



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter 9 April 2015 #67

IN THIS ISSUE WE PAY TRIBUTE TO  
THE BEAST: MANU VATUVEI  
#FEEDTHEBEAST



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

I'M not going to talk too much about last week, just too many mistakes. But I am very excited about this Saturday night against Wests Tigers when Manu Vatuvei celebrates his 200th NRL game.

There have been times when he has been bagged, and plenty of people who have said he would never last, but he just keeps bouncing along, and any NRL side would love to have him.

I have had the pleasure of knowing him since day one, and the pleasure of having him in the Kiwis. He is a wonderful bloke, and an absolutely kind and gentle man who must laugh every time he hears his "The Beast" nickname.

It could not be less appropriate because he is such a gentle giant. I am proud to call him a friend and really hope the fans come out in droves to support him on his milestone. He deserves it. Top bloke.

## Tomkins To Go Back To UK

Sad to hear fullback Sam Tomkins is to be granted an early release. Vodafone Warriors managing director Jim Doyle said we had reluctantly agreed to allow Sam to return to England a year before the end of his contract in 2016.

That probably won't come as much of a surprise since there has been talk for a little while about him not settling here in Auckland and being terribly homesick.



*Courtesy www.photosport.co.nz*

Doyle said while Sam was still enjoying his time with in New Zealand he had cited homesickness as an ongoing factor.

"He came here excited about testing himself in the NRL and also experiencing living in a new country but, in the end, Sam has found it too much of a challenge being away from home."

Sam is determined to finish his time with us in the best way he can and is working to recover from his knee injury so he can regain his spot.

## Welcome Aboard Roger

Sam might be going, but Kiwi international Roger Tuivasa-Sheck is coming.

He has signed a three-year deal from next season and coach Andrew McFadden said while

disappointed Tomkins wouldn't be with the club, he was elated about snaring the Sydney Roosters star.

"He's a wonderful talent and a fantastic signing."

Roger seems to have been around a long time but is in fact still only 21, and has already made a real mark in the NRL and the Kiwis. "While we're naturally thrilled and Roger is just as excited, we both have the same focus for the rest of the year. He's solely interested in doing all he can for the Roosters, just as we know Sam wants to do the same for us," McFadden said.

Apia-born, Auckland-raised Tivasa-Sheck, an Otahuhu College product, was in the Roosters' NRL premiership-winning side in 2013 and also played in the Rugby League World Cup final for the Kiwis.



*Roger Tuivasa-Sheck  
Getty Images*

## 200 Not Out For Manu

As I said, there is only one place to be on Saturday night and that is Mt Smart Stadium to watch one of league's good guys celebrate a major milestone.

Manu Vatuvei will bring up his 200th game for the Vodafone Warriors when he takes the field at 7.30pm.

He has been with the club for almost as long as I was a butcher,

and he is streets ahead of anyone else in tries scored.

For some reason he still seems to suffer a bit from the notion he is liable to drop the ball, but that dates from the dark ages when he had a shocking night against Parramatta.

These days he is one of the most reliable players in the entire NRL, his try scoring rate is something most wings can only dream of, and he is also one of the hardest working players off the field.

Only last week I know he was at Middlemore Hospital to help them with their Jammies in June planning, along with his good mate Glen Fisiiahi.

He is a very fine player, a terrific family man and a great worker for the community.

I could not be more pleased for the man they call The Beast.

As I said, I really hope we get a great crowd if just for his 200th alone, because he deserves it.

## NSW Cup Side Downed

The Wyong Roos taught us a lesson, winning 42-6. The Roos maintained their perfect win-loss sequence of the opening five rounds belting us, a good achievement considering we were second on the ladder. We actually led early on, but from then on it was one-way traffic.

## Juniors Fall Short

The Vodafone warriors Juniors lost their Holden Cup encounter against the Storm 38-28.



## Manu's Big Night

Manu Vatuvei's landmark 200th will be front and centre when we take on Wests Tigers on Saturday.

The try-scoring record holder provides one of the most significant individual achievements of the club's 20th anniversary season by becoming only the third player to appear in 200 games for the Vodafone Warriors, joining Stacey Jones (261) and captain Simon Mannering (217).

Now in his 12th consecutive NRL campaign – another club record – Manu is also on track for two other milestones. With his third try of the season against Melbourne he has 138, just two short of joining Nigel Vagana on 140 tries (Vagana scored his in 240 games), the most by a New Zealander in the competition.

And he needs seven more this year for the unprecedented achievement of scoring 10 or more tries in 10 consecutive seasons.

"Manu's 200th game is a massive achievement, a really special moment not just for him but for the club and for everyone who supports the Vodafone Warriors and the game of rugby league," coach Andrew McFadden said.

"Playing 200 games for one club only doesn't happen too often and what Manu has done for us and for the game can't be overstated. He stands for all the values we like our players to aspire to. As a player and a person he is one of the best and we'd really love people to turn out in big numbers to honour and support him. He certainly deserves it."

Vatuvei will have long-time

Vodafone Warriors team-mates alongside him against the Tigers. Mannering, who started his career a year after Vatuvei in 2005, plays his 218th game this week while props Ben Matulino (157 games) and Jacob Lillyman (129 games for the club) will also be there plus halfback Shaun Johnson, hookers Thomas Leuluai and Nathan Friend and centre Konrad Hurrell.

Of the line-up used in the loss to the Storm, the only move sees Albert Vete back on the interchange with Dominique Peyroux listed as 18th man; Peyroux was on the bench against the Storm but wasn't used.

Matulino, Leuluai, Lillyman, Ryan Hoffman, Bodene Thompson and Mannering have been named as the starting forwards for the fifth consecutive week; they've all played every match so far this season, as have bench forwards Friend and Sam Lisone. In the backline, the man of the moment Vatuvei has played every game, too, as have fullback Tuimoala Lolohea, centre Solomone Kata, standoff Chad Townsend and Johnson.

## Cappy Gets Frustrated

Warriors coach Andrew McFadden was clearly a bit peeved by our 30-14 NRL loss to the Storm.

Let's face it, we got flogged five tries to three and never looked likely. It was very disappointing. But I heard Cappy on the radio and he did not hold back, calling it another game that started with promise, but ended with errors.

"We didn't really give ourselves a chance with the amount of errors we made. They're just fundamental ones. Two weeks in a row we've

come up with the same stuff."

Hard to disagree and there are one or two groans from the fans, you can't deny it. We have not fired yet this season and it is high time that we did.

You can't win a game if you drop that much ball.

Even our captain seemed a bit dejected. Simon Mannering said our handling let us down. "We put a lot of effort in and then we let the pressure off. It's frustrating for the team and it's only us who can fix it."

Hard to disagree and a better performance on Saturday night is the least we can expect.

## Triple-Header Will Be A Treat

Saturday is a triple-header, with the Vodafone Warriors Juniors kicking off at 3.15pm, followed by the NSW Cup at 5.15pm and of course the big game at 7.30pm.

## Kiwis Set For ANZAC Outing

I am going to Queensland for the Anzac test, when the Four Nations champion Kiwis take on the world champion Aussies at Suncorp on May 1.

Despite the fact we have referred to these games as the Anzac test, this one is actually the first official Anzac test, because it is being played in honour of 100 years of Anzacs.

Before the game there is going to be entertainment that will showcase "The Spirit of the Anzacs", with some of Australia's finest entertainers honouring 100 years of Anzac pride.

*Continued on next page...*

The Kiwi Ferns will take on the Jillaroos in the curtain-raiser, and the following day up on the Gold Coast the Junior Kiwis play the Aussies, Fiji plays PNG and Tonga faces Samoa.

It would be wonderful to have a good Kiwi contingent there.



I will be doing a special newsletter to show support for our three national teams, the Kiwis, Kiwi Ferns and Junior Kiwis, and I expect everyone to send it on to anyone they know, especially if they are across the ditch and able to get to the games to support our teams.

### Doggies Fans Let Us Down

There is no two ways about it, everyone is talking about only one thing, the horrible scenes after the Bunnies beat the Doggies 18-17, and the fans went berserk.



I have been following it in the Aussie papers and no matter where you stand, it is not a great look for our game when touchies end up in hospital because they have been hit with bottles.

When I sat down to write this the Bulldogs were considering whether to fight charges levelled against four of their players, including James Graham and David Klemmer, who fair went for the referee when he awarded a penalty.

Graham got slapped with a grade-three contrary conduct charge for his blow-up with the ref, and a grade-two dangerous contact

charge after he took out the legs of Adam Reynolds — and ultimately injured his knee — as he tried to prevent a field goal. He got four weeks on the sidelines combined.

Klemmer faced up to four weeks for the grade-three contrary conduct charge after he told the ref: “You’re off your f ... ing face, mate.” He got three weeks.

We all get frustrated with refs, Warriors fans more than most for obvious reasons, but this is just horrible.

Good Kiwi girl turned Bulldogs boss Raelene Castle has her work cut out for her on this one.

Michael Lichaa was charged with a grade-one contrary conduct charge for also taking aim at the ref, but won’t miss any games with an early plea. Sam Kasiano copped a grade-two dangerous contact charge for coming down on Issac Luke with his knees, and got two weeks.

There is talk of the Doggies being stripped of points, and it would be hard to argue against it, although to be fair, it was not the players hurling bottles in the crowd.

### NRL Boss Chimes In

NRL boss Dave Smith said he was disappointed with the events, which would not be tolerated in league.

He said the events both on and off the field would be considered thoroughly and carefully. “These matters were serious and extremely disappointing for the entire game and do not reflect the game’s values both on and off-the-field.”

### Buzz Rothfield Begg To Differ

Leading Aussie sports journalist Phil “Buzz” Rothfield takes a totally different view in the Daily Telegraph. I’ve printed some of what he had to say for you here in a column he warned was no politically correct.

...It’s about how league has thrived on controversy, outrage and scandal since 1908. It brings out our passion, tribalism and true love for the game.

Social media goes into meltdown. Channel 9 gets super ratings and it sells lots of newspapers. Our website had 34,000 readers vote on the controversial penalty — an unbelievable response.

Next time the Bulldogs play the Rabbitohs it will be on for young and old. Sadly, we have to wait until round 24, until we get to witness a replay of what has now become the game’s most-anticipated grudge match.

What happened was obviously unacceptable behaviour. Fans should not have thrown bottles, while James Graham and Dave Klemmer should have shown more respect. We all know that.

But what it has done is kickstart the NRL season with the massive explosion it needed.

After a flat opening four rounds with poor crowds, Sydney is talking league again. Maybe for the wrong reasons but we’re still talking: any publicity is good publicity.



## THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 6 ISSUE...

Big Manu Vatuvei becomes the third Warrior to reach the 200 NRL game milestone.

### FEATURES

- He's a favourite among rugby league fans everywhere and **Manu Vatuvei** reaches the 200-game mark this weekend after almost walking away from the game eight years ago;
- Things can run in cycles in rugby league and **Sam Thaiday** is learning that with the **Brisbane Broncos** and his personal game too. The club is returning to what made it strong and big Sam is finding his game back where it began;
- When **Lyall Gorman** took over as CEO of the **Cronulla Sharks** late last year he had to put in place values and plans in order to move the club on from one of its toughest periods. The future looks bright in the Shire;
- **James Segeyaro** is a new age No.9, causing havoc around the ruck and playing more a 'dummy-half' role than having a 'rake' job. And he's excited that the game could become even faster;
- **Tim Grant** has moved on from some testing times at Penrith to be settled and happy at Redfern and he has a friendly reminder of his time at the foot of the mountains every week in his South Sydney locker.

**PLUS...** **Greg Alexander** takes a look at the contenders to be the NSW Blues halves pairing this year and who's in the lead; **Matt Elliott** addresses pressure in professional sport and how people may react to that when considering last Friday's Bulldogs-Rabbitohs match; **Nathan Brown** thinks the Dragons are doing enough at the moment but their attack has a long way to go to challenge the competition.

**AND:** Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Broncos v Roosters, lower grade reviews, News: Toovey not under pressure and Manly chasing Elgey, Jack Bird overcame arthritis to star, Widdop content at Dragons, Price says charge down is dead; Top 8 jersey designs; and Rabbitohs team poster.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

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# #FEED THE BEAST



**Manu Vatuvei** plays his 200th NRL match for the Vodafone Warriors on Saturday night, becoming only the third player to do so after Stacey Jones and Simon Mannering. We think that's fairly special and you can help to spread the word about Manu's magic milestone with #FeedTheBeast

## What's it all about?

#FeedTheBeast basically means 'Give Manu the ball.' Why? Because he knows how to score tries – 138 of them so far and counting.

To play 200 NRL games for just one club is a major achievement, especially for a player like Manu who has played on the wing for his whole career. Now in his 12th NRL season, he's by far the Vodafone Warriors' leading try-scorer and is only two tries away from equalling the all-time record for most tries by a New Zealander in the competition. We'd love to see as many members and fans as possible get behind Manu Vatuvei by chanting 'Feed the Beast' at Mount Smart Stadium this Saturday night.

## What can you do?

If you're on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, we'd love a post from you using this sign and the hashtag '#FeedTheBeast' giving Manu Vatuvei a shout out in the lead up to Saturday's game. If you could use one of the below handles, even better:

Manu Vatuvei | Twitter: @manuvatuvei | Instagram: @manuvatuvei

Vodafone Warriors | Twitter: @nzwarriors | Instagram: @nzwarriors | Facebook: facebook.com/vodafonewarriors

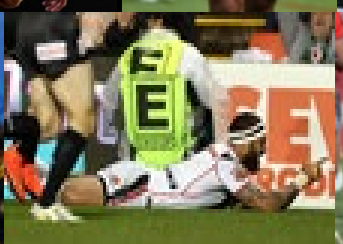
## When is the game?

What: Vodafone Warriors v Wests Tigers

When: 7.30pm, Saturday 11 April

Where: Mount Smart Stadium, Auckland

Tickets: [www.ticketek.co.nz/vodafonewarriors](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/vodafonewarriors)



# Manu's '200 Club' Milestone Only Measures Part Of His Huge Value To The Warriors

By John Deaker



Manu Vatuvei plays his 200th NRL game for the Warriors this Saturday night and it's a significant achievement for the Warriors club as well as the man fans fondly call "The Beast". Many milestones seem to be talked up more than they warrant in the modern game but the fact that Manu becomes only the 3rd Warrior behind Stacey Jones and Simon Mannering to bring up his double century with the club is just one of many reasons why Saturday night is highly significant.

It was right back in 2004 that Manu kicked off his NRL career with the Warriors against South Sydney. He made his test debut the following year and for most of the last decade he's been regarded as one of the most dangerous wingers in the NRL. He scored his 138th try for the club on Monday night against Melbourne but that brilliant strike-rate doesn't do him justice by taking into account the huge number of tries he's also set up - especially since he's become one of the best in the game at tapping back cross-kicks to give his team-mates.

As Manu has developed as a player and a person much of his best work at the Warriors hasn't been obvious from analysing the on-field statistics. He has become an inspirational figure for team-mates and youngsters at the club. He provides a down-to-earth ( he'd probably say 'humble' ) role-model for most young Polynesians that begin at the club with intentions of kicking on to the NRL. He's someone they can relate to that's proven that with the right commitment local talent can come through the Warriors development squads and kick on to a lengthy and lucrative NRL career.

On the field Manu's dynamic combination of his size and speed have been what have made him so lethal and why he's commanded so much respect from opposition teams throughout his career. Comparisons to Jonah Lomu haven't been far off the mark. Manu's good health and the longevity of his career have meant he's probably been able to improve many of the weaknesses in his game like taking the high ball and his judgement in defence a lot better than Lomu was able to do by the time his career ended.

in last year's Four Nations final Manu proved he is still a match winner at international highest level and that he still has enough speed to remain one of the most destructive and dangerous wingers in rugby league. More significant than Manu's natural loss of speed over time has actually been the fact that most NRL teams have atleast one winger over 100kg in their ranks now and their outside backs are generally more equipped to combat Manu's physicality than when he started his career.

Fortunately the Warriors' coaches in recent years have left Manu on the wing despite many people calling for him to move into the forwards. Calls came for Jonah to make a similar move late in his career. To have moved into the pack would surely have limited the amount of times per match that Manu could get himself in the position where he's most effective: when he can isolate defenders 1 on 1 on the ground or in the air.

One of the many reasons the Warriors' coaches have been reluctant to move Manu from the wing has been the limited amount of classy wingers that have emerged through their ranks. The fact that Bill Tupou played 62 games for the club between 2010 and 2013 along with their use of a tradesman like Jonathon Wright on the wing at the moment is testament to that.

As he nears the end of his career the club needs to address the question: Where do they get the next "Beast"? New Zealand is a country that produces an astonishing amount of fast, powerful outside backs in rugby union so somehow the Warriors need to find a way of tapping in to some of that raw talent. Taking the gamble of signing a couple of Super rugby wingers or even looking further afield to the Islands could be two ways the Warriors could secure some better wingers in the future.

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Like many great players it's often when Manu is injured or unavailable that his value to the team becomes most apparent. Life without Manu is a proposition that Warriors fans aren't ready to consider yet though. Even when they lose he's still able to give fans a few memorable moments like his bone-crunching tackle on Billy Slater at the weekend.

His exciting play on the field combined with his charismatic personality off it mean it's very likely that a huge crowd will be there at Mt Smart Stadium this Saturday night to support him when the Warriors take on the West Tigers. This will be justified recognition for the man who encapsulates all the best things that the Warriors club has to offer.

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**Drawn  
Thursday 23rd April**

# Vodafone Warriors vs Wests Tigers

## Team Line Ups

**R6 - 11/04/2015 Mt Smart Stadium, 7.30 PM Kick Off**

<b>v</b>	T. Lolohea	FB	James Tedesco
<b>2</b>	Jonathan Wright	W	Kevin Naiqama
<b>2</b>	Konrad Hurrell	C	Tim Simona
<b>4</b>	Solomone Kata	C	Chris Lawrence
<b>5</b>	Manu Vatuvei	W	Pat Richards
<b>6</b>	Chad Townsend	5/8	Mitchell Moses
<b>7</b>	Shuan Johnson	HB	Luke Brooks
<b>8</b>	Jacob Lillyman	P	Aaron Woods
<b>9</b>	Thomas Leuluai	H	Robbie Farah
<b>10</b>	Ben Matulino	P	Keith Galloway
<b>11</b>	Bodene Thompson	2R	Curtis Sironen
<b>12</b>	Ryan Hoffman	2R	Kyle Lovett
<b>13</b>	Simon Mannering	L	Martin Taupau
<b>Interchange</b>			
<b>14</b>	Nathan Friend	INT	Dene Halatau
<b>15</b>	S.Ikahihiho	INT	A.Seumanufagi
<b>16</b>	Samuel Lisone	INT	Jack Buchanan
<b>17</b>	Albert Vete	INT	Sauaso Sue
<b>18</b>	Albert Vete	INT	Asipeli Fine

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## Terry Williamson is All Ears

By Andrew Voerman of the Christchurch Star

**H**E'S still settling in to his new role as the chief executive of Canterbury Rugby League, and wants to begin by talking to as many people involved in the game as he possibly can.

"Basically I want to get a state of the nation, I suppose, what our current state is, because I know where we need to be, but before you know where you want to go, you need to know where you are."

As part of that, he plans on being a regular presence on the sidelines on Saturday afternoons, and says the CRL board will be doing the same.

"Our board is going to get a lot more involved in premier games, especially for club days. It's important that we're seen out there, most of our board are elected by the clubs . . . and it's important that we're seen out there, and talking to people.

"How are we going to improve the game if we don't listen to people? My sort of philosophy is that we need to lift the brand, we need to lift the profile of rugby league."

A new strategic plan for CRL is set to be unveiled at next Wednesday's annual meeting, but Williamson already knows what his chief task is: Finding a new home for league, to replace the one they gave up in the aftermath of the earthquakes, which he says will be an important step for the league community.

"We've got a couple of options up our sleeves – Nga Puna Wai, that's been okayed by the council now, so that could be an option. Rugby League Park could be an option – there are lots of places.

"We gave up that right for AMI Stadium, but we did it for the right reasons and I think a lot of people are appreciative of that. We need to get back to having a home and I think that's one of the key things that (the board) wants me to do."

Williamson's sporting background consists mostly of rugby – he was manager of the Canterbury under-19 side for six years, and the Tasman Makos ITM Cup side for three – but he has always been a fan of the 13-man code, and is quick to point out that he did play two games for the Linwood Keas some years ago.

He was Lion Foundation's regional sales manager in Christchurch from 2007 until January, when he was chosen for the CRL job out of the four candidates who applied.

"When I saw the role come up, I just thought it would be a good wee challenge and I'm passionate about sports and sports administration and I thought it was something I could add value to from a personal perspective," he says.

One of his first undertakings has been to find a new office in Casebrook for himself and CRL's three staff – office manager Rochelle MacPherson, who he says is the "backbone of the business," operations manager Chou Teiwaki, and development officer David McMeeken; they'd previously been operating out of the squash courts in Hornby.

At Tasman, Williamson worked alongside Lee Germon, who is now the chief executive of Canterbury Cricket, and he says he is keen to draw on what other codes have learnt to help shape what he does with rugby league.

"Why should we reinvent the wheel? There are a lot of learnings from other sports (we can take).

"I know Sport Canterbury do a lot of work getting CEOs from minority organisations to get together (to) feed ideas off (each other) and I think that's critical for us. We're all fighting for the same sponsorship dollar and we're all fighting for the kids, so it's important that we all work together and look at ways we can actually improve kids in sport."

Canterbury Rugby League's latest set of finances will also be disclosed at next week's meeting, and Williamson says that they weren't the greatest, with the organisation having to bear some unexpected costs as a result of the Canterbury Bulls' run to the national premiership title.

"Reaching the final had consequences for us, because it was extra funds we had to generate, but hopefully we've accounted for that this year. We've budgeted to reach the final again so it won't come as a shock."

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The Bulls are at the centre of much of what Williamson wants to do. He would like to turn their home games into family fun days; he sees attracting more children along as the key to producing larger crowds and a bull-costumed mascot is already in the works.

He has also mentioned the possibility of streaming Bulls games over the internet, a method adopted by other sports that struggle for TV coverage, such as football, hockey and rowing.

“That’s an opportunity because it gets people who are passionate about the game who can’t be there to look at games, so I’d like to look at (it).”

Williamson also wants greater recognition of the sport’s past, in order to provide children who are getting into league for the first time with heroes and idols to look up to.

“We’ve got a lot of history, but we’re not showing it,” he says.

“Who are the guys that have gone before? We’ve got to tap into our history. Our guys are creating history, but you can’t forget the past.”

He points to the tributes for the stalwarts Peter Yaxley and Keith Roberts, who both died last month, as an example of where an opportunity may have been missed.

“It’s good that they’re finally getting acknowledged, but we shouldn’t be acknowledging them when they’ve passed away, we should be acknowledging them while they’re still around.”

When Williamson’s predecessor Craig Kerr left his role of general manager late last year, he expressed a desire to see the number of league clubs in the city reduced, in order to ensure the sustainability of the

game going forward.

While noting that he’s not yet entirely up to speed with the ins and outs of the situation, Williamson doesn’t think mergers or amalgamations are needed, but says clubs should be looking at ways they could share resources.

“There’s a lot of history in these clubs and a lot of them aren’t going to give that up. I think it’s about trying to make them sustainable.”

He sees himself staying in the role for several years at least – “until I start running out of ideas and people get sick of me,” he jokes –and believes there is plenty of potential for league to grow, especially when the struggles of its sister code rugby union are considered.

“I think Steve Hansen said the other day, rugby was boring, and you commend the guy for standing up and saying that, because rugby is a bit stagnant at the moment, and league’s a fast-flowing, it’s a full-on game and I think a lot of people want that. They want to see action; they want to see the ball in play, so we need to build on that.”



*Terry  
Williamson*



**ROUND 6: Warriors v Wests Tigers**  
**Mt Smart Stadium, THIS Saturday 11th April**  
**Gates Open: 3.00pm**  
**NYC: 3.15pm Kick-off**  
**NSW: 5.15pm Kick-off**  
**NRL: 7.30pm Kick-off**  
**Theme: Best of the West / Manu’s 200th. Game**



# Check out Reader Alistar Wood's Trip

Sir Peter,

Sharon and I had the best Easter ever (the only low point being the Monday loss to the Storm, but we'll bounce back). I have attached a couple of photos. We had a fantastic day's fishing (big Blue Cod and Sea Perch) with Moeraki Fishing Charters. Callum and his crew took really good care of us. We then had a meal at Fleur's Place in Moeraki. This is the restaurant that Rick Stein rated as his favourite (in the world). Fleur's is a very special place, unique surroundings and the freshest seafood possible. A quick stop at Oamaru to see Steam Punk HQ.

On the way back to Christchurch we swung past Mount Cook (Aoraki) which was clear, calm and majestic. We are fortunate to live in a very special corner of the world. I would encourage any of your followers to check out <http://www.moerakifishingcharters.co.nz/> and <http://www.fleursplace.com/> if they are down south. They will not be disappointed. Plenty of good accommodation available at very good rates (\$115 pn, sleeps 5) <http://www.moerakibeachmotels.co.nz/>.

Go the Mighty Vodaphone Warriors! - Alastair Wood



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# Charles Savoy - Hero of Gallipoli

By John Coffey QSM



**I**N the five years from 1910 Charles Savory was the most controversial but also one of the most skilful all-round sportsmen in New Zealand. As a top-line forward in both rugby codes and a successful heavyweight boxer he was the Sonny Bill Williams of his time.

Savory was constantly in strife with rugby officials of both codes and the central figure in a massive split between the Auckland and New Zealand leagues. But he was also good enough to be chosen for Australasia. Tragically, he lost his life at Anzac Cove in Gallipoli.

Born in 1889, Savory was a Ponsonby man who might well have become an All Black. In 1910, however, he incurred a two-year suspension for alleged kicking and switched codes to the fledgling Ponsonby United rugby league club.

He proved to be a natural at the new game, relishing the fierce forward exchanges and touring Australia with the 1911 New Zealand team. So impressive was he across the Tasman that he was one of four Kiwis chosen to tour Britain with the Kangaroos. Savory had the misfortune to break a hand in the opening match and was restricted to four appearances.

Fit again, Savory was sent off in a 1912 club game against Newtown Rangers and suspended by the Auckland Rugby League for the rest of the season. When he appealed the ARL refused to hear his case. That cost him a second tour to Australia.

Worse was to follow in 1913. ARL executive members gave themselves the right to report any players for “rough or foul play” and they accused Savory of kicking an opponent when Ponsonby met Manukau Rovers. Ignoring claims of mistaken identity, the ARL disqualified him for life.

Savory had already been named in the 1913 New Zealand team to go to Australia. He was replaced but allowed to appeal to the NZRL, which decided the sentence imposed on Savory was “unwarranted” and asked Auckland to reopen the case.

Auckland refused. The NZRL then voted to acquit Savory. In retaliation, Auckland expelled Savory and struck his name off the players’ register. But, with the

blessing of the NZRL, Savory played for New Zealand against the New South Wales touring team.

In October 1913 the NZRL suspended the ARL executive for its handling of the Savory case and “defiance”. Auckland was given one last chance to re-register Savory but when the deadline passed on December 4, the 14-man ARL executive was disqualified. In January 1914 the NZRL approved a “new” ARL administration.

Savory was a member of the 1914 New Zealand team which all but upset the Ashes-winning England tourists at Auckland Domain, losing only 16-13 despite being amateurs up against professionals. Soon after that he won the national amateur heavyweight boxing title.

As such, Lance Corporal Savory was an inspiration to the nervous men around him as their boat approached Anzac Cove on May 8, 1915. Savory was fatally shot when, despite not being required to go ashore, he announced “I am going to fight for my country” and led the charge to the beach. His death was widely mourned by the Auckland sporting community.

The Bill Kelly Memorial Trophy has been at stake in mid-year Tests in memory of another Kiwi who also represented Australia before being wounded in the First World War.

Is it now time to introduce the Charles Savory Medal for the Man of the Match in future Anzac Tests – or at least in this special Gallipoli centenary year when the Kiwis and Kangaroos clash at Brisbane on May 1?



*This weekend's game we pay tribute to the Beast. This is one of only ten t-shirts made to celebrate the occasion and I got to model it!*



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### **GAME TWO – Curtain raiser to Premier GAME**

**Tbc Time:** Waitemata Seagull Premier 1<sup>st</sup> v Mt Wgtn Warriors

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

**2:30:** Waitemata Premiers v Mt Wellington Warriors

**Venue:** Waitemata Seagulls RL Club,  
Robertson Road,  
Ranui Domain, RANUI

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**Time:** 1 – 2:30pm (skills + game)

**Grades:** All Welcome

**Cost:** No Charge



**ANZAC  
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*Physical Disability Rugby League New Zealand*







## What a Weekend of Sport

**F**IRSTLY I hope you all had a happy and safe Easter weekend.

What an amazing weekend of sport. The Hurricanes 7-0 this season continuing their dominance in the Super XV while the Blues drop of 0-7 despite being 0-7 the Blues biggest defeat this season was 12 against the Waratahs all their other defeats have been less than 10 points. The Sevens rugby was exciting, Canada finishing fourth overall in the Tokyo leg, other smaller teams like Portugal (Argentina) and USA (Australia & Samoa) getting good upset wins. Two legs to go, South Africa (129pts) England (125pts) and New Zealand (120pts) all have a chance of winning it all.

The events that occurred in the Rabbitohs v Bulldogs game were appalling. It ruined what was probably the game of the year thus far. The referees handled the closing stages well, it was clearly a penalty, its in the rules can't argue with it, David Klemmer and James Graham will be getting suspended for a number of weeks and the Bulldogs could get competition points stripped. Then the events that transpired after the game with the fans and referee's getting bottles thrown at them was disgusting. Other than that, it was an exciting NRL week.

The College Basketball final four in America was a great watch with Duke Blue Devils and Wisconsin Badgers beating Michigan State Spartans and Kentucky Wildcats respectively to play in the National Championship in front of over 67,000 spectators. Duke won the game 68-63 to clinch their 5th championship.

Along with the AFL was back last weekend, the fight for the A-League is going down to the wire, the ANZ Championship. Awesome weekend of sport, and plenty more to come.

## Northtec Adam Blair Trophy Final

Whangarei Boys high school are the 2015 Northtec Adam Blair Trophy champions after defeating Kaitiaki college 38-20 in the final at Lindvart Park in Kaikohe. Both teams dominated their respective conferences during pool play, both going undefeated and continued their dominance in the semi finals.

But Whangarei Boys High School were just better on the day, they were clearly on a mission to win back the Adam Blair trophy after being upset in last years final 12-10 against Kamo College. Whangarei Boys player Caleb Aekins won player of the game.

Northland College and Kura Hokianga played out a 34all draw in the third and fourth playoff, it was Northland College's fourth draw in seven games this season. Dargaville High School dominated the Plate final 52-8 over Bay Of Islands College.

Round 3 of the Scott Electrical Premiership was an exciting one, with plenty of high scoring games. Moerewa remain unbeaten and top of the table with a 48-6 victory over Horahora, Takahiwai beat Kerikeri 62-14, Hokianga got their first win of the season beating Otangarei 48-24, Hikurangi kept Northern Wairoa winless beating them 40-24 and Portland beat Muriwhenua 26-12.



## Rugby Union

The College First XV season starts very soon, and Whangarei Boys High School played in the annual first xv pre-season match between Saint-Kentigern College. They have played this annual match for five years now. An injury riddled Whangarei Boys team was handed a beating going down 63-0.

The Southern District Premiers Competition started last Thursday with a number of great games. To Open the season, the Western Sharks won a very close game 7-6 against Mid Western. Weslford got a good win against HoraHora 56-12, Mid Northern beat Hikurangi by a very similar score 56-13, Otamatea beat Kamo in a close encounter 22-18, Old Boys Marist had a convincing win against Waipu 43-20.



# Four Nations Trophy Heads South

By Grant Chapman, Communication Manager, NZRL



**W**HEN the Four Nations Trophy visits the South Island over the next two weeks, it will continue a campaign that captured the hearts of rugby league fans and NZ Kiwis players alike last year.

One of NZ Rugby League's overriding aims for the tournament was to reconnect our national team with the rugby league community.

We so rarely get the chance to host international games in New Zealand, and then usually in league strongholds like Auckland and Wellington, mainly for commercial reasons.

But this time we took those fixtures to our most far flung outposts – Whangarei had never hosted the Kiwis and Dunedin hadn't see the national side in more than 80 years.

Those communities really opened their doors to our team, many of whom had never visited those areas before. On the flip side, the northern stay provided a unique opportunity for forward Adam Blair to return to his home town as a powerful role model.

That wave of support ultimately carried the Kiwis to victory, and now we're determined to continue the relationship between the Kiwis programme and the fans.

Over the past six months, we've taken the Four Nations Trophy to as many community events as possible for the enjoyment of the people.

Until now, those opportunities have fallen mainly within Auckland, but as the league season ramps up and our staff travel around the country more, we'll be touring the silverware further afield.

Two weeks ago, we took the cup north to Whangarei for the Northland RL annual meeting and a photo opportunity with mayor Sheryl Mai at Toll Stadium. Last weekend, it visited the Upper Central Zone Performance Camp at Tokoroa.

During its stay in the south, the trophy will visit clubs and key rebuild workplaces around Christchurch, as well as the Southern Zone Performance Camp on April 18/19.

Hopefully, this won't be the last trip to the Mainland and it certainly won't be the last time the Four Nations Trophy leaves the confines of the NZRL Museum.

Follow the Four Nations Trophy Tour on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fournationstrophy>







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# Men of League

By Barry Ross



**T**HIS season marks the 13th year of the Men of League. Jim Hall, Max Brown and Ron Coote AM were the men who were prominent in the early days and after a meeting involving around 120 former players at the NSW leagues club in Sydney, in July 2002, the Men of League was officially formed. Ron Coote was selected as President and today he is the Chairman. Coote, who was mainly a lock forward, has a wonderful playing record, representing Australia in 23 Tests, three as captain and is a member of the Australian Team of the Century as well as the greatest 100 Australian players.

He played a total of 257 first grade matches with Souths and the Roosters, scoring 87 tries. He also won six Premierships, four with South Sydney and two with the Roosters under legendary coach, Jack Gibson.

Hall is a qualified Barrister and played first grade with four different clubs, mostly as a prop forward. He was also the NRL judiciary commissioner in 1998. A speedy winger, Brown played 125 first grade games with the Bulldogs and then Manly, winning two Grand Finals with Manly in 1972 and 1973. He was also one of Australia's top male models in the 1970s, before this was common among league players. All three men are now 68.

Born in Wellington, New Zealand, in 1945, John Fahey AC, is the long term Patron and also a Board member. He came across the Tasman with his family at an early age and has been a naturalised Australian for many years. As a young man, he played some grade Rugby League with the Bulldogs and later was well known in Country NSW as both a player and coach. But politics was where Fahey really made his mark. He was Premier of NSW for three years from 1992 and after this became Federal Finance Minister when John Howard was Prime Minister. From 2007 to 2013, he was President of WADA (World Anti Doping Agency).

Nowadays, the Men of League has over 26,000 members and 42 branches and while most of the members are scattered throughout Australia, there are others all over the world, including New Zealand, England, France and Papua/New Guinea. The organisation is also an official Australian registered charity and because of this, all financial matters have to be carefully, scrutinised, examined and recorded.

The charter of the Men of League is to help anyone, male or female who are connected with our

game and have genuine health, financial or other problems. It is not just for former first grade players and there are several avenues where the body can help. These areas include medical services, nursing, rehabilitation, scholarships for younger players, career opportunities and mental health. Several years ago a woman who held a multitude of positions such as secretary, jersey washer, canteen lady and driver to far away games for junior Rugby League players in far western NSW with the Lightning Ridge Redbacks, had a stroke, which caused her problems with walking. The Men of League presented this hard working woman with a top of the range motorised wheelchair.

Gary Longhurst, who passed away in 2007 from motor neurone disease, aged just 43, was a former St. George and Penrith player. The Men of League provided support for Gary and his family as his condition worsened and as a result of this, Gary's daughter, Megan has begun a successful singing career. She sung at some Men of League functions and at 12 years of age, with the help of the Australian Rugby League, sang the national anthem at the 2006 Anzac Day, Australia-New Zealand Test match in Brisbane. Just last year she did very well in the Channel 9, programme, the Voice.

On 29 March this year, Sydney's Channel 7 screened a programme on former Australian Test five eighth, John "Bomber" Peard. John suffered a life threatening stroke in 2002 and the Men of League organised a dinner at Cronulla Leagues Club last September, to financially help John fly to the USA and attend the Institute of Neurological Recovery. The Rugby League community strongly supported this function and John flew to Los Angeles in November. Top rating 2GB radio man, and Rugby League commentator, Ray Hadley, was the MC for the night and also arranged several benefactors to support John. Ray gave his time and effort for free.

The Men of League raises some of its finances from a major dinner each year, as well as racing and golf days. The various branches hold functions throughout each year and this also helps with much needed finance. The current Board is Patron- Hon. John Fahey AC, Chairman- Ron Coote AM, Treasurer- Geoff Thoroughgood, Board Members- Martin Cook, Mark Gasnier, Darryl Van de Velde, Alan Sullivan QC, John Fahey AC, Chief Executive Officer Corene Strauss.

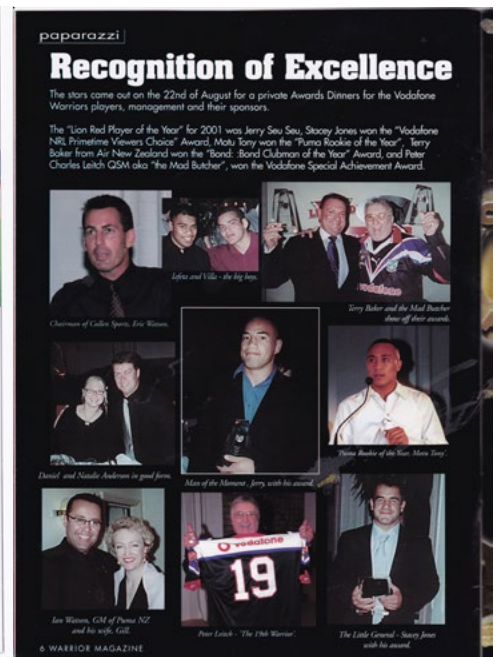
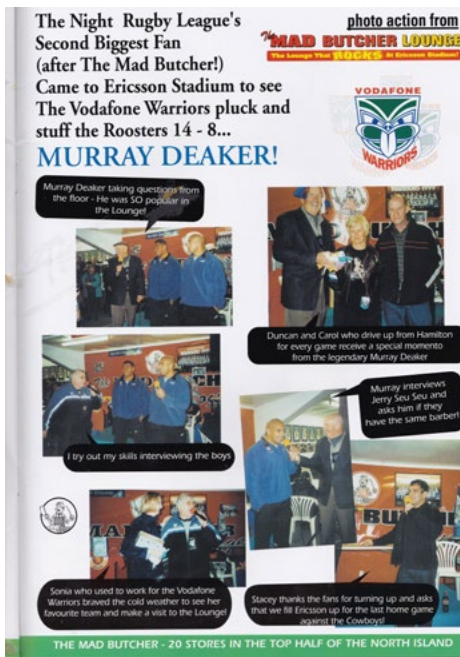


# BLASTS FROM THE PAST: 2001

From the day we plucked and stuffed the Roosters 14/8 in 2001.

From 2001: Nice to see J.A.RUS-SLELL still supporting our club.  
Thanks J.A.RUSSELL! From  
Sir Peter

From 2001. A page from the Warriors magazine with pictures from the awards night!



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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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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**David Kemeys**  
Editor at Large



**Hayden Woodhead**  
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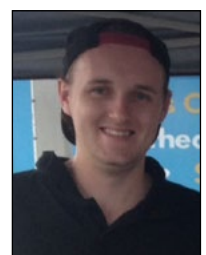
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