



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

26 February 2015

#61a

To subscribe or unsubscribe email: stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

ONLY 9 DAYS TO GO UNTIL THE FIRST VODAFONE WARRIORS GAME

WHAT a weekend we have coming up in sport, and those of us lucky enough to live in Auckland will be spoiled.

First up is the Volvo Ocean Race, with the boats due in any time. Take the chance to go down and see the boats. They are incredible and even though I am no yachting expert, it is impossible not to admire the skills and spirit of adventure of the ocean-going sailors.

Then of course on Saturday every Kiwi will be glued to the TV as we take on our arch-rivals Australia at the Cricket World Cup. When I say every Kiwi, I mean every Kiwi except for those lucky enough to have a ticket to game, which will see Eden Park packed to the rafters.

It's going to be massive.

But before that, we have the NZ Breakers at Vector tonight in game one of their Australian Basketball League semi against the Adelaide 36ers. still tickets available then

They will be off to Australia for game two on Saturday night and back in Auckland for game three on Monday night at VECTOR ARENA, should it be needed.

I want to wish the Breakers all the best, and please don't leave it until Cedric Jackson needs to sink one of those amazing buzzer-beaters. My old heart might not be able to take it.

The boys are chasing their fourth title and what I would not give to write that about the Vodafone Warriors.

Have a good one, I'm going to!



Don't Forget the Cricket this Weekend

Saturday 28th February

Sky Sport 3 - 1.45pm - NZ v Australia - Pool match

Prime will have highlights of this game, and highlights of every game, the following Sunday morning and repeated later that day.

Every Black Caps game is Live on Radio Sport plus the semi finals and finals.

Go the Black Caps

Now it will come as no surprise to anyone that I am league crazy, but I have to confess that the game that is captivating me at the moment is cricket.

I'm just like the rest of the country, and glued to the TV when the Black Caps play.

To be fair, I was bit busy last Friday and thought, like a lot of people, I'd catch the game later in the day. But I was listening on the radio and I had to change my plans to get in front of the tele or it would all have been over as the Black Caps went totally berserk and put England to the sword.

First of all young Tim Southee was unplayable as he steamed in to bowl, taking seven wickets, something that is unheard of in one-day cricket, and then of course master blaster and team captain Brendon McCullum hit 77 off hardly any balls and it was all over rover.

I have not enjoyed myself as much as that watching cricket match ever.

And now the boys have just a day or two off before fronting against our arch-rivals Australia at Eden Park this weekend. I can't wait.

Go the Black Caps, beating Australia is always something us Kiwis love.

New Interpretations a Bit of a Worry

The thing that worried me out of the weekend trial at Papakura was the constant stream of penalties. NRL referees Adam Devcich and Gavin Reynolds giving the players another taste of the new laws, and

all I can say is that if we do not come to grips with it shortly, we are going to pay the price, because you can not keep giving possession away to the quality sides you find in the NRL.

Still, there's time yet, and I can not wait for March 7 when it all gets under way,

NRL Takes Over Gold Coast Titans

This drugs scandal sweeping our game is just horrible. I have never so much as puffed and I have a real loathing of drugs, because I have seen some of the damage they do in our communities, so the situation just horrifies me.

The NRL has stepped in and taken over the Gold Coast Titans. CEO Dave Smith said the move would secure the long term future of the club – and ensure the Gold Coast retained a team in the NRL.

“In other words, it is an important day for fans, the club and its sponsors.” He said the Titans were facing serious financial difficulties and the NRL had decided to terminate the club's licence and take over the running of the club itself.

All that means that the Titans have been placed in voluntary administration by its directors after conceding the club can no longer continue to meet its financial obligations, including staff and player salaries.

Mr Smith assured fans the club will remain on the Gold Coast and it will be business as usual for the football team. “The only difference for Titans fans is that they will have the security of knowing their team has a long term future on the Gold Coast. This is an important

region for league and the Titans remain part of our long term plans. This move will give the club a fresh start.”

Bunnies Go Berserk

Crikey no wonder Russell Crowe opted for league ahead of the Oscars. His Souths belted St Helens 39-0 in the World Club Challenge, the biggest winning margin in the competition's history, pipping the Storm and Roosters, who had 38-point wins in 2000 and 2003 – St Helens again on the end of those hidings.

South's coach Michael Maguire has now won every domestic club honour on both sides of the world. Super League and Challenge Cup with Wigan, the NRL with Souths and now the World Club Challenge Trophy.

After two tight games in the inaugural World Club Series – with St George and Brisbane winning respectively – this was league from another planet.

“We just got schooled by the best club side in the world,” St Helens coach Keiron Cunningham said. “Sometimes you have to lose big to learn big, and this will be a good education for my players.”

TONIGHT at Vector Arena

**HURRY!
BOOK YOUR
HOSPITALITY
NOW**

SEMI-FINALS

PRICE FREEZE - PACKAGES FROM \$99 + GST

SKYCITY
nz
breakers

*Valid for 2015 Playoff Series home games only.

TONIGHT at Vector Arena

Thursday 26th February at Vector Arena vs. Adelaide 36ers

If you are looking for the ultimate experience, being as close as you can get to the action with Corporate Hospitality at the SKYCITY Breakers, the Playoff Series home games is it!

WOW yourself and your clients with the unforgettable atmosphere the Playoff Series is renowned for.

Take opportunity of the PRICE FREEZE for the Semi Final Series home games - all hospitality packages for the Semi Final Series are at regular season prices. With hospitality packages already in hot demand, don't miss out - book your seats today! For a description of hospitality package inclusions, please [click here](#) to view the brochure.

TO BOOK - contact my mate Dillon Boucher: dillon@nzbreakers.co.nz 09 970 5275

\$15 Tickets available now from <http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz/event/24004E517C2E0A5D>

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!
LET'S PACK THE HOUSE!**

**SPECIAL
TICKET OFFER
\$15
TICKETS**

SEMI-FINALS

vs ADELAIDE 36ers

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26th

VECTOR ARENA

TONIGHT at Vector Arena

NBL
FINALS

Well Done the Little General

I have decided that I did not give enough recognition to one of our all-time greats, the Little General Stacey Jones, who has been inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

We hear about the Sports Hall of Fame but did you know that there are only seven other league players ever recognised? So now Stacey is alongside Albert Baskerville, Tom Baxter, Mark Graham, Ces Mountford, Charlie Seeling, George Smith and Des White.

I had the great privilege to be on stage when Stacey, 38, was honoured. "I feel very honoured and humble. When I reflect on where it all started, it was at my junior club, the Pt Chev Pirates."

Late last year Stacey was also inducted into the Maori Sports Hall of Fame.

His career really was stellar - 261 appearances for the Vodafone Warriors, 46 tests for the Kiwis, 45 appearances for Les Catalans, and he still Vodafone Warriors records for most appearances, most points (674), most consecutive appearances (100) and most field goals (14).



Stacey with his award.

Breakthrough for Young Ref

Spotted in the Central Leader was a great story about Rochelle Tamaru, who took the whistle at this year's Dick Smith Auckland NRL Nines.

"The atmosphere was electric," she said. "Walking out in front of all those people was crazy."

Now I reckon Rochelle is bang on. This is what she had to say: "Being the first female in New Zealand to referee an NRL fixture was awesome and I didn't want to muck it up. I wanted to showcase that women can referee a male dominated sport."

You go girl. I am proud so many great women are involved in our game, and it is not something we should only celebrate during the Women in League NRL round, as brilliant as that initiative is.

Rochelle is now 20 and started off as a ref doing touch when she was just 10. She signed up at 18 for league and hasn't looked back, so much so that she will travel to Australia in May, to be part of the team in control of the Anzac Day test between the Kiwis and Kangaroos.



Rochelle Tamaru

New Sponsor on Board

Woodstock and the Vodafone Warriors has a ring to it that is about to become even more familiar with the announcement of Woodstock as a major sponsor for the next three years.

"With 2015 signalling a new chapter in our history we are delighted to welcome Woodstock into the Vodafone Warriors' family," chief executive Jim Doyle said.

Independent Liquor plans to promote the sponsorship in retail stores and also with a presence on Facebook. The deal will see the Woodstock and Wild Buck Ale brands displayed on the NRL and NSW Cup jerseys respectively.

In addition, Independent Liquor will have pourage rights at all 11 Vodafone Warriors matches to be held at Mt Smart, as well as signage, player access and a number of behind the scenes experiences.

"We've always been popular with Vodafone Warriors fans and couldn't be prouder to share their passion in what is a special year for the club," says Independent Liquor marketing director Adam Maxwell. "We'll be there every step of the way. It's a great time to start our partnership."



Do You Know Some Special?

The NZRL is inviting life member and distinguished service nominations for 2015. These are prestigious honours not awarded lightly for long, well-documented and meritorious service.

Recipients must have advanced or improved the game of league significantly, such that their contribution is widely recognised as outstanding.

Ideally, recipients should be life members at both club and district/zone level first, before being considered at national level.

To nominate someone complete the form. Include as much material as you can to give the committee a complete understanding of their contribution.

If the nomination is coming from a club or district league, forward the form to your zone for endorsement, because under the NZRL rules, nominations can only come from zones or associates. This will require approval by the zone board. Nominations close March 31.

Life Member & Distinguished Service Nomination Form:

<http://bit.ly/1Dn8VPd>

Check out the Four Nations Trophy

Fair play to the NZRL. They are always looking for new ways to talk to the league community and hear what you have to say.

You probably know about the NZ Kiwis and NZRL Facebook pages, and the NZRL is also on Twitter (@NZRL_Kiwis).

But have you checked out their new Facebook page, specially created for news about the Four Nations Trophy.

The NZRL is bringing the silverware to you - find out where and when there.

Top pitcher shares his skills

Having a former Major League Baseball pitcher coaching up-and-coming players in a foreign country doesn't happen that often, so a month in New Zealand for D J Carrasco is proving invaluable.

Carrasco paid a very sad visit here in 2012 to visit the site where his mother was tragically killed 17 years earlier in a kayaking accident.

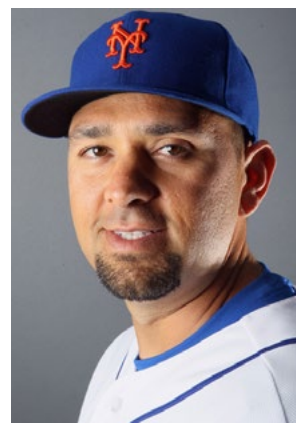
He played in the majors over an 11 year period for five different organisations, while also spending a year in Japan in between pitching for the Kansas City Royals, Chicago White Sox, Pittsburgh Pirates, Arizona Diamondbacks and New York Mets.

The pitcher and his wife Autumn arrived in January and within hours of landing he was put into action as a commentator for Sky TV at the Oceania 18U Baseball Championships, and headed to Wellington just days later to begin coaching and school visits.

Carrasco is now in Christchurch running clinics, watching games and visiting schools to not only promote baseball in the region but help to train players and coaches in the game.

"Having a person such as DJ in the country is great for the sport here", says Baseball New Zealand CEO Ryan Flynn. "This adds to the

fantastic list of current and former players that have visited, including current New York Met (then a Yankee) Curtis Granderson, Pittsburgh Pirate Mark Melancon and recently Milwaukee Brewers Manager Ron Roenicke, who also visited Christchurch." "The only way to put it into perspective for people outside the sport, would be football having someone like Liverpool's Steven Gerrard or Manchester United's Ryan Giggs hosting clinics here."



D J Carrasco

Women's Golf Open

Big weekend coming up in Christchurch this weekend for the woman's NZ golf open.

They have a rock star playing our own Lydia Ko (Murray Deaker brags he played a round with her his sole golfing clam to fame) who is the worlds no. 1 female golfer.

She has just won the Australian open at only 17 years old. Will she be New Zealand's greatest sports star?



MONTY BETHAM v ADAM HOLLIOAKE

**March 28th 2015
SUPER 8 REDEMPTION**

Two months after stopping Carlos Spencer in a one-sided pro bout, Monty Betham has been called out by former English cricket captain Adam Hollioake to fight in the SUPER 8 in Christchurch on March 28th at Horncastle Arena.

Hollioake called out Betham on Twitter, and the former Warriors skipper and Kiwi league forward was happy to oblige at the chance to get back in the ring. Monty Betham is out to give former England cricket captain Adam Hollioake a lesson in the boxing ring.

"I just want to box, I love boxing and I think it's great," said Betham. "The want to get in the ring is one thing, but also the want to get in the ring and probably give him a boxing lesson. No maliciousness, I just want to get in there and show him that to call someone out is probably not the best thing to do, especially if you're going to get a bit of a backlash."

Hollioake is an accomplished fighter and is the only international cricketer to become a professional MMA fighter. In addition to five cage fights, he has also had three professional boxing bouts with just a single loss on points.

"Monty is a good fighter. There's no good in me coming out there and challenging someone who is rubbish. The whole idea is to challenge someone that people rate - everyone rates Monty Betham highly."

This is an event you won't want to miss! Book your tables or tickets now!

EVENT DETAILS:

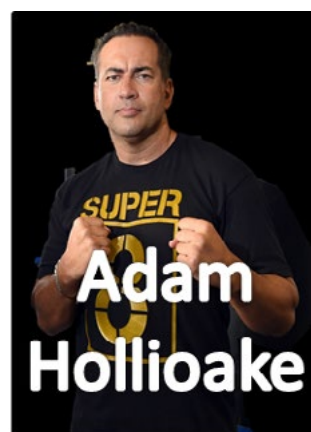
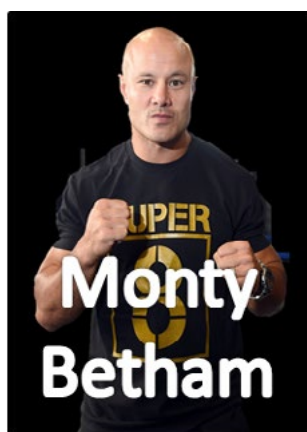
Date: Saturday 28th March 2015

**Venue: Horncastle Arena,
Christchurch**

Doors Open: 6:00pm

Charity Recipient: KidsCan

<http://www.enthdegree.co.nz/super8/>



BE BOLD
BE UNITED
BE VODAFONE
WARRIORS

WIN

a Warriors
home jersey
courtesy of
Canterbury!



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#BeWarriors

THE SOUTHERN WILD FOOD FESTIVAL

Invercargill
THIS Sat, 28 Feb
At 10.30am

FOOD STALLS

- frogs legs & snails • huhu grubs • colostrum smoothies • whitebait patties • veal
- bulls penis stirfry • alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks available

ENTERTAINMENT

- Richard Till Cooking Demos • D&M • Old School • Small Feet
- Jonathan Usher – Magician • PawPrintz Facepainting

ILT STADIUM SOUTHLAND - INVERCARGILL

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ONLY \$20

To 20 Feb, then \$25. Children free
www.southernwildfoodfestival.co.nz



A Rotary Club of Invercargill Project



THE SOUTHERN WILD FOOD FESTIVAL

YOUR GUIDE

To Southland's Wild Food Festival

Something for everyone, from wild to not so wild, the choice is yours.

A great day out in the stadium!

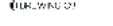
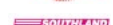
Starts 10.30 am - Today
ILT Stadium Southland

Tickets \$25

Children under 16 free admission • Door Sales \$25

TUCKER TIME - YOUR CHANCE TO TREAT YOUR TASTE BUDS

Name of Stall	Menu Item
Espresso2Go	Coffee, Tea, Hot Choc, Chai, Water
Ocean n' Earth	Whitebait, Sweetbreads
SIT - School of Hospitality	Panko & Wakame Crumbed Sweetbreads, Chinese style goose pan cakes, smoked eel with Asian omelette rolls, Wild Venison Sliders, Spiced Rabbit with Kimchi
Southland Help	Juices, Colostrum Smoothies, Water and Juice
Little India	Wild Goat Wraps, Samosas, Wild Goat Rogan Josh served with rice, Murgh Mumtag, Mango Lassi
Blue River Dairy	Sheep Milk Smoothie, Sheep Mild Cheese
Seriously Good Chocolate Company	Seriously Good Food sauces and ribs, seafood chocolate range, cup cakes, chocolate savoury sauce
Back Country Cuisine	Salmon Hash Sliders
NRG	Dumplings - steamed goat, boar, vegetarian
Precious Pearls and Beef Bishops	Satay Bulls Penis Kebab with Bulls Shots, Beef Rendang, chili & ginger fudge, Shots - poo, stomach and blood
Snails and more	Snails a la bourguignon, boudin noir aux pommes
Southland Fijian Community	Raw fish & coconut, coconut buns, whole fish and kava
Pacific Island Taste	Marinated fish salad and cooked coconut cream; taro leaves with coconut cream; island salad
Windsor Community Church	Venison and Pork Belly Burgers
Food on Clifton	Scallop and streaky bacon kebabs, seafood pies, luscious custard squares with sheep's milk.
Monteiths	A selection of beers and cider
Macvine	A selection of NZ and International wines
Southern Star Smokehouse	Dry Manuka Smoked Salmon
Girl Guides	The Famous Girl Guide Biscuits



WHAT'S ON

"CRICKET PLAYED LIVE ON SCREEN"

Stage One:

11.15 am - 12.30 pm
1.15 pm - 2.30 pm
3.00 pm - 4.00 pm
4.15 pm - 5.30 pm
6.00 pm

D & M (Michelle Lange and Daniel Monteath)
Cheryl Anderson and Craig Allott
Small Feet
Super Group
Event Closes

Stage Two:

11.00 am - 11.15 am
11.30 am - 12.00 noon
12.30 pm - 12.45 pm
12.45 pm - 1.15 pm
2.30 pm - 3.00 pm
3.00 pm - 3.30 pm

St Theresa's School Kapa Haka Group
Magician - Jonathan Usher
Raphael Rausch - Chocolatier demonstration
Cooking Demo with Richard Till
Cooking Demo with Richard Till
Magician - Jonathan Usher

MAGICIANS AND FACE PAINTING - 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

BUSH TUCKER CHOCOLATE WHEEL

SURPRISE VISIT BY DISNEY CHARACTERS

COMPETITIONS:

LUCKY SPOT DRAWS 1.00 PM, 2.00 PM AND 3.00 PM

WINNER OF THE BEST STALL ANNOUNCED 4.00 PM



A Rotary Club of Invercargill Project



The Southern Wild Food Festival

To the Editor:

JUST wanted to let you readers know what is happening down here in Christchurch this weekend. Once again we are hosting the NZ women's open but this time it is going to be special. This will be Lydia Ko first tournament at home since becoming number one in the world. Lydia is not only a great golfer but also a great role model for up and comers.

She shows great dedication and commitment and shows with alittle hard work you can achieve almost anything. This is also a great weekend for Christchurch to show off our city getting back on its feet after the events of the last few years. we have a lot of great courses here in Christchurch and anyone wanted to come to play should drop us a line at atandrew@tattooogolf.co.nz

So from all the team at Tattooogolf NZ we wish all the competitors this weekend good luck and happy golfing. If you are wanting to add some attitude to your own game check us out at www.tattooogolf.co.nz

Kind regards
Andrew

Check out this Trade Me Auction Benefiting Starship and DFS Charity's

From the Trade Me description:

WHAT: Across three days, Auckland NZ welcomed over 400 guests from the NRL (National Rugby League) including 288 players, 16 teams from two countries.

MISSION: Get an Auckland Nines jersey signed by as many players to be auctioned off for charity.

CHARITY: All proceeds to go directly to Starship Hospital in which DFS Auckland have had a great relationship with for numerous years.



Find the auction here: <http://bit.ly/1DQVmdl> and bid on this one-of-a-kind jersey

FORMER broadcasting legend Murray Deaker pays us a great tribute:

“Brilliant newsletter. I believe your newsletter is the best regular communication any sport has in NZ.”

NOW this is the sort of email I like getting. Well done Shayne for putting a smile on my face

Kiaora and G'day Sir Butcher,

I am so confident this year that our Warrior's will go all the way that for my 1st time ever I have opened a TAB account and placed a bet on us winning the grand final. The team is looking the best it has ever been, we have exceptional player's and new talent right across the park including coaching staff and in the office. All the very best for the season Warrior's, you can and will do it.

Cheers
Shayne Lipsham

Signed Kiwis Jersey Winners

Our Big Winners Are:

Joan Meo from Wellington
and

Valarie Bowden from Christchurch



THE CANTERBURY 2015 VODAFONE WARRIORS RANGE



E561088 – Basketball Singlet



E546493 –
Warriors Roll of Honour Tee



E533680 –
Warriors 20yrs Striped Polo



E583576 – Warriors
Hooded Baseball Jacket



E302719 –
Warriors 2015 Street Cap



B976677 –
Warriors U20 Training Jersey



B976682 –
Warriors Nines Jersey



B976673 –
Warriors Training Jersey



B976672 –
Warriors Replica Home Jersey



B176675 –
Warriors U20 Home Jersey



B976683 –
Warriors Replica Away Jersey



E553232 –
Warriors First Layered Fleece



E553233 –
Warriors Training Hoody



E561087 –
Warriors Training Singlet



E302718 –
Warriors Training Cap



E512533 –
Warriors Training Track Pants



E533679 –
Warriors Training Polo



E546479 –
Warriors Training Tee



E523279 –
Warriors Gym Shorts



2015 RANGE

In stores mid-December Available from Rebel Sport, Canterbury stores and all good sports retailers and online at

www.canterburyofnz.com

In League with Cricket

By John Coffey QSM



HERE'S a spot of trivia. Who was the only man to play at Eden Park and Carlaw Park on the same day?

Impossible, with rugby authorities banning league players from their turf during the decades that Carlaw Park was league's headquarters?

But even they could not stop North Shore centre Verdun Scott one April day in 1937. Scott dashed off from Carlaw Park after his league club game to knock up 22 runs in the final match of the cricket season at Eden Park.

The versatile Scott achieved the highest honours in both sports. He went to Britain with the ill-fated 1939 Kiwis, whose tour was terminated after two games because of World War Two, and returned there 10 years later as a New Zealand cricket opening batsman.

With the Cricket World Cup in full swing, and the Black Caps in rampant form, it is an appropriate time to reflect on league's links to cricket. They go back to the start of the game in Australasia.

The contracts signed by Albert Henry Baskerville's All Golds tourists of 1907-08 were based on those drawn up for earlier Australian cricket tours of England, also privately organised.

Meetings to set up the NSW Rugby League in 1907 and pick teams to play the All Golds were held in the Sydney sports shop of Australian test batsman Victor Trumper, the first NSWRL treasurer.

Similarly, New Zealand cricket international Stan Brice was the first permanent secretary of the Wellington Rugby League in 1912. He managed the 1913 Kiwis in Australia and was a selector.

Scott was the second New Zealand cricket and league international after Wellington's Charles Finlayson, the fullback for one match against NSW in 1913, and an all-rounder in one match against the 1928 Australian cricketers.

Two other Kiwis played first-class cricket. John Ackland, a Kiwi against PNG in 1983, was also a left-arm slow bowler for Auckland before earning fame as a

league coach. And 1957 Kiwis World Cup scrum-half Sel Belsham spent his summers wicketkeeping for Auckland.

After Cantabrian Bill Merritt toured England with the 1927 and 1931 New Zealand cricket teams, he returned to England to further his career. Merritt had also been a Canterbury rugby winger and while overseas supplemented his earnings by playing league for Halifax and Wigan.

Alan Wharton played one cricket test for England against Scott in 1949, and also played league for Salford. Fellow Lancashire cricketer Ted Bateson played his league for Wakefield Trinity from 1925 to 1933 and also achieved prominence in rugby and soccer.

Then there was Liam Botham, son of great cricket all-rounder Sir Ian Botham. Ambitious Liam made appearances for Hampshire at cricket, Leeds and Wigan at league, and one or two rugby clubs as well without really establishing himself in any code.

At least 10 Australians have reached high levels in both sports, including Herbie Collins, the Australian cricket captain of the 1920s. He played for Eastern Suburbs in its first premiership victory in 1911 and represented Queensland in 1912.

Even more famous was Ray Lindwall. The great fast bowler was a St George fullback before concentrating on cricket, taking 228 test wickets and captaining Australia in one test.

Graeme Hughes was the last man to play cricket and league at state level. He made his NSW league debut at 19 and shared in the Bulldogs' 1980 grand final triumph, having made 20 first-class cricket appearances for NSW in the late 1970s.

Now that both sports are fully professional, promising all-rounders are forced to decide which path to follow from a young age, so there never will be another same-day double as Scott's.

John Coffey is one of the few Christchurch sportsmen to have played first grade cricket (St Albans) and league (Marist-Western Suburbs)

**NEXT MONDAY
NIGHT**



**NEXT MONDAY
NIGHT**

**JOIN ME AND JANICE NEXT MONDAY NIGHT AND SUPPORT THIS
GREAT CAUSE:**

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Macular Degeneration fundraiser

Tickets
\$30

French Film Festival
screening of
Barbecue

Monday March 2nd
Rialto Newmarket
6.15pm for a 6.30pm start

Enjoy a free glass of bubbles, goodie bags and great company!



Barbecue is a fun, sun-kissed comedy that never takes itself too seriously. And it has a big problem... it'll make you want to get on the next flight out and go to the South of France!

"Lavish lifestyles, sun-kissed settings, and a cast of local A-listers."

The Hollywood Reporter

Bring along your colleagues, practice staff and your friends.
A raffle will be drawn on the night.

Tickets are limited – last year was a sell out!

Tickets have to be pre-booked

For tickets: Call 0800 MACULA (622 852) or email phillippa@mdnz.org.nz

LONDON'S Olympic Stadium will host international rugby league for the first time, when the NZ Kiwis face England in the second of three tests in November.

The 54,000-capacity stadium is one of three venues named for a series that will mark England's first appearance on home soil since their narrow defeat by New Zealand in the 2013 Rugby League World Cup semi-final at Wembley Stadium.

The series opens with the first match at KC Stadium in Hull on Sunday, November 1 in an international that will form part of the 150-year celebrations of host club Hull FC, which was founded in 1865.

The historic Olympic Stadium fixture takes place on Saturday, November 7, before the series concludes with the third encounter at Wigan's DW Stadium on Saturday, November 14.

"The Olympic Stadium provided the backdrop to some truly memorable action at London 2012 and it is simply fantastic that we have reached an agreement for England to play New Zealand there in November," says Rugby Football League chief executive Nigel Wood.

"The world's best rugby league players deserve to play on the biggest stages and our supporters deserve the opportunity watch rugby league in the best venues. The Kiwis are our oldest rivals on the international stage and the match at Olympic Stadium will provide one of the highlights of a historic year for the sport, as we celebrate our 120-year anniversary in 2015.

"Two years have elapsed since we last hosted New Zealand and I am sure that everyone who witnessed that memorable semi-final at Wembley Stadium will be looking forward to experiencing a re-match at Olympic Stadium.

"Hull and Wigan have long and proud traditions as international Rugby League venues and the matches at KC Stadium and DW Stadium will be terrific occasions played out in front of bumper crowds."

Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney inspected the Olympic Stadium last week, during the Brisbane Broncos' World Club Challenge visit.

"I'm really excited that my players have the chance to play in the inaugural Rugby League game at such an outstanding venue," he says. "If we can fill it full of English fans and get it full of noise, it will be a wonderful occasion.

"In our last two performances against England, there has been nothing between the two sides and I imagine this series will be no different.

"The fans should be excited about the England team. The way they have played against us and Australia recently, they have been great contests and I think they were unlucky to lose in Melbourne.

"The fans should be proud of their team. Hopefully, they will fill the Olympic Stadium and make it a great occasion."

English counterpart coach Steve McNamara said: "The schedule for the Kiwi series is very exciting and it's fantastic that we have this opportunity to play an historic international at an iconic venue like the Olympic Stadium.

"Playing New Zealand always brings out the best in the England players and the chance to be involved in the match at Olympic Stadium will provide additional incentive for everyone.

"Coming from Hull, I'm also looking forward to the opening match at the KC Stadium, where the atmosphere is guaranteed to be electric, while we are assured of a rousing reception at Wigan in front of some of the most passionate fans in the world."

Tickets for all three matches will go on general sale on Wednesday, March 11.

Fans who register from today will have access to an exclusive pre-sales offer, giving them access to the best seats at all three venues for 48 hours from Monday, March 9.

Registered fans will also get exclusive details of kick-off times and ticket prices via email on Sunday, March 8. To register, please visit

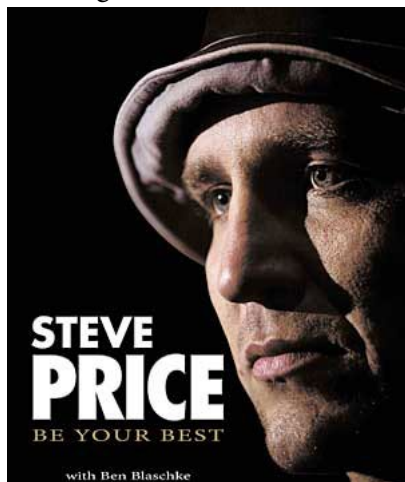
www.englandrl.co.uk/engvnz_tickets.

Win 1 of ~~7~~⁸ Fantastic Prizes

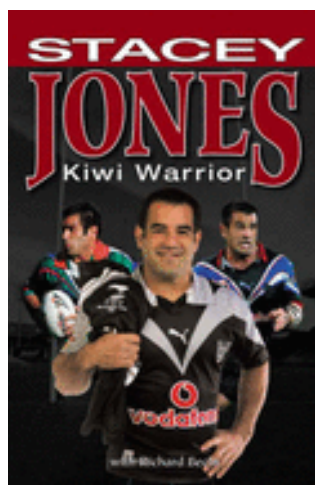
We have added another prize to this already massive giveaway. Its February's Big League Magazine.

Win One of These Signed Books

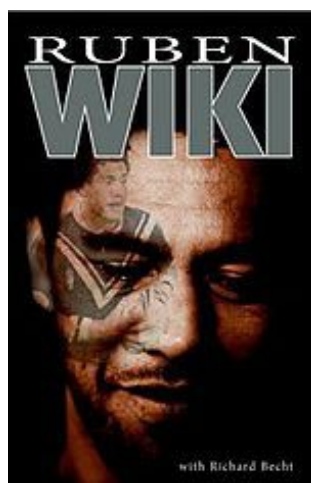
Each of these books is signed by the league star themselves.



Be Your Best By Steve Price with Ben Blaschke



Kiwi Warrior by Stacey Jones with Richard Becht



Ruben Wiki with Richard Becht



NRL 2015 NRL Season Guide



2x 2012 Vodafone Warriors, Wendy's limited edition player cards, with a special album.



Courtesy of Canterbury we are giving away a 2015 Vodafone Warriors Home Jersey.



February - March 2015 Big League Magazine

To be into win 1 of these 8 fantastic prizes just send a stamped, addressed envelope or postcard to me in the mail with your name, address and phone number on the back to the address below.

Massive NRL Giveaway

P.O Box 54295

The Marina 2144, Manukau, Auckland

Drawn on Thursday 5th March



SHOOT FOR THE STARS

.....
6.30 PM, Saturday March 7, 2015

Air Force Museum
45 Harvard Ave, Wigram, Christchurch

BOOK NOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Tables of Ten - \$1650 | Individuals - \$165
Call 0800 737 606 or txt 021 198 8895

Black Tie Dress Code
.....

Shoot for the Stars - Charity Dinner and Mega Auction

The night will be hosted by The Breezes Sue White and with Entertainment by Bonita Danger Doll. You will be wined and dined and be given the chance to bid for exclusive auction items. This will be a special night you'll never forget. Stacey Herbert was seriously injured on 22 February 2011 from the devastating 6.3 magnitude earthquake that hit Canterbury. Her life was changed forever when Doctors had to amputate both legs to save her life.

With your help and the help of Mike Pero Real Estate and The Mike Pero Foundation we are raising funds to send Stacey to the Hanger Clinics Lower Extremity Prosthetic Programme in Oklahoma USA, which works to restore mobility by combining an array of state-of-the art technology and years of experience. With your help we can get Stacey back on her feet.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EVENT OF THE YEAR. BOOK NOW AS TICKETS ARE STRICTLY LIMITED

If your unable to attend this event and would like to help Stacey, you can drop into any BNZ branch and ask to donate to The Rise Up Stacey Trust or visit www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/riseupstacey2

Mike Pero
REAL ESTATE

Mike Pero
FOUNDATION

Auction items can be donated to the following Mike Pero Real Estate offices Cashmere-Fendalton-Bishopdale

Thanks to **Fantastic Fridays, Vodafone** are offering their customers 2 for 1 tickets for every Vodafone Warriors home game this season

Helping you and your mates to be part of the live match action and celebrate the 20th Season

Limited 2 for 1 deals available for each match so get in quick - check out www.vodafone.co.nz/sports to get your tickets



Vodafone customer?

Get **2 for 1** tickets to see the Vodafone Warriors take on the Eels.
Saturday 21 March 2015 at Mt Smart Stadium

Find out more at www.vodafone.co.nz/ff-sports/



If you wish to **subscribe** or **unsubscribe** please email Stephen Maier at stephan.maier@medstar.co.nz

Our Sponsors

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



The Newsletter Team

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



Sir Peter Leitch
Editor



David Kemeys
Editor at Large



Hayden Woodhead
Graphic Designer



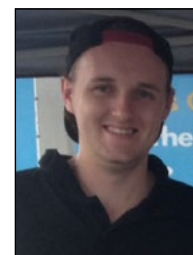
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