



Sir Peter Leitch's MAD BUTCHER CLUB

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS



Newsletter

30 OCT 2014
#48

30 : 12

NEW ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA

Martin Taupau is tackled by Corey Parker (L) and Cameron Smith (R) during the Four Nations test match between Australia and New Zealand at Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane Australia on October 25, 2014.
Photo: www.photosport.co.nz.



photosport

I reckon I might have to knock over the next person who dismisses the **Kiwis'** outstanding 30-12 win over the **Kangaroos** with the comment about how many top players the Aussies had out.

Let me be clear, the win was one of the best performances I have ever seen from a **Kiwis** outfit, and we were great from the start.

I cannot recall seeing the Aussies so flustered, dropping the amount of ball they did, and I was privileged enough to watch it in Brisbane with some legends of Australian rugby league, and 99 percent of them agreed that the reason they were having so much trouble was because the **Kiwis** were on fire.

Sure, the doubters can claim the Aussies were missing a few, but we were without about

10 players too, including **Jarred Waerea Hargreaves, Sam Moa, Ben Matulino, Sam McKendry, Elijah Taylor, Konrad Hurrell, Ben Henry, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Kirisome Auva'a** and **Sam Kasiano**, so it is not we were not disadvantaged too.

It was truly magnificent performance and one I thoroughly enjoyed. Every player was great, but perhaps **Shaun Johnson** led the way with an outstanding game, featuring terrific kicking and a wonderful solo try.

The other player who stood out to me was **Jason Taumalolo**, the **North Queensland Cowboy**. His commitment could not have been questioned, and he tackled fiercely and hit the line like a rocket.

GAMES ON!

Life within the camp

The experience was made all the more delightful for me because I had enjoyed five great days with the team in Brisbane, starting with coach **Stephen Kearney** welcoming me into the team environment with open arms.

I had the pleasure of being at the test dinner on the Friday night, where **Mark Graham** handed out the jerseys and gave a rousing speech that the boys were hanging on every word.

I never fail to be impressed, in fact I'd go so far as to say moved, by being with the team around test footy.

When you are with the boys, as I was uniquely privileged to be, you see how much the jersey means to them, and I can tell you, it is a lot.

After the game I was really impressed with the speech Kearney gave. He told the boys they had won a great victory but unless they backed it up with another three wins, they had achieved nothing.

There was no big celebration, the players weren't high-fiving and jumping about, because they remained really grounded and focussed on the job ahead.

Yes it was a great win, but the battle has only just started.

Samoa oh so close

And the opening game in Australia, between Samoa and England was a great advertisement for our game too. It was an end to end test match playing

with amazing grit and determination, and frankly, Samoa were very unlucky to lose.

On to Whangarei

Of course we will face Samoa this Saturday up in Whangarei at Toll Stadium, and that game is not going to be any cakewalk. And I have to tell you, if Samoa get the kind of support they had across the ditch, the Kiwis will know they are in a game. Their fans were tremendous backing their side, and it was a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and support so proudly shown.

To get tickets for this Saturdays game in Whangarei go to ticketek.co.nz.

For Dunedin's game on Saturday November 8, when we take on England, go to ticktdirect.co.nz

Matagi to debut

Vodafone Warriors prop **Suaia Matagi** will play his first test for the **Kiwis** against his old team-mates, **Toa Samoa**, in Whangarei.

Stephen Kearney has stuck largely to the line-up that defeated Australia 30-12 in Brisbane, but Matagi, who represented the Pacific nation at last year's Rugby League World Cup, is the only rookie in the playing line-up this week, replacing **Greg Eastwood** on the bench, although second rower **Bodene Thompson** also takes a step closer to his first international outing, as 18th man.

Hooker **Issac Luke** returns in place of

Thomas Leuluai, after serving a two-game suspension that comprised **South Sydney Rabbitohs'** NRL Grand Final victory and last week's encounter with Australia.

The only other change from the victory over the **Kangaroos** comes on the wing, where **Manu Vatuvei** replaces **Gerard Beale**.

Whangarei-bred prop **Adam Blair**, will also wear the black jersey for the 29th time in his hometown.

The NZ Kiwis side is: Peta Hiku, Jason Nightingale, Dean Whare, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Manu Vatuvei, Kieran Foran, Shaun Johnson, Jesse Bromwich, Issac Luke, Adam Blair, Simon Mannering (c), Kevin Proctor, Jason Taumalolo, Lewis Brown, Suaia Matagi, Martin Taupau, Tohu Harris and Bodene Thompson.

My trophy up for grabs

As well as the Four Nations points, the teams will be competing for the **Sir Peter Leitch Trophy**, so it is a very special occasion for me, especially

because I will present the trophy to the winning skipper.

It was a great honour to present it to the **Kiwis** last time the two sides met, and I have to confess, watching the sides go toe to toe is always a thrill for me.

Then comes England

Once we get over the Samoa fixture, we are off to Forsyth Barr in Dunedin to take on England on November 8. They will be coming off the back of their game against Australia, and to be fair, it cannot be fun lining up a wounded **Kangaroos** side looking to get their campaign back on track.

So come on fans, get up to Whangarei and back the boys. **Go the Kiwis.**

The experts all say that two wins will get you through to the final, so hopefully we will already be there, because obviously I am hoping we put away Samoa.

But if the Aussies bounce back this weekend and put England away, then **Sam Tomkins** and his team-mates will really have something to play for, and that will make for a terrific test.

Remaining Games

Date	Location	Team
01 Nov	Toll Stadium	Kiwis vs Samoa
02 Nov	AAMI Park	Australia vs England
08 Nov	Forsyth Barr Stadium	Kiwis vs England
09 Nov	WIN Centre	Australia vs Samoa
15 Nov	Westpac Stadium	Final

NZ Kiwis Four Nations team

Front row (left to right) - Greg Eastwood, Kevin Proctor, Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, Simon Mannering (captain), Suaia Matagi, Martin Taupau, Tohu Harris, Dean Whare, Adam Blair.

Second row (left to right): Thomas Leuluai, Kieran Foran, Lewis Brown, Jason Taumalolo, Jason Nightingale, Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, Jesse Bromwich, Stephen Kearney (coach), Manu Vatuvei, Bodene Thompson, Gerard Beale, Sosaia Feki, Peta Hiku, Siliva Havili.



NEW ZEALAND



AUSTRALIA

Aussies named

Holden Kangaroos coach has named the following squad to play England: **Greg Ingles, Josh Mansour, Michael Jennings, Dylan Walker, Sione Mata'utia, Daly Cherry-Evans, Cooper Cronk, Aaron Woods, Cameron Smith, Sam Thaiday, Beau Scott, Greg Bird, Corey Parker, Boyd Cordner, Robbie Farrah, Aidan Guerra, Ryan Hoffman, Ben Hunt, David Klemmer, Josh Papalii.**



ENGLAND

England unchanged

England coach **Steve McNamara** has named an unchanged side for Sunday's Four Nations match against Australia at Melbourne's AAMI Park.

England's last victory against Australia was the 1995 World Cup opener at Wembley Stadium, when the hosts won by 20-16.

The team: **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.**



SAMOA

Toa Samoa named

Coach **Matt Parish** has named a 19-man squad for Saturday's Four Nations match against New Zealand. **Tim Simona, Antonio Winterstein, Tim Lafai, Joey Leilua, Daniel Vidot, Ben Roberts Kyle Stanley, Isaac Liu, Pita Godinet, David Fa'alogo (c), Frank Pritchard, Leeson Ah Mau, Josh McGuire, Dunamis Lui, Jesse Sene-Lefao, Sauaso Sue, Mose Masoe, Dominique Peyroux, Penani Manumalealii.**

PICTURES from the KIWIS v KANGAROOS

On the Field



The boys were very happy with the upset 20-12, but know they have 3 games to go.



A special moment for Gerard with his son after the game. You can't beat family.



Thomas Leuluai (32nd test) is all smiles after the Kiwis win and why not? 30 - 12, that's not a bad result.



I share a moment with Aussie player, Aaron Woods, after the game.



Brothers in arms - a special moment.



Shaun Johnson (10th test), getting interviewed after the game, was named man off the match.



Nadene Conlon, Kiwis team manager and a pretty good rugby league player in her day. She played 36 games for the Kiwi Ferns and captained them for 7. Sharing a moment with Anthony Carbone (athlete support) on field.



Donny Singe, head trainer with the Kiwis and Manly, shares a moment with Martin Taupau after the victory.



Jason Taumalolo was all smiles after making his first test appearance with the Kiwis, and coming up with a win. Here sharing a moment with Kiwis veteran, Adam Blair.



Freddy Fittler interviews Kevin Proctor (4th test). Kevin made over 30 tackles in the game.



Two team-mates savour the moment. Our FANTASTIC captain, Simon Mannering and Manu Vatuvei are both all smiles. Love it.



New Zealand rugby league CEO Phil Holden, a very happy chap with the victory; was nice to see him and Stephen Kearney sharing a moment off the field. Well done, guys, it's a team effort.



Former NZRL CEO, Jim Doyle, chats to Kieran Foran. Of course, Jim is the new CEO of the Vodafone Warriors.



The great former Kiwi Mark Graham, who handed the test players their jerseys at the test dinner on Friday night. Mark played 29 tests for the Kiwis including 18 as captain and was named NZRL player of the Century in 2006.



Inside the Changing Rooms



The Kiwis listening to Coach Stephen address them after the game.



These guys may not have played but were just happy to be in the team. They will get their chance, though, as we still have 3 games to play.



Assistant coach David Kidwell and Kelvin Wright (team analyst) share a moment after the win.



A very special moment for former Otahuhu and Cowboys player, Jason Taumalolo, to receive his first ever test jersey from former Otahuhu and Kiwis player, Mark Graham, a legend in rugby league.



Kiwis captain Simon receivers his 37th test jersey from Mark Graham at the Kiwis test dinner in Brisbane.



In the changing room after the game. From the left: Kieran Foran, Donny Sing (head trainer) Scott Penn (owner of the Manly Sea Eagles RLC) Geoff Toovey (coach of Manly).



Three wise men: winning Kiwis coach, Stephen Kearney, Geoff Toovey (coach of Manly) and Scott Penn (opener of the Manly club) all smiles after the Kiwis win.



The boys were all smiles after the win. From the left: Jason Nightingale (21st test), Shaun Kenny-Dowall (10th test), Dean Whare (9th test)



Gerard Beale (7th test) looking very cool!



Adam Blair (28th test) and still going strong.



Team manager Craig Walker, takes 5 after the Kiwis' victory.



Assistant coach, and ex-Kiwis player, David Kidwell, was reviewing the game straight after the win.



Jesse Bromwich (10th test) enjoys a well deserved rest.



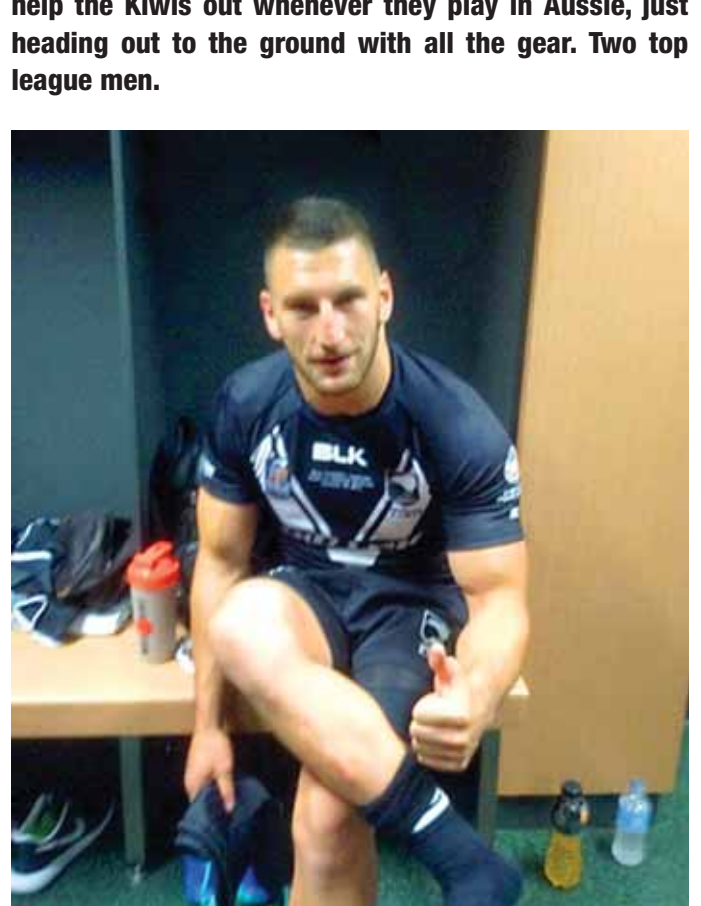
Laurie Hale, the Kiwis' logistics man, a top bloke, with former Kiwi Aaron Whittaker, who always volunteers to help the Kiwis out whenever they play in Aussie, just heading out to the ground with all the gear. Two top league men.



Tohu Harris, who played his third test for the Kiwis on Saturday night, and Suaia Matagi, who was the 18th man.



Team doctor Simon Mayhew and Greg Eastwood give the thumbs up on the win.



Lewis Brown (6th test) was happy to be back in the Kiwis and to score a try. Good on you mate!

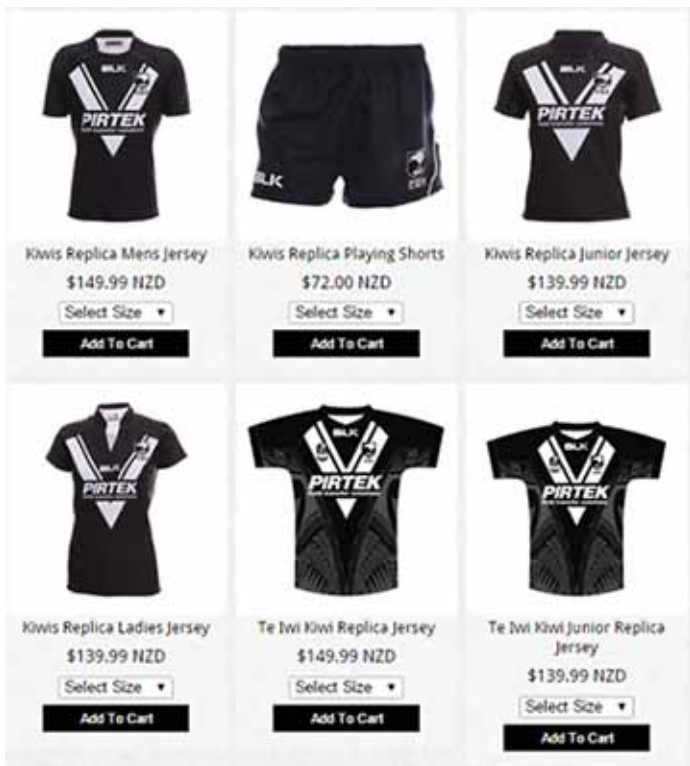
Back the boys

Maybe I need to nudge you all along to shop.nzrl.co.nz - there is an easy link off Facebook too. It is the only place to get your **Kiwis** gear, because the profits go to the NZRL. They have **No 18 Kiwis T-shirts** for sale, so you can show the rest of the Four Nations teams where your support lies.

Every league side names the 17 who will take the field on game day, but the 18th man is crucial, because he comes in if any player goes down for any reason.

I think it is a brilliant idea that the NZRL wants us members of the public, the ordinary fans, to be that important link.

While I am at it, how good is it to see long-time league supporters **Pirtek** and **Autex** on the jersey? They have proud histories with the team and we owe both companies a debt of gratitude for that support.



shop.nzrl.co.nz



Back rower **Feleti Mateo** has been granted an early release from the last two years of his **Vodafone Warriors** contract. General manager of football **Dean Bell** said while he wasn't off contract until the end of the 2016 season, Mateo had indicated he was keen to move his family back to Australia.

"Feleti and his wife Michelle have lots of family in Sydney and that was a big factor in his plans. While he had two years to go, in the circumstances, we're happy to allow him to return home and we certainly wish him and his family all the best."

Mateo, turns 31 on May 2 next year, and was in the **Vodafone Warriors'** grand final side in his first season with the club in 2011. Moving to Auckland after 88 appearances for Parramatta since his first-grade debut in 2004, he finishes five games short of 100 appearances for us.



Wendy's signs on again

Staunch supporters for six years, **Wendy's** is renewing its sponsorship for another three seasons. CEO **Danielle Lendich** said Wendy's was proud to be partnering with the **Vodafone Warriors**. "We're a local, family-owned business so we feel fortunate to be part of the **Warriors** family and we're committed to the team 100 percent."

Vodafone Warriors chief executive **Wayne Scurrah** said the club placed the highest value on its partnership with **Wendy's**. "Danielle and everyone at **Wendy's** have done a fantastic job ever since joining us. We love the way **Wendy's** has gone about its partnership, adding excitement through its product innovations and the way our players are incorporated into TV campaigns."

The chain's latest TV ad sees **Vodafone Warriors'** players **Manu Vatuvei**, **Sam Tomkins**, **Ben Matulino** and **Charlie Gubb** ham it up in a tongue-in-cheek ad promoting its new **Holy Guacamole** range of burgers and nachos.

WATCH THE HOLY GUACAMOLE TV COMMERCIAL

Good on you **Wendy's**. I certainly understand the commitment it takes to be a sponsor in sport, so all power to you. So if you are a fan, and you're feeling a bit peckish, then you know where to go!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrYhqYhWsbG#t=13>



This Saturday the Kiwis and Samoans play for the Sir Peter Leitch trophy in Whangarei. So proud to be holding the trophy.



Me in my Kiwis jersey and cap bought online at shop.nzrl.co.nz



Suaia Matagi chilling with Stan the man.



Laurie Hale's daughters Nadi and Georgia loved getting a photo with hottest guy in the room.



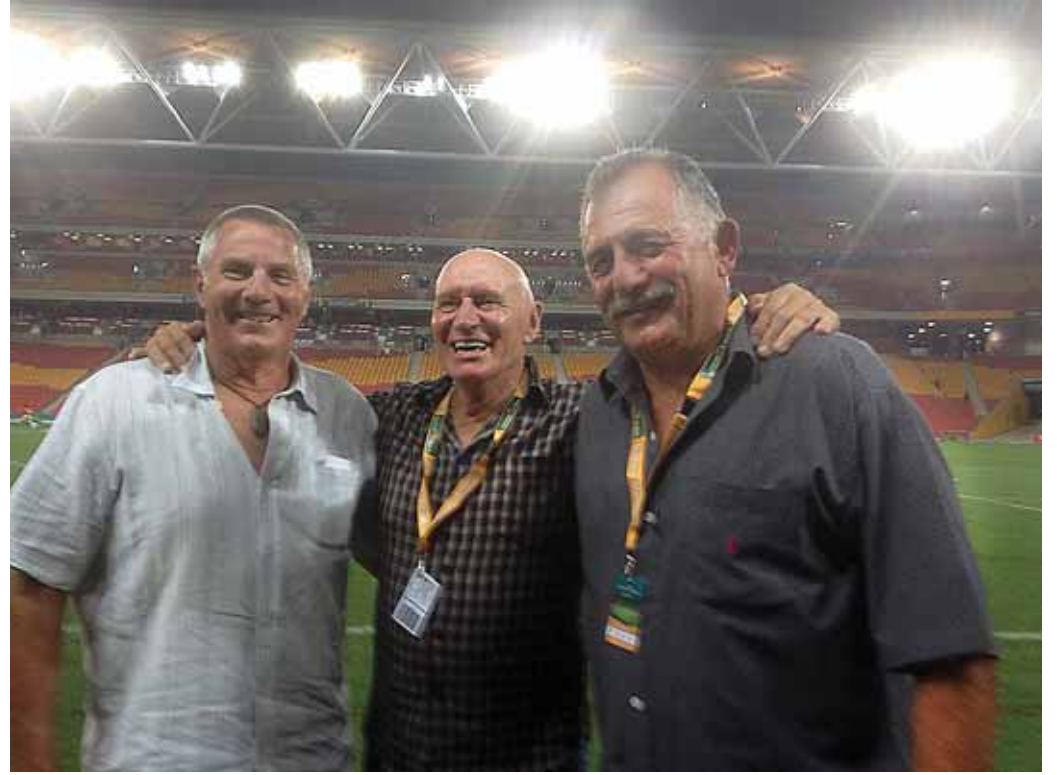
Stan Walker and me at the Kiwis family dinner on Monday night.

Far Left: Stan Walker with his cousin Bodene Thompson.

Out and About



Great to catch up with former Kiwis in Brisbane. Ken Stirling, Chris Jordon, and Mark Graham. All top blokes.



And these three blokes! All Kiwis who played for NZ. Bernie Lowther, Tippy Taylor, and Eddie Heatley – three guys that have given plenty to our great game and still supporting. THANKS Guys, from the Butcher.



They were happy with our win.



Always great to see the fans at the games.



These boys love there Kiwis jerseys.



Sam from TV 3 does a live interview with Mark Graham at the game.

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Love the passion of our fans!

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



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