

20 YEARS
VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

14 May 2015

#72

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Tuimoala Lolohea of the Warriors is tackled by Jeff Robson.



Manu Vatuvei of the Warriors celebrates scoring a try.



Shaun Johnson of the Warriors celebrates with team mates.



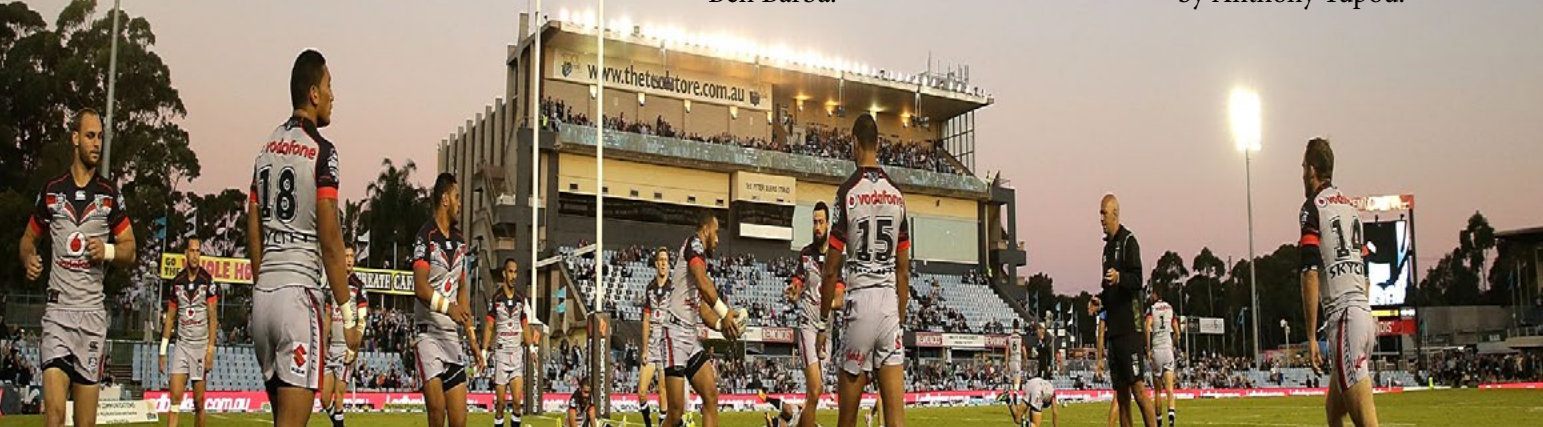
Simon Mannering and Ben Matulino.



Thomas Leuluai of the Warriors tackles Ben Barba.



Konrad Hurrell of the Warriors is tackled by Anthony Tupou.



Vodafone Warriors vs Cronulla Sharks

20 : 16

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.co.nz

WING Jonathan Wright will make his 100th NRL appearance and Dominique Peyroux will start in the centres for the suspended Konrad Hurrell in the Vodafone Warriors clash with Parramatta on Saturday (5 pm NZT).



Dominique Peyroux



Jonathan Wright

Called on to the bench for his 43rd NRL appearance and his first this season is utility forward Sione Lousi, while record try scorer Manu Vatuvei has been named on the left wing in the hope he might recover from his sternum injury.

The rest of the side is unchanged, with the same starting pack named for the ninth consecutive match this season.

Hurrell is unavailable for the next three games after we decided not to contest the grade three dangerous contact offence he was charged with after his collision with Cronulla forward Anthony Tupou. His absence has opened the way for Peyroux to come into the centres.

“Dom has been doing a job for us on the bench and has worked for an opportunity like this,” assistant coach Andrew Webster said.

“We’re not going to have Konrad for a few weeks so this is a big chance for him. With Dom going into the centres Sione comes on to the bench and gives us some versatility. And we’re still hoping Manu can come through.”

In his 99th appearance last week Wright, 28, had the satisfaction of scoring a try – his third in as many weeks – and celebrating victory against his previous club. Now he is preparing for his 100th at his original NRL club, having made his debut for the Eels in 2009.

After two seasons with Parramatta he had two with Canterbury-Bankstown in 2011-2012 (appearing in the 2012 grand final), and then two with Cronulla in 2013 and 2014.

Milestones are also in view for prop Jacob Lillyman, who is five short of his 200th career game, while second rower Bodene Thompson makes his 95th appearance this week, and halfback Shaun Johnson his 93rd. With his remarkable match-winning try and two goals against Cronulla Johnson is now only 25 points short of reaching 500 in his career.

The Vodafone Warriors climbed into the top eight with their fourth win of the season last week – their second away victory – and sit eighth on eight points. The Eels are only two points back but lie 15th on the ladder, having lost their last two to the Storm and Broncos.

Just two points covers the 10

teams from seventh (Roosters) to last (Manly).

The Vodafone Warriors have a bye in the 11th round before facing Newcastle on May 31 in their first match at Mt Smart in more than a month (4pm kick-off).

Vodafone Warriors: *Tuimola Lolohea, Wright, Peyroux, Solomone Kata, Vatuvei, Chad Townsend, Johnson, Lillyman, Thomas Leuluai, Ben Matulino, Thompson, Ryan Hoffman, Simon Mannering. Interchange: Nathan Friend, Lousi, Sam Lisone, Albert Vete, Raymond Faitala-Mariner.*

Some Shaun Johnson Magic

He has copped plenty about not being at his best, including some who have even called for his demotion to the NSW Cup side, but on Saturday night Shaun Johnson brought out the magic to give us a last-second 20-16 win over Cronulla – and to almost give the old Butcher a heart attack.

I was spitting tacks until the final seconds, when suddenly my mood shifted from gloomy to exhilarated.

You will all have seen it but to recap, with 10 minutes to go it was locked at 10-10. But from the 72nd minute the game exploded into life when Vodafone Warriors centre Solomone Kata - on the wing for an injured Manu Vatuvei – dived over.

To be fair, I might have had a few unkind things to say minutes earlier when he blew a try in the same corner, failing to ground the ball.

Continued on next page...

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Johnson missed the conversion but we had the lead with six to go.

But that damned Andrew Fifita – who was exceptional throughout – thundered his way over for a try that when Valentine Homes added the extras, should have been curtains for us.

Cronulla were hooping and hollering at 16-14 and celebrating their get out of jail great escape, and I was wondering what it takes to win.

I should have had more faith because Shaun was about to prove why he is so highly rated.

A short restart saw Cronulla regather, and really it should have been all over.

Jeff Robson kicked, and Ryan Hoffman charged it down, scooped it up and shot downfield like a scalded cat, before being scraged 25 metres out.

The Vodafone Warriors had a huge line-up to the right. The ball went that way and got to Johnson, who cut back off his right foot, exploded across field and then bounced off his left, cutting a swathe through more than half the Sharks side.



It was one of the best match-winning tries I've ever seen. He added the conversion to give us an unlikely 20-16 win.

One of the most exciting – if nerve-racking – games I have seen since I have been a supporter.

Three Cheers For Ryan Hoffman

It is hardly surprising that Shaun Johnson has got all the plaudits for the amazing try he scored at the death to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

But I want to say, three cheers to Ryan Hoffman. His performance throughout the game was outstanding, and the charge down that ultimately led to the win was yet another example of his never say die attitude, and the steeliness and professionalism he has brought to the Vodafone Warriors.

Now let's be honest, there were those who when Hoffman signed, complained it was just another Aussie looking for a cushy payday on the way to retirement.

How those fans have gone silent.

Hoffman has been nothing short of outstanding since his arrival, and I believe he has lots more to offer yet.



Ryan Hoffman

Back Into The Eight

Our coach Andrew McFadden was desperate to recover from the back-to-back losses to the Cowboys and Titans, results that saw us sink to 13th with a three wins-five losses record after eight rounds.

And those were figures that had plenty grumbling about his tenure. It is a fickle world the NRL and it is fair enough that fans expect to see players fighting to the end, if they can't win.

That has not been the case in every outing, and I think we have to acknowledge that.

But such is the congested nature of the table that our win over the Sharks launched us all the way back into 8th.

Defensive Effort Much Improved

It is nothing to be proud of that going into the game on Saturday we were averaging giving up 22-plus points in each of our last five games.

But I thought our effort in defence, and perhaps something of the Kiwi spirit rubbed off on the boys, was a big step up.

Obviously we only conceded 16 points, but we were also much more committed and fierce in the defensive line. And best of all, we looked like we had a bit of structure too.



Penalties Were A Blight

As you know, I regularly preach getting off the back of the officials. But fair go. Saturday night was ridiculous. Going into the game the Vodafone Warriors were actually the least penalised them in the NRL – something I take great heart from because we all know penalties have cost us dearly in the past, and we constantly get battered for lack of discipline.

We had been averaging only five a game.

On Saturday night we had given up eight in 20-odd minutes, at least two of them totally baffling me, and the commentators.

By the end of the game we had conceded a massive 11.

And it is not as if it was one-sided. Cronulla gave up 10 penalties too.

The whistle threatened to ruin the game and I did think it was a tough watch at times.

Old Boy Dots Down

The Vodafone Warriors Jonathan Wright scored against his old club on Saturday, going over in the corner from a pretty good ball from Tuimoala Lolohea.

It must have been sweet for the former Shark, who has now got three in as many games, and who might even be starting to win some of the doubters over, especially when he also did remarkably well to hold up Mitch Brown in-goal.

Manu Builds His Tally

While Wright was going in against his old club, many Vatuvei's big

grin was in evidence too. The giant crossed for his seventh try in nine games this season, taking his tally to and 142 in 203 matches.

There was a significant injury concern though when we lost Vatuvei to a chest injury. He played on for a while before being forced off, spending the night clapping an ice pack to his chest.



Manu celebrates after scoring a try.

Lolohea Shows His Pace

I thought Tuimoala Lolohea's effort in running down a try-bound Ben Barba and bundling him into touch was brilliant.

I was jumping about and shouting and couldn't believe what I had seen. Don't forget he did exactly the same thing to David Mead on Anzac Day.

Barba is rated as one of the quickest men in the NRL, so please, please, put Tui into a gap someone!

NSW Cup Side Up To Third

A strong second half display carried the Vodafone Warriors to a 36-22 win over Manly on Saturday, taking us up to third in the New South Wales Cup.

We trailed 10-0 early but by half-time we had it back to 10-8 and were looking much better.

The second half was another story, as we piled on five tries and 28 points to surge to our sixth win in nine games.

Centre David Fusitu'a was again prominent, scoring a double, giving him five tries in three NSW Cup games.

Also picking up a double was interchange prop Nathaniel Peteru, while Mason Lino made an impressive comeback from off-season shoulder surgery, scoring a try and kicking three goals from three attempts.

The Vodafone Warriors take on Wentworthville in the curtain-raiser to the NRL team's game against Parramatta at Pirtek next Saturday.

Juniors Pipped By A Point

The Vodafone Warriors NYC side was beaten by a 23-22 by Cronulla, and credit where it is due, the Sharks played really well.

The Vodafone Junior Warriors were fourth on the table with 11 points from five wins, a draw and five losses going into the game. And they had lost only one of their last five games – while the Sharks were 15th on four points with three losses in their last five. So it was clearly not supposed to happen that way, but every dog has its day, and the Sharks had there's on Saturday.

Welcome aboard Isaac

The big news last week was obviously the signing of Souths and Kiwis hooker Issac Luke for next year.

Continued on next page...

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Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle announced signing on a three-year contract and the media –and fans – were over the moon.

Obviously it is a great signing, and I hope a clear indication of where the club is headed, and its ambitions.

The 27-year-old Luke got a release from the last two years of his Souths contract to come, so is clearly committed to the cause.

Of course he will join our other announced signing, Kiwis fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, who is coming from the Roosters.

Think about it, that means we will start 2016 with three of the Kiwis' spine from the line-up that beat the Kangaroos 26-12 in the Anzac Test– Tuivasa-Sheck, Luke and halfback Shaun Johnson.

“I’ve been away from home for a long time now and I really miss it,” he said. “I’ve loved playing for the Rabbitohs.

They’ve done so much for me but I wanted to go back to New Zealand at some stage and I’m grateful they’ve allowed me to go. Going home to play for the Warriors has always been something I wanted to do.

I know so many of the boys there and I also like what’s happening at the club since Jim has taken over.”



Doyle Doesn't Hold Back

Big boss Jim Doyle reckons Luke's signing is one of the most significant in the club's history.

“On top of signing Roger, it's a fantastic coup for us,” he said. “We are always looking to bring elite players to our club and in Issac we have signed one of the very best there is.”

500 Not Out!

We are away on Saturday night to Parramatta in our 500th NRL game since entering the competition.

New Role For Ben Henry And John Palavi

The NRL has appointed its first game-wide State of Mind ambassadors to help increase mental health literacy in clubs and communities.

In all, 14 ambassadors have been appointed, following liaison with club career coaches, to support mental health.

Ben Henry and John Palavi will take the roles for the Vodafone Warriors.

NRL head of community, Adam Check said the engagement of elite players was critical in bringing a different attitude to the way mental health is addressed.

“Mental illness affects every community in some way. League is in a unique position to have a positive impact on mental health by using our profile and players to lead discussion, connect people and help break the silence on what can be a life-threatening matter.”

All the ambassadors volunteered because they wanted to make a difference in the area.

Wests Tigers ambassador is Dene Halatau, who said footy players were generally perceived as tough guys, but they were just as vulnerable as anyone else. “If we shed more light on mental health issues and show that it's not a weakness, then it might give people the motivation to seek help.”

Solomon's Haircut Gains International Attention

Solomon's haircut caught the attention of an NBA star. Check out what he said on the Warriors website: [here](#).



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Anzac Test is always a dramatic affair, but this year took the cake.

Mix-in the centenary of Gallipoli, the Kiwis' 2014 Four Nations success, the return of some Aussie veteran stars, four national teams in trans-Tasman clashes and an unhealthy dose of Queensland weather, and you had a recipe for more than a season of your favourite reality TV show.

Photosport photographer Patrick Hamilton was everywhere, capturing the action, and this month's "In Touch" magazine also features a message for the Kiwis from New Zealand's most famous living soldier.

Check out our celebration of this event here or visit our website anytime.

ANZAC TEST SPECIAL

The NZ Kiwis break a 17-year drought to bring home the Bill Kelly Cup on the centenary of the Gallipoli landings

Click Here to View

MAY 2015

Black Sticks Outmuscled By Korea In Hobart

THE Black Sticks Men have been beaten 3-1 by Korea in their final game at the International Challenge in Tasmania.

New Zealand had plenty of possession but couldn't find a way to get quality shots on goal against a solid Korean defence.



The Black Sticks could only muster one goal with striker Jacob Smith finding the back of the net off a penalty corner deflection in the 58th minute.

Head coach Colin Batch said it was frustrating that they couldn't convert their possession into scoring opportunities.

"We should have had more goal shots from our possession but we struggled in doing that," he said.

"Early errors and poor passing and receiving allowed Korea to get away from us. We showed spirit in the second half but couldn't convert any chances."

Korea opened the scoring in the ninth minute when Kim Juhun hit home from the field, helping his side to a 1-0 halftime lead.

Penalty corner flicker Jang Jonghyun scored twice in the space of seven minutes in the second half to push Korea out to a 3-0 buffer with just 10 minutes remaining.

New Zealand scored a consolation goal two minutes out from fulltime when Smith hit home from a deflection.

The Black Sticks fly home to Auckland tomorrow for an intense two weeks of training before the team departs for the World League Semi-Final in Argentina on 25 May.

The team to compete in Buenos Aires will be announced within the next 10 days.

Team James Auction Night
Sat 23rd May 2015 / Doors open at
6.30pm

Goldfinch Bar, Viaduct Basin
Auckland

Tickets cost \$45,
includes cocktail and finger food

Enquiries & Tickets
karen_drent@yahoo.co.nz



James has Spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy. We want to help James get to America for an operation that will change his life

Join us for an evening of entertainment and a chance to purchase our amazing auction items including dinner with 2014 All Black hooker Nathan Harris and much more

Black Sticks Defeated Again By Kookaburras

THE Black Sticks Men have suffered a 5-2 defeat in their second game against hosts Australia at the International Challenge in Tasmania.



It was an up tempo game which saw both sides create plenty of scoring opportunities, while the Kookaburras managed to capitalise on more of them.

The Black Sticks scored their first goal early in the second quarter with a field goal from Shea McAleese before Nick Haig converted the team's only penalty corner of the night in the 56th minute.

Devon Manchester played the second half in goal for the Kiwis and made some outstanding saves, while 21-year-old George Muir was impressive in the midfield.

Head coach Colin Batch said it was a much improved performance from Tuesday's 3-0 loss.

"We created a lot more scoring opportunities tonight and we were a lot better than our first game against Australia," he said.

"Although we only managed one penalty corner, we did have some very good goal shots and that was something that we targeted as needing improvement.

"Because our mindset was a lot more attacking we left ourselves more open defensively, so that's a balance we still need to perfect as well as being more diligent with one-on-one battles."

Australia made the most of two penalty corners in the opening quarter with Chris Ciriello converting in the fourth minute and Blake Govers flicking in from the top of the circle eight minutes later.

McAleese pulled one back for the Black Sticks with a field goal early in the second quarter before Trent Mitton responded to take the Kookaburras into halftime with a 3-1 lead.

New Zealand pushed hard throughout the second half and the hard work finally paid off in the 56th minute when Haig flicked low and into the right corner.

The Kookaburras managed two more goals of their own though, with Jamie Dwyer delivering one minute before three quarter time and Tim Deavin scoring 11 seconds from fulltime.

The Black Sticks play their final game in Hobart against Korea at 5pm tomorrow night (NZ time).

The International Challenge is important preparation for the World League Semi-Final in Argentina next month, where the Black Sticks have an opportunity to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

THE KIWIS Luncheon is starting to rock! Tickets are flying out the door faster than a free Mad Butcher BBQ.

Today Steve Anngow booked 18 places for the luncheon and game for a group from Christchurch! John Niwa for 12 proud Vodafone Warriors supporters coming up from Taranaki. Both groups are taking up the offer of a VIP tour of Mt Smart on the Saturday morning. You too can come on the tour if you have tickets for the luncheon and the game the next day. Just like Grant Davidson and his wife from Wellington. We also had Margret Graydon, from beautiful Waiheke island, booking a table for her and her mates. If you are keen to attend just like these people to celebrate the Kiwis then email: Shandall@madbutcher.co.nz before you miss out

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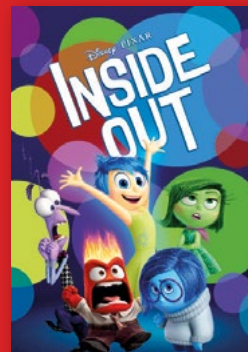
SAN ANDREAS
28 MAY



HOT PURSUIT
11 JUNE



JURASSIC WORLD
11 JUNE



INSIDE OUT
25 JUNE



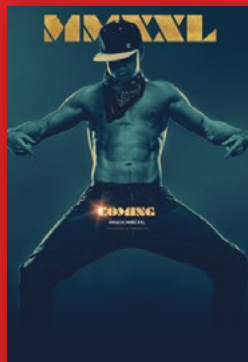
MINIONS
25 JUNE



TERMINATOR: GENISYS
01 JULY



TED 2
02 JULY



MAGIC MIKE XXL
09 JULY



ANT-MAN
16 JULY



FANTASTIC 4
30 JULY

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HOYTS

Black Sticks Women Named for World League Semi Final

BLACK Sticks Women's head coach Mark Hager has announced his side to compete at the FIH World League Semi-Final in Belgium next month.

The Kiwis are among 10 sides competing for a place in the World League Final, while the tournament also doubles as an opportunity to qualify for the 2016 Rio Olympics with a top three placing guaranteeing an automatic berth.

The backline defence will be strengthened with the return of experienced goalkeeper Sally Rutherford who has recovered from a broken toe which has kept her out of action for the past few months.

Canterbury's Sophie Cocks is back in the side following a recent illness, while versatile midfielder Julia King has earned a call-up thanks to a strong club season in England which saw her take out MVP in the final.

Striker Kirsten Pearce (12 caps) will play in her first major international tournament having impressed during the recent Hawke's Bay Cup.

The side is captained by Anita Punt as part of a leadership group also including Sam Charlton and Stacey Michelsen.

Head coach Mark Hager said the development of his squad over the past few months has been pleasing with competition for spots very fierce.

"We've got a good mix of experience and youth with the likes of Anita, Stacey, Gemma and Sam while some of the younger players have really put their hand up," he said.

"The squad is certainly developing well and we saw that at the Hawke's Bay Cup where Amelia Gibson played really well in goal and Gemma showed some top form, creating enormous scoring opportunities for us up front. Kirsten also performed well and stood up in the semi final and final against Korea and Australia.

"You add to that the returning players like Sally, Julia and Sophie and we have a solid platform to perform well in Belgium."

Pearce said she was delighted to be selected and was looking forward to going head-to-head with some of

the best teams in the world.

The 23-year-old made her debut against Canada in February and has swiftly progressed into one of the side's top attacking options.

"It's been a crazy ride so far but I'm really excited to go away with a great bunch of girls and play against the world's best," she said.

"We will go into World League pretty confident. I think we played well in Hawke's Bay and while the final result wasn't what we were after, the improvement we've had over the past few months has been amazing and it's nice to be part of it."

New Zealand is joined in Pool B at the tournament by Australia, Belgium, India and Poland while Pool A consists of Netherlands, Korea, Japan, Italy and Azerbaijan.

The World League format sees New Zealand play four pool games ahead of a crucial sudden-death quarter final against a Pool A opponent.

The Black Sticks are currently in a hard training phase before departing on 9 June to play two warm-up tests against Netherlands ahead of the World League Semi-Final. First up are relative unknowns Poland at 8:00pm on Saturday 20 June (NZ time).

Women's Team:

13	Sam CHARLTON
17	Sophie COCKS
22	Gemma FLYNN
10	Amelia GIBSON
27	Jordan GRANT
12	Ella GUNSON
26	Pippa HAYWARD
24	Rose KEDDELL
15	Julia KING
4	Olivia MERRY
31	Stacey MICHELSEN
9	Brooke NEAL
18	Kirsten PEARCE
32	Anita PUNT
7	Aniwaka ROBERTS
8	Sally RUTHERFORD
16	Liz THOMPSON
6	Petrea WEBSTER

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. **Ex Kiwis:** Kevin Tamati, James Leuluai, Murray Eade, Ray Cranch, Gary Prohm, Howie Tamati, T Don Hammond, Ruben Wiki, Michael Patton, Mark Bourneville, Dean Lonergan, Stacey Jones, Brian McClennan, Graham West, Lindsay Proctor, Brent Webb, Paul Rauhihi, Ray Cranch, Jerry Seuseu, Duane Mann, Stacey Jones, Awen Guttenbeil, Rono Reagan and Dane O'Hara. Jim Edwards (88 years old) who is very likely the last surviving Kiwi from the 1952-53 invincible team, Ray Cranch (92 years old) Kiwi from 1951-52 and Don Hammond (79 Years old) kiwis from 1959-65

Ex Coaches: Graham Lowe and Brian McClennan **Ex Managers:** Gordon Gibbons, Tom McKeown and Sir Peter Leitch **Coming from Christchurch:** Tony Cole, Gary Clark and Gordon Smith **Coming from Australia:** Clinton Toopi, Nigel Vagana, Mark Graham, Quentin Pongia, David Solomono and Mark Graham

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 Manager 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.**

Thinking of coming from out of town? Then read on...

For out of town guests I have got a fantastic special price for accommodation at the Ibis hotel in Greenlane. For \$119 a room including breakfast (be quick they only have 10 rooms available – U20 Fifa World Cup is on in Auckland that weekend too).

To book ring the **Ibis hotel** on **09 529 9090** and mention the name **Mad Butcher** to get this deal.

SkyCity Hotel are also offering a fantastic deal:

Premium Rooms \$199.00 (Rate includes 1 x breakfast at Fortuna and GST)

Premium Suite \$359.00 (Rate includes 1 x breakfast at Fortuna and GST)

Please email hotel.reservations@skycity.co.nz to make bookings and quote **BUTCHER** to access this deal.

Go to www.grabaseat.co.nz and click on packages to find the deals.

Also anyone travelling from outside of Auckland who has purchased tickets to the Warriors game next day is eligible for a VIP tour of Mt Smart Stadium.

\$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

Check out www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz for more details on the event including live auction items!

Vodafone Warriors make Henson Park their Second Home

By Glen Dwyer - Based in Sydney

THE Vodafone Warriors NSW Cup team has moved into third position on the VB NSW Cup competition table, following their 36-22 win against Manly-Warringah on Saturday.

This 9th round NSW Cup match was played at the Newtown club's home ground, Henson Park, and was the main curtain-raiser to the Newtown Jets versus Illawarra Cutters NSW Cup fixture. Manly-Warringah have not played at their home ground Brookvale Oval for some weeks due to playing surface maintenance issues there.

The Stacey Jones-coached Vodafone Warriors came into this game with a reshuffled lineup due to injuries. The Manly Sea Eagles took an early 10-0 lead but the Warriors had pulled back to trail 10-8 at halftime.

The Vodafone Warriors took control in the second half, running in five tries to claim their sixth win for the season. Centre David Fusitu'a and frontrower Nathaniel Peteru both scored two tries and Mason Lino impressed at halfback in his first game back from off-season surgery.

The Newtown Jets were delighted to host the Warriors and as Jets CEO Stu McCarthy said " this high standard curtain-raiser brought in several hundred extra fans and helped create a great atmosphere for the main game, which featured the former Warrior and Kiwis Test prop Russell Packer playing his first game in nearly two years. This was our best crowd for the year and the Warriors brought us a beautiful autumn day as well!"

Jets media officer Glen Dwyer added that the Warriors coaching staff Stacey Jones and Willie Swann and their team management had been terrific to work with. Dwyer said that the Newtown club looks forward to hosting the Vodafone Warriors again when they return to play the Jets at Henson Park on Saturday, 1st August.



The Vodafone Warriors NSW Cup team is pictured at Henson Park following their convincing win against Manly-Warringah.

John & Olwen in the US

Gaday Sir Peter.

Please find attached photos of me and the Mayor of Bamberg the town where our factory is located in South Carolina in the USA.

I'm trying my best to educate the Mayor and the people of Bamberg the rules of rugby league all good fun as you can imagine.

So far we have taken photos of the shirts in South Carolina, Baltimore and even with some of the Rugby Union guys and the manager Darren Shand (all blacks manager) in Chicago.

Just trying to help you spread the gospel of rugby league around the world

Your welsh mates John and Olwen
Now living in the USA



BLK Kiwis Merchandise Winner - Heather

A big thank you to Sir Peter and the team from BLK SPORTS for my Jandals.

Sent out recently. I will not be waiting for the warmer weather to break them in - I'll be in them as soon as possible!!

Thank you once again, isn't it a great time to be a kiwi league fan!!

Kindly, Heather



2015 KIWI'S ANZAC RANGE



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Update on the Mt Smart Campaign

By Jim Doyle



WHAT a week it has been for the club with the Mount Smart Stadium campaign taking another turn, Issac Luke being signed and the Vodafone Warriors pulling off one of the most exciting wins in our history.

It's fantastic starting a new week with such positive news but we do need to temper our enthusiasm about the Mount Smart debate.

While thrilled with the decision that the Auckland Councillors reached last week, but we're a long way from home in this battle. In fact, in many ways our campaign to stop us being forced out of Mount Smart is only just beginning.

We were naturally delighted the councillors agreed to defer the stadium strategy decision for 12 months and we would like to thank all our members and fans that contacted their respective councillors as this obviously had a positive effect, but it is still only a reprieve.

Now the hard work really begins. We don't have much time but we will fight for our right to keep our home. We will not be moved because we believe we belong at Mount Smart and that this club means so much and contributes so much to Auckland.

Our members and fans are more critical than ever. Your level of support and passion will help us in this battle. To that end we urge you to continue doing all you can to convince your local councillors that the Vodafone Warriors must remain at Mount Smart Stadium.

Thanks once again on behalf of our chairman Bill Wavish, the board and everyone else at the club for the way you have rallied in support of this cause so far. We need it more than ever from here on in.

Tribute to Kiwis Captain - Simon Mannering



l-r Jazz Tevaga, Simon Mannering and Kahurangi Peters



Simon Mannering and Clinton Toopi



Photos courtesy of www.photosport.co.nz

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If you're a hard working volunteer or professional in our game in New Zealand there have probably been times when you've felt frustrated that with all your efforts the game is still not progressing as fast as you would like. Well spare a thought for Sol Mokdad the President of the United Arab Emirates Rugby League.

Sol has been arrested and sits in a Dubai prison charged with fraud after a complaint from UAE Rugby concerning the use of the word 'rugby' by UAE Rugby League. Despite camouflaging the arrest as criminal wrong doings this is a blatant attempt to wipeout rugby league in the oil-rich nation. While the UAE government now appears to view the UAE Rugby League as an illegal organisation.

The charges also include fraudulently using the word 'rugby' to obtain sponsorship for Nissan UAE RL domestic competition that has just been stopped because of these charges. A UAE Rugby statement on the matter decreed that their organization has sole right to use the word rugby.

Sol Mokdad has been the President of UAE Rugby League since 2007 and the national organisation is a constituted member of the Rugby League European Federation (RLEF) under the parent body Rugby League International Federation.

A statement by RLIF chairman Nigel Wood and newly installed CEO David Collier say they are aware of the situation and are working to explain to the UAE government that Rugby League is a sovereign sport, and to secure Mokdad's freedom.

After a series of invitational matches Rugby League in the UAE, under Sol's stewardship, started making solid inroads in 2012 when, interestingly enough, they generated interest in the code in reverse. They started with an International test match against Pakistan, which was followed by a three match representative series The Emirate of Origin between Dubai and the capital Abu Dhabi. This had the desired effect and the first UAE domestic competition was started in 2012 and was run annually after the union season was completed, until its sudden halt last weekend.

Sol's detainment is a tragic result for a volunteer of our game and rugby league in his country of residence. Unfortunately this is not the only country where this type of litigious stifling occurs. Rugby League has been a sovereign sport long before Nelson Mandela was jailed as a political prisoner, Russian leaders created the USSR and the Italians folded a pizza in half and called it calzone. However....as highlighted by Rugby League Planet.

One of the longest drawn out battles has been between the South African Rugby League and the SASCOC (South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee). The SASCOC still refuses to recognize Rugby League as a stand-a-lone sport. The reason behind this, and you guessed it was because the SARU (South African Rugby Union) is the only official National Sporting Federation for Rugby in South Africa.

After the Russian Rugby League (RRL) sponsors jumped ship to union when it was announced that Rugby 7's was to feature in the next Olympic games the poor RRL has been in battle with the Russian Ministry of Sports (RMOS) for official recognition so it can access much needed funding to develop the sport. But the Russian Rugby League has been stonewalled by the RMOS with the "only one legitimate rugby code" argument being used.

In Italy, there is a battle raging between the official sanctioned Rugby League body, the Federazione Italiana Rugby League and the rebel body Lega Italia Rugby Football League who have just been ratified by the Italian Rugby Union. The Rugby League International Federation put out a press release earlier this week.

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“The RLIF categorically rejects any infringement on the sovereignty of Rugby League and consequently considers FIR’s action to be illegitimate. The RLIF has sole responsibility for setting Rugby League’s universal standards, laws, regulations and practices, which are disseminated through its regional confederations and members. In Italy, the sole legitimate authority for Rugby League is the Federazione Italiana Rugby League.”

Will these attempts to stifle our game and thwart the efforts of its hard working volunteers ever stop, don't hold your breath. In the meantime lets hope the length of Sol's internment pales in significance to the late Nelson Mandela.



Abu Dhabi Harlequins challenge the Dubai Sharks defence in the UAE domestic competition.

UAE Rugby League President Sol Mokdad (left) poses for photo after presenting the Abu Dhabi Emirate team Captain and Co-captain with the 'Emirate of Origin' Champions trophy.



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History Has Proven That The Future Looks Bright For The Nz Warriors

By John Deaker



“GENTLEMAN, I see a Premiership coming for the Warriors. New Zealand Rugby League is booming at the moment... these blokes are just the perfect signings for this football team. They're headed for big things.” Matty Johns on The Matty Johns Show, 11th May 2015.

The signings of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Isaac Luke the last few weeks have been so significant that NZ Warriors' fans can justifiably expect their 2016 team to not only make the top 4 but also be a genuine title contender.

The NRL has proven time and time again that teams can have the best coach in the world or be stacked with great players but until they've got world-class talent dominating their spine - at hooker, halfback, stand-off and fullback - then they're more likely to be a pretender than a contender come finals time.

Securing a world-class hooker and fullback now means the Warriors' spine for 2016 looks even classier than the Lance Hohaia, Shaun Johnson, James Maloney and Kevin Locke combination that took the Warriors all the way to the Grand Final in 2011. That season was Hohaia's last with the club, Ivan Cleary's last as coach and also John Hart's final year as part of the front office at the Warriors.

The importance of getting your front office right is often referred to as the key element professional sports teams need to rectify before they can progress towards better results. When Jim Doyle became CEO of the Warriors late last year people expected with his impressive track record he'd eventually lead the team back towards better results - but how long that would take was anyone's guess.

To already know by May 2015 that in 2016 the Warriors' spine will include Luke, Johnson, Tuivasa-Sheck and either Thomas Leuluai or Tuimoala Lolohea at Standoff is not only encouraging for Warriors' fans but is also a scary proposition for many rival clubs.

The selection at Standoff will be a crucial one to watch as 2016 rolls round. Maloney demonstrated in 2011 how valuable having the right style of player in the number 6 jersey can be to allow Shaun Johnson to shine. Kieran Foran's been able to do the same for Johnson in the Kiwis.

Moving Leuluai to standoff in 2016 appears to make the most sense when you look at the Warriors' current roster. Of course the Johnson / Lolohea combination is mouth-watering for the unpredictable excitement it would provide, but to get the best out of Johnson Leuluai appears the most sensible option.

We shouldn't totally discount the prospect of Jim Doyle acquiring another standoff to throw in the mix before next season starts. Doyle has respect and good connections in the Australian league community and his playing roster he's already secured for next year will have Aussies more open than ever to the idea of linking up with the Warriors.

Looking even further ahead the other flow-on affect of securing such a world-class spine is that promising young Kiwi's are more likely now to think twice about leaving Auckland or even New Zealand to further their rugby league careers.

The spines of the Melbourne Storm and Manly have been the envy of most NRL clubs the last decade. While Craig Bellamy and Des Hasler can argue they nurtured these spines to make them the great combinations they became, people would also be justified in saying that these situations were just as much about these great players helping to make their coaches great.

From 2016 on Andrew McFadden will have no excuse as coach of the Warriors - he'll have the cattle on board capable of winning the NRL. If he manages to do so you can add it to the long list of sporting successes that started in the front office.

Sad News Column and Other News

By John Holloway - A long time Richmond Rovers Rugby League Supporter

From the SAD NEWS Department

Older Ponsonby Leaguies will recall fondly their rangy lock forward Rex Percy an Auckland and Kiwi star in the late 50's Rex was kiwi number 368 and played for NZ from 1955 to 1959. Passed away in Queensland last week.

Another current obituary item is the passing of an even older sporting identity Buddy Corlett. Born 1921. Buddy was a Canadian that emigrated to Godzone and became a longstanding member of the NZ basketball Team. He is survived by his wife the legendary Yvette Corlett, one of Sport NZ's Athletic ikons the first NZ Woman to win a Olympic Gold Medal. Helsinki 1952.

RANT

I often hear radio jocks and or fans calling in complaining that the Warriors have too many Jerseys, I am not sure they realise that all clubs have multiple jersey options to cover the NRL specified situations ie Home/ Away/Heritage/Auckland 9's/Anzac/Women in league etc. on top of that there are the Aussie specials for Indigenous, Country vs City, State of Origin and and you name it. That's without adding in the U/20 and NSW cup home and away array. So yes there are a fair few options to get rid of a few bucks but that's just part of the wonderful fabric of the great game. Get over it.

RAVE

I noted an article recently in Rugby league week I think it was naming the up and coming junior superstar for each of the 16 clubs. Very heartening for future Kiwi selectors that the majority of players named were Kiwi connected. You don't have to be a genius to see that as these and a multitude of other kiwi born or associated youngsters come through the Warriors and Aussie club systems that the current Kiwi team prominence could become a very real and permanent situation. Yeahhh baby!!

Our Old Mate Ivan

You have to feel for our former coach and all round good guy Ivan Cleary. He has had season after season of top player injury woes. Each year it seems the Penrith casualty ward has been chocka block with leading players, this year has seen Soward, Idris, Elijah Taylor, Kite, Mansour, Wallace, Whare, Segyaro and uncle tom cobbly to name a few sidelined for lengthy periods. For all that he has still produced worthy efforts with his patched up Panthers. If and when his side are at full strength they will be very hard to beat.

THE STADIUM THING.

One man's opinion (NOT THIS NEWSLETTERS OPINION)

At the time that the Waterfront Stadium debate was being waged and lost in favour of the pouring multiple millions into the great white elephant in Mt Eden I wondered why Victoria Park was not mentioned as an option.

There would have been outcry naturally from the cricket assn and perhaps even the ARL who are the only real users of the facility in their respective seasons. I guess some touch footy and fitness fanatics would also have an opinion.

Other than that it is not heavily used at all. On the other hand I guess the 'keep our waterfront for boaties and pedestrians brigade' might have found favour with this siting alternative.

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My thoughts were that it provided the same advantage as the very successful caketin positioning being just a few minutes walk from the CBD.

It would have given relatively equal walking reach to Ponsonby restaurants and bars, Westhaven Eateries, Beaumont Quarter, Britomart (including Train/Transport hub) and of course the CBD.

A rectangular Roofed Stadium would have had a footprint to fit nicely in the space and perhaps a flyover bridge across Fanshawe st to what was then an empty carpark space that could have held a multi-story building with ground level retail, an Aftermatch centre, Offices and Gyms etc for The Warriors, ARL, Auck Rugby union and a couple of lower carparking floors perhaps.

Just a thought guys. What to do with Eden Park?, I would get the past Chairman of the ARL Cameron McGregor on the job to turn it into a huge windfall as he was forced to do with the demise of the much loved Carlaw Park.

I wouldn't mind betting that Metlife Care and Ryman Health would soon get some large scale retirement villages up and running in that prime real estate....and the persons that made the original fatally flawed Eden park decisions and those trying to foist a ridiculous merry go round of stadium madness on us today should be the first inmates.

INCOMING

Notwithstanding we have the current season to concentrate on Warriors fans are salivating over our new acquisitions Tiuvasa-sheck and the little maori maestro Isaac Luke inbound in 2016. While RTS replaces another star in the departing Sammy Tomkins, Luke will bring a new dimension to the dummy half possie.

It is no secret that we don't have major gap penetration in our forward line up. The go forward platform he can provide for our second rowers will be a massive boost. Not to mention a goal kicking back up and ferocious tackling attitude. It is a shame we could not wrestle the former Richmond junior Steve Matai away from Manly.

Love him or hate him he would have stiffened our centre defence and provided some sting in attack. Despite the rumours Nate Miles is not on the radar we are told, given he is really a twilight career player that makes good sense. Mr Doyle does hint at a bit left in the bucket yet so keep fingers crossed.

TWO FOR \$100' ORIGIN OFFER EXTENDED

DUE to popular demand, the NRL has extended the 'two for \$100' ticket offer to give even more fans the chance to attend State of Origin 1 in Sydney at ANZ Stadium on 27 May.

Head of Marketing, Lewis Pullen, said the deal was previously available through a newspaper promotion but would now be extended to the general public.

"We've had a great reaction to the 'two for \$100' ticket offer, so we decided to give even more fans the opportunity to take advantage of this special deal," Mr Pullen said.

"State of Origin is Australian sport's fiercest rivalry

and we are making sure fans can take a friend and see it for as little as \$50 each.

"Whether you're a Blue or a Maroon, we want all fans to be part of the atmosphere at ANZ Stadium – something State of Origin can deliver like no other sporting contest.

"There's nothing like being at the game and with the opening match less than three weeks away, we expect this special 'two for \$100' offer to be popular."

Tickets are available at www.nrl.com/tickets until sold out, so be quick.

Canterbury Rugby League Gains New Sponsor

CANTERBURY Rugby League (CRL) is proud to announce Accessman, New Zealand's leading access equipment hire company, has officially come on board as a sponsor for the Canterbury Bulls in 2015.



“At Accessman we like to be involved with the community and Canterbury Rugby League is a good avenue for us to do that,” General Manager Lena Harrington said.

“It's very important to us. We've always been involved with sport, whether it be boxing or various kids sports.”

The company has direct links to the local Rugby League community, with former Halswell Hornets stalwart Norm Barber employed by Accessman.

Accessman franchises are individually and locally owned. Started by Ross Pickersgill – who is now Director of Accessman Group – in Christchurch in 1994, and beginning with one scissor lift, Accessman now has a fleet of over 450 machines at eight South Island locations.

The largest specialised equipment hire company in the South Island, Accessman is a true Kiwi success story.

Canterbury Rugby League would like to thank Accessman for its support as we continue to build and grow in 2015. Get behind one of our key sponsors by visiting their website www.accessman.co.nz.

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Any enquires to Terry Williamson CEO Canterbury Rugby League - 0274319234



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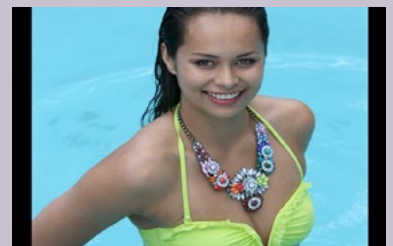
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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 10, WOMEN IN LEAGUE ISSUE...

Nate Myles features regarding his new image beliefs.

FEATURES

- Public perception can make or break these days and **Nate Myles** is committed now to ensuring people know the real him. Plus, he talks about the emotional strength of his wife;
- **Blake Green** wasn't looking to return to the NRL but when the Melbourne Storm called, the offer was too good to refuse;
- **Jason Nightingale** is the essence of consistency and though his future at the Dragons may be up in the air, he's focused on their immediate success and knows his rewards will come from that;
- **Daniel Tupou** epitomises humble and he thanks **Michael Jennings** for his on-field success, but the fact is together the two have formed a lethal combination;
- The **women's** game has come along in recent years and the appointment of female One Community ambassadors is just the start of what more they can achieve;
- How does the footy stack up as date fodder? Matt Cleary took his wife along to find out.

PLUS... **Ben Hunt** has continued his strong form in 2015 but he knows a true test awaits him on Friday night when he comes up against maestro No.7 Johnathan Thurston; **Matt Elliott** says the problem isn't the video refs, we just need to improve the technology, have penalties for abusing the system and clarity around protocols; **Nathan Brown** analyses the game's No.7s and the different ways they play the game.

AND: Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Cowboys v Broncos, lower grade reviews, News: Stuart likely to receive an extension, Queensland in constant development, Klemmer can be a Blue, RLPA want longer breakst; Top 8 unwanted league jobs; and Melbourne team poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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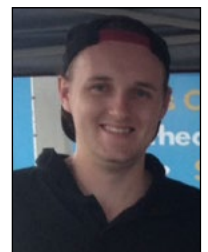
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