



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

28 May 2015
#74a

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

I am as excited as a dog with two tails because my beloved Vodafone Warriors are back at our home on Sunday for the first time since Anzac Day.

When I say at home, that's Mt Smart for all you ning-nongs at Auckland City who want us out. Our opponents are the Newcastle Knights and something very special about this weekend is that it is the Women in League round, where the club celebrates the role of women in our great game.

Every time I go to Mt Smart I am blown away by how many female supporters the club has, and of course then there are the legions of women who do everything from wash strips to putting them on and actually playing themselves.

It is not overstating anything to say that without the huge number of hours women give to our game, it would grind to a halt.

I am so excited because it will also be our chance to win three on the trot after our last two get out of jail last minute wins against the Sharks and then the Eels. Supporting the Warriors is never dull.

Gates Open Early For Triple-Header

The gates open for what will be a triple-header, at 11am in time for the 11.45am kick-off in the NSW Cup game, with the NYC Vodafone Warriors taking the field at 1.40pm, and the NRL game kicking off at 4pm. I'm hoping we will be done and dusted by 6pm, with six points from two each in all three games.

League Lunch Will Be Biggest Ever

And there is still time to get tickets to my Kiwis Long League Lunch. It's going to be epic. We are going into it with the Kiwis No 1 in the world, and with South Auckland Legend of League Mark Graham confirmed as our speaker.

More than 50 former Kiwis are in, but it is not restricted in any way, the public are welcome, so visit www.sirpeterleitch.co.nz for all the details.

Mark Graham is a former coach of the Vodafone Warriors, and captain of the Kiwis, and was actually named the greatest player the country produced from 1907 to 2006.

I'm really looking forward to hearing what he has to say, because

it all started at Otahuhu, and by the time his outstanding playing career was over – here, in Australia and England -he'd clocked up 29 tests, captaining 18 of them.

In 1995 he was one of the initial inductees of the NZRL Legends of League, and a year later he was inducted into the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame.

If there is a league great bigger in our history, I don't know who it is.



We need you at our kiwis long luncheon.

Manu And Sam Back

Manu Vatuvei and Sam Tomkins are in line to return for the Vodafone Warriors clash against Newcastle at Mt Smart on Sunday (4pm kick-off).

Both are available for selection for our first home game since the Anzac Day contest against the Titans.

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Vatuvei has scored seven tries in nine games so far, but was forced off with a sternum injury against Cronulla. He had hoped to return against Parramatta but was ruled out.

The last of Tomkins' two appearances was in the 29-16 third-round win over Parramatta in March.

After the 32-28 loss to the Titans, the Warriors have rebounded with 20-16 and 17-13 away wins over Cronulla and Parramatta, while also collecting two points from the bye to sit seventh.

While Vatuvei and Tomkins are poised to make their comebacks, Glen Fisiiahi (knee) and David Fusitu'a (groin) are on track to be available a week later.

The Vodafone Warriors' NRL side will be in Perth that weekend to face Souths, while the club's New South Wales Cup side is at home to Canterbury-Bankstown.

Buy tickets now |
Warriors v Newcastle

Team:

- 1 Sam Tomkins
- 2 Jonathan Wright
- 3 Tuimoala Lolohea
- 4 Solomone Kata
- 5 Manu Vatuvei
- 6 Chad Townsend
- 7 Shaun Johnson
- 8 Jacob Lillyman
- 9 Nathan Friend
- 10 Ben Matulino
- 11 Bodene Thompson
- 12 Ryan Hoffman
- 13 Simon Mannering (C)

Interchange:

- 14 Siliva Havili
- 15 Sebastine Ikahihifo
- 16 Sam Lisone
- 17 Albert Vete

Girl Power To The Fore

The Vodafone Warriors have en-listed #GirlPower for the Women in League NRL clash against the Newcastle Knights at Mt Smart Stadium on Sunday at 4pm.

Mothers, partners, players, football staff, administrators, members and fans have been major contributors to the Warriors since they first appeared in 1995.

To pay homage to them in the club's 20th anniversary season, the Warriors will wear the Canterbury -designed Supernova jersey against the Knights, the first home game at Mt Smart Stadium since Anzac Day.

That means it's also time for members and fans to don pink wigs, flags and scarves as well as past Women in League jerseys or the 2015 Supernova model - buy now www.warriorsstore.co.nz.

The club invited the SkyCity Mystics to launch the #GirlPower campaign with a league meets netball event last week that turned into a riotous cross codes promotion as the NRL and ANZ Championship players were brought together.

The Vodafone Warriors had eight players with a real passion for basketball. Man of the moment Bodene Thompson was joined by Konrad Hurrell, Tuimoala Lolohea, Solomone Kata, Sam Lisone, Albert Vete, David Fusitu'a and Raymond Faitala-Mariner.

The Mystics, who earlier trained in the gym, featured captain Maria Tutaia, Catherine Latu, Kayla Cullen and Serena Guthrie.

The hashtag #GirlPower captures the essence of what the Women in

League match is about, recognising the strength of women within league and across society.

It's about standing up against discrimination, breaking down stereotypes and stigmas.

#GirlPower also symbolises the power of the club's growing female supporter base.

The Vodafone Warriors would like to thank all female members and fans for their support and challenges them to turn out in big numbers on May 31.

Women who are involved in and support league are the real warriors.

All members and fans on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram can now join the campaign by using the #GirlPower hashtag to show their support for the Vodafone Warriors and to help to give the team an edge against the Knights.

[Buy a #girlpower ticket combo](#)

I'm Off To The Movies

Me and Janice, and my daughter Julie and her boy Matthew are all off to the movies on Friday night – and yes we paid for the tickets. We are going to see the #girlpower Pitch Perfect 2, the follow-up to the original hit about a group of misfits with only one thing in common - the way they sound when they're mixed together and arranged like never before.

You can join in too.

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Grab your girls (and guys) and join the Vodafone Warriors on Friday at the SkyCity Theatre to celebrate our Women in League round and help us raise funds for Breast Cancer, where the ultimate goal is to find a cure, not just within our lifetime, but by 2018.

It's being supported by SkyCity, Universal and Paramount Pictures, Ticketek and the Warriors, whose support ensures every cent goes to Breast Cancer Cure!

The doors open at 6.30pm and the movie starts at 7pm sharp. It will be a great night, an awesome movie and everyone gets a special Vodafone Warriors Goodie Bag to take home. Tickets are only \$10. Just go to Ticketek to book.



[Buy a #girlpower ticket combo](#)

Famous Name To The Fore

My good mate Rugby League Bill – otherwise known as Bill Whitehead - has pointed out to me something that I did not know.

The English cricket batsman who has done so well at Lords while playing against the Black Caps is Ben Stokes, who was actually born in Christchurch.

Now a few of you may have already known that, but what is less well known is that he is the son of 1982 Kiwi Gerard.

Ben played schoolboys league

for Marist Western Suburbs in Christchurch, the club his father coached to two grand finals before moving North to coach.

Gold Coast Date Set

The Vodafone Warriors are holding a function post-match in the Gold Coast. For members, I'm heading over for that game on Saturday, June 6, when we take on the Titans. Mark Tookey, Kevin Champion and Grant Young have already been contacted in regards to coming along, so it should be a good night.

The function will take place in the Bond University Institute next door to Cbus between 7.30-9.30pm and the whole team will be there for signing session and photographs.

Eels In Hot Water

You will all have heard by now that the Parramatta Eels are facing a \$525,000 fine for salary cap breaches last year.

The NRL has issued a breach notice that also imposes a four point penalty for the breaches. The points will be deducted next season unless the Eels undertake an independent governance and organisational capability review - and implement any changes recommended.

CEO Dave Smith said the breaches were significant, and were the product of inadequate oversight, largely by previous administrations.

He said in 2014 the club overspent in each of the four salary cap categories, and benefits provided to Eels players in 2013 were also identified as a breach.

Smith said the NRL had worked to try to help the club avoid breaching the caps. The club had been given multiple warnings, but did not take sufficient steps to address non-compliance.

He said the NRL generally imposed a fine commensurate with the level of the breach, but the club faced an additional penalty, taking the total to \$525,000, for failing to take action despite the warnings.

He said the Eels governance had failed but he acknowledged steps were being taken to improve systems, and the club had until February next year to undergo review and implement changes.

If the club fails to satisfy the conditions it will start the 2016 Premiership on minus four points.

"The salary cap is one of the reasons we have the closest sporting competition in Australia," Smith said. "We have to continue to take a hard line against breaches. This action is aimed at improving the underlying problems at the club that have caused the breach."

The Roosters also face a fine of \$41,292 for a breach of the cap. The breach related to inaccurate reporting of education allowances in the Club's NYC Top 20.



Sam off to Huddersfield

The Huddersfield Giants have signed prop Sam Rapiro on a two-year contract. The 28-year-old, who won the 2008 Rugby League World Cup with New Zealand, is set to arrive at John Smith's Stadium ahead of the 2016 season.

"After 10 years at the Vodafone Warriors, I can't wait for the new challenge of playing English Super League," he said. "I decided to sign with the Giants because I've heard positive things about the club. The thought of moving to the other side of the world with our two daughters is a bit daunting but our friends and family have been supportive."



Sam Rapiro

Konrad To Lose The Beard

Konrad Hurrell's hairy days are numbered with June 3 locked in for him to have his beard shaved off to support Cure Kids.

The centre has been sporting a beard for months but will have it removed at a special event at Vodafone Warriors headquarters. Sam Tomkins and Ben Matulino have already had their beards shaved off in support of Cure Kids and they have challenged the public to donate to the cause to see Hurrell get rid of his.

Hurrell was inspired to grow his beard to try to raise funds for

Cure Kids after meeting Leka Ma'u in Auckland last year. Then eight, Leka had leukaemia. She is now in Canberra after her family relocated, but Hurrell has a strong bond with her.

There are a number of ways to make donations:

Using the link below, three donors will be drawn to be invited to come along on June 3.

[Click here to donate to #warriorshave](#)

Text Warrior to 933 to make a \$3 donation.

Click here to bid for your chance to win Konrad Hurrell's Mate Ma'a Tonga jersey.



Konrad Hurrell

Grab A New Suzuki

Buy a Three Game Flexi Pass and you could win the 2015 Suzuki Swift Road Warrior. That's three NRL matches at Mt Smart from only \$60.

Throughout the rest of the 2015 season the Vodafone Warriors will be gradually announcing five lucky finalists from members who will all have the chance to win the Road Warrior at the Vodafone Warriors' last home game of the season against the Cowboys on August 20-24.

All five finalists receive a signed 2015 Vodafone Warriors jersey courtesy of Suzuki before going on to the field to try to win the grand prize.

Become a member today at www.warriorsforever.co.nz and go into the draw for your chance to win the Suzuki Swift Road Warrior.



Road Warrior

At Last Some Common Sense

Manukau should be the motor-sport capital of New Zealand - , Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board deputy chairman Ross Robertson says.

He wants to add speedway to the growing list of organisations that will use the new \$4.4 million motorsport facility being built at Colin Dale Park.

The move would capitalise on Auckland Council plans to turf speedway out of Western Springs to our home at Mt Smart Stadium. Robertson says the Puhinui site would offer speedway greater flexibility for future development. "It's near the airport, away from residential developments and right under flight paths where noise isn't an issue."

The council has been debating stadiums since 2012 and if they get what they want speedway will move to Mt Smart and we will have to go who knows where.

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Robertson says the plan is illogical and the council should be making better use of ratepayer money.

You think?

NRL Takes A Stand

The NRL has hosted a leadership forum with Dr Michael Kaufman, co-founder of the global White Ribbon movement.

It featured senior NRL administrators, Club CEO's and elite players, and formed part of a renewed partnership with White Ribbon that will focus the game's networks around preventing violence against women.

NRL Chief Operating Officer Suzanne Young said the partnership was about improving behavioural standards and principles within the game, as well as using the positive influence the game can have throughout the community.

Dr Kaufman said the NRL could play a role in influencing attitudes and behaviours around violence against women.

Warriors vs Knights Ticket Winners

Marie Macdonald - Hamilton

Sarch Hopkins - Auckland

Mark Rayner - Welcome Bay Tauranga

Maris Cole Hillcrest - Auckland

Brendan Walsh - Mt Wellington Auckland

Ian and Marcia Carpenter - Warkworth Auckland

Stephan Maier - Auckland

Karen Dent - Auckland

Jason Law - Auckland

Benjamin Simpsom - Auckland

I'm so happy after the boy's back to back wins that I doubled the draw! Congratulations to all the winners.

Double Passes to Vodafone Warriors vs Knights



**THE KNIGHTS ARE COMING
OVER THIS SUNDAY 4PM**



Greetings From The United States!

I got a remarkable letter from a young man from the United States who I met in Auckland a few years back. You can read it here.

Sir Peter,

It has been nearly two years since I made your acquaintance on a rainy day in Auckland. Just recently I was reminded of your fine generosity as I sorted through some of my old souvenirs I collected during my stay in New Zealand. As I reminisce about the fine time I had in your beautiful country with my university, I find myself so thankful for your great munificence.

The various gifts you gave me at your house, as well as the tickets you gifted my team and I to attend a Warriors game with the "Mad Butcher Club" passes will forever be remembered. I thoroughly enjoyed the tour of your magnificent home on the peninsula the day we met and was reminded of your love for "The King", Elvis decorating your garage.

You have truly lived a servant's life. Something you iterated over and over again has resounded with me to this date, and as my life gets busier and busier, I understand its significance each day. "Your time is the most valuable gift you can give to a person." Remarkable advice.

I graduated from my undergraduate college, Indiana Wesleyan University three weeks ago, and I am now entering my graduate education at Indiana State University to be a Doctor of Physical Therapy. On top of my recent graduation, I have also gotten engaged to my college sweetheart, Caitlyn, and we plan to be married in December. I would love to take her on a honeymoon to see your beautiful country, but that may have to wait a bit longer as graduate expenses climb high.

I sincerely hope to get back to New Zealand some day and thank you properly for your generous spirit and the inspiration which you have infused into my life.

Much like you, I look forward to a career in service to the community and hope to meet you again!

God Bless,
Jacob Vogel

It made me feel very humble but at the same time proud that I can impact on someone's life like that. I do think of myself as a missionary and love spreading the word about our club and team, the Mighty Vodafone Warriors, and of course the Kiwis.



42-year-old Kea to play his 300th game

Courtesy Christchurch Star

Linwood Keas league player Teni Tuli is on the cusp of a special milestone, reports Andrew Voerman - ON THE bus back to the club after their 2005 grand final win, one of Teni Tuli's teammates turned to him and asked if that was going to be that.

Teni, then 32, in his 11th season with the Linwood Keas, and riding a wave of emotion after helping the club to their first Canterbury rugby league premiership since 1970, said yes, it would. Now, 10 years on, he is 42, still playing, and on the verge of making his 300th appearance for the Keas' premiers.

He is set to reach the milestone on June 6, when the Keas meet the Papanui Tigers in what is likely to be a top-of-the-table clash, a date two weeks later than the one Teni had originally been counting down to.

Game No 299 was supposed to be last Saturday, against the Northern Bulldogs, but, owing to an injury crisis which has seen them lose a full team's worth of players, the Kaiapoi side were forced to default.

That means it will now be this weekend, against the Halswell Hornets, before the competition breaks for Queen's Birthday, meaning the celebrations have had to be put on ice for another week after that.

Teni says that while he's honoured to be on the cusp of such an achievement, his number of caps is something he's never given much thought to.

"It's not something you set to try and achieve from the outset, but upon Andrew (Auimatagi, the Keas' player-coach) telling me last year that I was on 293 or whatever, I thought it was pretty decent. I wanted to make it a goal for me the following year – this year – to try and get there, and so far, so good."

He made his premier debut for the Keas in 1994, a year when Jim Bolger was prime minister, Vicki Buck was mayor, Once Were Warriors was hot at the box office, and the Warriors were yet to play in the NRL.

The opposition were the Addington Magpies, the location was the Show Grounds No 2, and with three minutes to go, Teni was on the sideline, waiting for the chance to make his bow, when he finally got the nod from his coach.

"I started running up and down the sideline and then ran on for a minute and then the whistle blew – I was actually quite embarrassed, aye.

"I think he wasn't quite sure about me, as a lot of coaches are, then after my first game he must have

thought I was okay."

And so has every coach for the 21 years since, including his current one, Andrew Auimatagi, who remembers being nine years old, new to the Keas, and cheering Teni and the premiers on on Saturday afternoons.

Auimatagi first made the premier side himself around 2002 and has since taken on a player-coach role at the club as his playing days wind down. He says Teni hasn't changed much over all those years.

"He's always been a pretty consistent performer on the field, and just someone that leads through his actions and someone that guys just follow, like they just admire him. He's just a good all-round guy with some great values and someone that the boys love being around."

Teni began his playing days on the flank, but as he has aged he has continuously moved further and further inside.

"While I started as a winger, my coach discovered I could tackle, so he put me in the second row in 17s, and ever since then I was second row, up until maybe 10 years ago, when I'd put on a bit of weight, so they put me in the forwards as a prop."

Over the years, he would have made more than 10,000 hit-ups, a physical workload which he says has taken its toll – there are some days where he struggles to even get out of bed.

"For the last two or three years, I've been finding it really hard. Just the getting down on the ground then getting up – the knees aren't the same anymore. Both knees are starting to pinch – just all sorts of aches and pains.

"After a game when you're younger you're sort of ready to go the next day, after a good game; now it takes me probably up until the Friday before the next game for my body to be ready to go."

As well as general wear and tear, Teni has also broken his right arm twice, and had his eye socket displaced; scars to remind him of his toil and trouble. He says the two grand final wins – a 66-10 thrashing of the Hornby Panthers in 2005, and a narrower 30-22 edging of Papanui three years later – stand out as the highlights.

That he 'retired' in the afterglow of the 2005 triumph is a well-known fact, but he can't recall exactly why it didn't stick.

"I was 32 then, and prematurely I just thought that was it.

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“I may have been tired after one or two games and then thought, man, I’ve had enough of this, but then the next season I must have come back and then seen the guys at a preseason game or something like that and just got itchy feet.”

His wife Jasmine is also a league diehard, albeit one with an allegiance to the Sydenham Swans – she played for them and the Canterbury women’s team back in the day – and that divided allegiance has always played a part in their relationship, says Teni.

“When I first started playing for Linwood, she always supported Sydenham’s premiers back then, and I found that quite hard. We had our little arguments over it and that, but she wanted to support her team.

“As my career sort of developed she’s sort of made the change and came over and has been a big part of me staying on, over the years – I think she’s a bit sad that I’m stopping, actually.”

Teni works night shifts at a Child, Youth and Family residential centre in Shirley, which means he often gets home on a Saturday morning, grabs a few hours of sleep, then heads back out the door to wherever it is the Keas are playing that weekend.

It’s a schedule that means he has to choose between getting some rest and watching his son, Uriah, 12, play for the Keas 13s, and up until now, it has been his own games that have taken priority, something he is eager to rectify once his playing days end.

Teni says his and Jasmine’s love of league was something they had to impart on their son.

“When he first started, we’d been saying to him for a number of weeks that we want you to play something; we’ll give you some time to think about what you want to do. After a wee while, he didn’t come to us with anything, so we said: You’re going to play league.

“He was like, no, no. He cried all the way through, balled his eyes out every time we said you’re going to training, didn’t like it at all, and now it’s just the other way round.

“If there’s a reason he can’t make training, he’ll just cry.”

He says it’s a bit different to his own childhood.

“We didn’t really have much to do at home, no games or anything like that, so we just played outside with the neighbours, and if there was something happening down at the park, then we’d all be down there.

“I think kids have different focuses these days, as you know. It was a bit of a mission getting him out of the house, but now that he’s out of the house, he’s into his league.

“I think it’s pretty evident now too, because a lot of the grades for schoolboys, there’s only three or four teams. In my son’s grade, there are only four teams. It’s pretty sad because when I was younger, around about that age, we had like seven or eight teams in each grade.”

There’s a good chance that game No 300 will also be Teni’s last, with the chance to be more involved with his son appealing greatly, and a place in the club’s set-up likely to be there for as long as he wants it.

“I’ve made that clear to Andrew, that when I do decide to retire, I’d like to still be involved with the team, whatever they need. They’ve got three or four guys up there that are still going and helping out, but I said that I’d like to be there as well, maybe as a masseuse or something like that, support.”

After the grand final in 2005, Teni got a tattoo to mark the occasion, on his upper left shoulder.

“I left some space there just in case, and I’ve only added one since. I’d like to add one this year, even as a support person.”



Fire Fighters SKY Tower Stair Climb Challenge

HAVE to give a big heads up to Nigel Morrison the big BOSS at Sky City he did the climb up the tower for the Fighter Fighters SKY Tower Stair Climb Challenge on Saturday and shed a bit of weight in his training to do the challenge. He wore the fireman's gear and carried 25kilos to boot as well so I tip my hat to you sir. **A BLOODY FINE EFFORT Nigel I'm Proud of you mate!**



Nigel Morrison & Peter Treacy.



Nigel Morrison and Nadine Chalmers-Ross.

John Rowles Performing at Mikano Restaurant

JOHN Rowles a Kiwi legend will be performing at Mikano's restaurant on the 10th June. I will be attending and I am inviting you to come with me. Limited number of seats available for this great night. Book now!

\$120 Per head for a great dinner and great show

Dinner will commence at 6pm show will start at 8 pm.

Address: 1 Olent Street Mechanics Bay down by the Warf close to the containers and Hellipads.

To book: Tel 09 3099514 Email: enquiries@mikano.co.nz



James Reid Auction Night
Energy was high and the
bidding insane - we raised

\$14,000

I'm so proud of this girl! She went out of her comfort zone to raise money for James. The saying "The greatest gift you can give someone is your time" is certainly true for her. She gave James so much time! - Sir Peter Leitch

Any enquiries please contact
karen_drent@yahoo.co.nz

James has spastic quadriplegia cerebral palsy. We are raising money to get this little boy to America. For life changing surgery.

This was an incredibly humbling humbling experience.

A special thank you to all who came in the dismal weather

and to Sir Peter for your encouragement & support!!

Auckland Representative Side Named To Face NZ Maori Residents

AUCKLAND head coach Richie Blackmore has named his side to face the New Zealand Maori Residents on May 30.

This weekend's clash at Rotorua's Puketewharo Park forms part of a bumper few days for Auckland representative sides, with the Auckland Vulcans Development U/21 team touring the West Coast and Canterbury at the same time.

Included in the Auckland side is former Kiwi international Tevita Latu, while 2013 USA World Cup member Roman Hifo is the captain.



"We're excited about the potential of this squad, with a number of our players having been on the fringe of NSW Cup selection recently," Blackmore said.

"It's exciting that the full Auckland rep side is back in action - the jersey has such a long and rich history - I understand that and the players understand that.

"It's an honour to be a part of this occasion."

There will be plenty of familiar faces in the New Zealand Maori Residents, with 14 of their players currently plying their trade in Auckland's first division competition, the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership.

The Maori team will be coached by former Auckland Vulcans head coach and Vodafone Warriors assistant Ricky Henry, and features several current Warriors' reserve grade players.

"It's an impressive lineup and we will have to be switched on if we want to beat them," Blackmore added.

"They have a number of very experienced players in their squad who I would have loved to have picked for the Auckland side."



Eddie Purcell has extensive experience in the Queensland Cup and Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership.

Auckland Rugby League CEO John Ackland said one of the organisation's strategic goals was to bring back meaningful representative opportunities which help to grow not just the game in Auckland, but all over New Zealand.

"There's always been something special about playing for Auckland, and there has been plenty of excitement ahead of this game," Ackland said.

"Meeting the New Zealand Maori Residents in a mid-season clash like this is great for the wider game in this country, and it's a fantastic opportunity for the players and staff involved to experience representative football."

Match details

Auckland v New Zealand Maori Residents
Saturday, May 30 - 6pm kick-off - Puketawhero Park, Rotorua



Herman Retzlaff will start at prop for Auckland.

Auckland Vulcans U/21 Squad Named For South Island Tour

THE Rugby League Development Foundation last week named an 18-man Auckland Vulcans U/21 squad to tour the South Island over Queen's Birthday Weekend.



The team will play matches against the West Coast on Saturday, May 30 and Canterbury on Monday, June 1.

Head coach Grant Pocklington will add a 19th member to the squad at a later date, with uncertainty around injuries and availability.

"I have been pleasantly surprised to see the quality of the players who are under 21 in the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial competition, and they have all come with a great attitude," said Pocklington, who has won back-to-back Fox titles with Pt Chevalier over the last two seasons.

"The West Coast in their jubilee year will up for it, and Canterbury won the national title last year and will be a huge test.

"Aside from the footy the players will get some great experience in a tour environment, as well as being exposed to the professionalism expected while we are away."

The Vulcans' trip to the South Island follows on from last year's games against Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty at the end of the club season.

Under the ARL's strategic plan the Rugby League Development Foundation organised tours are seen as a crucial part of helping to grow the domestic game.

"One of our goals is to use the strength of the Auckland Rugby League to help district rugby league prosper," said ARL CEO John Ackland, who will be joining the side on the tour.

"Particularly in the case of the South Island where it has been such an important part of the game in New Zealand, producing many Kiwis and hosting Tests in the past."

A full Auckland representative side will take on the New Zealand Maori Residents in Rotorua on May 30 as well, with the squad to be announced tomorrow.

Fixtures

Auckland Vulcans U/21 v West Coast - 2.30pm kick-off - Wingham Park.

Auckland Vulcans U/21 v Canterbury - 12.30pm kick-off - Crosby Park.

Auckland Vulcans U/21 squad for South Island tour

Staff: Head coach - Grant Pocklington (Pt Chevalier), Manager - Rob Nathan (Glenora), Trainer - Roy Wattie (Navy).

Players: George Edwards (Papakura), Johnny Faletagoai (Mangere East), Marlon Purcell (Mangere East), Francis Toetu (Papakura), Andrew Tusiane (Papakura), Alan Niulevu (Papakura), Alamoti Finau (Marist), Andrew Holani (Otara), Howard Brown (Mangere East), Tom Kavaliku (Marist), Casey Lafaele (Pt Chevalier), Aaron Swan (Glenora), Sala Falelua (Pt Chevalier), Jonah Sofele (Pt Chevalier), Michael Ki (Pt Chevalier), Simione Maamaloa (Mangere East), Paea Manukia (Glenora), Robbie Nathan (Glenora).

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Auckland Rugby League Premiership - Round 7

ALL three of the competition's joint leaders tasted victory in round seven of the Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership, ensuring there would be no change at the top.

With miserable weather all over Auckland the games were generally forward-dominated clashes, with ball handling the focus for all.

Outright leaders Mt Albert travelled to Mangere East and crushed the Hawks 62-4 to further boost their points for and against, while Pt Chevalier shifted into second position on differential after a 36-4 beating of Otahuhu.

In winning that clash at Walker Park the Pirates also retained the Konica Minolta Roope Rooster, which was on the line for the third week in a row.

Over at Northcote the Papakura Sea Eagles scraped past a determined Northcote Tigers 22-16.

Marist overcame Howick 18-8 to shift into sixth position, while Glenora made easy work of the Otara Scorpions, winning 42-22.

Appliance Shed Fox Memorial Premiership Rd 7 Results

Northcote 16 Papakura 22
Otara 22 Glenora 42
Howick 8 Marist 18
Pt Chevalier 36 Otahuhu 4
Mangere East 4 Mt Albert 62

SAS Sharman Cup Rd 7 Results

Ellerslie 52 Hibiscus Coast 6
New Lynn 22 Manukau 8
Manurewa 4 Mt Wellington 12
Glenfield 28 Te Atatu 28
Waitemata 10 Richmond 40
Pakuranga 4 Bay Roskill 16
Ponsonby 20 Papatoetoe 40
East Coast Bays bye

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TIMES - Trains operate between 11am- 3.30pm every day

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Future Black Sticks Named For Invitational Tournament

THE Future Black Sticks Men and Women have been named to compete at the Volvo Invitational Tournament in Breda, Netherlands.

The tournament pits some of the world's best under 21 age group players against each other from 18-25 July.

Following the recent Hockey New Zealand National Under 21 Tournament, head coaches Sean Dancer (Women) and Bryce Collins (Men) have both confirmed teams of 18 players.

The women's team is strengthened by the inclusion of five National Development Squad players in Stephanie Dickins, Maddie Dowe, Tessa Jopp, Su Arn Kwek and Danielle Sutherland.

Dancer said the team has been selected with an eye towards next year's Junior World Cup but also taking into account the bigger picture to develop players into Black Sticks.

"Players in this team have earned selection from their form at the Under 21 Tournament and this is a fantastic opportunity for them to gain top level international experience," he said.

"It's a good quality side and we will play with the same mentality as the Black Sticks which is strong and aggressive attacking hockey."

The Future Black Sticks Women will go up against England, Netherlands, Germany, India and China

during round robin play at the tournament.

Meanwhile, the men's team is a strong mix of experience and youth led by Development Squad member Richard Joyce and Leo Mitai-Wells.



Three over-aged players are permitted at the men's tournament with Joyce joined by Sanjay Lala and Mick Lammers.

The men play six round robin games at the tournament against Pakistan, India, Belgium, Germany, England and Netherlands.

"We have an exciting bunch of high quality players in this team and 12 of the 18 will still be eligible to play at the Junior World Cup at the end of 2016," Collins said.

"This tour is really the first step of our Junior World Cup preparation and the next few years are certainly looking positive with the ultimate target for these players to move on to playing for the Black Sticks one day."

Wider men's and women's training squads for the Junior World Cup will be released early next week.

2015 Black Sticks Junior World Cup Squads Announced

Hockey New Zealand has announced a wider group of players who have been identified as currently in contention for selection to compete at the 2016 Junior World Cup.

The squads, which will receive extra support, consist of 38 women and 36 men who have been selected from a combination of the Development, Future, Junior and Pathway to Podium groups.

Teams will be announced closer to the Junior World Cup Qualifiers which are still to be confirmed, with all players within and outside the squads considered.

Next year Junior World Cup squads will be confirmed from which teams will be selected to compete at the Men's Junior World Cup in New Delhi 1-11 December and Women's Junior World Cup in Chile from 23 November - 2 December.

Bryce Collins is the men's national junior coach while the women are coached by Sean Dancer.

All players named in the squads are under the age of 21 as at 31 December 2015, and are therefore eligible to compete at the Junior World Cup.



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Sir Owen Glenn creates Warriors trust

SIR Owen Glenn is to transfer his 50% stake in the NZ Warriors rugby league franchise to a trust named the "Sir Owen Glenn Warriors Trust" to further the game at grassroots and secondary school levels.

"I will honour the commitment I made earlier in the year to transfer my stake in the NZ Warriors for the benefit of the rugby league community and the development at the grassroots level by enhancing opportunities for kids to participate in primary and secondary schools rugby league for their own growth and development," said Sir Owen. "This will hopefully assist with the growth of the game

"I am pleased to announce that Bill Birnie, the Hon. John Banks and Mark Rice will be appointed as board members of the Trustee of the Trust. I am also delighted to announce that Sir Ralph Norris will be the Patron of the Trust."

Sir Owen said, "Bill is ideally suited to Chair the Trustee board given his role as a board member of Sport NZ, High Performance Sport NZ and the Warriors, and will work with the national sporting body, New Zealand Rugby League, to foster growth of the game in New Zealand.

As a previous Minister of Sport, Mayor of Auckland and passionate rugby league supporter, the Hon. John Banks is also ideally suited to be a board member of the Trustee. With John's background as a senior player and past Presidents of the Mt Albert Rugby League Club and Northland Rugby League, John will make a major contribution to the Trust.

Mark Rice is the Principal of St Paul's College in Auckland, a school that has a positive rugby league culture and encourages participation in the sport. Mark is also a Trustee of Sport Auckland, a past Convenor of the NZ Secondary Schools Rugby League Council and recent past member of the Auckland Secondary School Heads Association College Sport board. Mark's extensive experience in education and sport makes him an ideal board member."

NZRL chief executive Phil Holden confirmed that resources for the administration of the Trust would be provided by the national body.

"I am delighted with Sir Owen's decision to establish the Sir Owen Glenn Warriors Trust which in time, I am sure, will assist us in growing the game of league in New Zealand," said Mr Holden.

Sir Owen also announced that he will settle an additional \$100,000 on the Trust, and lead a process with the Trustee board members and the NZRL to produce a five-year blueprint to advance the sport of rugby league in New Zealand.

He commented further that should any dividends or proceeds are received by the Trust if, in the future, the Warriors franchise is sold, then these proceeds could be used by the Trustees to assist with the activities of the Trust.

Sir Owen also stated that, under the new management of CEO Jim Doyle and with a strong performance from the Warriors on the field, he believed that the Warriors should be in a position to pay dividends in the short term.

Because of his decision to settle his 50% ownership of the Warriors on the Trust, Sir Owen also noted there was no reason for the existing proceedings between him and Warriors co-owner Mr Watson, currently before the New Zealand courts, to continue.



Sir Owen Glenn

Baseball Booming in Washington

By John Coffey QSM in the USA



BASEBALL is booming in Washington DC, capital city of the most powerful nation on the planet.

The Washington Nationals are leading their divisional league and last weekend my wife, Shirley, and I were in a sell-out crowd of 41,044 at Nationals Stadium when they beat the Philadelphia Phillies 4-1 to win their best-of-three home series by two games to one.

Next day I read the Nationals' crowds are the seventh highest in the nation -- not bad for a franchise which only relocated to Washington 10 years ago. No longer are people saying the capital is just a political and football town.

Baseball in the United States is carried out with plenty of ceremony, especially on Memorial Day weekend. There was a stirring rendition of the Stars and Stripes as the teams lined up. A ceremonial pitch by a "celebrity" follows. On the day we were there the "celebrity" was the holder of the world record for simultaneously wearing most T-shirts!

It takes about three hours to find a winner but we were never bored and the fans were thrilled that local hero Bryce Harper batted in the winning runs.

And the fans are passionate. The young lady next to me had the club's stylised "W" painted on her toe nails. And she was wearing her Nationals jandals, Nationals shorts, Nationals top and Nationals cap. Beyond that I cannot comment.

The fans were also hungry and thirsty (beer \$9, lemonade \$5, water \$4.75), and were fed a steady supply of hot dogs, chips, peanuts and liquids by a perspiring army of servers who covered more territory, most of it uphill, than any of the millionaire players.

Maybe the Warriors will consider a couple of Washington innovations.

They observe the famous seventh-innings stretch, when the fans stand (to stretch) and join in singing the baseball anthem, "Take Me Out To The Ball Game." Imagine after Manu scores in the 60th minute the Warriors crowd standing and singing "On the Ball, On The Ball, On The Ball."

They also have a Race of the Presidents, with five mascots wearing giant heads of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and company. Why not an Auckland Race of the Mayors, with league-loving Sir Dove-Myer Robinson always winning and Len Brown always falling on his face until he gets his council's stadiums policy properly sorted.

Baseball aside, one has to rely on the internet for more familiar sports. Such as cricket. I can remember a young Ben Stokes starring in halftime games at Rugby League Park in Christchurch. He was always going to take someone apart in top company. Shame it had to be the Black Caps at Lord's. But his father, 1982 Kiwi Gerard Stokes, has every reason to be a very proud dad.

Sadly former Kiwi and Warriors player Joe Vagana's Dad passed away this week.

We offer Joe and his family our deepest sympathy. - Newsletter Team

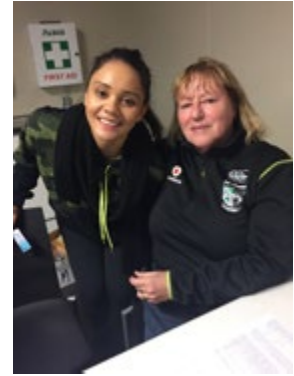
Photos from the Vodafone Warriors Members BBQ on Wednesday Night



93 Year old Edna talking to Sam Tomkins!.



Andrew McFadden talking to MC Gordon Gibbons at the Members BBQ!.



Receptionist Shanice Wiki and Susan Turner who have been at the Warriors since day 1!



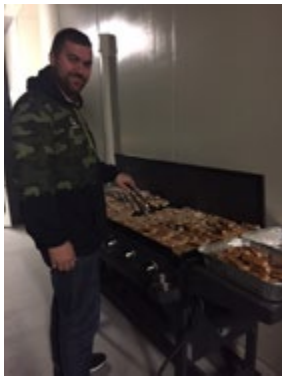
Me talking to MC Gordon Gibbons.



TeKanawa Harris, Richard Lewis and Te Haua Taua our cooks on the BBQ!.



Jim Doyle - Vodafone Warriors CEO taking with MC Gordon Gibbons at the Members only BBQ!.



Jordan Friend son of the legend Clayton Friend on the BBQ!.



Members getting their Warriors Gear and Posters Signed!.



Shaun Johnson and Captain Simon Mannering.



Gordon Gibbons and I taking centre stage with Rodney Wallace our new fan engagement manager and Georgina in the white.



The lovely Edna at 93 years old she has been a big supporter of the Vodafone Warriors from the very beginning!.



Vodafone Warriors CEO - Jim Doyle, Head Coach - Andrew McFadden and MC - Gordon Gibbons..

Q&A With Nadene Conlon

By John Deaker



NADENE Conlon was appointed the National Operations Manager for the NZRL in December last year after holding down the National Game Development Manager role before that. In an often very macho or 'blokey' sport she's helped considerably by growing up in a fanatical rugby league family and by her playing experience for New Zealand which included her captaining the Kiwi Ferns to victory at the World Cup in 2000. She chatted to John Deaker this week:

Q) Nadene, how does your current role at NZRL differ from the previous one you had there till late last year?

A) It is very similar – I was the National Games Development Manager and most of the programs I run now were part of that role – but I'm probably running them from more of a senior level or perspective now.

Q) Rugby league roots often run in the family like they do in so many sports. How strong was the influence of your family to get you started playing rugby league?

A) I'm from a very staunch and passionate league family. I think I spent almost every weekend of the league season at the local clubrooms growing up. My brother played (for the Junior Kiwis) and my father played and coached.

Q) What did it mean to your family for you to represent and captain your country?

A) It was huge. My brother captained his Junior Kiwis team too and my mum and dad have always said they were so proud when they had one child play for New Zealand - but then to have both go on and captain National teams in rugby league was truly amazing - especially when they'd only had one son that didn't even seem possible when we were growing up!

Q) How old were you when you first played Rugby League?

A) I didn't start playing till I was 19. It wasn't really the thing for girls when I was young , but I always wanted to play. I played almost every other sport you could name including rep touch and netball. I remember there wasn't a proper rugby league competition for woman when I was growing up – just one off games.

Q) Who did you play for when you eventually took up the sport?

A) I played for Te Atatu when I started in 1993 - and in 1995 I was lucky enough to be part of the inaugural Kiwi Ferns squad that toured Australia and won all 7 matches. So it's actually the 20th Anniversary of the Kiwi Ferns this year.

Q) How much does your extensive knowledge of league and your playing background help you in such a 'blokey' sport like league?

A) Having a playing career certainly helps me avoid people thinking I don't know what I'm talking about or don't have a feel for some aspects of the game – because I do. Some people don't know that I played when they first meet me but are pleasantly surprised when they find out. I like to think that I'm recognized first and foremost for doing a good job though - and anything else is a bonus.

Q) Does your current role have much to do with woman's rugby league?

A) Woman's rugby league is part of my portfolio. About a year ago NZ woman's rugby league first came under the control of the NZRL. In a short time we've made plenty of progress – though naturally the majority of my work is with the men where the NZRL's main focus of their resources remains.

Continued on next page...



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Continued from previous page...

Q) The 'Woman in League Round' of the NRL was maybe initially introduced as part of the sport's public relations and could have been viewed as paying Lip Service to woman in league. However, I think it's genuinely grown every year to be a feature of the regular season. What do u make of it?

A) I think it's fantastic. It's nice to recognize not just those that play the game but all woman that have a connection to the game.

Q) It's a great time for NZ rugby league. How much can the Kiwis' success in the Four Nations and Anzac Test help the growth and interest of the game at all levels?

A) I think the biggest thing that winning the Four Nations and Anzac tests have done is it's put International rugby league back in the public eye. The Australians were starting to think that State of Origin was the pinnacle of rugby league throughout the world. International League has become competitive again - including Island nations like Samoa showing big improvements.

Q) Speaking of International league, Sir Peter believes you are very privileged to be travelling with him later this year! What is that all about?

A) That's right - the Kiwis are going to be touring the UK in October and November this year and It'll be great to have Sir Peter on board with all his experience having been there and done that before (especially the 'Year the Kiwis Flew') ... he'll keep us all on our toes for sure.

Q) So apart from keeping Sir Peter under control, what's your role on a tour like that?

A) When the team travel I'm the football manager so I organize all the logistics like travel and accommodation.

It should be a bit of fun in the UK but also a big challenge for everyone over there – It's very important that we do well and continue the momentum the team has built up over the last year.



Nadene Conlon

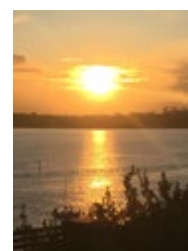
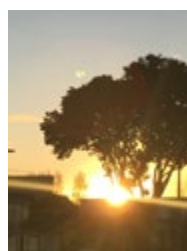


On the side line of the Anzac test with Laurie hale one top bloke!



At the same game with Kelvin Wright the Kiwis analyst man.

Check out theses sunsets
in Auckland:



COLD CHISEL TO PERFORM AT THE 2015 NRL GRAND FINAL

LEGENDARY Australian band Cold Chisel will perform live at the 2015 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final to kick off their "One Night Stand" national tour.

Cold Chisel, one of Australia's greatest-ever live acts, will stage a special Grand Final concert performance just prior to the season decider, on Sunday October 4 at ANZ Stadium.

"Cold Chisel are one of Australia's iconic bands and it will be fantastic to see them perform at the NRL Grand Final," NRL Head of Marketing Lewis Pullen said. "Australia has waited a long time for this to happen.

"We don't want to give too much away but this special show will be worth the wait."

With Jimmy Barnes, Ian Moss, Phil Small and Don Walker all in attendance, Cold Chisel made the announcement prior to tonight's State of Origin I at ANZ Stadium – standing exactly where their stage will be positioned prior to the decider in October.

The band, which has sold almost seven million albums, also took the opportunity to announce their much anticipated "One Night Stand" national tour.

The tour is in direct response to the overwhelming response to the announcement that the band will stage two shows to mark the closing of the Qantas Credit Union Arena.

All 20,000 tickets to the shows were sold within minutes.

NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final ticketholders will get a special taste of the tour when Cold Chisel bring their 'A' game to ANZ Stadium on October 4.

Cold Chisel singer Jimmy Barnes already has strong links to rugby league, having teamed up with Tina Turner for the game's "Simply The Best" advertising campaign.

"We're incredibly excited to play a special set at the NRL Grand Final," said Barnes. "We look forward to bringing the same intensity to our songs as the two teams who'll be fighting for the title. Bring it on!"

The 2015 NRL Telstra Premiership Grand Final is supported by the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW.

An announcement will be made about the on-sale date for grand final tickets shortly. Fans can register for the Grand Final waitlist at www.ticketek.com.au/GFwaitlist

Tickets for Cold Chisel's "One Night Stand" national tour go on sale to the general public on Wednesday June 3. For ticket information go to <http://www.coldchisel.com>.



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Is this the next Vodafone warriors signing.



Steve and Maria waiting for last nights game to start.



These young guys love there warriors head bands Ihaka & Nikau Rei.

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THIS WEEK IN BIG LEAGUE'S ROUND 12 ISSUE...

Roger Tuivasa-Sheck – is he league's next big-money man for earnings outside a playing contract?

FEATURES

- He may have signed for big bucks at the Warriors for 2016, but can **Roger Tuivasa-Sheck** turn himself into rugby league's most marketable man?;
- They're well-known rivals, but little has happened on-field and there's still quite a distance between **Penrith and Parramatta** so what makes this one of the NRL's great match ups?;
- **Anthony Milford** came under heavy criticism early in the season but he's now well-settled in the Broncos' No.6 and this week he heads back to face his old club Canberra;
- A host of players have to back up this weekend after a gruelling Origin encounter, so we spoke to those in know about how they are best prepared to play back to back games;
- Many may not know much about the Cowboys' **John Asiata**, but he's getting first grade time and the quiet and unassuming young man has the big man to thank for his progression;
- It takes a special type of player to reach the 300-game club and **Brent Kite** has seen plenty change over time as he's become one of league's most enduring players.

PLUS... **Damian Lovelock** doesn't think much of State of Origin but he has first-hand experience as to how seriously Queenslanders take it; **Matt Elliott** looks at how the schedule can be altered so Origin remains and the premiership doesn't suffer; **Nathan Brown** has enjoyed his time in Blues camp getting to know players he's only admired from afar until now.

AND: Official team lists, Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Roosters v Storm, lower grade reviews, News: Jamal Idris happy at Penrith, Aaron Gray long recovery to debuting, Hodgkinson deal on the table; Top 8 funniest moments in league; and Dragons team poster.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

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State of Origin - 35 Years

If you are a fan of State of Origin Rugby League this book is for you. This fantastically illustrated book takes the reader on a journey spanning 35 Years with 350 great photos capturing the action.

A detailed look at each series from 1980 to 2014. Every game in every series is explored in detail, with a blow by blow account of all the key incidents.

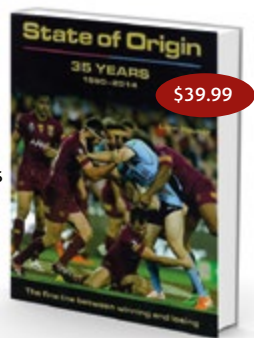
There is also a detailed list of results, captains, teams, coaches, man of the match winners and referees.

The book is available in bookshops, The Warehouse or by going online at www.batemanpublishing.co.nz

RRP is \$39.99

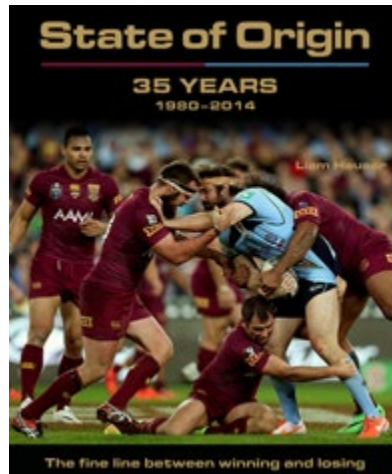
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2015 State of Origin Games:

Game I - Maroons Win 11-10

Game II - June 17th - MCG

Game III - July 8th - Suncorp Stadium



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