

WANT A WEEKEND AWAY AND TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR 4 NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE TEAMS?

The weekend of May 1st and 2nd will be a rare opportunity for New Zealand Rugby League fans to support all four national teams in Australia: the Kiwis, the Kiwi Ferns, the Junior Kiwis and the New Zealand Defence Force team. You won't want to miss it!

Prior to the 2015 ANZAC Test Match will be a special pre-game entertainment extravaganza that will showcase the arena musical experience "The Spirit Of The ANZACS". Some of Australia's finest entertainers including Jack Thompson, Lisa McCune, Lee Kernaghan and Sheppard will honour 100 years of ANZAC pride with a musical journey through ANZAC history.

- The opening game will be the **NZ Defence force vs Australian Combined Armed Services**
- The curtain raiser will see the **Kiwi Ferns take on the Australian Jillaroos**.
- Tickets from just \$30 AUD. Use password **Kiwi2015** to access discounted prices. [Here](#).
- In addition the following day, just down the road on the Gold Coast there will be a massive triple header: **Junior Kiwis v Junior Aussies, Fiji v PNG and Tonga v Samoa** at Cbus Stadium. Tickets for this Triple Header from just \$10.

Click on the images to learn more...

TWO GREAT DAYS OF INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE IN QLD



2015 ANZAC TEST MATCH
AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND

FRIDAY, 1 MAY / SUNCORP STADIUM

BUY TICKETS
ADULTS FROM \$30 | FAMILY FROM \$80

See below for ticket packages that include entry to Dreamworld!

TICKET PACKAGE 1
2 DAYS OF INTERNATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE

- ✓ May 1: **2015 ANZAC Test Match**
- ✓ May 2: **Pacific Test Double Header**
- ✓ **+ Dreamworld entry**



TICKET PACKAGE 2
2015 ANZAC TEST MATCH ONLY

- ✓ May 1: **Suncorp Stadium**
- ✓ **+ Dreamworld entry**

TICKETS FROM \$70



TICKET PACKAGE 3
PACIFIC TEST DOUBLE HEADER

- ✓ May 2: **CBUS Stadium**
- ✓ **+ Dreamworld entry**

TICKETS FROM \$55



TEST MATCH LUNCH
Wednesday 29 April, 2015 - Ballroom Le Grand, Sofitel Brisbane

TICKETS ON SALE NOW >>

This will be a great lunch with both teams attending!

NRL HOSPITALITY
OFFICIAL PROVIDER



Confident Kearney Senses Elusive ANZAC Test Triumph

By David Long - Article from Sunday Star Times

HE HAS steered the Kiwis to a world cup win and two Four Nations titles, but an Anzac test victory remains an elusive goal for Stephen Kearney.

He perhaps has his best chance yet of achieving that in Brisbane on May 1 when the Kiwis line up against the Kangaroos at Suncorp Stadium.

While the Kiwis beat the world champions twice at the end of last year, the Australian side were severely understrength and that's a point the Aussie media will be hammering home over the next few weeks.

But the Kiwis should also be able to field an improved team with the likes of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves and Ben Matulino all available for selection this time around.

By the 2017 world cup, Kearney will become the longest-serving Kiwis coach, but for his legacy, not to mention goals, he really does need a victory in the annual mid-season test.

"It is a box that we'd like to tick off. It will be a different challenge to the one at the end of last year," Kearney said.

"But we do go into it with some real confidence, we go there with a mindset of some players who are at the peak of their careers in terms of their form — Issac [Luke], Jesse Bromwich. We've only scratched the surface to be fair," he added.

"The group of forwards are relatively young, the two halves, Kieran Foran and Shaun Johnson, are both 24. So my way of thinking is that their best football is in front of them, that's an exciting prospect for this group. But we can't just wait for that to happen, we've got to continue to evolve ourselves and the next group underneath are pushing and challenging the current players. For me it's a matter of making sure we have a focus of thinking about our strengths and taking them into the contest.

"I'm sure if we do that then we give ourselves every opportunity." Kearney won't name his Kiwis team until just after the last NRL game the week before the test is completed; he's been burnt too many times with players picking up injuries going into the match.

With the players who skipped the Four Nations coming into the reckoning, along with those who performed so well last year, Kearney possibly faces one of the biggest selection headaches he's had in his seven years in the job.

"What last year created was that guys who didn't play [in the Four Nations] are very keen to be a part of the Kiwis group again," he said.

"In order to do that they need to perform and be playing well. Players like Elijah Taylor, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Ben Matulino, Sam Moa and Sam McKendry as well as Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, who didn't get to the opportunity to play in the Four Nations, are all playing well and that's a positive for us."



Kiwis enforcer Jared Waerea-Hargreaves missed last year's Four Nations but is expected to be named in the New Zealand squad for May's Anzac test.

Photo: Getty Images

Article reproduced with permission of the Sunday Star Times.

Kearney's Kiwis Believe they Will Fly

By David Long - Article from Sunday News

YOU'VE won the World Cup and the Four Nations twice as coach, but never the Anzac test. Is that the final frontier?

It is a box that we'd like to tick off. It will be a different challenge to the one at the end of last year. But we go into it with some real confidence, we go there with a mindset of some players who are at the peak of their careers in terms of their form. Issac [Luke], Jesse Bromwich. For me it's a matter of making sure we have a focus of thinking about our strengths and taking them into the contest. I'm sure if we do that then we give ourselves every opportunity.

What do you make of Shaun Johnson's form this season?

Every player has their ups and downs during a year. The point that we all want to remind ourselves of is what Shaun can bring to the table in terms of a performance. I don't think it's that far away. The one thing that I've noticed with Shaun, watching him grow over the last 24 months or so is that he recognises that himself, that he hasn't played up to his capabilities, and I know he'd be working hard to try to rectify that.

You've recently been appointed through to 2017 World Cup. Do you think you'll stand down after that?

I haven't thought about it that way. I couldn't have told you in 2008, when I got asked if I was interested in the job, how long I'd be here for. I didn't know then if I could do the job or even wanted the job, so I can't really say how much longer I want it for. All of my focus is on doing as good a job as I can for the test match coming up on May 1, then we've got a campaign [against England] at the end of the year. So I'm looking ahead to those things and also making sure we continue to grow and polish what we have as an organisation and a group.

You've coached in World Cups in Australia and England, what do you think it will be like to coach in one in NZ?

It will be fantastic, but that's two years away and my energy is primarily on a month away. What we do in a month will be working towards what we do in two years' time and part of what we did last year, and the steps we took in bleeding some younger players, was with 2017 in mind.

With so many players putting their hands up, how tough will it be to name the Kiwis team?

What last year created was that guys who didn't play [in the Four Nations] are very keen to be a part of the Kiwis group again. In order to do that they need to perform and be playing well. Players like Elijah Taylor, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Ben Matulino, Sam Moa and Sam McKendry, as well as Dallin Watene-Zelezniak, who didn't get the opportunity to play in the Four Nations, are all playing well and that's a positive for us. It puts pressure on the guys that were there.

The Anzac test might be too early for them, but what have you made of the young Warriors props Sam Lisone and Albert Vete?

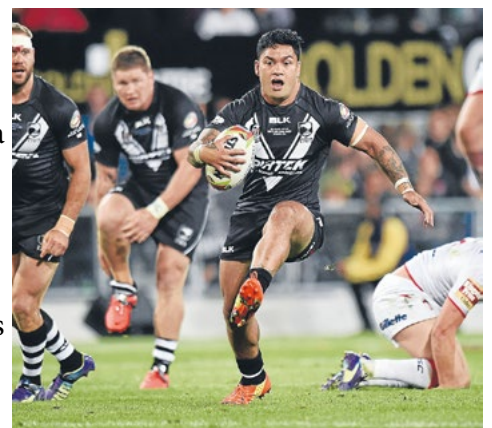
They've been really impressive. They've given the Warriors some real punch when they come off the bench and replace Ben Matulino and Jacob Lillyman. Obviously, Sam is part of our Junior Kiwis programme so we've always been well aware of what he's capable of and Albert has always been there or thereabouts - that's a real positive for us.

There was a story in Australia recently where you said Issac Luke could be Kiwis captain. Surely you're not moving on from Simon Mannering?

There's no question that Simon won't be the captain. But Issac is a leader and a captain in his own right. He is part of the leadership group in the team, but Simon is our captain.

The average age of the Kiwis squad is still young. Do you still see more improvement?

We've only scratched the surface to be fair. The group of forwards are relatively young, the two halves, Kieran Foran and Shaun Johnson are both 24. Their best football is in front of them, that's an exciting prospect for this group. But we can't just wait for that to happen, we've got to continue to evolve ourselves and [make sure] the next group underneath are challenging the current players.



Issac Luke in action during the 2014 Four Nations against England.

Photo: Photosport

Article reproduced with permission of the Sunday News.



Special Offer for all New Zealand Rugby League Fans...

Accommodation rates at **Hotel Jen Brisbane** on Thursday 30 April, 1 May and 2 May 2015 start from \$165 per room/ per night including breakfast. **Book Now** and mention this advertisement, to secure your booking!

Hi!
-I'm Jen

Inspired by a virtual persona, Jen's a professional hotelier who loves life, travel and the adventure of discovering new places.

Hotel Jen Brisbane facilities include:

- Full Buffet Breakfast \$28 or Grab 'n' Go option \$10
- Free Wi-Fi
- Discounted car parking of \$29.00 per day
- Brand new NEST Restaurant & Lounge Bar on-site
- 24 Hour room service and reception
- Direct access and discounted Air train tickets to the Brisbane Domestic and International Airports
- Direct access to Roma Street train and bus stations
- Direct taxi access in hotel driveway
- Complimentary Gym and Sauna facilities
- Spacious 4.5 star accommodation rooms - newly renovated
- 8 min walk to Suncorp Stadium

Terms and Conditions Apply



For Bookings: (+61 7) 3238 2206 | sharyn.andersen@hoteljen.com | 159 Roma Street, Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Win 2x Return Flights and Tickets to the ANZAC Test

The Crowd Goes Wild Breakfast want to get you to the ANZAC League test between the Kiwis V Kangaroos, Friday 1 May – Suncorp Stadium Brisbane.

Thanks to Air New Zealand they have return flight for 2 to Brisbane and tickets to the ANZAC test.

Listen out all this week to The Crowd Goes Wild Breakfast with Mark & Andrew on Radio Sport for your chance to get into this Fridays draw to win.

AIR NEW ZEALAND 



Poppy Appeal - Remember to Care

This year, 100 years since Gallipoli, we remember those first soldiers who went ashore at Anzac Cove, just as we remember those who came after– the thousands of Kiwis who served, and are still serving, overseas.

The annual RSA Poppy Appeal is a practical way to show we care. There are more than 30,000 people in our community who have served overseas, from World War II, to Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor, the Pacific, and in UN missions. They all deserve our support.

Poppy Day is not just about getting a donation. It's about helping fund the services the RSA provides, assistance like grants for those in financial difficulty, help with practical tasks, supplementing healthcare, counselling, meals on wheels, home maintenance or offering friendship in times of need or illness.

I'm backing the RSA, and so are others including my good mate Sir Graham Henry, so this year, as well as donating to a collector on Poppy Day (Friday, April 17) you can **donate by texting POPPY to 4662**, online at <https://rsa.org.nz/Donation> or at any ANZ branch or Z station.



**POPPY
APPEAL**
REMEMBER TO CARE

text **POPPY** to **4662**
to donate \$3 to the RSA Poppy Appeal or
donate online at www.rsa.org.nz/donation

Subscribe to the Mad Butcher's Weekly Newsletter Email:
stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

BLK



AIR NEW ZEALAND 



PIRTEK
fluid transfer solutions



Kiwi Ferns



Junior Kiwis



Kiwis Merchandise Giveaway - Prizes Courtesy of **BLK**

We are giving away **2 prize packs** consisting of the Kiwi's 2015 Anzac Test Jersey, a Kiwi's Cap and a pair of Kiwi's Jandals



BLK proud sponsor of the Kiwis.

We are also giving away **6 prize packs** consisting of a pair of jandals.

To be in to win 1 of 8 Kiwis Prize Packs just send a stamped, addressed envelope or postcard to me in the mail with your name, address, phone number and jersey & shoe size on the back to the address.

Kiwis Prize Packs
 P.O Box 54295
 The Marina 2144,
 Manukau, Auckland

Name:
 Address:
 Phone Number:
 Jersey & Shoe Size:

**Drawn on
 23 April 2015**