



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter 24 September 2015 #91

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**W**HAT A huge couple of weeks I have lined up.

I was up early this morning to travel to Wiri to open a new one stop for industrial and safety store on the corner of Roscommon Road and Hautu Drive, and there is a trade breakfast from 7-9am and we'll even raffle off a Vodafone Warriors jersey to raise some funds for prostate cancer.

Straight from there I head to a meeting with the New Zealand Rugby League all about League for Life, and then later in the day I am on speaking duties at the Auckland University of Technology. Then on Friday my old mate, and former Vodafone Warriors and Kiwis coach Daniel Anderson is in town and he and I are off out to Waiheke Island. He is a good guy and I love spending time with him.

Friday night you will have to dynamite me out of my chair because I will be glued to the TV to see if the Vodafone Junior Warrior can get past minor premiers the Penrith Panthers and make it to the Holden Cup Grand Final.

That is the curtain-raiser to the Brisbane v Roosters game, and that will be a cracker, and to be fair I will have had to fit watching the All Blacks into the schedule before I get to the second match of the weekend, the Storm hosting the Cowboys.

Come Sunday I will know who I am going to be watching at the Grand Final, and I'll be doing my last bit of packing because on Monday morning I fly out with Janice to Sydney with my great friends at Air NZ.

I hope there are no delays because I have to be there in time to attend the Dally M Awards, when all the prestigious NRL league awards for the year are handed out. I'm really looking forward to it. It's kind of like the Oscars of league!

During the week I am at the Grand Final breakfast at the Sydney Convention Centre, which will feature both the teams as they prepare for the Grand Final, with Greg Alexander and Laurie Daley doing live interviews from the event. I have been to one of these before and it is absolutely superb.

Of course I am over the moon that come Friday I will be at the Menzies Hotel in Sydney for the reunion with the 2005 Kiwis Gillette Tri-Nations team that I was lucky enough to be football manager of. We belted the Aussies 24-0 in the final and I never get tired of reminding them of it either.

Unfortunately Motu Tony has had to pull out but the good news is Stacey Jones is dead keen and Manu Vatuvei can't wait. He's going over on Thursday and our old mate Paul Rauhihi has also confirmed for the weekend, as has Clinton Toopi.

We are all off the night before to see the filming of the NRL Footy Show, which will be good fun, and if anyone is still up for it, on the Saturday we go to the Kangaroo Reunion Lunch as guests of the NRL before attending the retired players function courtesy of the Men of League Foundation and the NRL.

Sunday, well that's obvious, the Grand Final.

I will be buggered by the time I get home but there is no rest for the wicked because I am straight back into it, preparing to fly out to the United Kingdom with the Kiwis on October 18. We'll be away the best part of a month but I'd be fibbing if I said I wasn't looking forward to it.

First though, Friday night, so as ever, go the Mighty Vodafone Junior Warriors!

### Same Team Named

The Vodafone Junior Warriors just need that one win to make the Grand Final and the team to do it has been named.

Last year the Stacey Jones-coached side came from eighth to not only make the decider but win it 34-32 over Brisbane. This year, under first-year coach Kelvin Wright, we finished seventh and only minor premiers Penrith can stop us making the final.

The match is at 7.15 NZT at Sun-corp as the curtain-raiser to the NRL preliminary final between Brisbane and the Roosters.

Wright has named the same side used in last Saturday's outstanding 45-10 victory over the Broncos

Team: Brad Abbey, Tomas Aoake, Marata Niukore, Semisi Tyrell, Paul Ulberg, Ata Hingano, Kauri Aupouri, Buntty Afoa, Erin Clark, Paul Tuli, Ofahiki Ogden, Matiu Love-Henry, Jazz Tevaga (C). Bench: Tyler Mohi, Mattais Heimuli, Amoni Tufui, Tualima Tualima. Chris Sio. Not much for us to cheer about this year but head coach Andrew McFadden is already planning a turnaround. There are only a few more spots to fill to complete our wider NRL squad for 2016.

Recently we announced Sharks and former Tigers centre Blake Ayshford had been signed and now also confirmed is Tau-marunui-born fullback Henare Wells, who has been signed for one year after being with the Burleigh Bears the last two seasons.

The Papakura Sea Eagles played in the NYC with the Roosters in 2011 and 2012 – Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was a team-mate – and excelled for Newtown in 2013 when he was

named in the New South Wales Cup team of the year.

Wells is the fifth external signing after Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke, Ligi Sao and Ayshford.

McFadden said he was close to having his full squad in place. "We have a few spots to fill but we won't rush into anything. We were in this position last year when we made two late signings in Bodene Thompson and Jonathan Wright, while Albert Vete wasn't signed until just before the season started. We're pleased with the depth we have and especially with the level of experience."

Luke will join the Vodafone Warriors after 188 appearances for Souths, Tuivasa-Sheck has 83 for the Roosters and Ayshford has 124 appearances.

McFadden said the Vodafone Warriors' wider NRL squad would return to training on November 2 before the pre-Christmas training block. The full squad, including players who make the Kiwis, is scheduled to start the run-in to the trials and 2016, on January 4.

Backs | Matt Allwood, Blake Ayshford, David Fusitu'a, Konrad Hurrell, Shaun Johnson, Solomon Kata, Thomas Leuluai, Mason Lino, Tuimoala Lolohea, Ken Maumalo, Marata Niukore, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Manu Vatuvei, Henare Wells, Jonathan Wright

Forwards | Raymond Faitala-Mariner, Charlie Gubb, Ben Henry, Ryan Hoffman, Jacob Lillyman, Sam Lisone, Sione Lousi, Issac Luke, Simon Mannering, Ben Matulino, John Palavi, Upu Poching, Nathaniel Roache, Ligi Sao, Toafofoa Sipley, Bodene Thompson, Albert Vete

### You Little Beauties!

It was poetry watching the Vodafone Junior Warriors demolish Brisbane to book a place in the preliminary final against Penrith.

45-10 in Townsville, eight tries, and a treble to centre Semisi Tyrell was more than I could have hoped for.

If we beat the Panthers, we'll make the final for the fifth time in eight seasons.

Against Brisbane we dominated all aspects of the game, with prop Paul Tuli a stand-out carrying 18 times for 216 metres, adding 24 tackles and the first try of his NYC career.

Outstanding!

### Forging The Path

The Vodafone Junior Warriors' success in the NYC has translated into other records their rivals can't match, not least the number of graduates who have gone on to play in the NRL.

When Mason Lino made his debut as Vodafone Warrior #202 last month he became the 48th NYC graduate to play for the club at NRL level, clearly ahead of the rest of the clubs.

Six Vodafone Warriors NYC graduates made their NRL debuts for the club this year, four in their first year out of the competition.

The benefits derived by the Vodafone Warriors from the NYC were also underlined by the make-up of this year's wider NRL squad with 22 of the 36 players coming through the club's under-20 system.

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Of the 2015 NYC squad as many as 11 players were promoted to debut for the club's New South Wales Cup side – Bunty Afoa, Tomas Aoake, Ata Hingano, Marata Niu-kore, Nathaniel Roache, Toafofoa Sipley, Wesley Tauti, Jazz Tevaga, Paul Tuli, Semisi Tyrell and Paul Ulberg.

### Three Cheers For Airpoints!

Crossing the ditch is routine for Vodafone Warriors teams but the club's NYC team is going to new levels. When the side flies to Brisbane on Thursday for Friday's preliminary final against Penrith, the players will be embarking on their fifth consecutive Trans-Tasman return trip in as many weeks.

Including this week's trip they will have travelled more than 24,000kms in five weeks, sat in planes for about 36 hours and been in airports for countless more.

It started with back-to-back trips to Sydney for the team's final two regular season matches against the Tigers and Bulldogs.

Qualifying seventh, we were on the plane home on Monday before flying back to Sydney on Thursday for the elimination final against the Roosters on September 11.

Last Friday it was the airport at 4am before flying to Brisbane. With a five-hour stop-over, the team trained and then had a two-hour flight to Townsville, finally settling in at their hotel after a 15-hour day ahead of Saturday's elimination game.

They made the long trip home for just three days in Auckland before travelling to Brisbane on Thursday to face the Panthers on Friday.

This week's contest will be our

23rd finals match since the competition began in 2008 (all in Australia). Having made the play-offs every season they have won 17 of their 22 finals so far, their last six on end. No other club comes close to those numbers.

Here's hoping there's another flight to sort out yet!

### England Plans Ahead

England's new Player Production Policy starts next year. The aim is to produce more and better players at all levels of the game, and ultimately at domestic and international level.

The policy runs right from under-7s to Super League. It includes a number of programmes that have all come out of a big review in 2013.

RFL boss Ralph Rimmer said: "The first focus of everyone in league is to support our young players as they develop. The Player Production Policy supports players and reduces the risk of over-playing and under-preparation, as well as promoting the Embed the Pathway programme available to all players at all clubs and schools."

### Super League Dream Team Draws Near

A big shindig will unveil the 2015 Super League Dream Team and launch the 2015 play-offs next Monday. The 13 Dream Team members are selected by a 40-strong panel of journalists and broadcasters, and they will all be present, as will the coaches of the four play-off teams: Brian McDermott (Leeds), Shaun Wane (Wigan), Paul Anderson (Huddersfield) and Keiron Cunningham (St Helens).

### NRL Community And Player Education Finalists Announced

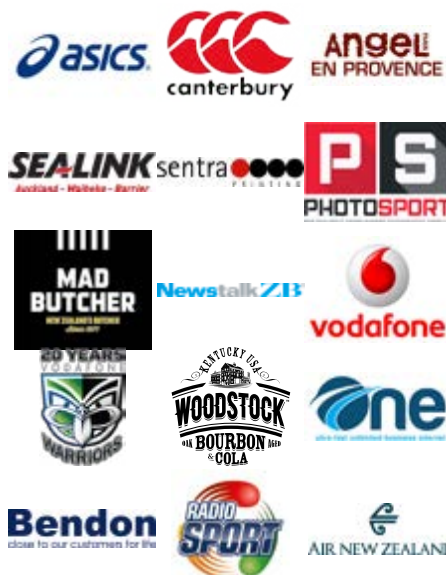
The NRL has announced the finalists for this year's NRL Community and player education awards. Now in its ninth year, the awards recognise league's unsung heroes, from volunteer coaches to players, the awards reflect those who make a positive difference in their communities.

This year, the award categories have been expanded to encompass player education, recognising players achieving academic excellence and commitment to furthering their careers off the field.

This year four out of five NRL and NYC players were in further education or workplace training, with more than 200 NRL players studying across Australia and New Zealand's universities.



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Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address, phone number, **Jersey size and which Jersey you would like** to the address.

# Kearney has had a Coaching Year to Treasure

By John Deaker



**I**T'S BEEN a stunningly successful 12 months for Kiwis' coach Steve Kearney. Regardless of how his Brisbane team go in the next 10 days their season has already been a huge success. Meanwhile, the Kiwis' Four Nations victory late last year and their ANZAC test win have meant the year has been one of the greatest that the Kiwis team have ever experienced.

Kearney's success has resulted in him receiving more certainty regarding his coaching future. He received an extension to his Kiwis' contract in February and his Brisbane Broncos' one in July. Both of these extensions run through till the end of 2017 – which means that his Kiwis' contract now takes him right through to the end of the 2017 World Cup.

Brisbane's improvement in their defence this season has caught the eye of many critics – their tight win over North Queensland during the finals series provided the best example of how much better it is than in previous years. Kearney's key area to focus on this season at Brisbane under Wayne Bennett has been their defence and he actually credits the Kiwis success as helping him in his role there – as opposed to the other way round.

“There were parts of the process in terms of our defensive performance in the ANZAC day test that I was able to bring with me across to Brisbane,” Kearney reflects.

“But the key aspect of all that has been that they ( the Brisbane players ) have bought into the process. Without their buy in it would never have worked”.

Brisbane's success means Kearney will have a bit of juggling of his roles to deal with over the next few weeks – especially if they go all the way to the Grand Final. It's something he has reliable systems in place to deal with though – and the reality is that the final Kiwis touring squad isn't named until after the NRL Grand Final. Kearney mainly believes the fact that his roles with club and country overlap is of benefit to the Kiwis.

“We're sitting down watching footy pretty much every day of every week during the football season, he says.

“So when I'm watching oppositions that Brisbane play during the season I'm thinking how could that apply from a Kiwis point of view.- and even the Roosters this week I've got in the back of my mind how could this apply to the Kiwis as I watch the likes of Roger Tuivasa-Sheck.”

Bennett and Kearney worked together successfully with the Kiwis right back in 2008 when the Kiwis won the World Cup. That happened to be Kearney's first year coaching the National team. So it shouldn't come as a huge surprise to people if the Bennett/Kearney combination can pull off another unlikely victory ( Brisbane were paying \$18 to win the competition early this season ) and guide the Broncos to victory in the 2015 NRL.

The Kiwis squad is named a few days after the NRL's Grand Final – and get together in Auckland on the 17th of October. They then leave for England on Sunday the 18th of October and only have one warm up match before the tests – against Leeds on Friday the 23rd of October. The three tests against England are then played on October the 30th, November the 7th and November the 14th.

Travelling with the team to England ( but paying his own way! ) will be the patron of NZ Rugby League, Sir Peter Leitch. He'll also have one eye on the progress of the All Blacks - his “other favourite” sports team from New Zealand - with the Rugby World Cup final due to be played at Twickenham on October the 31st.



Stephen Kearney



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# New Zealanders

By Barry Ross



**N**EW ZEALAND Test Stars dominated the Roosters convincing 38-12 win over the Bulldogs in the Elimination semi final at Allianz Stadium in Sydney on Friday night. Brisbane-born, Shaun Kenny-Dowall, deservedly won Channel 9's Man of the Match Award, while Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Sam Moa were not far behind him.

Kenny-Dowall, now 27, had a great all-round game. His defence was robust and effective, while he made 178 metres with his powerful and straight running. His third try, in the 76th minute, showed just how good he was under the high ball. At 1.94 metres and 102 kgs, Kenny-Dowall has the size to go with his excellent pace and acceleration. In 14 Tests for the Kiwis, he has eight tries, while in 194 top grade matches with the Roosters, he now has 112 tries. In his 18 matches this year, the Kiwi has run for 2,660 metres which is an average of close to 150 each game.

Equally at home in the centres or on the wing, Kenny-Dowall played on the right wing on Friday night. In 2013, he played in all of the Roosters 27 games as they marched to their Premiership success. Against Manly in the Grand Final, he scored a smart try in the 26-18 win. Against the Broncos in Brisbane this Friday night, the skilful New Zealander will again be a key player for the Roosters.

At fullback on Friday night, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck as always, provided confidence for his Roosters teammates. He ran for 282 metres and scored his 12th try of the season. This try reflected his blinding speed and clever anticipation. It came in the 54th minute when Kane Evans popped a lovely pass in midfield to his flying fullback. Quickly into space, Tuivasa-Sheck gave Bulldogs fullback Brett Morris no chance on his 30 metre dash to score. The 22 year old fullback easily tops the NRL run metres list this season. He has run for an incredible 6,256 metres in his 25 games which averages more than 250 metres each match. When you see that St. George/Illawarra's Josh Duggan is second on this list with 4,027 running metres, it is obvious how dominate the 2016 Warriors fullback is in this facet of play. These figures come from the NRL website for All Run Metres, but on Monday in Sydney, the Daily Telegraph disagreed with the NRL stat. The Telegraph said, that he had run for 5,591 metres, a difference of 609 metres. Both numbers are great and more than any other player has run. Born in Samoa, Roger has now played 82 first grade games with the Roosters, scoring 76 tries, as well as eight Tests for New Zealand, in which he has collected eight tries.

The third New Zealander who should be praised for his efforts on Friday night is 29 year old Tongan-born prop, Sam Moa. With the season ending leg injury to Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, Moa has taken on the job has the Roosters chief tight forward. As is the case with all clubs, the coaches do not use these wrecking ball runners for the full 80 minutes of a game. On Friday, Roosters Coach, Trent Robinson, only used Moa for 43 minutes but what a valuable 43 minutes they were against the huge Bulldogs pack. During his time on the field Moa ran for 126 metres in his 14 runs, which is nine metres each carry. Often these bursts were made when the Roosters were close to their own line and struggling to make ground against the waves of eager Bulldogs tacklers. As well as this, he made 15 front-on tackles. This season, Moa has run 1,986 metres in his 20 games which is more than 99 metres each time he ploughs ahead with his no-nonsense bursts. His tackle count is 485 which averages at more than 24 a game and indicates what a valuable all round forward the Mangare East Hawks junior is. He has now played 70 first grade games for the Roosters and has nine tries to his credit. For New Zealand, he has five Tests and one try on his CV.

Congratulations to the young Warriors on their impressive 45-10 win over the Broncos in the Elimination Semi Final at Townsville on Saturday night. Left centre Semisi Tyrell picked up three tries while hard working forward, Paul Tuli prevented the nudie run with his first try of the season. Tuli had a great all round game with 19 hit ups and 21 tackles, as well as the try. This win, plus last week's Qualifying Final 32-22 victory over the Roosters, indicates the Warriors are in good form as they strive for a place in the Grand Final. Coach Kelvin Wright has his charges playing well and in the right frame of mind going into this week's Preliminary Final with minor premiers, Penrith. The winner will move on to the Grand Final.

# Ray French; England's Voice of Rugby League

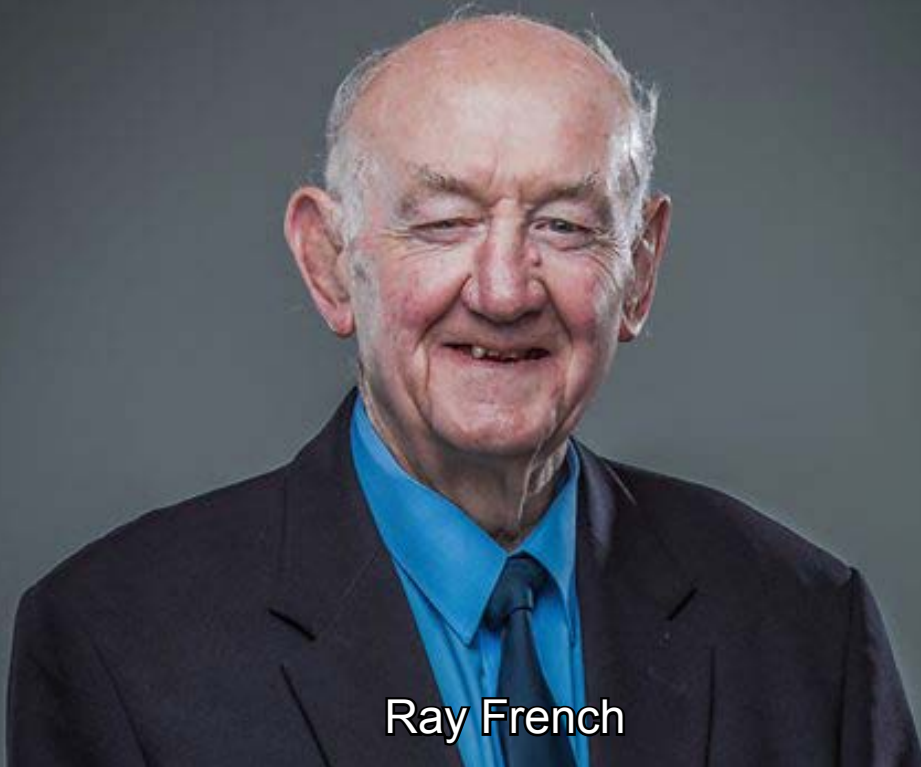
By Ben Francis



**E**VERYBODY HAS their favorite commentators when watching sport, they make the experience much more enjoyable when you are watching the game from home. Many consider Grant Scottish commentator Bill McLaren the greatest rugby commentator ever. Both Grant and Ray Warren are considered the voice of Rugby and League respectively in today's game. But a voice in League not many people would have heard of is Ray French; French is an former English League commentator, but he is much more than a commentator, he is one of the most respected men in Rugby League.

Before becoming a commentator, French was a rugby union player and represented England four times during the 1961 five nations, before making the switch to Rugby League playing for both his hometown team St Helens and also Widnes, along with that he represented Great Britain in Rugby League (including going to the 1968 Rugby League World Cup, which was held in Australia and New Zealand) in a league career which spanned eleven years. French was the eighth known Englishman to be a dual code international.

Despite having represented England in Rugby Union before the move to League, French was not known by many St Helens fans despite being from the area saying "99 percent of St Helens supporters didn't know who you were if you were from union."



Ray French



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# A Letter from the Man Himself... Ray French

**P**ETER.....HAVING BEEN helped from the Sydney Cricket Ground in a dazed condition after suffering a most outrageous “stiff arm” tackle at the end of Great Britain’s defeat of New Zealand in the 1968 World Cup and suffered under the whistle and controversial decisions of Kiwi referee, John Percival, during our clash with Australia in the same tournament many might think that I would have little sympathy towards the men in black. Not so! Indeed I have the utmost respect for all who have taken New Zealand rugby league to the No.1 position in world rugby it now holds and admire the fast, attacking style and commitment its players and coach display. But London beckons and I do feel it could be the time now for England to shake up the world of international rugby league.

Having beaten England in that never to be forgotten Wembley semi final in 2013 with a dramatic last gasp try and conversion and rubbed the Kangaroos’ noses in the dirt with three consecutive wins for the first time since 1953, the Kiwis will rightly be the favourites to triumph in the forthcoming three Test Match series with England in November. After such success they will have every right to be confident against the Poms but if coach Steve McNamara selects two match winning combinations from two of England’s leading club sides then I do feel that the Test Series could be closely contested and that London could decide the issue.

Alongside Wigan’s Sam Tomkins, who will be keen to cast aside the injury woes which limited his activities with the New Zealand Warriors, the Leeds back trio of fullback, Zac Hardaker, centre Kallum Watkins, and wing Ryan Hall, will offer pace and craft to England’s attack. Up front in the pack, St. Helens forwards, prop Alex Walmsley, hooker James Roby, and backrower Jon Wilkin could, if given the opportunity, have plenty of say in the outcome of the Series.

Whatever the selections made by both coaches, Steve McNamara and Stephen Kearney, and whatever the atmosphere and support for either team at the traditional Test Match venues in Hull and Wigan I do believe the outcome will be settled at the Olympic Stadium in London, by the side which can absorb the expected hype, atmosphere, and significance generated by a large crowd and the mass media exposure in the capital. The national support for England by virtue of playing the game in London should spur its players to victory. I say, “should”, but we all know the capabilities and qualities of what is one of New Zealand’s finest crop of rugby league players. We are in for a treat whoever the winner!



Ray French

Ray French.

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## Good luck to the All Blacks who play Namibia tomorrow morning.



# It's the Season to be Silly

By John Coffey QSM



**W**ITH THE Vodafone Warriors failing to make the NRL playoffs and a diminishing number of Australian clubs to comment on, it was inevitable that would signal the start of the annual “silly season”, when media on both sides of the Tasman take to interviewing the man in the mirror.

First we had Fairfax (which includes newspapers in Wellington, Christchurch and the Stuff website) scribe David Long informing the world league would have to act quickly because it was losing the “war” (his word, not mine) to rugby.

Next day we saw Queensland butcher Ben Dobbin using his few moments on the 360-NRL TV programme announcing Warriors coach Andrew McFadden would not last the off-season and would be replaced by Brisbane Broncos assistant and Kiwis head coach Stephen Kearney.

I am probably encouraging this tripe by mentioning their ridiculous claims, and wasting your time if you are reading this. But, heck, it's the silly season – what else am I going to write about?

The last four of my 44 years at The Press occurred after Fairfax bought it. The Press was already on the downslide, along with most newspapers in the internet world, but Fairfax accelerated the decline. Sports and racing are now handled by fewer than half the staff of 10 years ago.

Some sports are ignored completely. Coverage of league has hit its lowest level since the 1940s, when war caused a major newsprint shortage. Local competitions now get meagre space, and much of the Warriors coverage is lifted from the club's press releases.

Last week readers were told league was losing a “war” based on the defection to union of three young backs whose league careers have been ruined by multiple injuries and surgeries. They have obviously crossed codes in the belief they'll be safer in rugby backlines, where there is less contact.

The real “war” has been raging for more than a century. It has seen in school bias against league, rugby's monopoly of fields, in media prejudice, and at council and Government levels. Backed by a financial war chest and political influence, rugby dominates. But it will never win outright.

Fairfax is well back in the queue of those predicting league's demise. In 1895 England Rugby Union officials boasted the breakaway Northern Union would “not last a week”. Yet league celebrated its 120th anniversary last month when 80,000 fans watched the Challenge Cup final at Wembley – the same number expected to watch rugby's upcoming World Cup final at Twickenham.

Dobbin's “scoop” involving McFadden and Kearney took only a few on-air seconds to cause a tsunami in the New Zealand media. Warriors boss Jim Doyle turned the tide and when Kearney was asked he too denied there was any truth in it. Doyle astutely speculated no one approached him before the story broke because his denial would have killed it.

I enjoy NRL-360 but it is a football and entertainment programme. It pays some heavy hitters to talk footy. Dobbin is just part of the entertainment. He is a former butcher who found TV fame during the Queensland floods. That led him into a media career of sorts, but his real job is still meat.

The Kearney story was not Dobbin's first wayward punt. It is a shame New Zealand radio replays of Dobbin's chat with Ben Ikin and Paul Kent did not continue for another few seconds – when Kent told Dobbin it would take considerable research to find even one of his predictions that had become a reality. But that would have also spoiled a perfect silly season yarn.

# League 4 Life Foundation's Newest Members

**SIR PETER** Leitch is known for getting things done, so when the League 4 Life Foundation needed rejuvenation, he took it upon himself to increase its membership.

And what a way to do it!

Hosting a lunch at Ellerlsie Racecourse, the foundation patron called some of his closest allies together to discuss the foundation's charter and scope. From legends of the game, through to recently retired players and including a couple of today's superstar players, the call to arms was certainly heard.

The League 4 Life was founded to raise funds and distribute them throughout rugby league where they are needed most, offering assistance to all participants and their families who have fallen on hard times. The executive team includes Ken Stirling, Murray Eade, Grahame Coutts and NZRL board member Tawera Nikau.

It was also announced that Jerome Ropati would become L4L's newest ambassador, supporting the events and grant recipients where possible.

To become a member for an annual fee of just \$25 go head the [NZRL website](http://www.nzrl.co.nz).



*Back row (Kiwi number): Simon Mannering (#731), Jerome Ropati (#716), Reuben Wiki (#655), Shaun Johnson (#774), Francis Leota (#618), Logan Swann (#669), Peter Brown (#600), Tawera Nikau (#614), Richie Barnett (#664), Jerry Seu-Seu (#692), Duanne Mann (#609), Jacob Cameron (NZRL GM Community), Mike Patton (#625), Bruce Castle (#407)*

*Front Row: Graeme Coutts (players association and Kiwis trainer, 1969-83), Jim Doyle (Warriors managing director), Sir Peter Leitch (L4L Foundation patron), Ken Stirling (#489), Murray Eade (#491)*

## Giveaway Winners - Prizes will be posted today!

Peter Harwood, Auckland - Kiwi Jersey Signed by Former Kiwis  
Jamie Bromley, Wellington - Signed Kiwis Jersey Four Nations 2014  
Shannon Tutty, Australia - Lest We Forget Jersey  
Jason Macwilliam, Auckland - Kiwis Training Polo  
John Dixon, Nelson - Kiwis Jersey  
Fiona Passi, Auckland - Kiwis Jersey



Plus 3 consolation prizes going out to these three.  
Just because I want to.  
Kal Balu, Auckland  
Kurt Seymour, Australia  
Tui Murray, Thames

# BLK

## Check out this blast from the past...

# BLK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aG6RA-RJtmk>

# BLK



# Email from Sue Baldwin

Hi Sir Peter

**T**HIS IS just a very quick note to thank you for the parcel I received in the post on Monday. It was a great surprise to have been given a Kiwis programme and a couple of big league magazines, just because I entered the competition for the signed jersey.

You are a true gentleman and this random act of kindness is gratefully appreciated.

Kind regards

Sue Baldwin

## A Letter from former Warrior and Kiwi Lance Hohaia

Hi Butch,

I hope you are doing well mate.

Just writing to give you an update on how things are going.

The family and I have been in the U.S. for two months now and we are all very happy and excited about a new chapter in our lives. We are definitely enjoying our new surroundings and we are settling in well. Summer is coming to an end but we have had some great weather to get outside and explore what our new home has to offer. Its such a great place to live and the people here are very friendly and accommodating which reminds me of home. The city we live in is called Grand Rapids which is in Michigan State.

Marisa and I both started new jobs two weeks ago so we are pretty happy about that. Marisa is working as a Executive Recruiter for a Recruitment Firm, which is what she was doing in Auckland before we left for the UK, and I am a Sales Representative for an Alcohol Distribution Company. Its been quite hectic and it's a big adjustment from what I'm used to but Im really enjoying a new challenge.

Riley and Tyler are doing great, they are both very active and keep me on my toes but they are happy and healthy so I can't ask for much more than that.

I keep an eye on the Warriors news but I only get to see highlights of the games which is a bit tough. I know the Kiwis are going on tour this year too so I will be keeping a close eye on how they are doing. They are actually televising the Rugby World cup here so I will be able to watch the All Blacks games which is good. I'm sure they will do well, they look like they mean business.

I know you have organised a reunion in October for the 2005 Tri Nations Champions kiwi team that I was a part of, I'm sorry that I can't make it back for that. It would have been good to see everyone and reminisce about that time in our lives. Can you pass on my apologies and say hi to all the boys for me. I do hope to make it back to NZ with the family around April or May next year so it would be good to catch up with you then. I will keep you posted.

Thats about all for now Butch.

I will speak to you again soon.

Lance Hohaia



Lance Hohaia and Family

# The Richmond Old Boys...

By John Holloway - Author RRLFC Centenary Book, Richmond Player, Coach, Manager and Supporter for 60 years.

**I**TS FAIR to say that Sports clubs in most codes generally have an “Old Boys Assn” then again pursuits like Bowls and Croquet they can play till their 90 so for them it doesn't leave much time to form a coherent group.

The original Richmond Rugby league Old Boys assn was founded on the 4th of September 1944. The membership has stuttered and started over the years but in 2008 members Hec Martin and Rod Rowe revitalised and re-initiated annual OB reunion functions to build awareness and focus around our 100 year centennial celebrations that came to successful and enjoyable fruition in 2013.

The ad hoc committee of the current Old Boys of Richmond Rugby league club still meets every 3rd Weds of the month over a beer and a plate of chips to rumble through old Carlaw Park war stories while keeping a fond eye on the culture and legacy of our great club. We do our best to stay abreast of developments around our old home away from home... Grey Lynn park.

We are a diverse bunch all in the 70 to 80 years bracket so a lot of water under our various bridges. From time to time we have close to a 1000 years of life experience gathered around the table. We have in our number the original “pommie import” Roger Crabtree a North of England prop that the club sponsored over in 1965, he brought a no nonsense straight up the middle, turn and offload style to the senior side of the day. Roger later owned and operated Civic Auto Electrician for many years till his recent retirement. His brother Stewart another prop followed a couple of years later.

Ex club Chairman Brian Martin, longtime playing stalwart and former co-owner of L G Carder, Doug Tutill of the long established Carriers Tutill and Sons, Clive Hill another ex Club Chairman and MD of NZ Chiropractic, Graham Watt who heads up Caldera Heath a NZ Biotech firm working on Prostate Cancer solutions, Hec Martin another former Chairman who gave excellent service as a player then as an administrator over an enduring period and had a long executive management career with Mitsui.

Warren Fabian of Fabian Packaging, Bruce Pert and Trevor Tobin both experienced company Directors.

Plainly persons of this calibre lend a lot of acumen and credible knowledge to our discussions, then on the other hand there are an equal amount of us average Joes perfectly happy to tell jokes and rabbit on. We also naturally keep each other up to date on the inevitable health issues of ourselves and old team mates, it's a fact of life that for us the halcyon days are gone, we tend to sport hip and knee replacements and Mr Arthur-Itis, hearing aids abound and some the zippered chest of bypass heart surgery but we continue to smile through it. These things we share in common with footy players everywhere along with the comradeship of victory and heartache and memories that built us lifelong friendships.

Many among our group are also supporters, Lounge club members and season ticket holders with The Warriors since their inception in 1995, indeed Richmond provided Joe Vagana and Se'e Solomona to the inaugural year. Several other Grey Lynn park kids have since pulled on their home and away strip.

When you get to our age agree with it or not nostalgia is a factor in our conversations, those gathered have figured in many championship winning teams across schoolboy, Junior and senior age groups. We can recall the great Richmond teams of the 30s 40s and 50s that dominated the League scene. Our first Kiwi rep was Jim Parks in 1926 he was followed by a stream of legendary Kiwis like Bert Cook, Abbie Graham, Ron McGregor, Cliff Johnson, Vern Bakalich, the Robertson brothers, tough as teak Tommy Baxter thru to more recent Richmond prodigy in Fred Ah Kuoi, Shane Varley, Gus Fepuliai, Ray Williams, the Solomonas, James Goulding, Joe and Nigel Vagana, Manlys Steve Matai and Jesse Bromwich at the Storm.

We have pride in the fact that Richmond has produced more Kiwis (55) than any other club in NZ.

*Continued on next page...*

On 8 occasions between 1933 and 1948 the Richmond senior teams played visiting Sydney champion sides such as St George, Western Suburbs Eastern Suburbs and Balmain and Combined clubs.... our mighty maroon and blues were victorious in all 8 games. Unmatchable!

In 1955 and 56 the Richmond senior team contained no less than 7 Kiwis - Cliff Johnson, Tommy Baxter, Vern Bakalich, John Lasher, Jim Riddell, Joe Murray, Sel Belsham who had tours to England and France 1955 and Australia 56 to top it off they supplied the Kiwi coach Snow Telford as well. Unmatchable. Us old blokes recall all of this and the notable players of our teams and our opponents through the years. Tough guys, talented guys, fast guys, stiff arm merchants and cheeky cheating hookers and halfbacks, biased refs, blind linesmen and the sideline characters and your standard fare players who contributed to our best abilities. Before the wrath of the whistlers comes down on the club I should add that refs and linesmen are of course great servants of the game and we would have nothing without them ..... Neville Kesha a talented Richmond player in his youth who rose to International Test status with the whistle was a fine example. As the years went by we grew to appreciate the contribution on and off the field of the Polynesian migration that carried our club through the 70s to today.

It has been largely the passion and loyalty of many fine families that has lifted and sustained the Club through some very hard times. RIP Afi ah Kuoi. Richmond currently caters for 400 junior players, 300 senior graders and 200 social club members. In the season just concluded we boxed well above our weight...our Premiers won the Sharman Cup championship to advance to the Fox Memorial comp in 2016. The Premier reserves and senior A's also took their grand final honours as did the Tokes and the under 16's. Our premier ladies team the Roses reached their grand final but sadly relinquished their title.

A terrific year. So going forward The Old boys will continue to watch over the club as our Richmond Chairman Gus Fepuleai and his great team of committee men and women, Coaches, Managers and supporters enter the second hundred years working hand in hand with the local Council and Resident groups, ready to embrace the great challenges that continue to make life tough for inner city Auckland footy clubs. One of the core items on their mission statement is to retain and enhance the Richmond Rovers legacy left by the old boys of yesteryear.



**The Old Boys left to right**

Warren Fabian, Gary Ford, Bruce Pert, Graham Watt, Doug Tutill, Brian Martin, Clive Hill, Ash Jordan, Hec Martin, Graham (Spider) Rogers, Bryce Atkinson, Bob Coughlan, Johnny Buchan, Phil Stokes, John Holloway.



# An Interview with Lesley Vainikolo

**L**ESLEY VAINIKOLO has had a very successful footy career playing at the highest level in both Rugby League and Rugby Union representing the Kiwis in his League career and wearing the Rose of England in Rugby Union, a dual code international. Also being very successful as club level in both sports. Now Vainikolo is back in New Zealand helping the next generation of superstars at Otahuhu College as Director of Rugby. It's not only Rugby Lesley wants to develop, its all sports.

**What drove to start playing Rugby League when you were a kid?**

My mates were playing a game of league and they were short on numbers, so they asked me to join in and I loved it. I joined the Papatoetoe Panthers. After a few years I moved to the Mangere East Hawks and from there I was picked up by the Canberra Raiders.

**When you were younger, you qualified for the Junior World Athletics Championships in the 100m sprint with a time of 10.6 seconds, so you were very fast. How did that tool of being fast help you as a Footy player?**

It helps a lot. It helps with your agility, footwork, quickness off the mark and most importantly how to run properly. Once you can run properly, all you need is to do that will ball in hand and apply those skills. The skills you learn really help when playing rugby.

**What was it like getting the call asking to join the Canberra Raiders and start a professional sporting career?**

I was buzzing. It was Mal Meninga's first year coaching at the Raiders and he was a huge idol of mine in his playing days. The thing I loved most about Mal was he came over to New Zealand and came to the family home and met everybody, along with that he was dedicated to mentoring me and help develop my game. The fact he made the effort to personally come and meet everyone meant the world to me and my family.

**You have played with some of the greats of the game, Reuben Wiki, Laurie Dailey at the Raiders, Robbie Paul, Leon Pryce with Bradford, what was it like playing with these kind of players?**

It was awesome. I learnt a lot from those guys and others like Joe Vagana, David Furner and many more. If you are high on confidence or lacking confidence they are the kind of guys to help you out and mentor you, they also help bring the best out of you and have good humour so you could joke around with them.

**Why did you decide to switch to Rugby Union during the prime of your Rugby League Career?**

I had achieved a lot playing and done everything I had set out to do in Rugby League. But I wanted a new challenge, something else to achieve. I had seen the likes of Wendell Sailor and Jason Robinson cross codes and thought I'd like to give it a go. Also another way of making my family proud and thanking them for their hard work in becoming the person I am today.

**Many footy players try swapping codes, some fail and some succeed, you had a successful career in both Rugby and League, just how hard is it to play at the highest level in two codes?**

It was definitely challenging. Both codes are different in terms of playing environment and vibe. It's also hard work to change as in the playing style. In League you would get more runs compared to Rugby, the roles have similarities but also differences. Also there weren't many wingers my size when I moved to rugby, so getting managed was different as it was rare.

*Continued on next page...*

**You have achieved so much in your playing career, what would you say is your proudest career achievement?**

I have so many. I'd have to say playing for the Kiwis and England at international level in League and Rugby respectively was a fantastic reward for all the hard work I'd put in. Also the 2003 Bradford Bulls season because we won the Super League and Challenge Cup. But making the Bulls team of the century was a massive honour,, to be considered one of the best ever at the club was very humbling. But most importantly having a son and making my parents happy is what I'm most proud of during my career.

**During your prime, there were not many wingers around with your size and speed, but in today's game we see more and more of similar stature, what's some advice for these up and comers who are similar to you?**

My advice is to firstly to have fun and look after yourself, train hard and be confident in your game play. Work on your weaknesses also, that is key to try develop your game. Use your size to your advantage also when you play and hopefully it all pays off.

**Now that you have hung up the boots what are you doing now/what are you wanting to achieve?**

Just started my new role at Otahuhu College as the Director of Rugby at the school. What I'm doing at the moment is gathering information on the rugby at the school and see how we can work on things heading into next year.

I'm wanting to create a family environment, not just in rugby but in all sports at Otahuhu College. We want to work more as a family to bring the students more sporting opportunities and give them the best chance to succeed. I have been working close with Neil Watson (Otahuhu College Principal) and we both have the same goal in mind.

**The Rugby World Cup is on at the moment and you represented the Kiwis in the 2000 Rugby League World Cup at a young age. What will be the mindset of the younger players at the World Cup?**

They will be thinking about what they want to do and achieve. They will be definitely nervous but the senior players will be keeping the nerves away when doing normal things like training sessions etc. The coaching staff will be asking them what they want to bring to the table during the Cup also.

I think New Zealand will win the cup, and I hope they play Tonga in the final haha!

Lastly during your career you were well known for your skill but also your hairstyles. Which would have to be your favorite style?

Haha! I've had so many different ones, so many to chose from. Personally I like the braids in my hair because you can add all the different colours and patterns to it haha!



Lesley Vainikolo.

# A Chat with Kelvin Wright - Vodafone Warriors Holden Cup Coach

**K**ELVIN WRIGHT is the current Head Coach of the Junior Warriors team. Wright in his third year with the team took over as head coach from Stacey Jones last year. Wright has led the Warriors team to another finals series and now they are one win away from their Fifth Grand Final. Wright is a former player, a successful one in his own right having played for the New Zealand Residents, the Auckland Vulcans, along with the helping the Auckland Lions to four Bartercard Cup national titles and in 2007 he was named the competition's player of the year. Wright also led Mt Albert Lions to Fox Memorial Cup titles in 2008 and 2009.

## **What Made You Want To Get Into Rugby League?**

I was five years old and saw an advert in the paper wanting people to give rugby league ago. So my parents took me down to the training grounds and from that I fell in love with the game.

You had a very successful career playing league in New Zealand, what is your proudest achievement as a player?

Playing for the New Zealand Residents team against the Kiwis in 2006. That was a very special moment being able to play against the players that you inspire to play with when you are a player. I knew that this was the best that I could achieve and the highest honour I would get in my playing career.

## **How Did You Get Into Coaching, Where Did It All Begin?**

I got into coaching through Brian McClellan, he helped a lot and I went and took a coaching course and learnt the aspects of coaching. From that I went and coached the Otara Scorpions in 2011 and then to the Bay Roskill Vikings in 2012 before coming a Junior Warriors assistant coach in 2013 and now head coach of the Under 20's.

## **What Was It Like Being Involved With The Kiwis Last Year?**

It was a great experience being with the Kiwis last year. Getting to learn under Stephen Kearney and David Kidwell and what they know was awesome. I learnt so much, it was great to learn under Kearney and Kidwell. I am going to be going with the Kiwi's next month when they travel to the UK also.

How has it been being Head Coach of the Under 20s team this year?

This is my third year with the under 20s team but first as head coach and it has been both rewarding and challenging this year. But seeing these young players achieve what they are achieving is very rewarding. When you see these young guys achieve their goals the rewards are greater.

## **What Is Your Ultimate Goal You Are Wanting To Achieve When Coaching?**

I would love to coach the Kiwi's one day. That is the goal as I am a born and bred New Zealander, it would be awesome to coach the Kiwi's at a World Cup or a Four Nations and be successful. But to get there I would probably have to go through the NRL and I'm hoping to do that through the Warriors. We will see where it all ends up.

## **How Much Does A former Player Help With Coaching?**

It helps a lot. Being a former player you get to be under coaches and I spent lots of time under John Ackland and Brian McClellan and I learnt heaps of those two who are great coaches. Also being a halves player for most of my career and being a talker and a leader on the field helped. By being a former player you understand what players you want to be with and what players you want in your squad when coaching.

## **Who Do You Inspire To Be Like As A coach?**

I'm me, and I can't pretend to be like another coach. I go to the likes of Stacey Jones, Tony Iro and John Ackland who have all previously been involved with the Under 20's and ask questions to make myself a better coach. But I strive to be my own self and make the game simple as possible for the players to understand. I try to pass on what I learnt as a player to the young players coming through the ranks.

## **What Do You Look For In A player When Scouting For The Under 20S?**

There are a number of factors, of course you look for talent in a player, then toughness is a massive factor and also trust, you need to have trust in your players and the need to have trust in each other. They also need to be committed to doing the hard yards and committed to winning, cause you need to believe you are going to win every game and have no doubt I think the best way to sum it up is we look for kids with high standards.



# NYC Team Named for Preliminary Final

**U**NDER FIRST-YEAR coach Kelvin Wright, the Vodafone Junior Warriors finished just one position higher in seventh at the end of the 2015 regular season and have so far eliminated the sixth-ranked Sydney Roosters and the third-placed Brisbane to set up a preliminary final against the minor premiers the Penrith Panthers on Friday.

The match (5.15pm kick-off local time; 7.15 NZT) will be played at a neutral venue – Suncorp Stadium – as the curtain-raiser to the NRL preliminary final between Brisbane and the Sydney Roosters. It will be the Vodafone Junior Warriors' fifth trip across the Tasman Sea in as many weeks.

Wright has named the same side used in last Saturday's outstanding 45-10 victory over the Broncos with Kauri Aupouri and Ata Hingano down to start in the halves and Erin Clark again at hooker for the injured Casey Lafaele. Clark, who has just turned 18, will be making his 27th appearance in his rookie season, the only player in the squad to play in every match.

The win against Brisbane was the Vodafone Junior Warriors' 17th in 22 finals encounters since the competition started in 2008.

This week they'll face a Penrith side which finished the minor premiership with 44 points from 20 wins and just four losses. In the only meeting with the Panthers this year the Vodafone Junior Warriors lost 28-36 at Pepper Stadium last month.

## VODAFONE JUNIOR WARRIORS v PENRITH PANTHERS

Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane

5.15pm, Friday, September 26

### VODAFONE JUNIOR WARRIORS

1 Brad ABBEY  
2 Tomas AOAKE  
3 Marata NIUKORE  
4 Semisi TYRELL  
5 Paul ULBERG  
6 Ata HINGANO  
7 Kauri AUPOURI  
8 Buntty AFOA  
9 Erin CLARK  
10 Paul TULI

11 Ofahiki OGDEN  
12 Matiu LOVE-HENRY  
13 Jazz TEVAGA (c)  
Interchange:  
14 Tyler MOHI  
15 Mattais HEIMULI  
16 Amoni TUFUI  
17 Tualima TUALIMA  
18 Chris SIO

COACH: KELVIN WRIGHT



Coach Kelvin Wright

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## Holden Cup - Jnr Warriors v Jnr Cowboys, 22 August 2015



Photos courtesy of [www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

# Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



## Rugby League

**T**HE NORTHERN Swords were seconds away from victory in the latest round of the New Zealand Rugby Premiership, but a charge down on a drop goal led to a sprint race down the other end of the field and the ball sat up perfectly for Wellington and they scored the winning try as time expired as the Wellington Orcas complete a remarkable comeback over the Swords to win 30-28. Despite a halftime lead and a fourteen point lead with ten minutes to play, the Swords looks like they would claim victory but the bounce of the ball didn't go the Swords way and the Orca's scored on the final play to claim their third win of the season. Despite the heartbreaking loss, the fans and people involved with the club are very pleased with the effort and determination the young squad put into the game, some saying it was the best game the Swords have played since entering the competition. The Swords will now travel down to Rotorua and play the Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions who are coming off a 28-26 win against the Akarana Falcons.

Two young Northland League stars are now a step closer of their dreams to play professional Rugby League. Both Caleb Aekins and Nathan Newton have signed with the Penrith Panthers and New Zealand Warriors Holden Cup squads respectively for the 2016 season. Aekins who can play both Five Eight and Center will join a number of other Northlanders in the Panthers squad which include first graders Elijah Taylor and Sam McKendry. James Fisher-Harris and Corey Harawira-Naera who also hail from the North are both are currently playing with the Panthers U20's team. The Panthers Under 20's team won the Minor Premiership this season and won the 2013 Holden Cup 42-30 over the New Zealand Warriors in the final. Both sides also play on Friday night with the winner qualifying for the Grand Final. Also on the Panthers books is Steel Kake who is contracted to the Panthers Under 18's team and is a born Northlander.

Newton was going to follow Aekins and join the Panthers squad for 2016 but Warriors Development Manager Duane Mann convinced the young Loose Forward to join the most successful U20's program since the competition started back in 2008. All these players have come out of Whangarei Boys High School so we can expect some more rugby talent coming out of the school in years to come. Also Bayleigh Bentley-Hape has just signed with the Sydney Roosters to become part of their 2016 Harrold Mathews U16s campaign. Bentley-Hape moved to Sydney this year after being scouted for his Touch Rugby abilities and linked up with a number fellow Northlanders, Harry Larkin, TJ Sionetali, Trenity Peters and Dalton Armstrong. Harry, TJ and Dalton have reportedly signed to play for the South's 2016 Harrold Mathews U16s campaign, while Trenity has signed with the Bulldogs.

The Hikurangi Stags have claimed the clean sweep of Premier Trophies in Northland Rugby League as they won the Barney Wharerau Memorial Nines in extra time 16-12 over the Otangarei Knights in the final. Eight teams contested the bi-annual tournament that was started to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Barney Wharerau who tragically passed away while playing for the Otahuhu Gazelles.

The BW9s trophy will sit alongside the Scott Electrical Premiership and the Pre-Season Moerewa Nines trophies for the Hikurangi Stags.

*Continued on next page...*



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### Rugby Union

For the second straight week, the Northland Taniwha lost 42-17 this time to Counties Manukau. This was a big week for the young Northland squad with incoming Blues and current Counties Coach Tana Umaga watching very closely. For Northland it was simply the case of not having any ball and I mean literally having any ball. Northland made 157 tackles compared to 68, and this is hard to believe but according to the final statistics Counties had 83% , that's right 83% !!! of possession. The game was played in wet conditions and Northland made mistakes when they were not needed. Kara Pryor who made the point post game saying the both teams played in the same conditions, so it can't be used as an excuse. Pryor had a sensational game on a losing team has hopefully caught the eye of Super Rugby coaches and will hopefully join his brother Dan in Super Rugby in 2016. Dan was taken off at halftime for concussion symptoms and could be ruled out for Northland's next game against Bay Of Plenty on Friday night. If Dan Pryor does play however it will be his 50th game for the Taniwha. Northland will have plenty to work

on heading into the game which is to be played in Whangarei on Friday night.

The Northland Under 19s team claimed victory on the weekend they beat Auckland B 21-8 just one week out from the Jock Hobbs Memorial National Under 19 Tournament. The Jock Hobbs Memorial Tournament starts on September 27 and runs through till October 3 to be held at Taupo's Owen Delany Park.

### Hockey

Whangarei hosted the 2015 Ford National Hockey League finals on the weekend. The women's final saw Auckland play Northland after they upset Canterbury in the semi finals. Northland couldn't repeat the same form in the final as Auckland dominated all aspects of the turf and eventually won 6-0. Both these teams faced off in the 2014 final which Auckland also won.

In the Men's final Capital faced Southern. No goals were scored during regulation and Capital took out the game 4-3 on penalties to win their first title since 2010. The Northland men finished eighth overall after going down 5-1 to Central in the 7th/8th playoff.

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## Prostate Cancer Facts

**[Click here to make a donation.](#) Or Send a cheque to: Prostate Cancer Foundation, P O Box 301313, Albany, Auckland 0752**

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in New Zealand men and the third most common cause of cancer death in men after lung cancer and bowel cancer:

- 1 in 10 will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime;
- About 3000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every year in New Zealand
- Last year approximately 600 Kiwi men died from prostate cancer, that's around the same number as women who die from breast cancer;
- Māori men are 72 per cent more likely to die of prostate cancer once they are diagnosed than non-Māori men.
- The Prostate Cancer Foundation of NZ encourages all men over the age of 40 to have regular prostate checks if there is a family history of prostate cancer.
- If you're between 50-70 then consider an annual prostate check that includes both a PSA blood test and a digital rectal examination (DRE) – it may save your life.
- Man Up! And give prostate cancer the finger.
- Don't die of embarrassment. Get tested!





# MAN UP! AND GIVE PROSTATE CANCER THE FINGER



**T**HE SUCCESS and impact of this year's Blue September is showing that the message is getting out there. This year we have been able to spread the word even wider with more advertising, more media and more events.

As an organisation that receives no government funding Blue September is a fundraising lifeline. We rely on the generosity of our sponsors and supporters like you to enable us to continue raising awareness, which increases the chance of early diagnosis and in turn saves lives.

At a recent Blue September event I met a man (let's call him Brian) who was keen to share his own story with me and one which I think you will agree, perfectly illustrates the importance of our work. Twelve months previously, Brian had been at a similar event where I had delivered a speech about prostate cancer awareness. He listened, mildly interested, but then he met one of our volunteers who shared his own experience of prostate cancer with him. This had Brian concerned enough to pay his doctor a visit.

Brian's journey had come full circle and now he was in front of me, showing me his scar and thanking us for saving his life! He is one of the lucky ones, with no symptoms and little awareness his story could have had a very different ending.

Help us to rewrite so many other happy endings in the face of prostate cancer. Support Blue September by donating online at [here](#) or send us your cheque to the address below.

**Graeme Woodside**

**Chief Executive**

How to make your donation:

- [Click here to donate on line with either credit card or direct credit](#)
- Send a cheque to: Prostate Cancer Foundation, P O Box 301313, Albany, Auckland 0752

Thank you for your donation that will help us:

- continue to spread the awareness message,
- support men and their families living with prostate cancer
- provide funds for prostate cancer research.



# Blue Semptember



Photos from Placemakers Pakuranga who hosted an annual Bikers run.



Photos courtesy of [www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

stuff.co.nz

SEPTEMBER 16, 2015, EASTERN COURIER 7

## Out & About

Thanks to Easter Courier

There was a sea of blue at Placemakers Pakuranga early on Sunday morning. The Bikers in Blue event saw hundreds of riders leave East Auckland at 8am for Placemakers Albany to help promote prostate cancer awareness campaign Blue September. Sir Peter Leitch waved the riders off at the start of their journey after giving them an encouraging send-off.



Bikers in Blue set off from Pakuranga to Albany to raise awareness about prostate cancer on Sunday. PHOTOS SHANE WENZLICK/PHOTOTEK



The crowd applaud before beginning the ride.



Shane and Lisa Macmillan with their kids Aidan Macmillan, 4, and Connor Macmillan, 8, from Howick at the Bikers in Blue event.



Sir Peter Leitch and the Blue Streak raise awareness about prostate cancer.



This Sunday

27TH SEPT, 2015

This Sunday



MOTAT



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Ticket price includes  
entrance into MOTAT,  
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Celebrating days gone by with an afternoon of  
Blues music whilst drooling over vintage, classics  
and custom motorcycles from a bygone era.  
Supporting Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Join in the spirit in the nostalgic dress, where gentlemen and  
ladies dressed to impress. Why not join in the dress code and  
dress up in very smart formal / vintage wear to match the iconic  
retro styling of these classic motorcycles.

This spiffy event is a charity fundraiser for Blue September, all  
proceeds go to the Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand.  
Thanks to Triumph NZ and MOTAT for sponsorship.



Prostate Cancer  
Foundation

[musehiketa.co.nz/events/2015/sep/blues-and-bikes-at-motat](http://musehiketa.co.nz/events/2015/sep/blues-and-bikes-at-motat)



Blue September

Supporting Prostate Cancer

This Sunday





## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S FINALS WEEK THREE ISSUE...

When the chips are down, which player do you want in your team to make that crucial play?

### FEATURES

- **Justin Hodges** and **Ryan Hinchcliffe** are just one or two games from their NRL careers ending but they have their coaches to thank for achieving what they have in the game;
- These are the games that call for players who can handle the pressure to step up and take control. Our panel of experts pick the best current and past **big-game specialists**;
- **Artie Beetson** was a big name for his playing exploits but what he achieved in coaching and recruitment still has a mark on the Sydney Roosters and even some north of the border;
- Grant Bell—the Cowboys' inaugural coach—had his doubts about **Michael Morgan** as a five-eighth, but he's happy to eat humble pie now;
- There have been records set and plenty broken in 2015, David Middleton takes us through the **milestone achievements** for this season;
- Last week Matt Cleary took us behind the scenes at Triple M, this week he has a run at the tough—but fun—gig of calling a match himself.

**PLUS...** **Ben Hunt** knows that to be the best you have to beat the best and it starts this Friday; **Matt Elliott** takes us through the advantages and disadvantages of the week off; **Nathan Brown** takes his pick for this weekend's preliminary finals and why he thinks the home teams are the ones to beat.

**AND:** Official team lists; Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Storm v Cowboys; News: Thurston may not play on after premiership, Roosters hit back at Bennett, Munster staying put, Milford's motivation for moving; Top Eight exciting finals finishes.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, September 24.**

### PODCAST: BIG LEAGUE SHOW

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**BELFAST RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB**  
**100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**  
**WILL BE HELD AT THE**  
**CLUBROOMS 18 MARCH PLACE BELFAST CHRISTCHURCH**  
**QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2016**

Proposed activities below

Friday 3rd June 2016 : get together / photos

Saturday 4th June 2016 : Luncheon & Club Day

Sunday 5th June 2016: Celebrity Game at Sheldon Park

The Club was first formed in 1908 but from 1939 to 1946

Was in recess during 2nd World War and reformed in 1947

The Club is calling all current and former Members  
to Register their interest as soon as possible to enable us to contact  
you with arranged activities that weekend – to register your interest please:  
Email us with your name & Contact numbers as soon as possible to

Email : [belfastrugby100years@gmail.com](mailto:belfastrugby100years@gmail.com)

Or contact Glenda Spillane

Belfast Rugby Football Club Facility Manager  
PO Box 76042 Northwood Christchurch 8548  
Club Phone: 3238024 or 0274-359762  
Or Les McFadden QSM : 0274633644



# Five Black Sticks Attract Bids For Hockey India League

**F**IVE BLACK Sticks players have been scooped up by teams in the Hockey India League auction.

The auction saw eligible players from around the world put on the bidding block to play in the next edition of the HIL in January and February 2016.

Striker Simon Child attracted the highest bid with US\$50,000 to play again for the Delhi Waveriders, where he will be joined by Steve Edwards (US\$34,000) and goalkeeper Devon Manchester (US\$27,000).

Defender Nick Haig (US\$10,000) will play for the Jaypee Punjab Warriors while Shea McAleese heads to Dabang Mumbai (US\$10,000).

Andy Hayward, Blair Tarrant, Ryan Archibald, Arun Panchia, Phil Burrows, Nick Wilson, Hugo Inglis and Stephen Jenness all put themselves up for auction but were passed over.

The highest bid of the auction was from the Kalinga Lancers who bid US\$105,000 for German midfielder Moritz Fuerste.

This edition of the Hockey India League will also see some new rules around scoring, with field goals worth two goals and drag flicks just one.



Photos courtesy of [www.photosport.co.nz](http://www.photosport.co.nz)

## CONGRATULATIONS



*Central  
Rugby League Club*



*Te Aroha Eels*

*#ShouldertoShoulder*



i a Rāpare/Thursdays 8:30pm on

**MĀORI**  
TELEVISION

**code**

## **TONIGHTS GUESTS – EP.22**

### **BUCK SHELFORD**

*Former All Black Captain*

### **MARTIN GUPTILL**

*NZ Black Stick*

### **SLADE MCFARLAND**

*Former Maori All Black*

### **HOWIE MORRISON JNR**

*Performer*

*... this week Koni catches up with Stan Walker and asks why he wasn't included in his latest movie, while Nth Harbour's Captain Bryn Hall joins the presenting team in studio!*



### **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 8:30pm Thursdays  
MEAN MAORI MEAN!**





Bob is thinking of becoming a male model.



Mad butcher club member Bob from Waiheke wants to share his carving skills with roast pork pity he can't carve as good as his wife Margret cooks the roast pork she is the best.



Margret and bob with there beloved dogs as they head out for a walk around Black-pool Waiheke.

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

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Without our sponsors' fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can.



## The Newsletter Team

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



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