



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter 26 June 2015 #78a

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

### Standby By... A Massive Giveaway Coming Soon!

WE WILL BE GIVING THIS AWAY VERY SOON THANK TO MY MATES AT PANASONIC

#### Mini System SC-MAX770

MAX FIDELITY. MAX CONTROL.  
FEEL THE POWER.



3300W(RMS30%)

#### HIGH QUALITY SOUND

- 36300W(PMPO)/ 3300W(RMS30%) Output Power
- 4-way Giant Speaker Box
- Beat Enhancer with New D.Bass
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- Double Layer Nano Bamboo Cone
- 2ch Digital Triple-Amp
- Local Preset Equalizer
- Maximized Bass Sound PLUS
- High-Force Magnet
- 38 cm Ultra Super Woofer

#### EASY OPERATION

- DJ Jukebox With Internal Memory for 500 songs
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- DJ Effect
- 6 Direct Playlists
- Double USB (Rec & Play)
- Max. 3x Speed Rec from CD

#### SMART NETWORKING

- Bluetooth® Wireless Technology
- One-Touch Connection (NFC)
- MAX JUKE App\*3
- Wireless Media\*4

#### Ultra Powerful & Crystal Clear Sound

- 4 Way Giant Speaker Box, 38 cm Ultra Supper Woofer with Hard Press Corrugation Speaker Cone

#### MAX Juke Box – DJ JUKE BOX

- Song Search & Request with Friends by Panasonic MAX JUKE App

#### MAX DJ Station

- DJ Sampler, DJ Effect, Prism Color Illumination

**Over \$1500 recommended**

**Retail price**

#### Short Description

Clear, ultra powerful sound with a 4-Way Giant Speaker Box (38-cm Ultra Super Woofer) and Triple Amp. The MAX Series lets you customize songs, like mixing up to 500 stored songs using sample sounds (Jukebox function) and scratching the turntable (DJ function), and link with a smartphone.

1

## Vodafone Warriors vs Raiders This Saturday 27th June



Box Office: 12noon  
Gates Open: 12:30pm  
NYC Kick-off: 12:40pm  
NSW Cup Kick-off: 2:45pm  
NRL Kick-off: 5pm  
Approx. Finish: 7pm



# Byrce Swainson from East Coast Bays Barracudas

Was one of the lucky winners of a giveaway from this newsletter!

Hello Sir Peter.

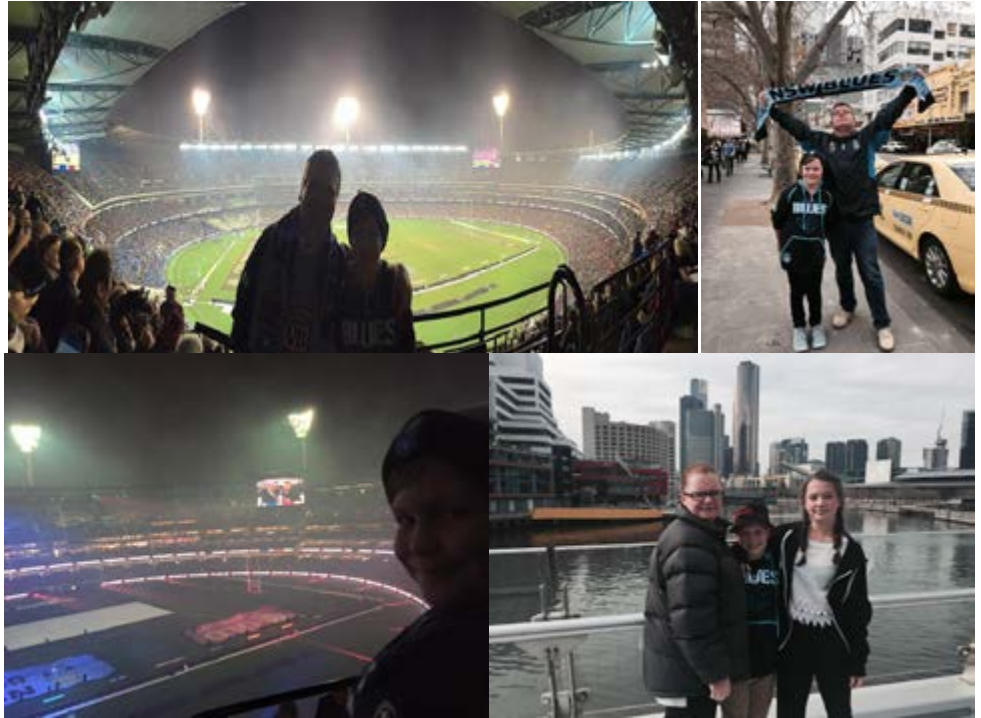
**I** JUST WANT to thank you so very much for the tickets to State Of Origin II at the MCG. When I heard that I had won the two tickets through your newsletter the whole family decided to come as well and we had an unexpected holiday in Melbourne. So my wife, my daughter, my son and myself all went over and an amazing time. While it was my son and I that went to the game my wife and daughter did their very best to keep the Melbourne economy alive and well with their shopping!!

Going to a packed out MCG is an event in itself, but to able to go there and watch the mighty Blues beat those Maroons was a night I will never forget. Two items on my bucket list were well and truly crossed off that night.

Thank you Sir Peter for all the great work you do, not only for rugby league but for the wider community. And thank you again for the amazing tickets.

Yours sincerely

**Byrce Swainson**



## Lost Another Good Mate

**I** LOST A GOOD MATE TODAY SHORTY HANSEN BEEN A MATE OF MINE FOR OVER 40 YEARS Shorty was one of New Zealand's finest amateur wrestlers. He won many NZ titles for the New Zealand wrestling Union and for Ernie Pinches South Pacific Wrestling Association plus uncountable Auckland titles. He was only small but what a wrestler. Stood no nonsense from anyone and was a straight shooter. He toured Japan as an amateur wrestler and was selected for trip to India but sustained an injury and could not do the tour. He also did trips around the Pacific Islands and Australia

Only a few short weeks ago Shorty and Johnny Garcia and DAVE CAMERON went to Napier for Steve Rickard's funeral. THEY discussed every wrestler in history on that trip. In 1990 Steve Rickard did the "Main Event TV show on tv3 and Shorty was one of the referee's. He was a sensation and ran around the ring quicker than any of the wrestlers. John Dybvig in his book reckoned Shorty was the star of the show. Great RSA man ON WIAHEKE and will be sadly missed by all. INCLUDING THIS OLD BUTCHER - HIS FUNERAL WILL BE THIS TUESDAY AT 12 pm AT THE WAIHEKE RSA.





# MAD BUTCHER SPECIAL\*

Sadly physical magazines are only available on game day in Auckland. If you would like to purchase a physical copy for \$8 including postage.

Email:

[pcleitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcleitch@xtra.co.nz)

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Please note: No ads are ever paid for in this newsletter!

# More Lovely Luncheon Feedback

**I'VE BEEN** blown away by the feed back to the kiwi long luncheon never before have I had so much positive feed back as I always say its team work and I had a great team around me and I want to share this particular letter with you all there is one line I really love 4th line down.

**Dear Sir Mad!,**

Just wanted to say what an amazing man you are.

The kiwi's luncheon was such fun and a great feed and I admit to being star struck at seeing and hearing such incredible men (you being the one I look up to most)

It is rare to find successful businessmen who value people and then do something about it. You make people feel so good, even when you're insulting them!

I am a middle aged, homemaker from the south island who just loves "the great game" of league. Surrounded by rugby followers, I don't often get the chance to immersed in league talk so at least once a season we travel to Auckland to see the Warriors live. My uncles, Stan, Des and John Hetherington, live there and so get to follow them regularly, and I look forward to my family and league time more than birthdays or Christmas! My beloved uncles are sick presently and when we visited U.Stan in hospital that weekend and I was raving about you and he said he got to do a tour with you once and you took time to speak to each person and remember their name. That just confirms my point of what an amazing man you are- taking time for people and giving your time to people. I know you have money and give that generously to many also and the warriors and kiwis have benefitted from that, however the giving of yourself is what makes you a legend.

Good on you being above all the pc crap too and just being you- you are awesome.

I wish you all the best and every success in your business; because you have your priorities right using it as a tool to enjoy the other things in life, family and friends, and it is not all that defines you. And also wish you all the best in your health battles as we want you well and championing our kiwis and warriors.

**Sending my love and respect, Christine Brooks**

## Comfy Shoes

I want to give these shoes a big plug. They are the most comfortable shoes I have ever had. They are made by Vodafone Warriors Sponsor, Asics, and are called Gel Odyssey. I didn't get them for free. They are sold in most sports stores. Pick up a pair. I wear mine most days, much to my wife's horror.



# Here is a **bargain!**

A 2015 Kiwis Long Luncheon plate and 2015 Kiwis Tour to England at a super low price. **Only \$15**. If your not satisfied, money back guarantee.



**2015 Kiwis Long Luncheon  
Commemorative Plate**

**2015 Kiwis Rugby League Tour To  
England - 45 Page Guide**

## **Two methods to pay:**

**1) Bank Deposit:** League Luncheon 030104-0356490-00  
Include your name in the reference. Then send an email to [pcleitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcleitch@xtra.co.nz) with your deposit details, name, address and phone number.

**2) Cheque:** send a cheque made out to League Luncheon to  
P.O Box 54295 The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland include  
your Name, Address and Phone Number.

## **Only:**

# \$15

**Includes Postage**



# Preview - Vodafone Warriors vs Raiders

**W**HILE THE focus will be on milestone men Jacob Lillyman and Bodene Thompson, team-mates Manu Vatuvei and Shaun Johnson have a chance to extend two remarkable points-scoring streaks when the Vodafone Warriors meet Canberra in Saturday's 16th-round #OnesieParty NRL clash at Mount Smart Stadium (5.00pm kick-off; match day sponsor: flava).

For prolific try-scorer Vatuvei it's a record which stretches back to the end of the 2012 season when the Vodafone Warriors hosted the Raiders in their last game of the campaign.

While the match and the season ended grimly, Vatuvei scored a double to ignite what has been one of the NRL's hottest scoring runs.

Indeed he has scored no fewer than 13 tries in the Vodafone Warriors' last six matches against the Raiders – two in the 2012 loss, two in a 16-20 defeat in Canberra early in 2013, a hat-trick at Mount Smart Stadium later in that season, two more in another huge win at Eden Park in 2014, another hat-trick in Canberra later in the year and one in this year's 18-6 second-round victory in the Australian capital.

Johnson missed the 2012 loss, kicked two goals in the 16-20 defeat in Canberra and then had back-to-back 26-point harvests in the big home wins in 2013 (Mount Smart) and 2014 (Eden Park). He wasn't able to play in the third consecutive 50-pointer in Canberra last year and then kicked three from three in this year's victory to give him 62 points in his last four outings against them.

When Vatuvei and Johnson bagged their hat-tricks in the 50-16 win at Mount Smart in 2013, Vatuvei snared his in the space of nine minutes only for Johnson to secure his in less than seven minutes.

While the Vodafone Warriors had winning scores of 50-16, 54-12 and 54-18 in three matches on end, they were fully stretched when the two sides last met on March 15 this year.

There's little between the two sides on the competition ladder with the Vodafone Warriors in seventh spot with 16 points, only two points ahead of the 10th-placed Raiders who have emerged as the NRL's top attacking side of the season so far (amassing 339 points).

They've also been impressive away from home

winning five of seven games on the road while the Vodafone Warriors have won three and lost three at Mount Smart Stadium.

If the home record is to improve, the Vodafone Warriors will need full value from their big men including players of the moment Lillyman and Thompson; Lillyman makes his 200th career appearance on Saturday while first-year Vodafone Warrior Thompson makes his 100th.

Johnson is next on the milestone schedule as he eyes his 98th appearance for the club this week with his 100th set to come up against the Sydney Roosters at Allianz Stadium on July 19 – the same side and at the same ground where he started his NRL career four years ago.

## FIVE KEY FEATURES

**#1 JACOB LILLYMAN** | It's a special occasion for 'Bull' as he ticks off his 200th NRL appearance since making his debut with North Queensland in 2003. The Origin front rower played 62 times for the Cowboys; this is his 138th game for the Warriors.

**#2 BODENE THOMPSON** | The former Gold Coast and Wests Tigers back rower has been highly impressive since joining the Vodafone Warriors this season. His 15th appearance for the club will be the Tauranga-born Thompson's 100th NRL match.

**#3 TUIMOALA LOLOHEA** | Lolohea's utility value will be on show again this week. He wasn't used against Gold Coast last week but returns on the wing after previously being used in the centres and at full-back this year. He was used on the wing last season.

**#4 SAM TOMKINS** | The England international overcame his knee injury to make just his fourth appearance of the season last week, all four of which the Vodafone Warriors have won. Tomkins underlined his quality again with his heavy involvement against the Titans.

**#5 CHARLIE GUBB** | The popular Wellingtonian has earned his third straight appearance after energetic efforts against the Sydney Roosters and Gold Coast. He was desperately unlucky to miss out on his first NRL try last week after going close twice.

## TOP STATS | SATURDAY, JUNE 20 V GOLD COAST TITANS | WON 36-14

### TEAM STATS:

Penalties | Vodafone Warriors 5, Gold Coast 5.

Completions | Vodafone Warriors 33/40 (83%), Gold Coast 24/32 (75%).

Total runs | Vodafone Warriors 188, Gold Coast 140.

Metres gained | Vodafone Warriors 1788, Gold Coast 1211.

Dummy half runs (metres) | Vodafone Warriors 18 (136), Gold Coast 9 (76).

Line breaks | Vodafone Warriors 5, Gold Coast 3.

Tackle breaks | Vodafone Warriors 32, Gold Coast 23.

Kicks (kicking metres) | Vodafone Warriors 23 (416), Gold Coast 16 (484).

Tackles | Vodafone Warriors 278, Gold Coast 362.

Missed tackles | Vodafone Warriors 23, Gold Coast 32.

Offloads | Vodafone Warriors 11, Gold Coast 9.

Errors | Vodafone Warriors 7, Gold Coast 10.

### Individual stats:

Runs | Ben Matulino 21, Jacob Lillyman 20, Manu Vatuvei 17, Solomone Kata 13, Nathan Friend 13, Bodene Thompson 13, Simon Mannering 13, Sam Tomkins 11, Raymond Faitala-Mariner 10.

Metres gained | Ben Matulino 222, Jacob Lillyman 204, Manu Vatuvei 139, Solomone Kata 122, Simon Mannering 118, Shaun Johnson 116, Raymond Faitala-Mariner 111, Nathan Friend 108.

Tackle breaks | Shaun Johnson 5, Raymond Faitala-Mariner 5, Solomone Kata 4, Nathan Friend 3, Manu Vatuvei 2, Chad Townsend 2, Simon Mannering 2, Bodene Thompson 2, Sam Tomkins 2.

Off loads | Ben Matulino 3, Sam Tomkins 2, Simon Mannering 2.

Tackles | Bodene Thompson 38, Nathan Friend 33, Simon Mannering 31, Jacob Lillyman 29.

Missed tackles | Nathan Friend 0, Jacob Lillyman 0, Manu Vatuvei 0.

## RECORD | v CANBERRA RAIDERS

Overall | Played 33, Vodafone Warriors 16, Raiders 17.

Away | Played 16, Vodafone Warriors 10, Raiders 6.

### MILESTONES WATCH

200 NRL Games | Jacob Lillyman has plays his 200th NRL match.

150 NRL Games for Vodafone Warriors | Jacob Lillyman plays his 138th NRL game for the Vodafone Warriors.

100 NRL Games (all for Vodafone Warriors) | Shaun Johnson plays his 98th NRL match.

100 NRL Games | Bodene Thompson plays his 100th NRL match.

150 NRL Tries | Manu Vatuvei has scored 145 tries in 207 games.

50 NRL Tries | Shaun Johnson 42, Konrad Hurrell 39.

500 NRL Points | Shaun Johnson 511.

### MILESTONES ACHIEVED

20th Anniversary | March 10, 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of the Vodafone Warriors making their debut in the competition against Brisbane on March 10, 1995.

50 NRL Games for Vodafone Warriors | Ben Henry made his 50th NRL appearance for the club on March 15 when he lined up against Canberra.

200 NRL Games | Nathan Friend made his 200th NRL appearance on March 21 when he lined up against Parramatta; it was his 65th game for the Vodafone Warriors after previously playing one game for Brisbane, 34 for Melbourne and 100 for Gold Coast.

250 NRL Games | Ryan Hoffman made his 250th NRL appearance on April 6 when he lined up against his former club Melbourne; he played 245 games for Melbourne.

200 NRL Games for Vodafone Warriors | Manu Vatuvei made his 200th NRL appearance for the club against Wests Tigers on April 11; he is the third player to appear in 200 games for the Vodafone Warriors (the others being Stacey Jones and Simon Mannering).

10 NRL Seasons for Vodafone Warriors | When Sam Rapira made his 170th career appearance against the Titans on Anzac Day he became the seventh player to represent the Vodafone Warriors in 10 NRL seasons after Stacey Jones, Awen Guttenbeil, Lance Hohaia, Jerome Ropati, Manu Vatuvei and Simon Manner-ing).

200th Vodafone Warrior | Raymond Faitala-Mariner became the club's 200th first-grade player when he made his debut against Gold Coast on Anzac Day.

500 Games in the NRL | The Vodafone Warriors' match against Parramatta on May 16 was the club's 500th in the competition since debuting in 1995.

100 NRL Games | Jonathan Wright made his 100th NRL appearance when he lined up against one of his former clubs Parramatta on May 16; it was his ninth game for the Vodafone Warriors after previously playing 12 games for Parramatta, 38 games for Canterbury-Bankstown and 41 games for Cronulla.

50 NRL Games | Chad Townsend made his 50th NRL appearance when he lined up against South Sydney on June 6; it was his 31st match for the Vodafone Warriors after previously playing 19 games for Cronulla.

10 Tries in 10 Consecutive Seasons | Manu Vatuvei's try against the Sydney Roosters on June 6 completed the unprecedented feat of scoring 10 tries or more in 10 consecutive seasons (2006-2015).

500 Points in the NRL | Shaun Johnson passed 500 career points in the NRL on his way to scoring 20 points against Gold Coast on June 20; he is the fourth player to reach the mark for the Vodafone Warriors after Ivan Cleary, Stacey Jones and Manu Vatuvei).

## VODAFONE WARRIORS V CANBERRA RAIDERS

Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

5.00pm, Saturday, June 27

Referees: Gerard Sutton and Chris Butler

## BETTING – CHECK OUT ALL THE ODDS

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

Head to head | Vodafone Warriors \$1.42, Canberra \$2.70

GO TO [TAB.CO.NZ](http://TAB.CO.NZ) FOR ALL ODDS | VODAFONE WARRIORS v CANBERRA

## TV COVERAGE

SKY SPORT 2: Live from 4.30pm (kick-off 5.00pm), Saturday, June 27

BUY TICKETS NOW | #ONESIEPARTY | VODAFONE WARRIORS v CANBERRA



## Calling all Vodafone Warriors Supporters

Who want to go to Wellington



**W**HAT COULD be better than hanging out with your mates, having a few bebies and watching NRL?

Not much we think, so join us on our very own overnight return fan flight and you can be part of the crowd that witness the Vodafone Warriors take on St George Illawarra Dragons at the impressive Westpac Stadium on Saturday 8th August.

### Our premium package includes:

Return flights from Auckland to Wellington watching the Vodafone Warriors in style from the comfort of the premium Sir Peter Leitch Lounge at Westpac Stadium, one nights accommodation at Rydges Wellington, return transfers from Wellington Airport to Rydges Hotel.

Price: \$439 per person (share twin) \$539 per person (single)

We also have just the return flight and game ticket option available for only \$279.00 per person.

Saturday 8th August

Depart Auckland 12.00pm

Arrive Wellington 1.00pm

Sunday 9th August

Depart Wellington 1.20pm

Arrive Auckland 2.20pm

Book online at [www.grabaseat.co.nz](http://www.grabaseat.co.nz) or contact [grabaseat@airnz.co.nz](mailto:grabaseat@airnz.co.nz) if you have any queries.





# Vodafone Warriors vs Raiders - Players - Courtesy Big League Magazine



**DATE:** SATURDAY, JUNE 27 **VENUE:** MT SMART STADIUM **KICK-OFF:** 5PM (NZ)  
**REFEREE:** GERARD SUTTON **ASSISTANT REFEREE:** CHRIS BUTLER  
**TOUCH JUDGES:** JEFF YOUNIS & ANTHONY ELIOTT **VIDEO REFS:** STEVE CHIDDY & BEN GALEA  
**FOX SPORTS:** LIVE 3PM (AEST) **LIVE RADIO:** ABC (NSW+QLD REG), TRIPLE M (SYD+BRIS)

P T G PTS				#NRLWarriorsRaiders				P T G PTS			
4	0	0	0	Sam TOMKINS	1	Jack WIGHTON	12	5	0	20	
13	4	0	16	Tuimoala LOLOHEA	2	Edrick LEE	14	6	0	24	
7	2	0	8	Konrad HURRELL	3	Jarrod CROKER (C)	14	6	55	134	
14	11	0	44	Solomone KATA	4	Sisa WAQA	13	5	0	20	
13	10	0	40	Manu VATUVEI	5	Jordan RAPANA	11	5	0	20	
14	2	0*	9	Chad TOWNSEND	6	Blake AUSTIN	14	10	0	40	
14	5	39*100		Shaun JOHNSON	7	Sam WILLIAMS	8	1	0*	5	
13	0	0	0	Jacob LILLYMAN	8	Paul VAUGHAN	14	1	0	4	
14	2	0	8	Nathan FRIEND	9	Josh HODGSON	14	1	0	4	
14	2	0	8	Ben MATULINO	10	David SHILLINGTON	5	0	0	0	
14	4	0	16	Bodene THOMPSON	11	Josh PAPALII	14	5	0	20	
12	3	0	12	Ryan HOFFMAN	12	Sia SOLIOLA	14	3	0	12	
14	0	0	0	Simon MANNERING (C)	13	Shaun FENSOM	13	1	0	4	
INTERCHANGE											
3	0	0	0	Siliva HAVILI	14	Kurt BAPTISTE	8	0	0	0	
3	1	0	4	Raymond FAITALA-MARINER	15	Jarrad KENNEDY	14	2	0	8	
2	0	0	0	Charlie GUBB	16	Frank-Paul NUUAUSALA	14	1	0	4	
11	0	0	0	Albert VETE	17	Shannon BOYD	10	3	0	12	

## INTERCHANGE

3	0	0	0	Siliva HAVILI	14	Kurt BAPTISTE	8	0	0	0
3	1	0	4	Raymond FAITALA-MARINER	15	Jarrad KENNEDY	14	2	0	8
2	0	0	0	Charlie GUBB	16	Frank-Paul NUUAUSALA	14	1	0	4
11	0	0	0	Albert VETE	17	Shannon BOYD	10	3	0	12

18 Joseph LEILUA

\*Field Goals: S Johnson 2, C Townsend 1

\*Field Goals: S Williams 1

## COACHES

Andrew McFADDEN

Ricky STUART

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

NOTES:

PENALTIES				SCRUMS			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	13	14	15	16

	WARRIORS	RAIDERS
Position (Points)	7th (16)	10th (14)
Points For	297	339
Points Against	306	324

ATTACK		
Tries	54	57
Completions	73%	79%
Tries 0-20m	31	38
Tries 21-50m	14	14
Tries 51-100m	9	5

DEFENCE		
Tries	54	55
Tries 0-20m	38	36
Tries 21-50m	10	12
Tries 51-100m	6	7

MATCH AVERAGES		
Tries Scored	4	4
Tries Conceded	4	4
Points Scored	21	24
Points Conceded	22	23
Hit Ups/Runs	88	83
Tackles	322	342
Metres Gained	796	776
Handling Errors	5	4
Offloads	9	11
Line-breaks	5	4
Goal-kicking	68%	83%

**HEAD TO HEAD**  
 Played 33, Canberra 17, Warriors 16.

**AT MT SMART STADIUM**  
 Played 16, Warriors 10, Canberra 6.

**WINNING FORM 2015**  
 WARRIORS: LWLLWLLWWBLLW Streak - 1 win.  
 CANBERRA: WLLWLLWWLLWBL Streak - 1 loss.

**PAST 6 CLASHES**  
 2015 - WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 18-6 at GIO Stadium.  
 2014 - WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 54-18 at GIO Stadium;  
 WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 54-12 at Eden Park.  
 2013 - WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 50-16 at Mt Smart Stadium;  
 CANBERRA D. WARRIORS 20-16 at Canberra Stadium.  
 2012 - CANBERRA D. WARRIORS 42-22 at Mt Smart Stadium;  
 CANBERRA D. WARRIORS 32-12 at Canberra Stadium.  
 2011 - WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 29-10 at Mt Smart Stadium.

**BIGGEST HEAD TO HEAD WINS**  
 WARRIORS D. CANBERRA 54-12 at Eden Park, 2014.  
 CANBERRA D. AUCKLAND 56-12 at Bruce Stadium, 2000.

**NEXT CLASH**  
 WARRIORS: Bye.  
 CANBERRA: Bye.

**CASUALTY WARD**  
 WARRIORS: Ngani Laumape (knee) - indefinite; Thomas Leuluai (knee)/Ben Henry (knee) - season.  
 CANBERRA: Kyle O'Donnell (shoulder) - Rd 18-19; Joel Edwards (toe) - indefinite.

All the special packs kiwis long luncheon and state of origin memorabilia in yesterdays newsletter went by 5pm yesterday sorry if you missed out and all the packages have been sent out.



FORMER Knights recruitment manager Peter Mulholland is renowned for spotting talent. Mulholland, who now holds that position at the Dragons, was on assignment for the Knights in Auckland three years ago to run the rule over several Kiwi kids he had been keeping tabs on. One of those boys became the Knights' 260th first-grader last Sunday when he made his NRL debut in a 30-28 loss to Cronulla at Hunter Stadium. Just 16 at the time, Danny Levi was playing for Wellington Orcas against Auckland in a New Zealand under17s game and was unaware he was on Mulholland's short list. He thought Mulholland was there to scout outside back Brody Lam, who was playing for the opposition but is now his team-mate in Newcastle's National Youth Cup (U20s) team. "I knew who he was," Mulholland said. "He came over originally to live with a family in Penrith and I saw him play at Glenmore Park. "I was at Canterbury at the time, and he couldn't make Penrith's Harold Matthews (under16s) side, so from there he went to the Roosters to play Harold Matthews. "Then he went home, so I asked [former Knights back-rower and Kiwi international] David Lomax to keep an eye on him over there. When he started playing first grade over there against men, I got interested again and it went from there. "He's an old-fashioned hooker who was 10 metres

ahead of everybody else in his thinking. "He could roll the rucks, he was strong in defence, he played the whole 80 minutes of the game, and his skill level out of dummy-half was great." The Wellington-born Randwick Kingfishers junior agreed to join the Knights in 2014 but instead arrived midway through 2013 to help cover injuries, and he has not looked back. When regular hooker Adam Clydsdale was ruled out last week because of a shoulder injury, Knights coach Rick Stone called Levi up to relieve Tyler Randell off the bench. His parents, Danny and Dhana, flew in from Wellington to watch him realise his dream. "Earlier on, it was a goal of mine just to play NRL, but this year I really set a goal for myself to try to debut this year, so to achieve that was an amazing feeling," Levi said. "My parents were so stoked to be able to come over and watch, especially Dad, because he was my trainer and coach back home and he's been following me ever since I've been growing up. "So to be able to play in front of them on the big stage, that was a really proud moment. "It wasn't the result we wanted but we had a pretty young team and we're still trying to mould that first-grade team, so we just want our supporters to stick by us and hopefully we can do better this week." Aged 18, Levi captained a Knights NYC team including Sione Mata'utia, Jake Mamo

and Joseph Tapine to the 2014 minor premiership, was named in the NYC team of the year, and represented the Junior Kiwis in a 15-14 victory over the Junior Kangaroos. "I've captained a few sides back home," he said. "I've got a bit of a big mouth I guess, but I was really happy to captain the side last year." Making the most of the chance to work one on one with former Knights, NSW and Australian hooker and captain Danny Buderus, Levi continued to develop and improve his game while training with the NRL and NSW Cup squads. Levi, who is studying Certificate III in Fitness at the Hunter TAFE Tighes Hill campus, played a handful of rugby union games as a schoolboy but said league has always been his passion. "I played rugby when I was really young but it was only touch back then and Dad wanted me to get into tackle, so I got put into league and I've played that ever since," he said. "Back when I was under14s and under16s I played a bit in the halves but I made the move back to hooker when I was under17s and I've been playing there ever since. "Working with 'Bedsy'

[Buderus], he's taught me heaps, especially a lot of attitude-based stuff, so with him by my side it's been a lot easier. "I really look up to Bedsy, and my favourite player is Issac Luke so I watch him a lot as well." Levi played 27 minutes either side of half-time against Cronulla last Sunday and made 18 tackles for one miss and one that was ineffective. He only made two runs from dummy-half, and went close to scoring on one of those darts, but concentrated on providing slick service to his receivers and runners. "I thought he was pretty solid," Stone said. "Any time you jump into the NRL scenario for a 19-year-old making his debut, I think he acquitted himself pretty well physically and with his decision-making process. "How he handled himself when he went out there, I was happy for him. Dan's been with us for a couple of years of now and hopefully he's going to have a big future for us." Stone has retained Levi in the squad to play Brisbane at Suncorp Stadium on Friday night. "I was just happy to be out there and hopefully I've done enough to hold a spot again."



Wellington Rugby League	Premiership	Points Table	
Te Aroha Eels	18	Upper Hutt Tigers	4
Randwick Kingfishers	16	Petone Panthers	0
Wainuiomata Lions	15		
Porirua Vikings	12		
University Hunters	10		
St George Dragons	5		



Community &  
Competition

# AUCKLAND RUGBY LEAGUE INC

Update on what's happening in the Auckland Rugby League scene.

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## **CEO Communications Newsletter: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

### **Club is the Hub (CITH)**

Meetings have been held with Clubs participating in the Club is the Hub programme. The aim of these meetings is to discuss with individual clubs their progress in meeting the requirements of the programme as it stands for 2015.

As flagged at both the conference and the AGM, participating clubs that qualify for funding under the 2015 partnership agreement are allocated a grant on the basis of team strengths. The grant does not take the form of cash but is available through the ARL for the payment of operational expenses on producing an invoice.

The administrative loading (around 40%) is paid mid-year.

The rest of the monies will be available in October following further discussions with ARL staff around the football based (season long) pieces of the programme. Because this is the first year of CITH we have been careful to ensure that it is both credible in the sense of producing benefits to the Rugby League community and sustainable.

We envisage the programme will both endure and grow as the seasons roll on.

### **Governance**

We will be running a Governance Training Course for people wishing to advance in governance and administrative roles within the ARL community. The course will consist of three by three hour blocks. Dr Brent Wheeler from Brent Wheeler Group Limited will run the course on our behalf. Those completing the course will receive the ARL Certificate in Governance.

Provisional dates for the spring semester are 24<sup>th</sup> September, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, and 13<sup>th</sup> November. It is likely attendance at the course will be linked to Club is the Hub loading in 2016.

The course is intended to educate the league community in the normal protocols expected at meetings whether they be at committee meetings, club conferences or AGMs.

We would like to acknowledge the work of J D Rawiri, Chairman of the Manukau club in helping with this process.

### **Competitions**

Where possible this season we have broken comps up into championship, plate and sometimes bowl sections. The short term aim of this is to enhance the competitiveness of the various sections.



Players and teams obviously derive more enjoyment from being matched as closely to their appropriate skill level on a weekly basis. In the longer term this added enjoyment might help to keep players in the game for a longer period.

The health of our 16-20 are vital for the sustained competitiveness of our flagship Premier competitions. Following the club season the regional and representative programme will begin. Keep an eye on the website for details.

### **End of Season Nines**

This year for the first time we are piloting an end of season Nines comp. These are designed for:

- players not involved in the rep or regional games
- people who may have completed commitments with school sport
- groups of friends who might wish to get a nines team together, just as they would a touch or tag team.

We will be marketing the end of season Nines across our website, social media, ethnic radio stations and papers, churches, tertiary institutions and schools.

But remember word of mouth is the best advertising, **so please do your best to spread the word!**

### **Memberships**


Within a week we will be activating the second part of our membership drive for 2015. We have set ourselves a target of achieving a thousand members in 2015.

We will be contacting most of our players, coaches and managers using the communicator portal on our database.

We would ask your support in encouraging as many members of your club and the wider Rugby League Community to take up the offers available, particularly the sign up offer (while stocks last) of the Lone Star T shirt and meal vouchers.

Remember I am always available to discuss Rugby League matters via email [john.a@aucklandleague.co.nz](mailto:john.a@aucklandleague.co.nz) or on mobile.

Regards



John Ackland  
Chief Executive Officer  
Auckland Rugby League

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## 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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