



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

# Newsletter #85

13<sup>th</sup> August 2015

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

## Netball World Cup Silver Ferns v Australia

At least one great result for New Zealand sport last weekend. Silver Ferns win against Australia. 52 to 47.



Bailey Mes catches the pass from Laura Geitz.



Bailey Mes catching the pass.



Grace Rasmussen passes over Renae Hallinan.



Kayla Cullen catches the pass from Renae Hallinan.



Laura Langman catches the high ball.



Laura Langman passes high to Bailey Mes.



Maria Tutaia looks to pass.



Maria Tutaia shooting over Sharni Leyton.

### Scores

- Silver Ferns 73 Barbados 28
- Silver Ferns 47 Trinidad Tobago 38
- Silver Ferns 52 Australian 47
- Silver Ferns 55 Jamaica 48
- Silver Ferns 57 Malawi 49
- Today Rest Day
- Saturday Silver Ferns Play Off Match
- Sunday is Finals Day (fingers crossed)
- Good Luck Silver Ferns!**

## Welcome To Our New Readers

**W**ELL WELCOME to our new subscribers. It is great to have you on board. You are signed up to the leading league – and lots of other sports – news-letter in the land, if I do say so myself.

To celebrate our numbers growing - and as a thank you for signing up - read on for your chance to win a special piece of sporting memorabilia.

We have a signed Queensland State of Origin jersey to give away and I tell you what, it is something a bit special, and worth a bob or two too.

### Through Thick And Thin

My Vodafone Warriors were terrible in Wellington, losing 36-0 to St George and it is now four losses in a row. I will not lie, it was disappointing, very disappointing in fact. It was probably as poor an effort as I have seen in a long while.

But they are my team and I will be there when we return to Mt Smart for our final home game on August 21 against the North Queensland Cowboys.

And I will be in front of the TV when we take on Penrith next weekend too.

I have enormous faith in Jim Doyle as CEO, and in Andrew “Cappy” McFadden as head coach.

I know some of our fans will be getting a bit frustrated, and will feel like they have heard it all before – Next Year.

I did dare dream it might be this year, and who knows, it might. We still have four games to go and the Old Butcher never gives up. Win those and we will still make finals

footy.

### All Blacks Trip Up

I watched the All Blacks lose to the Wallabies, so they won the Rugby Championship. But it's the same thing. The All Blacks are my team, and I will not quit because they lost.

In fact I have a feeling that because the boys are so successful, we think we have some sort of right to win. Well we don't. Australia proved that, and good on them.

When that ball flies into the air next weekend with the Bledisloe Cup on the line, I will be cheering the boys on.

I am absolutely convinced that Richie and the boys will bounce back, so much so that if only my wife would let me, I'd put my life-savings on it!

### Silver Ferns Restore Pride

I could not have been more delighted when the Silver Ferns pulled off a big upset and tipped over Australia at the Netball World Cup.

When coach Wai Taumaunu made changes to her side she said she had to. There was no point in picking the same players over and over, because we would continue to get the same result.

And the other reason I was so delighted, was that I believe women's sport does not get a fair go, so any time it has a chance to steal the headlines is fine by me.

And what a performance it was, the Silver Ferns beating a stunned Australia 52-47. Did you realise it was the first time the Ferns have beaten the Diamonds without Irene van Dyk since 1999? She did play the last time we won, in Invercargill in 2013, and it is some-

thing the team was conscious of.

“One of our big things was to beat Australia without Irene, because we hadn't done it for so long,” Taumaunu said.

Just like the All Blacks in rugby, Australia has been dominant in netball, so the win made me really proud. But we have not won the tournament, just the pool play game, and there is work to do.

New Zealand went on court against Jamaica on Monday, and faced Malawi on Wednesday, so just like the Warriors and the ABs, the Silver Ferns can count on my support.

### What's With All The Gloating?

And while we are on the subject of Aussie sport, I was stunned by how delighted we were to rub Australia's nose in it when they lost the Ashes at cricket to England. There was talk about kicking an Aussie while he was down, and how such an arrogant bunch got their comeuppance.

I might surprise you but I could not disagree more. There is only one thing worse than a sore loser, and that is a bad winner. But revelling in the misfortune of others runs it close, and I think it is about as unsportsmanlike, and un-Kiwi, as it gets.

### McFadden Vows Better

Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden called Saturday night's shambles in Wellington embarrassing and vowed the team would find a way back.

Despite being reduced to just two interchange players, St George thrashed us 36-0 - scoring six tries to none - despite losing Benji Marshall and centre Will Matthews inside the first 20 minutes.

*Continued on next page...*



It was the second time in four games we've been held scoreless.

Try as we might, the Vodafone Warriors could not click on attack, and you don't have to be a genius to know that the same has to be said about on defence.

The Dragons climbed back into the top eight with the victory while the Vodafone Warriors have a huge challenge now with just four rounds left, sitting in 10th.

Three of our last games are on the road. The first is against Penrith next weekend when we will probably have to do without wing Manu Vatuei, who aggravated the shoulder injury that kept him off the field for a month.

If you want to hear what Cappy McFadden had to say to Radio Sport's Tony Veitch just hit the link below, and thank you to the team at Newstalk ZB for allowing us to use the clip.

<http://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/on-air/veitch-on-sport/audio/andrew-mcfadden-the-warriors/>

### Juniors So Good It Is A Problem

The success of the Warriors junior programme has undermined the club's progress, McFadden told Radio Sport this week.

McFadden has defended his side's slide, saying the absence of several senior players has forced them to rely on youngsters who are not yet equipped to handle the first grade.

McFadden said the Warriors dominance at the Under 20s level hadn't provided players with the ideal preparation for NRL.

"It's one of the things myself and managing director Jim Doyle identified last year. We needed to change the way we recruit," McFadden said. "One of the burdens

is that we've got this really good junior development system and there's pressure on to keep these kids time. But they aren't seasoned first graders and it's a lot of pressure on them."

As you will know, the club is not putting as much emphasis on Under 20s now. "If they're good enough they need to be playing against men at a younger age to see if they can handle pressure."

### Losses Need To Be Considered

Not wanting to make excuses, but would any club soar facing the kind of injury woes we have had? We are struggling after losing Shaun Johnson, Ryan Hoffman, Thomas Leuluai, Bodene Thompson, Ben Henry, David Fusitu'a and Ngani Laumape to injury.

Together Johnson, Thompson, Hoffman and Leuluai had 530 NRL games between them, while nine members of the team that played the Dragons had just 152.

With Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke already signed for 2014, we are also searching for another experienced outside back. "It's going to take a bit of time and I understand everyone's frustrations but we've already started that process and we've recruited well. I know that it's hard to see but we just need to keep getting more quality players around." McFadden said.

### Where Was Konrad?

Our display at Westpac had many fans questioning the decision to drop Konrad Hurrell, and, much to my amazement, McFadden's position itself.

So it was interesting to see McFadden stick by his guns over his selections and insisting he is doing everything in his power to im-

prove the club.

"I 100 percent stand by the decision. There were things I couldn't ignore in Konrad's performance last week, things I've brought up with him before. He's not a 20-game rookie and he needs to be better than that. I know that I'm the right man and I know what I can do. I'm going to work as hard as I can to get there, that's for sure."

### New Deal For Aussies

Australian fans will be able to watch four live matches a week on free to air TV from 2018 as part of a new broadcast rights agreement with the Nine Network.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday during prime time, and Sunday at 4pm, are all included in the deal, the biggest in Australian free to air television history, and up to \$925million.

So the number of live games on free to air increases from two to four, something the NRL says will help secure the long-term financial future of the game.

Other highlights of the deal:

The NRL will be played over 25 weeks, instead of 26

A State of Origin schedule with the second match played on a Sunday night as part of a stand-alone weekend of representative football that will also feature Pacific Nation tests

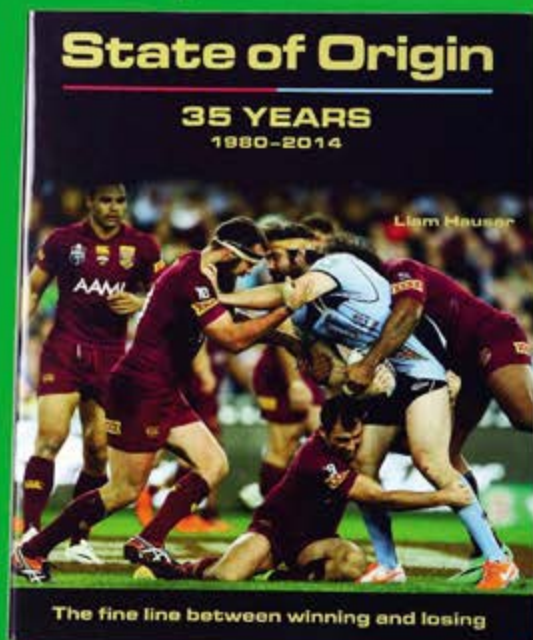
International league will be given a new priority and will be played in a dedicated window after the NRL season

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envelope with your name, address  
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PO BOX 54295  
The Marina 2144,  
Manukau, Auckland

Name: .....  
Address:.....  
Phone Number.....



## Juniors Snap Losing Streak

The Vodafone Junior Warriors got their first NYC home win since Anzac Day in Wellington as they delivered a six-try 26-18 win over St George. Centres Semisi Tyrell and Junior Pauga both got doubles as we snapped a six loss streak. We were dominant up front, with every one of the starting forwards topping 100 metres.

## NSW Side Still On Top

Beaten 32-22, the NSW Cup side held on to a share of the competition lead. The Stacey Jones-coached side went into the clash against North Sydney equal top with the Mounties and Wyong but all three teams lost, while fourth-placed Penrith won, to leave four sides in a share of the lead.

The Vodafone Warriors are on the road for the third straight week when they meet Wests Tigers at Campbelltown next Saturday.

## One For All League Clubs

Club sponsor Woodstock is giving league clubs the chance to win one of two clubroom upgrades.

It wants to give back to the league community by committing \$10,000 each to two clubs around New Zealand in need of a fix-up or new gear.

Entrants are asked to email win@woodstockbourbon.co.nz with a short summary about why their club deserves the upgrade. You have until August 31.

“The Vodafone Warriors have some of the most loyal fans in the country and we are committed to helping grow up-and-coming players,” Independent Liquor’s Laura Youngman said.

## Shoulder Charge Rule Cleared Up

Any player who commits a shoulder charge using force will be automatically charged from this weekend. The change to the rule will remove doubt about whether a player should be charged.

The NRL says the shoulder charge is dangerous and has potentially dire consequences.

While the charge is illegal, the current rules mean offenders can escape a charge if there is “no forceful movement of the head or neck”.

That will be simplified to require any shoulder charge with force to be charged automatically.

Anyone found guilty risks lengthy suspensions. A grade one offence carries a base penalty of 200 points and more serious breaches can result in heavy suspensions.

That all means that anyone found guilty of using a shoulder charge with force will be suspended for at least one match.

## Just A few Places To Go

Just loose forward and the halves are left to be decided as voting continues in the Vodafone Warriors’ People’s Choice 20th Anniversary team poll.

To recap, Brent Webb is at full-back, Manu Vatuvei and Francis Meli takes the wings, and Clinton Toopi and Brent Tate the centres. P J Marsh is at hooker, inside Steve Price and Ben Matulino as props, with Simon Mannering and Ali Lauitiiti in the second row.

Now it’s decision time for the best loose forward in our history. Click the link below and make sure you have your say. [VOTE](#)

## Gutted By Charge Over Big Ben

Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden is gutted a shoulder charge case means prop Ben Matulino is suspended for three games. The club took an early guilty plea on a grade two charge for a tackle on the Dragons’ Gareth Widdop in Wellington.

Had we fought and lost, Matulino would have faced a five-game ban. “We understand the NRL is trying to eliminate the shoulder charge,” McFadden said. “But with the way the rules are now we had no option but to enter an early plea.”

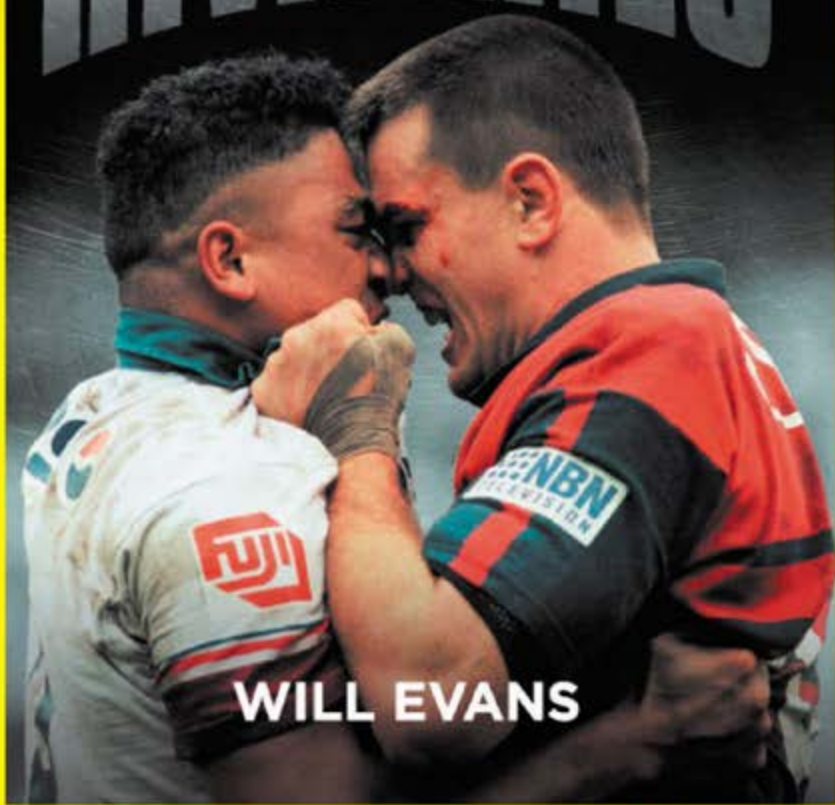
McFadden said the club thought the charge and punishment did not fit the crime. “It’s out of proportion to the outcome of the tackle. Widdop was knocked over but he got up, played the ball and saw out the game. There was no contact with the head and no injury, yet Ben now has to miss three games.”

Our coach said there was a tackle in the previous round where a player was knocked out and still couldn’t play last week yet the player charged didn’t miss a game. “The NRL needs to cater for inconsistencies like that. In a case like Ben’s tackle, why doesn’t the NRL do what happens in rugby and use the sin bin? It’s eradicated the shoulder charge, which is exactly what we’re after in league.”

All of which means we will be without Matulino against Penrith, North Queensland and Wests Tigers. He will be available for the final season match against the Bulldogs.

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## Ring In The Changes

Ryan Hoffman, Sam Rapira, Konrad Hurrell and Dominique Peyroux have all been called in to the squad for Saturday's encounter with the Penrith Panthers (9.30pm NZT).

Hoffman is set for his first game since a calf injury forced him off the field during the final State of Origin match in Brisbane on July 8.

He comes into the second row for his 260th career game alongside Raymond Faitala-Mariner, while captain Simon Mannering moves back to loose forward.

Rapira has been named to start in the front row in what will be his fourth appearance this season and the 173rd of his career.

There are two changes in the starting backline too, with Peyroux named in the centres and Jonathan

Wright moving to the left wing for Manu Vatuvei (shoulder).

Hurrell returns on the interchange alongside front rowers Albert Vete, Sam Lisone and Charlie Gubb.

"It's been a really tough period for us with injuries and our form," coach Andrew McFadden said.

"Fortunately we have Ryan back at last, while Sam gives us plenty of experience. Dom has been working hard in the NSW Cup and he'll provide plenty of energy, while Konrad will give us impact."

Like us, Penrith are struggling for form. They have had five defeats on end.

Vodafone Warriors: Tomkins, Maumalo, Peyroux, Kata, Wright, Townsend, Lolohea, Lillyman, Friend, Rapira, Faitala-Mariner, Hoffman, Mannering. Interchange: Hurrell, Vete, Lisone, Gubb.



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Official Restaurant of the Vodafone Warriors.

# Appreciation Gift



I WOULD LIKE to share this with our readers round 21 at Mt Smart was Sir Peter Leitch appreciation day and it was very humbling but at half time the club present me with this great sketch drawn by former NRL player Frank Puletua with some lovely messages from a lot of my mates and I just had the share it with our readers and thank photo sport for taking the photo. Check them out at [WWW.PHOTOSPORT.NZ](http://WWW.PHOTOSPORT.NZ)



# Warriors Scarf Model

Hi Sir Peter,

**W**ARRANT OFFICER Class One  
Danny Broughton MNZM.

Proudly wearing the Warriors Tartan Scarf at the Game in Wellington.

Cheers

Jo



Get your own Warriors Scarf at:

<http://www.Warriorsstore.co.nz/>



CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS



# PICTURES FROM SIGNING & GAMING DAY



Chad checks his phone one last time before fans arrive while Tui check's the room out.



Derek was pleased that the Vodafone Ambassadors are in Red & White – Dragons colours!.



Fan dedication, next tattoo for fan that travelled from Brisbane for the game!.



Jacob, Nathan, Manu and Sam all ready and waiting. For the signing session.



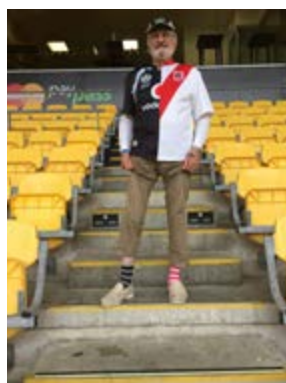
Jim didn't "mind" that Derek's shirt was a half and half!.



Mascot & Gordy out in the Wellington Cold Wind!.



Mascot and Gordy preparing to go outside into the cold.



Pity Derek's belt didn't help hold the team up against the Dragons.



Ryan and his Dad up from Grey-mouth to celebrate Ryan's 11th Birthday..



The face of the fans says it all, WOW! Despite the cold the fans loved the chance to meet their heroes!



Dave, Lorraine, Lorna, Trevor all made the trip to Wellington true Vodafone Warriors fans.



Yeah Right – we are ready!





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

### Curtain raiser to Premier GAME

**12:45:** Glenora Bears Reserves vs Papakura Sea Eagles Res.

**2:00:** Physical Disability Rugby League Exhibition match

**2:30:** Glenora Bears Prem 1 v Papakura Sea Eagles

**Venue:** Glenora Bears Rugby League Club  
Harold Moody Park, 50A Glendale Road,  
Glen Eden, West Auckland

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**Time:** 1 – 2:30pm (skills + game)

**Grades:** All Welcome

**Cost:** No Charge



**This weekend get ready for the final exhibition match for Physical Disability Rugby League NZ of 2015. Host's Glenora Bears are up against Papakura Sea Eagles on Saturday 15th August at Harold Moody park, reserve game kicking off at 12.45 followed by Physical Disability Rugby League exhibition match at 2pm in the lead up to the main game. Come on down and watch the team as they go on and give their all in our last game for 2015 and if you want to join in or if you know anybody who wants to play, just show up at 1.00 and we will give you a jersey.**





# MAD BUTCHER CLUB IN WELLINGTON



Ben Sigmund centre back All Whites and Phoenix soccer player with Sir Peter and French girl..



Ben Sigmund (All Whites player) with Roana.



Cliff from Timaru with Jim Doyle.



David Hammond wins the \$100 TAB ticket 1st try scorer Tuimoala Lolohea from Mr Popplewell.



Derek Cornwall with his half St George half Warriors jersey with Jim Doyle.



Gary, Heather, Mathew, Caren all travelled from Auckland.



Jayme and Jude Hawea from Bay of Islands.



Jim Doyle with Sir Peter Leitch.



Kenny and Murray.



Was great to catch up with my mate Benji Marshall.



Mark has a chat to Sir Peter.



The Butcher gave Murray and Hillary Skelton two Dragons supporters a hard time. But he had to eat humble pie after.

# MORE CLUB PHOTOS FROM WELLINGTON



Peter and Rosa Heron from Timaru with Uncle Cliff from Wainuiomata.



Phil from Christchurch wins a spot prize.



Robbie and Glenda from Auckland.



Sir Peter with David Faiumu, Wainuiomata, North Queensland Huddersfield and 2005-2007 Kiwi.



Tane, Chris, Sir Peter, Jamie, Paora, Scott and Ben Sigmund.



Who Ate All The Pies The Pommie Bastards Steve, Neil, Lee, Pete ask Hillary Skelton..

# VODAFONE WARRIORS MANAGEMENT AT THE GAME



Some of the Vodafone Warriors management at work in Wellington

From Left to Right  
 Glenn Critchley - Commercial Manager  
 Bianca Bush - Events & Entertainment Manager  
 Gordon Gibbons - Corporate Sales Manager  
 William Felgate - Membership Manager  
 Rodney Wallace - Fan Engagement Manager



# At Vodafone in Wellington

**W**HILE IN Wellington I visited the Vodafone offices on Lambton Quay and gave the staff a change to win a prize received this from Elaine

**Hi Sir Peter**

Thanks for your time this morning, meeting you and having a good laugh really meant a lot to me J. Even more so winning the awesome Warriors Pack

**Many Thanks Elaine Grant**



Another happy winner on Friday at Vodafone in Wellington.



SOME OF THE VODAFONE STAFF IN WELLINGTON WHO CAME TO ME THE PLAYERS AT THERE WORK PLACE.



The Vodafone warrior boys were only to happy to pose for photos with the staff.

## Our Last Home Game of the Season

OUR LAST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON IS

7.30pm, Saturday, August 22 **Gates open: 5:00pm NYC kick off: 5:15pm NRL kick off: 7:30pm**

ROUND 24 | VODAFONE WARRIORS v COWBOYS | MOUNT SMART STADIUM, AUCKLAND

**T**HE VODAFONE Warriors wind up their home season against the North Queensland Cowboys, one of the hottest teams in the NRL all season led by the incomparable Johnathan Thurston. The Vodafone Warriors haven't played the Cowboys in Auckland since April 2013, a day when they kept Thurston largely in check en route to a 20-18 win. In fact they've won each of the last four matches against the Cowboys in Auckland but this year's challenge is on another level with Thurston orchestrating a line-up boasting so many threats. It's also a significant occasion with both clubs celebrating their 20th anniversary seasons.





## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 23 ISSUE...

Johnathan Thurston and the next gen big boppers

### FEATURES

- **Johnathan Thurston** was almost sacked by the Cowboys back in 2010, now his incredible form has him placed to lead the club to their premiership and cement his position as one of the game's greats;
- He's big, he's angry and he won't let anyone stand in his way. **David Klemmer** won a cult following with his debut Origin Series this year, but those close to him say he's grown as a man off the field as well as player on it;
- It's the longest TV shift in rugby league and we spent time behind the scenes at Fox Sports' **Super Saturday** finding out what gets them through and seeing how the chemistry works;
- Cowboys and Rabbitohs' die-hards knew who **Chris Grevsmuhl** was before he hit it big on the NRL stage this season, but he's been helped along the way by a South teammate who has taken him in;
- **Paul Vaughan** has been learning from some of the competition's best front-rowers and he's ready to lead from the front next year in a Raiders team he believes can go a long way;

**PLUS...** **Damien Lovelock** recounts a time when junior football was just history repeating; **Matt Elliott** talks us through what a good vibe in a team can do; **Nathan Brown** looks at the top teams and which part of their spine will play the most important part come finals.

**AND:** Official team lists; Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Sharks v Storm; News: How a culture change has helped elevate the Sharks, Sea Eagles playing for Toovey's pride, Pritchard taking painkillers to win a premiership, Pacific Tests a winner from new TV deal; Who's That Kid? Dragons' Home Sele; Top 8 ways you know the finals are near; Roosters poster; Cheerleader finalists last week of voting.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, August 13.**

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NEWSLIFEMEDIA



# CRUISING WELLINGTON HARBOUR SWEET GEORGIA

**W**HILE IN Wellington I took some local Rugby League people out on Charlie Gubb's Dads boat Sweet Georgia for a bit of cruising. As well as a Mad butcher BBQ to thank them for what they do for local league and chew the fat these photos are courtesy of Margart Lavery.



Barry Harvey(Kiwi #595), Mike Kuiti(Kiwi #619), Butch, Warren Collicot(Kiwi #496), Colin O'Neil(Kiwi #436).



Bill Taramai- Upper Hutt juniors.



Butch entertaining the crowd.



Carey Clements, Anaru Moke (Fats).



Carey Clements, Warren Collicot.



Dominique Va'a, Mad Butcher, Jimmy Samu (all from Wainuiomata).



Ian Leary , Butch.



Ian Leary (Hunters), Jason Hemson (GM WRL), Barry Harvey(Orcas assistant coach), Darryl Marino (Orcas coach).



Pat Tanoai, Liz Tanoai, Dominique Va'a, Mad Butcher, Jimmy Samu (all from Wainuiomata).



Paul Gubb, Butch.



Shaun Chait,Ruka Rarere, Warriors



Sweet Georgia

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# Calib O'Brien

Wanted to share this with our readers from a future Warriors or kiwi player

**Hi Peter**

Calib really wanted you to see his Vodafone Warriors shrine, also he wanted you to see his end of season photos of his team, Hamilton city Tigers

We thank you so much for the gifts that you sent to him.

Kind regards

Jamie O'Brien



## Great Canterbury Giveaway Winner - Rajit Lala

**Dear Sir Peter**

**J**UST A quick note to say thank you for the prizes that I received via courier in your recent competition.

I have attached a photo sporting some of the attire.

Thanks once again, and also to Canterbury.

Kind regards

Ranjit Lala



## Lovely Letter from Malcolm

**H**I, PLEASE may I start by saying that I love the Warriors and regardless of the result on Saturday night I will always keep the faith.

I had the pleasure of being invited to the Members lounge with Toll freight to enjoy the Warriors game at Westpac stadium in Wellington. Having never been to the Members lounge at the stadium and knowing I would be in the same room with Sir Peter Leitch I was very excited.

It only took a minute of me arriving at the Members lounge for Peter to shake my hand, say hello and ask me who I was and how I came to be in the lounge with him, at first I was very nervous but as the conversation went on I realised how friendly and approachable Peter was.

It didn't take me long to ask Peter if I could have a picture taken with him, he said yes without hesitation, I have been so proud of the photo and have shown all my friends and family.

The night was really fun, Peter was so funny and the crowd loved him.

Peter must have done this a hundred times and meet hundreds of people but he still took the time to talk to people like myself who are just new to these experiences and a bit star struck.

May I just finish by saying that I love the support and ongoing commitment Peter has for the Warriors and it was a real pleasure to meet him and his lovely wife on Saturday night.

Kind Regards Malcolm McRoberts

# Dean Hona

Dear Peter

**T**HIS IS Dean Hona, a disabled young fellow that I gave one of the footballs that you gave me. He lives with his mum and dad on the Gold Coast. His father John is a well known halfback that played his football for Petone and Waikato, and his mother also came from a Rugby League family in Waikato. name Maipi. Dean is a fanatical Warriors fan and was overjoyed to get the football with all of the Warriors signitures on it.

Many thanks again Peter, regards Graeme Farrar



# Liam

**H**I BUTCH, appreciate you getting in touch. My young fella Liam began playing Rugby League for The Hukanui under 6's in Waikato last year just after turning 4. 10 games and 13 tries later he was awarded Sports person of the year 2014. This year (second season) has just wound up and his tally is 12 tries in 15 matches. He's a loyal NZ Warriors fan.....opting to watch a game over cartoons anytime. His club visited Mt Smart to play the curtain raiser last year for the Junior Warriors and this year for The Vodafone Warriors (vs Sharks and Mad Butcher Appreciation Day). Both years he has scored a try at Mt Smart for his team. .... great memories and pround moments for him and his family. Here are some photos to consider for the newsletter. Warriors For Life!!! **Bundy.**



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*Proceeds will benefit The New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundations initiative and programmes*

*Proudly supported by Amberley Golf Club*

# Central Otago Mustangs 14s - Rugby League Growing Down South

**T**HE CENTRAL Otago Mustangs are travelling to Wellington in October to take part in the Futures 14s tournament. This is a first for our team and we are very excited about the opportunity. Central Otago has never fielded a representative Rugby League side before, so this adds extra excitement about the tournament.

We are taking 20 players in total accompanied by five coaching staff. The boys play mainly Rugby so they are relatively new to Rugby League but we are passionate about growing a respect and passion for the sport in Central Otago.

It all began in November last year at the South Island Intermediate Rugby League Tournament when we decided to enter a young team of mostly Rugby boys. With dedicated coaching staff the team was transformed and ended up winning the Brad Thorn Cup to take out the tournament with convincing wins. The boys really enjoyed their exposure to the game of Rugby League, so, a plan was made to aim for a national tournament.

We started 2015 with a two trials between Queenstown Titans and the Wanaka Tigers. These were played in Wanaka & Queenstown.

Central Otago Mustangs is committed to making a positive difference to the wellbeing of the Central Otago community through the provision of providing wider opportunities for young players within Central Otago and through supporting physical activity and sport for young people.

To find out more about the Mustang's story please log onto the Mustang's Facebook page on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/centralotagomustangs?fref=ts>

Central Otago Mustangs would like to thank the following sponsors who are helping us to get to the Wellington Tournament; Wanaka Selection, Simply Wardrobes, Tai Contracting Limited, Southern Trust and First Homes Wanaka

In the future, the Central Otago Mustangs is looking to register with the NZRL as a sub league associated with both the Otago Rugby League (ORL) and the Southern Zone Rugby League (SZRL)



I donated a signed Vodafone Warriors jersey to the Queenstown MUSTANGS for their fundraising.

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# And Now for the Good News

By John Coffey QSM



**P**LENTY OF so-called professional sportsmen manage to create headlines for all of the wrong reasons. The news media thrives on them, of course, so much so there is little space to record the good news stories.

But Paul Kent, in The Daily Telegraph and also on NRL-360, last week reported the kindness shown by Benji Marshall to a father and his young son after St George Illawarra had beaten the Newcastle Knights at Kogarah Oval in Sydney.

Despite the Dragons having lost seven games in a row, father and son had kept the faith and travelled down from Newcastle to cheer their team to victory over their home town. Benji came upon them as the Dragons players did a thank-you circuit of the oval after fulltime.

Not only did Benji agree to pose for a photo with the young fan, he also offered to autograph his cap. Then, as the kid bubbled with joy and hero worship, Benji bent down, removed his boots and asked him if he would “mind looking after these?”

The Daily Telegraph story included a photo of Benji’s boots sitting on a shelf in the boy’s bedroom, alongside a sign proclaiming “Dragons For Ever”. With one act of kindness Benji ensured his club of a fan for life – an allegiance that lad will undoubtedly pass on to his own children. And he will never forget who gave him the boots.

I have also been mightily impressed with Johnathan Thurston’s actions in always chasing after his kicking tee, picking it up and handing it to the ball boy. At fulltime he invariably finds a youngster and gives him his headgear. It is easy to imagine dozens of headgear-wearing kids in Townsville backyard footy games proclaiming they are JT.

I know from personal experience how one sportsman’s act of generosity can last a lifetime. More than 50 years ago I pestered my mother to take me from Greymouth to Christchurch in the school holidays so I could watch the touring Australian cricketers at Lancaster Park.

My treasured autograph book travelled with us. But the little kid from the West Coast was no match for the seasoned city slickers who knew exactly where, when and how to position themselves to intercept the players as they came in and out of the dressing room.

After getting trampled in the rush I was wandering back to my seat when this bloke in a baggy green cap emerged from a different door altogether. Timidly I held out my book with its almost bare pages. He took one look and said, “you haven’t got many signatures, mate,” added “wait here”, and disappeared inside again.

By process of elimination I worked out it was rising batting star Norman O’Neill who had possession of my autograph book. He seemed to be gone for so long that I was wondering whether he had stolen it. The lunch break was nearly over. Play was about to resume.

But my “new best mate” Norm did come back, casually said “there you go” as he handed me the book, and jogged off through the outfield gate and onto the field. Suddenly I was the only kid at Lancaster Park who had the autographs of EVERY Australian player.

From that day Norman O’Neill had one youngster in Greymouth cheering him on every time he walked out to bat in that baggy green cap. And I have always supported Australia in their Ashes battles against England, as difficult as that loyalty has been to maintain in recent days.

That’s why I know there was an excited kid watching television in Newcastle last Saturday as the Dragons took on the Warriors in Wellington. And that his lifetime favourite player was the twinkle-toed playmaker in the number seven jersey. After all, he was the only kid in Newcastle wearing Benji’s boots.

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# Give Me Five - VB NSW Cup

By Joel Moss

## 1. Quadruple Trouble

Mounties, Wyong Roos, Penrith Panthers and New Zealand Warriors are in a four-way deadlock for first place with three rounds remaining.

Although the top two teams don't receive home-grand advantage, there is a major psychological gain in finishing the regular season as Minor Premiers. All four teams will be determined to finish first in gathering end-of-season momentum and boost confidence entering the Finals.

## 2. Did The Bulldogs Rediscover Their Bark?

The Canterbury Bulldogs were cruising for a top-four finish, winning six of seven games before back-to-back losses against the Newcastle Knights and North Sydney Bears. They bounced back into the winners' column on the weekend with a hard-fought 29-22 victory over the top-of-the-table Wyong Roos.

While the Bulldogs carry the second-best attack with 498 points, their defence is a concern. They are ranked sixth in defence and Andy Patmore's men will be determined to tighten up their defence with games against the Manly Sea Eagles, Cutters and Wests Tigers before the Finals.

## 3. Red-Hot Bears

The North Sydney Bears are rolling and have entrenched themselves in seventh place following their impressive 32-22 win over the league-leading Warriors.

The Bears' turnaround has been nothing short of amazing after they languished at the bottom of the ladder for much of the season. Taking over midseason, Ben Gardiner's side have lost just two of their past ten matches, recording six wins and two draws. With a team stacked with talent including Kirisome Auva'a, Cody Walker and Paul Carter, the ceiling is certainly high.

## 4. Are The Jets And Wests Tigers Still In Contention?

While the Jets and Wests Tigers are still in contention, they will face a mighty uphill climb to reach the Finals and need several results to fall their way.

The Jets take on the competition leaders, the Penrith Panthers, before the Knights and red-hot Bears. Wests Tigers face an even tougher road against the Warriors, Mounties and Bulldogs.

## 5. Cutters On The Hot Seat

The Illawarra Cutters are in control of their own Finals destiny, sitting in eight position. However, they face arguably the toughest finish to the regular season of any team with matches against competition heavyweights, Mounties, Bulldogs and Penrith Panthers.

If the Cutters overcome their challenging end-of-season gauntlet and reach the Finals, they will certainly be battled tested and will pose as a dangerous threat to take out the VB NSW Cup.



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## TONIGHT'S GUESTS

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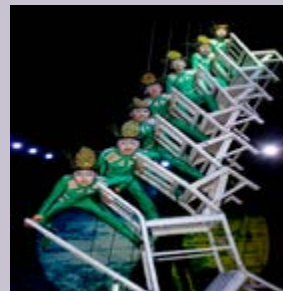
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**KESI O'NEILL**

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# Could a Loss Help Us Win the Rugby World Cup?

By John Deaker



**T**HE ALL Blacks' 27-19 loss to Australia at the weekend has reignited the debate that's sometimes cropped up during this dominant era of All Black rugby: Could a loss be a good thing for the All Blacks' World Cup campaign?

Most people agree a loss SHOULDN'T be a necessary aid to the All Blacks' World Cup journey, yet we're also aware that there is some strong evidence to suggest it might help the All Blacks to secure a victory at Twickenham on October 31st.

It's important to specify that it's not the loss itself that is of value – it's what the loss can do for any teams self-analysis of where they are at and what their best approach is going forward.

New Zealand's superior players to the rest of the world in recent times has often helped to cover up any weaknesses or cracks the team and it's individuals might have developed. Their success has also prevented the type of ruthless analysis from their coaches that a loss can lead to.

Even back when he was still playing, legendary All Black captain Sean Fitzpatrick used to talk about 'Fear of Failure' as being a key motivational tool for him. James Kerr's book 'Legacy' quotes Fitzpatrick on this fascinating topic:

"As All Blacks you're told in no uncertain terms to remember your losses more than your wins. It is the fear of not doing it properly - and what does that do? It makes you prepare properly... The key is to understand that there is a world of difference between fear of feedback or failure and harnessing that fear to positive effect."

Purely on a motivational level a loss will have done the All Blacks the world of good to sharpen them up. People can't mentally or physically peak every week as professional rugby players – and it's impossible to ignore the fact that the 2015 All Blacks ultimately want to reach a crescendo in late October at the business end of the World Cup.

Time is running out though – and one of the biggest fears for fans should be whether this wake-up call has come too late. This weekend's test against Australia is the final test before their World Cup campaign kicks off ( against Argentina on September 21st ) so it's definitely more of a time for the All Blacks' players and coaches to tweak things rather than make wholesale changes.

It makes this weekend's test even more interesting. Last year the 12-12 draw in Sydney ( virtually viewed as a loss by All Blacks' fans ) was turned around in devastating fashion with a 51-20 win at Eden Park only 7 days later.

If last week's loss can be turned around just as quickly it could create strong momentum for the All Blacks to go off to the World Cup full of confidence. Confident - but without any hint of composure in their camp that may have been present if they'd continued their winning streak on Saturday night. If Richie McCaw is able to lift up the William Webb Ellis trophy on October 31st no one will ever know for sure how crucial the loss in Sydney was – but the pain that the All Blacks' players, fans and coaching staff felt on Saturday night will definitely be deemed to have been worthwhile.

**Good Luck to the All Blacks playing this Saturday the 15th at 7.35PM at Eden Park**





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



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