

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



WARRIORS

# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter

17<sup>th</sup> July 2015

# #81

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

## Vodafone Warriors vs Storm 28 - 14



Captains Simon Mannering and Cameron Smith catch up on field post match.



Chad Townsend and Sam Tomkins walk off the field.



Raymond Faitala-Mariner poses with the Michael Moore trophy.



Winners who got their couch transported to the sideline.



Two Wellington boys Nelson Asofa-Solomona and Charlie Gubb grab a photo post match.



Shaun Johnson gives his tee to a young fan.



Warriors score yet another try against the storm.



Fantastic to see a great crowd.



Boys singing their victory song.

**W**HEN I found out Manu Vatuvei, Konrad Hurrell and Ryan Hoffman were all out against the Melbourne Storm I confess to having doubts. Yes, even I, the No 1 – should that be No 19 – supporter of the Vodafone Warriors thought we might be in for a tough afternoon at Mt Smart on Sunday.

### **How Wrong Was I?**

We were outstanding and so much has been written about the game that I will decline to go over it all again, except to say it was the most fun I have had at the ground for quite some time.

And I could not let Nathan Friend's exploits go un-commented on either. He has become a world sensation, with clips of his somersault through the legs offload featuring all over the world – and even on Sports Illustrated.

### **Nathan Can Fly**

He soared into the air, snatched the ball, flicked it through his legs to set up a try in the corner, and all while turning a somersault. The part Nathan played in the try to Tuimoala Lolohea was incredible, and it has to be the try of the year.

The best part was that he landed safely frankly, because he could have been badly hurt given that he was flipped over, but his commitment was awesome.

As was that of all the players as the Vodafone Warriors beat the Melbourne Storm 28-14, a win that has lifted them into the top four.

### **Bring On The Roosters**

It does not get any easier though, with the boys set to play the Roosters, who are third on the table one place ahead of us, in Sydney this weekend in what will be the 100th game for our halfback Shaun Johnson.

Coach Andrew McFadden will be doing all he can to plot an upset, and the Warriors are on a run of form too, the win over the Storm the third in a row.

The comp is really tight. Even sitting in fourth, a loss can drop you four places, and of course a win can send you soaring up the table too.

### **Lounge Goes Off**

The Storm were without Billy Slater, but he visited the Mad Butcher Club and you could have heard a pin drop when he spoke.

Also there were the injured Tongan trio of Ngani,

Konrad and Manu, and they took turns interviewing each other, which was quite a laugh. But then Manu also explained about the part faith plays in his life, and he received rousing applause as he told us how important it was to him to lead a good life and to do his best for others.

### **A very Touching Gift**

And something very special happened in the lounge.

Former Kiwi Graeme West, one of the best we have ever produced, and who went on to enjoy a fine career in England, walked up to me and handed over a tankard.

It was the one presented to him in 1995 as the coach of the year in England. He looked at me and said: "You do so much for me, and for our game, but I never do anything for you."

I could not have more surprised, and touched by his gesture.

And the lounge went off in general after what was a great win – one that means the Michael Moore Trophy returns to Mt Smart - and I was chuffed it was played in front of more than 17,000 spectators, as a great crowd filled Mt Smart.

### **Sad Loss For Us All**

Once again I was reminded how fragile our lives are. This time by the death of man I have had the privilege of meeting many times in Southland.

Veteran player Eddie Hei Hei was found unconscious after playing a game. Teammates and emergency services performed CPR but were unable to save him.

Eddie was a great bloke and captained Southland. He was a leader dedicated to raising the profile of league in the south. He also played for New Zealand Maori, New Zealand A and New Zealand University.

He was well-known for working with youth and had been studying sport science at the Southern Institute of Technology, hoping to work in the south with a focus on league, and was considering finishing his study with a year at teacher's college.

What few know is that he also spent time with the Brisbane Broncos and played in the Queensland Cup.



## Home Games Ahead

We have Manly coming to Mt Smart, and despite the terrible season they have been having, they wiped the floor with the Titans the other day and will be a tough nut to crack. That one is on July 25 and will be Old Boys day, with quite a few former players already confirmed for the day, including my great mate and absolute character Jason Death.

## Even I get Honoured

The week after the Manly game the Cronulla Sharks come to Mt Smart for a game that is being dedicated to me! I am very humbled by such an honour because I do it for love of the game, the club and the fans.

The club said the game on August 1 was being dedicated to me and that was appropriate because I am synonymous with league and especially my beloved Vodafone Warriors.

The Sir Peter Leitch Appreciation Day follows home game day themes that have included celebrating everyday heroes, a onesie party and a zombie night.

Apparently it will give "not just the club but the entire rugby league community" the chance to acknowledge the Mad Butcher for my contribution to the Warriors.

I'm thinking of refusing entry to the lounge to anyone who doesn't dress up as me – not really!

The Warriors made me feel very humble, as I said,

saying I have been linked to and involved with the club since its arrival in 1995. The Vodafone Warriors of course retired the No 19 jersey to me in 2001, so to be honoured again this year is something very special, given its our 20th anniversary.

Apparently the day will involve all sorts of Mad Butcher-related features, but they better not expect me to do one of those runs up and down the pitch I can tell you.

The club has also launched a Shark Attack membership exclusively for the game. Go to [www.Warriors-forever.co.nz](http://www.Warriors-forever.co.nz) to join.

## Your Team For This Weekend

As I said, Shaun Johnson returns to where it all started when he makes his 100th NRL appearance in the Vodafone Warriors' 19th-round NRL encounter with the Sydney Roosters at Allianz Stadium on Sunday. I actually think it is a great pity he could not celebrate the milestone with a home game, but there you are.

Andrew McFadden has kept faith with the side that gave Melbourne a hiding, a why wouldn't you?

Warriors: Sam Tomkins, Tuimoala Lolohea, David Fusitu'a, Solomone Kata, Jonathan Wright, Chad Townsend, Shaun Johnson, Jacob Lillyman, Nathan Friend, Ben Matulino, Bodene Thompson, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Simon Mannering. Interchange: Siliva Havili, Sione Lousi, Charlie Gubb, Albert Vete, Sam Rapira.



## WEST COAST RUGBY LEAGUE est.1915 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS Labour Weekend • 23 - 25 October 2015

### Programme

- Friday 23 October 7:30pm** Get together (Incorporating WCRL 2015 season's awards). Supper provided, cash bar. *Venue: Regent Theatre, Greymouth*
- Saturday 24 October 7:00pm** Dinner function with guest speaker. Wine on table, cash bar. *Venue: Shantytown, Paroa. Bar open from 6pm. Transport will be available to and from Shantytown.*
- Sunday 25 October 11.00am** Farewell Gathering. Photos. Lunch provided, Cash bar. *Venue: Marist RL Clubrooms, Greymouth.*

**Registration with payment in full is required by 23rd September 2015.**

Registration forms available NOW from Club secretaries and the WCRL Centenary registrar administrator Greg Mooney at the Lockwood Show Home, Nelson Street, Greymouth, phone 03 768 57 28 (office) fax 03 768 7529. For a copy of the registration form via email contact Greg at [ajmooney@lockwood.co.nz](mailto:ajmooney@lockwood.co.nz)

**CENTENARY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS FEATURE MATCH 2ND TEST NZ UNIVERSITIES V AUSTRALIA UNIVERSITIES. WINGHAM PARK, SUNDAY 2.30PM. ADMISSION \$10 PAYABLE AT GATE.**

Round	Opposition	Date	Kick-Off	Gates Open
Round 20	 Manly Sea-Eagles	Sat 25th July	<b>NRL - 5.00pm</b> NSW Cup – 2.45pm NYC – 12.40pm	Gates Open 12.30pm
Round 21	 Cronulla Sharks	Sat 1st August	<b>NRL - 5.00pm</b> NYC - 2.40pm	Gates Open 2.30pm
Round 22	 St George Dragons	Sat 8th August Westpac Stadium	<b>NRL – 5.00pm</b> NYC – 2.40pm WRL – 12.35pm (TBC)	Gates Open 12.15
Round 24	 NRL & NYC v Nth Qld Cowboys NSW Cup v Penrith Panthers	Saturday 22nd August	Mt Smart no. 1 <b>NRL – 7.30pm</b> NYC – 5.15pm College RL – 3.35pm (TBC) Mt Smart no. 2 NSW Cup – 1.00pm (TBC)	Gates Open 3.30pm (TBC)

The Vodafone Warriors' home game against Cronulla on August 1 is being dedicated to the one and only Sir Peter Leitch.

It's appropriate the man so synonymous with rugby league in New Zealand and especially with his beloved Vodafone Warriors should be honoured in what is the club's 20th anniversary season.

The Sir Peter Leitch Appreciation Day follows home game day themes which have included celebrating everyday heroes, a onesie party and a zombie night.

It gives not just the club but the entire rugby league community the chance to acknowledge the Mad Butcher for his matchless contribution to the Vodafone Warriors.

He has been integrally linked to and involved with the club since its arrival in 1995. The Vodafone Warriors retired the No 19 jersey to Sir Peter in 2001.

Vodafone Warriors members and fans are being en-

couraged to come to the game against the Sharks in big numbers to pay homage to Sir Peter.

He always says the greatest gift you can give someone is your time. On August 1 it's the fans' turn to give Sir Peter their time by turning up in big numbers to show their appreciation for all he does for the Vodafone Warriors.

The game day programme will include a number of Mad Butcher-related features.

The club has also launched a Shark Attack membership exclusively for the game. Go to [www.Warriorsforever.co.nz](http://www.Warriorsforever.co.nz) to join.





All the way from Christchurch. Karen & Robbie Fa'alilo HALSWELL RL CLUB COACH AND Former junior kiwis, Canterbury cardinals and Canterbury league player Dale Ratty Paulsen. AND HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE DEBBIE



On Sunday the Vodafone Warriors asked their fans to do in their mates who watch the game on the couch. Sam Edge dobed in his mates, so the Vodafone Warriors took them and their couch to the game.



Brendan Popplewell from the TAB gave a \$100 ticket on Ben Matulino and the winner was Troy Forshaw.



Callum Jones & Jamie Jones (Stacey Jones' nephew and brother) enjoyed the Stacey Jones lounge on Sunday.



Caught up with these happy fans in the east stand Mrs Quinn and daughter Summer and the Walker family - Lachlan ( 3years old) dad Paul and mum at the back Jannine all drove up from Whangarei.



Caught up with this lot from the West Coast. Look who sneaked into their photo: Former Warriors Jerry Seuseu with Tom, Deb Daly, Terry and Andrea Foster. Tom a League player and coach for Waro-Rakau and West.



Frank Ponissi Football Director of the Melbourne Storm caught up with Tony Kemp Former Kiwi & Warriors Coach now doing commentary work for Maori TV.



Frank from the storm was stoked to have a chat with former kiwi and Vodafone Warriors player Monty Betham who now does a bit of work for sky TV and runs his own charity with his sister STEPS.



From the left Sarah Jane, Les Waimotu in his Storm jersey Taylor Matagi and Les's wife Margy in her Vodafone Warriors shirt. Les was not to happy after the game he was seen leaving Mt Smart crying.



Jay Reeve from Hauraki radio visited the lounge with his wife Anna and Twins Oscar and Hunter.



Jay Reeve from Hauraki radio with Twins Oscar and Hunter.



M8 hanging out with his mates from the NZ Police in the Stacey Jones Lounge!



M8 with the LEGEND Billy Slater.



Mitch, Brett, Rox, SARAH, Stevan First time in the butchers lounge, amazing day picked first try scorer and the final score..



Ben, Rico, Anna and baby runner.



One of our Game day Ambassadors hanging out with the NZ Police.



Our Main Man Dexter leading the VIP tour!.



Our youngest lounge member Isaac (6months), his mum Erin and her Dad Robert pain of my life (just joking).



Riley Syme and his cousin Kaelan McGuire both big Vodafone Warriors supporters.



Robert Savage was all geared up on Sunday.



Sandra, Ann, Christine, Keith, John, Brendan and Karen all from the Naki (Taranaki) . Enjoying a beautiful Asahi beer, one of our sponsors products..



## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 19 ISSUE...

Cam Smith's 300<sup>th</sup> appearance and Heritage Round

### FEATURES

- **Cameron Smith** has achieved so much in the game already, but with years still left on his contract as he reaches the 300-game milestone, one wonders where he will finish up;
- **Men of League** Heritage Round is a great time to reflect on the history of the game and some of the great matches that make it, but we also take a look at this fantastic foundation and everything they give back to those involved in rugby league;
- It's been 50 years since the most people packed in the Sydney Cricket ground and lined the roofs of stands to watch **the 1965 Grand Final** between St George and South Sydney. David Middleton takes us back to that game;
- **Semi Radradra** has been in fine try-scoring form in recent weeks. We chatted to Eric Grother and Peter Wynn about where he sits now and in the future in Parramatta folklore;
- **Queensland** put in one of the most dominant Origin displays in recent memory, we have a full review of their series winning Game Three performance;

**PLUS...** **Damien Lovelock** reflects on Ian Thomson who has been part of rugby league in many roles across many era; **Matt Elliott** learning from where the game came from will help embrace change to take it into the future; **Nathan Brown** analyses the chances of teams heading into the important run to finals.

**AND:** Official team lists; Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Roosters v Warriors; News: Roosters think their defence can be better than when they won the comp in 2013, Paul Gallen's contract to be resolved soon, Bennett's rating system taking Broncos to the top, Maroons ready for Queensland grand final; Top 8 quiet achievers; Western Suburbs and Balmain poster; Roosters v Knights cheerleaders.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, July 16.**

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Sir Peter and Billy Slater enjoying a joke together.



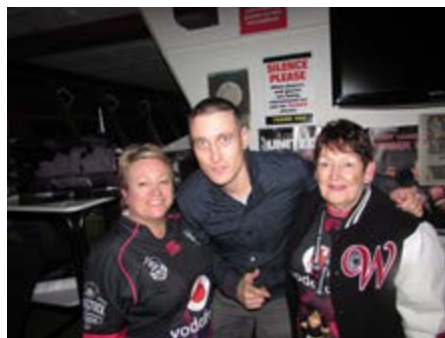
Billy Slater Melbourne Storm, Queensland State of Origin and Australian test full back.



Carlene Billy Slater's minder from Duco Events.



Dale Poulsen x Halswell Hornets and Junior Kiwi gets some attention from Sir Peter.



David Higgins from Duco Events with Lorna and Lorraine.



Ngani Laumape, Manu Vatuvei, Konrad Hurrell.



Luke Whittaker from Halswell Hornets gets some goodies from Sir Peter.



Michelle Wineera from Christchurch with Sir Peter.



Russell Emerson the Irishman.



Nicki Burns flew up from Christchurch to support the boys with Sir Peter.



Sir Peter with John Gray from Taranaki.







# MORE PICTURES FROM THE STACEY JONES LOUNGE



Robbie Fa'alilo Halswell Hornets premier coach meets Sir Peter.



Ricky and Troy Weastall receive a gift.



Ricky and Tom Weastall from Christchurch. Had a ball in the lounge. The Butcher was even nice to Ricky who was wearing a Storm jersey maybe he is getting soft from Don Graham.



Troy the boat builder from Tutakaka.



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# ARL Results

## Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership

Glenora 16 Northcote 34  
Mt Albert 34 Otahuhu 10  
Marist 22 Papakura 20  
Otara 26 Howick 20  
Pt Chevalier 40 Mangere East 18

## SAS Sharman Cup

Bay Roskill 32 New Lynn 24  
Richmond 44 Pakuranga 12  
Papatoetoe 28 East Coast Bays 18  
Manukau 14 Ellerslie 40  
Waitemata 70 Glenfield 8  
Hibiscus Coast 12 Te Atatu 72  
Ponsonby 24 Mt Wellington 40  
Manurewa bye.



## Vodafone Warriors Fans on Holiday



Steve the Pom watched the game on holiday in Fiji.



Brian Langton Warrior #433 is stuck in Bali but is still supporting the Warriors.

## Te Puke Tigers - Mini-Mod Team

Kia Ora,

**H**ERE IS the photo of our team at the Warriors Game that you asked for.

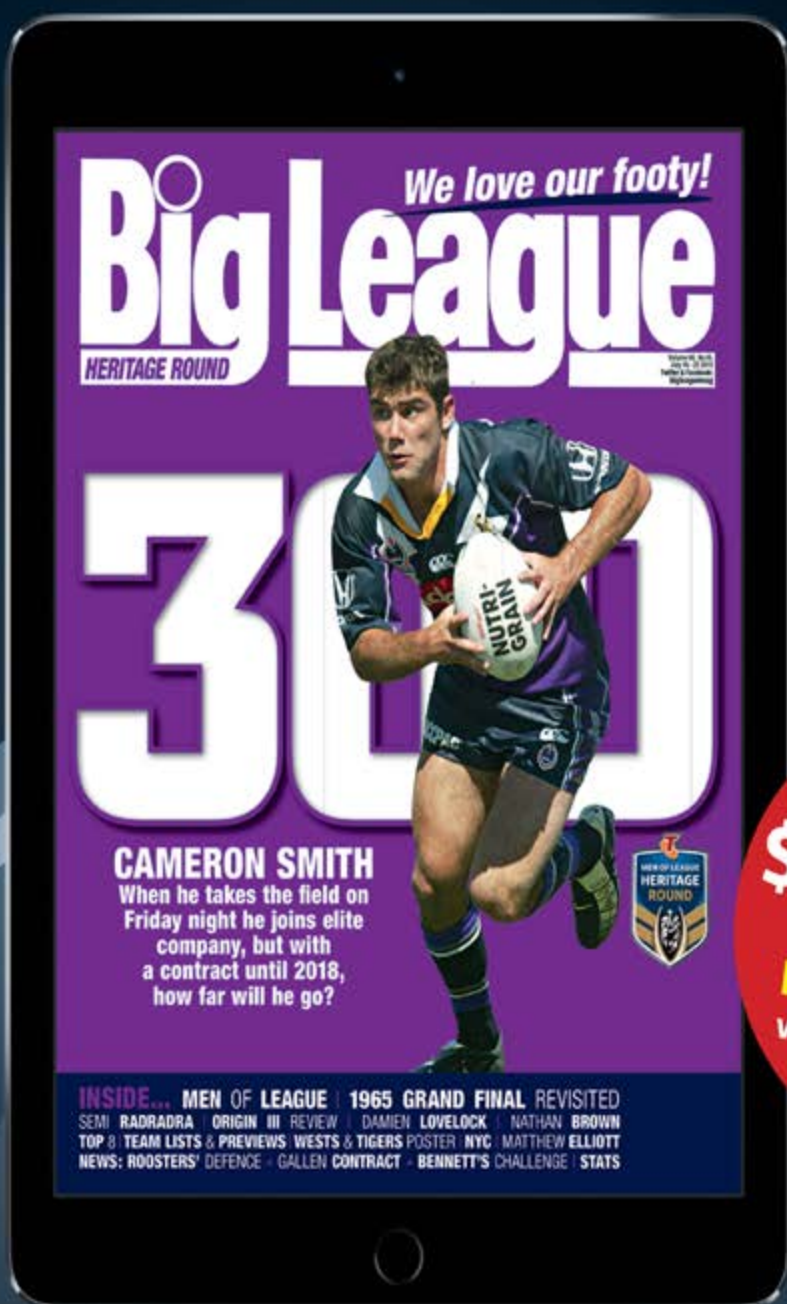
Our boys had the best day EVER yesterday at the game, such a great experience for them all.

Naku Noa

Hollie Hauraki  
Te Puke Tigers U9's Manager



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# Mini-Mod Teams

**W**HAT A day these young guys had at the Vodafone Warriors game on Sunday Te Puke Tigers had around 100 come up for the game and had a great time. Pakuranga Jaguars 9s were their opposition team and enjoyed themselves as well.



Te Puke Tigers



Pakuranga Jaguars 9s

## Vodafone Warriors Fans Out and About



Brodie Hollobon who plays rugby league for the Howick Hornets and is a big Vodafone Warriors fan and his favourite player Shaun Johnson. I bumped into him at our local shops.



Bob Lanergan (former Vodafone Warrior's trainer will be the ground manager for the old boys game) and Allan Russell MD Asics Oceania At the Penrith v Roosters game on Saturday.

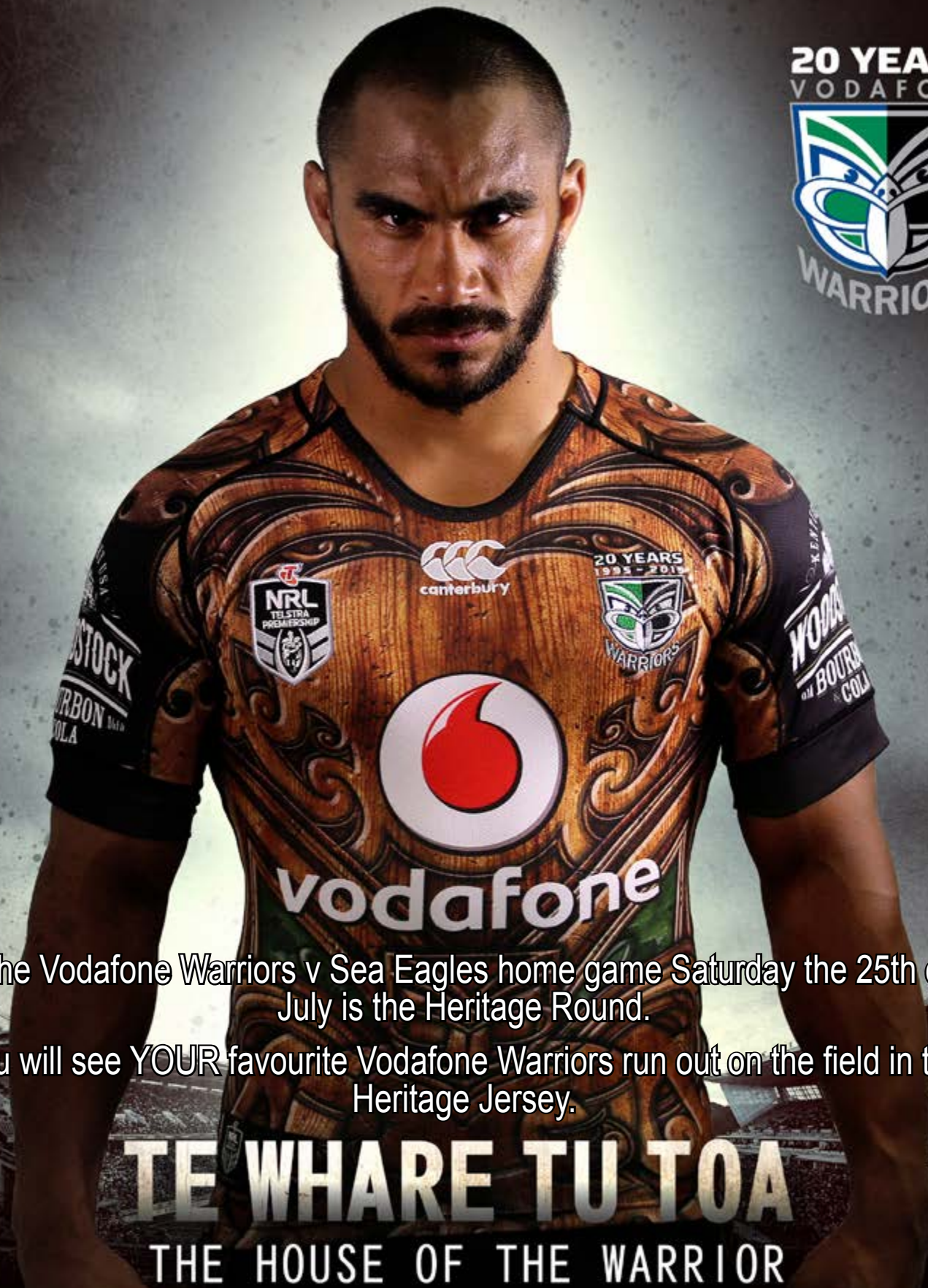


Vodafone Warriors fans don't get any younger than little Sawyer Brodie.



Brodie, Payton and Jacob brothers and sister were pleased to get a bit of Vodafone Warriors gear from the Butcher.





The Vodafone Warriors v Sea Eagles home game Saturday the 25th of July is the Heritage Round.

You will see YOUR favourite Vodafone Warriors run out on the field in this Heritage Jersey.

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# All Star Baseball Squad Named For Cal Ripken World Series

## U12 All Star Squad Finalised To Head To Maryland For Top Ranking Tournament

**B**ASEBALL PLAYERS from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Australia feature in the naming of the New Zealand 12U All Star to compete at the prestigious Cal Ripken World Series in Aberdeen, Maryland later this month.

This will be the second time New Zealand's baseball programme has fielded an All Star team at the Ripken event, and Baseball NZ CEO Ryan Flynn said: "This tournament is the beginning of a journey in the baseball life of our young athletes.

"With this major international tournament on our calendar this year, we view 2015 as a critical year in our sport's development in this age group in New Zealand," said Flynn, "The Ripken World Series is one of the largest and most important youth tournaments in any sport, outside of the IBAF Baseball World Cup events."

The 12U squad, coached by Baseball New Zealand Development Officer Dan Tan with assistance from Auckland Baseball Development Officer Jamie Wilson and former Houston Astros minor leaguer Nick Stanley, will finalise their preparations this coming week with a training camp in Auckland before the team heads to Baltimore.

The Cal Ripken World Series is home to the best 12-year-old baseball players in the world, representing the Cal Ripken Major/70 division of the Babe Ruth League. And it's the culmination of a year-long journey known as the Road to Aberdeen.

Each year in August, ten teams from across the US join six top teams from around the world in a tournament to crown a single world champion, and New Zealand have the great honour of joining the field for the second time at this prestigious tournament.

### Squad List

Clayton Campbell - Australia  
Beckham Crooks - Australia  
Jaden Dawson - Orewa Sharks  
Dominic Elliott - Central City  
Marcus Feagaiga - Australia  
Shiloh Fruean - North Shore City  
Taylor Irwin - Howick-Pakuranga  
Harrison Lough - North Shore City  
Taichi Nakao - North Shore City  
Te Aati Paul - Howick-Pakuranga  
Nikau Pouaka-Grego - Christchurch  
Huriwaka Repia - Howick-Pakuranga

Harry Smillie - Bayside-Westhaven  
Caleb Taylor - Wellington  
Rocky Yates - Australia

### Non-Travelling Reserves:

Traye Wildbore - Howick-Pakuranga  
Logan Nye - North Shore City  
Tui Amosa - Howick-Pakuranga  
Caleb Impey - Howick-Pakuranga  
Murray Davis - Bayside-Westhaven

Head Coach - Dan Tan (Howick Pakuranga)

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## Happy 9th Birthday Grab A Seat



grabaseat

# CODE

THURSDAYS 8.30PM

MĀORI  
TELEVISION

## Sunday's Guests

### STEVEN LUATUA

*All Black & Blues Captain*

### CATHERINE LATU

*Northern Mystics*

### KAYLA CULLEN

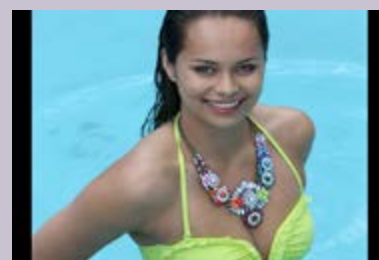
*Northern Mystics*

### BROOK RUSCOE

*Pro BBaller*

### FRANKIE ADAMS

*Actress & Fight for Life Boxer*



## NAU MAI HAERE MAI

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

Scintillating conversation. . . laughs. . . irreverent reporting. . . giggles. . . and dangerous demos. . .yeah right!

Lock it in  
**MEAN MAORI MEAN!**

# North Harbour Women and Central Men win Under-18 title

**N**ORTH HARBOUR Women and Central Men are the 2015 National Under-18 Regional champions after winning their respective finals at North Harbour Hockey last week.

Hosts North Harbour Women had a convincing 4-1 win against Midlands and Central Men finished the tournament unbeaten, after claiming a 2-1 victory against Midlands.

In the women's final, the first half was an even affair with both sides having their chances. North Harbour had more shots on goal, but some staunch defence from Midlands ensured it was nil-all at half time.

In the second spell, North Harbour's Julie Ellis scored a field goal in the 45th minute with teammate Jazmin Wanoa scoring three minutes later. It continued to go North Harbour's way when Ella Hyatt-Brown knocked it to the back of the net, much to the celebration of the home crowd.

An opportunity for Midlands to get back in the game came when a one-on-one with the goalkeeper resulted in a collision, the umpire awarding a penalty stroke, which Alex Lukin shot to the back of the net.

The vocal Midlands supporters were cheering for a come-back, but North Harbour's Kayla Reed placed the game beyond doubt when she scored with seven minutes remaining.

"It was pretty full on out there, it was a good battle, Midlands put on a good fight. I think we dominated and pushed through in the second half to get the goals in there," said Hyatt-Brown, who was awarded the women's Player of the Tournament.

Hyatt-Brown believes their success can be put down to a great team culture.

"We are all like a group of best mates, there is no clickiness at all in the team and we were all doing everything for each other. The main focus was it was all about the name on the front of the shirt, not the back," said Hyatt-Brown.

Central Men had the dream start in their final against Midlands, with Matt Chard scoring from a penalty corner in the first minute.

Central's Hayden Phillips, who was awarded the men's Player of the Tournament, scored his fifth goal of the week in the 18th minute to make it 2-0.

Midlands finally got what they were after, when Jonathan Bloor broke through Central's defence, knocking home a goal to make it 2-1 at half time.

In the second half, Central held most of the possession and created more opportunities but they couldn't weave their way through the solid Midlands defence.

In the last five minutes, Midlands gave it everything, switching their goalkeeper for a field player and lobbing balls high into the circle putting the defenders under pressure. But in the end, Central held on to secure the 2-1 win.

"It was a really quick, fast game and Midlands really brought it to us, so it was good to come away undefeated. Anything can happen when it comes to the final day, and once you are playing for trophies and medals, you have to work extra hard, so it's just really pleasing to have won," said Phillips.

The bronze medals went to North Harbour Men and Canterbury Women. In the men's game, North Harbour's Will Henry scored twice in the first half and although Auckland's Guy Xavier got his third goal of the tournament in the 61st minute, it was not enough to pull his side to victory. In the women's game, it was tied 2-2 at half time and it was thanks to a field goal each from Canterbury's Charlotte Arthur and Emily Wium in the second half, that they clinched the win.

Central Women finished fifth after beating Capital 4-0, while Southern Women finished seventh beating Northland 2-0. Canterbury Men finished fifth after a 4-2 win against Capital and Southern won 4-3 against Northland.







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Rules: Adopted PDRLA 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 2014

## GAME FOUR – Curtain raiser to Premier GAME

- 12:30:** Mt Wellington Warriors Prem 1 vs Bay Roskill Vikings
- 2:00:** Physical Disabilities Rugby League Exhibition match
- 2:30:** Mt Wellington Warriors v Bay Roskill Vikings

**Venue:** Mt Wellington Warriors RLFC  
50 Banks Rd, Thompson Park Road  
Mt Wellington, Auckland

- Date:** 18th July 2015
- Time:** 1 – 2:30pm (skills + game)
- Grades:** All Welcome
- Cost:** No Charge





# DICK SMITH NRL AUCKLAND NINES

SAT 6 FEB & SUN 7 FEB 2016, WAITANGI WEEKEND

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Sat 6 & Sun 7 February, 2016 (Waitangi Weekend)

Join the Waitlist today:

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- 2 x day tickets from \$69 (Fees apply)
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- Star name players, including Billy Slater who has already announced he will play

**T**HE DATES for the 2016 Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines were announced on Sunday at Mt Smart just before kick-off between our mighty Vodafone Warriors and the Melbourne Storm.

The 2016 tournament will be on Waitangi Weekend, Sat 6 & Sun 7 February, 2016

Melbourne Storm's star player Billy Slater was at the game, not playing because he's recovering from shoulder surgery, but specifically to tell all the Vodafone Warriors and Melbourne Storm supporters, me and all the people in the Mad Butcher lounge, that he is going to play in the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines next year!

That announcement was received by a massive loud cheer and clap in the Mad Butchers lounge - everyone is a fan of Billy's and seeing him playing in the Nines on Eden Park with plenty of space is going to be an exciting sight to see!

Organisers have set up a waiting list that they are encouraging rugby league fans to join. Everyone who joins will get access to a priority sales window so they get first chance to buy the tickets they want before they go on-sale to the general public.

The Nines is such a great tournament, a packed out Eden Park is an unbelievable atmosphere. Organisers have told me that the players will be back warming up on the number 1 field, there will be even more fan interaction with players, a wider range of beverages available and you've got to be a part of it!

Billy Slater says next year will see more Origin players than ever before and told us that players he's talked to from all different clubs loved the tournament, the festival atmosphere, the chance to mix with players from other clubs, play with more space and compete for such good prize money - a total pool of \$2.6 million dollars. He says come February, he will chomping at the bit to get out on Eden Park and that competition amongst the players for a spot in the Nines will be fiercely competed.

So join the waitlist today for your priority buying window information and keep reading my newsletter for updates on all things Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines related so you can be part of 'The Greatest Weekend'

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

For corporate hospitality or group bookings of 20 +, contact Donna at Duco Events ph +64 9 309-2400 / mob + 64 27 545 - 5353 / donna@duco.co.nz

There's plenty of exciting stuff happening on the Nines Facebook page too if you want to take a look at

<https://www.facebook.com/NRLAKL9s?fref=ts>



# Kearney Sets Tone for Aspiring Kiwis

By Grant Chapman - NZRL Communications Manager

**I**F ANYONE is qualified to prepare New Zealand's future league stars for the road ahead, it's Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney.

After a spectacular playing career that saw him inducted as an NZRL Legend of League in 2012, the former second rower is on his way to becoming our best-ever international coach, with victories at one World Cup and two Four Nations tournaments.

After this year's Anzac Test victory over Australia, a result that propelled NZ to the #1 world ranking, assistant coach (and former team-mate) David Kidwell gave an insight into Kearney's winning mentality.

"He was the most professional player I ever played with and has carried that into his coaching," said Kidwell (Kiwi #769).

Even at 43, Kearney looks like he could still take the field in a black jersey, and often steals away from Kiwis camp for early-morning yoga sessions to maintain his physical and mental fitness.

"That's where I felt I could get an advantage over others, through the approach and preparation that I had towards the game," says Kearney. "For no other reason than to be the best I could possibly be.

"As your career goes on, you find new ways and methods to make yourself better, whether that's from a physical, recovery or psychology point of view."

This is the same attitude he has brought to the Kiwis — players and staff — since taking over in 2008, but especially over the past 18 months, as they have gained their upper hand over the Kangaroos.

Last weekend, he set out to inspire the next generation to continue that hard-won advantage into the future, when he attended the 2015 NZRL National

Performance Camp.

Last year, Canterbury Bulldogs coach Des Hasler warned his young audience of the demands facing them, if they were lucky enough to secure an NRL contract.

But Kearney wanted them to aim even higher than that.

"Ultimately, these kids want to play in the NRL, but I want them to get the sense that playing for the Kiwis is the ultimate goal and playing in the NRL is just part of the journey," says Kearney.

And that could come down to one very simple concept. It's a "D" word, but not "defence". but **DESIRE** !

"They're at a high performance camp, because they have ability and are talented," he says. "But, at the end of the day, they have to want to be successful, no matter what obstacles are put in their way along the journey.

"You see so many examples in sport and life. If a kid wants it bad enough, whether he's too short or too light or too slow, he'll find a way to make it happen."



## PANASONIC STEREO GIVEAWAY WINNERS

We had 100's of entries but the winner was Alastair Black from Hamilton. We had so many entries that we decided to do a runner up prize. That goes to Jessica Owens from Grafton.

**Panasonic**



# Fun and Games At Napier

By John Coffey QSM



**T**HE MELBOURNE Storm have done rugby league in Hawkes Bay a great service by bringing their NRL round-20 home match against the St George Illawarra Dragons to Napier's McLean Park on Saturday, July 25.

It gives fans from the Bay and surrounding districts a chance to see live first grade football between two recent NRL title-winning clubs. The Storm also boast three members of the champion Kiwis pack in Jesse Bromwich, Kevin Proctor and Tohu Harris. The Hastings born and bred Harris receives an unlikely chance to perform in his home province.

Most NRL clubs which switch games across the Tasman choose the Warriors as their opponents to ensure maximum publicity and attendance. The Storm are taking more of a commercial risk by playing another Australian club at a New Zealand venue.

But they can be assured of a warm welcome, which was not the case when the first team from Australia visited Napier 103 years ago. The 1912 New South Wales players actually helped local pioneers rebuild a grandstand at the Recreation Ground after angry rugby union officials had dismantled it the night before the game!

This incredible but true story was told in the Wellington Evening Post of September 11, 1912, under the triple headlines of "League Match at Napier", "Rugby Officials Dismantle A Stand", and "Leaguers Rebuild It":

"There is beautiful weather for the Hawkes Bay – New South Wales match. Considerable interest was created in the town by the action of certain Rugby officials in regard to a special stand erected for the North v South match. The Rugby Union offered the League the use of the stand at what was considered an exorbitant figure, and, failing an agreement, the Rugby officials dismantled the stand and carried the timber away.

"The League officials started to work at midnight, and, helped by the visiting team and many residents whose sympathy with Rugby had been alienated by the ill-advised tactics of a few, re-erected the stand, and it was completed long before the match started. The dog-in-the-manger attitude of the Union has been much condemned."

It transpires that the Hawkes Bay Rugby Union, having hosted the inter-island game a few weeks earlier at the Recreation Ground in Napier, wanted to charge twenty-five pounds for the league to use a grandstand built for that occasion.

Twenty-five pounds was probably more than the building itself was worth back then. Rugby league in Hawkes Bay was in only its second season, and the NZRL had only been formed in 1910. Neither organisation had that kind of money. Some consideration was given to moving the match to Hastings before it was decided to stay at the Recreation Ground.

A day before the game the Hastings Standard newspaper reported "considerable friction" still existed between the two codes over the grandstand. "A deadlock has arisen as to terms and as no arrangement has as yet been arrived at, uncertainly exists as to whether or not the stand can be used." The police issued a denial that a constable would be stationed at the ground to stop any attempt by the union to take down the stand, as had been threatened.

Did the union tell the police a lie about its intentions? Or were the police in league (pardon the pun) with the union and turning a blind eye? Whatever the case, the union went through with the threat and dismantled an unguarded structure.

Happily, the grandstand was rebuilt in time for kick-off and rugby league officials were delighted when an estimated 3000 spectators watched the champion New South Welshmen register a 42-9 victory over Hawkes Bay.

The old Recreation Ground is long gone. In more recent decades other rugby union officials obeyed their sport's nationwide policy by steadfastly refusing rugby league's requests to use McLean Park for major fixtures. But that is another story.

Suffice to say that Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and company will not need to bring a hammer and nails in their gear bags on July 25.

# HALSWELL HORNETS

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## RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

### 2015 Supporters Luncheon

The 2010 & 2011 Canterbury earthquakes caused a devastating amount damage to people and property, Halswell was no exception to this.

Halswell RLFC clubrooms require significant repairs and upgrades as a result, some sections need to be demolished and rebuilt, others upgraded to meet the building code. Unfortunately insurers aren't able to cover the full repair and upgrade costs, which means this is up to the club and a supporting community.

Each year the Halswell RLFC runs a fundraising luncheon to get business members and club members together to enjoy a relaxing day with great speakers with a auction, this raises funds to help in these costs.

In 2015 we have another great event planned and would like you to attend.

**Where:** Addington Raceway - Christian Cullen Room  
**When:** Friday 28 August 2015 - 12:30pm onwards  
**Guest Speaker:** Petero Civoniceva - Rugby League Legend

Petero is a real star of the game, appearing in over 300 NRL games, for both the Brisbane Bronco's and Penrith Panthers. He played 33 State of Origin matches for Queensland and 45 tests for Australia, more recently he represented Fiji in 6 tests. Petero will be very entertaining for both corporate attendees and league supporters, with plenty of great stories.



**Order your table now:** Tables seat 10 guests maximum. The cost per table is \$1200+GST. Full table orders are sold first. For those requesting a specific number of seats this will only be available after July 20. All interest is to be registered via a Halswell RLFC Luncheon Committee member or via the email address below.



Halswell Rugby League Football Club  
Halswell Road - Halswell - Christchurch  
[halswell.luncheon@gmail.com](mailto:halswell.luncheon@gmail.com)



# Halfbakes

By Barry Ross in Sydney



**T**HIS THURSDAY night in Sydney 16 July, the Men of League will announce their Magnificent Seven. At a gala black tie dinner in the inner western suburbs, the seven greatest halfbacks to have played in Australia since the first television season in Australia will be named. A few months ago, a panel of judges narrowed the list down to 14 since 1961, when televised Rugby League is said to have started. These 14 number sevens are Greg Alexander (6 Tests, 1989-1990), Cooper Cronk (27 Tests, 2007-2015), Andrew Johns (26 Tests, 1995-2006), Stacey Jones (46 Tests for New Zealand, 1995-2006), Brett Kimmorley (20 Tests, 1999-2005), Allan Langer (24 Tests, 1988-1999), Steve Mortimer (8 Tests, 1981-1984), Barry Muir (25 Tests, 1959-1964), Tommy Raudonikis (29 Tests, 1972-1980), Billy Smith (26 Tests, 1964-1970), Peter Stirling (18 Tests, 1982-1988), Ricky Stuart (9 Tests, 1990-1994), Arthur Summons (9 Tests, 1961-1963) and Johnathan Thurston (32 Tests, 2006-2015).

An analysis of the above list shows that only one New Zealander has been named. He is Stacey Jones and after his magnificent career, he deserved to be on the list. But there are several others Kiwis, who could consider themselves unlucky not to be in contention for the Magnificent Seven. Three come immediately to mind and they are Clayton Friend, Gary Freeman and Shaun Johnson. Now 53, Clayton was born in Auckland on 22 March 1962. He played 24 Tests for New Zealand between 1982 and 1991, scoring seven tries for his country. He joined North Sydney in 1986 and in four seasons with the Bears, finished with 65 matches in the NSW RL (now NRL) first grade competition. He was prominent in the 1987 Dally M awards, finishing second runner-up. A tough and clever halfback, Clayton toured Australia with the 1982 Kiwis, as well as England and France with the 1985 New Zealand side. He also played with Carlisle and then Whitehaven in the English Rugby League competition.

Gary Freeman was born in Auckland on 4 December 1962. Known as Whiz, Gary had an outstanding career in Sydney first grade football. He began with Balmain in 1988 and in four seasons with the Tigers, played 51 top grade games, including the 1988 and 1989 Grand Finals against the Bulldogs and the Raiders. Then he moved to the Eastern Suburbs Roosters where he made 35 first grade appearances in 1992 and 1993. Moving out west to join Penrith for two seasons in 1994, Gary played 44 first grade games

with the Panthers and was named the club's Player of the Year in 1994. His final stint in Sydney was with Parramatta in 1996 when he played 21 games for the first grade team. Altogether, Gary played 151 first grade matches and scored 53 tries. In 1992, he became the only overseas player to win the coveted Dally M Player of the Year Award. Twice voted New Zealand International Player of the Year (1986 and 1988), Gary played 46 Tests from 1986 to 1995. Early in his career, he played 17 games in the 1983-84 English season for Castleford. Gary toured Australia with the 1986 and 1995 Kiwi teams, Papua/New Guinea in 1990 and 1994, as well as England and France in 1989 and 1993 as captain. He coached the New Zealand team in 2001 and 2002, while in 2007, he was inducted as a New Zealand Legend of League. In the 1997 New Years Day Honours List, Gary was rewarded with an MNZM (New Zealand Order of Merit).

You only have to look at his effort in the Warriors 28-14 win over the Warriors on Sunday to understand what Shaun Johnson offers to the NRL. His general play was outstanding, while his four goals and a try played a major role in the 28-14 win. He has scored 126 points this season for the Warriors from seven tries, 48 goals and two field goals, while he now has a total of 538 points (44 tries, 178 goals, 6 field goals) in his 99 first grade games for the club. Shaun is an excitement machine at both club and Test level. He has played 14 Tests from 2012 and is still only 24. Barring Injury, he will pass the 1,000 first grade NRL point mark and with 134 Test points on his CV, it won't be long before he becomes New Zealand's highest Test point scorer. To be fair to the panel, they couldn't please everyone, but Shaun and Gary must have been really close to being selected in the above 14. While only a handful of New Zealand's Test Number Sevens played in the NRL and so became eligible for the Magnificent Seven, it is interesting to look at the other Kiwi halfbacks since 1961. These men include Bill Snowden (18 Tests, 1959-1965), Graeme Cooksley (7 Tests, 1960-1964), Ken Stirling (22 Tests, 1971-1978), Shane Varley (11 Tests, 1978-1984), Gordon Smith (4 Tests, 1979-1983), Shane Cooper (12 Tests, 1985-1989), Robbie Paul (28 Tests, 1997-2006) and Thomas Leuluai (34 Tests, 2003-2015).

# Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



## Rugby Union

**M**ANY NORTHLAND rugby fans are celebrating after learning last Friday that Whangarei would be hosting the British & Irish Lions in 2017 against a provincial XV. The last time the Lions played in Whangarei was back in 1993 against North Auckland. Toll Stadium has enjoyed a number of big sporting events in the last 12 months with the likes of the Kiwis V Samoa game in last years Four Nations Rugby League and also hosting four games in this years U20 FIFA World Cup, but this will be the biggest game of all. Last time the British & Irish Lions came to New Zealand back in 2005 saw between 20,000-30,000 visitors hit our shores. The Game will be on June 3rd 2017, so write that date in your calendar Northlanders.

It was an exciting last round in the Bayleys Southern District Premiers, Welsford and Mid Northern were both guaranteed home Semi-Finals along with Otamatea who had secured a playoff berth. The last spot was up for grabs between Mid Western and Old Boys Marist. Mid Western were played Mid Northern and Old Boys were playing Welsford.

Old Boys Marist pulled off a the upset and handed Welsford its second loss 35-17. However it wasn't enough as Mid Western upset Mid Northern 34-17 to clinch the last playoff spot. Disappointment as Mid Northern missed the opportunity to clinch the minor premiership.

Other results saw HoraHora securing a 54-27 win over the winless Kamo, Waipu beating the Western Sharks 36-34 and Otamatea win streak stands at seven after dismantling Hikurangi 56-12.

So the Semi Finals will be Welsford hosting Mid Westerns and Mid Northern hosting Otamatea. In the Reserves Mid Western will play the Western Sharks and Otamatea will play Welsford. Also in the Southern Districts Division two Whangaruru will host Pipiwai and Kaihu will play rivals Southern.

## Rugby League

**L**AST WEEKS game between Hokianga and Portland was called off after 50 minutes due to a serious leg injury to Hokianga player Alex Lennox. Now both sides have agreed to split the competition points of that game and the score at the time (30-16 Hokianga) will stand.

Hikurangi secured the Scott Electrical Premiership, Minor Premiership who two rounds left to play. They dismantled HoraHora 64-10 to secure the Minor Premiership. They hold a five point buffer over second placed Moerewa who went down 34-20 against Otangarei. Portland fell outside the top four after another defeat this time to Takahiwai 28-14 and the Northern Wairoa Bulls playoff chances are hanging by a thread after they lost to Muriwhenua 40-30. It will be an exciting last two rounds as teams fight for a top six berth.

The dates have been confirmed for the Scott Electrical Premiership finals series, all finals games will be played at Toll Stadium in Whangarei starting at 1pm. Week one will be the Minor Semi-Finals (August 2nd) with the two top teams earning the week off while third plays sixth and fourth plays fifth.

The Major Semi-Finals are on August 8th which will see the Minor Premiers (Hikurangi Stags) play the winner of fourth v fifth and the second placed team will play the winner of third and sixth. The Grand Final will be played on August 16th. Any more information head along to [www.northernwords.co.nz](http://www.northernwords.co.nz)

# State of Origin Never Needed the Biff to survive

By John Deaker



**T**HE STATE of Origin concept is a very simple yet successful formula. However, for many years, each time the series approaches many people have doubted whether it can continue to be so successful. The skepticism that many people have going in to each series is often based around whether Origin can still maintain the huge interest it's traditionally had in our more sanitized era of league ; in other words - without the 'biff'.

Year after year State of Origin has stepped up and silenced any doubts some people have aired about whether the series can still flourish. Those doubts failed to acknowledge what made the Origin format great in the first place and the X-Factor that it continues to have over other professional competitions: Simplicity, loyalty and hatred between players and fans – not to mention that is always the best taking on the best.

Too often in professional sport these days we see players rested or rotated, jumping from team to team or playing within complicated, convoluted competitions that fans struggle to keep up with.

'Origin' doesn't really need to be pumped up or tinkered with. It's a success because it's built on a unique formula that many sports would love to be able to replicate.

Some people justifiably had concerns in recent years about whether Queensland's dominance the last decade could impact on the future of the series. Yet even as Queensland secured their record-setting 8th series in a row in 2013 the win by NSW in Game 1 had already given them enough of a taste of victory to want to come back even harder the following year when they finally broke their drought of series victories.

Next year NSW will host two matches. It will be testing times for Laurie Daley to mentally pull his troops back from their 52-6 thrashing at Suncorp Stadium last week. They had been making steady progress – helped especially by more consistency in their selections in recent years. Going in to Game 3 it was probably under-estimated how significant the loss of Robbie Farah to injury might be. Queensland have shown how valuable combinations can be and when you combine Cooper Cronk's return in a pivotal position with Farah's omission from the NSW spine the fitness of these two was always going to be a significant factor going in to the series decider.

Unfortunately for NSW, Queensland's squad is likely to remain settled for a few more years. An injury crisis would be handy to balance things out but it's unlikely when part of what has made players like Thurston, Cronk, Inglis and Cameron Smith so successful in their own careers ( including for Queensland ) the last decade has been that they've all been very resilient; we've hardly ever seen more than one of them out for an Origin match at the same time.

NSW supporters will keep a watchful eye on the movements of Jarryd Hayne the next few years. There is no doubt that NSW missed his individual brilliance in 2015 and if he returned in the next few years it would not only increase their chances of victory but would also be a huge ratings boost for the competition.

Origin doesn't need Hayne though. It will continue to be popular and a huge money-spinner for rugby league just the way it is – with or without the 'biff'.



To celebrate the Vodafone Warriors 3 back-to-back wins and our current position on the table the team at the newsletter is celebrating with the help of Canterbury. We have 5 massive prize packs to giveaway.

## First Prize

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1.     | 2.     | 3.     | 1. Training Polo - Size: M               |
| 4.     | 5.     | 6.     | 2. Nines Shorts - Size: 32               |
| 7.     | 8.     | 9.     | 3. Business Shirt - Size: S              |
| 10.   | 11.   | 12.   | 4. 20 Years Drink Bottle                 |
| 13.  | 14.  | 15.  | 5. Adult Replica Home Jersey - Size: 3XL |

### Second Prize:

1. Stripped Polo - M
2. Training Cap
3. 20 Years Drink Bottle
4. Replica 9s Shorts - 32
5. Camo Training Polo - M
6. Street Hoodie - 10years
7. Adult Replica Home Jersey - M

### Third Prize:

1. 2014 NRL Squad Ball
2. 20 Years Drink Bottle
3. Nines Shorts - 38
4. Stripped Polo - S
5. Warriors Training Cap

### Fourth Prize:

1. Training Cap
2. 20 Years Drink Bottle
3. Stripped Polo - S

### Fifth Prize:

1. Training Cap
2. 20 Years Drink Bottle
3. Chest Stripped Polo



To be in to win a 1 of 5 prize packs just send a stamped, addressed envelope or postcard to me in the mail with your name, address, phone number and question answers on the back to the address.

Great Canterbury Giveaway  
P.O Box 54295  
The Marina 2144,  
Manukau, Auckland

Name:  
Address:  
Phone Number:

Drawn on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2015

# U.S Vodafone Warriors Fans

Gaday Sir Peter,

Please find the photos of The Mayor of Bamberg in the USA outside the family café, he likes the jersey very much. I'll get it framed and he can hang it in the café along with the NFL Footballer he has there.

Love to all

John R. Jone President Rockland Bamberg Division



# SHARK ATTACK MEMBERSHIP

## MOUNT SMART STADIUM

Shark Attack Memberships are available in Premium, Silver, Bronze and Tribe seating at Mount Smart Stadium to watch the Vodafone Warriors take on the Sharks in their Round 21 clash, Saturday 1st August.

These one game memberships include one ticket to the selected seating category but will also give the Shark Attack members the following benefits:

- Save \$35 on Vodafone Warriors 2015 jerseys (RRP \$185)
- Priority purchase period for Home Finals Tickets
- Invitations to attend members events
- Members discounts from Club Sponsors and local businesses
- Receive all team announcements and special announcements
- Exclusive 10% discount off CCC Vodafone Warriors merchandise

All members will go into the draw to win a 2015 Signed Nines jersey and will also go into the draw with the Suzuki Swift Road Warrior drawn in round 24.



## Shaun Johnson's 100th Game Jersey



Yesterday I hosted a luncheon at the Ellerslie Event Centre in honour of Shaun's 100th game coming up soon. At the luncheon I gave out plenty of quirky awards to the players.



Andrew McFadden and Glen Fisiiahi who won the wait a minute award.



Chad received a second award - The Go Pro look at me award.



Chad Townsend wins the best try scoring celebration award.



Charlie Gubb got the I'm scared of heights award.



Nathan Friend received the award of best try assist of the year.



Ryan Hoffman received the never been to the Stacey Jones lounge award.



The best hair award went to Solomon Kata (the top knot).



The biggest nerd award went to Balin Cupples.



The boys all love getting a copy of my book at the team luncheon I hosted today.



The funny man Jacob Lillyman.



Shuan Johnson's brother Adam and farther Paul present him with his jersey.



Tui Lolohea won the best try saving tackle.



Calib was a happy chap when I gave him a Vodafone Warriors car flag he just has get him self a car to go Eleuthera the Warriors flag.

Jamie and Calib (who has a little parcel on the way from the Mad Butcher) big fans of the Vodafone Warriors from Hamilton.

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

## Our Sponsors

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS! Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can.



## The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me make the newsletter each week. Between us we make the newsletter happen - and like everything it's a team effort.



**Sir Peter Leitch**  
Editor



**David Kemeys**  
Editor at Large



**Hayden Woodhead**  
Graphic Designer



**John Deaker**  
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**John Coffey**  
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**Ben Francis**  
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