

VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

21 January 2016

# Newsletter #105

No advertisements are paid for in this newsletter.

## Vodafone Warriors Family Fun Day at the Ellerslie Race Course



Balin Cupples- head of athletic performance. Jim Doyle - managing director. Justin Morgan - Assistant Coach. Mr and Mrs McFadden - head coach of the Vodafone Warriors



Brendan Inkster (from Manly) Strength, Power & Rehab Coach, Jeff Robson (from Cronulla), Jacob Lillyman now a Dad.



Brendon and Michelle Pongia a Former Tall Black



Dan Floyd football operations manager for Vodafone Warriors with lovely wife Kelly and girls Charlie and Mia.



Konrad Hurrell, Ben Matulino, Sam Lisone, Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Albert Vete at the races



Lachlan Lyrhllle and Raymond grandsons of Doug Murray the manager of NYC Vodafone Warriors.



## THE GREATEST WEEKEND

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

[BUY NOW](#)



Laurie Hale (Vodafone Warriors Manager) with wife Tracy and his two daughters Madi and Georgia (NRL Ambassador)



Tui-Kay-Jake Lillyman's partner, Whitney- Albert Vetes partner, Selina-Jono Wrights wife and Courtenay - Ben Matulinos wife



New Vodafone Warriors signing Blake Ayshford from Cronulla Sharks with fiancé Maria Hahipene from Whakatane - Benji Marshall country.



Sione Lousi, partner Brooke Williams (daughter of famous ex Kiwi Dennis Williams)



Stacey Jones Family at the races . From left to right: Waiana, William, Rachelle, Chellcey and Stacey.



The boys enjoying Ellerslie Races. Albert Vete, Tui Lolohea and David Fusitua



Thomas and his wife Natalie



Tui Lillyman and baby Arani Jacob Lillyman with Janice.



Mason Lino and partner Anna Saito

**T**HE MIGHTY Vodafone Warriors look in good shape and I am told pre-season training is going well, and that our new signings are all fitting in well.

But before we go any further, I want to share the love with all our league friends in the UK.

Some of them have been doing it tough while we bask in the summer, first being hit by floods, and then the snow falling. so we wish them all the best

I had a great Christmas on Waiheke Island, getting in plenty of kayaking and spending some quality time with family and friends. And watching a lot of TV just chilling out and resting

This Saturday I am off to the South Island for the

day for the otago taieri A&P show being held in mosgiel in gordon road if your around pop in and say hi and I'm really looking forward to it.

And speaking of looking forward to things, the Nines look to be all on schedule, with a new sponsor in Downer on board, over Christmas I had the vodafone warriors head coach over to waiheke for the day with his family and he told me all the guys are very keen to play in the NINES and I can hardly wait.

I know we say it every year, but the Vodafone Warriors are in good shape and I believe- I always believe - we can do good things this year.

Bring it on.



# Downer Joins as 2016 NRL Auckland Nines Naming Rights Sponsor

**T**HE NRL Auckland Nines event received a huge boost today with leading engineering and infrastructure group Downer taking over as the 2016 Nines naming rights sponsor.

Duco Events said the new partnership would go a long way to ensuring next month's event is a major success.

Downer agreed to take over the top sponsorship role following the end of Duco's partnership with electronics retailer, Dick Smith.

The multi-award winning tournament will now be known as the Downer NRL Auckland Nines and will be played on February 6th and 7th at Eden Park.

Downer has a long history in both Australia and New Zealand, dating back more than a century, and is now a Top-100 company on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Downer provides comprehensive services to customers in markets including transport, rail, mining, utilities, technology and communications, and engineering, construction and maintenance. Downer employs about 20,000 people and operates primarily in Australia and New Zealand but also in the Asia-Pacific region, South America and Southern Africa.

Martin Snedden Duco Events Chief Executive, in announcing the sponsorship agreement, said: "It is tremendous to be in a position today to announce Downer as the 2016 Nines naming rights sponsor.

"Being a highly respected and successful business throughout both Australia and New Zealand, they are a great fit with the Nines."

Mr Snedden said a lot of hard work had occurred over the last few days to put Duco and Downer into a position to make today's announcement.

"The teams from both Duco and Downer have worked together quickly and co-operatively within a very tight deadline to reach agreement on how our relationship for an event which is now less than three weeks away can work," he said.

"The NRL, ATEED and our other Nines event partners have given Duco great support during this time".

The Chief Executive of Downer, Grant Fenn, said he was thrilled with the partnership.

"Downer is delighted to be associated with this great event over the Waitangi weekend," he said.

"We have a proud history and extensive operations in both Australia and New Zealand. It's sure to be a great weekend of footy."

NRL Chief Commercial Officer, Michael Brown said the Downer sponsorship was a boost for the Nines on the eve of the 2016 tournament.

"The Nines has already become a great way to kick off the Rugby League season so it is important to have a prestigious naming rights sponsor," he said.

"We are delighted that a company with a brand like Downer has come on board at short notice.

"It is a real vote of confidence in the Nines."

Auckland Tourism Events Economic Development (ATEED) Chief Executive Brett O'Riley had

added his support today for the new sponsorship appointment.

"This is great news for the NRL Auckland Nines, and the speed with which Duco Events has secured Downer as a new naming rights sponsor for the 2016 tournament is a testament to the popularity and strength of the event," Mr O'Riley said.

"It is also good to see another company with such a strong New Zealand history and presence, and close Trans-Tasman links, come into the Nines family of sponsors."

In the space of just two years, the Nines has earned a reputation as an event where the stars turn up to play and has been a landmark event on the Auckland landscape.

Benji Marshall, Kieran Foran, Josh Dugan and Daly Cherry-Evans all competed at the Nines last year, while expectation has further increased on the Warriors in 2016 following the recent signings of Issac Luke and Roger Tuivasa-Sheck.

Kangaroos and Maroons star Billy Slater has signalled he will make his Nines debut at this year's event, while Shaun Johnson is also targeting the 2016 tournament for his comeback from injury.

Organisers are again predicting a bumper Eden Park crowd with tickets starting from NZ\$69 still available.



# ISSAC LUKE

spirit of the warrior



**AUCKLAND NINES  
JERSEY**

**BUY NOW >**

**WARRIORSSTORE.CO.NZ**  
THE OFFICIAL ONLINE STORE

# Nines Just Around the Corner

**T**HE NRL Auckland Nines is full steam ahead with the tournament just around the corner! It's now just over three weeks until all 16 NRL clubs battle it out at Eden Park for their share of a massive prize pool. I think we can all agree the best way to experience this event would be live from the Sir Peter Leitch Elite lounge!



With tickets at just \$349pp for two days of awesome entertainment, you will have access to the greatest lounge in the stadium, a cash bar and delectable food options, a seat right outside, and of course yours truly the Mad Butcher will be there to entertain you along with some truly special guests such as Mal Meninga, Andrew Johns, State of Origin stars and even rugby legend Carlos Spencer!

These tickets are selling faster than a mad butchers sausage sizzle, so don't miss out! Get yours now from [www.ticketek.co.nz/nines](http://www.ticketek.co.nz/nines)



## Check out this couple going to the Nines on their Honeymoon!

Hi Sir Peter

**M**Y FIANCEE is now my wife ( pic attached) so our trip is our honeymoon. We set off for Christchurch tomorrow We will be in Auckland from Friday 5th and we fly back to UK on Friday 12th.

Looking forward to a great weekend of Rugby

Kind Regards  
**Gordon Russell**



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



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter



# Are you NSW Warrior Proud?

**YOU ARE** invited the 1st NSW Warriors Supporters Forum which is being held on Thursday January 28th @ 6.30pm.

In attendance will be Vodafone Warriors CEO - Jim Doyle and the Vodafone Warriors Fan Engagement Manager. Both are very keen to meet the NSW's most passionate supporters and will be answering all of your questions. This is a fantastic opportunity for fans to engage one on one in the 1st supporters forum! Please come prepared with your questions, thoughts and ideas regarding match day experiences and memberships for example.

**Please note: This is not a forum to sign autographs nor will there be any players attending for photos etc.**



Support our sponsors as they help support this newsletter.

## Get movie deals any day of the week



Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays

Visit [vodafone.co.nz/movies](http://vodafone.co.nz/movies)

**Vodafone**  
Power to you



Eligible customers only. Not available to business customers. \$2.50 admin fee applies. Full terms go to [vodafone.co.nz/movies](http://vodafone.co.nz/movies). One 2 for 1 Movie Voucher offer per person, per week.

# Cappy's Christmas



Cappy and his Wife.



Coach with his mate Cameron  
George CEO of Ellerslie  
Racecourse.



Coach and his Boys.



**T**HE VODAFONE Warriors coach Andrew checking out the Waiheke Rams rugby league clubs mascot over the Christmas break.

## Trevor and Lorna Warrington

Dear Sir Peter,

**I**WOULD LIKE to thank you very much for my Ali Lauitiiti book that I won through the competition in your Newsletter before Christmas. I was able to get it signed, as well as a photo of Ali and myself from way back, at the Mighty Vodafone Warriors

Christmas BBQ held at the Ellerslie Racecourse.

M8 the Warriors Gnome also got to have his photo taken with Santa. He enjoyed the peppermint sticks that he was given afterwards as well.

Then who did we bump into but the pretty cheerleaders who asked us (sort of) for a photo with them.

That was a spectacular day and the best thing was seeing all the supporters and their families there having a great time with the Mighty Vodafone Warriors squad. I would also like to thank the Management team very much for their outstanding effort in putting on a great day for all of us.

From Trevor and Lorna Warrington and also M8 the Warriors Gnome.



Ali Lauitiiti signing our books.



Trevor and M8 with the cheerleaders.



Trevor and M8 with Santa



# Readers on Holiday



**F**ORMER VODAFONE Warrior Nathan Friend sent us this photo of his big catch. He is now with the Gold Coast Titans and is living on the Gold Coast.

“To all my mates in New Zealand Happy New Year” - Friendly



Warrior fan Jack Stone jumps the Whangamata wharf - John Holloway.



Hi Peter

**H**APPY NEW year - I am in Sydney ran into a friend of yours who asked me to say hello - Ray Rabbits Warren

Take care

Lizzie



Ken Eruera on Holiday



This is an average days fishing for me - Ian Carpenter Mad Butcher Club Member.



Lake Taylor in Christchurch!



Christchurch - Hurunui Lakes Area.



Christchurch CBD.

Te Haua Taua on Holiday in Christchurch



# THE HOMECOMING Charity Evening

THURS 18 FEB, 2016

Starts 7pm  
(Doors open 6pm)  
Annesbrook Church

Simon Manning  
photosport 2015



VODAFONE



WARRIORS

**Q&A**  
with the  
Vodafone  
Warriors

In conversation  
with **Sir Peter Leitch**  
(the Mad Butcher)

Special guest  
appearance,  
**Monty Betham**

Finishing with  
a **Charity  
Auction**

**TICKETS: \$150pp** (incl food & beverages)  
[www.trafalgarevents.co.nz/charity-dinner.cfm](http://www.trafalgarevents.co.nz/charity-dinner.cfm)  
[info@nelsonvenues.co.nz](mailto:info@nelsonvenues.co.nz)

THE  
AMAZING  
CHARITIES



NELSON MARLBOROUGH  
**RESCUE  
HELICOPTER**

happiness  
FOUNDATION

 nrbgct THE NELSON REGIONAL  
BREAST & GYNECOLOGICAL  
DANGER TRUST

**Nelson Tasman Hospice**  
to care always



Vortex Spas



MIDDLE-EARTH  
NEW ZEALAND WINE

MCCASH'S  
BREWERY

Brought  
to you by...

**TRAFALGAR EVENTS  
LTD.**

THE  
SPONSORS



# News from our Mates in the UK

Hi Sir Peter,

Hope you enjoyed your weekend and your lovely weather.

Well as I tweeted after seeing your stunning pictures of Waiheke Island, I thought I would share some pictures of lovely Leeds with my good mate 'The Mad Butcher'

Well, as you know, many parts of the country were hit by severe floods in December and on Boxing Day, Leeds also became victim to the floods. This caused a loss to hundreds of homes and businesses including Leeds Rhinos training facilities at Kirkstall. As you will remember this is where the Kiwis had their open training day in October last year. The main road to the training base became a river which then also flooded the city centre.

At the weekend along came the white stuff, a covering of snow overnight - something that you're not used to! I was very jealous of your beautiful views from your holiday home in Waiheke Island. I need to get myself to New Zealand - stunning.

Keep well mate, kind regards.

Gail Phillips your Rugby League Mate in Leeds,  
UK



IT'S GREAT TO HAVE OUR FANS BUT WE NEED YOU TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP,

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT  
**BECOME A 2016 VODAFONE WARRIORS MEMBER**  
AND MAKE OUR TEAM, **YOUR TEAM**

From just **\$30** for our 2016 Scarf Membership - you can join Sir Peter Leitch and our dedicated members and support your club



Scarf Member's receive:

- Exclusive Club Communication
- Merchandise Discounts (including \$25 off jerseys from [www.warriorsstore.co.nz](http://www.warriorsstore.co.nz))
- Ticketing Discounts
- Exclusive invites to meet the team events
- Access to members only merchandise
- 2016 Member's Scarf and lanyard

visit [www.warriors.kiwi](http://www.warriors.kiwi) or call 0800 839 839  
to contact the membership team and discuss your options



**FULL SEASON AND NZ WIDE MEMBERSHIPS STILL AVAILABLE**



# Gordon Gibbons

By Julian Raethel - Article first published in and provided courtesy of Eastern Courier

*I was real pleased to read this story on my very good mate Gordon Gibbons in the eastern courier and wanted to share it with you as he is a top bloke. He now works for the Vodafone Warriors as Corporate Sales Manager before that he was Football Operations Manager at Auckland Rugby League. I have also done a few Kiwis tours with him as my boss and we are still mates! Enjoy the read - Sir Peter Leitch*

**W**HEN IT comes to rugby league, there isn't much you can tell Gordon Gibbons.

The game's been an integral part of his life since he was 5 years old, running around barefoot with a ball for the Manukau Magpies.

Fast-forward almost 55 years and Gibbons is in charge of corporate sales for New Zealand's largest club at Mt Smart Stadium.

"A lot of our stuff we sell, the football's secondary," he says.

Gibbons recalls some of the game's greats giving the club big compliments about that.

"Gus Gould, Peter Stirling, Laurie Daley...they all said our lounge is the best in the NRL."

It's been another disappointing year on the field for the Warriors and it's something Gibbons hopes can be rectified in 2016.

"The toughest thing about my job is dealing with the losses," he says.

Gibbons recalls when the Warriors beat the Melbourne Storm in round 18, when they had pushed their way up to fourth place.

"I was already preparing for a home semi. We never won a game after that. But that's sport."

Gibbons has been right in the thick of league, on and off the field.

He played senior premier footy for the Magpies and later followed head coach Gary Kemble to the Northcote Tigers, where Gibbons became manager.

"In those days [it] was sacrilege," Gibbons says of the move.

After management roles at Lion Nathan, he joined the staff with the Kiwis and his first tour was to Papua New Guinea in 1994.

In 2000 Gibbons was handed the manager role alongside coach Gary Freeman and finished in 2004.

Gibbons says he had very little choice but to accept the role again for the Kiwis' in their 2008 World Cup year, when assistant coach Wayne Bennett wouldn't take no for an answer.

During half-time of the grand final in Brisbane, with the Kiwis trailing on the scoreboard, he saw the belief grow in the players.

The team turned around a four-point halftime deficit to win 34-20.

"That's something I'll take to my grave with me."

Gibbons will receive the ultimate honour in 2016 when he will be awarded a Distinguished Service Medal from the NZRL.

He's a big family man - he has four children and four grandchildren - and coaches football for his son's Lynn Avon club team.

As for the 2016 NRL season and the big signings the Warriors have secured, Gibbons is certain it's going to be one heck of a ride.



Gordon Gibbons

Suburban Newspapers  
Auckland

stuff.co.nz

# Looking Forward

By Barry Ross



**L**IKE ALL Rugby League fans I can't wait until Shaun Johnson takes the field for the Warriors this season. We all know he suffered a season-ending ankle injury, playing against Manly in late July last year. The talented halfback had surgery soon after and all reports we are receiving in Sydney are saying the 25 year old is on track to take his place in the Warriors side for their opening competition game, at Campbelltown on 5 March against the Wests Tigers.

Even though he is a New Zealander, Johnson has thrilled Australian fans from the moment he made his first grade debut at the Sydney Football Stadium (now Allianz Stadium) on 4 June 2011. His CV with the Warriors reads 101 first grade games and 542 first grade points, from 45 tries, 178 goals and 6 field goals. His value to the team is perfectly illustrated by other official NRL stats from last season. In the 18 games he played, he ran for 1,402 metres (average of 78 metres per game), while he also made 280 tackles (nearly 16 each game). These are quality statistics for a halfback.

In July last year the Men of League Foundation in Sydney ran their Magnificent Seven competition. This was to name the seven best halfbacks in the television era from around 1960. They were chosen by a panel, which included Wayne Bennett (Broncos coach), Neil Cadigan (Titans media man and Men of League magazine editor), Warren Smith (Fox Sports Rugby League Commentator), Tim Sheens (former Australian coach) and Phil Rothfield (Telegraph newspaper sports writer). An original group of 14 were selected and then the panel chose the Magnificent Seven. These seven men were Andrew Johns, Allan Langer, Steve Mortimer, Tom Raudonikis, Billy Smith, Peter Stirling and Johnathan Thurston. The seven who missed out were all brilliant players and they were Greg Alexander, Cooper Cronk, Stacey Jones, Brett Kimmorley, Barry Muir, Ricky Stuart and Arthur Summons.

Many fans were stunned that Shaun Johnson missed out on even being named in the original 14. To be fair to the panel, they cannot pick everyone but the Warriors man certainly has the credentials. Stacey Jones must have been close to being named as one of the Magificent Seven. In his 46 Test period between 1995 and 2006, he more than held his own with all of his opposition halfbacks, as he did in his 150 or so first grade games with the Warriors.

There are many other great New Zealand halfbacks and maybe someone could look at a competition to choose a Kiwi Magnificent Seven. Some of the men who starred for New Zealand behind the scrum since TV games begin are Clayton Friend (24 Tests), Gary Freeman (46 Tests), Thomas Leuluai (8 Tests), Bill Snowden (18 Tests), Ken Stirling (22 Tests), Shane Varley (11 Tests), Bob Irvine (7 Tests), Gordon Smith (14 Tests) and Aaron Whittaker (3 Tests). When you add versatile players, who can all handle the halfback role, such as the Paul brothers Henry (24 Tests) and Robbie (28 Tests), plus Benji Marshall (27 Tests), along with Stacey Jones and Shaun Johnson, you certainly have an impressive and classy group of Kiwi number sevens.

A New Zealand cricketer has impressed the Australian sporting public over the past few weeks. She is Sara McGlashan who plays with the Sydney Sixers in the Womens Big Bash League. After a disastrous start to the competition in which they lost their first six games, the Sixers reached the semi finals with their last ball win over the Hobart Hurricanes at Sydney's Hurstville Oval last Sunday. But they can thank their Kiwi that they are playing in the big end of season games. She made a brilliant 79 not out from just 58 balls against the Hurricanes, including four sixes and three fours.

When you consider that the second highest Sixers score was 11, it is easy to see how valuable McGlashan's innings was. They needed the win to reach the semi finals and with just one over to be bowled they still needed 14 runs. McGlashan hit a towering six from the second ball and played a strong straight drive on the last ball to pick up the necessary two runs and the victory. The Sixers meet the Hobart Hurricanes again in the semi final, this Friday 22 June at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It will be played in the afternoon before the Mens semi final clash between the Melbourne Stars and the Perth Scorchers at night. Both matches will be televised live by the Ten network and maybe you can see McGlashan and the Sixers on New Zealand television. The Womens League is a high standard one and the matches have received good TV ratings.



**In Mosgiel this Saturday? Then come join me!**



**In Mosgiel this Saturday? Then come join me!**

## Welcome to the Otago Taieri A&P Show this Saturday 23 January 2016

It's all happening in Gordon Road Mosgiel, lots of show classes for Horses, Cattle, sheep and Goats.

Axemen SI Championships, and the Highland games are being held here.

Dancing tractors, Girl band Mae Valley, Jonathan Usher bringing his magic show and Amadeo from Otago Museum with an interactive science display.

Special Guests include for the Paddock to Plate competition; Celebrity Guest judge **Sir Peter Charles Leitch KNZM QSM** (one and only Mad Butcher) he loves to have a chat and Otago's own super- fast rally driver **Emma Gilmour** will be here with her rally car. Many trade and market stalls to check out, lots to see and do.

**Come spend the day at our Annual A&P Show, Gordon Road Mosgiel, it will be a great day.**



X Factor finalists – Mae Valley



Highland games



SI Axemen Championship



Grand Parade

# Coming soon in The Mad Butchers Newsletter ....

By John Holloway

**W**E ARE going to have a bit of Fun and Competition this year as we introduce a Weekly NRL Tipping Page...My good-self, John "High Tackle" Holloway will be putting together a fine cast of Footy notables and loose-lipped hardcases to pick the NRL winners across the 8 games each week...keeping a running total to get our grand champion at the end of Round 26. We will be coming up with a suitable Prezzy for the first place getter!!

Of course any appointed Tipsters that doesn't pick The Mighty Warriors to win will be automatically tossed out of the comp forthwith!!

"High Tackle" will also write a commentary column each week talking results and prospects and guaranteed methods of Tipping for success. The "High Tackle" Personal Tips are contrived with extreme accuracy by means of a complex system based on Teacup reading, Lucky numbers, Pre-war historical results, Meteorology forecasts, Chinese Whispers and insights by a secret but reliable Gypsy fortune teller. Mate we are talking stone cold certainties.....with this info you are guaranteed the good oil when you front the old hard earned at the TAB.... In fact you can probably give up the day job and live on the weekly "multi-bet" winnings bound to come your way.

So stay tuned, a couple of weeks out from kick-off we will have season preview pieces announcing our Tipsters and running a street-smart eye across each teams "Top 8/ Too Late" prospects with pride of place naturally for the Founders of the Faith, The Penrose Punishers, The Beazley Ave Bashers, Cappys Crushers... The Mighty Vodafone Waaarrriioorrss.

Immediately prior to the first round we will stick up the first Tipping panel forecast and it's all on!

**You saw it here first, be there or be square.**

## Get Behind This Great Kid!

**I** LOVE GREAT kids doing awesome stuff and I met a young fella this weekend who I want you all to get behind. His name is Quinn Gardiner-Hall and he is on a mission to inspire more of our Kiwi kids to put down the i-Pads and Xbox's and get outside and be active, which I think is excellent.

Quinn is running 4 half marathons, in 4 countries, before he turns 12 - he is only 9!

He has already run 2 half marathons, including the Australian Outback Half Marathon in 1 hour 57 minutes and in both races he wasted his Mum, which he's really proud of. He has got some sponsorship to help him get to Hawai'i this year to run the Kauai Half Marathon but needs some help to get to Antarctica to run the Antarctica Half Marathon which is the final event on his list.

Here's a link to his givealittle page folks - if like me you think this is an awesome little Kiwi fella doing fantastic things and you've got a couple of bucks to spare, please give generously:

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





# Get movie deals any day of the week



Thanks to Vodafone Fantastic Fridays

Visit [vodafone.co.nz/movies](http://vodafone.co.nz/movies)

**Vodafone**  
Power to you



# The History of the Mad Butcher Lounge

By Mike Brown

**T**HERE HAVE been many changes to The Mad Butcher Lounge at Warriors' headquarters at Mount Smart.

The most notable is our host received a knighthood in 2010 for services to business and philanthropy.

The Lounge came about when the then Mad Butcher was approached by the club and asked if he would like to give his name to a room for fans to meet before and after the game and if he could pop in now and then.

"I'm not one to look a gift horse in the mouth so jumped at the opportunity," Sir Peter recalled.

"They had passes made up and we soon had a cross section of up to 50 people join and I never left the place!"

The first room allocated was the old 'Referees' room' in the bottom corner of the West Stand, which already had bar facilities.

Notable guests in those early years were Bill and Rona Jones, parents of Stacey, who was yet to make his first grade debut. Trevor Bell, who had played league in his younger days at Richmond with Bill Jones and Trevor's wife Tui, who was a Mangere East league supporter and knew The Mad Butcher from there, were also to become stalwarts of the lounge.

It was a small but cosy place, no windows and was closed while the game was in progress.

"It was down the corridor from the players' changing rooms and we often got a couple from the team pop in to say hello and have

a chat after the game," said Sir Peter.

"We were comfortable where we were and had no idea what the future held."

The name change of the stadium in 2000 from Ericsson to Mount Smart Stadium, coincided with a shift of The Mad Butcher Lounge to the back of the East Stand.

This was a change of massive proportions, from a tight-knit group of 50 members, this lounge was 10 times the size and new members were canvassed to fill it, plus there were windows so you had an idea when to go home!

"This was the big time for us now," said Sir Peter.

"It took the pre-game entertainment for our members to a high level."

These included the addition of a DJ, Peter McVeigh, who must have worn all his Neil Diamond and Tina Turner tapes out by now.

Notable guests to perform included, comedian Ewen Gilmour, hypnotist Guy Cater, singers Tom Sharplin and Larry Morris, even Prime Minister Helen Clark was a regular and in later years John Key. One year the whole Melbourne Storm team visited the lounge after the game.

Fast forward to 2002 when the Warriors were making their march to the Grand Final and members were invited to a special show on a Thursday night in the lounge. There was a live cross to The Footy Show, in Sydney and Sir Peter had Darryl (The Big Marn) Brohman hosting at Mount Smart.

The guest who perform in the lounge do so of their own free will and give members many laughs but more laughs come from Sir Peter.

I can remember two stand-out performances from Sir Peter in the East Stand lounge.

The first was after a game when he challenged player Richard Villasanti to skull a bottle of beer against him. Sir Peter won (of course) and had a league ball to give away. He kicked it into the crowd but can't have had his kicking boots on as it hit a member on the head in front of him. The crowd gasped, the member fell to the ground and Sir Peter thought he might have to give mouth to mouth but instead the person got up groggy and was given the ball.

Sir Peter has strict rules in the lounge when guests and players are interviewed. No one else is to talk or they get his wrath and are asked, no told, to leave the lounge.

This time Sir Peter saw someone talking and got stuck in. "Hey you, the guy with the funny hair do, you've been warned now shut up." The 'guy' turned around and it was a woman! Sir Peter turned to DJ Peter and said, "you told me he was a guy you fool!" Quick as a wink he had shifted the blame to someone else.

Then one time Sir Peter had an invited guest who had cancer and his wife was pregnant. He was interviewing him when a bloke at the back began chanting, "Warriors, Warriors." In a flash Sir Peter had the chanter out the back door and we thought he was going to give him a hiding with the

*Continued on next page...*



commotion coming through the door. Sir Peter came back and told us everything was OK, he just barred the man from the lounge for the rest of the season!

Renovations to the East Stand meant The Mad Butcher Lounge was on the move again but this time just 50 metres away.

The Lounge went to the old Frank Endacott Room, across the pathway. The big bonus to this room was the windows faced out towards the No.2 field where the Warriors would warm up before the game.

You could watch from the lounge and have an idea how the game would fare. If they were dropping catches in warm-up there was a good chance they'd do it while playing. You also had an insight to who was playing and who wasn't before anyone else, by the numbers on the players backs.

Seven years ago The Mad Butcher Lounge made a dramatic change.

CEO Wayne Scurrah told Sir Peter the players were going to utilize the room where the lounge was and would it suit Sir Peter to relocate us to the Immortals' Lounge, on top of the West Stand, now named the Colin Kay West Stand.

"Who wouldn't," Sir Peter said.

"A superb view of the game and the first time we have had a venue we can stay inside while the game plays."

This latest Mad Butcher Lounge now has a waiting list for members to join.

"The best thing about the lounge is we've had people stick with us throughout the Warriors' history," Sir Peter said.

"We even have a couple from Christchurch, Dave and Lorraine McKee, who have come to every

home game for the last eight years and been members of the lounge in that time."

Warriors' memorabilia is around the walls plus life size photos of former players.

"No matter whether the team wins or loses the Pommy boys have all the chants for us and we can always come back and have a celebration with friends," Sir Peter said.

"At the end of the day we all have one common factor, we are all supporters of the Mighty Vodafone Warriors!"

This newsletter is a product of The Mad Butcher Club/Lounge.

"We began the newsletter to inform our members of what was going on and it has just grown," Sir Peter said.

Long may it continue.

### Lounge Photos from Previous Games



Bob, Lindsay and Ray



Costo (who use to do the rugby league commentary on SKY) and Robbie the dancer



MAD BUTCHER LOUNGE ORIGINALS From left to right, Mike Brown, Sir Peter, Michael (Geordie) Storey, Trevor Bell



Michael Luck, Sir Peter Leitch, Ian Henderson, Jacob Lillyman after a win.



Paul, Neil, Peter, Steve THE POMS



The Bulldogs always have good traveling supporters who come up to the lounge



The gang Glenda, Margie, Raewyn, Rosa, Tui, Lorraine.



The Wai Wai Girls Waiheke Island's biggest entertainment for over 100 years performed in the lounge and had the place rocking



VODAFONE



Mike Pero



# BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR FEB 20TH 2016

## TRAFALGAR PARK

## NELSON

## KICK OFF 5PM

## GATES OPEN 2PM

## BOOK NOW

## AT



## OR



**CATERED  
HOSPITALITY  
PACKAGES  
AVAILABLE**

**CHARTER  
BUS FROM  
MOTUEKA  
AVAILABLE**



FOR MORE INFO ON HOSPITALITY PACKAGES  
VISIT US AT [TRAFALGAREVENTS.CO.NZ](http://TRAFALGAREVENTS.CO.NZ)  
INFO@NELSONVENUES.CO.NZ 03 546 6330  
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: TRAFALGAR EVENTS



# League 4 Life



## Summer Fundraiser

Thursday **February 4**, 2016 at the **Ellerslie Racecourse**

*(The day before the Downer NRL Auckland Nines kick off)*

First race approximately **4.30pm** Last race approximately **7.30pm**

**Come Racing!** Join us at the League 4 Life Summer Fundraiser to be held at Ellerslie Racecourse as part of the Barfoot and Thompson Twilight Summer Series. **So why not get a group together and support a great cause and have some fun at the same time.**



**Stephen McIvor**  
*MC for the Event*



**Sir Peter Leitch**  
*NZRL & League 4 Life  
Patron*

**Plus join these former Kiwis:** Logan Swann, Roger Bailey, Fred Ah Kuoi, Ritchie Blackmore, Ken Stirling, Graeme West and **more!**

**By purchasing a ticket to the Summer Fundraiser you are making a generous donation to the League 4 Life Foundation. Your ticket price includes:**

- **A donation to the League 4 Life Foundation**
- Entry into the exclusive **League 4 Life marquee**, located on the **Champagne Lawn** with sweeping views of the home straight and Winning Post
- **Gourmet BBQ buffet dinner** designed by our award winning chefs incorporating the best New Zealand ingredients, featuring hot items from the grill, a selection of salads, finished with tea and coffee
- **Complimentary drink** on arrival for each guest
- Racecourse admission, racebooks and pens
- Convenient access to betting facilities and a cash bar

If you have a group of **eight** then we can reserve a table for you!

**Want tickets? Then contact Sir Peter Leitch on 021 936 105  
or [pcleitch@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pcleitch@xtra.co.nz)**

Hello Sir Peter

MANY THANKS for the Kiwis supporter jumper my wife Gill received from your recent give away. She is very happy with her shirt as seen in picture attached.

Regards

Russ Brennan



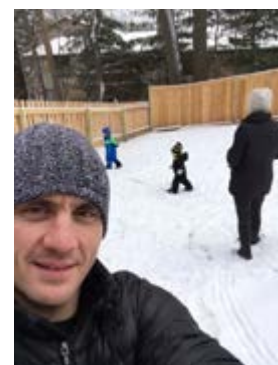
Hi Butch,

Just a short hello to see how you are getting on.

Hear are a few photos of the family and I from the past few months. We have been quite busy recently so I don't have many to choose from. We are all really looking forward to coming back to NZ in March and catching up with everyone.

Talk to you again soon mate.

Lance Hohaia



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



John Deaker  
Correspondent



John Coffey  
Southern  
Correspondent



Barry Ross  
Australian  
Correspondent



Ben Francis  
Northern  
Correspondent