

Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Bill's Lifelong Dedication to Rugby League

Bill Whitehead has lived and breathed rugby league for decades. Even at 83 he still is active, as secretary manager of the South Island Kiwis Association. He spoke with reporter **Kyle Knowles**. **Thanks to Pegasus Post in Christchurch for the story**.

Newsletter

Bill, you were recognised by the Mad Butcher (Sir Peter Leitch) for your services to league recently?

Yeah, he gave me a cup in recognition for 60 years service to the game of rugby league. I was giving out trophies myself including a jersey to current Kiwi Lewis Brown and Butch pushed me aside and he gave me a cup.

Was that a big honour?

Oh s*** yeah I was in full flight and going well up there and then Butch just pushed me aside and said he had something for me, it was very special.

You have a Queen's Service Medal?

Yes I got the QSM in 1987. My father got a knighthood but only had it nine days (Stanley Whitehead, former MP for Nelson, he died of a heart attack) so they must have felt sorry for me.

Was that a proud moment?

Absolutely and it came as a bit of a surprise but I wasn't that shocked

by it. Another league got one that year too, John Lloyd, legend of the Hornby Rugby League Club and that was a surprise to get it together. At the function I went and asked the Governor General Sir Paul Reeves where the ordinary beer drinkers get a beer from at a swanky do like that and he said wait behind after and I'll sort you out. So I got my picture taken with him while having a beer too.



STALWART: Bill Whitehead at his Harewood home. He was recently presented with a cup recognising his 60 years of service to rugby league. PHOTO: GEOFF SLOAN

After all those years and awards you had to start out playing league somewhere, was that here?

22 January 2015

No I didn't play as a kid, I was on the West Coast and I didn't play rugby league until I moved to Christchurch in 1951.

Did you grow up over there?

Yeah, I grew up on the West Coast at Inangahua Junction and moved to Christchurch when I was 20.

Did you play rugby union over there instead?

Yes I played union on the Coast, in Reefton and I played league when I could at the school but Reefton was a union town. I played union for Nelson against Marlborough.

Then you moved here and started playing league, who for?

Marist. My last game was in 1965. It was my one and only game of seniors and it just happened to be my last game too.

Continued on Page 2...

Management was where you made your name though?

Yeah, administration is where I made my mark; I was a manager of a large number of teams all over the South Island. I was manager for 300 teams over the years. I spent most of my career being a local manager for the West Coast teams. I was manager for them for 25 years and 25 Kiwis passed through when I was there.

Did you manage any Kiwis sides?

I managed two Kiwis teams. Only when they were here playing social games in 1971 and the 1980 team that played here in a testimonial match.

What was your most successful side?

My most successful team was the South Island juniors against the South Sydney juniors in 1968. South Sydney had won the Presidents Cup in Sydney, and their reward was a trip to New Zealand to play our juniors who were led by Billy Noonan who was a Kiwi at the time, and we beat them.

Did you enjoy doing that?

Yeah it was good. After that I was the manager of the Lion Red Cup games for the South Island side. Then I was the assistant manager of the South Island side that beat Australia and Auckland. Tommy Raudonikis was the captain of the Australian side too, that was a special memory.

Did you do any coaching?

No mostly managing. I coached the Canterbury eight-year-olds that went to Auckland and came back undefeated in 1965. They were only supposed to play in Kaiapoi but we went to Auckland instead. I got a raffle going and got sponsorship from Air New Zealand and away we went. We were playing the same weekend that a massive rainstorm hit Auckland and everything was cancelled , even the Avondale races, so the back page of the Auckland paper was full of our league tournament.

You have achieved so much, are you proud of that?

Oh yeah absolutely, the Mad Butcher told me I'm the most decorated man in rugby league and I wouldn't disagree with him. There wouldn't be any one in league with nine life memberships.

Were you ever involved in any other sports management?

I was the media manager for the weightlifting at the 1974 Commonwealth Games here in Christchurch. It was one of the highlights of my sporting careers.

Wow, why was that so special?

My father was the Speaker of the House in Parliament at the time and he was looking after the Queen and Prince Philip so I got access to the games and I got to drive the government car. I was out there at QE II when Dick Tayler won the 10,000m race and I sat just behind the Queen.

Did you get to meet the Queen and Prince Philip?

Not then but I met them many years later. Everyone with a Queen's Service Medal was invited to Hagley Park to meet them. My wife got quite a shock meeting her but she was actually disappointed the Queen came over our side because she wanted to see the Duke. He went down the other side of people lined up so I yelled out to him and he turned around and I snapped a photo of my wife with him in the background.

What was the motivation for it

over the years?

I like meeting people. One of my first jobs was as a bus tour driver which is where I learnt to meet new people I did some of the first tour drives in the South Island. I did the first tour in to Haast in 1962.

Do you still get out and watch local league?

Not as much as I'd like to. It's a hard job getting up and down these days. I went to a game at AMI Stadium a while back to see Canterbury win the Centenary Shield v Wellington.

Do you follow the NRL?

I never miss the NRL but the NRL have too much control in Australia. We have an international rugby league federation but the NRL decides too much. Like the test match this year should be in Christchurch not over at Suncorp (in Brisbane).

Do you like how the game is played today?

I like the game, it's sped up and is much faster than it used to be. It's twice as fast union and it's much better to watch, you can see the ball all the time unlike union. Everybody in the team get to touch the ball which is good for the kids game too.

Do you support the Warriors?

Oh yeah, I was up in Auckland in 2013 for three months and the Mad Butcher got me to all the Warriors games.

So after such a full life where is your favourite placWe to go on holiday to?

The Coast I suppose, I love the Coast but I haven't been for a while it's a bit far for me. A walk to the front gate is far enough.

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#BeWarriors

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Some Nice Photos from the Past Week



I went to Wellington last weekend for my brother's birthday. This my sister Pat, brother Jack and I. It was a great weekend.



We were shooting a TV ad at Mt Smart on Wednesday night and wanted to share this photo as it was a great sunset.



These Vodafone Warriors fans from Christchurch got photo-bombed by this guy in his All Blacks jersey



A beautiful sunset at Mt Smart.



My sister Pat, brother Jack who turns 80 on the 30th of Jan and I relaxing.



When I was in Wellington I meet up with this die-hard Vodafone Warrior supporting family.



Wanted to share this monster caught by my cousin Brad Chote up north. Cheers Grant Hafford



The weekend was to much for Dean from BRISBANE just had to doze off.

Anton's Walk for Flope

Anton is undertaking a massive 809km walk from Whangarei Police station to Wellington to raise funds for his Cancer charity the 809 Foundation.

You can learn more and support him at: http://www.the809foundation.org.nz/, http://givealittle.co.nz/org/the809foundation Next week there is going to be a storm over Auckland, but it's not a weather one, it's the Dick Smith NRL Nines, the biggest thing to hit the city since the Rugby World Cup.

A hectic week kicks off with the Queensland Rugby League cocktail party on Tuesday night, and I happen to know that former Vodafone Warrior Brent Tate and Kangaroos great Petro Civoniceva will be there, alongside super coach Mal Meninga, and they will also be visiting Kidz First Children's Hospital later in the week.

The NZRL is holding its prize-giving on Wednesday night and on Thursday the NRL is launching the entire NRL season, a first for the game, with the launch until now always held in Aussie. It will be bigger than Ben Hur and I'm really looking forward to it.

Don't tell Janice but I'm quite looking forward to my invitation to join the Vodafone Warriors when supermodel Heidi Klum is in town for the launch of her new range, made by the best there is in undies – Bendon, later that night. On the Friday it is the big fan day at Aotea Square, followed by the Duco Nines Event at Shed 10, and on Saturday the ATEED breakfast for NRL executives.

Then it is down to action at the foot on Saturday and Sunday. It is a fantastic weekend, as anyone who made it along last year will tell you. But this year is going to be even bigger and better .

Tickets Still Available

If you haven't got tickets to the Dick Smith NRL Nines they are still on sale. I will be hugely disappointed if we do not sell it out, because so much has gone into it, and because I was there last year and it awesome.

Don't delay, whack on to: www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s

Festival and Fanzone – you're invited

If you haven't got a ticket for Eden Park the the Dick Smith NRL Nines Festival and Fanzone runs for three days from next Friday, January 30 to February 1 in Aotea Square, with all the games live on the big screen.

And you're invited to an NRL-hosted free public event from 9am on January 30 that will give you the chance to meet all 288 Nines players as they appear throughout the day. There will be exclusive signing sessions and it will be a great chance for fans to practice their skills with their heroes.

There will be giveaways, activities, live entertainment, a league exhibition featuring all seven league trophies, free kids' rides and games, a marketplace and more.

The schedule: 10am – Cowboys, Eagles; 11am – Roosters, Tigers; 12pm – Knights, Rabbitohs, Panthers; 1pm – Storm, Raiders, Dragons; 2pm – Titans, Broncos, Sharks; 3pm – Eels, Bulldogs, Warriors.

From 9am on Saturday and Sunday the Fanzone will be the next best thing to being at the Nines. You can enjoy a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere, live entertainment includes performances by Sammy Johnson featuring Swiss, House of Shem and more.

Creating a legacy for league

The ability to use the Dick Smith NRL Nines to grow the game of league is an important part of this event. This year the NRL will host a Women in League leadership forum, a referee workshop and a high performance conference in Auckland during the week.

The women's forum on January 29 will allow 40 league administrators to gather and collaborate on all aspects of leadership.

The ref's workshop the next day involves referees from the NRL, NZRL and experts. The high performance conference on the same day is aimed at junior coaches and includes presentations and panel discussions.

Cricket Great Comes on Tour

Last Friday I took former Sri Lanka cricketer and now Sky TV commentator Russel Arnold on a tour of the Vodafone Warriors. He's retired from the international game and lives in Australia these days, where he has become a big league fan, supporting the Tigers.

My friends and I had a great time showing him and his wife and children around, and the delight on his face was plain for all to see.

Canterbury, the Vodafone Warriors kit supplier, even gave us a shirt with Arnold across the back of it, and club boss Jim Doyle welcomed him to Mt Smart and signed him up as a Vodafone Warriors Proud member.

As well as the goodies that come with that, the former bowler gets free entry to a game of his choice and he tells me he will be back when the Cricket World Cup is on.

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THE BURGER KING ROAD TO THE TITLE

JOSEPH PARKER V JASON PETTAWAY

Thursday 5 March 2015, 6:00pm The Vodafone Events Centre, Auckland

New Zealand Heavyweight Champion, Joseph Parker kicks off his year back on home soil, taking on American challenger Jason Pettaway, at the Vodafone Events Centre, Auckland on March 5th.

Jason Pettaway is on a winning streak having won his last six fights, brutally KO'ing his last opponent in round one, and has an impressive record of 17-1. With over 100 amateur fights prior to turning pro, he is convinced his experience will take him the distance against New Zealand's golden boy Parker.

Pettaway has a bullish, aggressive style and likes to jump on his opponents early. He poses an intriguing challenge for Parker because of his technical abilities, including a brutal count punch.

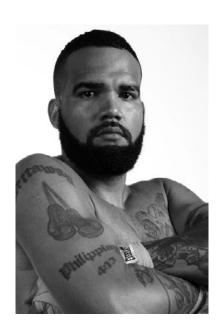
This sensational fight night will also feature local and international talent along with the infamous Brown Buttabean.

Joseph Parker

Jason Pettaway







Book Now: http://www.ducoevents.co.nz/book-now-39/

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Perhaps the biggest smiles though were reserved for their time in the gym, where they met with Manu Vatuvei, Shaun Johnson and lots of others, although Russel was also pretty impressed to meet an icon of the game in former player and now trainer Ruben Wiki.

Russel was not the first Vodafone Warriors Proud member I've signed up recently because our fullback Sam Tomkins gave me a ring recently to tell me he was visiting Waiheke Island with a good friend from England, Andi Peters.

Now I thought I was a bit flash with 8382 Twitter followers, but Russel told me he had 98,000, and even though I confess I'd never heard of Andi, he is a big star in England and has more than 350,000.

Let me tell you my Twitter account went crazy after hosting those two.

Time for a Break Already

Well I've only just got back to work writing this column and I'm already looking forward to Anniversary weekend, so I am obviously still keen on making the best of our wonderful weather. And that's something Vodafone Warriors captain Simon Mannering and his teammate Charlie Gubb did recently with my good mate Geoff Thomas.

My friend Sir Graham Henry and I were out for a kayak when we ran across the two players with fishing guru Geoff, who was filming it all for his TV show, Rheem Outdoors with Geoff, which you catch at 5pm this Saturday on TV3. The episode of him and the boys will be well worth watching.

Moving story on TV One

While we are on the subject of TV, tune in on Sunday to TV One's award-winning Sunday current affairs show at7pm. It is going to tell the story of a young woman I have come to know in the wake of the terrible Christchurch earthquakes. Stacey Herbert lost her legs and is one of the bravest young women I know. I am sure it will be gripping and we all need to be reminded now and then how tough things have been for a lot of people.

Sky Sport to Showcase Young Baseball Stars

Baseball fans get a double-header on Saturday when Sky screens live coverage of two New Zealand matches at the Oceania 18U Baseball Championships.

New Zealand's match against Guam will screen on Sky Sport 2 from 11am and its game against Australia at 3.30pm.

My mate and Sky boss John Fellet is a big baseball fan himself. "We love covering Kiwi sporting talent in New Zealand and by screening these two important matches, fans can enjoy watching our best young talent."

The championships see New Zealand play alongside a number of the most highly-rated players in the Pacific, as they make their home debut at McLeod Park in Te Atatu.

The team features four players who recently represented New Zealand in the 21U World Champs in Taiwan - Sam Harvey, Ben Thompson, Cooper Hutchinson and Jimmy Boyce.

Baseball New Zealand boss Ryan Flynn, said: "We will get a big boost with two games being broadcast. Being able to showcase teenage players is an important moment in our sport's history."

Win NRL Auckland Nines Tickets



To be into win two tickets to the NRL Auckland Nines just send a stamped, addressed envelope or postcard to me in the mail with your name, address and phone number on the back to the address below. <u>Two winners will be drawn and</u> each recieve <u>2x Auckland Nines Tickets.</u>

> Win Nines Tickets P.O Box 54295 The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland Drawn On Wednesday 28th Jan

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Complete the details below and fax to the Rotary Charity Yacht Regatta Fax: **(09) 828 1599** (Ph: 09-829 0462)

Entries can also be made directly on the website - www.yachtregatta.org.nz

Company Name:			
Postal Address:			
Authorising person's name:			
Signature:			
Title			
Your Contact Person:			
Name for Regatta mailings:			
Email address:			
Day phone: Mobile:			

Number of Guests

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No. of guests:	person yacht @ \$	+ GST per yacht		
OR (if less than 6 g	uests): guests @ \$260.00 +	GST per person		
Preferred Yacht Name: (subject to availability)				

Name of your Rotary contact: (if applicable)

A Tax Invoice showing payment options will be issued on receipt of your entry form.

Payment would be appreciated by the end of February 2015





Adverse Weather

In the unlikely event that the weather is unsuitable, Skippers will be advised of course changes prior to the start time.

Cancellation

Company contact person will be notified by text message if the event is postponed due to weather conditions. Also refer to the Newstalk ZB cancellation service on the day.



Rotary Charity Yacht Regatta Friday 13th March 2015

Principal Beneficiaries



Child cancer

Promoted by the Rotary Clubs of Half Moon Bay & Howick



Cricket World Cup

By John Deaker

Momentum won't mean much come World Cup time.

Cricket's World Cup is just around the corner and the Black Caps are currently attempting to tick all the boxes they can preparing their team to hit the ground running on February the 14th. New Zealand undoubtedly have a squad capable of being very competitive in the World Cup. However, the unique nature of cricket means that even the best coaches and players can't plan and prepare for a key element in any team's World Cup chances : batting form.

Cricket remains basically an individual sport within a team environment - and if players like Brendon Mc-Cullum and Ross Taylor hit poor patches of form at the same time during the World Cup it's unlikely the New Zealand team can be a genuine contender for the title. Unfortunately "eye" players like McCullum, Taylor, Corey Anderson and Martin Guptill tend to float in and out of form more often than players with better footwork and technique like Kane Williamson. Batting form also seems to be something that the harder you practice and try to regain, the more it eludes you.

New Zealand has unprecedented quality and depth in its bowling ranks, however that will make game-day selections and Brendon McCullum's utilisation of the bowlers on the field even more crucial. The game-day selectors will have to make key calls - for example it's likely they'll end up leaving New Zealand's top-ranked test bowler Trent Boult out of the final 11 for most of the big matches.

More emphasis than in the past is now placed on taking wickets through attacking bowling. Players like Mitchell McClenaghan and Adam Milne are proving to be great at doing this, yet there is also still plenty of value to be gained from pressuring batsman into mistakes through players like Kyle Mills and Daniel Vettori.

The experience of Mills and Vettori is something that will be taken in to account too. They've been in pressure situations so many times that they are more likely to do what they know is the best option under pressure rather than try what they think might be correct. The selection balancing act will be tough to make and could often swing on the pitch and overhead conditions on the day of some matches.

People talk about teams having "momentum" during matches and going in to big games or tournaments. The Black Caps already have enough momentum as a team to be a force to be reckoned with in the World Cup. What no one will know until the tournament kicks off at Hagley Oval is whether their key batsman are hitting form at the right time and whether they've nailed down the bowling unit that can win New Zealand a cricket World Cup for the first time.

ATEED in partnership with AT are producing over 500 NRL NINES branded AT HOP cards to be distributed among rugby league clubs across the entire Auckland region. Participating clubs will receive on around 25 AT HOP cards each which have been loaded with enough money for a return trip from the club's Rugby Grounds to the three-day Festival and Fan Zone at Aotea Square (Friday 30 Jan – Sun 1 Feb). ATEED has covered the cost of this transport.

Nines Hop Cards

New Zealand Rugby League will be distributing the cards to participating clubs (who responded to our expression of interest) through Akarana Rugby League and Counties Manukau Rubgy League. Come along in your team uniform to support your clubs and meet the stars of the NRL at Aotea Square on the Friday of the Festival and Fan Zone or catch all 34 games of the NRL Nines Live on the big screen across the weekend. Souvenir NRL NINES branded AT

HOP cards will also be available for sale at the Fan Zone.

Please note that if you are going to the NRL Auckland Nines on Saturday or Sunday the cost of transport on special event services is included with your event ticket – go to AT.govt.nz/events for more information. The NRL Auckland Nines branded AT HOP card can be reloaded and used for everyday travel on trains, buses and ferries.

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SHOOT STARS

6.30 PM, Saturday March 7, 2015

Air Force Museum 45 Harvard Ave, Wigram, Christchurch

BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT Tables of Ten - \$1650 | Individuals - \$165 Call 0800 737 606 or txt 021 198 8895

Black Tie Dress Code

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Shoot for the Stars - Charity Dinner and Mega Auction

The night will be hosted by The Breezes Sue White and with Entertainment by Bonita Danger Doll. You will be wined and dined and be given the chance to bid for exclusive auction items. This will be a special night you'll never forget. Stacey Herbert was seriously injured on 22 February 2011 from the devastating 6.3 magnitude earthquake that hit Canterbury. Her life was changed forever when Doctors had to amputate both legs to save her life.

With your help and the help of Mike Pero Real Estate and The Mike Pero Foundation we are raising funds to send Stacey to the Hanger Clinics Lower Extremity Prosthetic Programme in Oklahoma USA, which works to restore mobility by combining an array of state-of-the art technology and years of experience. With your help we can get Stacey back on her feet.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EVENT OF THE YEAR. BOOK NOW AS TICKETS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED

If your unable to attend this event and would like to help Stacey, you can drop into any BNZ branch and ask to donate to The Rise Up Stacey Trust or visit www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/riseupstacey2



Auction items can be donated to the following Mike Pero Real Estate offices Cashmere-Fendalton-Bishopdale



Come and walk or run Round the Bays with your family and friends.

Taking on Round the Bays will be a lot of fun and walking or running on behalf of us will hugely help our branch! 1 in 4 Aucklanders have either pre-diabetes or diabetes, so every dollar you raise will help us to help them.

WHEN: Sunday 8 March at 9.30am

COURSE: 8.4km, Auckland CBD to St Heliers Bay

Enter online at **www.roundthebays.co.nz** and select **'Diabetes NZ Auckland Branch'** in the charities section to join **Team Blue**!

To support our walkers and runners, go to https://aucklandroundthebays2015.everydayhero.com/nz/team-blue

Living well with diabetes, and preventing diabetes where possible.

diabetes nz auckland branch

TEL: 09 622 0551 | www.diabetesauckland.org.nz



DICK SMITH NRL AUCKLAND NINES NEXT WEEK



Well the mighty Vodafone Warriors announced a sensational squad for the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines last week and with only NINE DAYS TO GO I am bloody excited!

With four of their biggest name players in the Warriors extended squad, regular season captain, Simon Mannering, 2014 Nines MVP winner Shaun Johnson named captain again, Sam Tomkins and The Beast Manu Vatuvei all named in the squad, they are set to light up the competition!

Four players in the squad are yet to be eliminated and I can reveal that the competition to be in the top 18 is fierce, so I'm imagining that coach Andrew McFadden's lawns are pretty well manicured at the moment and the boys are putting in their own extra training! The final 18 will be announced later this week, so keep your eyes peeled.

Also, hot off the press my old mate Benji Marshall has just been confirmed to play for his team The Dragons, so it will be his first return to Eden Park since playing with the Blues last year. I'm looking forward to seeing him with some extra space on the field!

Other notable players that I can't wait to see at the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines are Raiders player Sisa Waqa – who was the Storms highest try scorer last year, Josh Hoffman in his first outing for the Titans, our Kiwis player Alex Glenn for the Broncos along with their newest star Anthony Milford.

I'm enjoying all the talk around town about the Nines and the city is looking awesome with all the branding going up around the place. The buzz has certainly started and you don't want to miss this - the best weekend of our greatest game of rugby league!







FESTIVAL& FANZ®NE Get ready for an action-packed weekend of Rugby League. Enjoy three days of FREE entertainment, including top Kiwi musicians, kids' activities, giveaways and more

FRI 30 JAN, 9AM – 9PM Meet your NRL heroes and test your league skills

SAT 31 JAN – SUN 1 FEB, 9AM – 8PM Watch all 34 games live on the big screen

30 JAN – 1 FEB • AOTEA SQUARE Get your tickets today at www.ticketek.co.nz/nrlakl9s



SILENT AUCTION

Dancing

+ Cochtail Supper

SATURDAYBELFAST CLUBROOMS14 TH FEB7.30 pm - Midnight\$60 perBILL BUSH guest speaker

More details to follow BUT PLEASE SECURE YOUR TICKETS!

Contact

RACHAEL HENDERSON henderson.family77@yahoo.co.nz 027 686 3396 or 03 310 6373

For further details about Kylie's situation http://givealittle.co.nz/cause/kyliecameron77

MANUKAU LIVE STEAMERS

WAITANGI DAY 3 DAY WEEKEND 6 – 8 February 2015

FREE TRAIN RIDES FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ON WAITANGI DAY 6th FEBRUARY

PHANTOM LOCO RUNNING ON SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

ALL ENGINES RUN ON SUNDAY 8TH

Manukau Live Steamers Centre Park Robertson Road Mangere



Come along and help celebrate NZ's Waitangi Day weekend 2015 at Manukau Live Steamers Centre Park Robertson Road Mangere.

Friday 6th February Waitangi Day - FREE day for families with special needs kids.

Saturday 7th February - PHANTOM DAY, Dave Giles' designed PHANTOM locomotive only on Saturday.

Sunday 8th Feb - All engines running day

Opening hours 11am until 4pm

Ticket office closes at 3.30pm

Train rides \$2

Concession tickets 12 rides for \$20

Mad Butcher BBQ for \$2 per sausage.

Bring your sunscreen, hats, water bottles.

Centre Park Robertson Road Mangere.

For Information contact Lynne at ikon@xtra.co.nz 09 5358577 or 021959106 Club mobile 0220796914

Logan Swann's Holiday

















Logan Swann played for the Warriors and Kiwis on many occasions between 1995 and 2004. He retired from Rugby League in 2008 and now works as a real estate agent.

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

