

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

6 February 2015

# Newsletter #58



# What a Week!

Photos courtesy of Photosport

Superb! It all kicked off with the Queensland Rugby League launching their Ma-roonz campaign to sign up Kiwis to support their State of Origin cause, but we have told you all about that.

If you want to nail your colours to Queensland's mast, visit:

<http://bit.ly/1uWnWl0>

And this link will take you to the visit to Kidz First

<http://bit.ly/1LKEYgG>

Then it was the NZRL awards, I also told you all about, the NRL season launch, and spending time with supermodel Heidi Klum, in town to promote her lingerie line with Bendon.

Friday I spent all day at the Fan Zone at Aotea Square as fans got up close and personal with the stars of the NRL in town for the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines, which of course took up my weekend. And what a weekend. It was bigger than a Mad Butcher barbecue.

The atmosphere was tremendous and although my beloved Vodafone Warriors were eliminated

at the quarter-finals, I still had a marvellous time, catching up with many great players, like Brent Webb, Gordon Tallis, Willie Mason, Logan Swan, Steve Menzies and former All Black Stu Wilson. And here's something for you. Also there was All Black coach Wayne Smith, and he seemed to spend an awful lot of time with the Melbourne Storm.

Overall it was a carnival the likes of which Auckland has not seen since, well, last year's Nines. Full credit to the NRL, Duco and Ateed.

Continued next page...

As I said the Warriors exit put a dampener on things, but we have to remember it is only a game and a bit of pre-season fun, but I also thought the final between the Sharks and Rabbitohs was amazing.

They were clearly the best two teams and could only be separated in extra-time, Souths eventually crossing for the golden point try and the title – and a pretty healthy \$370,000 purse too.

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### Chocolate Champion

I am going to claim a small amount of credit for the sight of watching Kiwis sensation Isaac Luke lift the Nines trophy. I reckon it is something to do with the fact that I got him a couple cartons of Whittaker's Lewis Rd Creamery chocolate milk!

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### Souths Get it Done in Extra Time

As I said, Souths claimed the title in extra-time that was finally ended by Matt King's golden try to defeat Cronulla 18-14. Adam Reynolds took out Player of the Tournament.

Tournament team: Corey Norman – Eels, Adam Reynolds, Issac Luke and George Burgess – all Rabbitohs, Michael Morgan – Cowboys, Solomone Kata – Warriors, Chris Heighington, Wade Graham and Blake Ayshford – all Sharks.

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### Women Do Us Proud

I thought the women's series was excellent, with the games just as good if not better than some of the men's performances. Our Kiwi Ferns held up the trophy, taking out the three-match series 2-1.

The Kiwi Ferns won the opening two matches before the Jillaroos took out the third and final game. For the first time, matches between the two teams were live on TV in NZ and Australia.

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### Titans Trial Squad Picked

Two players from the Vodafone Warriors' NRL Nines team and six with first-grade experience have been included in a 23-man squad for the club's trial against Gold Coast in Toowoomba on Saturday. Andrew McFadden has selected Matt Allwood and Nathaniel Roache after they were both involved in the Nines, although Roache wasn't used.

As well as Allwood, who had 11 NRL appearances for the Raiders last year, others with first-grade experience are Dominique Peyroux, former Parramatta utility Api Pewhairangi, props Charlie Gubb and Upu Poching, plus back rower John Palavi.

Also included are seven players from the Vodafone Junior Warriors' 2014 NYC premierships-winning squad. Roache, wing Paul Ulberg, front rower Toafofoa Siple and loose forward James Bell all played in the grand final, while stand-off Ata Hingano and back rowers Marata Niukore and Matiu Love-Henry were key contributors in the season.

"This trial is important in terms of looking at options, testing our depth and finding out what players have to offer," McFadden said.

The squad is: Allwood, Bell, Sam Cook, Ray Faitala-Mariner, Gubb, Hingano, Viliami Kaveinga, Stedman Lefau, Love-Henry, Niukore, Palavi, Willie Peace, Nathaniel Peteru, Pewhairangi, Peyroux, Poching, Roache, Siple, Saula Solomona, Zac Tippens, Jarrod Tua, Ulberg, Albert Vete.

### Trials programme:

*Saturday v Titans, Toowoomba.  
Saturday, February 14 v Panthers, Rotorua at 3pm, Sunday, February 15, Luke Tipene Celebration Day, Glenora from 11am, and Saturday, February 21 is Inter-squad trials, Papakura at 12.30pm.*



Photo courtesy of Photosport



[www.prostate.org.nz](http://www.prostate.org.nz)

# Join the Prostate Team!



Do you know someone who has been affected by Prostate Cancer? We need your help to spread the message to encourage our men to get checked! Run for the Prostate Team, grab your family and friends, corporate, social club, schools etc and run or walk for a good cause. Join us at our designated area after the event for refreshments to celebrate.

## Register your place now!

Go to [www.roundthebays.co.nz](http://www.roundthebays.co.nz) and select the **ENTER HERE** tab, then **Enter Now**.

Once your entry is confirmed we will be in touch.

The logo for the Round the Bays 2015 event. It features the "PORTS OF AUCKLAND" logo at the top, which includes a stylized wave icon and the Māori name "TĀMAKI HERENGA WAKA". Below this, the text "Round the Bays 2015" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font. A stylized wave graphic in yellow and blue is positioned below the text. At the bottom, the "stuff.co.nz" logo is displayed, featuring the word "stuff" in a bold, lowercase font and ".co.nz" in a smaller font, with a colorful bar underneath.

## Support our runners and walkers, visit:

<https://aucklandroundthebays2015.everydayhero.com/nz/Prostate-Team>



## Need more information?

email [claire@prostate.org.nz](mailto:claire@prostate.org.nz)  
call 09 415 2405 or 021 476 222

## Pirtek to Back Kiwis Again



*NZRL chief executive Phil Holden & Pirtek New Zealand general manager Chris Bourke  
(Photosport)*

Pirtek will continue to be the biggest name on the Kiwis jersey heading in 2017, after signing as principal sponsor for another three years.

A market leader with comprehensive portfolio of hydraulic and industrial hose and fitting products, Pirtek is a prominent supporter of league on both sides of the Tasman and has been part of the NZ Rugby League family since 2008.

This contract extension means Pirtek will have been principal sponsor of the Kiwis through three World Cup tournaments, including the 2008 success, and last year's Four Nations victory. "We pride ourselves on our reliability and customer service, and we see many of those same qualities in this Kiwis programme and its relationship with fans," says Pirtek New Zealand general manager Chris Bourke.

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## Raelene Inspires Women

Groundbreaking Bulldogs chief executive Raelene Castle knows the challenges facing women in sports administration.

After six years steering Netball

NZ, Castle has successfully transitioned into the male domain of league and was an ideal role model for the women attending the Women In League Workshop, held in conjunction with the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines.

Her best advice? "Promise me, when you look at a job or opportunity and look at the list of things required, don't focus on the 10 things you can't do. Look at the things you can do, because that's how the blokes think."

The leap from netball to league seems a massive one for the girl who grew up in East Auckland and cycled past the Mad Butcher's house every day on her way to school.

But dad Bruce Castle was Kiwi #407 and a national selector, while mother Marlene represented New Zealand in bowls at four Commonwealth Games, so sports was part of the family tradition. Castle says she is not just a fan, and her success has come off the back of 15 years working in the corporate sector.

"In reality, I couldn't have done this job without that commercial background," she says. "When you combine that CV and business experience with my love and respect for league, and my understanding of the people and culture, I feel like I've come home."



*Raelene Castle addresses the Women In League Workshop.*

## Cathy Freeman and Anthony Minichiello Launch Community Carnival

The NRL launched its 2015 Community Carnival, with Olympic hero Cathy Freeman joining new NRL community ambassador Anthony Minichiello.

Now in its 15th year, the carnival sees NRL ambassadors and players from each of the 16 clubs visit towns across Australia and New Zealand, to deliver social messages to young fans.

The community message of this year's event is wellbeing, focussing on everything from nutrition and healthy eating, to the importance of regular exercise..

Freeman joined the NRL at a school to support the launch, noting her own links to advocating wellbeing.

"Being an NRL fan, I can see the positive influence players and ambassadors can have on young people."

Minichiello and newly retired Rabbitohs winger Nathan Merritt joined Freeman at the launch. "I'm thrilled to remain a part of this great game as an NRL Community ambassador. Throughout my career, community visits were always one of my favourite parts of the job," he said.

The Vodafone Warriors will be visiting 12 schools in Rotorua, and meeting students in Auckland.



FEATURING  
PRIME MINISTER  
JOHN KEY  
PLAYING THE  
FULL 18 HOLES



# CHARITY GOLF DAY

THURSDAY  
**26**  
FEBRUARY  
2015

## BEST BALL STABLEFORD

- 10.30am Registration
- 11.30am Pre-tournament briefing
- 12 noon Shotgun start
- Barbecue on course
- Refreshments and platters at conclusion

**TITIRANGI GOLF CLUB, AUCKLAND**

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**\$5,000**  
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## Themed Rounds Announced

The NRL has announced four themed rounds in the 2015 Telstra Premiership.

They are:

Play NRL (3) – encouraging children and families to participate in league

Women In League (10) – acknowledging the role of women in the game

Heritage Round (19) – partnering with the Men of League to recognise past players and the history of the game. It will include a charity element for injured players

Indigenous Round (22) – supporting the contribution of Indigenous communities to league

In addition, the NRL will stage one of its biggest rounds ever – with five games in five cities on Anzac Day as part of the commemoration of the 100 years of Anzac.

## New Boss for Canterbury

The Canterbury Rugby League has appointed Terry Williamson as CEO.

Chairman Reon Edwards said the appointment was a step forward for the game by having a CEO who could focus on strategic priorities.

League in New Zealand enjoys huge support thanks mostly to the NRL and the Kiwis' success but Canterbury wants to engage more supporters at a local level.

One of the major projects for Williamson will be leading discussions around a new home. With Canterbury Rugby looking to secure a longer term lease on AMI, the Canterbury Rugby League will be considering its options for its own stadium and facilities.

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## Go the Black Caps

Go the Black Caps in the Cricket World Cup. It's been a wonderful summer of sport, and Brendon McCallum and the boys can ice the cake!



All events are strictly pre-purchased with no door sales so Hornby Panthers supporters, players past and present are asked to either email:

[hornbypanthers@hotmail.com](mailto:hornbypanthers@hotmail.com), ring **03 349 7000** or visit [www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz](http://www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz) for tickets and merchandise.

## Win a Vodafone Warriors Double Membership



To be in to win a Vodafone Warriors double membership 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.

Win Warriors Season Pass  
P.O Box 54295  
The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland

Drawn on  
Wednesday 11th Feb

# Time for Sevens Fever

I am looking forward to this week's big event, my trip to Wellington with Rugby World Cup winning coach Sir Graham Henry for the Sevens, where we are being hosted by the electrical people AJ Russell. Here's some things you need to know about the Wellington event.

**1. Sevens Wellington is celebrating its 16th birthday:** The year 2000 brought Sevens Wellington. The tournament has since become the city's largest sporting event and contributes more than \$6 million to the economy each year.

**2. Fancy dress began when...** Sevens Wellington is as much about what's happening in the stands. Fans have the chance to dress-up and act a little less like an adult and more like a teenager - or a teenage mutant ninja turtle. No one knows who was the first to pull on a costume, or why, but that genius started a trend that other World Series tournaments have tried to replicate.

**3. PNG return...** This year Papua New Guinea returns for the first time since 2011. The team qualified after beating Tonga at the Oceania Sevens in 2014. The underdogs are determined to be competitive, so much so they sent a 16-man training squad to Fiji to help prepare for the tournament.

**4. The All Blacks Sevens are third on the HSBC World Series table:** This year's series is more important than ever as the top four teams automatically qualify for the Rio Olympics.

**5. A knighted trio will be watching:** One is the knight behind the team, Sir Gordon Tietjens. One is me, and although I am a huge league fan, I do love my rugby, and the other is Sir Graham Henry. Tietjens is a veteran of more than 100 international tournaments. His sides have won four Commonwealth Games medals, 12 World Series titles and two World Championship Cups.

**6. Besides rugby...there is a party:** Like the costumes, entertainment has become an integral part of Sevens Wellington, so much so the players themselves sometimes spark up and show off their dance moves after a try. The crowds sing Kiwi classics, and speaking of that, there are no bigger Kiwi anthems than those sung by The Exponents, who will be head-

lining the show on Saturday.

**7. Kids love Sevens Wellington too:** Every year children and their families are at the waterfront to watch the fans make their way to the stadium. Many of the kids get in on the fun, also dressing up. This year the Family Zone at Westpac sold out quickly and has now been extended to cater for the greater numbers of kids who want to come.



## THE POOLS

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool B
South Africa	New Zealand	Australia	Argentina
USA	England	Fiji	Scotland
France	Canada	Wales	Kenya
Japan	PNG	Portugal	Samoa

Sevens Wellington tickets are available for \$149 at [www.ticketek.co.nz/sevens](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/sevens)

# Centenary Celebration for Hornby Panthers

Local league lovers past, present and future are invited to celebrate the Hornby Panthers Rugby League Club's Centennial this Easter weekend. The club will be reliving its proud history through a series of functions which run alongside the scheduled matches.

The weekend kicks off with a free event on Thursday, 2nd April when attendees of the weekend will be able to collect their tickets and pre ordered merchandise. Ticket holders will be able to mingle with fellow former players, supporters, family and friends – but don't party too hard as there's much more planned. On Friday, guests can dance the night away with live music, complimentary finger food and the opportunity to celebrate together after watching the big Premier game. Tickets are only \$20 per head. There will be plenty of action on the field throughout the day with games from the next generation of Panther Minis, under 18s, the Premier Reserves and then the Premiers.

Be sure to save some energy for Saturday. After watching games from the Juniors there is a special Past v Present match at midday followed by the Presidents' game. This is followed by more dancing with a DJ and a memorabilia auction, with tickets again only \$20.00 each.

The festivities end with a gala evening on Sunday presented by Greg O'Connor, featuring guest speakers Mark Graham, David Kidwell, Wayne Wallace and Clayton Friend. Enjoy a 3 course

meal, participate in the auction of our Centenary jerseys and dance the night away to the live band. For this special event tickets are \$100.00 pp. A combo deal is also available for all events, centenary merchandise is also available on pre-purchase basis from the club or via Hornby's centenary website.

**All events are strictly pre-purchased with no door sales so Hornby Panthers supporters, players past and present are asked to either email: [hornbypanthers@hotmail.com](mailto:hornbypanthers@hotmail.com), ring 03 349 7000 or visit [www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz](http://www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz) for tickets and merchandise.**

Easter is always a time for families to be together, but never more so than this year when generations of players and supporters of the Hornby Panthers Rugby League Club will be celebrating their Centenary. They have started their hundredth year with a fantastic achievement - winning the New Zealand Rugby League Grassroots Club of the Year prize. As current President Brent Tomlinson says, it represents a lot of work by a lot of people, and he recognizes that some families have devoted years of service to the club.

The Panthers have a proud history with over 18 of their players going on to represent New Zealand beginning with Bill Stuart in 1924. Included in this is Mel Cooke, Canterbury's most lauded player of all time, the former kiwi test front row in Adrian Shelford, Ross Taylor, and Wayne Wallace. Other notable kiwis are Robin Alfeld

who had the distinction of also representing Oceania against the Europe in 1984, and David Kidwell NRL star and assistant coach for both the Kiwi's and the NRL Wests Tigers. Several Panthers currently play in the NRL including Panani Manumalealii and Fa'amanu Brown both of whom play for the Cronulla Sharks. Rulon Nutira has recently signed to play for the St. George Dragons having played some standout rugby league for his beloved panthers. Hornby have won the Canterbury Championship a record 27 times, and it was Mel Cooke as player coach who led them to victory in the Thacker Shield in 1964. Cooke was named one of New Zealand Rugby League's "Legends of League" in 1995 and in 2009 he was named in the NZRL's team of the century.

The club was formed in 1915 during the Great War and continues to show a fighting spirit to this day. They have overcome two world wars, changes to regulations and of course, the recent earthquakes, and it is always the members who pull together to overcome adversity and make sure that the club keeps going.

The same family names crop up again and again through the club's history, showing the amazing loyalty its members have. These include Courtney, Woodgate, Vivian, Neiman, Bray, Newson, Lewis, Arona, Woodham and of course the Lawrie's headed by life member Peter Lawrie who is followed by two sons and four grandchildren.





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# HORNBY PANTHERS ARE NEW ZEALAND'S TOP GRASSROOTS CLUB

By John Coffey QSM

Outstanding Canterbury club Hornby Panthers received a perfect start to their centenary season when named as the Grassroots Club of the Year at the New Zealand Rugby League awards night on January 28.

Hornby president Brent Tomlinson – who accepted the award along with his wife Joanna, a former club secretary – said the award “blew me away. It represents a lot of work by a lot of people over the years. It’s huge, especially with our centennial coming up at Easter.”

The Hornby club was formed in 1915 and made their debut in the Canterbury senior grade two years later. Since then the Panthers have carried off a record 27 premierships. Grand finals were introduced to the Canterbury competition in 1967, and Hornby have won 15 of the 21 for which they have qualified.

Mel Cooke, who played 22 consecutive Tests from 1959 to 1964 and captained the Kiwis to series victories over Great Britain and France, was undoubtedly the greatest of the 18 players chosen from Hornby to wear the New Zealand jersey. Cooke was a unanimous choice as loose forward in the NZRL Team of the Century in 2007.

Hornby provided the complete Kiwis front row, comprising props Adrian Shelford and Ross Taylor and hooker Wayne Wallace, when they triumphed 13-6 over the Kangaroos in a thrilling encounter at Brisbane in 1987. The team manager was John Bray, whose brilliant form for Hornby earned him Test honours at stand-off half against France in 1964.

Current Kiwis and Wests Tigers assistant coach David Kidwell was a Junior Kiwi from Hornby before embarking on an illustrious professional playing and coaching career in Australia.

Kidwell, Shelford and Brendon Tuuta are among 11 Hornby juniors to play in the NRL. Corey Lawrie, who was with the Warriors in 2007, is still toiling away in the Panthers forward pack.

The production line has not stopped yet, with both five-eighth Fa’amanu Brown and hooker Penani Manumalealii making their first grade debuts for Cronulla in 2014 and prop Rulon Nutira recently signing for St George Illawarra.

The Hornby club is inviting past and present members to register for their centenary through their website, [www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz](http://www.hornbyrugbyleague.co.nz)

Canterbury also featured among the individual awards, with young fullback Ken Tofilau being named as the New Zealand Domestic Player of the Year. From the Halswell club, Tofilau was stand-out performer in the Canterbury Bulls’ national premiership victory, was chosen for the New Zealand 18s, and earned a contract with the Newcastle Knights for 2015.



Brent & Joanna Tomlinson

# GET BEHIND THE BUTCHER'S 'SAVE MOUNT SMART' CAMPAIGN

By John Coffey QSM

When I heard the Mad Butcher on radio declare war against those attempting to evict the Warriors from Mount Smart Stadium I couldn't help giving a fist pump and my version of a rebel yell.

Frankly, I am sick and tired of our sport being a punching bag for government, city council and rugby union authorities to kick around whenever it suits them.

Just look around the country – the Wellington Rugby Union's teams now train at Rugby League Park; the Canterbury Rugby Union's team's now play at what used to be Rugby League Park; Eden Park was closed to rugby league from 1919 until 1988; the gates of Lancaster Park in Christchurch were locked to rugby league from 1920 until 1996; Carisbrook in Dunedin was never available to rugby league.

It has been going on forever. When a NSW rugby league team arrived in Napier before the First World War, rugby union people dismantled a temporary stand at the ground. Incredibly, the Australian players joined with the local pioneers to rebuild it over night!

Some years ago the Christchurch City Council produced a very expensive plan to revamp its sports venues. Rugby League Park, formerly the Addington Show Grounds and owned by the council, was to be sold off to business interests and the money used to improve the facilities of other sports. No provision was made for rugby league at all.

Former Kiwis coach Frank Endacott fronted a "Save Rugby League Park" group which argued the Canterbury Rugby League had a legal lease extending until 2037. It was touch and go until the council backed down. But the council then failed to carry out basic maintenance, hoping the pesky leagueies would pack up and go.

Rugby league had been played in Addington from its formation in 1912, and had been the Canterbury A and P Association's winter tenant from 1951. Unfortunately, the council became the new landlord after swapping land with the A and P Association in the 1990s and did soon realised it was sitting on a patch worth as much as \$15 million.

Then the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes put Rugby League Park out of commission. They also made AMI Stadium (the former Lancaster Park) unplayable. It was not long before rugby union authorities, with government and city council backing, chose Rugby League Park for a 'temporary' stadium while lobbying for a 35,000-seat, \$300 million, roofed stadium as part of the city rebuild.

Don't hold your breath that Rugby League Park will resurface in 2019, or 2022, or whenever the new rugby union stadium is completed. Most likely the land will be sold off by the council to help pay for that stadium.

So rugby league is an orphan sport in Christchurch and Wellington, and most other provinces too. At least rugby league in Auckland was big enough, and influential enough, to justify a permanent venue by right – or so we thought.

A chance to construct a world-class rectangular stadium on the Auckland waterfront was lost when rugby union and city council decided instead to pour millions of dollars into Eden Park which, like Westpac Stadium in Wellington and the old Lancaster Park in Christchurch, is neither suitable for cricket or the football codes.

In all cases rugby union influence forced the building of grandstands which encroached on the cricket boundaries, making them suitable only for a hit-and-giggle version of the game, but still leaving football spectators too far from the sidelines to provide them with maximum enjoyment.

Now the powers-that-be want to shunt the Warriors and Kiwis permanently to Eden Park – or even to North Harbour's struggling and uncompleted rugby union stadium – so they can reduce the debt. Mount Smart will become a speedway track. The Auckland Rugby League will presumably be left with nowhere to stage its major fixtures.

Continues next page..

Sir Peter Leitch can be diplomatic when he feels it necessary. But South Sydney did not get back into the NRL via diplomatic means. Souths' supporters marched down George Street and demanded their club be restored to the big league. And the Rabbitohs have never looked back since.

So Warriors fans, do whatever it takes, or suffer the same fate as your 'homeless' rugby league counter-

parts in Wellington and Christchurch.



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## THE NRL NINES: WHAT DID IT ALL MEAN!?

By John Deaker

People often say Nines is a “totally different sport” from the 13 man code and performances at the Nines are no indication of how the NRL season will go.

But surely they must mean something!

Here's some things we can learn from the weekend:

**1 - Souths are developing a winning culture** - Their win builds on their 2014 NRL success and, scary as it might be, there is truth to the mantra that success builds success. Look out for them at the business end of 2015.

**2 - The Sharks are hungry** - With coach Shane Flanagan's return from his ASADA ban Cronulla's progress will be fascinating. He has a point to prove, just like many of his players, who feel they are indebted to him.

**3 - There is no substitute for speed** - It is more prominent in Nines but the short form of the game reminds of the advantage speed can give in any version of the oval ball codes.

**4 - The grubber kick is a useful way to break down defences** - If it was practiced more, so the execution was as good as it was at the weekend, it could be a tool used more productively in the 13 man game.

**5 - Fatigue makes things interesting** - There is debate about the future of the interchange. It was interesting to see how different players handled fatigue in the Nines - especially in extra time in the final. Cutting down on interchanges could help increase the impact of smaller, fitter players.

**6 - Two Men is enough to make a tackle effectively and safely** - Teams in the Nines were reluctant to commit more than two players to tackles. That made for quicker play the balls. It also meant we hardly saw any players get into dangerous positions in tackles. It is so often the third or even fourth men who make tackles dangerous. There's a strong case for limiting tackles to two players. It would be a major move - but surely there is more reason to change than there is to stick with the status quo.

**7 - Watching players express themselves is refreshing** - It was great to see players openly enjoy playing at the weekend. It would be unrealistic to expect more players grinning from ear to ear in the NRL. But the Nines was a reminder that players grew up dreaming of being league stars. Sadly, because it's become their profession, they often aren't able to express themselves emotionally or physically because their sport is now their job.

**8 - Konrad Hurrell could have made a big difference** - Other team's stars could have been influential too, if they played, but Hurrell could have provided some of the X-Factor the Warriors lacked.

2015 Vodafone Warriors Anarchy  
Training Jersey

Available in:  
Adults S-4XL  
Kids 6-14

**\*\*PREORDER NOW - STOCK DUE  
IN 12 FEBRUARY\*\***



Available exclusively from the official online store at Mt Smart Stadium - our alternative training jersey is made in our core colours of black, red and grey.

Original design inspired by combat sports clothing and incorporating stylistic tattoo graphics.

This garment is a replica of what our team will be wearing for training and at our trial game at Bruce Pulman Park on 21st February. Made from a strong mesh fabric that is specially designed to wick away sweat during tough games. Features the CCC on the right chest and the 20 Years Vodafone Warriors logo on the left chest.

A man is shown from the waist up, wearing the training jersey. The jersey is black with red and grey patterns. It features the Vodafone logo in the center, the Canterbury logo on the right chest, and the 20 Years Vodafone Warriors logo on the left chest. The word 'ANARCHY' is printed in large, bold, red letters across the bottom of the image.

# ANARCHY

**CLUB EXCLUSIVE TRAINING JERSEY**

VODAFONE WARRIORS ALTERNATIVE TRAINING JERSEY MADE IN OUR CORE COLOURS OF BLACK, RED AND GREY.  
DESIGN INSPIRED BY COMBAT SPORTS CLOTHING AND INCORPORATING STYLISTIC TATTOO GRAPHICS.  
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# Nines Don't Need the Knockers

By David Kemeys

The other day I heard a bit of complaining about the price of tickets at the Dick Smith NRL Nines. Fair enough, we all like to do things as cheaply as we can, and we all know times are tough and competition for the old entertainment dollars is hard.

There's also been some reaction about a fight, and arrests at Eden Park, and of course lots of talk about the Aussies nicking the event and taking it across the ditch.

I am no apologist for Duco, though I do know David Higgins and Dean Lonergan. But before you ask, I did not get a free ticket from them, so fairs fair.

I took the old mother-in-law to the pictures the other day and it cost an arm and a leg, and we were all done in 90 minutes. The Nines goes about 16 hours – so at \$99 that's about \$6 an hour.

Millions of dollars in guarantees are on the line each year of the tournament, which I happen to know took about three years to actually get off the ground.

So it gets up my nose when the whingers hit the radio so quickly.

Getting this event up and running was an enormous task and the impact it has on the image of our great game is enormous. Then chuck in the benefits for the city. Crikey, even the trains worked!

Sure no one likes any kind of fight, and one arrest is one too many. But in context, for the size of the crowd, the behaviour was excellent. The police did not express any particular concern.

Last year there were two arrests, a week later at the Wellington Sevens there were 30. This year there were actually four arrests, two for people running on the field.

Last time I went to Eden Park for rugby someone hit me in the head with a full beer bottle he chucked - though I wasn't actually the target, he was just a crap shot. I don't blame the All Blacks.

About 180,000 people have been through the gates in the two years of the Nines, so one fight is hardly indicative of an out of control boozed up mob.

And actually the bars are strictly monitored, and there was a lot of publicity that pissed-up people would not be let in. In the first two hours you can buy four beers per person, then it falls to two beers, then just one, and the bars shut before the event ends.

Let's face it, rugby is Number 1 – with daylight second, so any chance we leaguies have to see our game showcased we should celebrate, not line up to take a crack.

Nothings perfect, but the Nines are pretty bloody good.



Photo courtesy of Photosport

# Luke Tipene Celebration Day

The league community has united to organise the Luke Tipene Celebration Day on **Sunday, February 15** to honour the promising 17-year-old who died after an inner city incident on November 1.

Four Vodafone Warriors teams and two from Luke's club Glenora will feature in a three-game programme at the Bears' Harold Moody Reserve in Glen Eden.

Glenora, the Akarana Zone, the Auckland Rugby League, the NZRL and the Vodafone Warriors have all joined forces for the occasion.

Luke had been contracted by the Vodafone Warriors as an NYC player for the 2015 season, and was about to begin preseason training at the time of his death.

Vodafone Warriors academy and pathways manager Duane Mann, a former Glenora player, said the league community had come together to put on a day to honour Luke and support his family.

"Luke was just starting out on his dream of becoming a professional," he said. "To lose someone so young with so much talent was devastating. We're all united in making this day a tribute to him."

After an **official opening at 10am**, the first of the three scheduled games will kick-off at 11am with Glenora's Fox Memorial squad facing a Vodafone Junior Warriors Selection, followed by a match at 12.45pm between the Vodafone Warriors' NYC and New South Wales Cup teams.

The final game at 2.45pm will pit a Glenora 17/18 side against the Vodafone Warriors Academy. Luke played for the Glenora side that won the Auckland Rugby League's under-17 championship last season and was named the ARL's under-17 Player of the Year.

The Luke Tipene Celebration Day is a non-alcohol event and will feature other entertainment:

- DJ Lenny on location on the police truck
- Fans will be able to have photos taken with the Four Nations and Holden Cups
- Former Vodafone Warrior Jerry Seuseu will be MC
- Flava in attendance
- Mad Butcher sausage sizzle and other food on site
- Bouncy castles and activities for kids
- Some players from the Vodafone Warriors' NRL squad are expected to be among the crowd to meet fans, sign autographs and pose for photos
- Kapa haka performers will open the event at 10am and will also perform a haka welcoming the teams on to the field for the final game
- Auctions to support the Luke Tipene Trust Fund – 'Helping Others'
- A silent auction with items on display in a marquee at the ground
- A live auction at the after-match in the Glenora clubrooms

Parking available at Duck Park via Captain Scott Road.

**Anyone wishing to make donations to the Luke Tipene Trust Fund – 'Helping Others' can do so at: Luke Tipene's Trust Account 03-1509-0279555-00**



Supporting The Luke Tipene Trust Fund 'Helping Others'

# Luke Tipene



# Celebration Day

**Sunday, February 15  
Glenora Rugby League Club**

Harold Moody Reserve, Glendale Road, Glen Eden

**10.00am - Official Opening  
kids activities, entertainment &  
auction for 'The Luke Tipene Trust Fund'**

**11.00am - Glenora Premiers v Vodafone Junior Warriors Selection**

**12.45pm - Vodafone Junior Warriors v Vodafone Warriors New South Wales**

**2.45pm - Glenora 17/18 Selection v Vodafone Warriors Academy**

**#LukeTipeneCelebrationDay**



# Taniwharau Rugby League Club Heritage

By Rex Hohaia

The TRLFC moves into its 71st year in 2015 and January's Jubilee celebrations were the culmination of an action-packed 12 months.

Held over the Waahi Marae complex, Te Wharekura o Rakaumanga papa takaro (football field) and the iconic clubhouse, it is testament to the people of Rahui Pokeka who recognised that such an arrangement was necessary for long-term survival.

While other clubs have celebrated 100 years recently, it is fitting that these three venues form the lifeblood of a game that has had its fair share of ups and downs. The club has, over 70 years, taken part and won numerous grand finals and championships, supplied seven Kiwis, endless NZ Maori players, and is held in high regard as a family-oriented (whaka-whanautanga) organisation.

The clubs' formation during a meeting held in 1944 at Hukanui a Muri marae in Huntly was highlighted at the celebrations.

The "lowering of the flag" concluded a year of activities organised by a band of volunteers, ably led by John Devonshire. To mention one person would generally be disrespectful to others, but this gentleman has shown that "blow-ins" can become "tangata whenua" after a lot of hard graft.

The highlight of the year was the naming of a team for the first 70 years, and while every league team has 13 individuals, the following players are and will be held in high regard for years to come by all at the club.

Bearing in mind that every star player needs 12 others to complete their team, and 13 to play against, in selecting these players, coach and manager, they will forever be grateful for the opportunities given them over their playing careers.

The function was historic in itself, in that it was the first alcohol-free and smoke-free (over 18) event associated with the club.

Admittedly the occasion had many having second thoughts, but by night's end, there were only positive comments. While mostly locals attended, a few also travelled from all points of the compass and guest speakers, ex-Kiwis James Leuluai, Howie Tamati and

Kevin Tamati, were well received.

The fact that NZRL President Howie Tamati, the Maori RL President John Devonshire and newly-elected Maori RL kaumatua Taakaroa Raihe were all in attendance, did not go unnoticed.

"The Huntly Hurricane" Lance Hohaia was chosen as Player of the first 70 years, and his proud parents accepted a small token of recognition on his behalf, presented by Howie Tamati.

Lance acknowledged the support he had received from the club and community in a Skype message from his current home in St Helens, England.

A bottle of bubbly was gifted to everyone in attendance (about 150). It had a specially-adapted label containing the club's coat of arms and every player and management official's name that had played NZ age grade and higher.

Masters of ceremonies Patara Berryman and Harley Raihe kept the audience entertained and no one needed to concern themselves with being over the limit when driving home.

A DVD of the kaupapa of league was also gifted to each attendee, and in another first for Taniwharau, the meal was catered for by Hamilton Caterers so that the womenfolk could enjoy the evening.

The ceremonial cutting of the cake saw club historian Rex Hohaia propose a toast to all those who have had an association with the club.

The reality is that we are all caretakers of this Earth, and those that have gone before us and who will come after, will all provide the same undying effort Taniwharau currently experiences.



# At the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines



Some Warriors supporters dressed as basketball players.



Everyone of these lookalikes is outstanding.



"Always party between the flags". These guys sure did!



Did these guys start the Mexican wave?



Look at these party animals.



Three bananas and a caveman all having a great time.

Assistant All Black's coach Wayne Smith loved the Nines.



It was great to have Ex All Black Stu Wilson in our lounge.



## The Newsletter Team

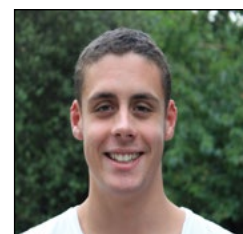
Here is the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it's a team effort.



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