NZRL National Premiership at 5pm**.

Make the best banner on night and you can win four season passes to the **Vodafone Warriors** next season, and if that is not enough to inspire you to get along and have a go, then I don't know what is.

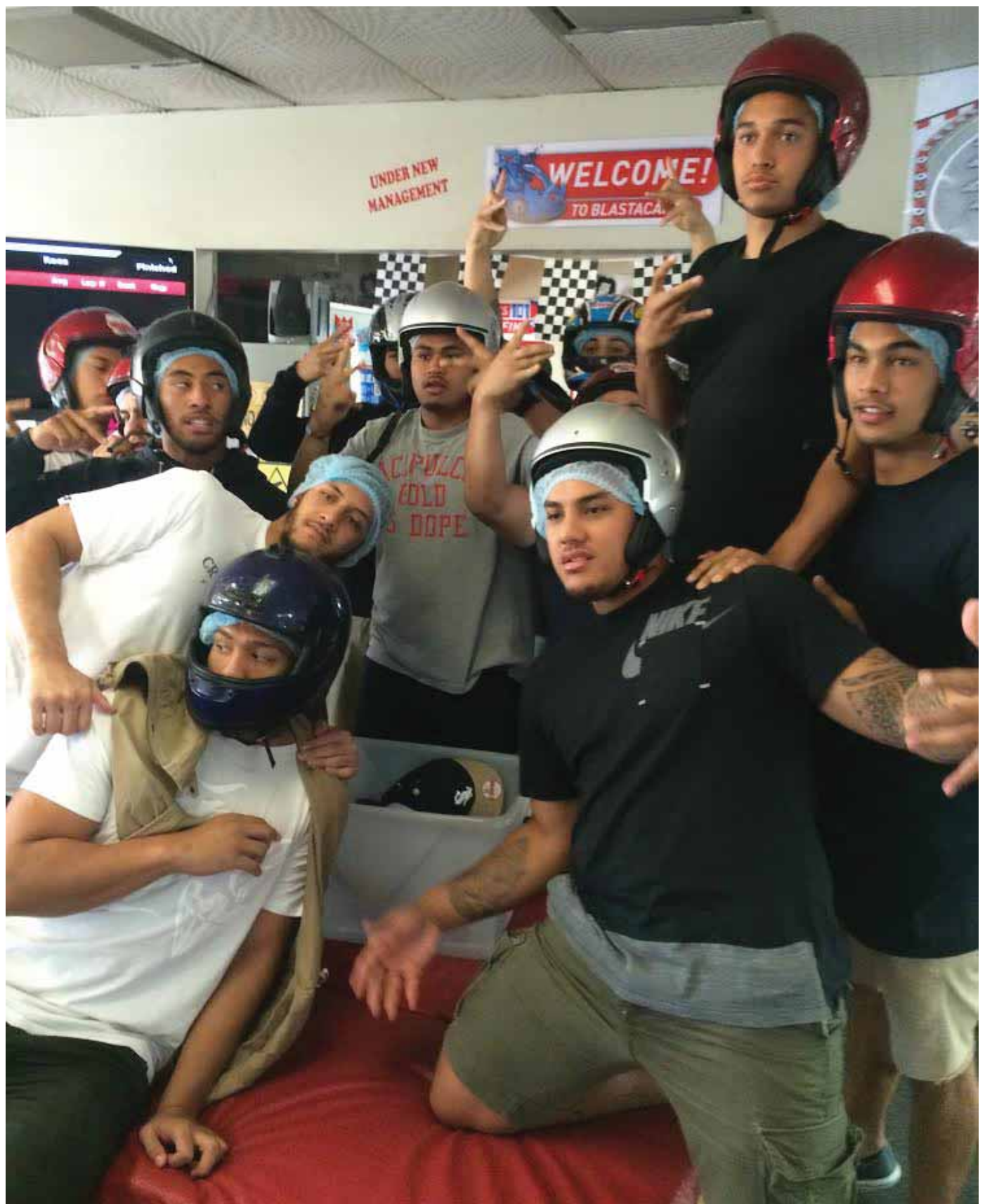
There are some awesome players lining up for Australia, with **Joe Ofahengaue** from the **Broncos** in the team.

You might recognise the name because he is the nephew of 1991 Wallaby World Cup winner Willie, who lived in Auckland and was arguably the most damaging ball runner in Wallaby history. (See item in this Newsletter) There are plenty of chances to see the **Junior Kiwis** this week, with a full opposed training at Mt Smart on Wednesday at 6.30pm, and a captain's run at Mt Smart at 10.30am on Friday.

Come on league fans, get along to Mt Smart and support the Junior Kiwis against Australia, and much more importantly, support league against Auckland City and the dumb-ass plan to ship us out to Albany.



*Some of
the Junior
Kiwis
relaxing
and having
a bit of fun,
earlier
this week.*



Sheens names his troops

Kangaroos coach **Tim Sheens** has named his side for the **Four Nations**. "We have a really good blend of experience and youth. The positive for me is the experience that even the debutants have. We have a high proportion of State of Origin representatives and premiership winners."

Kangaroos:

Greg Bird (Titans),
Daly Cherry-Evans (Manly),
Boyd Cordner (Roosters),
Cooper Cronk (Storm),
Robbie Farah (Tigers),
Aidan Guerra (Roosters),
Jarryd Hayne (Eels),
Ryan Hoffman (Storm),
Ben Hunt (Broncos),
Greg Inglis (Rabbitohs),
Josh Jackson (Bulldogs),
Michael Jennings (Roosters),
Alex Johnston (Rabbitohs),
David Klemmer (Bulldogs),
Josh Mansour (Panthers),
Sione Mata'utia (Knights),
Josh Papalii (Raiders),
Corey Parker (Broncos),
Beau Scott (Knights),
Cameron Smith (Storm),
Sam Thaiday (Broncos),
Daniel Tupou (Roosters),
Dylan Walker (Rabbitohs),
Aaron Woods (Tigers).

Tonga line up PNG

Tonga plays Papua-New Guinea in a fully-sanctioned test at Lae on Sunday. Tonga has announced its 17-man team and points for World Cup rankings are on offer.

Tonga:

Sitaleki-Moala Akau'ola (Tigers),
Viliami Fine (Tigers),
Sione Folau (Eels),
Daniel Foster (Panthers),
David Hala (Broncos),
Solomone Kata (Warriors),
Samisoni Langi (Roosters),
Haveatama Luani (Tigers),
Viliami Manu (Panthers),
Benjieman Murdoch (Panthers),
Agnatius Paasi (Warriors),
Wellentony Satini (Manly),
Ukuma Taai (Huddersfield),
Siosiu Taukeiaho (Roosters),
Peni Terepo (Eels),
Vai Toutai (Eels),
Bill Tupou (Raiders).

Lance doing well

You will all have seen the terrible punches **Lance Hohaia** copped in the Super League final while playing for St Helens against Wigan.

I texted him soon after he got back that he was fine, and I have since spoken to him too. Lance says he is fine and has no bitterness about it. He refused to lay any kind of charges when contacted by police, but **Ben Flowers**, the Wigan prop, has copped a six month ban for his

thuggery.

Lance has not escaped scot-free either, getting a one-week for a forearm in the lead-up.

We do not need thuggery in our game – you don't need it in any game for that matter, so the longest ban in Super League history seems the right punishment to me.

Boxing beckons

I will be at ringside on Thursday night when Explosive **Joseph Parker** takes on **Sherman Williams**. I see good press about Joseph burying the hatchet with **Sonny Bill Williams**. There had been some too-ing and fro-ing between the pair over Sony-Bill's belt and unwillingness to fight Joseph, but regardless of that, I am really looking forward to seeing a young man with a big future.

Big week looms

Don't look for me next week because I will be flying to Australia to take in the double-header opener of the Four Nations tournament.

Samoa plays **England**, but the one that matters most to me is of course my beloved **Kiwis** v the old enemy **Australia**.

So go the Kiwis, and go the Junior Kiwis on Saturday, and most of all, go the great game of league and all those of you who take up my call to arms!

JOHN DEAKER, SON OF LEGENDARY BROADCASTER, MURRAY DEAKER, SHARES HIS THOUGHTS ON THE JUNIOR LIWIS.

The Junior Kiwis remain as valuable to the NZRL as ever. **NZ Junior Kiwis:**

As rugby league fans debate how much rides on this year's Four Nations tournament when both the Kiwis and Kangaroos squads are so under-strength, there can be no mistake how fired up the Junior Kiwis will be for a victory against their Australian counterparts this Saturday night at Mt Smart Stadium. Only 3 players remain from the 38-26 loss to the Australians in 2013 – but that will be more than enough to get across to the debutantes how much that loss hurt the team after they'd led 26-10 at halftime. A key factor in the 2013 loss was that the young team struggled in the Australian heat. The team of 2014 won't have to worry about that obstacle as they prepare for Saturday night's clash on home turf. In 2010 the Junior Kiwis became an Under 20's team – after being an Under 18 team prior to that. What this has meant is the standard is higher - the players are bigger, faster and stronger – and the jump from Junior to

Senior level is much closer than it was in the past. There's no better example this year of how the gap from Junior to Senior national level has closed than Dallin Watene-Zelezniak selection in this year's Senior squad for the Four Nations after scoring 2 tries for the Junior Kiwis in their heart-breaking loss last year. If you go back a bit further this year's squad has 4 players from the class of 2012 in the 2014 Kiwis squad – and of course Roger Tuivasa-Sheck could have made it 5 if he hadn't been suffering from "burnout". Despite the significant amendment to the age category, the Junior Kiwis still provides the first opportunity for many of New Zealand's young player's to pull on the Black jersey at a reputable level and feel the pride of representing their country. This often includes many players that were born in Australia or moved there with their parents when they were very young. The 2014 team is represented

by players from 10 NRL clubs. Considering that players eligible for both countries have been targeted (Jason Taumalolo being a prime example) in recent years by Australia's National and State of Origin selectors it's very encouraging to see this representation across such a wide variety of clubs. Wests Tigers have the strongest representation with four players in the team – though injuries have contributed to the Championship winning New Zealand Warriors side only getting Sam Lisone and Adam Tuimavave-Gerard in the starting team for Saturday. In recent years there's only been one annual contest between the trans-tasman rivals at Junior level. You have to go back to 2011 to find the last victory by the Junior Kiwis over the Kangaroos. Carlos Tuimavave captained the side and David Kidwell coached them that year – a side that boasted 10 players from the 2011 NYC Premiership-winning Junior Warriors team. Establishing combinations

quickly will be the key challenge for coach Brent Gemmell and his assistant Kelvin Wright with players coming together from so many different clubs. The Junior Kiwis have no shortage of talent this year – boasting 7 players from the NYC's merit team that was named last month. In comparison, the Kangaroos squad features just five players from that all-star selection. As usual the Haka will be something unique that the team can bond over and there'll be a strong emphasis on taking pride in putting on the Kiwi jersey. If the team can secure a victory at the weekend it'll go a long way to ensuring the individuals aspire to pushing on with their careers and getting similar success at Senior level. It'll also do a lot to help erase the dark memories that Manaia Cherrington, Joseph Tapine and Zach Docker-Clay have carried with them the last year.

Josh Ailoai (Parramatta Eels),
Nelson Asofa-Solomona (Melbourne Storm),
Manaia Cherrington (Wests Tigers),
Zach Docker-Clay (Parramatta Eels),
Addin Fonua-Blake (St George Illawarra Dragons),
Watson Heleta (Wests Tigers),
Sione Katoa (Penrith Panthers),
Danny Levi (Newcastle Knights),
Lamar Liolevave (Wests Tigers),
Sam Lisone (Vodafone Warriors),
Sam Manulelua (South Sydney Rabbitohs),
Te Maire Martin (Wests Tigers),
Taane Milne (Sydney Roosters),
Kodi Nikorima (Brisbane Broncos),
Chance Peni (Newcastle Knights),
Joseph Tapine (Newcastle Knights),
Adam Tuimavave-Gerard (Vodafone Warriors),
Braden Uele (Sydney Roosters)

Coach: Brent Gemmell
Assistant coach: Kelvin Wright

What:
Pirtek NZRL National Premiership final/NZ Junior Kiwis v Junior Kangaroos

When: 5pm & 7pm, October 18

Where: Mt Smart Stadium

Adults \$5, children 12 & under free

Eftpos available, food & drinks on sale

"My good mate, Phil Gifford, a sportswriter with over 50 years experience, shares his views on Mt Smart with us. He's a rugby man, but he's never been anti-league. He's told me some of his greatest sporting memories are of going to Carlaw Park on Sundays in the 1960s, to see stars like Roger Bailey play club games. He feels strongly about moves to shut the Warriors out of Mt Smart."

There's a long sad record of Auckland's politicians getting it wrong.

I believe they're doing it again with the Warriors and Mt Smart.

Look at the record of where Auckland's leaders, from all sides of the political spectrum, have bungled.

Go back to 1959 and the harbour bridge. By the time it opened it was already too small. Small minds think small.

Look at the losing battle mayor Dove-Myer Robinson fought for a light rail transit system in the 1960s. How much would we give for decent public transport system now? Small minds think small.

Look at the chance that was missed to build a great national stadium alongside the Vector Arena. Instead the old railway land is filled with cheap, ugly blocks of student

flats. Small minds think small.

Now they're trying to force the Warriors out of Mt Smart and into either Eden Park or North Harbour Stadium.

God forbid. This isn't just being small minded, It actually feels vindictive.

Put the Warriors in North Harbour Stadium and you're punishing the salt of the earth fans in South Auckland. Mt Smart isn't that easy to get to, but if you live in Manurewa it's a breeze compared to going to Albany.

Eden Park, to be blunt is just too big, and it's not actually a football ground. It's a cricket ground with a footy ground in the middle. I'm a rugby tragic, so I have some great memories of Eden Park, but it's only a good place to be

when it's full.

Put 15,000, even 20,000 people in Eden Park and there's about as much atmosphere as a crochet class.

Ideally we should have a stadium near the middle of the city (Tank Farm has a lot of appeal to me) for the football codes, rugby, league and soccer.

I'm worried that concept will be too big for the politicians to grasp. Small minds think small.

But in the meantime, at least have the grace to work out a compromise with the Warriors and let them stay at Mt Smart.

It may not be perfect, but it's a hell of a lot better than the alternatives being suggested.



The Greatest Game of All

Junior Kangaroos for test this Saturday night

This is the **Junior Kangaroos** (U20) team to play the **Junior Kiwis** this **Saturday, 18 October 2014, at Mt Smart Stadium in Auckland.**

The team is:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Clint Gutherson | Sea Eagles |
| 2 | Nene Macdonald | Roosters |
| 3 | Waqar Blake | Panthers |
| 4 | Euan Aitken | Dragons |
| 5 | Jake Mamo | Knights |
| 6 | Drew Hutchison | Dragons |
| 7 | Ryan Matterson | Eels |
| 8 | Matthew Lodge | Tigers |
| 9 | Cameron McInnes | Rabbitohs |
| 10 | Joe Ofahengaue* | Broncos |
| 11 | Patrick Mago | Raiders |
| 12 | Tevita Pangai | Raiders |
| 13 | Kelepi Tanginoa | Eels |
| 14 | Jackson Bird | Dragons |
| 15 | Willis Meehan | Roosters |
| 16 | Cameron Munster | Storm |
| 17 | Andy Saunders | Panthers |
| 18 | Jackson Hastings | Roosters |

Coach: Kelly Egan

Bulldogs



Willie Ofahengaue of Australia before the rugby match against the All Blacks, 1995.
Photo: Photosport / www.photosport.co.nz



Tuimoala Lolohea tackled by Joe Ofahengaue. Holden Cup Grand Final - Broncos v Warriors. ANZ Stadium, Sydney. Sunday 5 Oct 2014.
Photo: Paul Seiser / www.photosport.co.nz

***Joe Ofahengaue**, from the **Broncos**, in this team, is the nephew of 1991 **Wallaby** World Cup winner, **Willie Ofahengaue**, arguably the most damaging ball runner in **Wallaby** history. Born and raised in Tonga, Willie completed his education in Auckland. He played 17 Tests for Australia and now lives on the outskirts of Melbourne where he is a Minister in the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. He is now 46 years of age.

Newbies chosen among Four Nations Kiwis

Four rookies have been included in the NZ Kiwis squad to contest the Four Nations tournament over the next six weeks.

Teenage Penrith wing **Dallin Watene-Zelezniak**, Cronulla utility **Sosaia Feki**, North Queensland second row **Jason Taumalolo** and **Vodafone Warriors** prop **Suaia Matagi** are the newcomers in a 24-man squad that will also see Penrith utility **Lewis Brown** back in the black jersey for the first time since 2011.

This won't be Taumalolo's first experience with the **Kiwis** - he was a non-playing member of the 2012 Anzac Test to Australia - but this will be another chance for him to finally take the field.

Watene-Zelezniak earns his spot with an outstanding debut season for the **Panthers**, which produced seven tries in 10 appearances and helped his injury-riddled side deep into to the NRL playoffs.

Feki and Matagi get their chances with the late withdrawals of **Sydney Roosters** team-mates **Roger Tuivasa-Sheck** and **Jared Waerea-Hargreaves**, both through burnout from a long season.

Brown (**Kiwi #762**) has played five tests for his country and has reclaimed his spot in the side with consistently outstanding performances for the **Panthers**.

"We're really excited for the new players coming in for their first time or, in Jason's case, another chance to earn his first cap," says **Kiwis** coach **Stephen Kearney**.

"They've all had great seasons in the NRL, and this will be a chance for them to show they can step up and contribute at the next level.

"After our World Cup disappointment last year, I think we made some very positive strides at this year's Anzac Test.

We get a few older heads back for this campaign - they will provide some experience, and hopefully will feed off the energy and passion from those younger guys.

"We're very focused on building a team and culture that will see us challenge for the next Rugby League World Cup in 2017, so these new players now have a chance to become part of that long-term process."

Of the train-on squad named over the past month, several players have become unavailable through injury or health issues. They include **Konrad Hurrell** (**Vodafone Warriors**), **Ben Matulino** (**Vodafone Warriors**), **Sam McKendry** (**Penrith Panthers**), **Tuivasa-Sheck** and **Waerea-Hargreaves**.

"It's always disappointing to lose players this way, but this is a tough game and you have to expect a certain amount of attrition at the end of any season," says Kearney. "You have to take a longer-term view of these things - it's important they get themselves right and come back to us when they can."

The **Kiwis** will assemble on the Gold Coast on October 18 and begin their Four Nations campaign against Australia at Brisbane's **Suncorp Stadium, October 25**.

The NZ Kiwis squad for the 2014 Four Nations tournament is:

Gerard Beale	(<i>St George Illawarra Dragons</i>)
Adam Blair	(<i>Wests Tigers</i>)

Jesse Bromwich	(<i>Melbourne Storm</i>)
Lewis Brown	(<i>Penrith Panthers</i>)
Greg Eastwood	(<i>Canterbury Bulldogs</i>)
Sosaia Feki	(<i>Cronulla Sharks</i>)
Kieran Foran	(<i>Manly Sea Eagles</i>)
Tohu Harris	(<i>Melbourne Storm</i>)
Siliva Havili	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Peta Hiku	(<i>Manly Sea Eagles</i>)
Shaun Johnson	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Shaun Kenny-Dowall	(<i>Sydney Roosters</i>)
Thomas Leuluai	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Issac Luke	(<i>South Sydney Rabbitohs</i>)
Simon Mannering	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Suaia Matagi	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Sam Moa	(<i>Sydney Roosters</i>)
Jason Nightingale	(<i>St George Illawarra Dragons</i>)
Kevin Proctor	(<i>Melbourne Storm</i>)
Jason Taumalolo	(<i>North Queensland Cowboys</i>)
Martin Taupau	(<i>Wests Tigers</i>)
Manu Vatuvei	(<i>Vodafone Warriors</i>)
Dallin Watene-Zelezniak	(<i>Penrith Panthers</i>)
Dean Whare	(<i>Penrith Panthers</i>)

The team was named on Tuesday at Wellington's Westpac Stadium, during a visit by an Australian Rugby League delegation that included **Kangaroos** coach **Tim Sheens** and **Dally M Medal** winner **Jarryd Hayne**. The delegation met with Wellington mayor **Celia Wade-Brown** and civic officials to discuss preparations for the **Four Nations final on November 15**.

RUGBY LEAGUE NEWS FROM PNG

Australia's Prime Minister's XIII v PNG Match Report

Sunday, 12 October 2014

Wests **Tigers** prop **Aaron Woods** emerged as a potential leader of the Australian pack after helping the **Australian Prime Minister's XIII** to a win over Papua New Guinea today.

Woods scored two tries and ran strongly as Australia beat the **Kumuls** 36 - 16 in front of 7000 fans at Kokopo Stadium in PNG.

His performance could not come at a better time with Australia losing **Matt Scott** and **James Tamou** from the front row for the upcoming Four Nations tournament.

The Australian team were treated like rock stars as they were given a police escort and cheered by fans lining the roads to the stadium.

Inside, the **Kumuls** started in traditional fashion with hard running and crunching defence.

Woods scored early but the **Kumuls** held the Australians to 6 - 0 for much of the first half until late tries by **Will Chambers** and **Josh Mansour** took Australia to a 16 - 0 at half time.

Woods again opened the scoring in the second half to stamp himself as the dominant player up the middle.

Australia raced to a 34 - 0 lead with tries to **Anthony Milford** and **Beau Scott** before the **Kumuls** scored three tries to the delight of their fanatical supporters.

Australian coach, **Tim Sheens**, paid tribute to the **Kumuls** and said it was clear that many of the Australian players could do with the run under their belt.

He singled out the performance of Penrith stars **Matt Moylan** and Josh Mansour and said his senior players had also played strongly.

Sheens hinted that rookie winger, **Sione Mata'Utia** could be in line for a spot in the Australian side for the Four Nations.

"He's a chance...he is still raw but very impressive," he said.

Moylan said his first game for the **Prime Minister's XIII** was "a tough game".

"There is still a bit for me to fix up but it wasn't bad after a few weeks out," he said.

Mansour said that if he was offered an Australian jersey he would grab it with both hands.

"It is everyone's dream to pull on the green and gold... but I'll just have to wait and see," he said.

Captain **Greg Bird**, who also had a strong game, also praised Moylan and Mata' Utia, saying they looked most capable of breaking the **Kumuls'** defence.

Two Australians, **Brenton Lawrence** and **Anthony Milford** came off with injuries but they are not thought to be serious.

The **Australian Four Nations** team will be announced on Tuesday.

"We have to make some decisions on Monday," coach Sheens said.

Australian try scorers: Aaron Woods (2), Will Chambers, Josh Mansour, Anthony Milford, Beau Scott.

Goals: Matt Moylan 3, Dan Hunt 2.



RUGBY LEAGUE
FOUR NATIONS

SEE THE
WORLD'S BEST
ON OUR TURF



TICKETS ON SALE **NOW**. GET YOURS FROM **NZRL.CO.NZ**

FULL DRAW

October 25

Double Header

Australia v NZ Kiwis

England v Toa Samoa

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

Tickets on sale Ticketek.com.au

November 1

NZ Kiwis v Toa Samoa

Toll Stadium, Whangarei

Tickets from Ticketek.co.nz

Adults from \$20, children from \$10

Whangarei Hospitality (pdf)

Contact Ticketek hospitality

Ph: 09 336 4118

E: hospitality@ticketek.co.nz

November 2

Australia v England

AAMI Stadium, Melbourne

Tickets on sale Ticketek.com.au

November 8

NZ Kiwis v England

Forsyth Barr, Stadium, Dunedin

Get your tickets from Ticket Direct

Adults from \$25, children from \$15

Dunedin Hospitality (pdf)

Contact David Redmond or Justin Ellis

P: 09 304 0355

E: info@experiencegroup.co.nz

November 9

Australia v Samoa

WIN Stadium, Wollongong

Tickets on sale Ticketek.com.au

November 15

Four Nations final

Westpac Stadium,
Wellington

Get your tickets from Ticketek.co.nz

Adults from \$25, children from \$10

Wellington Hospitality (pdf)

Contact David Redmond or Justin Ellis

P: 09 304 0355

E: info@experiencegroup.co.nz



RUGBY LEAGUE
FOUR NATIONS

rugby league in japan

Our mate, Duane, formerly from Christchurch, is now traveling the world and sent a us a message on rugby league in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Japan is nicknamed the "Land of the Rising Sun". It is a unique country with a population of over 130 million people. Japanese people love their sports, both traditional ones and those brought in from overseas such as football (soccer), baseball and rugby union. What many Japanese people don't know is that the sport of rugby league has been played in the country for over 25 years.

Japan has a rich history in rugby league. During the 90s and into the early 2000s Japan was a regular in Emerging Nations tournaments and the World 7s. They went into a bit of hiatus during the middle 2000s and have in recent years begun to play regular rugby league again. I got in contact with Japanese Rugby League and found out a bit of the history of the Japanese Rugby League board and their current and future plans.

The current Japanese Rugby League began in 2008 with two teams based in Tokyo. Currently they have 3 teams, two based in Tokyo (**Tokyo 13 Warriors** and **Tokyo -Shinjuku Giants** R.L.F.C) and one based in Osaka Area (**Kansai Kaminari**). This year, the Japanese had a 6 round club Competition with the **Shinjuku Giants** winning the competition.

In 2015, the Japanese are looking at expanding the domestic competition. They hope to have 2 divisions with 3 teams based in Osaka and 3 or 4 teams based in Tokyo. There are also plans to introduce a third division by 2018.

The national team (**The Samurai**) are looking at playing fixtures as well. They are going to be playing in the Cabramatta 9s next February and also play a 13 aside test match. The Japanese are also planning to tour Thailand in October, 2015, the details of this tour are still to be finalised.

With other nations in Asia such as the Philippines and Thailand starting up rugby league, Japan could eventually build a rivalry with its rugby league neighbours. Their main problem in the past has been trying to find regular opponents to play with and they have regularly travelled to Sydney to face international competition. Hopefully with rugby league spreading around Asia, Japan can flourish both internationally and domestically in the 13 man code!

Courtesy of Matthew Brown

Two losses for rugby league

Former Kiwis player and Mangere East Coach, Ernie Wiggs, passes.

Former *Kiwis* player and former *Mangere East & Otahuhu Leopards* coach, who had won New Zealand Rugby Player of the Year. Kiwi 1964 (France at home 1), 1966 (Britain at home 1), 1968 (World Cup 3). Ernie Wiggs passed away on Friday 10th October at his home on the North Shore. Rest in peace.

Former Kiwis player R.J. (Bob) Nielson, passes.

Former *Kiwis* player, RJ (Bob) Neilson, Kiwi 1952 (Aust away, 1953 Aust at home 3), on Tuesday, 14th October. Rest in Peace.

Sad to lose two great Kiwis. Our condolences to the families of both.

With the Kiwis playing a test in Dunedin later this year, we thought you might like to know

How league got started down South

By Carey Clements

It took the enterprise of two unlikely Aucklanders to form the Otago University Rugby League Club which sixty years later is still going as the first and oldest rugby league club of its type in New Zealand.

In 1953, University of Otago physical education students and old primary school chums **Bob Dragicevich** and **John Drinkwater** played rugby league for the Celtic and Athletic clubs respectively in the first year of the code back in Dunedin since 1934.

It was during that year that both discussed the idea of forming a club on campus after being ridiculed by their rugby playing classmates

Sixty years later Dragicevich (83) remembered the amount of work he and Drinkwater went to in forming the club.

"We did everything properly from having meetings with the then Otago University Students Association President **Hugh Tohill** to approaching the heads of the various faculties to meeting with some members of the Otago Rugby League executive."

The news travelled quickly and after advertising on various notice boards (which in some cases were pulled down) around the university, a meeting was held in Marama Hall on September 22 1953, before a vocal crowd of more than two hundred students.

A starting up committee was subsequently chosen with Dragicevich being made the first Club Captain and Drinkwater being placed on the committee, while the well-known Otago University Tennis Club Chairman **Morrie Robson**, was elected the first President.

The local student newspaper, the **Critic** kept the students informed and by April the following year, the

club played its first premier game against the defending club champions, **Athletic**, the day before Anzac Day. In true fairy book fashion, the result ended with a 24-18 win to University and the start of a club that over the years has to date produced one New Zealand representative, one New Zealand under-23 player, three club life members, five South Island, 46 University of Otago Blue recipients, 65 New Zealand Universities and 196 Otago representatives, in addition to producing administrators, coaches and managers for various national bodies and sides. Not bad considering the club has never had its own clubrooms and has only operated its meetings from either inside classrooms on campus, private homes or in halls of residences and have had their functions held inside sponsoring pubs.

Interestingly the club actually broke away from the Otago Rugby League for a few years in the early 1990's. This wasn't because of the desire to set up a competition in opposition to the parent body but was motivated at a perceived injustice around the selection of the club to represent Otago at national competitions. The University Club was judged to be ineligible due to not having juniors or schools sections and so they set up their own competition based at Logan Park involving teams from the University, Polytech and Teachers College.

Overall the University club has won seven Otago championships starting from 1957, in addition to seven

Grand Final titles (including its last in 2013) since the format was introduced in 1968 as well as many minor trophies. Although it has always been one of the great nurseries for Otago Rugby League when it comes to producing players, its overall success at capturing the big club titles has somewhat been disappointing and part of the reason has been having games being scheduled around the university holiday period along with a change in teams every couple of years through players moving on after graduating.

However despite this setback the good will and intent shown by Otago University students over the past six decades to take up the game can never be overlooked for the challenge of trying something new and different from their own various and varied sporting backgrounds. The test match between the **Kiwis** and England on November 8th will provide a focus for celebration for its club members where they are preparing for a full weekend of activities. These include an informal catch up of club members and visitors to the city on the Friday night followed by matches at Logan Park on the Saturday before the test. These will include the finals of the Intermediate Schools Rugby League Challenge as well as matches between past and present players from the University club and the Kia Toa club who are also celebrating their 60th year. On the Sunday following the test match there will be the final get together at the St Kilda Bowling Club.

Sail your way to sweet victory!



Sail your way to victory with the Vodafone virtual sailing game and you could be driving their 60ft trimaran from a helicopter using the Samsung GALAXY Note 4 on NZ's largest 4G Network against Jimmy Spithill— A Vodafone #First. You don't need any prior sailing training, but you do need quick thumbs! To be a contender for this Vodafone First and go up against Jimmy Spithill, go to vodafonesailing.co.nz on your Smartphone or tablet and play now.

AUCKLAND'S CHANGING CULTURAL FACE MEANS GREATER DIVERSITY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF OUR LEAGUE TEAMS, BOTH ON THE LOCAL CLUB LEVEL AND WITHIN OUR MAJOR NRL TEAMS. KASEY KING (General Manager Counties Manukau Zone) GIVES HIS THOUGHTS ON OUR

FUTURE LEAGUE PROSPECTS



UNDER ATTACK.

"Asian groups will make up 27% of Aucklanders in the year 2021, so it makes real good sense to have them playing our sport as early as possible,"



GOTCHA!



PIRANHAS LINE UP



WASPS LINE UP



COLLISION!



TOUCH DOWN.

THE PHOTOS on this and the previous page are from the weekend matches between various ethnic teams that **Kasey King** (General Manager Counties Manukau Zone) has playing Rugby League.

The play off for 3rd & 4th was between the **Eagles** vs **GuardianZ** and the **Eagles** won 84 - 6.

The final was between the **Wasps** vs **Piranhas** with the **Wasps** winning 30 - 14.

This competition was played over 6 weeks with over 120 players competing who are all of Asian descent (Indian, Filipino, Chinese, Cambodian, etc.)

Kasey's next new initiative, which has only just been approved, is a 9-a-side game for two of these teams to be played at Mt Smart this weekend during the National Premiership Final and the test match between the **Junior Kiwis** & **Junior Kangaroos**. So the 1st 9 minute half will be played during the half time break of National finals and the 2nd 9 minute half played during the half time break of the test match.

This will hopefully bring a whole new community to Rugby League and keep them at the park for the duration of both games.

"Asian groups will make up 27% of Aucklanders in the year 2021, so it makes real good sense to have them playing our sport as early as possible," said Kasey. " Their communities can also bring a number of skills to our clubs such as; good business knowledge, economic and commerce experience. Good work ethics and family and culture is also important to them."

Before attempting projects like this, Kasey always speaks with his clubs to ensure they're part of the vision.

"Only 13 Nations competed in our World Cup, wouldn't it be neat to rival Union, and have more. I would love to see India or China field an International Rugby League team one day and it all starts with humble beginnings like this", said Kasey.



ALL SMILES



2014 Māori Sports Awards

honouring...
LEAGUE & GOLF GREATS

**STACEY JONES &
PHIL TATAURANGI**

24th MAORI SPORTS AWARDS
VODAFONE EVENTS CENTRE MANUKAU
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2014

TICKET SALES & ENQUIRIES
www.maorisportsawards.co.nz

MĀORI SPORTS HALL OF FAME HONOURS LEAGUE AND GOLF LEGENDS

Legendary sports stars, rugby league player Stacey Jones and golfer Philip Tataurangi, will be inducted into the Māori Sports Hall of Fame, Te Whare Mātāpuna o te Ao Māori, at the National Māori Sports Awards later this year (Saturday 29 November 2014).

Stacey William Jones ONZM (Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāpuhi) is widely regarded as the best New Zealand player of his generation.

The 38-year-old played 46 tests for the Kiwis from 1995 to 2006 – six tests as captain in 2002 and 2006 – and made a club record 261 NRL appearances. He also holds the record for most points (674) during his 12 seasons with the Vodafone Warriors.

Stacey is also a finalist in the Māori Sports Coach of the Year award.

Philip Mikaera Tataurangi (Ngāti Kahungunu) was the leading individual among a quartet of young men who became the first New Zealand team to win the world amateur Eisenhower Trophy in Canada in 1992.

Highlights of Tataurangi's professional career included winning the 1996 Australian PGA Championship and the 2002 Invensys Classic on the PGA Tour. He is currently patron of the New Zealand branch of The First Tee, a charity which promotes character development in youth through golf.

A world-class field of finalists will vie for top honours in 10 categories at this year's National Māori Sports Awards to be held at the Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau on Saturday 29 November.

Set up to foster, promote and encourage Māori sports people in the pursuit of excellence, Te Tohu Taakaro o Aotearoa was founded by the late Albie Pryor with Te Arikinui Dame Te Atairangikaahu as Patron and Sir John Turei as Kaumātua.

Nominations close on 31 October 2014. More information is on the website www.maorisportsawards.co.nz



2014 Wellington Futures Tournament-supporting our future stars



Last weekend saw eight teams showcase their talent in the 2014 Futures Tournament at Whakatiki Street. Teams battled from Wellington, Waikato, Taranaki, Turangawaewae (Waikato), Canterbury in both the 12's & 14's grades. On Saturday afternoon players in the 14's had to endure a freak hail storm just before the second half. Making the finals were Wellington v Canterbury in the 12's & Wellington v Canterbury in the 14's. Wellington were successful in both finals winning the 12's over Canterbury 22-4 & winning the 14's over Canterbury 36-0. Wellington Rugby League would like to thank our wonderful volunteers who made this tournament possible for our future stars.



Hope you are enjoying the newsletter. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly please email Amelia Wheeler at **meelz_79@hotmail.co.nz** Or if you would like to **unsubscribe** please email **Amelia** and she will delete you from the list.

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!



Shore Times Harbour News Nor-west News Western Leader Harbour News Central Leader East & Bays Courier Eastern Courier Manukau Courier Papakura Courier Rodney Times MARKETPLACE



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

