

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



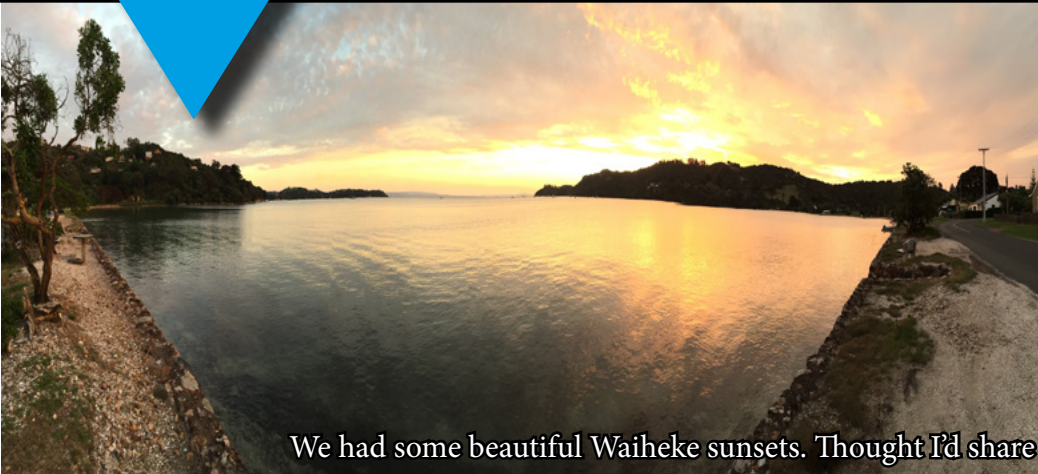
# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter

16 January 2015

# #55



We had some beautiful Waiheke sunsets. Thought I'd share them with you.

## What a Ripper of a Break

I don't know about you but I have enjoyed a terrific break over Christmas and New Year, catching some beautiful sunsets on Waiheke Island.

Chilling out and taking the kayak out with my old mate Sir Graham Henry and some of my other mates is always a pleasure, and the weather co-operated too, with lots of sunshine and no rain to speak of.

We did get a few downpours overnight, but we rely on the rain to fill our water tanks.

### 2015 Starts Well

I enjoyed a great start to 2015, with the New Zealand Kiwis nominated for three categories in the prestigious Halberg Awards.

Then my old mate Gary Clarke (there is more on Gary elsewhere in the newsletter) got the QSM. A nicer bloke you would not find than this former Kiwi.

I have often encouraged you to visit his league museum if you are ever in Christchurch, just look up Gary Clark plastics and this I will tell you this for nothing, he is a great bloke and bloody good mate of mine.

### Raelene Castle Honoured

Then Raelene Castle, the current big cheese (ceo) at the Bulldogs, also got recognised for her contributions to both netball and league.

The former Netball New Zealand boss was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for

services to sport and business.

She comes from a big league family, her father Bruce having represented the Kiwis, and like Gary Clarke, a top bloke her Mum also played bowles for NZ. No one would have been prouder than Bruce, who also boasts a stint as coach of the Mighty Mangere East Hawks.



Raelene did six years as head of Kiwi netball and is still on the board of the international federation. She became the first woman NRL CEO when she joined the Doggies.

## Former Chairman Recognised

There was further good news for league, with former NZRL chairman Scott Carter made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. He stepped down last year, but certainly made his mark on the game.

He grew up in the King Country and later went to Auckland Grammar, going on to serve in the police, and later to set up the Matrix Security Group. In 2009 he was appointed NZRL chairman by Sparc, after a review of league in New Zealand.



While a few old heads grumbled, there can be no doubt he knew what he was doing, as evidenced in 2011 when he was appointed chairman of the Rugby League International Federation, the first Kiwi to hold the role.

---

## Busy Time Ahead

As you know, I am not one to stand still, and that is just as well because I am about to be as busy as bee with a bum full of honey.

On Friday I am meeting up with a former Sri Lanka cricketer who is town to commentate on the tour games against the Black Caps.

Not many of you will know that Russell Arnold is a huge league fan. He loves the game and I will be doing my best to turn him into

a committed Vodafone Warriors supporter.

Then it is on to my favourite airline – Air NZ - for a quick flight to Wellington, my home town, where I'm celebrating the 80th birthdays of my brother Jack and his wife Val.

---

## Queensland Legends Coming to Town

On January 27 three legends of the Queensland maroons, Mal Meninga, Petro Civoniceva and Brent Tate will be in town promoting the State of Origin and talking about how much it means to them, which I can tell you is plenty.



Brent Tate

They'll be hosting a cocktail party, to which yours truly has been invited, and I'm looking forward to catching up with mal, who is always incredibly gracious and kind to me, Brent, who of course had a stint with my beloved Vodafone warriors, and Petero, who is an absolute icon of the game.



Mal Meninga

Before the party they are also down to pay a visit to Kidz First Children's Hospital. Good guys all three, who will always find a little time to help youngsters.



Petro Civoniceva

---

## Awards Night Beckons

Just in case I am not already tired after all that, I have a special date in the calendar, the awards night for the NZRL on January 28. And boy do we have a lot to celebrate and recognise, so I am expecting that one to be something a bit special.



### Still in the Christmas spirit?

Check out my Christmas carol on my website.

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





# RAFFLE



**WIN 2010 TRIUMPH SPEED TRIPLE 1050**

## BIKE SPECS

Year	2010	Style	Sport
Reg	New	WoF	New
Engine	1050cc	KMs	2750

**All proceeds are for  
carcinoid cancer treatment.**

Bike on display at Buster Crabb Restaurant, Dee Street.

Tickets available from Buster Crabb or phone Jane on 027 213 0009.

**RETAIL PRICE**

**\$14,000**

IN NEW CONDITION

**TICKET PRICE \$200**

Limited to 100 tickets  
Drawn on 31 January 2015

## NRL Season to Launch in Auckland

The following day it is the launch of the NRL season. And for the first time ever it is being held outside of Australia, with Auckland the venue. This is a really big deal so I hope the city will turn it on for the Aussies as our great game is showcased.

---

### Dick Smith NRL Nines Draws Closer

Just hours later, and I will be counting every one of them, it is of course the Dick Smith NRL Nines at Eden Park, on January 31

and February 1. Let me tell you, this event has been the talk of the barbecue all summer long, and interest is sweeping the nation. A big crowd is expected, so if you haven't got your tickets yet, do it now!



For more information and to purchase tickets, visit:

[www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s)

The jerseys can be purchased at:

[www.nrlshop.com/teams/nrl-auckland-nines](http://www.nrlshop.com/teams/nrl-auckland-nines)

---

### Back to the Capital

On Waitangi Day I will be headed back to the capital, to see the Wellington Sevens. I'm travelling with Sir Graham Henry, so it will be good to have someone who really understands the game along. I'm also looking forward to seeing how the two tournaments, rugby's sevens and league's nines, stack up.

## Andi Peters talks about his day trip to Waiheke Island

On a recent trip to New Zealand (home of the Flat White) I was invited by my friend Sam Tomkins (NZ Warrior) to spend a day out off Auckland on the island of Waiheke.

Upon arrival on the island I was met by the 19th member of the NZ Warriors, Sir Peter Charles Leitch... "who?", I asked.

Well, from the minute I arrived to the minute I left (9 hours later) Sir Peter didn't stop talking, some interesting chat, some 'not so much' but all of it funny and informative.

After visiting a traditional Maori 'town hall', it was off to a BBQ with the Mad Butcher...if all else failed it would be good meat at least. Every man you ever meet in NZ or Australia swears he's the BBQ King. I'm from London, we don't barbecue we just boil food.

Watching the Mad Butcher prepare the meat was majestic, some trimming here, slicing there and I swear he French trimmed the lamb chops. The actual cooking of the meat was delegated to a bloke called Bruce...his son Inlaw but the food was delicious. If anyone from the shop Countdown is reading this, sign up Mrs Mad Butcher, her coleslaw is the best I've EVER eaten...and I've been on Celebrity MasterChef!!! A new warriors fan.

Andi Peters

Follow him on Twitter @andipeters he only has 348.9k followers



I even signed up as a Warrior Proud member.





# DICK SMITH NRL AUCKLAND NINES ALMOST HERE!



**Sat 31 January and Sunday 1 February, 2015, Eden Park**

With only **2 weeks** until kick off of the **Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines**, you've got to make sure you join 90,000 fans over two days at this unbelievable weekend!

With my good mate Joey Johns saying it is the most fun tournament he has ever been to and the best new concept for rugby league you'd be madder than the Mad Butcher to miss it!

The **Mighty Vodafone Warriors** and owner Eric Watson are hell-bent on winning and are fielding a team packed full of superstars to take care of business. The Butch understands the Warriors will be **naming their team** tomorrow (**FRIDAY 16/01**), so keep an eye out for that.

I've heard rumours of dozens of big name players that want to get on Eden Park for this magnificent event – people like the magnificent Johnathan Thurston, Issac Luke, Shaun Johnson, Sam Tomkins, the Beast Manu Vatuvei who missed out last year wants to join in on the fun this year. How good would it be to see big Manu on the field! Brett Morris, Kieran Foran, Josh Dugan, Willie Mason, James Maloney – they all want to play and I can't wait for all the teams to be announced over the coming week.

There is **big prize money** as well as the **ultimate trophy up for grabs**, so my beloved Vodafone Warriors team are going to be challenged hard by the Aussie Clubs. So make sure you get behind your team and **get your tickets to the Nines today!** I was there last year and had a blast! The on-field action and atmosphere was electric. I'll be there again this year, all my friends will be there – and I'll see you there!

**Book at [www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s)**



# A GONG FOR A GOOD GUY

By John Coffey QSM

The Christchurch newspaper headline said it all. The awarding of a Queen's Service Medal to former Kiwis halfback Gary Clarke in the New Year Honours was fittingly lauded with the words "Good Guy Gets A Gong".

Gary fashioned an outstanding record as a player, captain-coach, non-playing coach and selector over three decades but has remained active in rugby league as a sponsor and avid collector of memorabilia.

His QSM was awarded for services to sport and philanthropy, having also been a generous patron of many varied charities, not to mention a willing host to numerous functions at his plastics factory.

From a strong rugby league family, Gary was a Schoolboy Kiwi on his way to earning senior international honours against the 1966 Great Britain tourists and at the 1968 World Cup tournament in Australia and New Zealand.

He played through an era of outstanding inside backs in Canterbury, with Bob Irvine and Graeme Cooksley also wearing the Kiwis jersey. Gary made 30 appearances for the province from 1963 to 1971 and captained South Island against the 1969 Kangaroos.

After retiring from representative football, Gary was player-coach of the Papanui teams which won the 1971 and 1972 Canterbury championships. He later coached Sydenham to reach the 1978 club grand final.

Gary was a Canterbury selector for 10 years from 1974. In 1975 he coached the first Canterbury team to beat Auckland at Carlaw Park. His 1983-84 term as a New Zealand selector included a Test win over Australia and a three-Test whitewash of Great Britain.

That would have been enough for most people to put their feet up and reflect on the glory days, especially when one also had a business to run. But not Gary Clarke.



For years his collection of rugby league memorabilia attracted rugby league and general sports fans to his former factory near Lancaster Park. They could only gaze at it in awe.

To put it in perspective, his collection even rivalled that of Sir Peter Leitch, with whom he developed a close relationship in helping to record the game's history and recognise former players.

When the Christchurch earthquakes struck in 2010 and 2011 the factory and neighbouring buildings were damaged beyond repair. The stressful search for a new facil-

ity took a long time but Gary has now re-established his business, and his rugby league collection.

While rugby league folk might have been aware of Gary's sponsorships of the game at provincial and club levels, and through the South Island Kiwis Association, they probably knew nothing of the generosity he has shown to charity organisations.


His QSM citations listed Camp Quality, Heart Children New Zealand, the Ricki Herbert Football Academy, Autism New Zealand, St John, Child Cancer Foundation, Governors Bay Pre-School, Cholmondley Home, and the Bromley Kids First Kindergarten. All have greatly benefited from Gary's patronage.

"It's one of those things, there are a lot of good people out there," he modestly told The Star. "I never thought what I have done over the years (for the community) would be recognised. But, hey, I'm proud."

He particularly enjoyed how grateful children were when they received something, no matter how small it might be. "I get a lot of enjoyment out of that, especially when I get the thank you letters. I'd have enough to wallpaper half a dozen rooms. I've kept them all and framed them all but haven't found room for them yet."

Gary Clarke recently underwent hip replacement surgery. The sidestep might not be quite as sharp as in the past but he can still handle the stairs at his new factory and the welcoming smile is as genuine as ever. Yes, this good guy really deserved his gong.






**RUGBY LEAGUE 2015 FESTIVAL**  
**FEATURING**  
**VERSUS VODAFONE WARRIORS**  
**PENRITH PANTHERS**  
**NRL PRE SEASON FIXTURE**  
**14 February 2015 | Kick-off 3pm**

In association with **BOPDRL ROTORUA INTERNATIONAL STADIUM | SAT 14 FEB 2015**  
Gates open 10am with loads of entertainment & local League games

Tickets: Ticketmaster & Sir Howard Morrison  
Performing Arts Centre, 1170 Fenton Street, Rotorua



**Friday 13th - Sunday 15th February**  
**Feature Game - Saturday 14th February**

**Rotorua International Stadium**  
**Devon Street West, Rotorua**

The Vodafone Warriors make a long awaited return to Rotorua for an NRL pre season fixture against the Penrith Panthers early next year. Saturday 14th February, Valentines Day, will feature the main game with plenty of League action scheduled throughout the weekend including a 9's tournament, underage fixtures and the Northern Region launch of their up coming season.

Come a see some of the 4 nations champions in action including Manu Vatuvei and Shaun Johnson.

Feature Game:  
Adult \$20.00, Child \$7.50  
Family Pass \$45.00 (two adults, three children)

Corporate Lounge \$70.00 per person - includes food service and own cash bar  
Booking and credit card charges may apply.

Tickets are available Ticketmaster at the Sir Howard Morrison Performing Arts Centre in Rotorua, online at [www.ticketmaster.co.nz](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz) by calling 0800 111 999 or from Ticketmaster outlets nationwide.

# Message from Jim Doyle

The Warriors Boss

Happy New Year to you all as we look forward to one of the most exciting seasons in the Vodafone Warriors' history.

There's so much in store with our 20th anniversary celebrations providing the theme for what is set to be an unforgettable year for everyone who loves this great club.

I remember being in the stand on Friday March 10th 1995 when the then Auckland Warriors played their first game in the competition against Brisbane and I can't wait to be there again on Sunday March 29th this year to cheer on the team.

Having been in the office for just a little over a month it has been extremely busy as we look to find ways to continuously improve on what has happened to date. We have already made a few improvements in the office with walls coming down and people moving around and I am sure we will make a few more before the season get under way.

There's a new feel about the Vodafone Warriors, especially in the football department. For Andrew 'Cappy' McFadden, this is his first full season as our head coach and I know he is really happy with how the preseason programme has played out so far.

He has a new team around him with Tony Iro – making a return to the Vodafone Warriors – and Andrew Webster as his assistant coaches while Ballin Cupples has joined us from Wests Tigers as our new head of athletic performance. They've fitted in superbly and are providing the kind of support Cappy was looking for. He's also really pleased with the job Stacey Jones is doing in his new role as our New South Wales Cup coach and supporting the NRL staff while Kelvin Wright has stepped up to coach the Vodafone Junior Warriors.

Since last Monday (January 5) we've had the full squad training including new signings Ryan Hoffman, Bodene Thompson, Matt Allwood, Api Pe-whairangi and Jonathan Wright plus our other players after their Four Nations campaign Simon Mannering, Manu Vatuvei, Shaun Johnson, Thomas Leuluai, Suaia Matagi, Siliva Havili, Sam Tomkins and Dominique Peyroux. It's great to have them all back.

It's amazing to think that it is only two weeks before the football starts, first with the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines, then our trials against Gold Coast in Toowoomba (February 7) and Penrith in Rotorua (February 14) plus an inter-squad trial at Bruce Pulham Park in Papakura (February 21) before the season kicks off proper with back-to-back away games against Newcastle and Canberra before the first of our 11 home games at Mount Smart Stadium.

We're really looking forward to our members and the sporting public making Mount Smart Stadium the only place to be in 2015. It's a huge season for us and also an ideal time for us to all join forces in sending out a clear message why Mount Smart should remain our home.

I look forward to seeing you during the season. - Jim

**Look who I found** on Waiheke Island having a photo taken with Sir Graham Henry. Jason the CEO of Canturbury NZ with his wife Tessa and their sons Sam & Ben. It was good to see half the family in Vodafone warriors gear.





#BeWarriors

# BE BOLD BE UNITED BE VODAFONE WARRIORS



# Bill's Trophy

Bill Whitehead, known as Rugby League Bill to radio talkback listeners and secretary of the South Island Kiwis Association, had his worthy deeds recognised at the association's annual meeting in December.

Sir Peter Leitch, who has taken a particular interest in the affairs of the association, arrived from Auckland with a trophy to mark Bill's services, a letter of appreciation from NZRL chief executive Phil Holden, and the personal gift of a voucher for Bill to take his family out for Christmas dinner.

Another special guest was Lewis Brown, the only Cantabrian in the 2014 New Zealand Four Nations-winning squad who was briefly back in his home town before building up to another strenuous season with Penrith.

Jim Fisher, who was a Kiwis prop on tour to Australia in 1963 and Test hooker for the 1971 Kiwis on their triumphant tour of Britain and France, was made a Life Member of the association.

## Vote for Rugby League at the Halberg Awards

We are very proud to announce that we have secured finalist positions for 3 categories of the Halberg Awards this year:

- Team of the Year - Kiwis
- Coach of the Year - Steve Kearney
- Sporting Moment of the Year - Four Nations win

We need a little bit of help from you to secure the Sporting Moment of the Year award. Details of how to vote 'Kiwis' are at below so please cast your vote.

### How to vote:

Voting is now open for the New Zealand's Favourite Sporting Moment award. You can vote once a day from now until 9.00pm on Wednesday 11 February 2015.

#### 1. Online

Vote at [www.halbergawards.co.nz](http://www.halbergawards.co.nz) or [www.radiosport.co.nz](http://www.radiosport.co.nz)

#### 2. TXT

Text your Favourite Sporting Moment's unique code to 455: **Kiwis txt Sm8 to 455**

Texts cost 20c on Vodafone and Spark, 8c on Skinny Mobile and 9c on 2Degrees.

Everyone who votes in the New Zealand Favourite Sporting Moment Award before midnight on the 4 February, 2015 goes in the draw to win a trip for two including flights and accommodation to the 52nd Halberg Awards in Auckland on Wednesday 11 February 2015. Visit [www.halbergawards.co.nz](http://www.halbergawards.co.nz) to read the competition terms & conditions.



# Vodafone Warriors Go Fishing with a Fishing Legend



Fishing guru Geoff Thomas took Vodafone Warriors Captain Simmon Mannering and Charlie Gubb out fishing and filming and called into Waiheke to show their catch of to Sir Graham Henry and I who were out kayaking where he was filming for his TV show. Its called Rheem Outdoors with Geoff and is on at 5pm Saturdays on TV3. This episode of him and the boys will be showing on **January 24th on TV3. It will certainly be worth watching.**



Me doing what I love I have kayaked every day since the 19th of December.



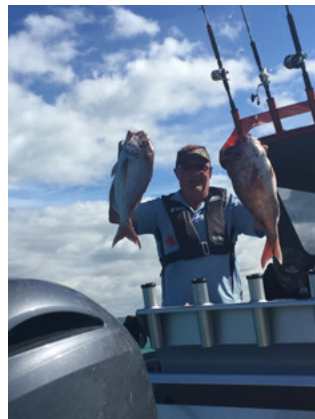
Me and sir Graham pull up next to Geoffrey's boat for a chat.



The guys showing some of their catch.



Simmon, Geoff, Charlie the three musketeers.



Geoff shows off the catch.



The captian chilling out.

## The Newsletter Team

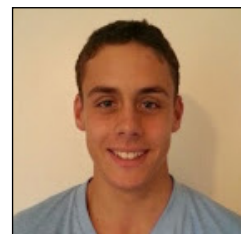
Here is the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it's a team effort.



**David Kemeys**  
Editor at Large



**Sir Peter Leitch**  
Editor



**Hayden Woodhead**  
Graphic Designer

