



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter #102

8 December 2015

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.

### Burger King Fight for Life Hamilton - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December



New Zealand heavyweight boxer  
Joseph Parker v Daniel Martz.



Joseph Parker knocks out Daniel  
Martz (USA).



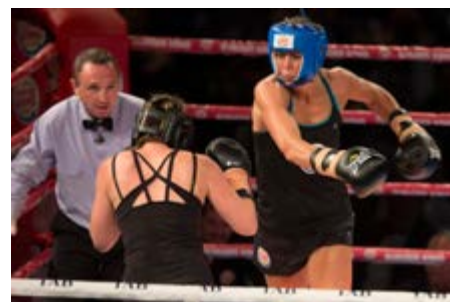
New Zealand heavyweight boxer  
Joseph Parker with his family after his  
fight against Daniel Martz.



All Black Zac Guildford (Red) v NZ's  
Bachelor Art Green.



All Black Zac Guildford (Red) v NZ's  
Bachelor Art Green Winner.



Irene Van Dyk beats Belinda Som-  
merville.



Loni 'Tongan Bear' Uhila wins his  
fight over Brown Buttabeau.



The three musketeers at the boxing.  
International commentator Col. Bob  
Sheridan, Butch, ring announcer Lt  
Dan Hennessey



Me and Steve Anngow a big Voda-  
fone Warriors supporter from  
Christchurch at the fights.

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

**YOU WILL** have to excuse me this week, but when you are the big boss of the newsletter you can do what you want, and I want to put in a page all about Emmerdale, my favourite TV show.

It is on every day on One at 12.30pm and if you don't like it you can lump it. I'm in charge.

We have got our usual stories about our world of league though, although things are slowing down a bit in the run-up to Christmas.

### **Time To Party!**

There's still time for more Vodafone Warriors supporters to join the fun and meet all the NRL players at the club's free members' Christmas party at the Ellerslie Racecourse on Sunday.

Already more than 500 members have registered to attend and there's plenty of room for more.

Every member is eligible to come along so, if you are a member and can make it, simply register and join the crowd at Ellerslie from 10am-12.30pm.

If you're not a member check out the membership options, sign up and you too can join everyone else for some festive season cheer. One of those options is the all-new Vodafone Warriors scarf membership, which gives you a scarf and member benefits for just \$30.

### **[BUY A VODAFONE WARRIORS SCARF MEMBERSHIP NOW](#)**

The entire NRL squad will be on site giving members the chance to meet new signings Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Issac Luke, Jeff Robson, Blake Ayshford, Ligi Sao, Henare Wells and Charnze Nicoll-Klokstad as well as Simon Mannering, Manu Vatuvei, Shaun Johnson, Ben Matulino, Thomas Leuluai, Ryan Hoffman, Bodene

Thompson, Konrad Hurrell and the rest of the boys.

Among the features on the day will be:

- Four bouncy castles catering for all ages
- Prizes and giveaways courtesy of SKYCITY, Canterbury of New Zealand and Red Bull
- A gold coin barbecue and soft drinks station with all proceeds going to Vodafone Warriors charity partner SHINE
- Visit from Santa and his 'reindeer'
- Face painting
- Balloon artist
- Festive photo booth
- Vodafone Warriors paparazzi on hand taking photos of the day

If you're looking for some Vodafone Warriors merchandise before Christmas, the Warriorsstore.co.nz van will be on location with a member discount on everything.

### **[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)**

To register for our FREE 'Members' Christmas Party' please email [memberships@Warriors.kiwi](mailto:memberships@Warriors.kiwi) and say how many members will be in attendance. Alternatively you can call 0800 839 839.

### **Autex House Is A Great Idea**

Something happened the other day that made me proud to be a league. The Vodafone Warriors Autex House has opened.

It's a home-away-from-home for young players chasing their league dreams, and I think it's a wonderful concept and one that underlines the club's commitment to doing the best it can for aspiring professionals – and remember, we are talking about young men here.

Many of them are away from

home for the first time, thrown into a strange culture, and who are having their first experience flatting.

That means they don't always make the best choices about nutrition, and even things like going to bed at a good time.

Five young players, including 2015 NRL rookie Sam Lisone, are the first residents of the east Auckland home, which was opened by Autex Industries boss Mark Robinson, Warriors managing director Jim Doyle, and the residents.

The six-bedroom house is managed by Spencer and Carmen Taplin – league diehards, and gives the young players the chance to structure their daily routines, to learn life skills and to ensure they adhere to high standards in terms of nutrition, rest, recovery, hydration and preparation.

Too many sports clubs pluck raw talent – almost always at a young age – and then use it and abuse it, sometimes leaving the players spent and their dreams in tatter. It doesn't have to be like that.

Robinson said Autex had moved away from sponsoring teams like the Kiwis. "Our interest is in helping young kids develop the best way they can, and supporting the Warriors with the house is a perfect way of doing that."

You can read more about Autex House elsewhere in the newsletter, because I have the Vodafone Warriors media man Richard Becht doing a piece on it.





## Explosive Joseph Way Too Good

And speaking of young men with big dreams, Joseph Parker scored an emphatic first-round knockout win over Daniel Martz at the Fight For Life in Hamilton on Saturday night.

You would not have wanted to be in the toilet when it started because Joseph wasted no time in flooring the giant American, for a super quick TKO victory, and yes, he will have to be matched against better. But he can only fight what is in front of him.

Joseph's dreams of a shot at a world title are very much alive.

Martz, on the other hand, will just be having nightmares.

## Two Special League Men In Store

Come and meet league legend and all round decent bloke Wendell Sailor at Dick Smith's at Sylvia Park on Thursday. He'll be joined by our own Konrad Hurrell, who is also a pretty good sort of a bloke, so it's your chance to grab a picture and perhaps get your league gear signed.

Wendell and Konrad will make in-store appearances, with Konrad there from 6-7pm and Wendell from 6-8pm.

I'm loving doing the Dick Smith ads. They are good people, and I can tell you I would not endorse them if I did not genuinely believe you can get great prices from them!

Come on in, grab a bargain – and maybe a selfie!

## Funding Deal Announced

The 16 NRL clubs have unveiled a new funding agreement to help secure the future of the game.

From 2018, the deal will deliver

more than \$100 million extra a year to the clubs until 2022, and around \$100 million more will be invested to grow the game from grassroots to elite levels.

The deal follows the \$1.8 billion broadcast rights deal secured by the ARL.

ARLC chairman John Grant and clubs' representative Bart Campbell said it was one of the most important agreements ever.

"The ARLC sought to balance the need for strong and financially viable clubs with the need to invest to grow the game - and this agreement will help achieve those goals."

Campbell said the 16 NRL clubs were now in a position to invest off the field to build their capacity and capability and to become stronger and more professional than ever before.

"This agreement is a very significant milestone for the game of league," he said. "It has been reached after a robust but collaborative process that maintained a clear focus on ensuring clubs can be financially strong in the short to medium term and that investment can be directed to grow the game."

Key elements include payments to clubs of \$1.5m each year from 2016 to 2022 to be directed to improving operational capability and driving commercial revenues, and a grant of 130 percent of total player payments from 2018-22.

## Ferns Name Squad

Kiwi Ferns coach Alan Jackson has introduced several new faces to his national women's squad to contest the Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines against Australia in February.

After trials in Auckland, Jackson has named a 23-strong squad that will be honed down to 16 for the tournament at Eden Park, February 6-7.

The Ferns beat Australia 2-1 in this year's inaugural series and 11 of that side are still in contention. That means more than half the squad is made up of newbies.

"There are some unlucky players that have missed out and I think you get that every time you have to name a team," admits Jackson. "But we're pretty excited by what we saw at the trials. There were a couple of new faces that we knew about, but hadn't seen much of. A lot of the new girls had attended nationals and the more football they play, the better they get."

The squad will assemble for a final selection camp on January 22-24.

Squad: *Mary-Jane Ale (Wellington), Georgia Hale, Vaanessa Molia-Fraser, Charmaine McMenamin, Ngatokotoru Arakua, Alaimoana Fenieaso-Levi, Alexandra Cook, Tasha Davie (all Akarana), Maitua Feterika, Sarina Fiso, Teuila Fotu-Moala, Nora Maaka, Kelly Maipi, Laura Mariu, Annetta-Claudia Nuuausala, Atawhai Tupaea, Lanulangi Veaimu, Lilieta Maumau, Kahurangi Peters (all Counties Manukau), Toka Natua (Upper Central), Kristina Sue, Janna Vaughn, Krystal Murray (all Mid Central).*



## Books In Libraries

The Vodafone Warriors spent time with three schools at three different libraries across Auckland recently to launch a special 20th anniversary five-book pack of winning League in Libraries stories.

Since 2011 the winning entries in the Vodafone Warriors' Konica Minolta-sponsored League in Libraries story-writing competition have been published in illustrated book form.

The three groups of players visited public libraries in Glenfield, Pakuranga and Henderson to promote the collection of those stories produced through the club's long-running literacy initiative aimed at year four and five school children.

In 2011 Konica Minolta published 'The Jerome Ropati Story', written by Khodaya Rajabi from Panmure Bridge School. It was followed by 'Room 22 Saves the Day' by Mackenzie Adams from Dominion Road School in 2012, 'The Lucky Ball' by Murrays Bay School's Brian Kim in 2013 and 'Lost and Found' by Verran Primary School's Halle Driver last year.

This year's winning story was 'Don't Warrior 'bout a Thing' written by Tyler Koerselman from Beach Haven Primary School, giving North Shore school's a hat-trick of successes.

"With five books now published it's timely to put together a pack of all five stories in a year when we have been marking our 20th anniversary," said Vodafone Warriors community relations manager Petrece

Kesha.

"We've had great support from Konica Minolta in bringing these stories to life in book form with some brilliant illustrations to go with the text.

"The stories are examples of what has been achieved through our League in Libraries literacy programme. Our players have been key contributors in encouraging the kids to improve their literacy levels and teaching them how cool reading is."

Kesha said the five-book packs are expected to be available for purchase through [www.Warriorsstore.co.nz](http://www.Warriorsstore.co.nz) shortly.

## Boys Play Santa

Two groups of Vodafone Warriors players joined charity partner KidsCan for the Great KidsCan Santa Run. Thomas Leuluai, Ryan Hoffman, Jeff Robson and Henare Wells were at Queens Wharf while Manu Vatuvei, Jonathan Wright, Bodene Thompson and Blake Ayshford were at Barry Curtis Park in Flat Bush. The Great KidsCan Santa Run is in its sixth year with 19 venues nationwide taking part.

Designed for any levels, any age, the Santa Run is a 2-3km fun run or walk. Families, corporate groups or individuals take part, kitted out in Santa suits and other Christmas dress.

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**Keep up with Sir Peter Leitch! Click the icons to follow him on:**



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**THE GREATEST WEEKEND**

SAT 6 FEB & SUN 7 FEB 2016, WAITANGI WEEKEND  
EDEN PARK, AUCKLAND

**BUY NOW**

# Come Meet Rugby League Stars This Thursday!



## MEET MY MATES

### DECEMBER 10TH, DICK SMITH SYLVIA PARK

This Thursday, two of my good mates, Konrad Hurrell and Wendell Sailor will be joining me at Dick Smith Sylvia Park to meet you and your future footy stars.

Konrad will be in from 6pm-7pm and Wendell from 6pm-8pm, so come down for a yarn and bring your supporter gear to be signed by two league legends. Plus, I've also got a few Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines passes to give away to some lucky fans.



Still keen on a some Dick Smith NRL Auckland Nines passes, but can't make it down this Thursday? Just get a mate to subscribe to the Mad Butcher Club Newsletter by emailing [stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz](mailto:stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz), make sure they mention your name and you'll be in to win a double pass\*.



Terms and conditions: One entry per person. Competition closes Thursday 21 January at 11.59pm and will be drawn on Friday 22 January, 2016.





# Vodafone Warriors Members Day



**W**E REALLY want you at our Members' Christmas Party! It's going to be our biggest and best one yet with plenty of activities for everyone.

Don't worry there's still time to register. So make sure you sign up so you don't miss out on meeting our 2016 NRL squad!



**WHERE: Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland**

**WHEN: THIS Sunday, December 13**

**TIME: 10am-12.30pm**



**ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:** Bouncy castles, face painters, balloon artists, giant games, photo booth and a visit from the big marn - Santa!

The entire NRL squad will be on site from 11.30am giving members the chance to meet our newest signings including Roger Tuivasa-Sheck and Issac Luke. Our charity partner SHINE will be manning the BBQ and soft drinks station where members can get a sausage and a drink for a gold coin donation.

If you're wanting to get your hands on some merchandise before Christmas we've got you covered. Our official WarriorsStore.co.nz van will be there with you your member discount on everything!

Those looking to stay on can also enjoy 'Ellerslie Christmas at the races' which is a FREE race day running from 12.30 onwards.

To register for this FREE event please email [memberships@Warriors.kiwi](mailto:memberships@Warriors.kiwi) and let us know how many members will be in attendance. Alternatively you can call us on 0800 839 839.

**If you're not a member already and would like to join in the Christmas fun on December 13, sign up to one of the wide range of great membership offers we have available for 2016.**

**<https://Warriors.memberlink.net.nz/memberhome>**

**[Click To Learn More!!](#)**

# AT EMMERDALE STUDIOS

**P**LEASE EXCUSE my self indulgence but I had to share these photos with you. As most people know I'm a massive Emmerdale fan, on TV1 each day at 12/30pm, I never miss it. If I'm away, like I was with the KIWIS I record it and watch it when I get home. So I just wanted to share some photos of the cast with you all and who knows... you may tune to have a look one day.



Just spent the day at the Emmerdale studios in Leeds and caught up with some of the cast made my day this is Matthew Wolfenden aka David



Look who I found its Ryan Hawley aka Robert the bad boy on the show.



This is April one of the young stars of the show they told me she is a natural.



This is Bill Ward aka James Barton and Kelvin Fletcher aka Andy!!.



This is Chris Bisson aka Jai Sharma another bad boy on the show.



This is Nikill Sharma aka Rik Makeram.



This is Victoria on her way to film.



This is Rakesh.



Andy and me in the Woolpack.



The famous Emmerdale Cafe.



Great to see the crew supporting their local Rugby League team the Rinos.



Andy is a Leeds Rinos supporter but after giving him a jersey I got him interested in the Vodafone Warriors.



# Charity Dinner



Alan and Grant standing at Sir Graham's beach basking in the glory of a wonderful Friday evening, with the Sir Mad Butcher.



Alan and Grant trying to make progress when there is no water....  
WHYYYYYYY.



From left to right Barb, Grant, Mags from Waiheke Hospice, Alan, Helen, Michelle, all guests of Halls at the \$11k Dinner. Hosted at Sir Graham and Lady Raywen's home on Waiheke for Hospice.



Sir Graham, Alan Pearson CEO of halls who paid \$11000 to have dinner with the 2 knights with all the money going to Hospice on Waiheke.



Sir Peter with the legendary Brian McKechnie. The great All Black and NZ Cricketer. Gentleman of Rugby.



## Prize Winners - 32 Winners!!

### DeWalt Tape Measure Winners:

- John Niwa Taranaki
- Tony Coll Greymouth
- Baden Stewart Auckland
- Aaron Kesha Auckland
- Victoria Stacey Auckland
- David Morris Auckland
- Jayden Bowman Timaru
- Dave Clarke Mastertonjack
- Lansji Auckland
- Bruce Jones Auckland



### Ali Testimonial Books Winners:

- Jack Stantiall Marton
- R Jones Blenheim
- A Bentley France
- Jacob Gordon Manurewa
- Kurt Seymour Australia
- Matt White Christchurch
- Michael Owens Auckland
- Noel Andrews Auckland
- Fiona Passi Auckland
- Trevor Warrington Manurewa



### UK Tour Programs:

- Ro Pettigrew Masterton
- Katrina Mckeown Timaru
- Janette Knight Auckland
- Victoria Stacey Green Bay
- Bill Honeybone Auckland
- Te Haua Taua Auckland
- Dave Clarke Masterton
- John Niwa New Plymouth
- Richard Gordon Auckland
- Steve Crestani Greymouth
- Geoff Brown Upper Hutt
- Simon Coe East Tamaki





# Manukau Live Steamers

## MANUKAU LIVE STEAMERS INC.

PO BOX 43-095  
MANGERE  
AUCKLAND  
NEW ZEALAND



CLUB ROOMS AND TRACK  
CENTER PARK  
MANGERE  
AUCKLAND

I had a great time at the Manukau Live Steamers, for whom I'm the Patron of, on Sunday.  
Here are a few photos.

**T**HE MINIATURE trains at Manukau Live Steamers will be operating at Centre Park Robertson Road Mangere every Sunday from 11 am – weather permitting over the holiday period.

The Contact phone number on Sundays to confirm if the trains are running is 022 079 6914

Fares \$ 2.00 per ride or concession tickets cost \$10.00 for 6 rides.





**R**OOKIE NRL prop Sam Lisone has joined four young players as the first residents in the just-opened Autex House, a Vodafone Warriors initiative designed to provide support for players chasing their rugby league dreams.

Autex Industries CEO Mark Robinson joined Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle, the house residents, current NRL players and staff to officially open the house in East Auckland last week.

With house parents Spencer and Carmen Taplin in charge, the six-bedroom home gives the young players the chance to put some structure around their daily routines, to learn life skills and to ensure they adhere to high standards in terms of their nutrition, rest, recovery, hydration and preparation as aspiring footballers.

"Autex House is a home away from home for some of our young players," said Doyle.

"If we're managing the boys in this house we're ensuring we give them the best chance for success so they're eating the right food, they're recovering (from training and playing), they're sleeping and all those types of things.

"It's our responsibility as the Vodafone Warriors to give these young players that opportunity."

Robinson said Autex had moved away from sponsoring teams at international level, as the company has done with the Kiwis over many years.

"Our interest now is in helping young kids develop the best way they can and supporting the Vodafone Warriors with Autex House is a perfect way of doing

this," he said.

"I think this sort of thing should happen more often to help people get ahead in life and become successful."

The Taplins are not new to running a house of this type. They had similar experience with the Sydney Roosters before returning home to New Zealand. Spencer is entrusted with the day-to-day running of Autex House while Carmen has a full-time role with the Vodafone Warriors as the club's football operations coordinator.

There are a number of rules the players must adhere to including making their beds every morning when they get up, having their weight checked, learning to cook and helping with meals and other housekeeping tasks. There's even a no-chocolate rule which Carmen admits is the least popular with the players.

Aucklander James Mafi, who made his NYC debut this year, is one of the initial group of residents.

"This is a massive opportunity for young players," he said.

"This is going to help us to get all the little things right like eating right, sleeping right and doing all we can to improve."

Current NRL players on hand for the opening were new signing Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Ben Matulino, Konrad Hurrell, Charlie Gubb and Albert Vete. Also there were Vodafone Warriors head coach Andrew McFadden, New South Wales Cup coach Stacey Jones, NYC coach Kelvin Wright and recruitment and development manager Tony Iro.



House parents Carmen and Spencer with the boys.



Mark Robinson from Autex with Jim Doyle.



The grand opening.



The guys try the steps out.

Autex House Opening - Photo Credit Ra Pomare



# The Two Billion Dollar Game

By John Coffey QSM



**T**HE CONTRACTS had not even been signed – let alone the ink dry -- by the time all of the usual suspects were diving into the money barrel created by the National Rugby League's new two billion dollar television deal with Channel 9 and Fox Sports.

Clubs have forever been baying for a greater share of the income. Yet whenever they receive a raise they inevitably over-spend on players, support staff and administrators. Then they cry poor and ask for even more. Only the salary cap prevents most of them from going broke and folding completely.

Players never complain when their values, if not their performances, are inflated by television agreements. But there was plenty of moaning when the 2016 NRL draw was finally released, particularly over the supposedly exhausting prospect of having only a five-day turnaround between some games.

Not that long ago most players spent eight hours every weekday labouring on building sites or toiling on rubbish trucks before heading off to footy training. The sport was no easier then. It might have been slower, with muddy grounds contributing to that, but it was more brutal and just as exhausting.

At season's end the best of those players would walk over broken glass to be selected for a tour to Britain, where waiting for them were even more brutal opponents, more muddy grounds, and only a meagre living allowance.. If the other bloke chosen for your position had the misfortune to break a leg there was no panic phone call to the players' association (it did not exist). Instead, one rolled up one's sleeves and played as many as three games every week until your roommate's leg healed.

But there was one organisation I was hoping would publicly ask for a bigger handout from the NRL billions – the New Zealand Rugby League. It is the (very) poor relation of the big three rugby league nations, yet is one of the major providers of talent for the NRL. Even some of the aforementioned clubs and players have mumbled something about "helping the grass roots of the game".

Sure, there must be many clubs in the NSW and Queensland country desperately in need of a financial influx. These days, however, the "grassroots" of the game are not restricted to the rural towns of two Australian states. As many as one-third of current

NRL first graders were introduced to the game in New Zealand or the Pacific islands. Whatever compensation is received from the NRL you can bet it is not in step with the product provided.

For a long time last century there were international rugby league bans, initially to protect Australia and New Zealand from the wealthier British clubs, and later to prevent the game in New Zealand from losing all of its top footballers to the poker machine-backed Sydney clubs. Laws pertaining to restraint of trade eventually put paid to such bans.

In the early 1970s, when a trickle of Kiwis starting heading across the Tasman, the signing club was required to pay a few thousand dollars to the NZRL, which, in turn, split it with the player's former province and club. If all went according to plan the player's former club's under-8 team might have a new strip of jerseys for the following season. Even that system was heavily slanted in favour of the Sydney club. For the price of a night's poker machine takings it could pluck the best player from a New Zealand province.

However, I know of one instance when David got the better of Goliath. Kiwis forward Kevin Dixon joined Cronulla-Sutherland in 1971 and the Sharks begrudgingly paid the stipulated fee to the NZRL, which forwarded equal portions to the West Coast Rugby League and the Greymouth Marist club.

But Dixon was injured after a handful of appearances, the contract was cancelled, and Cronulla demanded its money back from Marist. The envelope embossed with the initials CSFC must have landed heavily in the Marist club's letter box. But the Coast-ers were in no way intimidated.

"Can't be done," was Marist's reply, "because we spent it on adding a meeting room to our clubrooms. How about we pay it back at 10 bucks a week?" Nothing more was heard from Cronulla.

There is a footnote to that story: Forty-three years later Kevin Dixon, who lives in Nelson, attended the Marist club's 90th anniversary and was wondering why the meeting room had not been named in his honour.

# Big Mal And The Kangaroos Old Boys' Club

By John Coffey QSM



**N**OW THAT Mal Meninga has been appointed Australian Test coach – a part-time job which reportedly carries a pay packet of 300,000 dingo dollars – the Kiwis can expect to see more of long-standing rivals Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk, Billy Slater and Jonathan Thurston in Kangaroos jerseys over the next year or so.

Some, or all, of them might even extend their Test careers through to the 2017 World Cup in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, even though Smith and Slater will have turned 34 by then, Cronk will be only weeks short of his 34th birthday and Thurston will be 33. Newspaper sub-editors can anticipate having a ball with “Dad’s Army” headlines.

But these are the four players who have most embellished Meninga’s coaching record with the Queensland State of Origin team over the last decade. Their individual and collective brilliance carried the Maroons to a record eight consecutive series victories and, after a losing 2014 campaign, on to a ninth success last season.

The loyalty between Meninga and his champion quartet is too strong for Big Mal to easily pick up a phone and tell any of them they will in future be watching the Kangaroos on television. Presuming they are still representing Queensland, that would also mean choosing New South Welshmen to take their Test jerseys.

On the face of it, Meninga has a cushy job. The Kangaroos will play the Kiwis in two Anzac Tests and the 2016 Four Nations tournament in Britain leading up to the 2017 World Cup. But such is the fierceness of inter-state rivalry that the Sydney media will be examining his every move for a hint of pro-Queensland bias.

No-one would be more aware of the potential for disaster than Meninga himself. He was in the 1985 Australian team which imploded during a memorable three-Test, home-and-away series against Graham Lowe’s Kiwis. The Kangaroos were coached by Terry Fearnley, who was also NSW coach, and the Tests were played between the second and third Origin games.

Fearnley’s Kangaroos won the first Test at Brisbane and the second in Auckland thanks to late converted tries scored by wing John Ribot. Leading up to the third Test, also at Carlaw Park, Fearnley knew New Zealand had probably been the better team in Brisbane before dominating everywhere apart from the scoreboard at Auckland.

He ignored the old adage of not changing a winning team by dropping several Queenslanders and replacing them with their NSW rivals. Fearnley might have got away with it had the Kangaroos completed a clean sweep of the series. But Kiwis scrum-half Clayton Friend inspired an 18-0 whitewash and Fearnley was pilloried in his homeland.

There were nasty scenes on and off the field during the third Origin match as Queensland players taunted Fearnley, who was again wearing his NSW tracksuit. Such was the ongoing fury that Australian officials have never again appointed a serving state coach to take charge of the Kangaroos. Until now that is, for Meninga had to withdraw from another Queensland coaching contract to succeed Tim Sheens with the Kangaroos.

From all accounts, Wayne Bennett offered to coach the Kangaroos for nothing. Told that Sheens had been paid \$50,000, Bennett reportedly replied he would happily accept similar terms. But the hierarchy had their hearts set on Meninga and stumped up the \$300,000 to compensate him for handing over the Queensland clipboard.

Meninga is making all the correct diplomatic noises. He is house hunting in Sydney and has stated a keenness to talk with NSW captain Paul Gallen (who, by the way, will be 36 at the time of the 2017 World Cup). Gallen has not played for Australia in the three-match losing streak to New Zealand over the last two years and is eager to make a Kangaroos comeback.

*Continued on next page...*



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In Meninga's case, you can take the boy out of Queensland but can you take 30 years of rugby league involvement with Queensland out of the man? The very first Origin game coincided with Meninga's 20th birthday. He thoroughly enjoyed his winning debut that night at Lang Park, and only the late Arthur Beetson is more closely aligned with inter-state footy.

Deciding Meninga was the best man for the job, and then grossly overpaying him, shows how desperate the Australians are to regain the number one international ranking and retain the World Cup. They did not panic after the 2014 Four Nations (when Slater and Thurston were missing) but were obviously hurting after the 2015 Anzac loss by a team which included Smith, Cronk and Thurston, and with Greg Inglis again at fullback in Slater's absence.

New Zealand's challenge is to assemble its strongest and most confident line-up to continue keeping the foot on the collective throat of the Australians. Another win or two over Smith, Thurston and company would create greater uncertainty in the Kangaroos selection room and rub more salt into old inter-state wounds, thereby disrupting Australia's World Cup build-up.

## Grey Lynn Book Winner

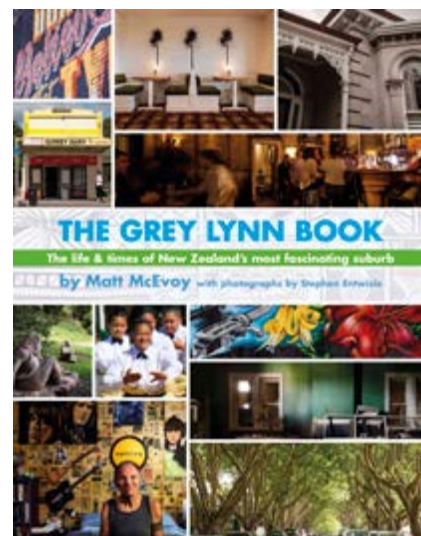
**H**I - Here's the winner of the Grey Lynn Book. I stuck them all together then let the cursor fall wherever - couldn't have come up with a better winner, really. I'll write to them and send their book tomorrow. Hope you have a great Christmas and all that goes with it.

Here is their entry:

"I would like to enter your competition for the book for my husband. He has dementia but can still recognise people and places. He is 85 years old and lived in Grey Lynn until he was 30 - played for Richmond all his football life - played for N.Z. Kiwis in 1955-56 & 57 as halfback. Married an Australian girl and moved to Qld.. I know he would get a lot of enjoyment remembering old places

His name is Selwyn Belsham From Marj Belsham"

Best, Paul - <http://paullittlebooks.co.nz/>



## Another Wonderful Email from A Winner

Dear Sir Peter,

Just a short note to say a massive thank you for sending my ultimate Kiwis prize pack.

You have made a 10 year old Warriors & Kiwis fan a very happy boy.

It is great gear & I wear it all the time.

Thank you,

Grady Collis



# The Criticism of Meninga's \$300,000 Salary is Unjust

By John Deaker



**T**HIS WEEK many prominent people criticized the \$300,000 salary it's been reported that Mal Meninga is going to receive in his new role of Kangaroos coach. Phil Gould wrote that the "Whole thing is a waste of money" while Peter Fitzsimmons asked "When Mal turns up for work ... what, exactly do you want him to do for the next eight hours?" It's surprising that 2 men who are often paid stunningly well to do what is effectively very little 'work' would take such a dim view of Mal commanding \$300,000 to coach the National team.

Both Gould and Fitzsimmons work in industries where they often turn up to work or perform for inflated sums of money based on who they are and what they've done in the past. Likewise, the reason Mal can command \$300,000 to coach the Kangaroos is more due to the hard yards he's put in during a lifetime playing and coaching rugby league than the work he'll do during a year coaching the Kangaroos.

The Kangaroo's had to change something to address their poor track-record recently against the Kiwis. In this case it has meant paying Meninga a handsome ( call it 'fulltime' if you like ) salary to do what everyone realizes is effectively a part-time role. It's likely the ARL Commission's Chairman John Grant would have copped even more criticism trying to allow ANYONE to coach a State of Origin team and the National team at the same time. Perceived bias when it came to team selections would have been just one of the many complications. Most people agree Mal was the best candidate for the job but there always needed to be some significant incentive to lure him away from the Queensland role. In the bigger scheme of things \$300,000 is very little to be able to secure the legendary figure and the many positives that his involvement with the team could have.

Fitzsimmons suggestion to "Give him the gig, but write into the contract you are also Rugby League's Ambassador-at-Large and must visit 50 schools in your capacity as Kangaroos coach, 25 clubs etc" is very admirable – but if you're going to adopt that similar philosophy you'd also insist many players in professional sports have similar commitments written in to their contracts. Where would you stop?

Having Meninga involved will not only be good for the Kangaroos but should be a boost for trans-tasman clashes - and therefore international rugby league. He remains one of the most respected Australian rugby league players amongst New Zealand and the additional charisma he will bring to the job that Sheens didn't have will be just one of many areas where he'll be worth his weight in gold.

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**Fax your order to 09 622 0555**

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# Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



## Rugby

**A**FTER A review into the Northland ITM Cup season, the Northland Rugby Union has decided to let coaches Richie Harris and Dale Macleod continue on in 2016. Northland's ITM Cup season was very disappointing with all ten games ending in defeats and only claiming one competition point. Northland Rugby Chief Executive Jeremy Parkinson believes Richie and Dale will be able to turn the ship around in 2016. "Obviously we'll take quite a few learning's out of this year and look to put some parameters and structures in place," he said.

The majority of this year's squad will be back in 2016 which is a positive for Northland but the biggest positive was the Super Rugby contracts picked up by Northland based players. Nine players

Kara Pryor, Dan Bowden, Sam Nock, Jack Ram, Matt Moulds, Namatahi Waa (Blues) Jone Macilai (Crusaders) Dan Pryor (Highlanders) Dan Hawkins (Rebels) will be a part of Super Rugby teams the most the province has had in one season.

## League

**T**HE FAR North Districts Rugby League (FNDRL) have organised a draft schedule for next year's competition. As previously mentioned, nine Far North Rugby League teams have decided to break away from Northland Rugby League and for their own competition. It includes home and away games for all clubs, a Ngapuhi v Muriwhenua State of Origin series, rep matches against invitation teams, and the possibility of international games as well. Spokesperson for the FNDRL Hone Harawira has said this has been done to grow the game in the far North.

The FNDRL will be supported by New Zealand Maori Rugby League and has said Far North based teams can send Rep teams down for tournaments in all age groups. One un-named sponsor has come on board and will give the winning club \$5000.

The New Zealand Rugby League has also reacted strongly to the splinter group, saying it will not sanction or recognise another entity within the zone. It has advised Mr Harawira's group that playing in a non-sanctioned competition may have consequences for players and volunteers.

The nine teams who are taking part will be Kerikeri, Moerewa, Kaikohe, Otua, Pawarenga, Muriwhenua, Te Hiku, Ngati Kahu, and Waima.

## Sports Awards

**T**HE 2015 Konica Minolta Sport Northland awards took place last week with Northland Hockey coming out big winners. Black Cap fast bowler Tim Southee took out the supreme award and sportsman of the year after an impressive season. Southee claimed 22 wickets at this year's world cup including 7 against England.

Stacey Michelsen (Hockey) won sportswoman of the year, Stacey is seen as one of the best hockey players in the world and helped the Northland team to the woman's final in the Ford National League. The Other major awards were won by Samantha Polovnikoff (Hockey) for junior sportsperson of the year, the Northland team of the year went to the Northland woman's hockey team with coach Angeline Waetford claiming coach of the year. The memorial service to sport award was won by Chas Flower (Football) Richie Guy was inducted into the Northland Legends of sports group whilst departing Northland Rugby League Chief Executive Alex Smits won the leadership award and Ross Gillespie won the official of the year for swimming

# Canada Rugby League Arrives at Their Final Hurdle for 2015

By Paul Okeefe

**T**HE CANADA Rugby League Association and the Canada Wolverines have had a fantastic 2015!

Off the field, Canada has finally got all Provinces working together in the one direction. A new constitution was voted in and accepted by all the Provincial Leagues. A new CRLA Board was voted in with new priorities and a common goal to push for development of Canadian junior athletes into tomorrow's Rugby League players in Canada. The Directors have experience with working on Sporting organizations Boards plus a wealth of business knowledge. While Toronto will still see the majority of Internationals in Canada, International games will now also be taken to British Columbia and Alberta.

On the field the goal has been to win every game they participate in and so far this has been achieved! Canada had never won on USA soil so with both games of the Colonial Cup being played in Philadelphia, it managed to win both and create some history! After defeating the USA in their own backyard 2-0 the Canada Wolverines team now head back down into USA territory for the Rugby League World Cup Qualifiers where creating another piece of history is certainly their main focus. A win over the USA & Jamaica would mean Canada will win entry into the 2017 Rugby League World Cup for the first time ever!

After defeating each of these Nations in the last 3 games against each rival, would usually mean they could be extremely confident of more success.

However, the heritage rule that applies for this tournament means Jamaica will be flying in 13 heritage players from the UK and USA bringing in 7 heritage players from Australia. This obviously means the two teams are completely different to the team's the Wolverines have defeated in previous games. Canada will have 3 heritage players from Australia & 1 from the UK which is important for them to be able to match their opposition. Another key addition is their new Head Coach, Aaron Zimmerle who is a Coach in the Intrust Super Cup for Tweed Heads in Australia and was awarded the Queensland Residents Representative Coaching job this year & is likely to be their Coach once again in 2016, after winning vs NSW. Aaron not only is a great young Coach certainly on the way up in his career but fittingly is Canadian born and very proud of his heritage. Aaron was born in Surrey, British Columbia and moved to Australia when he was 9 years old but still has relatives spread around Canada. He will be singing the national anthem loud & strong with his team! He has an interesting battle with the top England Super League Coach from Leeds Rhinos, Brian McDermott, who will be coaching the USA Hawks. He was successful winning the Top Coach in England Award, from any sport in the UK, quite an achievement!

It all comes down to games played between December 4th - December 12th in Jacksonville, Florida USA to see who wins a place in the 2017 RLWC, which is being hosted in Australia, New Zealand & . There is something special about this Canada team and it would be a great way to welcome back ex Kiwi Jamie Lester who is back into the Canada Coaching ranks, Assistant Coach to Zimmerle, after walking away due to his frustrations with the lack of priority in development work from the previous CRLA Board. Jamie kick started Rugby League in Canada, after a couple of unsuccessful attempts by others in the past, when he moved from New Zealand and was the man in charge of the successful wins in the Colonial Cup this year. Canada's other Assistant Coach to Zimmerle is the Canada U20s Representative Coach Andy Blackburn who also has an impressive record.

We are sure you will hear the cheering across in New Zealand if Canada does create history and qualify for the 2017 Rugby League World Cup!



# Rugby League European Federation Update

## USA & JAMAICA NAME MATCH DAY SQUAD FOR WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS OPENER

**U**SA HAWKS, under UK Coach of the Year 2015 Brian McDermott, and Jamaica have named their 19-man squads for the opening match in the Firehouse Subs World Cup Qualifiers – Americas, which kicks off tomorrow (4th December) at the Hodges Stadium, University of North Florida, Jacksonville.

## EXPANDED SPANISH CHAMPIONSHIP KICKS OFF

**T**HE OPENING round of matches have been held in the new Spanish Rugby League Championship, which has been expanded to eight teams. The third season of domestic games will see the sides split into East – Valencia & Catalonia, and West – Madrid & Andalucía, conferences for the first time.

## NEW DIRECTION FOR GHANA RUGBY LEAGUE

**G**HANA RUGBY League has elected a new Board of Directors, signalling a revamping for the sport in the country, following a high level mission led by RLEF Middle East Africa director Remond Safi, RFL chief operating officer Ralph Rimmer and

senior members of UK Sport International.

## LEAGUE SESSIONS GIVEN AT SPECIAL SCHOOL IN NETHERLANDS

**N**ETHERLANDS RUGBY League Bond has started a new programme working in schools for children with special educational needs. National captain Emmerson de Werk delivered one hour sessions to five groups at Mijnschool in Harderwijk.

## OVER 220 COACHES & MATCH OFFICIALS GRADUATE FROM LEADERSHIP DEVOLUTION PROJECT

**A**S A result of the recently completed, 18-month, Leadership Devolution Project, 31 technical educators have been qualified and 224 new Level 1 coaches and match officials are now supporting the continuing growth of rugby league in Europe. The scheme, part-funded by the European Commission who granted €195,000 included 17 partner countries.

More details on [www.rlef.eu.com](http://www.rlef.eu.com)



RUGBY LEAGUE  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION



RUGBY LEAGUE  
EUROPEAN  
CHAMPIONSHIP

RUGBY LEAGUE  
WORLD CUP  
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

## Tua Numanga's Daughter Appeal - Sent in by Tanolan

**D**ON'T KNOW how many of you know Tua, but you will all know his banner,

Tua is a Tokoroa man, works at the mill and has a lovely family.

His youngest daughter was born with a rare disease which turned her blind at 4 and has been in Starship for the last couple of months undergoing brain surgery to remove tumours, put in shunts etc that will, hopefully save her life.

Tua is a fantastic father and has been at her side since this has come about.

As you can realise, being off work for that length of time is financially draining and the money tree has just about lost its leaves..

A givealittle account has been set up by his friends/family and if you could see your way clear, cool. If you cant (for whatever reason), that's cool too.

Heres the link guys..

<https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/warriorprincess/>





# Black Sticks Women Win Opener 3-1

**T**HE BLACK Sticks have had the perfect start to the FIH World League Final in Argentina, winning 3-1 against Korea this morning.

An early goal from Pippa Hayward was backed up by goals from Kirsten Pearce and Gemma Flynn in the second half. In hot conditions, it was a dominant performance from the Kiwis who had 17 goal shots compared with Korea's five.

It was also a big day for goalkeeper Sally Rutherford, who was in fine form playing her 100th international test.

"It's always important to get the three points – particularly in the first game, it gives you confidence going into the next couple. It's ideal to come out with a win on day one," said Rutherford

The Kiwis came out firing in the first quarter and it was Hayward who got the Black Sticks on the scoreboard in the fourth minute. She calmly took a reverse stick shot from the top of the circle which went high to the keeper's right.

Haywards's goal was backed up by opportunities from Flynn and Olivia Merry, who were both given a chance to extend the lead, but it wasn't to be.

The second quarter wasn't as compelling for the Kiwis, New Zealand were called on to defend Korea's quick counter-attack, Rutherford superbly saved a penalty corner, and Korea's best chance was unlucky to ricochet off the goal post.

In the third quarter the Black Sticks were back in the game, Kirsten Pearce was all smiles when she received a pass from Olivia Merry and low to the ground she pushed it over the line to double the Kiwi's lead.

In the final spell, the Kiwis executed a clinical penalty corner - captain Anita Punt flicked to Flynn who was waiting on the post to deflect it in and give her side a 3-0 lead.

Korea's Jung Eun Seo scored a field goal with two minutes left to play.

The Black Sticks Women play their next game against the Netherlands at 8.30am tomorrow, with the game LIVE on Sky Sport 2. There will be a replay of today's game on Sky Sport 2 at 1.30pm this afternoon.

## RESULTS

Full time: 3-1 (Black Sticks win)

Half time: 1-0 (Black Sticks lead)

NZ goal scorers: Pippa Hayward, Kirsten Pearce, Gemma Flynn

Korea goal scorers: Jung Eun Seo



Pictured: Black Stick goalkeeper Sally Rutherford.  
Credit: [photosport.co.nz](http://photosport.co.nz)



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# Black Sticks Outmuscled by on-form Dutch

**T**HE BLACK Sticks Women have been defeated 4-1 by world champions Netherlands at the FIH World League Final in Argentina.

The Kiwis battled hard throughout the game but couldn't stem the flow of goals from the Dutch, who were clinical in their movement and finishing.

Petrea Webster scored the lone goal for the Kiwis in what was Midlands midfielder Rose Keddell's 100th international appearance for New Zealand.

"It was pretty tough out there, we did well for first quarter but then we fell away. Their speed and skill got us," Webster said after the game.

"We improved our press and stuck at it for the whole game which is good but there's a bit to work on for the next game."

Netherlands opened the scoring early in the first quarter when Caia van Maasakker's hard penalty corner flick picked up a slight deflection and soared into the top left corner.

The Black Sticks defended hard throughout the quarter and then managed to turn the pressure into some impressive attacking moves.

Petrea Webster drew the score level in the 16th minute when she pounced on her own deflected shot and hammered home on the reverse stick.

The Dutch pulled ahead once more just two minutes out from halftime after Kelly Jonker slipped a shot past Sally Rutherford in goal from a hard crash ball into the circle.

The second half belonged to the world's top side, with further goals coming from Ellen Hoog and a second for Jonker.

New Zealand put together some impressive phases of play and had several clear shots at goal but couldn't break the Dutch defence

The Black Sticks have a rest day tomorrow before their final pool game against Germany at 10:45am on Wednesday (NZ time), with LIVE coverage on SKY Sport 2.

BLACK STICKS 1: (Petrea Webster)

NETHERLANDS 4: (Kelly Jonker 2, Caia van Maasakker, Ellen Hoog)

Halftime: Netherlands 2-1



Photo: [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)



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