

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

# Newsletter

19 February 2015

# #60



Taking a selfie with the fans.



Rugby league legend Ruben Wiki was in big demand in Rotorua.



Shaun Johnston was a big hit with the fans in Rotorua, they just love him.



Solomone Kata, Sam Tomkins, Albert Vete, Ngani Laumape and Marata Niukore.



Lewis Brown and Shaun Johnson. Two good mates catch up after the game.



This little man cheering for the Warriors.



Wonder what he's thinking?



Photos courtesy of  
[www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

## Panthers Hit-out Highlights Defence

THE Vodafone Warriors had a decent hit-out in Rotorua, and I have to thank everyone who went along to the game, because the crowd was very good for a trial.

I thought our defence was very good and we coped with everything the Penrith Panthers had, and we also looked pretty good going forward at times.

It was far from perfect, but that is what trial games are all about, giving young players a chance to show what they can do, and allowing things to be tried out, and combinations to play together.

## Black Caps Going Well

Well the cricket got off to a good start, with the Black Caps continuing their good pre-World Cup form, easily accounting for Sri Lanka in the tournament opener.

I have to be honest and admit I couldn't care less about any other team. There is only one side I am interested in – my team, the Black Caps.

Like the rest of the country I am really hoping they can go all the way and lift the Cricket World Cup.

Scotland, as most of us thought, presented little in terms of real challenge, but fair play to them, they dug in really well after a shocking start and put up a decent fight.

We did labour to get over the top of them and Radio Sport went berserk with all the doomsayers, predicting all sorts of catastrophe this Friday when it might all be different against England in Wellington.

But winning ugly is still winning and it is two from two and time to really get out and support Brendon McCallum and the boys.

## Blues Feeling Blue

My Blues got off to their customary ordinary start, going down to the Chiefs, and to be fair, plenty of sides will do that. But it would have been nice to start with a win.

At least I got to see my good friend, former All Black Jimmy Cowan, make his debut in our colours, complete with a flash new hairdo.

## Your Chance to See All We Have

Our season preparation continues this week with a trial at Papakura on Saturday, and it presents a very rare opportunity.

Almost every player contracted to the club will be on show.

The first outing is the NYC under 20s squad, who will play a trial among themselves from 12.30pm. The very best of the club's upcoming talent will be on show in that one, and then at 3pm the Vodafone Warriors NRL squad will play against the club's NSW Cup team.

That might be a lot more competitive than you think, because players from the NSW Cup side will be looking to impress coach Andrew McFadden and state their claims for a place in the full NRL squad.

And what is more remarkable about all that, is that you can see it at Bruce Pullman Park for just a gold coin donation.

I certainly can't recall ever having seen the club's entire roster on show in one place at one time, so it is quite unique.

Coach Andrew McFadden is committed to using a strong line-up this Saturday. Back in contention will be Manu Vatuvei and Nathan Friend who were both on NRL All Stars duty last week, while captain Simon Mannering, Jacob Lillyman and Konrad Hurrell could also be involved after missing the Rotorua trial.

New signing Jonathan Wright is another set to play. He had his first outing for the club in the New South Wales Cup side in an

in-house trial against the Vodafone Junior Warriors at the Luke Tipene Celebration Day.

"We're still finalising the absolute detail on how we will run the trial on Saturday but it will be a really solid hit-out," said McFadden. "We'll certainly have a full-strength squad and there'll be plenty of contact."

While the day will be vital for the Vodafone Warriors' NRL, NSW Cup and NYC sides, it doubles as a community carnival for the club. A full range of activities will be on offer for kids, while there'll also be a chance for members and fans to get up close and personal with their favourite players. As they did after the trial in Rotorua on Saturday, the players will go around the ground signing autographs and meeting fans.

There'll be a sponsor and community activation area with Smile Dealers on location to take photos of members and fans.

Counties Manukau Rugby League will be on site registering players for the 2015 season.

Later on Saturday I know some of the players are going to Mt Smart, but this time they will be paying to get in! They tell me they are quite excited about going to see The Foo Fighters.

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Our Australian correspondent Barry Ross challenges you to name as many 70's rugby league stars as you can. Find the Sydney Morning Herald quiz here:

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



## Luke's Memory Honoured

The league community did Luke Tipene proud when huge numbers turned out to honour him at Glenora's Glen Eden ground last week.

The Luke Tipene Celebration Day involved Glenora, the Akarana Zone, the ARL and NZRL, and the Vodafone Warriors, uniting as the 'community in league' for an event to remember a young man who had his life taken on November 1 last year.

And Luke would have loved it, with the focus of the three matches on playing the game.

Every vantage point around Harold Moody Reserve was packed, and over the course of the day it's likely 3000 people were there at some stage, among them Simon Mannerling,

Konrad Hurrell, Tuimoala Lolohea, Ken Maumalo, Raymond Faitala-Mariner and Sam Lisone.

It was a real carnival, with entertainment for kids, an array of food, music and more.

And then there was the league, played in good spirit in front of Luke's mother Terry Wilson and her family.

The Vodafone Warriors contributed four teams in the three matches. A selection from the wider NYC squad took on Glenora's Fox Memorial squad, shooting out to a 30-4 lead before holding off the fast-finishing Bears to win 30-26.

The club's New South Wales Cup side – coached by Stacey Jones – faced the best of the NYC-eligible players, winning 36-14, and the last match featured Luke's

Glenora club team against a Vodafone Warriors Academy side that got home 26-10.

## You Can Still Help

I got a wonderful email of thanks for helping promote Luke's day, from Brother national retail sales manager Sean Wilson, who tells me the day raised more than \$10,000 for kids who need help just getting football boots, and who are struggling to pay for league fees, just as Luke did.

It really was a great day so my thanks too to all involved. You can still make a donation if you want:

**Account Name:**  
**Luke Tipene's Trust "Helping Others"**  
**Account Number:**  
**03 1509 0279555 00**

Sean tells me that although Luke's mum Terry could use the money herself, especially for a headstone, she is a selfless soul and really wants all the money to help others.

## More Community Duties for The Boys

The Vodafone Warriors continue their school visits after last week's tour of Rotorua, making their way to schools in Auckland on Friday.

The NRL puts a lot of effort into the Community Carnival, and the Vodafone Warriors do too.

In the past week about 30,000 students were reached in Australia and New Zealand, with some particularly special visits undertaken by clubs including Manly in the drought-affected town of Moree, and the Eels visit to 1000 students in Alice Springs.

The NRL Community Carnival is now in its 15th year, with more than 250,000 students projected to receive visits from players over the four-week campaign throughout February.

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



The photo shows Botany MP Jami-Lee Ross saying thanks to The Mad Butcher for their support for the Botany Summer BBQ.

This was an inaugural event that saw over 700 people attend the Flat Bush Hall where families enjoyed the Mad Butcher BBQ, bouncy castle, face painting, music, pony rides, Chinese dragon dancing, police and ambulance displays, horse rides and a petting zoo.

The Highbrook Rotary Club cooked nearly 1,000 Mad Butcher sausages over 3 hours.

## Great People Reach Out to Say Thank You

You will recall the newsletter offering a double season pass to the Vodafone Warriors as a prize. I am delighted that it has gone to a really deserving winner, Ian Ryberg. I could tell you why I am so pleased, but I will let Ian tell the story himself, since he made my day by reaching out to say thank you. His email is below:

“Many thanks for the call telling me I had won the double season pass. Finances are a little tight at present so I was not able to renew my full membership this year, so winning these is fantastic. We have spoken briefly at various Warriors events over the past few years (I was on the bus with you going down to Hamilton for the Bulldogs game last year for example). I have attached a photo of me taken at the 2013 Xmas Party at Mt Smart - I'm the big guy on the left of Feleti Mateo so you may recognize me. Many thanks Sir Peter and go the mighty Vodafone Warriors!

Ian Ryberg

And just so you know, I got loads of entries for the competition and I thought I would drop a note to everyone who entered, sending them a Vodafone Warriors headband. I got an email back from one of our many readers, and I thought of how pleased I was that she too took the trouble to say thank you. It means a lot, because as you all know, the newsletter is a real labour of love.

I emptied the letterbox when I got home from work and found the usual junk mail and water bill. So imagine my delight to find an envelope from you! Thank you very much for the Warriors' headband.

What a lovely surprise to come home to.”

Christie McNeil-Melville

Ian and Christie, what can I say? You're very welcome.



### Battle for League's Big Prize

My mate and former Kiwis great Howie Tamati has been in touch about a big Champion of Champions league tournament on Saturday, February 28 at Ngamotu Domain in New Plymouth.

The tournament started last year and was first hosted in Huntly, with teams from Pt Chevalier Taniwharau (Waikato), Pacific (Bay of Plenty) and Waitara (Taranaki) competing, with Pt Chevalier being the eventual winners.

This year sees two teams from the Upper Central Zone and two from the Mid Central Zone, Taniwharau and Pikiāo (Bay of Plenty) making the journey south along with Whiti Te Ra (Manawatu) who will be making their way north, with local club Western Suburbs Tigers (Taranaki) playing host.

It promises to be a fun-filled, action-packed day of league.

There will also be game day entertainment, food stalls, a junior curtain-raiser, kids games and lots more, followed by an aftermatch

function.

Maori Television may also be attending to do a story on the day, so Howie and the Taranaki Rugby league are expecting a big crowd.

- 9.00am - Powhiri
- 9.30am - Managers Meeting
- 10.30am - Pikiāo v Western Suburbs
- 11.45am - Taniwharau v Whiti Te Ra
- 1.00pm - Sponsors Luncheon - Juniors Game
- 1.45pm - 3rd v 4th Playoff
- 3.15pm - Final
- 5.00pm - Aftermatch function
- 6.00pm - Aftermatch dinner
- 8.00pm - Function

### Countdown

Lock it in, our first game of the 2015 NRL season is against Newcastle on Saturday, March 7 (6.30pm kick-off NZT).

Lets get behind and support the Woolston Rugby League Junior Fundraiser and bid on the Kiwis vs Australia 100th test jersey donated by Gary Clarke.

Please follow the link below:

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

Any enquiry's contact:

*Fleur Barker*

*Woolston Rugby League*

021 169 3066







Join Janice and I at:

# A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Macular Degeneration fundraiser

Tickets  
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French Film Festival  
screening of  
*Barbecue*

**Monday March 2nd**  
**Rialto Newmarket**  
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Enjoy a free glass of bubbles, goodie bags and great company!



*Barbecue* is a fun, sun-kissed comedy that never takes itself too seriously. And it has a big problem... it'll make you want to get on the next flight out and go to the South of France!

*"Lavish lifestyles, sun-kissed settings, and a cast of local A-listers."*

The Hollywood Reporter

Bring along your colleagues, practice staff and your friends.  
A raffle will be drawn on the night.

**Tickets are limited – last year was a sell out!**

Tickets have to be pre-booked

**For tickets:** Call 0800 MACULA (622 852) or email [phillippa@mdnz.org.nz](mailto:phillippa@mdnz.org.nz)

# The Gap is Closing in Sports

By Ben Francis



IRELAND did not see it as an upset, but for the third cricket World Cup they have upset a big name team, Pakistan in 2007, England in 2011 and now the West Indies.

I predict there may be another one in this cup.

We are seeing smaller teams all over the world putting up bigger fights, causing upsets, and play-offs not decided until the last game.

The gap between the elite and the minnows is closing for many reasons.

What we saw from Auckland City was a prime example, a semi-professional football club beating some of the world's best - Moghreb Tetouan, ES Setif, Cruz Azul - all the best from their respective confederations, was remarkable to witness.

It's due to the quality of players, many of whom have played lots of football overseas, and who are now mentoring the youngsters in the squad.

Coaching staff get the leeway to assemble squads with players they want, which is what Phoenix head coach Ernie Merrick and Warriors coach Andrew McFadden have done, and what you see from the likes of Chip Kelly from the Philadelphia Eagles, and Greg Popovich from the San Antonio Spurs.

Coaches are building squads with players they believe will not only help them win, but bring different styles to the team.

Basketball fans are seeing a new way to win - playing as a team. The San Antonio Spurs are a team with no superstar, instead they play team basketball and it's proven to be a winning formula every season since 1997-98, delivering five championships.

Things are different on the international stage but because athletes are developing more at club level, when it comes to the international stage, things are getting more competitive.

As sport continues to grow and change, if we have learnt anything, leagues will only get more competitive.

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New Zealand Heavyweight Champion Joseph Parker is back in the ring March 5th at the Vodafone Events Centre, Manukau. He faces American challenger Jason "The Technician" Pettaway, a bullish, aggressive fighter who is renowned for his skilful counter-punch and slick ring movement.

**Tickets are on sale now, from just \$39 at [www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz)**



**PARKER vs THE TECHNICIAN**

**THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015  
VODAFONE EVENTS CENTRE  
770 GREAT SOUTH ROAD, MANUKAU**



# Christchurch Starved of top Class Footy

By South Island Correspondent John Coffey QSM



THE majority of league fans in Christchurch have never heard of Steve Noyce. But when he parted company with the Cronulla Sharks last October it was a black day for the South Island.

Noyce was responsible for more NRL matches being played in Christchurch than any other official on either side of the Tasman. He was chief executive of three Sydney clubs that all visited within a 10-year period while he was in charge.

When Noyce was the boss at the Wests Tigers they played “home” fixtures against the Vodafone Warriors at Jade Stadium for three consecutive seasons from 2004, with Benji Marshall as the star attraction. Noyce kept bringing Marshall and his mates even after they had won the 2005 grand final and were major attractions on home territory.

In 2010 he was the head honcho of the Roosters, so it was probably no great surprise that they also played a home game against the Warriors at Jade.

And what a game that was. More than 20,000 turned out in atrocious wet, cold and windy conditions to see the Warriors win 20-18 thanks to a try-scoring treble by fullback Kevin Locke. You might recall Locke’s sickening collision with a goalpost in scoring the spectacular match-winning try.

Noyce did not seem to mind that the fans were cheering for the Warriors on all of those occasions, nor that the 2006 victory over his Tigers was the first by the Warriors in an NRL match on New Zealand soil outside Auckland.

The 2010 and 2011 earthquakes wrecked that stadium but Noyce was not deterred. He still brought the Sharks to the city as part of their preparation for the 2014 NRL Nines, and it was a fair bet he was planning on staging an NRL fixture in Christchurch as early as this season.

At the time Noyce was quoted as saying: “We heard the Warriors don’t do too much in the South Island so there is an opportunity for us to help them (the league community) out a bit.”

Christchurch has been starved of top-class league. We last saw the Kiwis in the 2006 Tri Nations when

they beat Gt Britain 18-14. In fairness to the NZRL, however, the 2011 Anzac Test was scheduled for the city, only for the second earthquake to force a transfer to the Gold Coast.

So it was all the more disappointing to read in The Star recently that the Penrith Panthers have been frustrated in their attempts to negotiate with the city council to bring matches, coaching clinics and school visits to Christchurch for the next five years.

The Star reported discussions began as long ago as late 2013. Exasperated Penrith chief executive Justin Parsons said he had never known such procrastination. Penrith has a similar agreement with the NSW country town of Bathurst.

City council events development manager Richard Attwood told The Star the council was working through a process. He suggested an answer might be another month away. It surely took less time than that to take a damaged Rugby League Park away from our game, build the current 18,000 seater AMI Stadium and give it to rugby.

Penrith’s home game against the Warriors in 2015 is not until round 23, in late August, and venues and kick-off times have yet to be finalised. But by the time an answer emerges from the council the Panthers might have had to look elsewhere.

Only last week Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel screamed “Christchurch is back” into a microphone during the Cricket World Cup opening ceremony. Maybe she should ask her staff why Christchurch is not yet “back” on the NRL calendar.



And by the way, a big shout out to my mates at Factory Frames who do all my framing and a terrific job every time. If they’re good enough for the Butcher, they’re good enough for you!

Check them out at [www.factoryframes.co.nz](http://www.factoryframes.co.nz)

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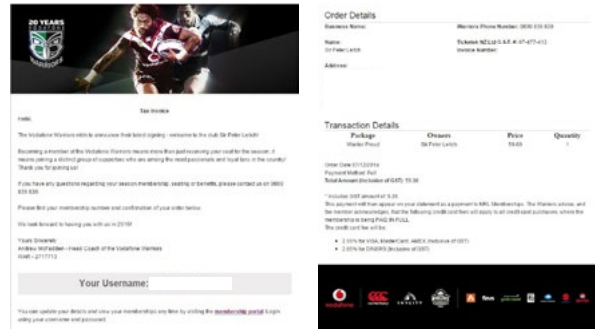


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 Membership line: 0800 839 839



# Breakers vs Wildcats

By John Deaker



**C**EDRIC JACKSON'S stunning three-quarter court buzzer-beater to claim victory over Perth in double-overtime at the weekend will have put ANBL players and fans on notice that with Jackson back the Breakers are back as genuine title contenders this year. There's no doubt that Jackson was sorely missed last year as the Breakers finished the season well down the table in 7th position.

Jackson's return to the team after a stint overseas had already been very noticeable this season, but Sunday night's winning shot by him emphasised how important his X-factor will be as the Breakers head into the finals series. People often talk about basketball coming down to the final shot but the victory at the weekend was as exciting finish to a match as you could hope for. Breakers' Assistant Coach Paul Henare called it "The best game I've ever been a part of", which is a big call for someone who has been around basketball as long as him.

As a team the Breakers have always prided themselves on being a side that's not reliant on one individual. But as the ANBL league has got stronger it's become even more important to at least nearly match some of the star-quality that other top teams possess. Before leaving the club to pursue his NBA dream, Jackson was the MVP for the ANBL in 2013 (as well as the finals series that year) where his play was crucial to them securing the historical three-peat of ANBL victories for the club.

Having the Breakers assured of being back in the finals series in the coming month is a relief for all New Zealand basketball as much as it is for the team itself. They might technically be a franchise but in many ways they fly the flag for New Zealand basketball on both sides of the Tasman. The amount of media coverage the sport receives is incomparable to what it received before they entered the league back in 2003. The great work that Breakers players and management do in schools and clubs to promote basketball has also been very significant.

Sunday night's win over their Perth was particularly special as it's the first time the Breakers have had a 4-0 win record over them in a season. The two arch-rivals have been the winner of the last five ANBL Championships between them. There is hotter competition than ever for the title this year though with Cairns and Adelaide both appearing to have good shots at breaking up Perth and New Zealand's dominance.

Ironically, their amazing victory at the weekend probably won't make any difference where the Breakers finish for the regular season. They'd need to beat table-toppers Cairns by more than 25 points in this week's final match of the regular season for it to have the extra significance. What the win has done though is it's got people talking about basketball again and reminded us how important the next month is for the Breakers AND all of New Zealand basketball.

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## 2015 Vodafone Warriors Anarchy Jersey

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.



**Available at:**

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

# Photos from My Week

## Granddaughters Birthday

It was my granddaughters birthday on Monday so we took her out for lunch. My daughter Julie, the birthday girl Kristen (24), my wife Janice, and our other daughter Angela and I all had a lovely luncheon.



## Lyla Carter's 90th Birthday



Lyla's son, Guy performing at his Mum's birthday.



This young lady Lyla Carter had a birthday on Sunday and would you BELIEVE she turned 90!

## Amy and James' Wedding



The happy Bride and Groom Amy and James on their wedding day on Waiheke. They both look fantastic.



The happy couple with James' Mum and Dad on their big day.



One very proud Grandad our mate Dexter.

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on BRIOCHE





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The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland**

\*One jersey is signed on the front and the other is signed on the back.

**Drawn on  
Wednesday 4th March**

## Whoops...

Last week we printed the wrong email. If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe please email Stephen Maier at [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz)

## Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS! Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can.



## 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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