



NEW ZEALAND  
RUGBY LEAGUE™

# Sir Peter Leitch Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

19<sup>th</sup> October 2016

# Newsletter #144



## Kiwis v Kangaroos - Perth Test



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



# Just Not as Bad as It's Being Painted

By David Kemeys

Former Sunday Star-Times Editor, Former Editor-in-Chief Suburban Newspapers, Long Suffering Warriors Fan



**W**ELCOME TO the world of the head coach David Kidwell.

His Kiwis lost 26-6 in Perth to Australia and it took 80 minutes for the press to round on the new man at the top of the tree.

David Long, writing in the Sunday Star-Times called it a test “short of thrilling moments”, and few would argue, especially if you were supporting the Kiwis.

Australia were just too good, they totally shut down our forward pack, which few would have thought possible. Worst of all, they didn't seem to have much trouble doing it.

If it wasn't bad enough getting spanked 16-0 in the one-off Anzac test earlier this year, getting 26 points put on you was really horrible.

Five tries to one, looking like communication was a dirty word, and coughing up soft penalties made it a tough watch.

But Long was among those, and to be fair to the bloke, it was not an exclusive club, rounding on Kidwell for keeping Dally M winner Jason Taumalolo on the bench.

Our new coach took his lumps, just as he always did in the black and white jersey, and anywhere else he pulled on a shirt, taking responsibility.

He came out and admitted he has a lot to learn, having taken over from Stephen Kearney only about a month ago, and accepted not giving Taumalolo more game time was a mistake.

“That is a harsh lesson for myself for the first time in the job. I take responsibility for that.”

That's good enough for me. The bloke does not deserve the roasting he is getting.

He is one match into his time in charge, and it is hardly his fault Shaun Kenny-Dowall had a night he'd prefer to forget. And come to that, SKD does not deserve the bagging he is getting either, having been one of our best many times in the black jersey.

We were brave certainly, but everyone knows if you do not get dominance up front, you are going to struggle, and throw in some pretty ordinary fifth tackle options, and Perth was also going to be another

fruitless trip.

Kidwell says he has addressed some of the lessons we learned with his players.”You can't give a team like Australia that much ball and opportunity. We got ourselves back in the game but we have to be more consistent. There were a couple of simple errors and we have to finish our sets better.”

The Kiwis leave for their Four Nations campaign on Wednesday, Sir Peter on board, and no point claiming otherwise, they have a bit to do if they want to defend their crown, especially with England looming in Huddersfield on October 29.

Michael Burgess in the Herald was no more optimistic, writing our No 1 ranking looks “shaky” after we were “dismantled”.

Like Long, he could see some positives, notably the gritty defence, but said the negatives far outweighed them.

In particular he singled out Jared Waerea-Hargreaves, saying he “did nothing to dampen the questions over his ability at test level”, and of course the unfortunate Kenny-Dowall.

What frustrated me was the lack of cohesion by Shaun Johnson, Thomas Leuluai and Issac Luke. It was like watching the worst bit of our Warriors season all over again.

But let's also take a peek at the much vaunted Aussies, so brilliant according to Gus Gould, the world's worst commentator. The first try was a complete fluke, coming after the Kiwis failed to get another set of six they clearly should have had. Yeah our defensive read was poor, but how many times is the excellent Jordan Kahu going to see the ball bounce off his head into Greg Inglis's hands?

The second Inglis try was dubious at best, but, surprise, surprise, the bunker took seconds to call it good. We would have been awarded that try, I don't think so.

Not great, but not the complete disaster it is being painted as either

## **Burgess The Boss**

Sam Burgess has been named captain of the England team by new coach, Wayne Bennett.

Burgess has played for his country 16 times (England 14/GB 2), and will captain the side throughout the 2016 Four Nations.

Burgess, said: "It is an absolute honour and privilege to be asked to captain my country and to lead this group through the Four Nations. I want to thank Wayne for having the trust and belief that I can do the job and I am determined to do my best for this team. "

## **Officials Named**

Super League referees Robert Hicks and Ben Thaler will be joined by the NRL's Ben Cummins and Gerard Sutton at the Four Nations.

Cummins and Sutton have more than 450 NRL games between them, and State of Origin and international experience.

## **Four Nations Schedule**

Friday October 28: Australia v Scotland, Lightstream Stadium, Hull

Saturday October 29: England v New Zealand, The John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield

Saturday November 5: England v Scotland, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Saturday November 5: New Zealand v Australia, Ricoh Arena, Coventry

Friday November 11: New Zealand v Scotland, The Zebra Claims Stadium, Workington

Sunday November 13: England v Australia, The London Stadium, London

Sunday November 20: Final, Anfield, Liverpool

## **Europe Just Keeps Growing**

- The German Rugby League has named a 20-man squad for a match against Wales next week. It will be the Germans first outing, with all the players coming from their own leagues.
- The West London Warriors won the 'Capitals of Rugby League 9s' in Budapest, defeating Belgrade 16-12.
- Ireland overran Malta 58-10. James Kelly - who scored a hat-trick - is included in their World Cup squad
- Ukraine won promotion to European Championship B, defeating the Czech Republic 62-12, posting 12 tries on the way .
- Italy's World Cup squad has players from five leagues – Italy, France, England, Australia and Wales – as the Azzurri aim to take their place in a second successive cup.



Want to send a message to the Kiwis?  
Email it to [nadene@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:nadene@nzrl.co.nz)





*By John Coffey QSM*

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)

## Down But Hopefully Not Out

*The NZ Kiwis perform the Haka during the Rugby League Perth Test Match.*

*Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**T**HE OPENING Four Nations clash with England at Huddersfield on Sunday week (NZ time) was always going to be New Zealand's most significant Test match in 2016. Only by beating England could the Kiwis expect to take on Australia in the tournament final. Now they have to climb somewhat groggily off the canvas, where the Kangaroos have dumped them twice, to take on the Brits in the city where rugby league was founded 121 years ago.

New Zealand's number one international ranking is fast slipping from their hands on the back of the 2-1 series loss to England over there late last year, the 16-0 shut-out by the Kangaroos in the Anzac Test at Newcastle in May and last Saturday night's 26-6 defeat in the Bill Kelly Memorial Cup game at Perth. I don't know how such rankings are calculated but those three consecutive wins over Australia in 2014 and 2015 are now becoming a distant memory.

Once again, hopes were unrealistically high that a potentially powerful Kiwis forward pack would blow their Australian rivals apart and more than compensate for the absence of decisive backs such as Roger Tuivasa-Sheck, Kieran Foran, Dean Whare and Peta Hiku. The Kiwis' forwards were also confidently expected to dominate in England last year and at Newcastle in May. In both cases the opposing packs were grossly under-estimated.

New coach David Kidwell and captain Jesse Bromwich have little time to rally the troops. It was generally agreed the Kiwis line-up fielded in Perth was the best available – and new caps Jordan Rapana and Solomon Kata justified their selections even while they were starved of attacking opportunities – while the Kangaroos have Adam Woods and Josh Mansour to return and the Lions have already welcomed back brothers Sam and George Burgess from last year.

We could endlessly over-analyse what went wrong after the Kiwis started slowly and then responded in heartening fashion to trail only 6-8 at halftime. But crucial errors continued after the resumption and Kangaroos coach Mal Meninga rotated his forwards more astutely than Kidwell in his senior representative debut. Leaving Jason Taumalolo on the bench from the 35th to 64th minutes even had Phil Gould asking where the Kiwis wrecking ball had gone.

New Zealand might have more depth in the NRL these days but Australia will always have more match-hardened players to call upon for end-of-season Tests – and that will continue at least as long as the Warriors struggle. Only six Kiwis, Jordan Kahu, Rapana, Bromwich, Kevin Proctor, Tohu Harris and Taumalolo, were involved in the NRL play-offs, compared to 12 of the Kangaroos. Many Kiwis, notably Shaun Kenny-Dowall, looked short of a gallop.

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Still boasting the vaunted Queensland spine and led by ageless trio Cameron Smith, Cooper Cronk and Johnathan Thurston, the Kangaroos displayed a far superior tactical kicking game. The Kiwis were forced to rely on the shaky remnants of the Warriors spine plus Kahu, who was typically courageous and competent as the fill-in fullback. While some of the Australian outside backs were also a bit rusty, the vibrant Valentine Holmes more than made up for that.

Several times Shaun Johnson ran the ball on the last tackle when the players outside him were haring away in anticipation of a kick. The first wave of Kiwis interchanges, Martin Taupau, Manu Ma'u and Adam Blair, actually increased the forward momentum. But Australia regrouped and put big bodies in their way. Only Taupau exceeded 100 metres with the ball, and he was one of those who had been out of football since the NRL regular season.

Sure, there was an element of luck in the mis-kicks which led to Greg Inglis' two tries, and the first of them came after referee Matt Cecchin – accustomed to having a partner at club level -- failed to spot an Australian knock-on. But the first Australian try, to fullback Darius Boyd, followed the Kiwis' concession of two early penalties for ill-discipline (yes, Jared Waerea-Hargreaves was back) and the Aussies were quick to swoop on SKD's fumbles.

Proctor ran onto a deft Johnson pass for the Kiwis' try after 21 minutes. But once Australia extended its lead out to eight points in the 44th minute there was only ever going to be one outcome. The Kiwis spent most of their time trying to clear their own goal-line and one felt sorry for the wholehearted Jason Nightingale being used as cannon fodder in trying to make even a few metres before being unceremoniously collared. But he never stopped trying.

It would have been worse had Kahu, Nightingale and Rapana not defused dangerous kicks and Thomas Leuluai, Taupau and Blair not pulled off outstanding tackles inside the red zone. Proctor was outstanding in the first spell but, like Taumalolo, was out of the action when the Kangaroos exerted their control after halftime. While Kidwell returns to the drawing board, England has a warm-up romp against France this weekend to welcome new coach Wayne Bennett.

Bill Kelly Memorial Cup: Australia 26 (Inglis 2, Boyd, Holmes, Cordner tries; Thurston 3 goals) beat New Zealand 6 (Proctor try; Luke goal) at nib Stadium, Perth. Halftime: 8-6. Referee: Matt Cecchin (Australia). Crowd: 20,283 (ground record). Man of Match: Inglis.

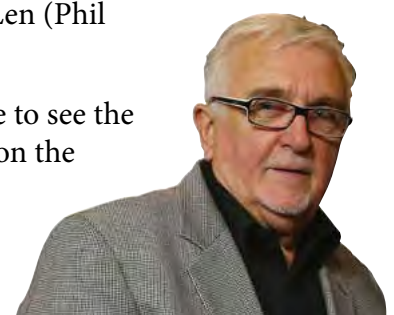
## The Butcher Wishes the All Blacks all the Best

**A**S A proud New Zealander who loves his sport, let me wish Kieran Read and the All Blacks all the best as they play for a world record for tier one rugby teams on Saturday night at Eden Park.

If they beat the Aussies it'll be 18 wins in a row. I'm a league man, but I'm also a fan of great New Zealand sportspeople, be it Joseph Parker, Valerie Adams, or Richie McCaw.

The way these All Blacks play the game is fantastic. My old mate Loosehead Len (Phil Gifford) reckons they're the best All Blacks side of the last 50 years.

They've got a good man in Steve Hansen coaching them. It's always a pleasure to see the success of someone like him, a good humble bloke who keeps his feet firmly on the ground. Go the All Blacks! - **Sir Peter Leitch**



# Who Will Be Kiwi Number 800?

By John Coffey QSM

Author of ten rugby league books, Christchurch Press sports writer (44 years), NZ correspondent for Rugby League Week (Australia) and Open Rugby (England)



**S**OLOMONE KATA and Jordan Rapana made their Test debuts against Australia at Perth last weekend. They extended the Kiwis Roll of Honour to 798 players and reduced the number of uncapped players in the Four Nations squad to three, David Fusitu'a, Te Maire Martin and Joseph Tapine. There were instances in the past when some touring players qualified despite not taking the field, but now they must cross that white line before receiving a number.

Many sports numerically list their representatives, from club up to international level, and I recall an intense few weeks in 2006 allocating Kiwis numbers (then up to 734) when the late Bernie Wood and I researched the book we produced to mark the centenary of international rugby league. The original 1907-08 All Golds were listed in alphabetical order and, fittingly, tour organiser and player Albert Henry Baskerville was bestowed with Number One.

Fusitu'a, Martin and Tapine are in contention to become Kiwis number 799, 800 and 801 if they can break into the playing 17 during the Four Nations tournament in Britain. The second of them to make his debut would also become our eighth "centurion". So who were the other Kiwis "centurions" who will forever have the James Bond-like double-0 included in their numbers on the Roll of Honour?

**Kiwi Number 100:** Charles Finlayson (Wellington) was first to represent New Zealand at both rugby league and cricket (since joined by Auckland utility back and opening batsman Verdun Scott). Finlayson played fullback in the second match against NSW at Wellington's Newtown Park in 1913. As an all-rounder, he represented Wellington and Auckland at cricket and in 1928, when aged 38, he played for New Zealand against Australia at Eden Park.

**Kiwi Number 200:** Bert Eckhoff (Otago) was a prop or second-rower in an era when Otago was particularly strong, Eckhoff played in the deciding third Test of Britain's 1928 tour when the Kiwis lost a mighty battle 6-5 at English Park in Christchurch. After being a member of the first South Island team to beat North Island in 1929 and draw in 1930, Eckhoff was vice-captain of the New Zealand team which toured Australia in 1930, when no Tests were played.

**Kiwi Number 300:** Jimmy Haig (Canterbury and Otago) is one of the Legends of our game and was

scrum-half in the NZRL Team of the Century chosen in 2007. Haig walked out of Otago and the All Blacks at 22 in 1947 to join Kiwis captain Pat Smith at the new Prebbleton club near Christchurch. He went on to play 21 Tests (eight of them as captain) among 53 matches for the Kiwis. Haig toured Britain and France twice and won series against Australia in 1952 (away) and 1953 (home). He returned to Otago in 1954, his last international season.

**Kiwi Number 400:** Jim Patterson (Auckland) was hooker in both Tests of the drawn home series against the Kangaroos in 1961. He replaced an injured Tom Reid for the first Test, with legendary hooker Jock Butterfield moving to prop, and stayed there when injury kept Butterfield out of the second Test. Patterson then toured Britain and France as Butterfield's understudy, playing in the first Test against France. He was in Auckland teams which beat France in 1960 and Australia in 1961.

**Kiwi Number 500:** Brian Tracey (Auckland) played in all three Test matches at the 1972 World Cup tournament in France and in one other game on that tour. A lively scrum-half and useful goalkicker, Tracey was a member of the champion Ponsonby club team of the early 1970s. The highlight of their reign was a 27-21 victory over Cronulla-Sutherland at Carlaw Park, dubbed "the greatest club game of all time". Auckland representative 1969 and 1974.

**Kiwi Number 600:** Peter Brown (Auckland) made 16 Test appearances at prop from 1986 until 1991, scoring four tries and 20 goals, including nine goals against Papua New Guinea at Carlaw Park in 1988. Brown toured Britain with Auckland in 1987 and was in the Auckland teams which beat Great Britain in 1988 and 1990. He also played in Brisbane as a youngster and for English clubs Hunslet, Salford, Leigh and Halifax. Later became a player agent.

**Kiwi Number 700:** Michael Smith (Castleford) was chosen from his Super League club for the 2002 tour of Britain and France. A second-rower, he played in the Test against France at Perpignan, and scored two tries in his three non-Test appearances. Smith began his professional career for the Canterbury Bulldogs in 1996-97 before moving to Britain and playing for Castleford, Hull and York between 1998 and 2004, then briefly for Hull KR in 2007.

# Fisher-Harris Replaces Mannering for Four Nations

By Grant Chapman - NZRL Communications Manager



**NZ KIWIS** veteran Simon Mannering (Kiwi #731) has been ruled out of the upcoming Four Nations campaign in England.

He did not travel to Perth for the test match against Australia to give him an extra week to recover from a minor knee injury, but unfortunately it wasn't enough time.

"He's up and running, but his knee isn't game ready," said Kiwis team doctor Greg Macleod.

"We have maintained regular contact with the NZ Warriors medical staff and we were optimistic that Simon would be ready for the tour. It turns out he needs a bit more time to make a full recovery."

Penrith Panthers forward James Fisher-Harris (20) replaces the former Kiwis captain.

Kiwis coach David Kidwell is excited to have Fisher-Harris in the squad.

"He was really high on our list for the initial squad, but narrowly missed out. We are fortunate to have this calibre of player to call on.

"He's come through the NZRL pathways and has performed at a very high level in the NRL. I'm looking forward to getting him in camp."

"Simon is a big loss for us. His leadership, experience and work ethic are really valuable, but I'm confident in my senior playing group to demonstrate those characteristics, on and off the field."

Fisher-Harris will join the team tomorrow, when they assemble in Auckland before leaving for England.

## Kick Off Time Change for England v Australia

**T**HE RFL can confirm that following discussions with the host broadcaster for the Ladbrokes Four Nations, the kick off time for the England v Australia fixture at London Stadium on Sunday, November 13 has been changed to 2.00pm from 3.30pm.

### A Message From The Kiwis

'Despite the result we had a great camp. Our Te Iwi Kiwi culture is strong and we are building. A lot of lessons have come out of the game and the team will be working really hard on and off the field to get results'







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By Barry Ross



# Success

*The crowd at the Kiwis v Kangaroos Perth test. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)*

**F**OR MANY reasons, the Perth Test on Saturday night was a great success and the Australian authorities are to be congratulated for staging the game in the west. The match was entertaining, the official proceedings were well done and tasteful, while the crowd of 20,283, was a sellout. The last time Australia played in Perth was on Saturday 2 October 1982, when the Kangaroos, on their way to England and France, beat Western Australia 57-5 before a crowd of around 3,000 at Cannington Raceway. Eric Grothe senior (8 Tests), scored four tries for the Kangaroos, while current NRL Commissioner, Wayne Pearce OAM, was a member of the Australian side. Winger Mick Rassmussen, had the locals in front 5-0 after a minute or so from an intercept try. On the same day, in Port Moresby, the remainder of the 1982 Kangaroos defeated Papua/New Guines, 38-2 in the first ever Test match between the two nations.

Last Saturday, local, Richard Walley, performed the Welcome to Country ceremony on behalf of the Whadjuk people and the Noongar nation, Lee Morunga sang the New Zealand National Anthem and Sophie Foster sang the Australian Anthem and then to finish, Issac Luke and his team-mates gave a polished version of the Haka.

Although the Australians won the match by 20 points, 12 of these came in the final 12 minutes. It was only 8-6 at halftime to the Kangaroos and the Kiwis were right in the contest. The visitors were rusty and new coach, David Kidwell, knows he has plenty of work to do before his team play its opening Four Nations game at Huddersfield on Saturday 29 October against England. The Kiwis' other two games are against the Kangaroos at Coventry on Saturday 5 November and with Scotland at Workington on Friday 11 November. They will also want to play a fourth game, the Final at Liverpool on 20 November.

Despite the loss in Perth, Kidwell will take several positives from it. One of these was the outstanding game from bench man, Martin Taupau. He made 129 metres in his 10 carries and five big tackle busts. His powerful runs up the middle made it very difficult for the Australians to handle him. Still only 26, Taupau has now played 86 first grade matches (66 with the Tigers and 20 in 2016 for Manly) and has 11 tries. This season he averaged more than 10 metres in each of his 277 runs for Manly. He has a lot more to give in the future for both New Zealand and Manly.

Solomone Kata was excellent in his Test debut and he will get better and better. Only 21, Kata is an exciting player to watch. Like Taupau, he averaged over 10 metres a run in his 21 games with the Warriors this year. His 15 tries in 2016 indicates what a potent scorer he can be and Kidwell will utilise this ability in the coming Four Nations games.

*Continued on next page...*

The three Australian Test debutants in Perth, winger Valentine Holmes (Sharks), who at 21 was the youngest player on the field, bench forward Tyson Frizell (Dragons) and prop Shannon Boyd (Raiders), also did well and Aussie coach, Mal Meninga, will be pleased with their efforts.

Two of the Australians experienced men, captain and hooker, Cameron Smith and centre, Greg Inglis, made their mark in the game. Now 33, Smith played his 45th Test in Perth which moved him up level with Graeme Langlands, as the fourth most capped Australian player of all-time. He also has 335 first grade matches and 1,017 points in his CV. Darren Lockyer holds the record of 59 for most Tests for Australia, but Smith could return from the Four Nations in second place. He only needs two more Tests to move in front of second placed Meninga, who has 46 Tests. After Perth, Inglis, now 29, has 30 Test tries to his credit, which places him third on the all-time Australian list behind Lockyer (35) and Ken Irvine (33). In club football, Inglis has played 241 first grade games in his 12 seasons with Melbourne and Souths. After the 2016 season, he now has 138 NRL tries.

It is interesting to analyse the venues to be used in the coming Four Nations. The Australia-New Zealand clash at Ricoh Arena in Coventry on 5 November at 8pm, will be the second game of a double header. England meet Scotland in the early fixture at the 32,600 capacity stadium, at 5.30pm. Coventry is in the English Midlands and is about 30 kilometres east of Birmingham, which is England's second biggest city. A Rugby League Test was last played in this region more than 104 years ago, when Australasia 33 beat England 8 at Villa Park Birmingham before a crowd of just 4,000 on 1 January 1912. The venue for the Kiwis game with England is John Smith's Stadium, capacity 24,500, at Huddersfield, which is a town of rich Rugby League history. The Zebra Claims Stadium at Workington for the Kiwis-Scotland game, holds around 10,000. The Final at Liverpool's famous Anfield Stadium has an official capacity of 54,074. The last Rugby League game to be played at Anfield, was 19 years ago.

There were four Rugby League weddings in Sydney last weekend. Australian and Panthers winger, Josh Mansour tied the knot with Daniella Toutounji, while fellow Kangaroo and Tigers prop, Aaron Woods married Sarah Callaway. South Sydney's John Sutton married Stacey Shumack and Parramatta's Danny Wicks married Leona Dundon.

Two Australian League men were recently honoured with admission to the Sport Australia Hall of Fame at the 32nd dinner in Melbourne on Thursday 13 October. Wally Lewis, who captained Australia in 24 of his 34 Tests, was admitted as a Sporting Legend. "The King," as he is known, invited doctors Sam Berkovic and Gavin Fabinyi as his personal guests to the dinner. They were the men who supervised the operation which ensured Lewis has had no epileptic seizures, since suffering a turn in 2006 while on air for Channel 9 in Brisbane. Harry Wells, now 84, was inducted at the same dinner as an Athlete Member. Wells played 29 Tests as a centre for Australia, made two Kangaroo tours to England and France (1952 and 1959), toured New Zealand in 1953, was a member of the 1957 Australian World Cup winning team and won a Sydney Premiership and Grand Final with the 1951 South Sydney team. Congratulations to both men - it was a well deserved honour. Also congratulations to the Aussie netballers, who beat New Zealand 62-50 in Auckland on Saturday night.

Tyler Wright won Australia's seventh Women's World Surfing Championship in Europe last week. Born in Culburra, which is on the NSW coast, 190 kilometres south of Sydney, she now lives in Lennox Heads on the NSW north coast, not too far from the Queensland border. Only 22, she has career earnings of close to one million American dollars.



Want to send a message to the Kiwis?  
Email it to [nadene@nzrl.co.nz](mailto:nadene@nzrl.co.nz)





# Northland Mitre 10 Cup Review

By Ben Francis



**I**T DEFINITELY was not a great season for Northland in the Mitre 10 Cup, but it was much more improved on last season.

Last season, Northland only claimed one competition point, and many considered it the worst season in Provincial Rugby history so after claiming one historic win and eleven competition points, it was considered a massive improvement

Northland's lone win came against Waikato 48-27, ending a losing streak which nearly lasted two years to the day. Despite that being their only win, they did show promise against other teams like Manawatu (34-27), Otago (33-28), Canterbury (52-34), Tasman (33-23) and Wellington (29-21).

The Taniwha had eight players in this years squad who were involved in Super Rugby During 2016, Dan Pryor (Highlanders), Kara Pryor, Namathai Waa, Jack Ram, Matt Moulds, Sam Nock (Blues) Jone Macilai (Crusaders) and Dan Hawkins (Rebels). All eight players brought valuable experience and knowledge to the young Northland squad.

All these players will be returning to their squads while Josh Goodhue will be joining the Blues, and after arguably being Northland's best player of 2016, No 8 Matt Matich will hopefully getting some phone calls along with fullback Solomon Alaimalo.

Northland missed a number of key players at the start of the season including captain Matt Moulds and vice captain Dan Pryor which saw a number of young guys get a run. The decision to use Peter Breen and Dan Hawkins as first-five and second-five worked a treat and added a new dimension to the squad.

So what was the biggest problems for Northland?

Not knowing the feeling of victory. Lots of the Taniwha players had never felt the feeling of victory in NPC and as many know, when you are not winning it is hard to do the little things to get the victory.

"We have been so close in many games," said Matt Moulds after their win over Waikato .

"It's been little things, the little 1% which have been costing us, but we finally got it right tonight."

But at the end of the day, it was the 'little things' which cost them this season.

"We started well but the little things cost us, much like the rest of the season," said Moulds after Northlands loss to North Harbour.

The little mistakes come with the lack of experience in the Northland's squad. This squad of local players will only be stronger in 2017. They have improved so much in one season and helped grow the game locally in many ways. Northland will contest for a semi-finals sport next season. You saw that here first!



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# Central Otago Under 14's Tournament

## By Tina Mongston

**JUNIOR RUGBY** League is alive and strong in the far south. Central Otago Junior Rugby League Club hosted an Under 14's tournament at the start of the month with teams travelling from Invercargill and Dunedin to participate. This is the first time that Queenstown has hosted a junior league tournament and in true Queenstown style the weather was amazing for the 2 days.

There was some tight competition between the host team, The Mustangs, and Invercargill with the final score reflecting that there wasn't much between them. Otago Metro have just started out with their junior rugby league so this was a big step for them to come through and get involved in the tournament. There was some great talent out there and it will be good to see the future development continue to grow in the southern region.

Results:

Central Otago Mustangs 20 – Southland 18  
Central Otago Mustangs 52 – Otago Metro 0  
Southland 46 – Otago Metro 4

Big congratulations to all the players that made the 14s tournament team:

Fullback - Levi Collins - Central Otago  
Wing - Thomas Cotter - Southland  
Centre - Alesana Tulafono - Central Otago  
Wing - Manaki Thomson - Otago Metro  
Standoff - Lucas Erskine - Central Otago  
Halfback - Caleb Hardie-Roberts - Otago Metro

Prop - Darryn Jackson - Southland  
Second Rower - Jacob Laphorne - Southland  
Second Rower - Keanu Panapa - Central Otago  
Loose Forward - Jack East Central - Otago

Player of the Tournament: Jack East

Central Otago Mustangs will be aiming to host this event again next year so keep posted and follow their Facebook page for updates. Any club is welcome to register their interest for future tournaments. The day was a huge success followed by a good swim in the pool, a combined team dinner with the two Otago teams and plenty of rest in preparation for the 15's trial game the next day.

Big thanks to everyone that helped out to pull it all together, in particular Teaukura Moetaua who organized the event, the referees for volunteering their time to support the boys, caterers for organizing such a great after match dinner and the Dunedin and Invercargill coaches and managers for getting the teams together and getting involved.

Day two Otago Metro and Central Otago Mustangs mixed the teams and this game served as the start of the trial process for the Otago U15's Representative team for next season. This was a great trial between the two Otago teams and a fantastic way to complete the tournament.







By John Deaker

# The Weekend's Losses a Reminder Not to Take The All Blacks Winning Run for Granted



Waisake Naholo of New Zealand keeps the ball alive despite the efforts of Morne Steyn of South Africa. 8th October 2016. Photo [www.photosport.nz](http://www.photosport.nz)

**T**HE ALL Blacks' chance to set the world record of 18 consecutive test victories on Saturday night is something we shouldn't take for granted. The dominance they've had in recent times has led to some people suggesting they're bored of knowing the result before most of their games kick-off. After a weekend where New Zealand had shocking sports results for a handful of their teams it hopefully reminds us all to seize the moment because success like the All Blacks are currently having won't last forever.

The Wallabies' current lineup isn't one of the better teams they've produced. However, they won't roll over and they provide the ideal opponent to add some meaningfulness to Saturday night's record if the All Blacks secure a win. It's unfortunate that fans won't get to see Aaron Smith play because he's been such a key figure in allowing this All Blacks team to be so much better than all their opponents. Without Aaron Smith, they'll tap in to the great depth that has become such a trademark of this squad's success, but no one can deny that Perenara isn't up to Smith's standard and fans should be more nervous about Saturday night than they would have been if the Highlanders' number 9 was playing.

Auckland's weather will be interesting to monitor in the buildup to the game. In mid-October a dry night for running rugby would be great but looking at the forecast that might not eventuate. Many All Blacks' fans would be happy enough with just a win on Saturday night but it'd make the night even more special if they could win with the type of style that has epitomized this team in recent times, especially since Beauden Barrett took over as their starting number 10.

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By Grant Chapman  
NZRL  
Communications  
Manager

## Residents Overpower Maori in Huntly

**T**WO TRIES in quick succession to centre Paulos Latu put NZ Residents on track for a 30-10 win over the NZ Maori XIII at Huntly's Davies Park.

Ahead just 16-10 midway through the second half, the Residents side were far from comfortable in an encounter played on the heavy field, and in cold, windy and wet conditions.

The Maori had just struck through a cleverly taken try from Tomas Aoke, after centre Piki Rogers had claimed a high attacking bomb and grubbered into the goal area for his winger to force down.

But Latu was next to strike, when he accepted a sneaky offload from Alan Niulevu, who appeared well covered by the defence.

Moments later, his second touchdown took the margin out to 14 points and when Nathan Saumalu finished off a strong surge by centre Matt Sauni down the left, Raymond Talimalie's side-line conversion provided the icing on the cake.

"I thought the boys played really well," said Residents captain Roman Hifo. "Coming into camp this week, it was all about gelling and trying to be on the same page.

"It was the only opportunity for the boys to put on the Kiwis jersey, unless they play NRL. It meant a lot for them to represent their families and their country, and I think that made the difference."

The game was staged in honour Maori rugby league stalwarts Bob Tukiri, Cathy Friend and Christine Panapa, and also provided a final (for now) league appearance for former NZ Kiwis and Canterbury Bulldogs winger Curtis Rona, who will now join the Western Force in Super Rugby.

NZ Residents 30 (Paulos Latu 2, Siua Otunuku, Tavita Satae, Nathan Saumalu & Taylor Daniels tries; Raymond Talimalie 3 goals) NZ Maori XIII 10 (Kurt Kara & Tomas Aoke tries; Piki Rogers goal)



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# The Foundation Sporting Celebrity Gala Lunch

**O**n behalf of the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society and the Plunket Foundation, thank you for your interest in the Plunket Foundation Gala Lunch fundraiser planned for Friday, 25 November.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness and valuable funds to support Plunket's work with those children and families most in need.

It's estimated that 230,000 New Zealand children are classified as vulnerable, meaning one in five children are experiencing significant hardships as they grow up. The life chances of these children are severely constrained because of factors such as living in poverty, family dysfunction, family violence, limited social networks and low educational achievement.

This New Zealand experience is disturbing and totally unacceptable, however Plunket is in a great position to make a huge difference to how children's lives turn out - but significant funds are needed to ensure vital community services can continue and can be accessed by all. These services cost \$6 million dollars each and every year and are funded through philanthropic giving by the generous support of the public, our partners and through fundraising. We need help.

The Plunket Foundation supports Plunket and focuses strongly on those most in need. This gala event, hosted by the Plunket Foundation, is a great opportunity to raise awareness and much needed funds to make the difference of a lifetime to these New Zealand's children.

## The Plunket Foundation

The Plunket Foundation is an independent, philanthropic trust which supports the work of Plunket. The Trustees are all prominent New Zealanders who are passionate about making the difference in the lives of those children who are most in need. Our Trustees are:

Prof Richie Poulton (Co-Chair), Jillian Friedlander (Co-Chair), Sir Graham Henry, Raphael Yan, Henri Elliot, Carol Becker, Sam Johnson.

## Gala Lunch

The Plunket Foundation Trustees have arranged a premium sporting celebrity line up to attend the event. Attendees are Richie McCaw and Gemma Flynn, Brendan and Ellissa McCullum, Lisa Carrington and Michael Buck. Emcee is Toni Street.

The event is being held at Sky City Convention Centre, with the menu planned by a celebrity chef and matching fine wines.

Date: 25 November

Time: 12.00pm

Tables: \$5,000 each table of 10

**Thank you for your interest. Please contact  
Carolyn Mettrick at [Carolyn.mettrick@plunket.org.nz](mailto:Carolyn.mettrick@plunket.org.nz) or  
0276875631 to secure your table**



Amanda Malu  
Acting Chief Executive



Prof Richie Poulton  
Co-Chair Plunket Foundation



Graham Henry  
Trustee Plunket Foundation





# Volunteers the Heart of Our Sport

## By Talei Anderson - Communications Officer ARL

**V**OLUNTEERS ARE absolutely vital for the smooth running of our rugby league clubs. Without them, grassroots sport wouldn't survive.

In recognition of the devoted volunteers, Auckland Rugby League held their annual club nominated volunteers recognition awards at the Mount Richmond Hotel on Sunday.

Rugby league clubs from across Auckland each nominated a loyal volunteer to recognise their hard work and efforts towards their club.

Among those who attended were Auckland Rugby League life members Ray Cranch, Tom McKeown, Gary Whittle and Richard Bolton. ARL board members Suzanne Martin and Greg Whaiapu were also present.

This was the fourth year of the modest awards, inspired by Auckland Rugby League's competitions manager Patrick Carthy after speaking with Sir Peter Leitch about how valuable volunteers are to our game.

Host and special projects manager Selwyn Pearson said the event is incredibly special.

"Volunteers are the absolute heart of our sport," said Pearson.

"I don't know where we'd be without this dedicated group of people who willingly and continuously give their time to support the sport they love."

"The recipients are selected by their own clubs which is incredibly significant because they are being chosen by their peers as their clubs stand out and special voluntary person.

"It doesn't get any better than that," he said.

Nominated recipients were each presented with a certificate, an Auckland Rugby League history book and a custom-made polo shirt.

"It was a great afternoon of recognition for our many volunteers who have given their time, energy and passion for their clubs and families," said Greg Whaiapu, board member of the Auckland Rugby League.

"It was very inspiring and great to see all the nominees present to receive their awards."

Auckland Rugby League would like to acknowledge all those who continue to give their time and efforts into running their local club and of course, the smooth running of our games.

"We appreciate all that you do in supporting grassroots rugby league," said Pearson.

"The continuous support of your club, the children and the sport, it is just wonderful."

The nominated recipients were as follows:

Bay Roskill – Angela Johnson, East Coast Bays – Rochelle Henderson, Ellerslie Eagles – James Waetford, Hibiscus Coast – Kevin Smith, Howick – Neville Campbell, Mangere East – Sekone Fraser, Manukau – Maryanne Ngatoko, Manurewa – Agnes Koti, Marist – Tamara Pereira and Jason Williams, Mt Wellington – Felecity Kendall, New Lynn – Tyler Jones, Northcote – Ray Sale, Otahuhu – Henry Gray, Otara – Suzanne Johnson, Pakuranga – Venice Daniels, Pukekohe – Eva Tautari, Richmond – Carol Redman, Te Atatu – Trent Wrathall, Waiheke – Scott Niwa, Waitemata – Rachelle Lekasa, Waiuku Rugby League – Chanel Taupo.

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### **BAY ROSKILL VIKINGS**

This recipient fulfils many roles within the Club. A Manager of the Under 8 team, she was originally Junior Secretary then moved on to Club Treasurer. Our nominee has been a very vital part of our Club with her many hats on such as Team Manager, Bistro assistant, Bar Manager, Cleaner, plumber, shop runner, fundraiser. Our nominee's background with the Club goes back to her father teaching Wrestling at the Club before Rugby League became the Clubs keys sport. She has been an avid supporter since her teens and now giving to her son who now plays.

Bay Roskills "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: ANGELA JOHNSON

### **EAST COAST BAYS**

The recipient was on the East Coast Bays committee for the first time this year. It was very clear from the start that she was not one to sit back and let others do the work. Her attitude and commitment to the Club is amazing and she quickly became the "go to person" when things needed to be done or organised. She took up the role of Bar person and also managed her U14/15 Restricted team where she was awarded ARL Best & Fairest Manager of the Year for her grade. Barracudas are very lucky and proud to have her on board as a great role model.

East Coast Bays "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: ROCHELLE HENDERSON

### **ELLERSLIE EAGLES**

The nominated recipient for the Ellerslie Eagles is a non-assuming bloke who just does it. There is no one who could compare to him and the time he gives to the Club. He's here ever weekend when possible, either setting up the field, refereeing, talking rubbish to the visitors and giving of his precious time to the game whether it be with the ARL, Council, Coaches and Managers and of course not forgetting the Volunteers and players. He is a valued member that Ellerslie is lucky to have.

Ellerslies nominee for "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: JAMES WAETFORD

### **HIBISCUS COAST**

Like some things you can't get rid of this person is the one. Originally the Club treasurer in 2000 – 2003 then lo and behold he came back in 2008 and is still currently the Treasurer. We are thankful that he did return as he became a very prudent part in getting our Club back on track financially without it impacting on Club membership, he took up Match Manager duties for homegames. He further completed his Bar Managers certificate and is responsible for ensuring Tradies, Council, Bar Staff and Catering is seen to in a very positive and responsible manners as seen by all members.

The Hibiscus Coast "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is KEVIN SMITH

### **HOWICK HORNETS**

The nominee for the Howick Hornets has been a member of the Club for a large number of years. In that time he has been a player, Coach and in recent years he has tirelessly given of his time in assisting coaches of our senior teams and taking on a role as assistant coach. Although he intends to step away from assisting in the coaching area we hope to have him around in some form of voluntary position. He has an awe inspiring commitment to the Hornets and his enormous passion for the game itself is something that drives him.

The Hornets "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: NEVILLE CAMPBELL

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## **MANGERE HAWKS**

Every Saturday rain, hail or sunshine the setting up and pulling down the fields is a tireless task that not everyone wants to do. Anyone who has been there knows that it requires patience, commitment and a lot of strength. The dedication and commitment our recipient has been nothing short of amazing. This nominee gives of his time and energy as a volunteer with many duties such as groundsman, security, car park usher and any other job he knows will need someone to help out. We would like to thank him for all his hard work and dedication that he has given to our club and community.

The Mangere East Hawks “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: SEKONE FRASER

## **MANUKAU RUGBY LEAGUE**

This club recipient as a child sat in the rain, wind and cold to be with her grandfather as he was our Club Match Manager for years. She unknowingly became an avid “part of the furniture” without even realising what kind of a part she played within our Club. Her grandfather taught her all about Match Managing and that was their special time every Game day when the Seniors were at home. Her love for her grandparents was the main reason behind her becoming a regular fixture of Manukau Rugby League and we sincerely believe she deserves this recognition for what she does for our Club and not just the Match Managing. To lose the 2 key people in such a short time and still stay to help out in something our club appreciates more than she will know.

The Manukau “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: MARYANNE NGATOKO

## **MANUREWA RUGBY LEAGUE**

Well there are not enough words you can speak about this lady. She is a workhorse, she has a large number of children and now grandchildren herself, she is on our committee, she coaches, manages, grows, parties, referees and if allowed still plays all for the sake of the kids. She always volunteers for any task at hand especially involving our kids. She was asked or should I say told to take it easy this year by our Chairman but when it came to the crunch and the registrations came in she just couldn't help herself. She was secretly coaching U6 teams, out training every night of the week with all the mini teams until coaches were found to take over. She epitomises the word Volunteer as there is no end to what she does for the Club and the Kids in particular. You would normally see her with a child or grandchild following her around at the grounds while trying to set up fields and allocating referees.

She is Manurewa Marlins and we appreciate everything she does for our Club and community.

The Manurewa “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: AGNES KOTI

## **MARIST RUGBY LEAGUE**

We have 2 recipients we feel deserve the accolades of Volunteer of the Year for our Club. The first has been associated with our club for 2 years, she has managed our U10 team, organised Mini Mod Training academy, supportive in volunteering on Saturdays and now put her hand up to Manage our Premiers next season.

Our second recipient has been a player from junior grade and although her officially retired in still actually playing. Returned 2 years ago to give back to the Club, coached U10 grade, offered assistance in organising the Mini Mod Academy and shares his knowledge with other teams and coaches.

The Marist Clubs “Volunteer Recognition” recipients are: TAMARA PEREIRA & JASON WILLIAMS

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### **MT WELLINGTON RUGBY LEAGUE**

This nominee has been the treasurer of our Club for the past 5 years. During her tenure she has been one of the most willing volunteers we have. She has no hesitation in doing anything around the club from sweeping and mopping to cleaning and manning the bar, running the tuckshop and keeping a very demanding Chairman in place. We have no qualms about her as our nominated recipient for Volunteer recognition.

The Mt Wellington “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: FELECITY KENDALL

### **NEW LYNN RUGBY LEAGUE**

This clubs recipient joined the tags for the first time this season in the hope to play league for the first time. Upon attending pre-season training while participating in tackle practice he broke his arm. To his credit he agreed to stay and help out in other areas (broken arm and all). He was so reliable he was promoted to Premier 1st Team Manager and also helped out with the Premier squad. Several months later just when things were looking up, he was helping out as a linesman when he got knocked over and re-broke the same arm. A good sport and volunteer to literally put his body on the line for Stags.

The New Lynn clubs “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: TYLER JONES

### **NORTHCOTE RUGBY LEAGUE**

This recipient has played for the Club from Juniors through to Premiers. He became Club President in 2012 and still holds that position today. During his time he has worked tirelessly, negotiating with Council, Sponsors, Local Government and the like to ensure the Clubs needs are met. He and his family can be found around the park during the weekends doing whatever is required. He also coached an U9 team which he has kept together since they were U6's. We don't doubt that he will be with them for as long as he can.

The Northcote clubs “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: RAY SALE

### **OTAHUHU RUGBY LEAGUE**

This recipient joined the Club back in 1991 playing in U19 then progressing to U21's, Reserves and of course Premiers. Like any other volunteer he was coerced into coaching U6's in 2004. He remained with this team as Coach, trainer Manager up until 2012 and then found himself on the Junior Committee for 2 years. He finally got on board with the Senior Committee and his service and loyalty to the Club has been encouraging to other Members. When he sets his mind to something he goes after it with a passion. He works diligently behind the scenes dealing with Council, Local Boards, Sponsors and many more people in the community to actively assist our Club or our community.

The Otahuhu clubs “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is: HENRY GRAY

### **OTARA RUGBY LEAGUE**

The recipient was new to her role as Junior Club Captain but not to the Club. She has been involved for a number of years in various roles as Manager, Junior Club Liaison and then Club Captain. Her role bought 27 teams under her and she does not shy away from any task at hand ensuring that players, coaches and Managers receive the required information. She puts a great deal of time in visiting the teams and follows up with all their queries to ensure they run relatively smoothly. She has a young family and the kids are frequent fixtures to the Club like many of our volunteers. We are thankful for all she does and cherish the precious time she commits to us.

The Otaru clubs “Volunteer Recognition” recipient is SUZANNE JOHNSON

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### **PAKURANGA RUGBY LEAGUE**

This recipient has been involved with the Club for over 20 years. She was born and bred in Pakuranga and her involvement was with the running of the Masters. Now with 4 young boys that all play at the Club, she has taken over a Junior secretary and always volunteers her time with Club fundraising like running the BBQs' setting up fields, a great asset and very much appreciated by all.

The Pakuranga clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: VENICE DANIELS

### **PUKEKOHE RUGBY LEAGUE**

This recipient has played a significant role in the success for our Club this season especially. She is a member of the committee, has performed far and beyond the boundaries of Club Treasurer. She has been actively involved in all matters of the Club from Online registration to team Management, setting up playing fields for our home fixtures. She has provided sound direction and advice to fellow committee members, Coaches, Managers and our Club teams. She instigated our new Club Constitution and played a major role in the Clubs Strategic Plan and building partnership within our community for the betterment of our Club. A big driver of the Club is the Hub initiative.

The Pukekohe Clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is EVA TAUTARI

### **RICHMOND ROVERS RUGBY LEAGUE**

The word VOLUNTEER is exactly what our recipient does - Her Energy and skills for the greater good of the club. She is at the Club 24/7 during the week and on Saturday mornings and stays on when the Seniors have a home game to Match Manage. She is a stickler for values and processes, she is committed to the Club, has enthusiasm and passion for the Richmond Club and the game of league. She is a hard worker, honest in her dealings with other Club affiliates and our own Club members. Her voluntary service to the Club was recognized at the Senior Prize giving for continuous service. She has a solid understanding of ARL and NZRL policies and is not afraid to challenge points made when issues raised are not correct or require clarification. She always ensures others are recognized before herself and I think it is time we rewarded her for the services rendered to Richmond in both Junior and Senior sectors of the Club.

The Richmond clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: CAROL REDMAN

### **TE ATATU RUGBY LEAGUE**

Many local heroes go unnoticed and should be recognised for their outstanding contributions to the community. We have nominated this recipient for the following reasons. He has been a part of the Roosters as the Tee boy for up to 20 years as well as the Special Olympic Waitakere. He has demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to Te Atatu Rugby League. Although he has disabilities such as being partially blind, heart disease and Williams Syndrome (a form of Downs Syndrome) he has been a role model for other disabled people being mainstreamed into the community Sports Club. He is a very proud part of the Roosters and is always keen to assist where ever he can, he is well respected by his teammates, coaches, committee and all Te Atatu Rugby League Club members.

The Te Atatu clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: TRENT WRATHALL

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### WAIHEKE RUGBY LEAGUE

It has been a few years since the Waiheke Rams have had any junior teams and Scott Niwa wanted to change that this year, even though he and his wife have four children and run their own business.

He put the word out and co-ordinated the muster and didn't turn any child away. At most trainings he had in excess of 20 children Six and under (including 5, Three years old). This would be enough to challenge any trained teacher, it was manic! But he developed drills and skill games which included all children, kept them focussed and learning the basics of the great game of rugby league. His patience and understanding was amazing. His goal was not to nurture the best players but to encourage all players to be involved and want to play. And the players loved their coach so much so that we hope to have two teams in 2017

The Waiheke Club "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is SCOTT NIWA

### WAITEMATA RUGBY LEAGUE

This year we had a few deserving recipients for Volunteer, however we believe this recipient is well deserving of the nomination. She became involved

with the Club in 2011, and supported one of our junior teams. They moved away but returned in 2015 when her husband became a member of the Premier team. She helped out in the Tuck Shop, served meals on Thursday when she could, supported her nephews in the morning for U7 and U11. Always first to volunteer for any Club functions, whether it be in the kitchen

The Waitemata clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: RACHELLE LEKASA

### WAIUKU RUGBY LEAGUE

Last but not the least one final recipient hails from one of the smallest club in the Auckland District but from a club that has one of the biggest community hearts. This recipient is someone who along with her son just started to volunteer her time. She helps out with the U10 team providing transport, snacks and puts on the home meals for our visitors. What's good about her is that she has my back and always looking for opportunities to help run the Club on behalf of all our members.

The Waiuku clubs "Volunteer Recognition" recipient is: CHANEL TAUPO



Ellerslie - James Waetford.



Hibiscus Coast Kevin Smith.



Manukau - Maryanne Ngatoko.



Manurewa - Agnes Koti.



Mt Wellington - Felicity Kendall.



Otara - Suzanne Johnson.



Pakuranga - Venice Daniels.



Te Atatu - Trent Wrathhall.



Waiuku Rugby League - Chanel Taupo.



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## The Newsletter Team

Here is the team that help me put together the newsletter each week. We have a number of fantastic contributors who send in content each week that along with my editorial gets wrapped up by our graphic designer and sent out by our distribution man to your inbox.

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