



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

7 May 2015

# Newsletter #71

To subscribe or unsubscribe email: [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz)

## Kiwis Triumph over the Aussies

New Zealand: 26  
Australia: 12



Kiwi boys celebrating their historic win!



Shaun Johnson lifts the trophy.



Isaac Luke leads a Haka in honour of the fans after the game.



Manu Vatuvei loves scoring tries.



Shuan Johnson gets it over the line.

**T**O say I have been living the dream is something of an understatement.

I have been involved in rugby league for more than 50 years and in that time I have had some highlights.

The mighty Mangere East Hawks in the Fox Memorial, managing the Kiwis when we beat Australia 24-0 in 2005, and plenty with the Vodafone Warriors, two grand finals for a start.

But Sunday's 26-12 win over Australia was the best ever.

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

## Proud To Be A Kiwi

What can you say? Beating Australia three times in a row has not happened since 1953, so I am as proud as I can be to be a Kiwis supporter.

It was a fantastic game, built on solid defence, and all credit to the NZRL and coach Stephen Kearney and his team.

How the tide has turned, and the Kiwis will now go to England on their end of year tour with the aim of becoming the world's number one rated side.

An absolute league legend in "The King" Wally Lewis, was mightily impressed with what he saw, telling me that Shaun Johnson had a fine game. But more than that, he said, every team goes into a test knowing the game plan of their opponents, and the fact that Australia were not good enough to counter it, let alone stop the Kiwis, was the difference.

The Kiwis win was the icing on the cake and I can tell you we had a terrific night on the Sunday.

Big Manu Vatuvei was named player of the match, picking up the Charles Savory Medal, named in honour of the New Zealand international who died at Gallipoli.

I really hope the NZRL does something to build on this because it has been a long time coming.

Every dog has its day, and we haven't had one since 1953, so I'm going to enjoy it.

Thank you the Mighty Kiwis.

## Thanks For Your Support

The week in Brisbane was fantastic and I must say I owe a big thank you to those who sent emails in support of the Kiwis. I asked for your support, and I got it, with emails even coming in from Prime Minister John Key, Minister of Sport Jonathan Coleman, the Governor-General, and Victoria Cross winner Willie Apiata.

But thousands of ordinary Kiwis like you also sent a message, and even though I tried to reply to them, I know I will have missed some of you, so my apologies.

I always say the greatest gift you can give anyone is your time, and so many of you gave it freely for the Kiwis. So thank you all.

## Never Seen Rain Like It

And for the record, the decision to call the game off on Friday night because of the weather was entirely correct.

There was no option. The fans could not have got there because the transport systems were down, and the ground was awash in water, which causes real safety problems for the players.

Some people actually said on Facebook that our Anzacs fought in any weather. But I have to say I found that offensive. Quite apart from the fact they were fighting for their lives and had no choice, using it to justify going ahead with a footy match is just tasteless when we are respecting those who gave their lives in the Great War.

And let's not forget that four people actually died in the storm on Friday night, so it was entirely the right decision.



Boy did it rain. Photo Dexter and I under our courtesy of [www.photo-sport.co.nz](http://www.photo-sport.co.nz) Kiwis umbrellas.

## Dexter And I Go Into Camp

Me and my mate Dexter owe the NZRL and Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney a huge vote of thanks for letting us be involved with the Kiwis in camp. I do not take the privilege for granted that is for sure, but we had a terrific time and the players and Kiwis staff were great to us.

## Luggage Might Have Been A Bit Over

When we checked in to fly to Brisbane it is fair to say I might have had a bit of excess baggage. Included were nine cartons of Lewis Rd Creamery chocolate milk.

I wanted to arrive with a treat for the boys, and I tell you what, I would not stand between hooker Isaac Luke and a bottle of this stuff, because you'd get trampled in the rush. He loves it.

It put a smile on a lot of faces and made the effort well worthwhile.



Loading the Lewis Road Creamery milk into the trusty Toyota.

## I'll Let You In On A Secret

Young Dallin Watene-Zelezniak was meant to make his debut last year and was injured. And then he was picked again but got suspended.

If there is a finer young man in the Kiwis I'll be surprised.

He was in the camp when the boys went to the Queen St mall in Brisbane to do a signing session with kit sponsors BLK.

Along came a young lad with an intellectual disability. Dallin asked him if he had anything that he wanted the Kiwis to sign but the young fella said he didn't.

Then I witnessed one of the most kind and remarkable things I have seen in a long while.

Dallin got out of his seat and went and bought a jersey – paying full price mind, he didn't just get it for nothing.

Then he got all the boys to sign it and presented it to this young man.

If you could have seen him smile, it was magnificent.

And what it made it so special for me was that there was no press there, no radio stations, no TV cameras. This young man just got up and did it because he wanted to do something for someone a little less fortunate than him.

Good on you Dallin. You didn't just make that young boy's day, you made mine.

The way the Kiwis played on the field and performed off it, they did us proud. And I want to congratu-

late Stephen Kearney for that. He and his team keep the players very grounded, and that is probably not surprising when Stephen and his assistant David Kidwell are both also such humble guys.

## Test Dinner A First

Before a ball had been kicked history was being made by the NZRL. The Kiwis, Junior Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns were all together for a test dinner ahead of their respective test matches. The handing out of test jerseys is something treated with great respect, and in what is obviously a first, the Junior Kiwis and Kiwi Ferns both had their jerseys presented by the Kiwi player wearing the same number in the Anzac Test.

Former Vodafone Warrior and Kiwi Clinton Toopi, who is based in Queensland now and does all sorts of good work with the indigenous community, handed out the Kiwis jerseys.

NZRL boss Phil Holden gave a terrific speech, which talked about Gallipoli and the war, and it was spot on. You could see it hit home with the players.

I believe all these little influences played a big part in our success. It really is a team effort, and Dexter and I saw that first hand, with many people playing a part.

But you can't take it away from Stephen Kearney, the main man, and the boys who go out and do the job on the field.



## Veteran Meets Both Sides

On the Wednesday the Kiwis joined the Kangaroos at a lunch to hear a very special guest speaker. Damien Thomlinson joined the Australian Defence Force and at the age of 24 became a Commando.

While serving in Afghanistan, Damien lost both legs to a Taliban bomb.

Giving up is clearly not in his nature and he taught himself to walk with prosthetic legs.

He has since participated in a classic car rally, walked the Kokoda Trail, taken up snowboarding, and competed with four other ADF members in the US Marine Corps Paralympic Trials.

Today, he uses his experiences, passion for life and journey to inspire and motivate others, and it was an honour to be there to hear him talk about the Anzac spirit.

Damien later presented the test jerseys to the Kangaroos.

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## Brisbane Paper Less Than Impressed

The only thing worse than a bad loser is a bad winner, but I still have to say I enjoyed the piece in the Courier Mail from Brisbane, after the Anzac Test about the plan for Australia's league team to bring in new blood.

The article said there was one problem with that – there was no one good enough.

It said when Australia next play, Billy Slater, Johnathan Thurston, Cooper Cronk and Cameron Smith will still be the best in their positions.

There was even a voting section where you could pick Aaron Woods, Josh Dugan, Nathan Myles, Greg Bird, Matt Scott or even All of them, to never be picked again for the Kangaroos.

If you're interested, Greg Bird got 33 per cent of the vote, next was Nate Myles, followed by All of them.

Even Phil Gould has said it's "time to move on and create our next winning Australian team". I know I shouldn't gloat, but it is wonderful watching the Aussies reflect on losing three in a row, and long may it continue.

The Courier Mail did not hold back, asking if Tim Sheens was the right man to coach Australia, calling him "as popular as 15 minute guitar solos".



*Courier mail frontpage.*

## Sydney Paper Blames Queensland

Meanwhile over in Sydney, the Daily Telegraph's Paul Kent knew who was to blame – Queensland. He argued the ageing nature of the Kangaroos was pretty much to blame for their demise, but then went on to say with Paul Gallen injured and nothing certain about the halves, Queensland would probably start Origin as favourites.

"Before Sunday's Test coach Tim Sheens was concerned the Kangaroos were an ageing roster.

Several times he said a succession plan was necessary to ensure Australia's dominance as the number one ranked nation in the world, while leaving it quietly unsaid that the time has come, if not gone," he wrote.

## Winner With A Birthday

After the test success I was very privileged to be invited to take part in the celebrations back at the team hotel.

It was a special night because family and friends were included, and being part of such a great occasion was a highlight I will never forget.

And it all culminated in us singing Happy Birthday to prop Jesse Bromwich, who had an outstanding game, so had a double reason to celebrate.



## League Lunch Will Be A Ripper

I am planning a big league lunch, as you know, at the Ellerslie Event Centre in June.

Well it just got even bigger for obvious reasons.

Not only will we salute the 2005 Kiwis who smashed the Kangaroos 24-0 in that great final at Leeds, but we will pay tribute to the Anzac Kiwis of 2015.

It is going to be bigger than Ben Hur, so big that even grabaseat have come up with some packages for people from outside of Auckland. You just have to go to [www.grabaseat.co.nz](http://www.grabaseat.co.nz) and click on packages to find the deals.

Of course you need to visit my website [www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz](http://www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz) to see all the details of the lunch too, but remember, I am adding to it all the time.

Not only will we salute those 2005 players, but some great former Kiwis of the ages will be there, men like Nigel Vagana, Clinton Toopi, Mark Graham - all the way from Australia, David Solomona, Mark Broadhurst and Tony Coll will be there.

Joining us from the 2015 side will be Manu Vatuvei, Simon Mannerling, Thomas Leuluai and Shaun Johnson, with more to come.

The silverware will be on display and quite frankly I might just rename it The Longest Kiwis Lunch Ever, because it is certain to go on for a bit.

Book a place by emailing [shandall@madbutcher.co.nz](mailto:shandall@madbutcher.co.nz)

Continued on next page...

And because us Kiwis are inclusive and welcoming people, I have invited the Kiwi players from the Sydney City Roosters along too, because the Vodafone Warriors play them the next day. I haven't heard back yet, but I will keep you up to date.

### Junior Kiwis Beaten

It was a thriller of a game but the Junior Kangaroos beat us 22-20 on the Gold Coast, one missed conversion all there was in it.

Both teams scored four tries, but it was a missed attempt from out wide by Zack Dockar-Clay that proved the difference.

While they were beaten, the Junior Kiwis did us proud and can hold their heads high after such a narrow loss. It very much reminded me of the last time the two sides met, in pouring rain at Mt Smart. That day the Junior Kiwis got up by a single point.



A Junior Kiwi takes on the opposition.



Junior Kiwis team doing the haka.



Tony Tumusa goes over to score a try.

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

### Kiwi Ferns Tipped Over Too

The Kiwi Ferns have been dominant in trans-Tasman league, but they were comfortably beaten 22-14 despite being level 25 minutes into the second half.

But 15 minutes from time the Jillaroos went in, then they added a penalty, and they wrapped it up with a breakaway try.

We did have the final say though, hooker Shar-nita Woodman picking up a consolation try from the last play of the game.

Wally Lewis told me that Kiwi Ferns tackle harder than blokes, and he was most impressed with the standard of play from both sides.

# FERNS



BACK ROW: Annabelle Holmoe, Kelly Maki, Teale Fulu-Moala, Krystal Murray, Kahurangi Peters, Shontelle Dudley  
MIDDLE ROW: Charlene Woodman, Kristina Sive, Georgia Hume, Jorina Vaughan, Tasha Deane, Azealia Tupaea  
FRONT ROW: Krystal Rata, Nora Kivana, Teina Peters, Laura Marie (Captain), Rene Peters, Malisa Peteraki, Alan Jackson (Coach) PHOTO: Andrew Cornaga/Photosport.co.nz



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5 minutes to go and Ben looks very serious.



I just had to have a photo with the boys after the game.



Isaac and Simon with the KIWI'S MASCOT.



Karl and Dane are ready to go wild.



Kevin Proctor chills with his baby after the game.



That special moment after the game Greg shares the moment with his children.



Love the fans they were fantastic.



Our captain shares the moment with his son.



Where would we be without the fans?



The Storm players all had a chat after the game.



These guys were very happy about the win.



Look who gave Dexter & I a lift back to the hotel after the game was called off on Friday night. Yes the king, Wally Lewis, and no he is not driving cabs he just gave a mate a lift.



After the game at the team dinner we all sang Jesse Bromwich Happy Birthday!



After the game Thomas & Sam chilled out in the spa.

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buy Kiwis  
Merchandise



Air Commodore Bob Rodgers (Chair of ADF Rugby League) and Vice Admiral Ray Griggs (Vice Chief of Australian Defence Force).



Ben, the father, feeds his daughter, Kyle. 2 years old and loves her Dad big time!



Brian, Bridget and Bailey from Wanganui won a trip courtesy of the Kiwis sponsor Pirtek to watch the Anzac Test. The weather almost robbed them of the chance as they had to fly back on Sunday but Pirtek came through and organised for them to stay on and watch the Kiwis win.



Kevin Proctor with his daughter, Zara, who is 9 months old.



A very special thing happened the other day in Brisbane. A couple of years ago I meet a bloke called Dean Duncan, a Kamilaroi (Aboriginal man), who works with indigenous young people in Australia. Today he presented to my good mate Dexter a spirit box which is a family gift of good luck to the recipient. Dexter was blown away and very honoured to receive such a gift. Dean is a real good bloke and has a genuine heart.

Go to  
[shop.nzrl.co.nz](http://shop.nzrl.co.nz) to  
buy Kiwis  
Merchandise



Kevin Proctor with partner Leesa Fife and daughter Zara.



Roy Wattie, Philip Logan, Adam Wilson, Louise Waiariki, Kyran David, Wally Lewis, Kael McEnteer, Wade Sharland, Brendon Johnson



Simon, partner Anna and Zeke (19 months).

Dear Sir Peter,

Just wanted to say a massive Thank You for the Kiwis Jersey & Jandals that arrived yesterday. I got home from work & put them on ready for the big game only for it to be postponed until Sunday. So i am looking forward to wearing my beautiful new jersey again all day Sunday to support our boys.....fingers crossed for better weather & an even better game!

Thank you again so much for a gift that will be worn with pride for years to come.

Emma Harper



Greetings,

Many thankz Sir Peter for my Kiwi Jandals, they are terrific!!! The Kiwis were terrific too, really, really enjoyed the game!!!!

Cheerz, Linda Brown



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## 2015 KIWI'S ANZAC RANGE



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# DWZ Has Time on His Side

By John Coffey QSM



**M**ULTI-SKILLED Penrith Panthers wing Dallin Watene-Zelezniak now has the unwanted but unique distinction in New Zealand rugby league folklore of twice being forced to withdraw from the Kiwis after being chosen to make his Test debut.

A broken foot suffered on a Gold Coast beach cost him a place in the triumphant 2014 Four Nations team hours after being selected, and a one-match suspension imposed by the NRL judiciary for a tackling incident in a club match the previous weekend scratched him from last weekend's Anzac Test.

Of course, Watene-Zelezniak is still only 19 years of age and will surely make a belated start to what promises to be a long international career when the Kiwis play three Tests and one other game in England later this year.

But his misfortune caused me to consider the cases of others who missed wearing the Kiwis jersey for various reasons – and in every one of their cases they never did receive another call up. These all date back to the good old amateur days when players earned selection from club and provincial football.

In 1926 Canterbury forward Henry Alistair (better known as Punch) Vivian pulled out of the New Zealand team to tour Britain. It transpired that his stated “personal reasons” were the illness which soon afterwards claimed the life of his sister Gwen. The Kiwis played only one Test series over the next five years and Punch never did get that New Zealand jersey.

Another Canterbury forward, Jack Jones, was outstanding when South Island beat North in the final trial for the 1958 Kiwis to play three Tests against the Great Britain tourists. But Jones had broken a hand in that inter-island game at the Addington Show Grounds and his chance to secure a regular place in the Kiwis second-row was gone forever.

West Coast loose forward Barry Gardiner was a Test reserve against the 1958 Lions and 1960 Frenchmen, when no replacements were allowed. The 1961 tour to Britain and France beckoned but Gardiner was transferred to Timaru in his work and rugby league was not played there. Instead, he starred for South Canterbury in their shock victory over the 1961 French rugby union team!

West Coast fullback Bruce Mann was selected for the 1965 tour to Britain and France. Two weeks later his jaw was broken while playing against Wellington at Greymouth and he was replaced by Waikato utility back Roger Tait. Coasters offered to send Mann on a supporters' tour but he modestly declined in case his presence was a distraction. Tait went on to play 11 Tests through to 1968 but Mann never got another look in.

There are plenty of tales of players missing tours for political reasons, with selectors accused of favouring their own regions or bartering with each other. In 1965 Auckland centre Ivan Erceg made a strong case in the final trial at Greymouth. But young West Coaster Leo Brown toured instead. Was Erceg left out because he was a recent rugby union convert? Neither he nor Brown was a serious Kiwis contender again.

In 1976 there were no official Tests or tours. When a New Zealand XIII played Sydney at Carlaw Park the only non-Kiwis were Canterbury prop Terry Gillman and Auckland reserve back Bill Sorensen junior. Gillman was not available in other seasons and Sorensen never quite took that final step to join father Bill, uncle Dave and cousins Dane and Kurt as fully-fledged Kiwis.

A family tragedy (Vivian), an injury on the day of selection (Jones), an era of no replacements followed by a transfer to rugby union country (Gardiner), another injury suffered between selection and the tour (Mann), alleged political selections and omissions (Erceg), and a rare season without international football (Gillman and Sorensen) all conspired to deprive deserving players of Kiwis honours.

Current Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney has already assured Dallin Watene-Zelezniak that he has the talent to fashion a long Kiwis career. We can be certain that the young man himself will stay away from the beach and be just a little more wary of the NRL judiciary system leading up to the short tour to Britain in October.

Go to [shop.nzrl.co.nz](http://shop.nzrl.co.nz) to buy  
**Kiwis Merchandise**



**H**OW good were the Kiwis in Brisbane! They dominated the Test and deservedly picked up their third successive win against the Australians.

The scoreline probably flattered the Aussies a bit, as the New Zealanders dominated all over the park. This was most noticeable in the forwards and Australian Team of the Century hooker, Noel Kelly, had no doubt that this was where the Test was won. “ The Kiwi forwards were terrific, “ Kelly said.

“ They always ran straight and usually up the middle, where they gained plenty of metres. Manu Vatuvei was always trying to help his forwards and this added to their overall impact.

Not only did the powerful winger cause problems out wide, he did the same with his crashing runs in tight.” But it wasn’t only in attack where the New Zealand forwards excelled.

Their defence was also first class, as was the tackling of the entire team. “” Congratulations to New Zealand. They are an exciting team with a lot of success in front of them. “Now 79, Kelly is regarded as one of the toughest men in Australian Rugby League history.

He knows what is required to win Test matches, having played in 28 for Australia, including eight against New Zealand. Playing at front row or hooker, Kelly directly opposed such highly rated New Zealand forwards as Jock Butterfield, Cliff Johnson, Ron Ackland, Mel Cooke, Henry Maxwell, Maunga Emery, Oscar Danielson and Robin Orchard.

For many years, Kelly held the record for the quickest send-off in Test match Rugby League. It came after just 90 seconds on the second Test of the 1967 Australia-New Zealand series. Played in Brisbane on 1 July 1967, referee, Col Pearce, sent the Australian off for flattening his opposition prop, Robin Orchard.

When the Kiwi was revived, Pearce sent him off as well, for an incident leading up to Kelly’s action.

The crowd in Brisbane for the Test was 32,681 and this indicates that the fans want international Rugby League and will support it.

Television ratings for the game were also good. Match statistics show the New Zealand back three, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Jason Nightingale and Manu Vatuvei, made 475 running metres, while the Aussie trio, Greg Inglis, Josh Dugan and Alex Johnson, ran for 321 metres, which was more than 30 percent less than the Kiwis.

Interchange forward, Martin Taupau, was great for New Zealand and in his 43 minutes on the field made 129 metres from his 12 runs.

Martin was always in the thick of things and his passion was illustrated by his throat cutting action after an alleged crusher tackle by an Australian forward.

There has been some criticism about Shaun Johnson’s up and down form for the Warriors this season. But this certainly wasn’t the case against Australia.

His speed, anticipation and ability to set up his outside men, was on show throughout the match.

His try was a just reward and proved how quickly he can take advantage of any chink in the opposition’s defence. His five goals from six attempts, added to the confidence of his team.

The inaugural Charles Savory Medal winner as Man of the Match, Manu Vatuvei, made no secret of what each of his Test jerseys mean to him.

He comes across as a proud Kiwi and is very popular with Australian crowds.

With 22 Test tries for New Zealand and 141 NRL tries in 202 NRL games, his stats already put him amongst the game’s all time leading try getters.

He now stands 16th on the Most First Grade Tries All-Time List and before this season is over, he could be in the top 10.

He averaged around 150 metres a game for the Warriors in 2014, and set the same mark against Australia.

New Zealand deserve to be rated as the World’s best team and they can prove this at the end of the year, when they go to England. While New Zealanders will be eagerly awaiting the coming Tests against England, the Australian fans will also be interested in the results of these games.

The Kiwis showed their class in Brisbane and most Australian fans agree that they are the game’s number one team

# Brisbane Proves Kiwis' Home Away From Home

By Will Evans

ANYONE who has attended a Warriors or Kiwis game in Brisbane (or Gold Coast, Melbourne or Perth, for the matter) in recent years can testify to the extraordinary level of support for the visitors – despite being some 2,000 km-plus from home.

Aussie cynics will sneer that it's due to the mass migration of New Zealanders across the ditch, and there's no doubt the burgeoning Kiwi population has played a big role – I have only recently returned home after seven years living in Brisbane myself. But there are more factors at play contributing to the 'home away from home' feel at Suncorp Stadium, namely a special group of fans supporting a special team.

The phenomenon reached its zenith at Sunday's Anzac Test. A sea of black-and-white roared their approval as New Zealand trounced Australia 26-12 courtesy of a blistering first-half attacking display and a stoic defensive performance after the break, the Kiwis securing their first mid-season win over the Kangaroos in 17 years – and their first run of three straight victories over 'big brother' since 1952-53.

It also continued a remarkable streak of success at Queensland Rugby League's spiritual home. Beginning with the epic World Cup final triumph of 2008, New Zealand has now defeated Australia in four of the last five trans-Tasman Tests at Suncorp Stadium. The Kiwis have previously enjoyed memorable pockets of success at the venue, notching watershed triumphs in 1963, 1983 and 1987.

And like in the '08 World Cup final, the '10 Four Nations final and the '14 Four Nations tournament-opener, the volume – in numbers and decibels – of rabid Kiwi support unquestionably played a role in the drought-breaking Anzac Test success. Don't be fooled into thinking it was just expats and temporary Australian residents taking up the cause for their homeland – plenty of fans made the trip and hung around the River City after the match was postponed by 44 hours.

Our on-field heroes fed off the support and the fans fed off the Kiwis' brilliance, sharing in one of the greatest occasions in New Zealand Rugby League's 108-year history.

It should be noted that support was just as vociferous for the Kiwi Ferns in their gallant loss to the world champion Jillaroos in the curtain-raiser.

It wasn't all one-way traffic, however, with the Kangaroos' fans digging in for their battling side – as Shaun Johnson revealed.

"Playing in Australia's backyard at the home of Rugby League – their fans, I've got to give it to them, they showed up and made a lot of noise for them. I've been to Suncorp at times and you can usually hear the Kiwis really going hard," Johnson said in the sheds after the victory.

"To our loyal fans that stuck in there and kept going hard, to see them at the end there and do a haka for them was pretty satisfying," he added.

"They definitely make their presence felt. Behind the posts there at the end, it was awesome to see," Shaun Kenny-Dowall (ironically, Brisbane-born) beamed.

The post-match haka will live long in the memory of those who were waited long enough at the Milton Road end of the ground to witness it. The Kiwis' tribute to their fans was a stirring finale to an incredible afternoon, and capped another treasured chapter to add to our code's narrative – the day in Brisbane when New Zealand snared undisputed top billing in world Rugby League.

# Appointed Director Applications Close Sunday - NZRL

**W**E'RE seeking new directors for the NZRL board, to bring their passion, commitment and vision to our great game.

Our sport has an important role to play in New Zealand. We are more than a game - league is part of the fabric of our country, and has a responsibility to help develop young men and women in some of our most at-risk communities.

We have some clear and audacious goals for the future of the game in New Zealand. Our board has the task of bringing those ambitions into reality by ensuring sound governance practices and processes, and setting clear, measurable targets within the sport of rugby league in this country.

The future of our game requires leaders with skills and experience in commerce, finance, marketing, and knowledge of and experience in the sport of rugby league. Board members also need effective decision-making skills, well-developed relationship-management skills and sound judgment.

And so, we are looking for arguably three of the most important players to join our team - one appointed and two elected directors.

For a full position brief and to apply, please visit [www.appointbetterboards.co.nz](http://www.appointbetterboards.co.nz) (brief registration required). Any enquiries can be directed to Simon Telfer (independent adviser) via [simon@stimulusnz.com](mailto:simon@stimulusnz.com).

Closing date for appointed director position is 5pm on May 10, 2015. The closing date for nominations for the elected director positions is 5pm on May 15, 2015.



## More Photos from My Week in Aussie



Sean Hoppe with Kiwi Coach & Former Kiwis team mate Stephen Kearney.



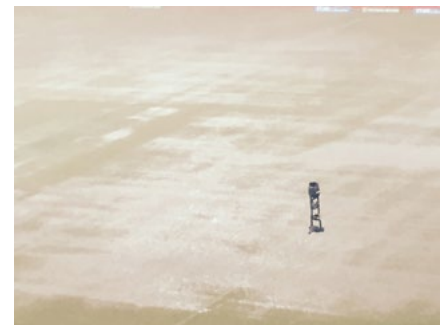
Shaun Johnson was stoked to catch up with Sean Hoppe. Sean was one of Shaun's childhood heroes growing up.

# Ever Wonder What a Kiwis Week Looks Like?

It's all planned for, except for... well rain!

2015 KIWIS ANZAC TEST CAMPAIGN – WEEKLY SCHEDULE  
BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA  
DRAFT COPY V1 (PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)  
Monday 27 April – Sunday 3 May 2015

MONDAY 27	TUESDAY 28	WEDNESDAY 29	THURSDAY 30	FRIDAY 1 MAY ANZAC TEST GAME DAY	SATURDAY 2 PACIFIC ISLAND TEST GAME DAY	SUNDAY 3
0700-0900 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-0900 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-0930 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-1000 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-1000 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-0930 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]	0700-0930 Rolling Breakfast [Hotel Restaurant]
1000 Team Meeting [Hotel Team Room]	0900 Preview [Hotel Team Room]		1100 Preview [Hotel Team Room]	1000 Pre-Game Routine		
1100-1200 Training / Walk Through [Norths Devils]	1000-1130 Training – Skills [Norths Devils] 1130-1200 Training – Opposed v JKs [Norths Devils] Open Training Session For Community – Autographs Etc	1100-1200 Kiwi Media [Pullman Hotel]	1130-1215 Captains Run [Suncorp Stadium]		Various Times Staff & Players Travel Home	Various Times Remaining Staff Travel Home
MIDDAY – 1200						
1230 / 1300 Pool Recovery / Stretching [Centenary Pools]	1200-1245 Weights Session Followed By Recovery [Norths Devils]	1230-1430 ANZAC TEST LUNCHEON [Sofitel Hotel Brisbane]	1300 Jersey Presentation To NZ Defence Force Team Followed By Mingle With Kiwis [Suncorp Stadium]	1300-1330 Lunch [Team Room]	1515 JKs v Junior Roos [Cbus Stadium, GC]	
1300-1330 Lunch [Hotel Team Room]			1300 Coaches / Captains Press Conference [Suncorp Stadium]	1535 NZ Defence Force Test Match [Suncorp Stadium]	1735 Fiji v PNG [Cbus Stadium]	
1400 - 1430 Shirt Fitting / Signing Session [Hotel Team Room]	1300-1330 Lunch With JKs [Norths Devils]		1330 Lunch [Hotel Team Room]	1720 Kiwi Ferns Test Match [Suncorp Stadium]	1941 Samoa v Tonga [Cbus Stadium]	
1430-1700 Team Photo / Headshots [Hotel – Norfolk Room]	1500-1600 BLK Promo [AMART – Queen St Mall]		1830 Test Dinner Kiwis / Kiwi Ferns / JKs [Hotel Team Room]	1630-1730 Pre-Match Brief & Meal [Hotel Team Room]		
1700-1800 Joe Harawira Presentation Followed by Campaign Meeting [Hotel Team Room]	1700-1800 Todd Greenburg Meeting [Hotel Team Room]	1830 Dinner [Gambaro's Restaurant]		1859-2145 Anzac Test Match Kiwis v Kangaroos [Suncorp Stadium]		
1800-1900 Dinner [Moo Moo Restaurant]	1830 Family Dinner [Hotel Team Room]			2200-2230 Post-Match Recovery Taurahere Team Mingle [Suncorp Stadium]		
*Evening Massage	*Evening Massage	*Evening Massage	*Evening Massage	2230 Post-Match Dinner [Hotel Team Room]		



Go to [shop.nzrl.co.nz](http://shop.nzrl.co.nz) to buy Kiwis Merchandise

# NEW ZEALAND



BACK ROW: Thomas Leululi, Manu Vatvei, Ben Matulino, Jesse Bromwich, Kevin Proctor, Kodi Nkoroma. MIDDLE ROW: Peta Hiku, Shaun Kenny-Dowal, Roger Tuvasa-Sheck, Tohu Harris, Dalin Watene-Zelezniak, Martin Taupau. FRONT ROW: Lewis Brown, Shaun Johnson, Issac Luke, Simon Mannering (Captain), Kieran Foran, Sam Moa, Greg Eastwood. PHOTO: Patrick Hamilton/Photosport.co.nz

# KIWIS LUNCHEON

Friday **12** June at Ellerslie Events Centre

The next day the Vodafone Warriors play the Roosters at HOME!

**Celebrate with the Kiwis who beat Aussie 26:12 in the ANZAC Test**

**2015 Victors attending:** Shaun Johnson, Simon Mannering, Thomas Leuluai, **Man of the Match: Manu Vatuvei** and Ben Matulino

**Coming from Christchurch:** Tony Coll, Gary Clarke, Mark Broadhurst, Gordon Smith and Former Coaches: Bluey McClennan and Graham Lowe.

**Coming from Australia:** Clinton Toopi, Nigel Vagana, Dave Solomona and Mark Graham.  
**Plus a host of former Kiwis!**

**Host for the Day:** Sir Peter Leitch

**Guest Speakers:**

- Mark Graham former Warriors Coach, Kiwis Capitan and NZRL Player of the Century. We are flying him to the luncheon from Gladstone in Australia. Mark will be interviewed by Martin Devlin from Radio Sport.
  - Jim Doyle (CEO Vodafone Warriors)
  - Andrew McFadden (Head Coach of Vodafone Warriors). Andrew will be interviewed by Richard Becht (Media & Communications Manger of Vodafone Warriors).
  - Phil Holden (NZRL CEO).
  - Simon Mannering (Kiwis Captain) .
  - Stephen Kearney by recorded video.
- Radio Sport will be broadcasting live from the event.**



Mark Graham



Jim Doyle



Andrew  
McFadden



Phil Holden



Simon  
Mannering



Stephen Kearney

Live outside of Auckland and want to attend? Check out [www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz](http://www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz) for accommodation specials. Look on grab a seat for some great packages on [www.grabaseat.co.nz](http://www.grabaseat.co.nz)

\$100 entry gets you a buffet lunch and complimentary drinks from 12.30 pm to 3pm.

To book a place email:

[shandall@madbutcher.co.nz](mailto:shandall@madbutcher.co.nz)





## THIS WEEKS GUESTS

### SIR PETER LEITCH

KNZM, QSM, Patron NZRL

*The Mad League Supporter*

### DANIEL KEREOPA

*Winner Inaugural "Ultimate Waterman" Competition*

### AUGUSTINE PULU

*Chiefs Halfback & All Black*

### TAWERA NIKAU

*Kiwi League Legend*



### NAU MAI HAERE MAI

Join the crew this week and enjoy the top class guests on the CODE couch.

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## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 9 ISSUE...

State of Origin is upon so and all the talk is about NSW and who will be picked, we take a look at the contenders for the halves positions...

### FEATURES

- NSW coach Laurie Daley has said he likes the idea of a club combination, so we assess how the three likely combos for **Origin I** are performing so far as well as a couple of bolters;
- Slowly there is more and more chatter about the form of **Blake Austin** especially considering his performance for City last Sunday. He's enjoying the stability at the Raiders and it's showing on the field;
- **Parramatta** has become renowned for their warring boardroom factions. This week elections start again with rival tickets going up against current chairman Steve Sharp. We spoke to him about his plans as well as others in the mix;
- With the review of the number of **interchanges** under way Big League spoke to former players who have been through a change before about what impact it may have on the game and whether they support a reduction;

**PLUS...** **Greg Alexander** thinks the Kiwis' period of dominance has dawned with the number of talented young players now in their ranks; **Matt Elliott** takes us through the excellent weekend at Wagga Wagga for Country-City and the impact it would have had on the town; **Nathan Brown** looks at the importance of planning for the future and how the Aussies need to ensure they bring through the next generation properly for a smooth changeover.

**AND:** Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Rabbitohs v Dragons, lower grade reviews, News: Parramatta will pull out the stops should Hayne return, Johnson's Test performance for friends not foes, Blues can learn from Kiwis youth policy, Gallen says Sheens deserves to retain coaching spot; Top 8 wild weather moments; and Cowboys team poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, May 7.**

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## Drawn on 26 May 2015

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 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



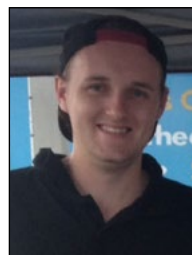
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