

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

30 April 2015

## Newsletter #70a

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

### Kiwis and Junior Kiwis Training in Brisbane



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

Support the Kiwis. Send an email of encouragement to [nadene@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:nadene@nzrl.co.nz)



**D**EXTER and I are living the dream, hanging out with the Kiwis and Junior Kiwis in Brisbane ahead of this weekend's massive round of international footy.

We owe a big vote of thanks to Kiwis coach Stephen Kearney and NZRL boss Phil Holden for letting us be part of it.

But despite having a ball, I'm disappointed there have not been a few more emails in support of the boys, and indeed the Kiwi Ferns too.

The Prime Minister, the Minister of Sport, Victoria Cross winner Willie Apiata, the Governor-General and even Marg Graydon from Waiheke Island have all taken the time to do it, so I'm urging Mad Butcher Club members to get in and do it too.

Just send your email direct to [nadene@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:nadene@nzrl.co.nz)

The messages mean a lot to the players, especially ahead of our first ever "official" Anzac Test, and one that commemorates 100 years since the Gallipoli landings in World War One.

### Games Will Be Televised

Great news from here in Queensland. All three national sides will have their games screened on Sky.

First up on Friday night will be the Kiwi Ferns taking on the Jillaroos in the curtain-raiser to the Kiwis v Kangaroos. That game is also on Sky and Radio Sport are carrying commentary too.

### Check Out The Footy Show

Don't miss The Footy Show on Sky on Thursday night because I

make my debut as an interviewer. I don't want to skite and do a lot of name-dropping, so you will just have to tune in to see who I collared.

I don't like to blow my own trumpet, because I am a pretty shy fellow as you know, but I am expecting a call from TV producers the world over offering me my own show as soon as this goes to air. Or it could be that my debut might coincide with my final appearance as an interviewer.

### The Home Of A Legend

We are based in Brisbane at North Devils, which was the home of absolute Kiwis legend Mark Graham, who of course is also one of the keynote speakers at our Kiwis lunch at the Ellerslie Events Centre in Auckland on June 12.

If you are outside of Auckland and would like to attend that event, which if I may say so myself, is going to be amazing, check out: [www.grabaseat.co.nz](http://www.grabaseat.co.nz).

There are some deals online there. Just click on packages and you will see the Ultimate League Weekend – in Auckland. I'd love to see you there.

### Food Seems To Be Pretty Important

We all like a good feed, and I have had a few over here.

Tuesday night I enjoyed a terrific family team dinner, which I thought was excellent. Players were invited to have their families along, and it certainly adds to the culture of the Kiwis environment. Every time we get together it is very family-orientated.

The word brotherhood gets used a lot, but it really means something within the Kiwis.

Three former players in David Solomona, Quentin Pongia and Sam Panapa were all there, adding their insights into what it is to pull on the black and white vee.

Wednesday is the big team lunch, with the Kiwis and Kangaroos all attending, so I'm looking forward to catching up with a few of my Aussie mates as well.

On Thursday we are taking the boys out for a bite to eat, just to get out of the hotel, so I'm looking forward to that one too.

### Off To The Gold Coast

Looking forward to heading to the Gold Coast, hopefully with two wins under our belt, to watch the Junior Kiwis take on their Aussie opposites. I just have this feeling that it is going to be a real belter.

Then international footy just goes on and on though, with that game followed by the first ever international between Fiji and Papua New Guinea, and then Samoa takes on Tonga, and those are always cracking games of high-intensity league.

### Wish You Were Here

The weather has been fantastic, the company superb, and even Dexter is pulling his weight, and to be fair, there's a lot of it to pull. So don't forget those emails!

Just send them direct to: [nadene@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:nadene@nzrl.co.nz)



# Kiwis Fans at Training - North Devils Rugby League Club

Every one that turned up at training wearing kiwi gear received a free flag from my mates from BLK.



Justin Harbottle and Tony Harris took the day off work to come!



Clem Henry & Justin Carroll loved the BLK Kiwis Flag.



Corey Page originally from Otaki just out of Wellington.



Josh Snr & Josh Jnr Harris are staunch Kiwi fans.



I just had to get a photo with this surf board very nice.



Jade Seaman proud to fly the Kiwi flag at training.



Neri and his son Reuben Tamariki, love the Kiwis.



Tyson & Acean Watene.



Mike Tapp ex Christchurch resident.



Brian Tamatea is Kiwi proud.



Oakley Pakeho loved watching the Kiwis train.



Our first recipient of the Kiwis flag young Jacob Mirrielees.



Stu Bright from Kina Help U was all smiles to get a free Kiwis flag.



Ethyn Brown.

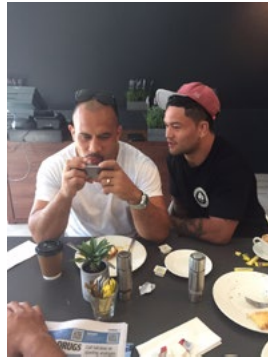
# BLK



# In the Kiwis Camp



Captain Mannering having a hearty breakfast on the eve of the test.



Sam Moa and Isaac Luke at brekkie listening to some funky sounds.



Sean Johnson, Kieran Foran, Isaac Luke and Manu Vatuvei.



Shaun Johnson having breakfast at the Pullman Hotel a few days before the ANZAC test.



Tohu Harris having a good feed at the Pullman Hotel Brisbane.



Tickets all sorted for the big game ANZAC test Brisbane this Friday.

## Kiwis Signing in Brisbane

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



Fan taking a photo with the boys.



Captain Simon Mannering signing autographs for fans.



Kodi Nikorima (l), Dallin Watene-Zelezniak and Peta Hiku (r).



Interviewing Shaun Johnson for the NRL Footy show on Thursday on SKY TV.

# Humble Kiwis

**I**T never fails to amaze me what kindness the kiwi side show to the public. On Tuesday when they were doing their signing session for our sponsor BLK in Queens Street Mall BRISBANE Dallin Watene-Zelezniak saw a young disabled fan and got out of his seat alongside all the kiwis went over to this young man and brought him a kiwi Jersey and then went on to get all his Kiwi colleagues to sign it for him. Dallin is young man who has shown me how humble these guys are.



*Dallin  
Watene-Zelezniak*

## Behind the scenes team

Grant chapman (media manager), Laurier hale (logistics manager), Simon Mathew (doctor), Karl McDonald (physio), Brent gemmell (Nzrl high performance Gm).



Nadine Conlon - National Ops Manager Kiwis Manager NZRL.

Joe Harawira - NRL / NZRL Wellbeing Manager. Joe served in the NZ army for 7yrs and went on operational tours of Bosnia and East Timor. Therefore Anzac is very special to him.

## ANZAC Test Luncheon

**A**T the ANZAC Test LUNCHEON we listened to a ex Australian Special Forces Commando Damien Thomlinson who served his country in Afghanistan. HE told us about his experience on the front line and how his vehicle ran over an explosive in the line of duty, the result left him critically hospitalised and to be fair it was very emotional and moving for us all. Everyone in the room was effected by his story. A couple of words come to mind and they are STRENGTH and COURAGE and a fitting commemoration speech. Damien embodies the ANZAC Spirit! A special mention to the NRL for honouring our ANZAC Servicemen and women, and in particular to Danielle Heptonstall for putting together a fantastic tribute. We salute our armed forces. Lest we forget.



Caught up with Greg Inglis at the LUNCHEON. Top bloke.



John Bishop, Philip Holden Damien Tomlinson, Sherron Fissenden, Brent Gemmell and Wally Lewis.



Steven Kearney looking very sharp as we head off to the LUNCHEON.



The king Wally Lewis and Dave Smith the CEO of the NRL AT THE LUNCHEON.





Kiwis players at their table.



Kiwis anxiously searching for their lunch.



Charles Savory medal. Presented to the fairest player on the day.



John Bishop-Director of NZRL, Phil Holden-CEO NZRL, Damian Tomlinson, Sherron Fessenden, Brent Gemmell, and Wally Lewis



Australian captain Cameron Smith, Australian coach Tim Sheens, New Zealand coach Steve Kearney and New Zealand Captain Simon Mannering



Simon Mannering (l) and Cameron Smith (r) assist Veteran Chris McHugh light the flame

Live in Christchurch and want to watch the test? Then head to the Cashmere Club!

Info: [Click here](#)

## 2015 KIWI'S ANZAC RANGE



Available From

**SHOP.NZRL.CO.NZ**

# A Fancy Dinner

WE had a lovely team dinner last night at a restaurant called Gambaro. Gambaro is opposite the famous JHotel the Claxton, a Brisbane Rugby League icon, just up the road from Suncorp stadium.



Living the dream. My mate Dexter even has his own card with the kiwis.



The Kiwis enjoying a meal at the famous Claxton Hotel Brisbane.



The boys are all smiles.



The menu to be enjoyed by all..

## Kiwis 2015 Team



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



# Auckland Rugby League Premiership

THE Auckland Rugby League Premiership seasons got underway in April, with the first three rounds now done and dusted.

In the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial it's the Glenora Bears with the early momentum, sitting alone at the top of the table with a perfect 3/3 record. In the opening game of the season the reigning champions Pt Chevalier defended their Crown Lift Trucks Stormont Shield title with a victory over Mt Albert, while the Pirates continue to hold the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster as well.

In the SAS Sharman Cup last year's beaten finalists East Coast Bays have made a positive start, leading the competition ahead of the vastly-improved Te Atatu Roosters.



Dylan Moses lifts the Crown Lift Trucks Stormont Shield.



The Otago Scorpions marked their return to the Fox with an opening round loss to Papakura.



The Pt Chevalier Pirates with the Crown Lift Trucks Stormont Shield.

WE often talk about the great game of rugby league but how good is the NRL the governing body in Australia. From each ticket sold \$1 will be donated to the RSL in Australia and the RSA in New Zealand. It just keeps on keeping on.

## 2015 KIWI'S ANZAC RANGE



*Available From*

# SHOP.NZRL.CO.NZ



# ANZAC Test Representatives to Play for the Charles Savory Medal

**A**USTRALIAN and New Zealand representatives will commemorate one of rugby league's fallen ANZACs when they play for the Charles Savory Medal in Friday night's ANZAC Test at Suncorp Stadium.

The Man of the Match recipient will be awarded the medal in honour of Charles Savory, the New Zealand international who died at Gallipoli.

ARL Commission Chairman John Grant made the announcement at the ANZAC Test lunch at the Sofitel Brisbane today, which was attended by the Holden Kangaroos, the Kiwis, the Jillaroos as well as the NZ Kiwi Ferns.

"Charles Savory played for his country, then served his country, and made the ultimate sacrifice for his country," Mr Grant said.

"As part of our desire to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary appropriately, Charles was a fitting choice for this honour.

"He was a New Zealand international who was one of four Kiwis to join the 1911-12 Australasian team for the Kangaroo tour of Great Britain.

"He was also a baritone singer and the heavyweight boxing champion of New Zealand in 1914 when war broke out.

"Charles put all that behind him to serve in World War I and was killed not long after arriving at Gallipoli."

NZRL chairman Garry Fissenden said it was entirely appropriate that Savory's legend be honoured in such a tangible way.

"He was certainly one of the most colourful characters in the history of our game, and his story is one that will resonate with Kiwis and Aussies alike," said Mr Fissenden.

"While the rivalry between our two countries is always fierce, Charles Savory's example reminds us that we also have played and fought alongside each other over the years, as staunch allies."

Mr Grant also announced that the NRL and NZRL would donate \$1 from every ticket sold for Friday's ANZAC Test to the RSL in Australia and the RSA in New Zealand.

Tickets for the ANZAC Test will range from \$30 for adults and \$80 for families. This includes curtain raisers between the Australian Combined Armed Services and NZ Defence Force, as well as the Jillaroos and Kiwi Ferns.



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## 2 for 1 Vodafone Warriors tickets. Score

For any Vodafone Warriors regular season home game this season with Vodafone Fantastic Fridays.

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PONSONBY UNITED RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL CLUB

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EST. 1908



# Lance Corporal Charles Savory Memorial Match

## Saturday May 9th, 2015

NZ Army Masters vs. Ponsonby Ponies Masters

1pm, Number 1 Field

Victoria Park, Freemans Bay, Auckland

To commemorate Charlie on the 100th anniversary of his death in battle  
at Gallipoli and the 52 other Ponsonby players who served in WWI

For More Info:



[facebook.com/ponsonbyponies](https://facebook.com/ponsonbyponies)

[twitter.com/PonsonbyUnited](https://twitter.com/PonsonbyUnited)



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

A feast of Test football when the best from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific nations, NSW City and Country go head to head throughout the weekend.

### FEATURES

- How will each club be affected during the Origin period? We break down who could be selected, who they play and who they have waiting in the wings;
- **Australia** have enjoyed a golden age at Test level but they're staring down at an exodus of their best talent as the likes of Inglis, Slater, Smith, Cronk and Thurston near the end of their careers. Coach Tim Sheens has told the NRL that a plan to bring in new talent needs to be put in place;
- Stephen Kearney was mocked when he named his side for last year's mid-year Test, but now the **Kiwis** have a young talented squad used to playing each other and ready to be at the top of their game for years to come;
- **Frank Pritchard** and **Sika Manu** may be known as New Zealand enforcers but they're excited about giving back to their families native nations of Samoa and Tonga;
- **PNG's** League Biltong Laif program teaches the value of education and respect to young people and it is providing the country with a better future;
- The **Fiji** team are close off the field and are hoping it will pay dividends when they come together to face PNG this weekend;
- With **Country** taking on **City**, we take a look at which areas from each have dominated selection in recent years and also what **Brad Fittler** is giving back to those who represent City;

**PLUS...** **Nathan Brown** dissects what is hurting the Bulldogs and Rabbitohs, going back to when they met in Round 5; Features on the women's game; Q&As with Luke Lewis and Greg Eastwood;

**AND:** Official team lists; Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Australia v NZ; lower grade results; News; and team posters.



### THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

On sale at newsagents, supermarkets and at the ground from

**Thursday, April 30.**

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through Apple Newsstand and Google Play for \$29.99 for the year.

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION





I would like to say a Big Thank - You for sending me this League Jersey.

I will wear it with Pride.

Again Thank- You from the Bottom of my Heart.

Mates 4 Ever!

Tui



Ema Sanga a proud kiwi.

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



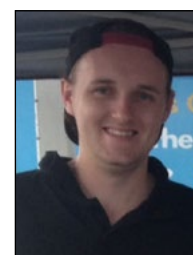
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