



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

5 March 2015

#62

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Vodafone Warriors First Game of the Season: Vodafone Warriors vs Newcastle Knights Saturday 7th March 6.30PM (NZT)

I CAN NOT wait for tonight when the Brisbane Broncos will play South Sydney, the reigning NRL and Nines champions, in the opening game of this season's NRL. Souths will be cock-a-hoop having demolished St Helens 39-0 in the World Club Championship.

We Vodafone Warriors fans have to wait until Saturday night, when we open our year against the Newcastle Knights in Australia.

Sadly we have to wait until round three for our first home game, which is March 21 against the Parramatta Eels. But the wait will be worth it.

Our First Side Named

Five players are in line to make their debuts in the season-opening clash against the Newcastle Knights on Saturday (6.30pm NZT).

Coach Andrew McFadden has named Bodene Thompson and Ryan Hoffman in the second row in their first appearances for their

new club, with captain Simon Mannering moving to lock.

Solomone Kata has been confirmed to make his NRL debut in the centres, playing on the left edge.

Named on an extended bench are young props Sam Lisone and Albert Vete who, like Kata, are products of the club's NYC system.

If all five players make the final side, they'll take the club's number of NRL players up to 197 since our debut appearance in 1995.

"Ryan and Bodene have made a huge impact since joining us," said McFadden. "They bring so much to the squad in terms of not just their ability but their attitude and work ethic. They certainly have all the qualities we want to see across the board in our club.

"And Solomone, Sam and Albert have also made a big impression with their work in the off-season and their efforts in the trials. They've really earned their selec-

tion."

Returning to the side after three NRL appearances last year is Tuimoala Lolohea, who has been named on the right wing.

Veteran utility Thomas Leuluai will start at hooker with Nathan Friend on the bench.

The Newcastle clash is the first of back-to-back away games for the Vodafone Warriors to kick off their 21st campaign. On Sunday week they're in Canberra to take on the Raiders before having home games at Mt Smart against the Eels (5pm, March 21) and Broncos (2pm, March 28).

Team: Sam Tomkins, Tuimoala Lolohea, Konrad Hurrell, Solomone Kata, Manu Vatuvei, Chad Townsend, Shaun Johnson, Jacob Lillyman, Thomas Leuluai, Ben Matulino, Bodene Thompson, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering. Bench: Nathan Friend, Ben Henry, Sam Lisone, Albert Vete, Suaia Matagi.

Cricket Had It All

Where do you start? What a weekend of top quality sport. The Black Caps fantastic win over Australia in the Cricket World Cup at Eden Park had it all, though it did not do much for my ticker.

But the win all but guarantees a quarter-final spot and the icing on the cake was watching legend Martin Crowe being inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. It was an unbelievable day for NZ cricket.

Breakers Get It Done

The SkyCity NZ Breakers booked their final spot, beating the Adelaide 36ers across the Tasman, and they now prepare for game one of the three-game final series against the Cairns Taipans.

The first game is in Australia on Friday, and the Breakers will need to pull off a big one to bring the Taipans back to Auckland, so they have a chance of sewing it up on their home court.

That game is on Sunday at the North Shore Events Centre, because Vector is booked. To get tickets be quick and hop on: www.nzbreakers.co.nz

Lydia Ko is a Legend

Our World No1 golfer Lydia Ko won her second NZ Open at Clearwater, and if there is a more popular female sporting figure in NZ at the moment I certainly do not know who it is.

Phoenix Pull Off Upset

The Wellington Phoenix beat the Melbourne Victory 3-2 and the high-flying Victory will be spitting tacks, having led twice. It was a

cracking game played in front of a good crowd too.

Magic Show Grit

The Magic tipped over the Adelaide Thunderbirds 45-44 in Adelaide in the ANZ Netball Championship in a terrific game that was incredibly hard-fought.

Blues Fall Again

It was horrible watching the Blues go down in South Africa, courtesy of a bit of controversy, 25-24 to the Cheetahs. It must have a bitter pill to swallow for Jerome Kaino, who was making his 100th appearance for the Blues.

They are at the North Harbour Stadium this weekend against the Lions, so come on Aucklanders, support your side. They need a bit of crowd help after three losses.

Grab the Herald on Sunday

How is this! It's the front cover of the Vodafone Warriors magazine that will be distributed FREE with the Herald on Sunday this weekend. The 64 page magazine looks back over 20 years of the club and also includes NRL and NYC player profiles, NRL 2015 draw and much more.



Great New Ticket Offer

Fair play to the Vodafone Warriors, this ticket offer is brilliant, and I know a fair bit about good deals.

There's a new ticket pricing structure for Mt Smart, a three-game and five-game flexi pass. Casual fans can buy general admission to three games of their choice for just \$60* (\$30* for kids) or five games for only \$90* (\$45* for kids). The five-gamer makes it \$18 a game.

Another initiative is a three-tiered system for casual sales categorising home games as one-star, two-star, or three-star. That enables adults to pre-purchase tickets to one-star games for as little as \$20*, while general admission for children is fixed at \$10* for all games.

One-star: Reserved seating, covered, adults \$50, children \$20, family (2 adults, 2 children) \$120. Uncovered, \$40, \$15, \$95. South ends: \$30 \$10, \$70. General admission: \$20, \$10, \$50.

Two-star: Reserved seating covered, \$55, \$20, \$130. Uncovered, \$45, \$15, \$105. South ends: \$35, \$10 \$80. General admission: \$25, \$10, \$60.

Three-star: Reserved seating, covered, \$60, \$20, \$140. Uncovered, \$50, \$15, \$115. South ends: \$40 \$10, \$90. General admission: \$30, \$10, \$70.

NB: Prices at the gate on game day are higher than pre-purchase and online prices.



Pop-Up Channel Means Sky's The Limit

I confess I sometimes worry I'm flooding your inbox, so I was a concerned when I sent a third communication last week about Sky Television's pop-up Vodafone Warriors channel.

But at least I know Christie McNeil-Melville was grateful, because she sent me this: Thank you very much for this information, Sir Peter. I may well have missed some of the games if you had not taken the time to email it to us. I am really looking forward to the next few days and of course the start of the season next Thursday. Me too Christine. Keep the Faith.

And who should I hear from but my old mate Tony (Butch) Coll, who was a pretty fair Kiwi I can tell you. "Great work you're doing mate, keep it up, (the work I mean). I can't get enough newsletters, I send them out to about 20 recipients."

NRL celebrates 15 years of Community Carnival

More than 255,000 children have experienced league's "Health and Wellbeing" programme as part of the 15th annual Community Carnival.

It's been delivered at 965 schools and 77 Junior clinics in 383 towns across Australia and New Zealand.

"The 15th anniversary has been a great success. We've seen tremendous efforts from all of the players, ambassadors, development officers and NRL clubs," NRL community head Adam Check said.

"Players have delivered the programme to students in regional

areas as far as Alice Springs and Rotorua, travelling more than 40,000km along the way."

This year the NRL focused on empowering and educating students to value well-being in their own lives. Ambassadors, players and staff were armed with teaching resources mapped to the school curriculum, that demonstrate how important nutrition, physical activity and mental health are.

League Coming to Ngatea

The opportunity to make a start as a league player is about to get a boost in Ngatea, with the establishment of the Ngatea Knights Rugby League Club.

Having been involved with league since 1990, Berta Makiha has dreamed of establishing her own club for a number of years. Berta has seen the potential in Ngatea and the surrounding communities.

Berta says, "There is a real positive feel about the sporting community in the Hauraki Plains and coupled with the fantastic facilities in Ngatea there is a strong support structure ready to embrace a new opportunity."

League in the Thames Valley/Hauraki region has been gaining momentum over the last 3-4 years and a strong local competition exists. Club games are played on Sundays. There is a strong sense of 'club' and 'whanau' within the competition format as all club teams play at the same venue, home or away, on the same day.

The Mini-Mod group caters for under 6-12s while the international group are the Under 13, 15 and 17s. There are comprehensive

pathways for both groups to progress to higher levels.

There has already been a commitment from NZ Rugby League to host a carnival in Ngatea early next year that will also provide appropriate coaching courses for volunteers.

KiwiSport Development Officers will engage with schools to provide taster/skills sessions prior to the carnival.

Upper Central Zone (UCZ) is supporting the new club and will be working closely with Berta and her team of volunteers to make sure Ngatea Knights reach their full potential.

Berta has already been busy behind the scenes and has volunteers in administration and coaching committed and keen for the 2015 season. Of course there is always room for any new volunteers.

Anyone who is keen to get involved can call Berta on **0272827325**.

New Rules for Integrity Unit

The NRL has outlined new powers the Integrity Unit will have to conduct investigations. The revised rules will give the Unit the power to require clubs and players to co-operate fully.

They will include requiring them to provide documents including phone records (such as a phone bill) but it is not proposed to require players to provide their phones as part of investigations.

Continued on page 5...



THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S huge ROUND 1 ISSUE...

Jam-packed with FEATURES and NEWS, plus the debut of new columnists ANTHONY WATMOUGH, MATTHEW ELLIOTT AND NATHAN BROWN; Plus a massive pullout INTERACTIVE DRAW and CAPTAINS POSTER.

FEATURES

- **Paul Gallen** opens up in an in-depth interview about the ASADA drugs scandal, how he handled his ban and plans to rebuild his image, plus his desire to have a swansong in the Kangaroos jersey and reverse his ban from playing;
- **Corey Parker** is on the verge of becoming a one-club 300-game player with the Broncos. He spoke to us about how he went from starry eyed Brisbane fan to be among the club legends;
- **Penrith's** dream run was done with some star players and young guns who were forced to watch from the sidelines. They bonded during the time and will bring that connection back to the team this season as they push to go further;
- **Josh Dugan** has one eye on success with Dragons that he hopes will put as the front-runner for Jarryd Hayne's vacated No.1 NSW Blues jersey. It all starts this week against a Storm team that features three of the Maroons' best.
- The **All Stars** game is a must-have feature of the NRL calendar says Gorden Tallis, while Hayden Knowles gives insight into what we can expect from some of the NRL side's stars in 2015; and

PLUS... **Anthony Watmough** faces the club he left in such dramatic circumstances at the end of last season. He takes us through how the move eventuated and how it's reinvigorated his love of footy; **Matt Elliott** explains the fine balance between switching from pre-season training to prepping for Round 1; **Nathan Brown** casts an analytical eye over this year's competition and picks out those that are already a good chance in 2015.

AND: Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview, lower grade previews, Top 8, news and Knights team poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

Thursday, March 5.

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NEWSLIFEMEDIA

Continued from page 3...

A spokesman said clubs were already required to inform the NRL when they knew a breach of the NRL rules had occurred but the revised code will require clubs and persons bound by the code to report to the Unit any matter it “reasonably suspects” may constitute a breach of the rules.

The Code will also prohibit the display or transmission of any message that vilifies, intimidates or harasses a person. It also prohibits the display or dissemination of sexual or obscene images.

Well Done to All Down in Kaiapoi

My friend Jocelyn Larsen tells me everyone involved with the North Canterbury Rugby League in Kaiapoi is very excited to be having an official opening of the clubrooms on Friday. It has been a huge achievement to raise the funds to rebuild, along with maintaining a cashflow for the club itself.

The club has just started its second spec home in Sovereign Lakes, Kaiapoi, but Jocelyn, who is the club treasurer, tells me they might not make as on this one as the first, but it will certainly give the club a good financial footing.

Congratulations to you all I say. Forward-thinking, a great project and a terrific idea.

The other piece of good news is that the club has secured funding to engage the services of a sport development officer to encourage youth into physical activity (in particular league).

Prize Winners

Kiwis Jersey Winners



“Once Again Thank You So Much!
We love it!” - Joan Meowho



Valerie Bowden wearing the Kiwis jersey with her son Leo.

“Thank you so much, I couldn’t be happier.” - Valerie Bowden

Boxing Ticket Winners

The winners of the boxing tickets are:

- Jason Saunders - Papamoa Beach
- Te Haua Tana - Highland Park
- Simon Johnston - Remuera

Fight details:

Parker vs Pettaway
Thursday 5th March
Vodafone Events Centre

Book tickets here:

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



NEW



Rugby league club starting in Ngatea 2015

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please contact Berta
on 027 282 7325**


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Great League Man Passes On

SYDENHAM, Canterbury Rugby Football League and Referees Association Life Member Peter Yaxley has died aged 87. His funeral is on Saturday, and our South Island correspondent John Coffey is preparing his obit.

Peter was a long-serving member of the Canterbury Rugby League Board as Ref's delegate and refereed a test in 1974 when the Kiwis played Great Britain.

He also played for Canterbury seniors, and was in the triangular schoolboys' tournament in 1945 in Grey-mouth, the forerunner to senior schoolboys tournaments we have today.

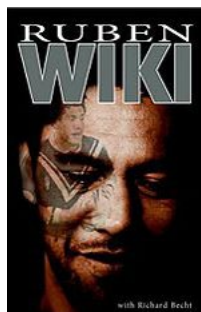
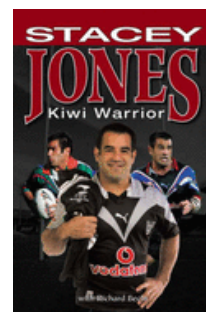
That's Peter on the right with his friend and fellow Canterbury Referees Life Member Tony Drake at a seminar in Dunedin.

And the NRL is also mourning the loss of former Australian and NSW coach Terry Fearnley, who died aged 81. Fearnley played 139 matches for Eastern Suburbs between 1954-55 and 1957-64, and coached at Easts, Parramatta, Western Suburbs, Cronulla and Illawarra. He also played one match for NSW in 1960. Fearnley also became the first coach to win a State of Origin series for New South Wales after his team's historic victory in 1985.



Congratulations to the Massive Giveaway Winners

- The Vodafone Warriors Jersey - Tyler Blake from Albany
- Wendy's 2012 Limited Edition Player Cards - Liz McDonald from Botany and Kevin Dixon from Nelson
- 2015 Season Guide - Bruce Pert from Mount Eden
- Be Your Best by Steve Price- Kevin Miller from Mt Eden
- Kiwi Warrior By Stacey Jones with Richard Becht - John Pereiria from Sanringham
- Ruben Wiki with Richard Becht - Linda Brown from Upper Hutt
- Big League Magazine - Corey Jackson from Christchurch
- Vodafone Warriors Supporters Scarf and Warriors Hat - Lyel Barnes from Queensland Australia



Enjoy your fantastic prize.

New Seasons

By Barry Ross



AUSTRALIAN fans cant wait for the 2015 season to begin on Thursday night. Major newspapers in Sydney and Brisbane have run six pages of our game everyday this week, while talk back radio has also been a popular forum for listeners to discuss who will win the opening games. The television stations too are heading their sports stories with Rugby League matters.

With World Club Champions and 2014 Premiers South Sydney journeying to Brisbane to take on the Broncos in the first game, the atmosphere on Thursday night will be electric on the east coast of Australia, as well as many other places throughout the country and of course in New Zealand. In the north of England many people will be late for work as with the time difference, they will be able to watch the game before punching their time clocks.

Probably 500 to 1,000 South Sydney fans will make the 1,200 kilometre journey north to watch their beloved Rabbitohs. They will fly, take the train and drive to Suncorp stadium. Souths have an enormous supporter base and the visiting fans will be joined in Brisbane by many local Rabbitoh fans. Back in Sydney, the luxurious South Sydney Junior Leagues club at Kingsford will host close to 400 fans in their packed auditorium where the game will be screened live on their mammoth 21 square metre screen. All tables were snapped up several days ago, but the members and guests who missed out will be catered for in the numerous other bars and dining rooms where all TVs will be switched on to the match.

New South Sydney CEO, John Lee, who worked for James Packer as CEO of Casinos Australasia before joining the Rabbitohs, is overjoyed with the support for his team.

“ I don’t know the exact number of our fans who will travel north for the Broncos game, “ he explained, “ but I believe there could be as many as a thousand with many of these from our Burrow members. “

“ On 26 April, we are moving our home game with the Raiders to Cairns in North Queensland and already a leading travel agency has put a well supported three package deal together for our members wishing to attend the match. “

“ Nowadays many people are arranging family holidays so they can attend their club’s away games. That is what is happening for this Thursday’s game in Brisbane and also for the Cairns fixture. “

At this time of the year, the weather on the eastern Australian seaboard is warm and balmy and this adds to the atmosphere at the games.

As well as Souths supporters, all the other away clubs will have strong support at their games. With former Manly star, Anthony Watmough, stripping for the Parramatta Eels against his old club, Parramatta stadium will be rockin’ and rollin’ on Friday night. Manly fans are notorious for not travelling to away games in numbers, but I predict this won’t be the case on Friday night.

On Saturday afternoon, many Kiwis will fly to Newcastle and they will be supported by a large contingent of Kiwis living in Australia. The Titans-Wests Tigers clash on the Gold Coast will draw many Tiger fans north, primarily because of the many exciting and talented young players in the Tigers lineup. Everyone knows of the drama at the Titans, so this home match on Saturday will be a big indication as to how their fans have reacted to the drug situation.

The Cowboys have been tipped for a big season by many good judges and the locals will fill their Townsville ground for the Saturday night clash with the powerful Roosters lineup.

The Bulldogs travel out west to the base of the Blue Mountains to play Penrith and this should be a well supported game. Bulldog fans do travel, while the locals will be keen to see if the Panthers can continue on from their great efforts last year.

Ricky Stuart and his Raiders go to Shark Park on Sunday and both teams will want to begin on the right foot after their poor 2014 seasons.

On Monday night, the Dragons host the Melbourne Storm at Sydney’s Kogarah Oval. The Dragons managed to draw with South Sydney in the Charity Shield a few weeks ago and they are confident of a good 2015. Melbourne will be an early test for them.

McCullum's Legacy isn't reliant on a World Cup Victory

By John Deaker



WHATEVER happens in cricket's World Cup, Brendon McCullum has already left a significant legacy on New Zealand cricket that he can be extremely proud of when he finally hangs up his Black Cap.

In the selfish world of professional sport many sport-people leave the game that has dominated their lives since they were kids with some great mates, a few memorable achievements and often a large amount of cash in the bank. A very small percentage of them are able to leave a prominent legacy on their sport like the one Brendon McCullum is already certain to leave on New Zealand Cricket.

McCullum is a positive, charismatic role model for young cricketers throughout New Zealand while also inspiring many non-cricketers to take up the sport for the first time. His appeal reaches much wider than that though with his appearance and approach to the game endearing him to men and women who may have had little or no interest in cricket in the past.

He wasn't always so universally liked by men and women of all ages. Prior to taking over the New Zealand captaincy, much of his career was plagued by unwarranted criticism from sections of society who didn't seem to understand or accept him.

Not long after taking over the captaincy McCullum discussed the issue of the criticism he has received: "I think the rocks or diamonds nature of my style of play probably opens the door more to that kind of criticism," he said. "I've learned to deal with criticism over the last decade or so. Sometimes it hurts my family more than it hurts me though."

Ironically, many of the character traits that prevented people from accepting him are the same ones that have now seen them embrace him as a really special New Zealander that we're so lucky to have leading the National team. They are also some of the same traits that saw an article printed out of Australia this week with the headline: "Why we wish Black Caps captain Brendon McCullum was an Aussie"

One strength of McCullum clearly on show in the

weekend's victory over Australia was his courage. Kiwis love their heroes to be battlers just as much as the Aussies do and his brave performance after copping a vicious blow to the forearm from Mitchell Johnson elevated the man who's already a national hero into almost Superhero status in the eyes of some people.

The television coverage that showed McCullum's forearm swell up within seconds of him getting hit was a very graphical reminder to viewers that what he makes look easy at times as he charges and Dilscoops the fastest bowlers in the world is not only difficult but is extremely dangerous too.

When you hail from Dunedin where they pride themselves more than anywhere else on being "real men" and you have an older brother (Nathan) almost as competitive and talented as yourself you almost have no option but to "man up".

Not that McCullum has ever been one to take a backward step since his emergence on the International scene against Australia in 2002. He might have been only 18 at the time but that didn't stop him displaying the same sort of confident and combative demeanor back then as we saw from him at the weekend.

Like we've seen with Kane Williamson more recently, McCullum stood out through age-grade cricket so much from his peers that for those following him closely through his teens the debate often wasn't so much about whether he'd play for New Zealand as it was about whether he'd go down as one of the greats of his generation.

Many cricket purists already viewed McCullum as one of New Zealand's greatest wicket-keeper batsman before he took over the captaincy and hung up the keeping gloves. Unfortunately, many of the less fanatical followers of cricket will never adequately value what he achieved for New Zealand through that period.

Continued on next page...

McCullum's made huge progress with both his batting and his captaincy since his role in the team changed and it's undoubtedly a huge relief to administrators and fans that he didn't leave New Zealand Cricket at some stage during the period after Ross Taylor initially beat him for the captaincy position. The two roles have undoubtedly complimented each other ; McCullum's grown in confidence with his captaincy as a result of his batting going to a new level – while his superior batting has also directly helped New Zealand to many important victories.

If he's able to stick around in the roles a few more years and continue making progress in both areas his place as one of New Zealand's greatest cricketers of all time will be hard for even his harshest critics to argue with.

Last month when Brendon McCullum became the first cricketer to win New Zealand's Sportsman of the Year award since Martin Crowe it was further recognition that his efforts are being more widely appreciated these days. The triple century that highlighted his landmark year also appeared to fully put to bed any lingering doubt that he might have had about his ability to become a world-class test batsman.

Since getting those runs behind him, McCullum seems to have accepted his role of captaincy and the promotion of the game within the New Zealand media even more. Yes, a World Cup victory would be the icing on the cake – but just the fact that McCullum has got a nation that often prides itself on claiming the underdog status openly saying “I think we can win this” shows the impact that McCullum has already had.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Canterbury Rugby League formally advises that the Canterbury Rugby League Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 April 2015. The Annual General Meeting is called in accordance with the CRFL Constitution section 12.3 - Notice of Annual Meetings.

When: 6.30pm Wednesday 8 April 2015

Where: Halswell Rugby League Clubrooms,
301 Halswell Road, Christchurch

www.canterburyrugbyleague.co.nz



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VB NSW Blues
vs

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Win State of Origin Tickets
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The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland

***Competition is for game tickets only**

**Drawn on
Monday 23rd March**

1994 - Life Before the Warriors

By John Deaker



IT'S unnerving for some of us more senior citizens to realise many of the Warriors' most enthusiastic fans might not even have been born when the club debuted in what was then the Winfield Cup.

The 20th anniversary of their stunning first-up encounter with the Broncos at Ericsson in March 1995 provides an opportunity to reflect on league life before the Warriors.

The following list suggests there was plenty happening that winter of 1994:

- Although the Kiwis had a quiet programme, they won both tests in Papua New Guinea under new coach Frank Endacott and captain Duane Mann.
- The New Zealand Residents, also coached by Endacott and captained by Mann, were unbeaten on a four-match tour of Australia.
- New Zealand Maori competed in the Pacific Cup in Fiji, the tournament won by Tonga.
- Western Samoa played three games in New Zealand.
- A New Zealand team took part in the World Sevens in Sydney for the first time, beating France and USA before losing to Fiji in the quarter-finals.
- The Gary Kemble-coached Junior Kiwis gained their first series victory over Australian High Schools while winning all five games in Australia.
- A new 12-team, season-long, national Lion Red Cup competition, modelled on the Winfield Cup, saw North Harbour Sea Eagles beating Counties-Manukau Heroes in the grand final.
- Canterbury retained the Rugby League Cup, repulsing challenges from Wellington and Auckland.
- Stacey Jones inspired Auckland's St Paul's College to beat Wellington's Wainuiomata College in the final of the inaugural National Secondary Schools Cup.
- Northcote Tigers won Auckland's Fox Memorial for the fourth consecutive year, beating Otahuhu.
- Ken Laban coached Marist-Northern to win the Wellington championship, while the Papanui Tigers beat the Halswell Hornets in the Canterbury grand final.
- Other club title winners included Moerewa (Northland Super Six), Turangawaewae (Waikato), Piako (Bay of Plenty), Western Suburbs (Taranaki), Taradale (Hawke's Bay), Golden Bay (Nelson), Blenheim (Marlborough), Waro-Rakau (West Coast), South Pacific (Otago) and Leopards (Southland).
- Duane Mann, having captained the Kiwis, New Zealand Residents and North Harbour to their respective victories, was the recipient of the NZRL Player of the Year award.
- Overseas, Daryl Halligan was the top individual points-scorer (270) in the Winfield Cup and Frano Botica scored most (414) points in the British first division.
- A record seven New Zealanders played at Wembley Stadium when Wigan beat Leeds to win the Challenge Cup for the seventh consecutive season, and a record five Kiwis featured in Canberra's Winfield Cup grand final victory over Canterbury.

So there was plenty of footy for league enthusiasts to savour in 1994. And we were all waiting with anticipation for the Warriors to make their Winfield Cup entry the following season. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Cashmere Club Offer - Christchurch - Visit: www.cashmereclub.co.nz

This Saturday from 6pm as the Warriors kick off their season against the Knights across the ditch - a pre kick off BBQ courtesy of the "POM" - wear ya colours and support the boys

Caps take on Afghanistan at McLean Park Napier, join us as the Kiwis continue their unbeaten run to the Final - mid afternoon BBQ on offer to all members thx to the "POM"

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What's Happening In Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



FOURTEEN Northland teenagers aged 15-17 have been selected as part of a Northland Secondary Schools development cricket team to tour Sri Lanka.

During Easter the group will travel to Sri Lanka for a 16-day trip that will involve six matches against school and club teams.

Former Northern Districts player and Northland legend Joseph Yovich spoke about the tour. "The lads will have the opportunity to experience the culture, food, environment, and to simply see how cricket in the continent is seen as a region."

The tour will also involve sightseeing, visits to landmarks, and activities that include a safari tour, seeing some of the beaches, cultural dance show, and a visit the Pinawala Elephant Orphanage.

"There's no hiding the fact that it will be a tough tour in more ways than one with having to play in foreign conditions and climates. Success as individuals or as a group in the continent would be a real feather in their hats," Yovich said.

Sri Lanka's population is more than 20 million, but despite the country's prowess at cricket, volleyball is actually the national sport.

The team is:

Matthew Lobb, Chamodh Peiris, Shane Burton, Matthew Kingi, Jarod Ross, Hamish Kidd, Sean West, Liam Jones, Dante Mitchell, Quinn Pooley, Owen Arthur, Connor Wilson, Shaun Beamish, Shannon Kloppers.

Northtec Adam Blair Trophy Update

There have been some great results in the Northtec Adam Blair Trophy. A rematch of last year's final saw Whangarei Boys get payback after their loss to Kamo College, winning 48-4. Other round two results saw Kaitaia beat Northland College 20-16, Kura Hokianga beat Brothers 20-16, Okaihau won a tough game against Whangaroa 32-22, and Dargaville High beat Tikipunga 46-18.

A Northtec Adam Blair XIII will have the chance to play a Warriors development squad on March 28 as part of the Rugby League Northland Premiership season opener.

If you want to play league in Northland, contact Alex Smits on [09 437 9640](tel:094379640) or alex.smits@nzrl.co.nz.

Adam Blair attended Whangarei Boys High. He started his career with the Melbourne Storm, making his debut in 2006, playing 121 games. Blair then spent three years with the West Tigers, playing 71 games, and in 2015 will suit up for the Brisbane Broncos.

Blair was also part of the 2008 Kiwis Rugby League World Cup winning team, scoring the final try of the game.

Ainsy and Jefferies Called out That I Needed Glasses

By Pat Hanning

BEFORE I read this I thought the national male sport of the West Coast was sprinting out of the pub because of police raids. But that changed when I saw a bunch of Coasters had whipped the shorts off the best the British could muster in league in 1947, and that an amazing succession of Coasters, including a significant number nurtured by the Greymouth Marist Rugby League Club, had become heroes in Kiwi jerseys.

Two members were Kiwi captains, 17 were Kiwis, three are NZRL Legends of League, one was a test referee and three were All Blacks. Another two, Bernie Wood and John Coffey, wrote the definitive centennial history of the NZRL.

This book began, the author says, as a book to mark a noble milestone for the club. It is much more; it is a snapshot of change on the West Coast.

The great Marist names are there – Coll, Skinner, McBride, Sweetman, Reiha, Harcourt, Hibbs, Greaney, O'Brien, Kennedy, Kokshoorn.

League was a deep passion in many families, and they became the team behind the teams. Among them the Kavanaghs, Sparks, Walkers, Greaneys, Masons, Woods, Byrnes and Crawfords.

They supported former players who, when selectors tired of them, still turned out to impart priceless experience and enthusiasm developed on the world stage to teenage acolytes.

Even Kiwi legend Tony Coll, who played 30 tests for New Zealand, pays tribute to such coaching in the book. Dry this history is not. You can taste the amber liquid and laughs of the after-match functions, flinch with the blows in the scrums, and taste the mud of Wingham Park.

And so to the title: "Ainsy and Jefferies Called Out That I Needed Glasses". It is a complaint former ref and current WCRL chair Peter Kerridge makes about misbehaving Marist players that has gone down in folklore. This book is about happier times, when Marist was South Island champion and West Coast frequently defeated Auckland. It is well-deserving of a place in West Coast and New Zealand league history.

Every league in New Zealand should raise a fond smile from the stories in this excellent publication.

**Greymouth Marist Rugby League Club memories for the Club's 90th Anniversary
By Gerry Morris**

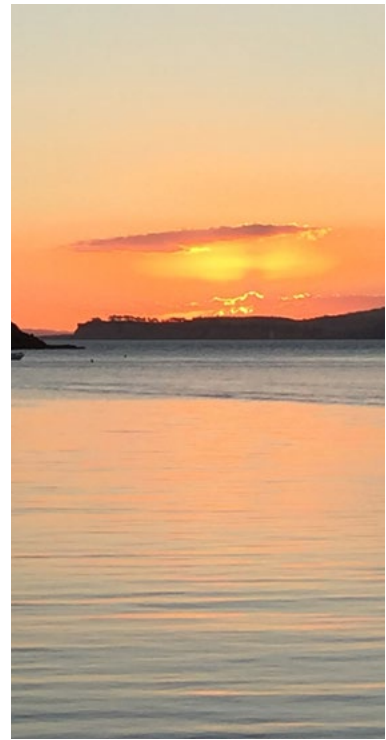
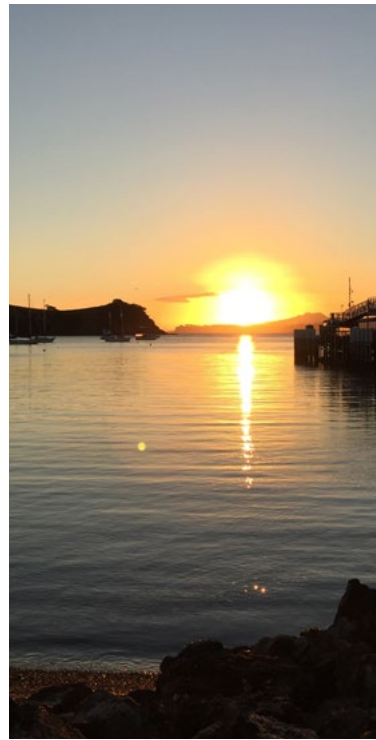
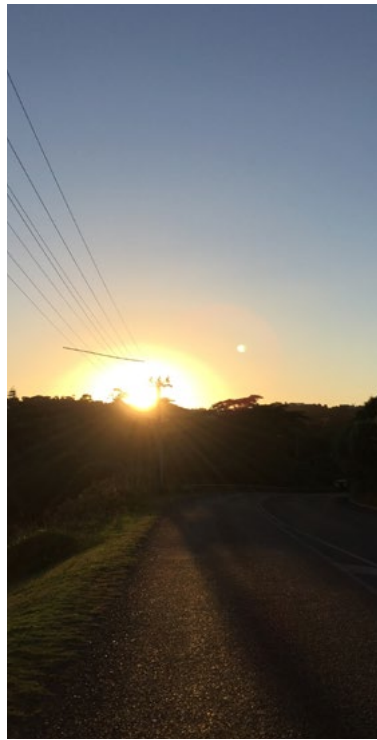
**\$45 (incl p&p) 130pps, 80 illustrations. Available from Grey Star PO Box 3,
Greymouth.**

* Pat Hanning has been a feature writer for The Herald, a sports writer for the Sydney Morning Herald and a senior journalist and editor with magazines and newspapers throughout NZ.



Beautiful Sunsets on Waiheke Island

I thought I would share a few of our sunsets on Waiheke. If you can beat them send them in for our next newsletter.



If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

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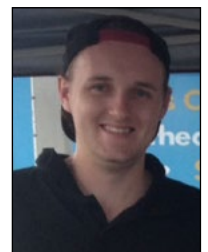
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