

20 YEARS
VODAFONE



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter 2 July 2015 #79a

Scroll down to see how you could win a Panasonic sound system worth \$1500



Vodafone Warriors
v
Canberra Raiders

Tuimoala Lolohea
scores a fantastic try!

Photos courtesy of www.photosport.co.nz

WHAT A fantastic time we had at Mt Smart, home of the Vodafone Warriors, on Saturday.

The team did us proud, putting the Canberra Raiders to the sword, winning 30-8 with Tuimoala Lolohea getting a double, but the whole team played well.

It was a tremendous way for Jacob Lillyman to celebrate playing his 200th NRL game, and for Bodene Thompson to bring up his century.

Unfortunately, because I am hosting the Mad Butcher Club in the Stacey Jones Lounge, I don't always see as much of the game as I would like, but the payback is meeting fabulous people.

Because of health and safety rules, we are only allowed 228 people, so getting in is not always easy, but on Saturday we had people from all over the country, including a group from Wanganui, who were able to attend courtesy of the club, just as a break from their flooding troubles.

We must have sung Happy Birthday a half a dozen times. First for Sam Harris, 10, from Christchurch. We made a fuss of him and his father tells me he has not stopped talking about it yet.

Then there was the five-year-old son of Bradley King, The Rock Station Manager. He plays for the Northcote Tigers, and was along because he won player of the day recently. Maybe one for the Warriors to keep an eye on!

We also had a woman named Maria from Thames, who is battling cancer, and she told me she had a fabulous time, and she was not alone. Alana Taylor is suffering from some lung problems, and all the way from Christchurch, she enjoyed her day out immensely.

There were others from Napier, Dargaville and even Invercargill. It is a pleasure to host all these people, and a bigger one to send them all home happy with a win.

Ken Maumalo and Ngani Laumape made it up before the game, as did Charlie Gubb afterwards, though he was the first to admit he was a bit tired after a good outing for the first team.

And I tell you what, we won't be beaten this weekend for sure. That's because we have the bye, so I might get to blow the cobwebs off the kayak on Waiheke Island.

Sadly, I will be out there this week because the island lost two identities, the first my good mate Shorty, well-known in softball circles, and then a few days later Wes Burns.

What brightened the week though was my Warriors, and then seeing the Hurricanes and Highlanders get through to the Super Rugby final, to make it an all Kiwi affair. I was chuffed because they have been the most exciting teams all year.

And well done to everyone who made the effort to onesie up for the game on Saturday, and helped Kidz First Children's Hospital with its Jammies in June campaign.

It's a great idea, putting pyjamas on our little ones to keep them warm and out of hospital. If you haven't helped and want to, visit www.middlemorefoundation.org.nz to find out how.

CHECK OUT THE NRL FOOTY SHOW

Tonight on Sky Sport 2 at 10.30pm then, re-played Friday on Sky Sport 1 at 12 noon and on Sky Sport 2 at 7.30pm. It's worth checking out.

This Weeks Guest:

Konrad Hurrell & Manu Vatuvei





Alan McLaughlin the legendary Broadcaster.



All the best to David from Wanganui who won a \$100 TAB bet on Hoffman to score the first try at \$21 from Brendon



Brad from the Rock and Max - Northcote Tigers Player of The Day,



Braden, Bailey and Ashton from Atlanta Georgia, USA.



All the Birthday boys blowing out the candles.



Ngani Laumape interviews Ken Maumalo.



Dot from Christchurch is a massive fan of the mighty Vodafone Warriors and would you believe has 5 kids!



Brendan who used to work for Vodafone and now lives in the USA.



David Kemeys (newsletter Editor in Chief), Ben Francis (newsletter northern correspondent) and Allen Dennis who does a sports show in Dargville.

See You Later Tara

LAST GAME for Tara Cruickshank. Been a member since she was three years old. Will be seven in August. Moving back home to Christchurch. Loves the Warriors and Sir Peter. Will definitely be up next season for a game. Thanks for everything.





Eddie sings Happy Birthday to Allan as a punishment for talking while the Butcher was on the mike.



Eddie Traill and Rose Barnett and Oriana Traill and Dexter Traill.



Handsome Steve's Birthday cake.



Ian and Marci from Warkworth in their Onesies!.



Janice gives 84 year old June chocolate macadamia nuts from her trip to the Gold Coast.



Joyce, M8 and Trevor our helpers in the club!



Lounge staff: Lili Kainiu, Mary Brewster, Susan Campbell, Colleen Nena all did a great job of looking after us.



Marcia Quirke has been battling ill health but had a blast.



Mazzie, jackson, Matt and Deano in the lounge! Jackson is also a big fan of Shaun Johnson!



We were honoured to have Charlie Gubb join us in the lounge.



Sir Peter interviewing Charlie Gubb in the Stacey Jones Lounge after the game!



Daniel Mulqueen, Bianca White-Mulqueen, Stu Anderson, David Bainbridge, Leanne Bainbridge and Dot Eaton from Christchurch.



Sir Peter wishing Steve the Pom with a cheeky Happy 60th Birthday Cake! But Oops it was his 50th



The Poms sing happy birthday to Sam Harris who came up from Christchurch for his Birthday.



Tony Feasey, David Bainbridge and Dexter Trail won the Spot Prizes!



Tony Feasey, Me with my Onesie and Trevor holding M8!



Tony from Wanganui had the audacity to wear a Raiders shirt in the lounge (no more free tickets for him!).



Zac, Tony, Jo, Dave, Sean, Ciara and Niamh all drove from Wanganui to support their favourite team!

Even More Lovely Kiwis Luncheon Feedback

Dear Sir Peter

Just a note to say thank you so much for arranging the above...

I had a fantastic, entertaining and exciting afternoon..

I was very lucky to Win "King Wally" in your silent auction

Here's a picture of us just before kick off State of Origin game 2.. As you can see I'm a blues supporter so I spent the evening consoling poor "King Wally"

I've had a few mates asking if they can borrow him for the final game and I have reluctantly agreed as long as they make a donation to the Cancer Society

You're a legend Sir Peter

Love your work!!

Warm regards

Christy



Award Given to some Mates

MY OLD mates the Wai Wai girls from Waiheke Island who are lounge regulars have just received an award.

Nominated by Mikki-take Tapara, Sarah Williams, Raewyn Neilson and Marg Graydon received the award in the Group Category, from the Waiheke Local Board, for the fund raising they have done for various Charities on the Island over the last few years.



Alana Taylor

Dear Sir Peter,

One behalf of myself and my mother a 'big thank you' and we're so grateful for your hospitality at the Warriors game on the 27th of June. Life has been tough the last few months and receiving your invite up to your nice warm lounge just made our night. I'm on the Transplant List, waiting for a transplant due to having Cystic Fibrosis.

I have started fundraising for the extra expense for myself and my family during and after my transplant. I have started a GIVE A LITTLE page. If you could raise awareness of my situation out there I would be deeply appreciative. Thanks again,

Thanks again

Kind regards, Alana Taylor



Ngani Laumape and Alana Taylor and Ken Maumalo.

Jayne Hoffman executive assistant at Vodafone warriors presents ball to Alana Taylor. →



[Alana's Give a Little: Click Here](#)

I'm Not the Only One Who Thinks These Shoes Are Great!

Went into Melbourne and brought 1 pair of Gel Odyssey Shoes, They were so comfortable I finished buying 3 Pairs: I Pair for around my Farmlet, 2 pair 1 Black and 1 brown.

Best Shoe ever Colin



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 Rugby League Tour To England - 45 Page Guide



2015 Kiwis Long Luncheon Commemorative Plate

Here is what Kiwis Coach Steve Kearney had to say...

Hi Pete, I just wanted to say a massive thank you for sending me a commemorative plate & the 2015 tour to UK booklet, unfortunately I was unable to be present at the luncheon & feel fantastic that I'm able to have both of these special pieces to mark such a wonderful occasion, looking at all the photos in the Butch's Newsletter its looks like it was an awesome day, so everyone get you piece of memorabilia to mark the day also for only \$15.

Cheers Butch, Kiwi Coach – Steve Kearney



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 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

Shane "Twinkle Toes" Cameron

HE'S GONE from Shane 'Mountain Warrior' Cameron to Shane 'Twinkle Toes' Cameron and isn't he doing well!

Get in behind my longtime friend, Shane Cameron and his quest to reign supreme on the dance floor on TV3's Dancing with the Stars!

Please support Shane and a charity close to my heart (who could forget little Ryeli Gulliver who passed away a couple of weeks ago) - the Child Cancer Foundation, by texting SHANE to 3999. Texts cost 99c and go straight to the Child Cancer Foundation.



Vodafone Warriors Loses a Great Fan - Vale Kevin Jefcoate

THE WARRIORS' commanding win over the Raiders on Saturday was extra special for a group of Christchurch-based supporters. Earlier that day, they farewelled a dear friend and family member, and an extraordinary young man.

Kevin Jefcoate was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at age 4, but his remarkable positivity and courage, and his work to change the perceptions of people living with disability, were an inspiration to all who knew him. Kevin was killed in a car accident near Woodend on June 22, aged 25.

A diehard Warriors supporter and club member, anecdotes about Kevin's passion for Rugby League and his team – among many, many stories underlining his bravery in the face of an unimaginably challenging condition – were laced throughout an incredibly uplifting memorial service held in Rangiora on Saturday morning. A Warriors jersey hung proudly on the wall at the service, testament to his love of the team he has rode many highs and lows with over the past decade.

His condition meant he never had the chance to play Rugby League, but if a club could bottle Kevin's bravery, perseverance, enthusiasm and strength under adversity, they'd win 10 premierships. RIP Kevin J, a fanatical Warrior, and a true warrior in life.

Check out Kevin's inspirational blog [here](#).



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KIDS \$55



WARRIORSSTORE.CO.NZ

Thanks from the Waitara Bears Boys

Morning to you Sir Peter.

Hope you have recovered from the massive weekend, organised by you and your team. The LUNCHEON was outstanding and was well worth the trip up from Taranaki.

A pity the Mighty Vodafone Warriors couldn't quite get over the line against the Roosters, but a great game anyway. And 2 wins in a row since

Your hospitality in the Butchers Lounge was fantastic. A big thank you to DEXTER and Helan for looking after us.

I was lucky enough to win a prize off your raffle table. I chose the ASICS voucher worth \$280.00. On arriving home on Sunday I looked up their website and sorted out a nice pair of walkers! (Not runners!!)

Made contact with Asics on Monday and they were delivered to my doorstep on Wednesday. Asics were very professional in their response. Thank you ASICS!



Regards Terri Tamati.

Go the Mighty Vodafone Warriors! (And Manley)

Mum says HI.

PS. A photo taken in the lounge of the Waitara Bears Boys watching the game..

ARL Results

Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership

Otahuhu 20 Howick 24
Northcote 14 Mt Albert 46
Glenora 20 Mangere East 26
Otara 28 Marist 34
Pt Chevalier 18 Papakura 24

SAS Sharman Cup

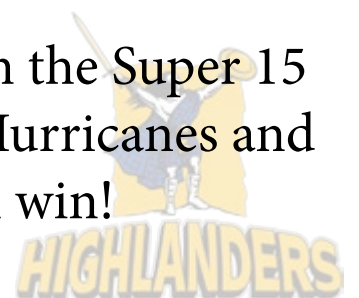
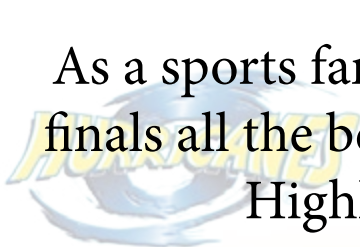
Papatoetoe 38 Hibiscus Coast 10
New Lynn 20 Te Atatu 22
Manurewa 40 Richmond 20
Manukau 18 East Coast Bays 16
Waitemata 26 Pakuranga 26
Mt Wellington 40 Glenfield 10

Ponsonby 26 Bay Roskill 42
Ellerslie bye



Wishing NZ Teams All the Best

As a sports fan I want to wish both finalist in the Super 15 finals all the best. So good luck to both the Hurricanes and Highlanders and may the best team win!



LEGENDS OF LEAGUE

NZRL Legends of League was introduced in 1995 with an inaugural intake of 13 players. The "Hall of Fame" concept now recognises 51 of New Zealand's greatest rugby league players, dating back to the father of the game here, Albert Baskerville.

Most recently, four of Canterbury finest – Alister Atkinson (Kiwi #336), Mocky Brereton (Kiwi #466), Mark Broadhurst (Kiwi #549) and Jimmy Haig (Kiwi #300) - were inducted in 2013, as part of the district's centenary celebrations.

Previously, three others were added to mark Wellington's 100th year, including current Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney (Kiwi #640).

In 2007, many of these legends were further acknowledged in the NZRL Team of the Century. Two of those selected have yet to become Legends of League – prop/centre Ruben Wiki and half Stacey Jones.

The Legends of League selection panel consists of former Kiwis John Bray, Jack Fagan and Don Hammond, NZRL life member Peter Kerridge, and veteran journalists John Coffey and Richard Becht.

Legends of League
51 inductees
(date of induction in brackets)



Ron Ackland (1995)



Albert Asher (2008)



Bert Avery (1995)



Alister Atkinson (2013)



Roger Bailey (1995)



Albert Baskerville (2001)



Tom Baxter (1995)



Dean Bell (2000)



Lory Blanchard (2000)



Mocky Brereton (2013)



Mark Broadhurst (2013)



Jock Butterfield (2001)



Roy Christian (2007)



Tony Coll (2007)



Mel Cooke (1995)



Cyril Eastlake (1995)



Olsen Filipaina (2007)



Gary Freeman (2007)



Mark Graham (1995)



Travers Hardwick (2000)



Tom Hadfield (2010)



Jimmy Haig (2013)



Don Hammond (2010)



Colin O'Neil (2012)



Philip Orchard (2001)



John Percival (Referee) (1995)



Maurie Robertson (2000)



Karl Ifwersen (2000)



Cliff Johnson (1995)



Stephen Kearney (2012)



Charlie McBride (2000)



Jim Rukutai (2008)



Charlie Seeling (2001)



Pat Smith (2007)



Bill Sorensen (2000)



Scotty McClymont (2007)



Ron McGregor (2007)



Bill McLennan (2000)



Hugh McGahan (1995)



Kurt Sorensen (2000)



Ken Stirling (2007)



Kevin Tamati (1995)



Lance Todd (2007)



George Menzies (1995)



Cecil Mountford (2000)



Frank Mulcare (2007)



Tawera Nikau (2008)



Steve Watene (2008)



Des White (1995)



John Whittaker (2012)



Dennis Williams (1995)

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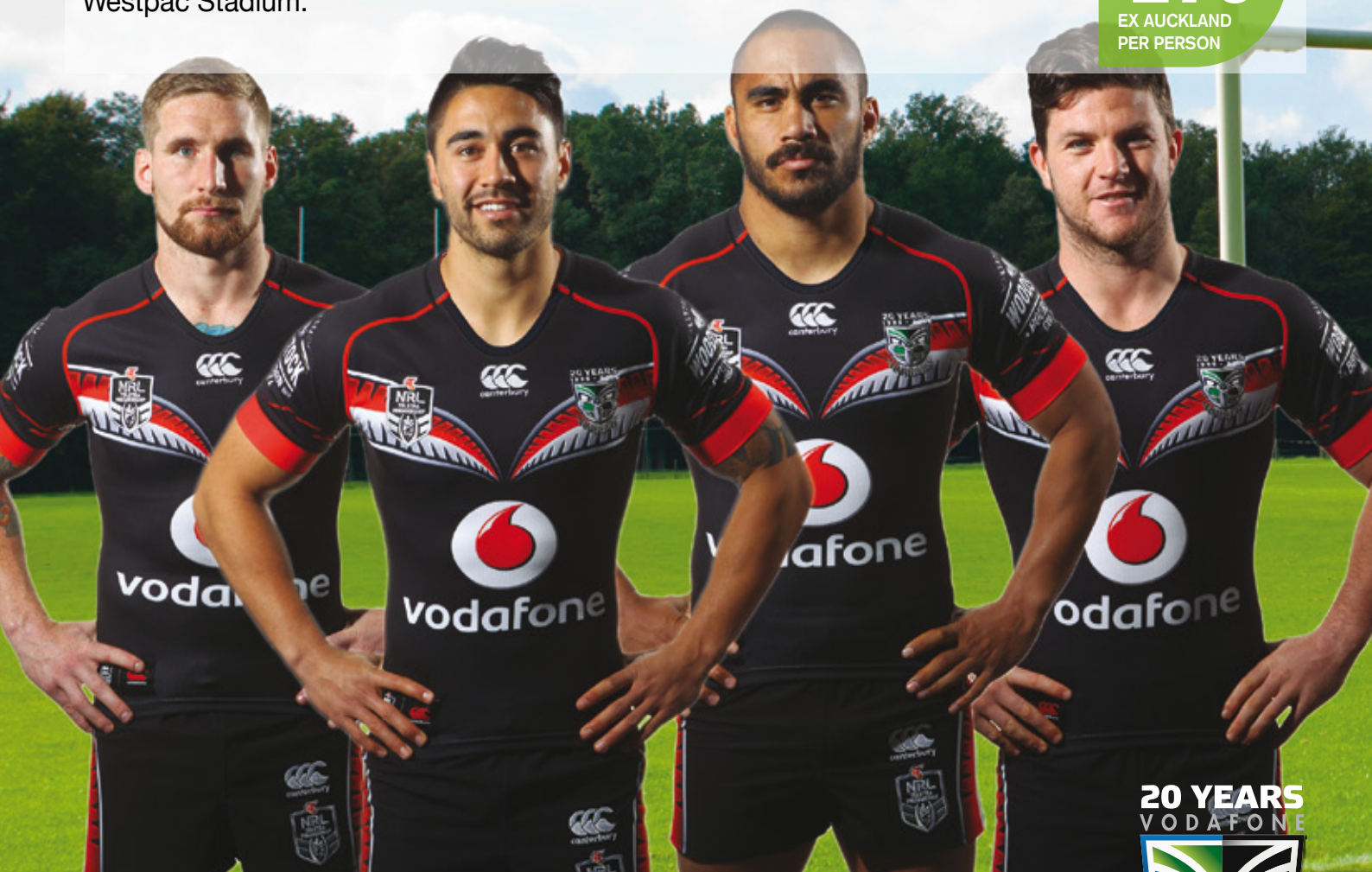
Deal includes return flights to Wellington (seat only) on our dedicated Vodafone Warriors fan flight, a ticket to watch the Vodafone Warriors in style from the comfort of the premium Sir Peter Leitch Lounge at Westpac Stadium.

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PER PERSON

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Black Sticks Women Blaze into Semi-Final

The Black Sticks Women will play for a medal and a shot at Olympic qualification following a thrilling 5-1 over Japan in the quarters at the FIH World League Semi-Final in Antwerp.



New Zealand are now through to the semi-finals where they will meet either Belgium or Korea at 6.30am on Friday 3 June (NZ time), with live coverage on SKY Sport.

If the Black Sticks win their next game they will earn automatic qualification for the 2016 Rio Olympics, while the top four placing also earns them a spot to compete at the World League Final in Rosario, Argentina from 5-13 December.

With the game delicately poised and locked up at 1-1 at halftime, New Zealand overpowered Japan in the second half and the flood gates opened.

Head coach Mark Hager said Japan caught them off-guard in the first quarter but it was pleasing to come back and wear them down.

“The Japanese surprised us the way they came out, they were very aggressive and played a fast tempo and we were a bit shell shocked,” he said.

“It was pleasing that at 1-0 down we didn’t panic, we kept striving along and changed our tactics as the game went on which worked for us.

“We knew if we scored goals the game would open up. Luckily for us that happened and girls like Michelsen and Punt were able to run freely in the midfield.”

Japan came out running against the Black Sticks and were quickly creating chances on attack, taking the lead inside five minutes when Akiko Kato pounced on a loose ball in the circle.

The Black Sticks responded immediately though, with a good passage of play ending with Petrea Webster knocking home a rebound.

Both sides had their chances throughout the second quarter but went into halftime locked up at one goal apiece.

The Black Sticks lifted the intensity after break and took their first lead of the game in the 34th minute with Sophie Cocks putting the finishing touch on a superb baseline run and flick back by Gemma Flynn.

Eight minutes later the Kiwis pushed the buffer out to two goals with Anita Punt rocketing a penalty corner drag flick into the roof of the net.

Kirsten Pearce put the game beyond doubt midway through the fourth quarter with a brilliant run into space and then lobbed over the keeper before Gemma Flynn knocked another one home from close range for her side’s fifth goal.

Vote for your favourite Black Sticks Men’s and Women’s player from the FIH World League Semi-Final and help decide the 2015 People’s Choice Award winners.

BLACK STICKS 5: (Petrea Webster, Sophie Cocks, Anita Punt, Kirsten Pearce, Gemma Flynn)

JAPAN 1: (Akiko Kato)

Halftime: 1-1



Gary Clarke - One of the Unsung Heroes of Our Great Game

(Please take the time to read this!)

FORMER KIWI Test halfback Gary Clarke doesn't have to go too far to relive the experiences and achievements garnered from a long and distinguished career as a player, coach and selector for Christchurch, Linwood, Papanui, Sydenham, Canterbury, South Island and New Zealand.

The 73-year-old boasts what must surely rank as one of the biggest and most extraordinary collections of Rugby League memorabilia in the country on display in a museum in the factory of his business, Gary Clarke Plastics, in Woolston.

He has jerseys, blazers, caps, team photos, newspaper clippings and all manner of other collectables, almost all of it framed, on the walls of a League-lovers' dream staff-room – a sizeable space with a bar stationed at one end, a pool table and several leaners made from old barrels...but it's almost impossible to peel yourself away from the artefacts lining the perimeter.

Much of it was accumulated during his career, but hundreds of pieces have been donated by former teammates, coaches, players under his charge and acquaintances. One particularly rare, eye-catching piece is referee Earl Pilcher's whistle – framed with the official team card – from South Island's famous victory over Australia in Christchurch in 1980.

"I had my own stuff from over the years in the garage at home. Jerseys and stuff, and then other things from when my father was coaching at Sydenham, and my brothers with their photos. At our last place (prior to the earthquakes) I had a little private bar up the top, I started to display it up there and I ran out of room, so I moved a few machines out and put it all down at the factory," Clarke explained.

"(Sir) Peter (Leitch) has sent down a lot of good stuff over the years, and it's just gone on and on and on, and this is what's happened. It's very enjoyable, and I get people that walk in here that have come through the factory and they see it and say, 'wow, what the hell's this?'. People are blown away by it and that gives you a bit of a (buzz)."

Kiwi blazers donated by revered former Test player and coach Lory Blanchard, and New Zealand Team of the Century lock Mel Cooke take pride of place, along with Clarke's own black-and-white jerseys and blazers.

But Clarke could be mistaken for a run-of-the-mill League tragic, so humble is he about his vast accomplishments at club and representative level. Besides his three Test appearances in the second half of the 1960s, Clarke represented Canterbury on 30 occasions; captained South Island; won club premierships as a player, player-coach and non-playing coach; coached Canterbury to a historic triumph; and was a national selector at a crucial juncture in New Zealand's Rugby League narrative.

Born and bred in Christchurch, Clarke's three brothers – Jim, Ron and Rex – were all representative players at schoolboy level, while his Belfast-born father played and coached at Sydenham. Gary began playing for Linwood as a five-year-old, and made his senior club debut at just 17 for Christchurch in the late-1950s after winning a place in the Kiwi Schoolboys side in '56.

"Yes it was (tough), but it was good times. I played with and against a lot of good guys, and made a lot of good friends – friends you have for the rest of your life," he recalled of his early days playing in the local club competition in a rough-and-tumble era.

Clarke broke into the Canterbury team in 1963 and received his maiden national call-up three years later, chosen as a reserve for the series against the touring Great Britain side. He warmed the bench for the entire first Test, but an injury early in the second encounter at Carlaw Park saw the diminutive half play almost a full game against the Lions, who prevailed 22-14.

"In the first five or 10 minutes of the second game Roger Bailey got hurt. He was playing in the centres, so I went out to stand-off. I think I went reasonably well, I was mentioned in the paper for having a good game," Clarke said of his debut in typically understated fashion.

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A lengthy injury spell in 1967 wrecked his chances of touring Britain and France with the Kiwis, but he was back in the squad for the 1968 World Cup, donning the No.7 against France at Carlaw Park and Australia at Lang Park. Clarke opposed brilliant St George halfback Billy Smith in the latter clash.

Clarke had a memorable run-in with another Dragons icon in 1969 when he captained South Island to a valiant 24-15 loss against the touring Australian side in Christchurch, kayoed by a future Immortal of the code.

"I got flattened by Graeme Langlands. I chased through and took the ball off him, and he went 'bang, bang', and I was down. I can remember asking (teammate) Bobby Irvine, 'who are we playing?'," he said, laughing off a painful brush with Rugby League royalty.

Clarke had a huge influence on the Canterbury premiership during two decades as a player and coach, joining Linwood in 1963 and winning a title, before linking with Papanui the following season to play under brother Ron, who was coaching the club.

He later assumed the role of player-coach with Papanui, steering the side to back-to-back Grand Final successes in 1971-72 before retiring at the relatively young age of 29.

Clarke did have one last major impact on the CRL premiership as a non-playing coach, accepting an offer to take over at struggling Sydenham in 1978. After winning the Gore Cup in his first season at the helm, the club reached the 1979 Grand Final, where they were pipped 8-5 by Clarke's former club, Papanui.

But perhaps Clarke's most significant coaching contribution was in charge of Canterbury in 1975, leading the team through an undefeated domestic campaign that culminated in the province's first-ever win against Auckland at Carlaw Park.

"Canterbury hadn't done that good over the years, and I brought in a lot of young players – and a couple of oldies – and we went through unbeaten."

Among the tyros Clarke blooded was a 20-year-old Mark Broadhurst. The perennial underdogs overcame a 6-2 halftime deficit to claim a watershed 15-14 triumph.

A long-serving Canterbury and South Island selector, Clarke was part of the New Zealand selection panel in 1983-84, helping pick the Graham Lowe-coached line-ups that defeated Australia at Lang Park in '83 – the Kiwis' first win over the green-and-golds in 12 years – and swept the touring Great Britain side 3-0 in '84.

"Graham was always in favour of bringing in the younger ones. I used to pick my team – I wouldn't show the others – and then we'd listen to the coach, and most of the time the teams were the same as I would've picked if I was coaching.

"It was very enjoyable working with Graham and the rest of them like Bill Sorensen and Bill O'Callaghan."

He takes great pride in New Zealand's recent dominance, and is still a keen follower of the game. Not one to have favourite players, Clarke did, however, reveal his admiration for the player now wearing his old No.7 jersey so brilliantly, Shaun Johnson.

Clarke has worked in the plastics industry since leaving school at age 15, and started up his own company 28 years ago. A life member of Canterbury Rugby League, he has been a generous supporter of grassroots footy in the region, from sponsoring the Canterbury Bulls during the 2013 Centenary season to assisting junior teams.

"I'm always helping some club out, donating drink bottles and that sort of thing – I like doing things for the kids' teams. I've got that many thank you letters and I've kept them all. I'll probably wallpaper this room with them."

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A recurring theme when speaking with Clarke is the mateship, camaraderie and lifelong friends he has made from Rugby League. The museum at his factory has served as something of a hub for reunions of ex-Canterbury and Kiwis stalwarts.

Clarke had the opportunity to catch up with many more former teammates and acquaintances at the Kiwis Long Luncheon in June, a grand occasion that brought dozens of ex-Kiwis – from the 1950s through to the current world-beating squad – together in Auckland.

"It was great seeing everyone – we've all had our hair dyed white, or shaved it off!" Clarke joked.

But maintaining those ties and having regular get-togethers is a cause close to his heart. Clarke, the patron of the South Island Kiwis Association, lauded the selfless hard work of Sir Peter Leitch and Bill Whitehead QSM, in particular, for organising reunions and preserving the ex-Kiwis Association.

One comment resonated especially when he spoke about his great friend Sir Peter, which sums up the prevailing spirit of the New Zealand Rugby League community, and indeed Clarke himself: "We're good mates, and we respect each other. If he can do a good turn for someone, he does, and I like to do the same."



Gary Clarke in his museum.



Incorporated within the business is the Gary Clarke Rugby League Museum.

**If you are ever in Christchurch this is a must see - contact Gary for a tour.
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TONIGHT'S GUESTS

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NZ Kiwi & Warrior

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Crusaders & Counties Manukau

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. . yeah right!

Lock it in
MEAN MAORI MEAN!

Steve Price Embraces the Challenge of Life After League in Waipu

By John Deaker



STEVE PRICE was never one to back down from challenges in his playing days. His move to the notoriously inconsistent NZ Warriors in 2005 after such a successful stint with the Canterbury Bulldogs was testament to that. In August last year Price took on his biggest challenge since retiring from football in 2010 when he purchased the Four Square in Waipu - an hour and a half north of Auckland - and two months later he took over as the hands-on operator.

Despite Price possessing a Masters degree in Business Administration and 9 months of practical experience that he received “learning the trade” in Grocery stores round Auckland, none of that preparation has matched the huge amount of learning he's benefited from while getting his hands dirty in his first year on the job.

“I think you're very naive if you have an MBA and think you can run a business,” Price reflects.

“Even having the experience of the training I did for 9 months behind me there was still so many things I wasn't prepared for.

You can be told about everything as much as you like but for my first few months I was getting in to work at 5am to open at 7 and then leaving at 11 at night.

A lot for the things you just don't really get a grip of until you actually do them yourself - and then streamline the systems. So whilst the training was great you can't go in to a job like this thinking you're going to nail it.”

Price says he was always conscious of not coming in and trying to change too much too quickly. Getting the crucial early months behind him and getting on top of the key existing systems has since given him the ability to improve on other areas such as his communication with his 20 staff - an aspect of the job that he admits he might have been “A bit ordinary” with early on as he got up to speed with everything needed to run his first store successfully.

“The experience sort of reminds me a lot of when I came to the Warriors from the Bulldogs – and I'd been captain of the Bulldogs where I'd known a lot of the boys since they came in to the club as young men,” Price says.

“ Then I went to the Warriors and I only knew those guys as opponents. It took me a good 12 months for them to understand how I ticked and me to understand how they ticked. It's very similar in that regard when you come in fresh to a (business) environment and don't really know how people ran it previously.”

Just learning about the shopping habits of people in the wider community has been important. The population of only a few thousand people in the Waipu area could be viewed as a bit limiting – but Price prefers to take the more positive attitude of simply ensuring as many people as possible in the area want to use his Four Square store.

“The biggest thing that I found most challenging straight away was that people often go to what they call ‘town’ - which is Whangarei - to do their big shop. So what I've been keen to try and create is a situation where they don't need to go to Whangarei anymore.”

Price was conscious of not making too many changes too fast as he got on top of the core elements of the business, but he is also proud of one early initiative he introduced prior to Christmas : a huge container that he kitted out as a fridge to ensure customers got an additional “Positive Experience” of chilled alcohol that hadn't been consistently possible with the small existing fridges.

“It's been a real success mate. I went out on a bit of a limb and it's been satisfying to get the amount of positive feedback that I have – even from reps that have come in and said ‘I wouldn't have thought of that.’”

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Price emphasizes that it's been crucial for him to recognize how important the community flavor is to the success of his store. It's also something he's relished.

"When people come in they often come in for a catch up," Price says.

"I've got a woman who does my soft drink that is into her sixties and likes to be called 'Nana'. She'd know the Grandmother's name that's in shopping right through to the children and grandchildren of the same family. It's amazing because I grew up in a place called Dalby which is probably of a slightly higher population - but of very similar dynamics to Waipu. And Jo was the same."

Price says the biggest challenge about the whole

business venture for him and wife Jo has been ensuring that it hasn't affected their kid's schooling. What this has meant is that Jo has continued with her own teaching career at Waikowhai Primary School in Auckland so Riley and Casey can continue with their education at Mount Albert Grammar School - the school where their eldest daughter Jaimee -Lee had been so successful.

This means frequent travel between Auckland and Waipu for all of the Price family - but it'd be a brave person to bet against these hard yards paying off for the whole family further down the track.



Steve Price

Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



FIRSTLY I want to thank Sir Peter for inviting me to the Warriors v Raiders game on the weekend, was an awesome day out and hope to be back again. Always a great atmosphere and awesome people in the Stacey Jones Lounge. A favourite part of the day for me was bumping into Fox Sports commentator Matt Russell, had a good chat to him. Made my day and the Warriors win always puts the icing on the cake.

Rugby

Otamatea appear to be the form team in the Bayless Southern District Premiers after notching their 5th straight win in Round 12. Otamatea's last three straight wins have come against the other teams inside the top four (Mid Western, Welsford and Mid Northern respectively) and they continued their great form this week beating HoraHora 27-16. They currently hold a five point lead for that final playoff spot over Old Boys Marist who beat Waipu 28-8 on the weekend. Mid Western had a last gasp 19-13 win against the Western Sharks, Mid Northern added to Kamo's miserable season after demolishing them 60-5 and Welsford continue to hold a four point buffer over Mid Northern atop the table after they had a 42-10 against Hikurangi. Only two rounds left in the regular season, will be an exciting run to the playoffs.

Sticking with rugby, of course everybody will be looking forward to the Super Rugby Final this week-

end between the Hurricanes and the Highlanders. Both teams are searching for their maiden Super Rugby titles, this is also the Hurricanes and Highlanders second final ever. Since Super Rugby started in 1996 only four previous all New Zealand finals have been played. I am guessing that most Northlanders will be backing the Highlanders in this game and that is due to Dan Pryor being apart of the Squad. Dan Pryor is a Northland player in the ITM Cup and is in his first year with the Highlanders. Dan has been one of the standouts this year for the Highlanders forward pack but sadly he dislocated his elbow in the Highlanders game against the Chiefs. He should be back for the ITM cup season and for many Northlanders hopefully in round one when they take on Hawke's Bay for the Ranfurly Shield. Northland last held the Shield 37years ago and will have more to play for this time after the passing of Norm Berryman.

Rugby League

Hikurangi how hold a two point buffer at the top of the table after the latest round of Scott Electrical Premiership Rugby League. Hikurangi, now on a five games win streak heading into the bye are very happy with their recent run of form. They beat Hokianga 20-18. Moerewa lost their second straight game going down to Portland 26-24. Otangarei are one point off the top four after they Crushed HoraHora 68-4 and Takahiwai beat Muriwhenua 24-16.

Des White - Legend Among Legends

By John Coffey QSM



THE WONDERS of modern technology last week enabled me to not only read but also see and hear legendary Kiwis fullback Des White's memories of Carlaw Park on the New Zealand Herald website.

White was commenting on his old field of dreams to journalist Dylan Cleaver for an article about some of Auckland's former sports grounds. Carlaw Park was rightly given pride of place. It was iconic, unique, the scene of so many triumphs and disappointments.

Inevitably, White was asked to recall the one-off 1951 Test against France, and particularly his wide-angled penalty goal after the fulltime hooter to complete a 16-15 victory over a team which had already shocked Australia.

By then the Kiwis were down to 11 men, halves Jimmy Haig and Geordie Menzies having been taken to hospital with serious facial injuries. There were 12 Frenchmen left, after hooker Martin Martin was sent off for throwing mud at West Coast referee Jim Griffin.

It has often been described as the greatest of all Tests because of France's incredible blending of brilliance and brutality. Menzies, a 10-year Kiwi who still lives on the West Coast, called it 'the dirtiest game I played in' when interviewed for the Kiwis centenary book.

Finally, it was Desmond Henry White who consigned that game to a special place in sporting history by lifting the heavy leather ball from the muck and sending it sweetly between the uprights. But Carlaw Park was not always so kind to him.

In 1954 White was the victim of a sickening attack from St Helens centre Dougie Greenall during Auckland's 5-4 win over a Great Britain team which caused mayhem throughout Australia and New Zealand. White's spleen was split and that night he underwent surgery. The injury was so serious many of his team-mates feared he might not pull through.

Greenall's illegal tackle cost White tours to the inaugural World Cup in 1954 and to Britain and France in 1955-56, as well as a home Test series against the second French tourists in 1955. He came back to tour Australia in 1956, when room-mate Cyril Eastlake was amazed at his courage in returning despite the still-painful after-effects of that black day at Carlaw Park.

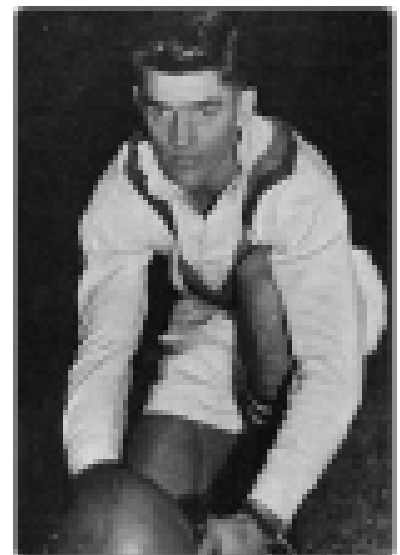
White then retired, aged 28, as the holder of just about every goalkicking and points-scoring record. But for that injury his statistics would have been even more spectacular. Holding pride of place was his 11 goals when the Kiwis thrashed the Kangaroos 49-25 at Brisbane in 1952, the first of a record four consecutive Test victories over our trans-Tasman rivals.

But White was far from finished with rugby league, coaching the Kiwis in a drawn home series against Australia in 1961 and reigning supreme as a radio commentator from the rickety old media box atop the Railway Stand at Carlaw Park. Another Herald scribe, Chris Rattue, wrote of him in 2009:

"White, to my mind, was the king of the sports commentators in the 1970s, a man with a bit of gravel in his voice and the ability to shovel in a load more stones when the action got hot. He could paint a picture and didn't mind laying the brushstrokes on thick. He didn't shy away from the biffo either, and there was a bit about in those days. He introduced (me) to the world of rugby league, made it vibrant and fascinating, and I still adore the game to this day. You can't pay a commentator a better compliment than that."

Above all, Des White is a gentleman. His comments on the Herald video underlined the extreme respect sportsmen of his generation held for their fellow players, no matter where in the country they came from. Listening to him reminded me of occasional chats I was fortunate to have had with the late Bert Sutcliffe, our greatest cricketer of that amateur era.

Maybe, even at 87, White is still setting records. I know plenty of ex-players have undergone hip replacements, but it seems Des is now getting around on his fourth right hip and third left hip. It's a shame the originals – which helped kick that goal to beat France in 1951 – were not bottled and given pride of place in the NZRL Museum!



Des White

Victor Trumper

By Barry Ross



A FEW DAYS ago, on Sunday 28 June, it was 100 years since legendary Australian batsman, Victor Trumper passed away at just 37 years of age because of a major kidney problem. He was Australia's sporting hero in the so-called Golden age of Australian cricket. He played 48 Tests from 1899 to 1912 and made four tours of England. His highest Test score was 214 not out against South Africa at Adelaide in January 1911, while he totalled 185 not out in Sydney against England in December 1903. His highest first class score was 300 not out at Brighton against Sussex in 1899. On 31 January 1903, he smashed 335 for his club Paddington, at Redfern Oval and more than 112 years later, this is still the highest score in Sydney first grade cricket.

As well as cricket, Victor was an excellent baseballer and rugby union fullback, around the beginning of the twentieth century. In our great game, he was the first treasurer of the NSW Rugby League in 1908, when he, along with J J Giltinan and others persuaded Dally Messenger to join the new game.

The NSW branch of the Australian Cricket society held a tribute weekend in Sydney to recognise Victor's standing in Australian sport. There was a dinner on Friday night 26 June and a series of lectures the following day in the Members Pavillion of the Sydney Cricket Ground. Well known New Zealand radio personality, Bill Francis, gave an interesting and entertaining talk on Victor's visit to New Zealand in 1914 with an Australian Invitational side. Victor had been across the Tasman in 1905, but after some behind the scenes work by New Zealander, Arthur Sims, later to become Sir Arthur, the 1914 visit was arranged. Arthur was the guest captain of the Australian team and in a three day game beginning on 27 February 1914 at Christchurch against Canterbury, Victor piled on 293 runs in 181 minutes with 44 fours and three sixes. Arthur Sims finished with 184 not out in this game in 293 minutes and he and Victor put on 433 runs together



Victor Trumper

New Zealand Contributions To Australian Rugby League

By Barry Ross



NEW ZEALAND born players have been involved with Australian representative teams for more than 100 years now. This year James Tamou has done the job for both Australia and NSW in the Origin clashes. The 26 year old Cowboys prop was born in Palmerston North but has now played 11 Tests for Australia and 10 Origins for the Blues.

Back in the early days of Australian League, the 28 strong, 1911 Kangaroos included four New Zealanders when they sailed out of Sydney on the RMS Orvieto, at noon on Saturday 5 August. The English or Northern Union wanted some New Zealanders included in the touring side and after the Kiwis had toured Australia in June 1911, the selectors included Arthur "Bolla" Francis, Charles Savory, George Gillett and Frank Woodward from the visitors. It was a very successful Australasian team, winning 29 of their 36 games, as well as winning two Tests and drawing the other. It would be more than 50 years before another touring side won the series in England.

Continued on next page...

Arthur Francis was one of the stars of the tour, playing in two Tests and finishing as the leading scorer with 125 points (9 tries, 49 goals) from his 24 matches. Born in Whanganui on 8 June 1882, Bolla played 10 Rugby Union Tests for the All Blacks from the Ponsonby club between from 1905 to 1910 and also won the Ranfurly Shield with Auckland. He could play anywhere in the forwards and when he changed codes in 1911, the League people were ecstatic. Between 1912 and 1919, he played 214 matches for Wigan, scoring 50 tries and 48 goals for a total of 246 points. After returning home from England, Bolla was reinstated by the NZRU and coached the Grammar club in the Auckland Union competition. Dave Gallaher, the captain of the Original All Blacks in 1905, was Bolla's brother-in-law, after marrying his sister, Ellen Ivy. Bolla passed away on 15 June 1957 at Takapuna, aged 75.

Charles Savory, who was born on 23 March 1889, first came to prominence as a union player with the Ponsonby club. In August 1909, Ponsonby were the best club side in New Zealand and they made a three match tour to Sydney that year. With Savory playing a prominent role, Ponsonby defeated champion Sydney club Newtown 14-6 to claim the unofficial title of Australasian club champions. Bolla Francis was also in the Ponsonby team. Soon after returning to Auckland from the 1909 Sydney visit, Charles switched codes, joining the newly formed Ponsonby United club in the Auckland Rugby League competition.

In 1914, he won the New Zealand Heavyweight Boxing title and on 1 August that year played for New Zealand at Auckland in the Test match against Great Britain which was lost narrowly by 16-13 at the Domain Cricket Ground. Soon after World War One broke out, Charles enlisted with the New Zealand Army.

Sadly he died of wounds at Gallipoli on 8 May 1915, aged just 26. During his career in both rugbys, Charles was involved in some controversial incidents.

Some sources from Gallipoli explained that despite not needing to leave his ship, Lance Corporal Savory was shot after saying, " I am going to fight for my country. " His courage and dedication to New Zealand will not be forgotten, as from this year, the Man of the Match in the New Zealand-Australia Anzac Day Test, will be awarded the Charles Savory Medal. Manu Vatuvei was the inaugural winner after New Zealand's 26-12 victory at Brisbane on 2 May this season.

George Gillett was born at Leeston in Canterbury on 23 April 1877. Like Bolla Francis, he had an excellent Rugby Union career for both Auckland and the All Blacks. Although born in the South Island, he was educated up north and made his debut for Auckland in 1899. He played eight Tests with the All Blacks from 1905 to 1908 and was a member of Dave Gallaher's Original All Blacks in 1905. George was an excellent all round sportsman and while living and working in the Kalgoorlie goldfields after serving in the Boer War in South Africa, represented Western Australia at Aussie Rules football. In 1912, he coached the New Zealand Kiwis, who played the touring NSW side and later worked for the New Zealand Rugby League as the official organiser, promoting the game. He died on 12 September 1956 in Onehunga.

While the other New Zealand men in the Australasian team were forwards, the fourth member, Frank Woodward, was a talented and versatile back. On Saturday 24 July 1909, he kicked seven goals in North Shore's 44-24 win over City at Epsom in the newly formed Auckland Rugby League competition. This match was the first played under the control of the Auckland Rugby League, which had only been formed just five days before. Frank also represented Auckland in their good win over the Maori a week before the club competition began. The next season he played in the Rotorua competition and when the first English touring team came to New Zealand from Australia that year, scored two good tries against them for Combined Rotorua in the 54-18 loss at Puckeroa on 27 July 1910. Three days later at the Domain Cricket Ground, he represented New Zealand in the Test against the Englishmen. Frank broke his arm early on the 1911 Australasian tour of England and only played six games, scoring one try. Not much else is known about Frank, although there is a possibility that he played five games for Sydney club Balmain, early in the 1910 season before coming back to New Zealand and playing in the Test.



THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 17 ISSUE...

2015 Rookies Special

FEATURES

- Manly may not have much to boast about in terms of on-field results this year, but the emergence of two of the hottest talents in the NRL – **Jake and Tom Trbojevic** – means their future looks very bright;
- Coaches don't like to talk up their young talent but there are some in 2015 who you just can't help but notice. We take a look at the **stand out rookies** (Jack Bird, Chris Grevsmuhl, the Warriors bunch, Kane Elgey, Kierran Moseley, Tom Trbojevic, Euan Aitken, Reagan Campbell-Gillard) so far;
- We go club-by-club through some of the other talented youngsters making their way through the ranks;
- It's not always a direct path for boom kids. We spoke to Barney Haslett who signed to the Eels as a 13-year-old but wasn't able to make it to the top;
- We often hear about rugby league nurseries, but the Rugby League Excellence Program at Brisbane's **Wavell High School** goes beyond producing future NRL players with a strong focus on developing the players' prospects for employment and life after school as well as their sporting ability;

PLUS... **Greg Alexander** explains how the mental game can be the deciding edge at State of Origin level; **Matt Elliott** analyses whether the coach should shoulder all the blame for a team's performance; **Nathan Brown** takes us through nurturing junior players and why today's young playmakers may not be reaching their potential.

AND: Official team lists; **Warren Smith's Big Clash** preview of Dragons v Cowboys; **News:** Luke Kelly's career hampered by second tier cap, Tamou says Queensland are cracking, Jake Friend's tough call, Hodges waiting on career choice; Top 8 rugby league resurrections; and Penrith poster; Panthers v Dragons cheerleaders.



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