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AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

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#47



CONFRONTATION!!



FACE OFF

The *Junior Kiwis* and Aussies threw everything at each other, and it was so intense that it all started even before kick-off. As the *Kiwis* did the haka, Australia advanced and got right in their faces. Luckily, both sides kept their cool and instead gave us a belter of a game!





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Taking genuine pride in the jersey will be the key to any *Kiwis'* four nations success story

by **John Deaker**

Modern day athletes can roll out as many clichés as they like about it meaning everything to play for their country, but the fact remains that as sport becomes more professional the value of playing for National teams has diminished in most sports for many people.

For many people it hasn't though. The 17 *Kiwis'* players that take on the *Kangaroos* on Saturday night in Brisbane need to prove that is true for all of them. A lot comes back to the individual and what motivates them. When the *Kiwis* do the Haka this Saturday night each individual has two options: they can go through the motions – OR they can perform a Haka with intensity and passion which fires them up to prove that the *Kiwis* jersey can still be just as special now as it has been for legends like **Des White**, **Mark Graham** and **Kevin Tamati** over the years.

Of course it's not about the haka – it's about what comes next that counts. But in the case of the *Kiwis* the Haka provides one of the most tangible unique traditions that the *Kiwis* team has that can be utilised to remind its representatives that playing rugby league for New Zealand is something they should take great pride in.

The 2014 *Kiwis* side doesn't have to look far for inspirational mentors. Current squad member **Manu**

Vatuvei can easily remind them of his memorable *Kiwis* experience in 2005. That was of course "*The Year the Kiwis Flew*", which demonstrated the ability the *Kiwis* squad can have to bond together and make huge improvements as a team at this time of year. Manu scored 2 tries in the *Kiwis* sensational 24-0 victory over Australia in the Tri-Nations final that year. His performance as a teenager back then sewed the seeds for him to become the *Kiwis'* legend that he is today.

This year Manu will play much more of leadership role than he did nearly a decade ago. Part of that role will involve ensuring traditions like the *Kava club* that **Ruben Wiki** started as captain of the victorious 2005 *Kiwis* team continues. Manager of that 2005 side, **Sir Peter Leitch**, will also be in Brisbane this week if anyone needs another inspirational reminder of how the team's culture built off the field lifted their performances on the field during that special month for New Zealand rugby league.

The 2014 team has enough quality in key positions to threaten the Australians on the field. In particular, the *Kiwis'* spine of **Kieran Foran**, **Shaun Johnson**, **Peta Hiku** and **Thomas Leuluai** looks classier than the **Webb**, **Jones**, **Vagana**, **Tony** combination that took the field back in 2005. When **Isaac Luke** returns from

suspension after this week's test that spine will look even stronger.

Luke's expected return is just one reason why a *Kiwis* victory over the *Kangaroos* is more likely to happen later in the tournament (hopefully in the final) than this week. History shows that the *Kiwis* tend to benefit more from time together in camp than the Australians.

Just getting to the final will be no forgone conclusion for the *Kiwis* or the Australians though. England and Samoa both look dangerous on paper and have plenty of NRL experience within their ranks.

English players like **Sam Tomkins**, **Gareth Widdop**, **James Graham** and the **Burgess** brothers (George and Tom) have all proven their ability week-in-week-out in this year's NRL.

Similarly, Samoa's **Tim Simona**, **Antonio Winterstein**, **Ben Roberts**, **Sam Tagaetese**, **David Fa'alongo**, **Frank Pritchard** and **Mose Masoe** all have reputations that demand respect.

All *Kiwis* fans would love another tournament like they witnessed "*The Year the Kiwis Flew*". If they don't get a victory this week though, they at least want to see 17 men out there taking the same pride in the *Kiwis* jersey that the victorious *Kiwis* team did back in 2005.

am off to Brisbane on Wednesday for the Four Nations and I'm looking forward to the double-header on Saturday, **Samoa v England**, and the **Kiwis v Australia**.

I'll be delighted if it is anywhere near as exciting as the rugby between the **All Blacks** and **Wallabies**. Congratulations to the ABs. It was a great game with a terrific result.

So **go the Kiwis** – the rugby boys have shown the way, even if only by one point, just as the **Junior Kiwis** did against their Aussie opponents.

One point is enough! Bring it on. I'd have to say I am as excited as a dog with two tails.

Two Kiwis to debut

Blockbusting forward, **Jason Taumalolo**, and teenage wing, **Dallin Watene-Zelezniak**, have been named for their **NZ Kiwis** debuts in the 2014 Four Nations opener against Australia.

Coach **Stephen Kearney** has also re-united **Kieran Foran** and **Shaun Johnson** in the halves, with veteran utility, **Thomas Leuluai**, starting at hooker.

Watene-Zelezniak's inclusion is subject to a fitness test on a foot injury picked up in training this week. He continues a proud family tradition in the **Kiwis** – great-grandfather **Steve Watene** is a former national team captain and lends his name to the NZ Player of the Year award.

"Dallin is an exciting young prospect, who we think will play many tests for the **Kiwis** in the future," says Kearney. "He's brought a lot of youthful energy to the camp this week, but we'll have to wait and see how his foot mends up."

Taumalolo finally gets his chance to take the field for the **Kiwis**, after filling a non-playing role at the 2012 Anzac Test.

"His performances over the past year, but particularly over the last two months of the NRL, have been very consistent," says Kearney.

"Jason's always been there or thereabouts. He had an opportunity to get picked for the Anzac Test before he injured a shoulder and he's also been a Junior Kiwi."

Utility **Lewis Brown**, also returns to the side, coming off the bench, after a three-year absence.

"I feel like this group has a good balance about it and we've certainly trained very well over the last couple of days, so you can feel the combinations starting to come together," says Kearney.

The full squad is:

Peta Hiku
Jason Nightingale
Shaun Kenny-Dowall
Dean Whare
Watene-Zelezniak
Kieran Foran
Shaun Johnson
Jesse Bromwich
Thomas Leuluai
Adam Blair
Simon Mannering (c)
Kevin Proctor
Jason Taumalolo
Lewis Brown

Greg Eastwood
Martin Taupau
Tohu Harris
Suaia Matagi.

Kangaroos named

Holden Kangaroos coach **Tim Sheens** has named the following squad to play in the Four Nations match against New Zealand at Suncorp on Saturday.

Squad:

Greg Ingles
Josh Mansour
Michael Jennings
Dylan Walker
Daly Cherry-Evans
Cooper Cronk
Aaron Woods
Cameron Smith (c)
Sam Tahiaday
Beau Scott
Ryan Hoffman
Greg Bird
Robbie Farrah
Aidan Guerra
Josh Papalii
Corey Parker
Boyd Cordner
David Klemmer and
Sione Mata'utia.

England name side to face Samoa

England captain **Sean O'Loughlin** will miss the opening match of the Four Nations against Samoa. The **Wigan Warriors** forward has a problem with his quad. **Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs** prop, **James Graham**, will take over as captain.

Squad:

Sam Tomkins
Josh Charnley
Kallum Watkins
Michael Shenton
Ryan Hall
Gareth Widdop
Matty Smith
George Burgess
Josh Hodgson
James Graham (c)
Liam Farrell
Joel Tomkins
Joe Westerman
Daryl Clark
Brett Ferres
Tom Burgess
Chris Hill.

Refs named

We are quick to criticise them but without them we would not have a game. Of course I am talking about referees, and I am delighted that one time **Warriors Henry Perenara**, has been named as part of the Four Nations panel.

Four Nations match officials convenor **Tony Archer** confirmed the officials. "It's obviously a great opportunity for these officials, who are from different competitions and different nations, to come together and officiate in an important tournament."

The match officials are:

Grant Atkins (Touch - Australia)
Phil Bentham (Ref - England)
Anthony Elliott (Touch - New Zealand)
Robert Hicks (Touch - England)
Henry Perenara (Ref and video ref - New Zealand)
Ian Smith (Video ref - England)
Bernard Sutton (Video ref - Australia)
Gerard Sutton (Ref - Australia)
Jason Walsh (Touch - Australia)
Ben Cummins (Replacement ref - Australia).

Juniors put on a great show



Those who took the time and braved the rain to get to Mt Smart on Saturday night were treated to an exceptional game of league.

The **Junior Kiwis** and Aussies threw everything at each other, and it was so intense that it all started even before kick-off.

As the **Kiwis** did the haka, Australia advanced and got right in their faces. I thought it might blow up, but both sides kept their cool.

It was a belter of a game, and even though the rain fell, the skills on show were exceptional.

It came down to a last minute field goal for the **Kiwis** to sneak to a 15-14 lead, but with the final act of the match, the Aussies had the chance to land a penalty and steal it, but it sailed wide and the boys in black were dancing and jumping about, and hugging each other.

Junior football does not attract much of a crowd, but I'd be willing to bet those there on Saturday would be willing to go again, because it was such a good game.

Beauty of a banner



There was a banner contest, and one of the winners had: *Home is where the heart is* – with "the heart" crossed out and *Mt Smart* written in. I thought that was clever. Obviously the judges agreed, because it won season tickets to the **Vodafone Warriors**.

New honour for Stacey

And sometimes in life you meet special people, and **Stacey Jones** is one of those for me.

I was delighted to hear he will be inducted – alongside golfer **Phillip Tataurangi** – into the **Maori Sports Hall of Fame** in November.

It all takes place at the **National Maori Sports Awards** on November 29 in Manukau.

Stacey is of **Ngati Maniapoto, Ngapuhi** descent and is the best New Zealand player of his generation, boasting 46 **Kiwis** tests from 1995 to 2006 – six as captain – and a club record 261 NRL appearances for the **Warriors**, where he still holds the record for most points (674).

Tataurangi is **Ngati Kahungunu**. He was among a quartet of young men who became the first New Zealand team to win the world amateur **Eisenhower Trophy** in 1992. He also won the 1996 Australian PGA and the 2002 Invensys Classic on the PGA tour. He is also patron of the New Zealand branch of **The First Tee**, a charity that promotes character development in youth through golf.

Set up to foster, promote and encourage Maori sports people in the pursuit of excellence, **Te Tohu Taakaro o Aotearoa** was founded by the late **Albie Pryor**.

Nominations close on October 31 and for more information and ticket sales visit the website at www.maorisportsawards.co.nz.

Baseball stadium gets closer

New Zealand Baseball is a step closer to the construction of a stadium with the arrival next week of two top American officials who will undertake a feasibility study in Auckland.

A proper stadium in the city has been seen as the only major stumbling block holding Baseball New Zealand back from entering a team in the Australian Baseball League. **Sports Fields Inc** president and CEO, **Brian Storm**, will be joined in Auckland by fellow **Ripken Baseball** executive, **Jim Arnold**.

They work with a number of companies to facilitate development opportunities across the world.

The pair will be meeting a number of officials while they are in Auckland, including council officials, representatives from ATEED, Regional Facilities Auckland, and will visit potential sites for the stadium as well as current sporting venues.



NZ JUNIOR KIWIS TEAM PHOTO 2014

NZ KIWIS 2014



ADAM BLAIR

BODENE THOMPSON

DALLIN WATENE-ZELEZNAK

DAVID KIDWELL

DEAN WHARE

GERARD BEALE



GRANT CHAMPAN

GREG EASTWOOD

ISAAC LUKE

JASON NIGHTINGALE

JASON TAUMALOLO

JESSE BROMWICH



JOHN LOVE



KELVIN WRIGHT



KEVIN PROCTOR



KIERAN FORAN



LEWIS BROWN



MANU VATUVEI



MARTIN TAUPAU



NADENE CONLON



ORA KIHU



PITA HIKU



SHAUN JOHNSON



SHAUN KENNY-DOWALL



SILIVA HAULI



SIMON MANNERING



SOSAIA FEKI



STEVEN KEARNEY



SUAIA MATAGI



THOMAS LEULUAI

“ I've had the pleasure of hanging out with the Kiwis team since Wednesday and I'm proud to say that they're a really great bunch of guys. ”

Sir Peter



TOHU HARRIS

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All photos of the **Kiwis** in this issue of the **Newsletter** have been kindly provided by **PHOTOSPORT**. Do check out their website for the latest and best of sporting photography. For rugby league, union, cricket, softball, soccer (sorry, football!) athletics, yachting and much more, you're bound to find something that suits your needs. **Thanks, Photosport!**

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Look who I bumped into in Brisbane: Warrior number 126. Micheal, Toni-Lee and Murphy Luck. All Looking fantastic!



<http://shop.nzrl.co.nz/nz-kiwis-online-shop/supporter/Be-There-Be-18-T-Shirt>

The **Kiwis** have launched their online store with their apparel partners **BLK**. A full range of replica jerseys, team kit and supporter merchandise is available at shop.nzrl.co.nz including the special edition 'Te Iwi Kiwi' jersey which will be worn by the team in the **Pacific Test vs Samoa** on the 1st Of November in Whangarei.



My old mate, the Mayor of Gisborne, has asked me for a favour, so that's why I'm putting this in our newsletter, as he is a bloody good bugger!

Greetings, Hello, Kia ora

Hi, if you can share this with your networks around NZ and the world, that would be great, and also get your team to register. We need you to help us win the **Gigatown competition**. Competition ends 25/11/2014

This only takes about 10 minutes of your lives, but will change Gisborne lives forever.

Send around to your friends, organisations, overseas, just anywhere!

This is how: Go to

<http://gigatown.co.nz>

- 1: Look at the top right hand corner and click '**sign in**'.
- 2: Fill in your first name, last name, and email, click submit. And wait for a confirmation mail, then
- 3: Register under Gisborne... And answer the question for the quiz, I am told the questions are easy = Gisborne gets 1 Point

Also Tweet and facebook on the Gigatown Gisborne page

If tweeting:

- 1: Write an original tweet about Gigatown in 5 words or more #gigatowngis Send
- 2: You retweet other tweets 2 times only
- 3: And start an original tweet again

Doing is everything!

And a big thank you from me...

Kia ora, Meng

Meng Foon | Mayor | Gisborne District Council

email: mayor@gdc.govt.nz | ph: +64 6 867 2049 | mob: 027 448 4084



<http://www.mynetball.co.nz/>



Lovely to see Casey Kopua, our Silver Ferns captain, at the game. You can check out Casey's profile (and the rest of the team's) at <http://www.mynetball.co.nz/silver-ferns/player-profiles/casey-kopua.html>



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[NRL GRAND FINAL](#)
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NIGHT PACKAGE



GRAND FINAL 4 NIGHT
ULTIMATE TOUR



UK CHALLENGE CUP
TOUR



FULL MONTY TOUR FOR
UK FANS

<http://www.therugbyleagueexperience.com.au/world-club-series-tour/2015-world-club-series-tour/>

2015 WORLD CLUB SERIES SUPPORTERS TOUR



The World Club Challenge, the traditional annual competition to determine the best Rugby League club in the world has now been expanded to an exciting 6 team format and from 2015 will now be known as the WORLD CLUB SERIES.

The World Club Series will be played in the UK over three days from Friday February 20 to Sunday February 22, finishing with the World Club Challenge to determine the world's best club Rugby League team. In 2015, joining the Telstra NRL Premiers and First Utility Super League champions will be two other clubs from each competition. The 6 teams in the 2015 World Club Series are now confirmed as:
SOUTH SYDNEY RABBITOHS

ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA DRAGONS
BRISBANE BRONCOS
WIGAN WARRIORS
ST HELENS R.F.C
WARRINGTON WOLVES

The Rugby League Experience is pleased to offer fans from all clubs the opportunity to tour to the UK to see all these great teams in action as well as enjoy many great off-field experiences with fellow rugby league fans – great sightseeing in London and Manchester and special, exclusive events such as our private cocktail party in the Houses of Parliament. Our UK 2015 World Club Series Tour has something for all rugby league fans – you even have options such as catching a Premier League match or extending your stay.



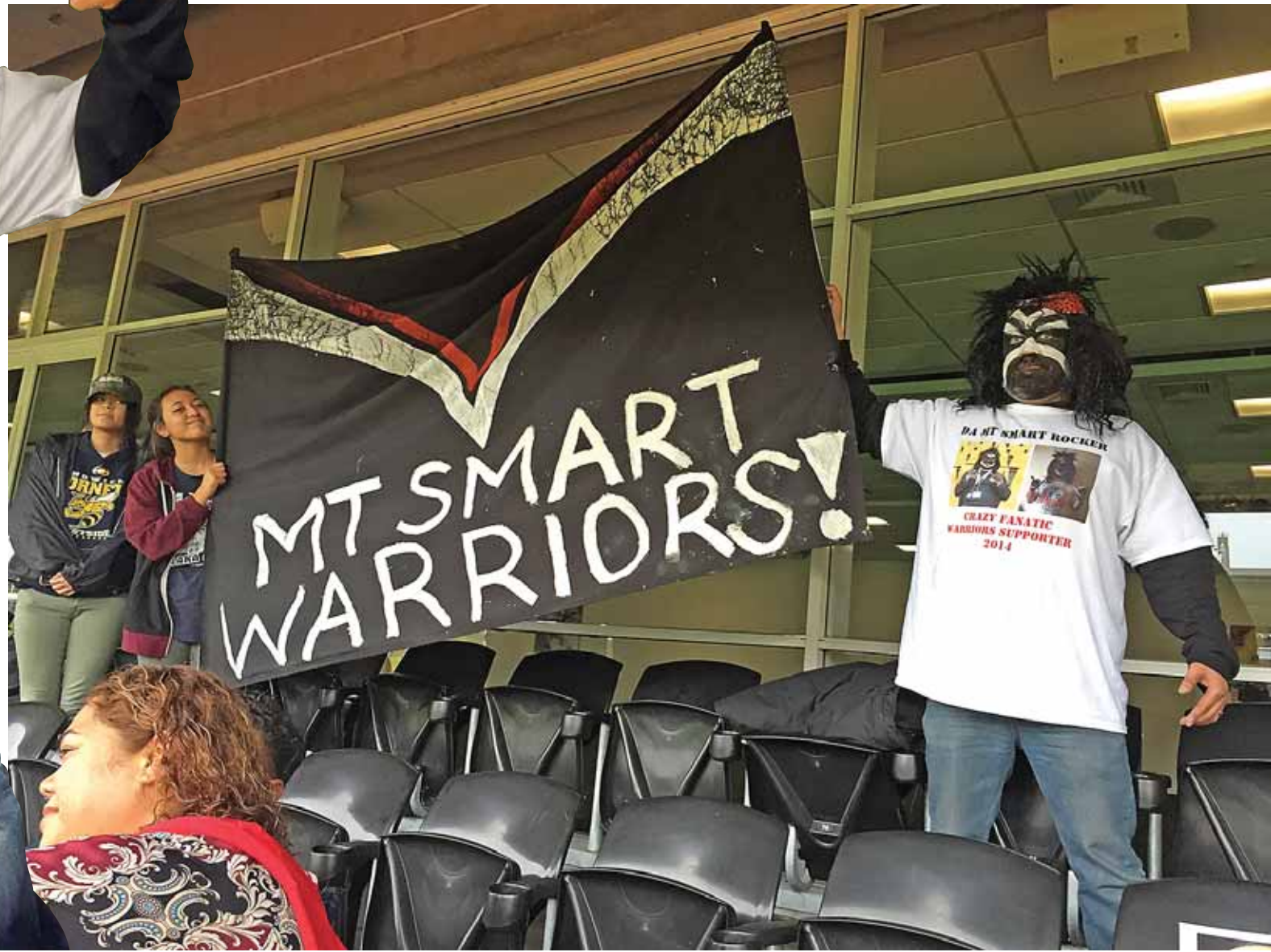
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For details and bookings click the link above to our website or please call 1300 885 718 or email : tours@rlexperience.com.au for more information

<http://www.therugbyleagueexperience.com.au/world-club-series-tour/2015-world-club-series-tour/>

FANS' BANNERS!



Love this photo from Saturday!

Above: The other winning banner on Saturday. Both winners each won 2 season tickets to the 2015 Vodafone Warriors home games.

Unfortunately, the weather killed it for the fans of the Junior Kiwis, but the real die-hard fans turned up fully kitted out and I loved some of the banners they made for the game. Good on yer, guys!



The winning banner at Mt Smart on Saturday.



A couple more signs from Saturday's game.

Caught up with Sam and his brother yesterday!



Howick Club Speakers Luncheon

Thursday 6th November

SCOTT DIXON

**Also... David Nyika (Gold Medal Boxing)
Jarred Fell (comedian) & Clint Brown (MC)**



\$1,000 a table of 10

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12.00 onwards

Lunch 1.15pm



A line up of the English team - 2014

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Friday 5 December 7pm-11pm or
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SKYCITY
AUCKLAND CONVENTION CENTRE




NEW 20TH ANNIVERSARY JERSEYS RELEASED

Auckland, New Zealand, October 24, 2014



Eye-catching new **Canterbury of New Zealand**-designed home and away jerseys have been released today to mark the **Vodafone Warriors'** landmark 20th anniversary season in 2015.

The two designs feature a stylised fern V on the chest to reflect the **Vodafone Warriors'** New Zealand roots while the home strip again sports the club's established core colours of black, red and white.

Canterbury of New Zealand has given the designs a further point of difference by departing from the base colour of white which distinguished the away kits in its first six seasons as the club's official apparel sponsor from 2009-2014.

Underpinning the New Zealand essence of the fern-styled V, silver has also been introduced through the body of the away jersey.

New graphics are also a feature while another eye-catching element is the 20-year **Vodafone Warriors** logo embroidery on the left chest celebrating the 20th anniversary season.

There is another design highlight on the back of the jersey in the shape of a tiki set apart in tonal colours.

Vodafone Warriors chief executive **Wayne Scurrah** said **Canterbury of New Zealand** had again excelled itself with the new designs.

"The team at **Canterbury of New Zealand** always makes a huge impression with the quality of its designs and once again it has done a fantastic job with these jerseys," he said.

"We're thrilled to reveal our home and away jerseys today and we're even more excited about unveiling the rest of the range in the coming weeks."

Playmaker **Shaun Johnson** joined **Sam Tomkins**, **Thomas Leuluai** and **Chad Townsend** to model the kits for a photo shoot last month.

Usually upbeat at any time, Johnson couldn't say enough about the new designs.

"Making jerseys to suit players is a massive challenge but the guys at **Canterbury of New Zealand** have done a mint job once again," he said.

"As soon as I saw the new home and away jerseys for next year I was blown away.

"They have a really strong New Zealand feel about them and look great and feel great to wear. I can't wait to play in them next season."

Principal sponsor, **Vodafone**, has pride of place with its logo on the front of jerseys and across the shoulders while long-serving partner **SKYCITY** again has its logo on the lower back of the jersey.

The new look from the sponsorship family is provided on the sleeves with the newly-signed **Woodstock's** logo.

Canterbury of New Zealand has redesigned the playing jersey with a new shape and a lighter weight fabric for a closer fit and competitive advantage.

The size range for the new home jersey has been extended to outfit infants (size zero, two and four years) through to kids, women and men as well as catering for larger sized fans up to 6XL. All other jerseys will be available in men's and kids' sizes.

For inquiries please contact:

Richard Becht

Communications Manager, Vodafone Warriors

Mobile: +64 21 814 537 Email: richard@warriors.co.nz



Now here's one for the ladies! Exclusive photo you won't see anywhere else. The boys in the ice bath after the Captain's run. Jason, Shaun, Manu and Kieran... Chilling.



I help out with a bit of massaging at training... HAHA! ONLY JOKING!!



Three former kiwis at training today: Ken Stirling, Kiwis coach Stephen Kearny and Mark Graham.

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!



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The Newsletter Team

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



David Kemeys
Editor at Large



Peter Leitch
Editor



Rex Harrison
Graphic Designer



Amelia
Circulation

