



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

18 May 2015

# Newsletter #73

## Warriors Got Out of Jail in Golden Point Time!

The win over the Eels is the first back to back win for the Vodafone Warriors since 2003. Well done guys!



A Warriors fan shows her support.



A young Warriors fan shows his support.



Anthony Watmough is tackled by Ben Matulino and Dominique Peyroux.



Ryan Hoffman leads the team into the change rooms.



Shuan Johnson kicks ahead.



Simon Mannering and Bodene Thompson celebrate their team's win.



Simon Mannering is tackled by Anthony Watmough and Richie Fa'aso.



Solomone Kata gets away from Will Hopoate.



Solomone Kata scores a try.



Warriors celebrate their team's win in golden point time.

**Vodafone Warriors vs Paramatta Eels**  
**17:13**

## Another Great Escape

What a night. For the second weekend in a row the Vodafone Warriors did a get out of jail routine and secured two vital NRL points.

A week ago against Cronulla some Shaun Johnson magic got us home on the final whistle, but Saturday night against the Eels was even more special, Bodene Thompson crashing over for a try in Golden Point to get us home 17-13.

And it was all the remarkable when you consider that the boys lost the inspirational Ryan Hoffman only three minutes into the game, and then saw one of our most under-rated players in Thomas Leuluai forced off with a bad knee injury.

He will be having scans today and I certainly hope it is not too serious because Thomas is Mr Consistency and why he does not get more raps than he does is absolutely beyond me.

All of which meant we were forced to play most of the match with only two players on the interchange bench, and the young men in our team really stepped up to the plate, facing adversity head on.

It was certainly a tough battle and to be fair, Parramatta came back at us hard in the second half when all the extra work we were being forced to do caught up with us.

Locked 13-13 and sent into golden point the boys looked dead on the feet but somehow found the energy to put themselves in a position for Johnson to nail that field goal.

But it did not go to plan and it was Thompson, who has proved an ex-

cellent signing for us, who would be the hero. He went over in the tackle and there was an interminable wait while it went upstairs to the video ref – and the rest, as they say, is history.



*Ben Matulino in action.*



*Bodene Thompson celebrates his winning try in golden point time with captain Simon Mannering.*

## Eels Fans Upset

The home crowd were none to happy when TRY came up on the big screen and the call was greeted with boos and cat-calls.

But it was a try, and even the TC commentators had all called it, so it was the boys from Auckland who were celebrating.

## Bye Comes At Good Time

When I was asked at the start of the year how the Vodafone Warriors would go I remember saying that staying clear of injury trouble

would be critical.

But we have had a horror run of injuries, so the bye this weekend could not come at a better time.

It will give coach Andrew McFadden and the players time to regroup, rethink and recover. They have stayed in the slog and fought their way back to a five wins five losses record, which while not outstanding, is a very good recover from where we were.



*This is not what we want to see.*

## 500 Milestone

Could there have been a more special way to mark your 500th NRL game?

When Thompson surged across in the 85th minute to give us a famous 17-13 golden point win over the Eels it also became our 234th win in our history.

## Holding On To Eighth

Back-to-back wins on the road aren't too common; putting together two on end in Sydney is rarer still.

But the net effect of the two nail-biters is that they we into our first bye with a five wins-five losses record, as I've said, and more importantly, we held on to eighth - although there were more games to come of course.

## Debut For Young Winger

I bet 20-year-old Ken Maumalo will never forget his NRL debut.

He was handed his chance, becoming Vodafone Warrior No 201, when Manu Vatuvei, rated 50-50 to play after his sternum injury against the Sharks, was finally ruled out.

Maumalo was quickly into it, making 14 runs for more than 120 metres.



*Ken Maumalo*

## Lousi Solid In Comeback

No one expected to see Sione Lousi out on the field in just the third minute for his first game this season. But he had to come in when Hoffman had to leave the field, and I think he had a sound game.

His lungs most have been bursting, but it was great to have him back.



*Sione Lousi is tackled by Nathan Peats.*

## Wright Gets Better And Better

You can dress it up any way you want, but I don't think it is any secret that when Jonathan Wright came into the club there were a few doubters.

I know there were plenty of fans who thought he was at best a journeyman winger, but clearly McFadden saw something in him, and I have to say I think he is getting better with every outing.

His first couple might have been a bit unimpressive, but he has hit try-scoring form, and I thought he was excellent on Saturday night, so congratulations to him for hitting the 100 NRL games mark.

## You've Got A Friend

How lucky are we in the hooking department?

Sure everyone is talking about the signing of Isaac Luke from Souths for next year, but where would we have been without the ever reliable Nathan Friend when Leuluai was forced off at Pirtek.

Friend may be a bit older than the average player, but his experience, commitment and tackling prowess were key to our win.

It was certainly his longest shift of the season so far, and he handled it superbly.

## Defence Is Tightening Up

We were under the pump on Saturday for a long time and there were errors sure, but I think our defence is getting better.

We completing 32 of 42 sets, missed only 13 tackles, and reduced our error count to nine.

Above all, we restricted a team to minimal points for the second game running. Having allowed the Gold Coast Titans to heap on 32 on Anzac Day we kept Cronulla to 16 last week and Parramatta to only 13. That has to be good.

## Tomkins Close To Return

The Vodafone Warriors expect to have Sam Tomkins back from a long lay-off on May 31, while it's also hoped big Manu Vatuvei will be back then. Hoffman should recover but things do not look so good for Leuluai, although those scans today will provide some answers.

## No Rest For Me

The Vodafone Warriors might have the week off, but I already have something in mind to replace my Saturday night entertainment.

I will be joining my friend and all round good guy Monty Betham and his Steps For Life charity at Waitakere Trusts Stadium for a big night of boxing.

Monty, a former Vodafone Warriors captain, a Kiwi and a pretty handy boxer in his own right, works tirelessly to help people fight obesity through his charity, and it speaks volumes about the kind of man that he is that he does this all for love, and a desire to give back.

It will be a top night, so if you want to know more about it, because there is plenty of them together tickets and help a really worthy charity, visit

[www.stepsforlife.co.nz](http://www.stepsforlife.co.nz)

## Juniors Run Riot

Junior Pauga marked just his second NYC outing with a hat-trick to help the Vodafone Junior Warriors to a crushing 46-16 win over Parramatta at Pirtek Stadium. After making his debut from the bench against Cronulla, Pauga was in the centres against the Eels and picked up his first try just before halftime before snaring two more in the second half.

Our outside backs had a field day. As well as treble for Pauga, wings Tomas Aoake and Paul Ulberg also picked up doubles.

Leading 26-0 at halftime they weren't as dominant in the second half but still did more than enough to win comfortably and ensure they remain fourth going into their first bye.

It's the Vodafone Junior Warriors' second big win of the season over the Eels after beating them 38-10 at Mt Smart in March.

## Matagi A Rooster

Prop Suaia Matagi will play out the rest of the 2015 season in Sydney after being released from his contract with us. The 27-year-old Kiwi and Toa Samoa international, who made his NRL debut in 2013, played the last of his 36 NRL games for the Warriors on opening day against Newcastle.

"It was a really tough call to let Suaia go midway through the season," head coach Andrew McFadden said.

"Naturally Suaia wants to be playing in the NRL but with the competition we have for spots he's not getting those opportunities. That says a lot for the way our

younger front rowers Sam Lisone and Albert Vete have developed. We'd be happy to see Suaia getting the chance to play in the NRL and wouldn't want to stand in his way.

It's not easy seeing him go in these circumstances but we wish him and his family all the best and congratulate him on what he has achieved so far."

Matagi said he leaves the Vodafone Warriors with mixed emotions. "It's difficult leaving the club that has done so much for me," he said. "There are so many people to thank at the Vodafone Warriors. If it wasn't for the coaching staff having faith in me and the club giving me the opportunities I've had I wouldn't be where I am today. I also want to thank the members and the fans for all their support.

Matagi has linked up with the Roosters, who play the Vodafone Warriors at Mt Smart on Saturday, June 13 and again at Allianz on Sunday, July 19.

## Roll On May 31

Going into the week off, the Vodafone Warriors are where they need to be and they will return to Mt Smart on May 31 to face the Newcastle Knights. Can't wait.

It's our first home game in a month.

## Lunch Gets Even Bigger

I've told you all about our Kiwis lunch, and it just keeps getting bigger and better.

I have just had it confirmed that the NRL's chief operating officer Dave Smith is coming over to join us at Ellerslie.

It is going to be bigger than big, so there is no reason why you shouldn't join us.

Visit [www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz](http://www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz) for all the details.

## Nsw Cup Side Hammered

Veteran prop Sam Rapira made another return from injury via the New South Wales Cup but that was pretty much all the good news there was, with the side towelled 46-16 by Wentworthville.

Rapira played three times in the NSW Cup in April in his comeback from a nagging hamstring injury before forcing his way back into the NRL side when we faced the Titans on Anzac Day.

He was impressive off the bench but the hamstring injury flared again. The Vodafone Warriors were third- six wins and three losses - and Wentworthville were second to last with just two wins, so it certainly did not go to script, especially when you consider we dusted them 44-20 earlier in the year

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# Warriors Coming Home

I sent my best photographer out to welcome the team home. The photographer just happens to be me!



At the airport yesterday to me the boys Siliva Havili & Sam Rapira.



Tony Iro and Andrew Webster assistant coaches.



David Bhana and Jacob Lillyman were all smiles and deserving so.



God our skipper makes me look small.



Raymond Faitala Mariner , Sione Lousi & Api Pewhairangi were all smiling why because winners are grinners.



Captain Simon Mannering & Thomas Leuluai even cracked a smile for the butcher even though thing are not looking to bright for him with a possible knee reconstruction.



Sam Lisone, Ryan Horrman, Ben Matulion and Albert Vete (who is studying to be a teacher good on him).

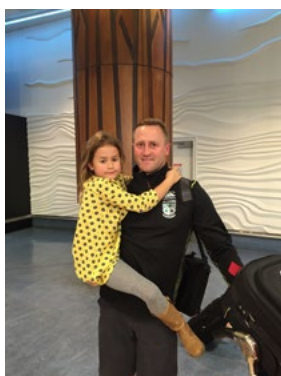


A selfie with a very happy coach at the airport yesterday.



And the fans go wild.

## Other Photos from My Week

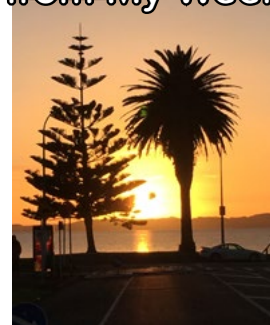


Kelvin Wright the coach of the Vodafone Warriors NYC was all smiles after his teams big win 46/16 win over Eels but it might

have been the fact his daughter was at the airport to meet daddy (I love this photo).



It's a great felling! The Kiwis are no. 1 in the world. Bring on England later this year in the UK!



See what happens when the Vodafone warriors win! We gets sunrises like this at Eastern beach.

# NSW Warriors Supporters Round 10 v Parramatta

By Richard Morgan

**W**HAT a win by the mighty Vodafone Warriors..grinding out there 2nd win in consecutive weeks on Aussie soul! As per usual loud and proud Warriors supporters turned up in numbers and filled the away supporters bay. From kickoff to Bodene Thompsons golden point try, NSW warrior supporters did not stop making noise!

The win made the trip out to Homebush even better, as the club had organised an official meet the players function which was held at the Novotel, Olympic Park from 5.30-7.30pm. 130 passionate fans were greeted by MC Gordon Gibbons who introduced the players followed by speeches by head coach Andrew McFadden and captain Simon Mannering. Players mingled with the crowd, signing autographs & taking a heap of selfies.

One lucky fan won a signed Auckland Nines Jersey and lucky female fans got given a woman in round pack. "It was such a well organised night and we can't wait for the next one" said Andrew Sayers.

If you want to know where to sit at Warriors games in Australia, get in contact with Richard Morgan who has started the NSW Warriors Supporters group on facebook, his goal is to have all Warrior fans sitting together as one, also getting together for Home games watching on a big screen together. Like the page here: [Facebook](#)

Or follow on Twitter @NSW\_Supporters

You can also email Richard @ warriorloudandproud@gmail.com



Richard is a staunch Vodafone Warriors supporter.



# John Coffey in Montreal

Hi Peter,

GREETINGS from Montreal, Canada, from your wandering "southern correspondent". Just enjoying an hour between sightseeing and dinner, the two most important functions of this North American trip.



Actually, it has been very good for the heart. Being so far from home means I can only catch highlights of the Warriors' last two matches AFTER fulltime (or golden point time). It was pleasing to see them home on a Shaun Johnson special against Cronulla while we were in San Francisco, and then winning through Bodene Thompson's 86th minute try against Parramatta when we were in Quebec City.

Because the Warriors have a bye next weekend I'll sleep better, rather than waking every couple of hours and trying to calculate a time difference which has alternated between 19 hours (California) and 16 hours (eastern Canada). I hope Thomas Leuluai's knee injury is not as serious as the initial diagnosis suggests.

Now it's time to leave for dinner and a couple of Molsons -- that's how they spell Speights over here!

Cheers, John Coffey

p.s. One of those Warriors caps you sent me is also enjoying the trip. A bloke even shouted "Go the Warriors" in a Montreal street today, and an exchange student from New Plymouth recognised it on a San Francisco tour bus.

## Nice Letter from our Mate Dot in Christchurch

Hi Sir Peter,

I don't want to annoy you but I'm bursting with excitement. I'm coming to a game at Mt Smart (never thought I would get to) and to make things even more exciting a fellah from work that's letting me tag along with him has talked to you and we are coming into The Mad Butcher Lounge. I have booked my flights so it's actually happening. Arrrrgh I just want to scream I am so excited.

I will hopefully see you 27th of June. Feel free to try and have the Beast as a guest speaker that day.

Dot Eaton

## Lovely Email from Steph Takai

Dear Sir Peter aka the 19th Warrior,

I absolutely love the news and updates you send me, if you ever wondered if anybody reads your emails. I DO!!! Im a loyal support of the Warriors since 95, my favourite players of all time is Stacey Jones and Steve Price (IT WAS HARD TO PICK COS WE HAVE HAD ALOT OF GREAT PLAYERS). I just want to say Kia Orana and hope all is well. As always, GO THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS.

Have a happy day!!

Regards:  
Steph Takai

# Support Pink Shirt Day



Pink Shirt Day is about working together to prevent or stop bullying by celebrating people's difference and promoting positive relationships!

Check out:

<http://www.pinkshirtday.org.nz/>

Support pink shirt day this Friday 22nd of may I am.

The butcher supporting Pink Shirt day and the Power of Standing Together.

## Event details

**Name:** Fight Against Obesity

**Date:** 23 May, 2015, **This Saturday**

**Venue:** The Trusts Arena, Henderson, Auckland

## Table details

\$3000 plus gst. Seats 10. Includes a 3 course meal, wine and beer. Email [boxing@stepsforlife.co.nz](mailto:boxing@stepsforlife.co.nz) to book

## Contenders

**Co-main event:** 1 x professional heavyweight fight - Hemi Ahio vs Junior Iakopo

**Co-main event:** Nate Nauer (Mai FM morning show) vs. Peter Topia (Lucky listener winner)

## General Admissions

\$50. Can be booked online at <http://www.stepsforlife.co.nz/fight-against-obesity-table-and-ticket-purchases>

**FIGHT AGAINST OBESITY** **SATURDAY 23rd MAY 2015**  
Co-Main Event - Pro Heavyweight Fight  
Hemi Ahio vs Junior Iakopo  
plus 24 corporate contenders putting their bodies on the line for a worthy cause

the trusts arena **The Trusts Arena, Auckland**

A black tie fight night that will raise funds for the Monty Betham Steps for Life Foundation.

Monty Betham **StepsforLife** Foundation

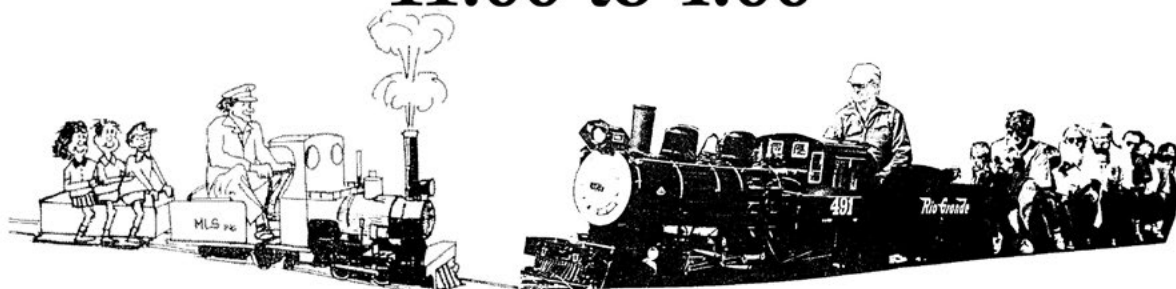
Go to [www.stepsforlife.co.nz/fight-against-obesity-fight-night-2015](http://www.stepsforlife.co.nz/fight-against-obesity-fight-night-2015) or email [boxing@stepsforlife.co.nz](mailto:boxing@stepsforlife.co.nz) for more information



# Queens Birthday Open Days

May 31st, June 1st & 2nd

11:00 to 4:00



## Manukau Live Steamers

### Train Rides \$2.00

## Patron, The Mad Butcher

Mangere Centre Park, 141 Robertson Road

If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz)

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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.



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