



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

# Newsletter

16 April 2015  
#68

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Warriors Team on Manu's 200th game.



Manu Vatuvei scores a try.



Manu Vatuvei comes onto the field for his 200th match

# Manu Vatuvei's 200th Warriors vs Wests Tigers

## 32 : 22



Manu Vatuvei, left, after his 200th game with Martin Taupau, Jonah Lomu and Ava Seumanufaga



Ryan Hoffman being tackled.



Crowd cheering on the Beast



Thomas Leuluai in action.



Tigers player Tim Simona can't stop Bodene Thompson from scoring a try.



Shaun Johnson breaks the line.

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

# Rise of The Beast

By Matt Logue - Article Courtesy of the Big League Magazine

**C**LUMSY Klutz is still a phrase that cuts deep for Manu Vatuvei. The discontent can almost be felt down the phone line when the term is raised; Vatuvei has bitter memories of the day he had a complete shocker against Parramatta back in 2007.

On a Monday night that can only be described as a disaster, three of his six errors directly resulted in tries to the Eels. Big Manu had nowhere to hide and the catcalls came from everywhere, including the commentary box.

Vatuvei was dropped for his disastrous performance and he seriously considered hanging up the boots.

“That’s one game I’ll never forget,” Vatuvei reflects. “I learnt a lot of lessons that day and it’s one I keep in my memory.

“Any time I take things for granted or lose perspective, I always look back on that day and think of the hard work that got me through. That was really tough for me and that was one of those days when I thought, ‘that’s it for me’ and ‘I’m going to retire’.

“Thankfully Ivan Cleary had the trust and belief in me that I could bounce back.”

This Saturday against Wests Tigers at Mt Smart Stadium, Vatuvei will play his 200th NRL game. It’s a special milestone for a bloke who has faced countless challenges since making his top grade debut against South Sydney back in 2004.

“I never thought I’d ever reach this point of my career,” he says. “I guess part of me is just shocked and can’t believe I’ve lasted this long.

“After that game against Parramatta, I started working before and after training with high bombs and now it has paid off. I also owe a lot to plenty of people to reach this point and I’ll be forever grateful.”

## The Motivation

As a boy growing up in Otara, South Auckland, Vatuvei never had loads of money, but he was always blessed with plenty of support. This care came from his parents, primarily his father Siosifa, who worked long hours in the local factory to support the family.

Now 74 and happily retired, Vatuvei Snr continues to be a major source of motivation for his son – as a footballer and a person.

“I’ve had times when I wanted to quit, but seeing what my dad used to do, working long hours, motivated me to just keep going and provide for my family,” explains Vatuvei, who has three sisters and one brother.

“Dad did long hours in the factory and he’d leave early in the morning and not get back until late at night. We hardly saw him as kids, but he did that for us and dad is very proud of me.

“He always gives me a lecture and is one of the biggest critics of my game, but I’m better for it because he always tells me straight.

“Dad gets a season pass every year, but he just doesn’t travel as much to away games.” Long before Vatuvei starred on the NRL stage, he spent his youth juggling stints in rugby union and rugby league with track and field events ranging from the 100 metre sprint through to long jump and shot put.

“I wasn’t too fast though!” he jokes. “I’ve always been one of the bigger guys, but most of the other kids were the same size so I wasn’t too sure if I was big or small at the time.”

Luckily for Vatuvei those natural skills are perfect to succeed at the highest level in league.

The chance to achieve this unlikely dream became reality when he attended Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and the deputy principal convinced him to flick rugby and play league for his son’s team. A few months later Vatuvei was picked up by the Warriors as a development player and, as they say, the rest is history.

“I still remember the day I told my dad that the Warriors gave me a chance,” he recalls. “He knew the hard work and dedication that went into me making a career. It was quite emotional telling dad. I went and told him at his work and we both had a few tears. “That was a moment that I’ll never forget.”

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## Personal Side

Vatuvei is a self-confessed big kid at heart. He admits he idolised comic book superhero The Hulk as a kid – a fitting character given the demeanour of the winger off the field and how destructive he is on it. Just as The Hulk's reserved alter ego Bruce Banner becomes outraged under stress, a humble Vatuvei transforms into a barnstorming 'beast' on field.

"Growing up I was always interested in superheroes," Vatuvei says. "I was a big fan of Superman, but as soon as The Hulk came along, he became my favourite."

Vatuvei is also a devoted family man – his wife, three daughters and relatives are the most important people in his life. The Kiwi Test representative is so close with his loved ones that he regularly completes training sessions with them.

"I like playing tag with my family and there are times when I do some training with them too," says Vatuvei, who in 2014 was named the NRL's Favourite Son for his work in the community.

"I like to keep active and spend as much time with my family as I can, because we do a lot of travelling with the Warriors every second week."

Big and fearsome, Vatuvei appears to be the last bloke you'd want to bump into in a dark backstreet. But what if the winger was a policeman – official badge and a flashy cop car and all?

Sounds crazy, but it's in the process of becoming reality.

"I really want to work in the police force," he reveals.

"I've already looked into doing a few courses and spent some time with a few police people just going through what they do.

"I've also spoken to a few of my mates who are police who have told me it will be better for me to start when I retire.

"That's something I'm really looking forward to doing."

Before joining the boys in blue though, Vatuvei is determined to finish his NRL career on a high and repay the Warriors for helping him become the respected man we see today.

"I owe the club everything," he says. "They've supported me and helped me grow up from the kid to the man I am know.

"I've still got the fire burning inside me that I still want to play and that's what is keeping me in the game at the moment. I think once that burn and desire runs out is when I'll hang my boots up, but until then I have plenty of things I want to achieve."

What about those commentators who once labelled him 'Clumsy Klutz'?

"Well they did come up with the Beast nickname and I love it," he says.

"I had that big afro in my first game and I think the commentators thought it was a good fit and it has stuck with me for the rest of my career. I was pretty happy with that though. It's how people see me as a player, so hopefully I live up to the name."



## Manu's Career By Numbers

Vatuvei scored 17 tries in 23 games in 2014, the ninth season in succession he has scored.

10 or more tries in a season. If he scores 10 this year he will become the only player in the competition's history to have scored 10 or more tries in a season for 10 years straight.

Vatuvei has also been the Warriors' top or equal top tryscorer for eight consecutive seasons.

He has 137 tries in 198 matches and is currently 19th on the all-time list, behind only Billy Slater and Brett Stewart among current players.

He has also claimed the record – from Nigel Vagana – for the most Test tries for the Kiwis (20 in 27 Tests).

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## An Honour To Share Manu's Record

LAST Friday night I was privileged to be included in something really special, when the Vodafone Warriors hosted a surprise dinner to mark Manu Vatuvei's 200th NRL game for the club.

The big winger knew nothing about it, so was caught totally unaware as friends, family, some club officials, and his teammates gathered to salute him, and see him presented with his match day jersey by his father.

It was extremely moving, which is quite remarkable when you consider I don't speak Tongan. But you did not have to be a speaker to read the body language, which was all about love, respect, passion and affection.

"The Beast" as Manu has been nicknamed, is a wonderful man. He's incredibly humble, very family focussed and is held in enormous stead by his teammates and friends, a group I am very proud to be included in.

No one could have been more pleased than me when Manu's teammates stepped up to the plate and provided a win for him at Mt Smart on Saturday night over a Wests Tigers side that refused to lie down.

The icing on the cake was the two tries he scored himself as the players took the advice of the crowd, who chanted "Feed the Beast" several times.

I was slightly disappointed that the crowd was not bigger for such an important occasion, but those who stayed home missed seeing Manu

equal Nigel Vagana's 140 tries for a Kiwi in the NRL, A record he is sure to surpass very soon.

### Oh What a Night...

After all the pre-game fanfare for Manu Vatuvei the script went well.

The big man was the first Warrior to cross the game, although lots of Tigers fans are still crowing he was out. It's yesterday's news now though and when Manu drove over with two men on him the crowd went wild.

That try was scored in the 16th minute. By the 29th minute the Vodafone Warriors had three more.

In the 21st minute Chad Townsend dummied inside and found a passage to the line for his second try of the season. It was 10-6 with Johnson's conversion from in front.

Three minutes later it was 16-6 as Konrad Hurrell found Tuimoala Lolohea on his shoulder to send him in between the posts.

The surge of scoring continued in the 29th minute, Shaun Johnson standing the defence up as he sped through for his first try of the season.

There was a lapse before halftime, when James Tedesco scored, and he looks the goods that boy.

It was down to two points 11 minutes into the second half and at 20-18 the nerves were jangling.

Into the last 16 minutes the advantage was still only two points. All the possession statistics were in our favour but the advantage wasn't showing on the scoreboard.

In the 70th minute Johnson flashed up wide on the outside, shifting to Solomone Kata, who rolled a one-handed overhead pass for The Beast, who careered over for try No 140 to equal Vagana's record.

The Tigers didn't quit though, Pat Richards scoring wide out. The conversion missed but it was just 26-22 with five minutes to go.

In the 78th minute they disappeared. Up went a bomb, Ben Matulino contested, batting it back for Bodene Thompson to collect his first try for the club.

### Lounge Goes Off

It is actually a lot of hard work to make things happen in the lounge, and I enjoy great support from a number of people. Our reward is to see you enjoy yourselves, and boy did that happen on Saturday.

Before the game we had former Kiwi and Vodafone Warrior Motu Tony in the house, now based in the UK, it was a pleasure to host him.

Then at halftime three players, Ngani Laumape, Glen Fisiiahi and Ben Henry, came to see us. Normally I would get on the microphone and have a chat, but I handed over to Ngani, and what a hoot that boy is. It was a great session and had the place in fits of laughter, going down a treat.



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Our resident DJ Pete seemed to be on fire and had the place hopping, so although it was not a big crowd for Manu's milestone, those that did make the effort had a great time, and I thank everyone who took part, and our sponsors who make it all possible too.

### Manu Makes An Impression

Did you see this on our excellent [www.warriors.co.nz](http://www.warriors.co.nz) website?

Hilarious as the boys do their best impressions of Manu ahead of his 200th game.

Find it [here](#).

### Oh No! We Lost A Winning Ticket

Our great supporters at the TAB give us a weekly bet.

Saturday's ticket was for Manu Vatuvei to score the first try.

Of course he didn't, he got the second. But being big-hearted and wonderful supporters of the Mad Butcher Club, they said they would pay out if he scored first or second.

So we were in the money – only we lost the ticket! D'oh. But thanks anyway to the TAB. Your involvement is much appreciated, and the weekly bet always gets people talking!



Brendon Poplewell from the TAB.

### NSW Cup Side Into Fourth

We accounted for Wests Tigers 28-16 at Mt Smart, a result that bumped us back up the table to fourth and also put our points for and against differential back in credit.

With long-time NRL front rower Sam Rapira starting, the Vodafone Warriors didn't want for go-for-forward. Also back in the line-up was experienced NRL forward Sione Lousi.

Vodafone Warriors 28 (Api Pewhairangi, David Fusitu'a, David Bhana, Jarrod Tua, Viliami Kaveinga tries; Api Pewhairangi 4 conversions). Wests Tigers 16 (Kurtis Rowe, Delouise Hoeter, Brenden Santi tries; Josh Drinkwater 2 conversions).



James Bell fending off an attacker.



David Bhana on the move.



David Fusitu'a dives in the corner for a disallowed try

### Juniors Tame Tigers

The Vodafone Junior Warriors swamped Wests Tigers 38-4. Facing the fourth-placed Tigers, the fifth-ranked Junior Warriors found their scoring mojo early, but they then had to defend – and they did it superbly – for long periods.

The 34-point winning margin gave the Vodafone Junior Warriors' points for and against a huge boost as they moved up to third on the ladder from four wins and two losses.

Vodafone Junior Warriors 38 (Thomas Aoake 3, Paul Ulberg 2, Ofa-hiki Ogden, Erin Clark tries; Ata Hingano 4 conversions, penalty). Wests Tigers 4 (Obad Kawhin try).



Erin Clark shakes a Tiger off.



Nathaniel Roache makes a break.



Tomas Aoake scores a try.

## The Fight Is On Stay At Mt Smart

It's no secret that I am one of those who does not want to move to Eden Park. It guts me absolutely that rugby league just gets kicked around and told to wear it.

It is equally true that there are more problems around Eden Park than anyone cares to admit. It's a terrible ground to get to, the view is not great, oh bugger it, let's just admit it, the place is a dog.

So our fans need to get active and bombard their councillors and let them know we do not want to go. The situation is so bad that our chairman Bill Wavish has said the club may have to take NRL games out of Auckland if we are forced out of Mt Smart.

Bill Wavish has also warned we could withdraw support of the Auckland Nines if compelled to leave when our lease expires at the end of 2018.

The Auckland Council's Stadiums Strategy wants us out of Mt Smart so they can use the place for speedway, with us going to North Harbour or Eden Park.

Wavish said recently: "The council wants to throw all of this money at Albany in the hope we'll go there - we'll never go. We'll go to Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin or Hamilton before we go there.

"The fans don't want to go to Albany, it's too far and there are major traffic problems. Mt Smart has always been the home of the Warriors."

Wavish – and me for that matter - are urging fans to lobby local councillors.

Go to: [www.warriors.co.nz](http://www.warriors.co.nz) to learn more.

### Great to see Blues win

The other sporting highlight for me was to see The Blues finally notch up a win, beating the high-flying Brumbies at Eden Park.

It is no secret that my good mate Sir John Kirwan has been under the pump about the terrible start to the season, seven straight losses before Saturday, so having that monkey off his back must give some measure of relief.

## Nines Flashback



Check out these Butcher Boys



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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I would like to say a big thank you to the fantastic team at Photosport. They provide the newsletter with their photos for us to use throughout.

Check out their website: [www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

Take a look at their photos and support them by buying a few.

They are top people!

Your Old Mate  
Sir Peter Leitch



# Mt Smart's Turf is Worth Fighting to Defend!

By John Deaker



The NZ Warriors' fans need to band together in their battle for the retention of Mt Smart Stadium as the team's home ground. The club's 20th Anniversary was significant last month because the lack of history the club has behind it has often been viewed as one of the key obstacles to obtaining a club culture that can make the team consistently competitive in the NRL. To lose the ground that has been their spiritual homeland through those first 20 years in existence would be a big backward step for the club.

The Warriors appear to be safe in the short-term with their current license at Mt Smart valid till the end of the 2018 NRL season. However the longer the City Council and RFA (Regional Facilities Association) are allowed to push on with their plan to move Speedway to Mt Smart and the Warriors to Eden Park, the harder its going to be to change their minds.

The key problem is the people making the decisions have no appreciation for what Mt Smart Stadium now means to the Warriors and also how little Eden Park can actually offer that is better than the status quo. The Council has attempted to provide research that tries to suggest a change of ground would work but in reality their key agenda is to see Eden Park better utilised. The fact that so much money was pumped in to the ground for the Rugby World Cup has been a key factor in leading to this unfortunate situation.

For over-spending on rugby to now become rugby league's problem isn't fair. A few years ago some people at Warriors HQ might have held the belief that Eden Park could work for the Warriors. Now that experimentation with using the larger venue has been done over a long period of time it's apparent to the current Warriors' management that moving to the Mt Eden base would be a poor decision.

The superior capacity was thought at one stage to be a big positive that Eden Park could provide that Mt Smart couldn't. But as the initial novelty of Eden Park wore off the crowds slumped dramatically. Crowds of 38,412 and 37,502 in 2011 and 2012 dropped to 14,392, 22,160 and 18,165 in the 3 matches there last year. Not surprisingly, no home games are scheduled for there this year because there is very little upside in Eden Park as a venue.

It's also apparent to people that some of the figures of around 70 million dollars that people from the Council had quoted Mt Smart needed for it's upgrade were massively exaggerated figures to what the ground really needs to continue being used.

The key problem with Eden Park is actually something statistics can't prove: that the atmosphere you get at Eden Park ( for the size of crowd the Warriors can realistically expect ) is nothing like the fans and the players are able to experience at Mt Smart Stadium.

Unfortunately the Council had already drafted their plan to move the Warriors to Eden Park before those 2014 matches were played. Not that the results would necessary have influenced them. If representatives from the Council even attended matches at Eden Park they probably viewed the matches from corporate boxes where the 'feel' or 'flavor' of their food and wine is probably much more important to them than the feel or flavor of the match.

In the Council's defence, many of the people who are planning the merry-go-round of stadiums appear to have noble intentions and simply want to get the best out of Auckland's current facilities. Unfortunately they have no feel for the wants and needs of the Warriors club.

It's not too late for Warriors' fans to stand up and fight for their turf. Petitions and even marches are organised for much less worthy causes these days. This is one fight that surely the Warriors' faithful are capable of banding together on – but they need to move fast or it will be too late to reverse the momentum of this stadium merry-go-round. Get onto your local councilor and let them know your thoughts. That like the Butch you don't want them to move.

# UNBREAKABLE BLACK STICKS WIN SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

**T**HE Black Sticks Men have had some well-deserved attention this week after winning the 2015 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in thrilling style with a 3-1 shoot-out victory over Australia on Monday.

The win gives the team a real confidence boost ahead of the team's Olympic Qualifier – the World League Three – which is being held in June in Argentina.

Arriving at Auckland Airport yesterday with medals and the trophy in tow to face a pack of media, the guys were keen to talk about their win with the focus being on a rare victory against world No.1 Australia.

The final few minutes of Monday's game were heart stopping with the Black Sticks taking a 2-1 lead with a penalty corner goal from Andy Hayward, only for Australia to tie the game again with 29 seconds remaining.

With the game locked up 2-2 at fulltime, goalkeeper Devon Manchester proved the hero in the shoot-out with three saves as the Kiwis romped to the title.

It was the first time in the tournament's history that the winner has been decided in a shoot-out, and also the first time the final has been an all-Oceania affair.

Drag flick maestro Andy Hayward took out man of the match for his two goals against the Kookaburras while Manchester won goalkeeper of the tournament.

Head coach Colin Batch was thrilled that his side were able to close out the game under the intense pressure of a shoot-out.

"We're very excited and pleased with our performance not only in the final but throughout the tournament. The guys should be very proud of themselves," he said.

Throughout the tournament, which is held every year in Malaysia, the Black Sticks drew 3-3 with Korea, lost in pool play to Australia 1-3, crushed Canada 5-0, snatched a late 2-1 win over India and sunk Malaysia 4-2 in the opener.

Keep up to date with all Black Sticks news at [www.hockeynz.co.nz](http://www.hockeynz.co.nz) and like us on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/nzblacksticks](https://www.facebook.com/nzblacksticks)



## Black Sticks Women win 2-1 and take top spot

**A** goal from Gemma Flynn in her 200th international test has helped the Black Sticks Women secure a 2-1 win against Korea at the Hawke's Bay Cup in Hastings tonight.

The win means the Kiwis finish top of Pool B and will face India in the quarter-final at 6pm this Thursday.

Black Sticks head coach Mark Hager says although there are still improvements to be made, he is pleased with the win and can see the progress the team is making.

"I don't think we are playing at our best yet. I imagine the statistics were probably pretty even for both teams, so I'm just really pleased we hung in there and converted enough chances to get us over the line," said Hager.

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“As a team, one of the things we spoke about was having to win these close games, and we have won two in a row now. Both those games have been tight and hard fought, and we have come out on the right side.”

In cold conditions in Hastings tonight, Canterbury’s Olivia Merry was the first to score from a penalty corner in the 17th minute with Flynn doubling the lead in the last quarter with a field goal. Flynn had a number of other opportunities in her milestone game, but couldn’t quite convert.

“Gemma’s game was really pleasing, I thought she was unlucky not to get another couple of goals. She is starting to hit some real form again and is giving us some good energy and go-forward up front.”

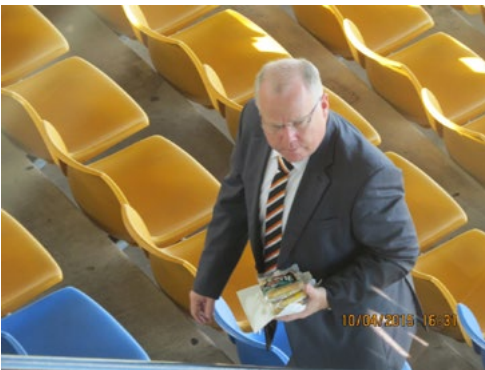
Korea’s Eunbi Cheon pegged one back in the 55th minute and the tempo increased as Korea pushed forward to try and find the equaliser, but New Zealand held on for the win.

In the earlier games today, Argentina won 2-1 against Japan thanks to first half goals from Carla Rebecchi and Florencia Habif. In the second game of the day, China upset the USA with a 2-1 win which gives them top spot in Pool A and a quarter-final game against Japan on Thursday.

In tonight’s final game, India held world number two Australia to a nil-all draw, with Australia finishing third in Pool A.

For all results, pool table, ticketing info and live streaming of all games go to [www.hockeyfestival.nz](http://www.hockeyfestival.nz)

## A Few Photos Snaped at the Warriors v Wests Tigers Game



West Tigers CEO Grant Mayer certainly loves Kiwi Pies!



PROUD AND HAPPY.



The Beast with two of his girls walking out on game night.



The sign says it all.

Lets all make an effort next Saturday when the Vodafone Warriors take on the nights. The club is going all out to make it a special ANZAC day. Fantastic if we could pack out the stadium and pay our respects to thos who fought to give us the life we have today.

- Sir Peter Leitch

Get discounted tickets to the ANZAC test between the Australian Kangaroos and NZ Kiwis by using the special password: **kiwi2015** when you book.

The discount means you can get Adult tickets from \$25 and Family tickets from \$80

Here is the link to the page <http://premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=NRLTEST15>

You will see that through that page that you can still get 2 day pass to both the ANZAC Test on Friday and then the Pacific Double Header on Saturday for just \$40! Amazing value considering that means you get to see the Kiwi Ferns and the Kiwis play on Friday night and then the Junior Kiwis play on Saturday afternoon and then Fiji v PNG and Tonga v Samoa

## 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

**T**HIS 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 POP-PY to 4662, online at <https://rsa.org.nz/Donation> or at any ANZ branch or Z station.**



# Who Was Bill Kelly?

By John Coffey QSM



**A**FTER profiling Gallipoli casualty Charles Savory last week, we continue the Anzac theme by recalling Bill Kelly, another gifted footballer who represented New Zealand and Australia before his glittering playing career was ended by injuries suffered in the First World War.

Kelly became one of the most prominent coaches in Sydney between the world wars, and even guided the Kiwis in a Test series against the 1932 British Lions. But he was virtually unknown this side of the Tasman until a memorial trophy was presented in his honour for Anzac Tests.

Who, then, was William Martin Kelly? He was raised in Westport and represented Buller at rugby union as an 18-year-old in 1909. Kelly then moved to Wellington to get a job in tailoring and joined the Poneke club, where his potential caught the eye of famed All Black Billy Wallace.

He was selected for Wellington in his first season and would probably have won national honours in the 15-a-side code had rugby league not been introduced to the capital city in 1912. Kelly, a centre, was attracted by the more open nature of the new game and enlisted with the Athletic club.

Kelly adapted so quickly that he toured Australia with the 1912 and 1913 New Zealand teams. After that second trip New Zealand manager Dr Henry Thacker had a special medal struck for him as “Player of the Tour”. Kelly also assisted Wellington to a rare victory over Auckland in 1913.

But his dedication to fitness, condition and speed, plus his silky skills, also attracted the attention of Sydney club Balmain, which persuaded Kelly to change countries in 1914. Once again, he made an immediate impact and played for Australia in the first Test against the touring English team.

In 1915 Kelly represented NSW and captained Balmain to an unbeaten season, inspiring the Tigers to their first premiership. Soon after the grand final he enlisted in the Australian army. He embarked for the Western Front with the Machine Gun Company in 1916, and was a sergeant when seriously wounded on a Belgium battlefield in October 1917.

Between 1923 and 1945 he coached five Sydney clubs, University, Newtown, Balmain, St George and Canterbury-Bankstown, winning the 1939 premiership with the Tigers. Kelly was between clubs when the NZRL invited him home to coach New Zealand and Auckland for their fixtures against the 1932 Lions. When the British toured again in 1936 Kelly was an Australian selector.

Kelly earned the title of Prince of Coaches and was highly respected by all of the clubs he was associated with. Just as he had done during his own playing days, he emphasised the need for physical fitness and the honing of an individual’s basic skills. No-one did more to lift the standard of the Sydney competition.

He saw the connection between physical fitness and the correct mental approach, pioneering the use of cross country running, weight training and calisthenics, including wrestling and gymnastics. Kelly also wrote newspaper articles and edited coaching manuals. One of his few failures was trying to market football boots with screw-in studs. Apparently that idea was too far ahead of its time to be a commercial success.

That Bill Kelly received belated recognition on both sides of the Tasman by the introduction of a mid-year Test trophy in his honour was largely to the credit of his nephew, Gerald Ryan. The trophy was presented during Ryan’s term as NZRL president.



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Kerry and Gillian get a 17th wedding anniversary parcel from Sir Peter.



Kerry and Gillian with a bottle of champagne given to them by the patrons of the lounge



Lloyd Whitelaw (our no. 1 Brisbane fan) and Dave McKee, who travels from Christchurch to every game.



Lee and his wife Sue supporting Manu's 200th game.



Martin Devlin singing Katy Perry. Don't give up your day job!



Martin was on fire. We thank him for gracing us with his presence.



Mike Brown and Marilyn Logan enjoying Sir Peter's humour.



Former Warrior and Kiwi Motu Tony gives an update on what he's been up to.



My mates Lorna and Trevor enjoying their day with their adopted son M8.



Ngani Laumape, Ben Henry and Glen Fisiiahi entertained us at half time.



Peter Brown (Manu's Manager), Manu and Jonah Lomu. Just after the presentation to Manu.



Peter Urlich is a fantastic Vodafone Warriors supporter.



Peter Urlich belts out an Elvis tune. Have to say he was on fire!



Reno Wilkinson from Paeroa with Dave Curran and Jim Doyle.

Nga Iwi FM breakfast show host Reno Wilkinson speaks to Sir Peter Leitch every Friday morning at 7:45, to talk the Mighty Vodafone Warriors. Nga Iwi loves the Vodafone Warriors, and being invited by the Mad Butcher to be a special guest



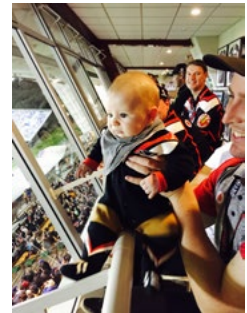
Stacey Jones graced us with his company which we all appreciated.



These loyal supporters showing their support for Manu Vatuvei's 200th game!



Trevor, Lorna, M8, Derek and Yvonne with Grant Mayer - Chief Executive Officer of the West Tigers!.



Our youngest fan in the Stacey Jones Lounge on Saturday was 12 week old baby Isaac.



I'm the best looking Manu Vatuvei in the world!



Ben Henry, M8 and Trevor.



Dan Smith and Zack Fowles in the Stacey Jones Lounge!.



Martin and Casey up from Wellington for the game! Enjoying the atmosphere and views from the Stacey Jones lounge..



Mark, Sarah, Tara, Cath Cruickshank, regular members in the lounge.

# Missed Manu's Interview on the NRI Footy Show?

Check it out here: [Link](#)

# Warriors Game on ANZAC Day - Next Saturday

ON Anzac Day the Vodafone Warriors will play their first ever NRL game at home in commemoration of 100 years since the Gallipoli landing.

There will be strong support from the New Zealand Defence Force by special invitation from the Vodafone Warriors. Current serving personnel with their families plus veterans will be hosted at Mt Smart Stadium and recognised on the day.

Be at Mt Smart Stadium on Anzac Day to see a special performance by the Royal New Zealand Navy Band, armoured vehicles on display from the Royal New Zealand Army. We are hoping to have Air Vice-Marshal Mike Yardley who is the Chief of Air Force reading the ode as part of the commemorative ceremony.

On a day when New Zealanders and Australians pause to commemorate the 100th anniversary, the Vodafone Warriors will honour all those who served

and continue to serve by wearing 'Te Maumaharanga' (The Memorial), a jersey specially designed for the occasion. A donation from the sale of each 'Te Maumaharanga' jersey in both New Zealand and Australia will be going to the Fields of Remembrance Trust (\$10 for an adults jersey, \$5 for a childrens jersey), as a mark of respect for our past and current serving armed forces personnel.

**Gates Open: 9:30am**

**NYC Kick-off: 9:40am**

**NSW Cup Kick-off: 11:40am**

**NRL Kick-off: 2pm**

**Approx. Finish: 4pm**

## Wendy's, a Great Sponsor of the Vodafone Warriors!

I called into my local Wendy's the other day to grab a burger bloody great feed it was but what really impressed me was the trayliners they use. NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL SUPPORTING YOUR SPONSORSHIP! Well done Wendy's!



**A FRESH START TO THE SEASON!**  
WENDY'S IS A PASSIONATE SUPPORTER OF THE VODAFONE WARRIORS

**Vodafone Warriors Home Games 2015**

ROUND	OPPOSITION	TIME	DATE	STADIUM
3	Paranatta Eels	8pm	Sat Mar 21	Mt Smart Stadium
4	Brisbane Broncos	8pm	Sun Mar 22	Mt Smart Stadium
5	Waka Tani	10:30pm	Sat Apr 18	Mt Smart Stadium
8	Gold Coast Titans	8pm	Sat Apr 25	Mt Smart Stadium
10	Newcastle Knights	8pm	Sun May 23	Mt Smart Stadium
14	Canterbury Crusaders	8pm	Sat Jun 06	Mt Smart Stadium
15	Canterbury Crusaders	8pm	Sat Jun 27	Mt Smart Stadium
18	Melbourne Storm	8pm	Sun Jul 12	Mt Smart Stadium
20	Manly Sea Eagles	8pm	Sat Jul 25	Mt Smart Stadium
21	Canberra Brumbies	TBC	Sat Aug 01	Mt Smart Stadium
22	St George Dragons	TBC	Sat Aug 08	Westpac Stadium
24	North Queensland Cowboys	TBC	Sat Aug 22	Mt Smart Stadium

www.wendys.co.nz  
facebook.com/wendysnz  
Wendy's NZ

## Well Done to my Old Company!



Congratulations to my old company. They just opened a mini Mad Butcher Store in Mosgiel. The first ever mini store. Well done.



# Warriors Flick Kick

WE would like to invite you to play the Vodafone Warriors new Flick Kick game. This simple goal kicking online game can be played on your tablet or smartphone and is great fun for kids and adults alike. If you make it to the top of the table with your score or even register a score with a new player you go into the draw to win great weekly prizes including a signed ball, signed jersey and a Vodafone Warriors 3 game flexi pass.

Simply go to <http://warriors.flickkick.co.nz> register and get flick kicking.



## Warriors Flick Kick

THERE is still time to become a Vodafone Warriors member for the rest of the season and make great savings against game day prices.

Use the discount code '**Sponsor2015**' in the promo code box to give you access to a 20% discount off our full season prices.

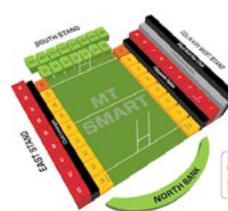
You can cement the best seats at the best prices for our remaining 8 games at Mt Smart stadium, as well as getting access to our exclusive member benefits.

By becoming a club member you will have access to all our member game day upgrades, pre and post-match access to the member zone on game day, 10% discount on merchandise as well as invites to meet the team events.

If you have any enquiries about booking in your seats feel free to get in touch with one of our membership team [memberships@warriors.co.nz](mailto:memberships@warriors.co.nz)

Continue Shopping

### Club 11 Game Membership



It's our 20th anniversary celebration and we want you to be a part of it. Be there, like so many were for our first game back in 1995, and show your support for another exciting year of NRL footy. As a full club member, you will enjoy full access to all member benefits with opportunities to win exclusive match day experiences, first priority access to Grand Final tickets, seat upgrades and events. Not only that but the membership cap is back, show your colours no matter what day it is with your own exclusive 20th anniversary

Your Cart: 0 Item View Cart | Clear Cart

### Order Now

You must order before 12:00 AM, May 30, 2015

### Club 11 Game Membership Package Options

Member Tickets

#### Member and Pricing Details

Enter your promotion codes to access special offers.

To combine multiple codes, use a comma to separate them.

Submit

Add to Cart

Continue Shopping

Proceed to Cart

## State of Origin Ticket Winner - Raewyn

GREETINGS Sir Peter,  
To win 2 tickets to the State of Origin in Melbourne is a Dream come true. On opening the Courier package and seeing the State of Origin tickets I screamed with such delight, Geoff thought I'd hurt myself. So, guess who I'll be supporting.

Thank You, we are crazy excited to be going.

From a Mad Warrior Fan from Christchurch, Raewyn





# Canterbury Warriors Fan

I saw this guy wearing a warriors shirt in a magazine. So I thought I would share it with you.

Kia ora Pete

Hope you are well?

All good in Christchurch, been hard at work on the rebuild and demo still after leaving Canterbury Television.

Working for Mt Lyford Contracting - Christchurch division

Attached a write about me & my partner and our 46 Chevy pickup truck..

This is in the 10 year Collectors edition NZV8 magazine ( page 14 ) is our daily driver.

We purchased it 3 years ago just after finishing up at CTV and I started landscaping-paving and using the Chevy as my work truck. Then my partner Vicki's car died so we got a cheap run about for me and Vicki used the truck for about 7 months taking it to her Hair salon in Avonhead and got some new clients after they seen the truck parked outside her shop, " Vickis Hair Studio"

We take turns using it...

Kind regards

Nathan & Vicki



## I want to wish this very special lady all the best!

**H**ER name is Cathy Friend and she is the mum of former Kiwi halfback Clayton Friend, who of course also had an outstanding playing career in Australia.

Cathy is also the aunt of Vodafone Warriors Original, and now football manager, Dean Bell, another who had a great Kiwis career, in Australia, and with Wigan in the UK.

Now I fancy myself as having given a fair bit of support to rugby league over the years, but I tell you what, I do mind admitting that next to Cathy, I look like a novice.

She has given years of service to the game and salute her for her dedication to our great game at all levels. She's been in Middlemore Hospital but will hopefully get out today.

So on behalf of all our readers, we wish you a speedy recovery Cathy.



# Attention all Old Rockers! - Free Concert on Saturday

Remember Larry Morrisom (great mate of the Stacey Jones lounge), The Rebels and the Clevedonaires? They will be performing free this Saturday you so read on...

In Auckland? Busy on Saturday afternoon? (April 18th) If you weren't before you may well be now. Real Groovy Records, in partnership with Frenzy Music, is hosting a never-to-be-repeated live reunion of two classic New Zealand 60s bands for Record Store Day.

**Larry's Rebels**, who split at the end of the 60s, and Clevedon's finest - **The Cleves (aka The Clevedonaires)** are both playing sets in the Queen Street store to launch their brand new vinyl collections, as seen below. The **Larry's Rebels** album is a single LP, the **Cleves**, a double including their never-released 1973 UK album, which was recorded under the name **BITCH**.

Both groups also have CD compilations released on the day, with the **Larry's Rebels** CD being released Internationally.

Come in and meet both bands who will signing copies. We've seen the covers and artwork on these and they really are something quite extraordinary.

**The Cleves aka The Clevedonaires** will be playing @ 2pm...**Larry's Rebels** will be playing @ 5pm and it's FREE  
For more: <https://www.realgroovy.co.nz/Information/240>



## North Queensland Cowboys vs Vodafone Warriors

### Vodafone Warriors Line Up:

1300SMILES Stadium, Townsville

5.30pm, Saturday, April 18

- 1) Tuimoala Lolohea
- 2) Jonathan Wright
- 3) Konrad Hurrell
- 4) Solomone Kata
- 5) Manu Vatuvei
- 6) Chad Townsend
- 7) Shaun Johnson
- 8) Jacob Lillyman
- 9) Thomas Leuluai
- 10) Ben Matulino
- 11) Bodene Thompson
- 12) Ryan Hoffman
- 13) Simon Mannering (C)

- Interchange:
- 14) Nathan Friend
  - 15) Dominique Peyroux
  - 16) Sam Lisone
  - 17) Albert Vete
  - 18) Raymond Faitala-Mariner



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# Player Wellbeing

By Joe Harawira - NZRL Wellbeing and Education Manager



ONE of the burning issues in the NRL over recent seasons has been player wellbeing, particularly for junior players striving to follow their dreams of professional stardom.

The pressures to make it in professional football can take a tragic toll on young athletes, as seen with several opting to take their own lives when faced with the harsh realities of their chosen careers. This is especially true for our junior ranks on this side of the Tasman, which have become a fertile breeding ground for NRL clubs.

For many, a professional league career offers a way to create a better life for their families, but it's a double-edged sword, and comes with a range of financial, emotional, physical and cultural risks.

Over the past 18 months, the NRL and NZRL have combined to address this issue, appointing Joe Harawira to the role of wellbeing and education manager, based in Auckland.

Joe's responsibility is to help youngsters make good decisions on their chosen pathways, whether they end up as NRL or Kiwis players, or follow another direction in their studies or employment options. He travels New Zealand and Australia, visiting clubs, attending camps and tournaments, and advising players and parents on how they can navigate this minefield of challenges, from dealing with players agents and depression, to maintaining "respectful relationships" and the risks of social media.

As part of his efforts to reach his audience, Joe has launched a new Facebook page that showcases some of the challenges facing young players and offers solutions.

Anyone considering an international or professional career should "like" this page (<https://www.facebook.com/harawirawellbeing>) and keep Joe's phone number handy (021 034 3691). At some point, you may need his advice.

## Lovely Email from Tui and Trevor

**Hi Peter,**

Trevor and I just like to say we have been receiving The Mad Butcher Newsletters since day one, and have enjoyed the read very much.

Before it went Email we remember getting them in The Butcher Bars as a Pamphlets which I still have a few of.

But we would like to say you Guys are doing a Great Job.

A Big Thank you to everyone involved.

As members since Day One watching Dean Bell Lead The DB Auckland Warriors through the Tunnel I think was the Biggest Event Auckland had ever seen!!

I must say we have seen a lot of Excellent Players come and go, as well as Coachers.

We started off sitting in the Uncovered Stands. Then moved up to the Covered Stands. Finally up to the Stacey Jones Lounge. In all that time we met a lot of Player and Great Guests.

To us The Big Top was the Highlight because after the Games that's where all the supports would go and drink and dance because they had Bands.

20 Years my how time flies.

A Big Happy 20th to The Mighty Vodafone Warriors.

Best Regards,

Tui & Trevor



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Auckland - Waikato - Barrier



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## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 7 ISSUE...

Marty 'Kapow' Taupau a no-excuses player out to achieve his best.

### FEATURES

- He's made a mark at Wests Tigers since moving there last season and now **Martin Taupau** is a regular starter he has his sights set on achieving certain goals and he won't let anyone stand in his way;
- The **little men** have grown in stature throughout the past 30 years, but they still play a crucial role in every team and have an arsenal of tricks to get past the bigger men;
- It was tough start for **Lachlan Coote** at the North Queensland Cowboys, ending up in rehab before he ever got a first grade, but now he's back and he's trekked a long way to get there;
- The Gold Coast hasn't been a happy location for rugby league teams, but Graeme Annesley and Neil Henry are determined to make sure the **Titans** don't suffer the same fate;
- He's the ultimate team-mate. **Kurt Gidley** has never played a full season in one position. It's his unselfishness and tenacity that has allowed him to reach great heights in the NRL and perhaps why he's been somewhat maligned.

**PLUS...** **Ben Hunt** says it's a different Brisbane this season. The hanging in games on the back of solid work by their forwards and Sam Thaiday; **Matt Elliott** explores what confidence can do to a team's on-field fortunes; **Nathan Brown** breaks down what's been working for the Broncos, the form of the Cowboys' JTs and why the Knights have had a dip in performance.

**AND:** Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Dragons v Broncos, lower grade reviews, News: Lewis sets Sharks recruitment agenda, Dragons defining themselves by defence, Wicks ready for long-term Eels spot, Bird and Myles on Titans retention radar; Top 8 rules you need to know; and Bulldogs team poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, April 16.**

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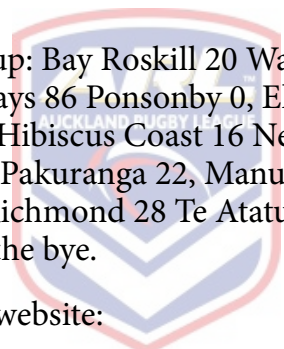
## Auckland Rugby League Results:

Appliance Shed Fox Memorial: Otahuhu 26  
Mangere East 29, Glenora 18 Marist 16, Northcote  
28 Howick 28, Otara 16 Papakura 50, Pt Chevalier  
34 Mt Albert 28.

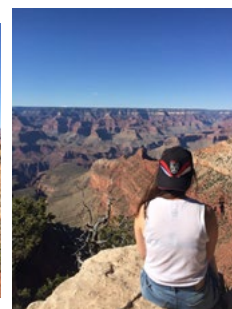
SAS Sharman Cup: Bay Roskill 20 Waitemata  
18, East Coast Bays 86 Ponsonby 0, Ellerslie  
84 Glenfield 16, Hibiscus Coast 16 New Lynn  
26, Manukau 14 Pakuranga 22, Manurewa 34  
Papatoetoe 22, Richmond 28 Te Atatu 32. Mt  
Wellington had the bye.

Check out their website:

<http://www.aucklandleague.co.nz/>



LITTLE self indulgent but here is a picture of my beautiful Granddaughter, Kristin, at the Grand Canyon in the US. She is proudly wearing a Vodafone Warriors cap.



Manu  
and I



## Check this out regarding the ANZAC Test

<http://westernleader.realviewdigital.com/?email-analytics=Western%20Leader#folio=1>

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.



Sir Peter Leitch  
Editor



David Kemeys  
Editor at Large



Hayden Woodhead  
Graphic Designer



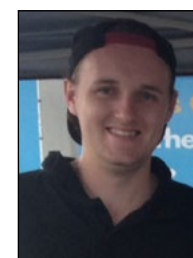
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Correspondent



John Coffey  
Southern  
Correspondent



Barry Ross  
Australian  
Correspondent



Ben Francis  
Northern  
Correspondent