

20 YEARS  
VODAFONE



# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

## Newsletter

17 June 2015

# #77

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## Kiwis Long Luncheon Special



A shot of the room where the Luncheon was held.



Auctioneer – Darren Brady working his magic. One of the best in the business.



Former Kiwis present.



From left: Mocky Brereton, John O'Sullivan, Michael Knowles (Former NZRL Boss), Colin O'Neil and Roy Christian.



Kiwi Legend Mark Graham receiving his special jersey from Peter Rakich of BLK.



NRL – CEO Mr Dave Smith. He flew over from Sydney just for the day.



On stage with Gordon Gibbons; members of the 2005 Kiwis from L to R Ruben Wiki, Nigel Vagana, David Solomona, Paul Rauhihi, Henry Fa'afili.



Radio Sport funnyman – Martin Devlin.



Sir Peter Leitch asking Simon Manning what went wrong during the loss to the Bunnies in Perth.

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



Sir Peter Leitch hands Tawera Nikau copy of his book and a Lion Red tee shirt as a spot prize.



The host and ringmaster for the day Sir Peter Leitch.



Vodafone Warriors GM – Jim Doyle in full flight.



Sir Peter Leitch congratulating Mark Graham.



Andrew McFadden and Richard Becht on stage for the interview.



Awen Guttenbeil talks to Phill the message man from the 2005 Kiwis tour.



Current Kiwi & Warriors Captain Simon Mannering being interviewed by Martin Devlin.



Concrete Logistics and their guests.



Brian Buey McClennan.



Lyndsay Proctor on stage



Former All Black great Josh Kronfeld on stage acknowledging the recent death of Jerry Collins.



Former Kiwi hardmen; L to R Howie Tamati, Mark Graham, Kurt Sorensen, Kevin Tamati, Dane O'Hara.



Former Kiwis, John O'Sullivan, Murray Eade and Richard Bolton catching up on old times.



Gordon Gibbons doing an outstanding job of keeping the butcher in line.



Kiwi Coaching great – Graham Lowe.



Kiwi Rugby League Legend – Mark Graham.



Kiwis – Craig Smith, David Solomona, Bluey McClennan.



Legend of League from L to R; Mark Graham, Hugh McGahan, Graham Lowe, Dane O'Hara with Gary Prohm.



Lyndsay Proctor blowing out the birthday candles.



More Kiwi greets from L to R; Shane Varley, Francis Leota, Clayton Friend, Tawera Nikau.



NZRL – CEO Phil Holden gave an overview of where the NZRL is and where they are heading.



NZRL President – Howie Tamati does the opening.



Original artwork – painting of Carlaw Park painted by former Kiwi Wayne Robertson.



Simon Manering – Vodafone Warriors and Kiwi Captain.



Sir Peter Leitch and Andrew McFadden on stage.



Sir Peter Leitch laying down the law with Dexter Trail.



Sir Peter Leitch thanks one of the generous people who bid during the auctions.



Vodafone Warriors Coach Andrew McFadden being interviewed by Richard Becht.



Vodafone's Fun Fridays Deputy CEO for a day winner on stage with Sir Peter Leitch.



Tony Feasey did an outstanding job introducing the 1950's Kiwi greats.

**WOW! WHAT** a week it's been – the Kiwis Long Luncheon on Friday was a smash hit!! Over 70 former and current kiwis in attendance and rugby league fans from all over NZ and even 10 from Aussie. Special thanks must go to Dave Smith the big boss of the NRL who flew in at midnight Thursday night to attend our luncheon and then flew out back to Aussie at 5pm Friday - bloody great effort!!

We had a great line up of speakers from Howie Tamati the president of NZRL opening the day; then Tony Feasey welcomed our oldest Kiwis who were at the luncheon: Ray Cranch, Roy Moore, Jimmy Edwards, Tommy Hadfield, and Don Hammond who all played in the 1950's. He was followed by Phil Holden the CEO of NZRL who gave an over view of where NZRL is and where they are heading.

Our good mate from Radio Sport Martin Devlin then kicked off the interviews with Kiwis and Vodafone Warriors Captain Simon Mannering.

Auctioneer and good league man Darren Brady was up next and held a short auction followed by a couple of videos from players from the 2005 Kiwis. This was followed by a short break for lunch - a fantastic buffet and every one raved how great it was.

Then we tried something different; we had Jim Doyle

& Dave Smith interview each other on stage and it worked well with some humorous moments put out there by both men. They were followed after lunch in the hard spot - by Richard Becht who interviewed Vodafone Warriors Coach Andrew (Cappy to his mates) McFadden who gave us his score on how the boys are tracking this year.

Gordon Gibbons then interviewed Brian "Bluey" McClennan the Coach of the 2005 Kiwis who beat Australia 24 -nil in Leeds reliving some of the great moments.

Then it was on to the main event where Martin Devlin interviewed Mark Graham who was named the greatest Kiwi Rugby League Player that New Zealand has produced in the century from 1907 to 2006. MARTIN DONE A FANTASTIC JOB EVEN MANAGING TO BRING IN ANOTHER RUGBY LEAGUE LEGEND INTO THE INTERVIEW GRAHAM LOWE. When the interview was over so too was the luncheon bringing the day to a close bang on 4pm - but I might add many of the former Kiwis were still at the Ellerslie Event Centre till 6pm enjoying the company of their mates and the guests.

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The feedback from the luncheon has been fantastic so a special thanks to all concerned from sponsors our team of mates that made it happen and the team from Ellerslie job well done.

Saturday was game day -not the result we wanted but no one died so life goes on. Then Sunday morning it was up early for me and my lovely wife Janice to catch our Air NZ flight to Melbourne. Monday there was bit of shopping and Monday night I was guest of the Melbourne Storm at their game against the Eels. And catching up with plenty of mates god I

love rugby league TUESDAY a bit more shopping for Janice while I carried the bags and catching up with Daniel Anderson and lounge member Ian for dinner and then Wednesday State of Origin as a guest of the NRL over 90,000 fans are expected on the night and over 2000 kiwis have flown over that we know about what a night it will be. Friday it's up to the Gold Coast for the Vodafone Warriors game against the Titans and catching up with our Vodafone Warriors fans on the Gold Coast

Stay safe – be kind to one another and remember...  
"the greatest gift you can give anyone is your time"

## Wonderful Feedback

**Wot a day**

From all who I spoke with and all those present, you're a bloody ripper!

Thankyou just doesn't cut the mustard

You're a good bastard ,

**Ian and Marcia.....**



**Hi Peter,**

Just wanted to say to you what an amazing lunch that was and how special

that was to so many people. There was everything for everyone! The best

ever!!

**Bob and Marg .....and the Waiheke crew!! xox-  
oxxxxxx**

**Morning Peter**

What another great luncheon you put on in honour of the Kiwis and in particular, Mark Graham, Kiwi player of the century.

And mate the commemorative plate and booklet you organised for the event are 'rugby league treasures' all fans should have, I hope you are able to provide more of them, because they are special.

Again Peter, on behalf of the game, thank you for putting on such a wonderful occasion. It was the best ever sporting function in my memory, which goes back a long way.

Cheers

**Graham Lowe ONZM, QSM**

Hi,

Congratulations on another fantastic event on Friday. To be able to rub shoulders with so many League people and fans is an incredible experience. How you manage it is beyond me and I sincerely thank you for the time and effort involved.

Regards and Go the WARRIORS

**Ray Haffenden**

**Good morning Sir Peter!**

Thank you for a wonderful luncheon yesterday. All of our guests really enjoyed themselves. We will be back next year for sure. And The food was fantastic as well

Kind Regards

**Tanya - Concrete Logistics Ltd**

# More Wonderful Feedback

**Giddy Butch**, I thought I would drop you a note to say how bloody awesome the Kiwis Long Luncheon was on Friday, one of the best I have been to. As you know I try to go to all of your lunches, but this one had a really great feel to it, with the speakers emphasising the great shape NZ League is in right now. The ability to casually mingle with a cold beer in hand, and have the opportunity to meet and chat to genuine legends of the game, is a rare but really enjoyable experience. I had a chance to chat to the “Player of the Century” Mark Graham and get a photo (attached ) which was a highlight. Speaking of highlights, the buffet lunch was the best feed I can ever recall at the lunches, and in my opinion a vast improvement over a plated meal, so please keep buffet concept going, I would gladly pay extra for such a great feed. Finally, I must say thank you to your tireless efforts to organise such events, which I am aware take a huge amount of work, you are a bloody legend yourself mate.



Cheers mate,

**Robert Thompson.**

**Tena koe Rangatira,**

Thank you for another wonderful weekend, it was great just to be able to meet past and present kiwi internationals and it is always great to meet up with fellow team members even if it's just to see that they are still alive and kicking.

Thanks also for hosting us all at the Warriors v Roosters game. Bad result but that's how it goes.

Thank you for the commemorative plate reminding me that we scored two great victories over our competitive relations across the Tasman and that we, “The mighty Kiwi's” are ranked number one in the world of Rugby League, ka mau te wehi, (superb). To top it off the itinerary for the Kiwi's end of year tour to Great Britain is helpful if only to be able to keep tabs on the boys whilst they are over there.

Finally “butch” the commemorative programme is on the button again ka mau te wehi. From the front page to the back page it made me feel so proud that the boys have represented their country well. To continue on through the programme and find that our whakapapa (genealogy) is in it also moves me to say again, well done yet again.

Wishing you well my old friend.

**Kevin Tamati BMM**

**Hi there Sir Peter,**

A big thank-you for the luncheon at Ellerslie last week.

It was great to see so many league legends under one roof all at the same time and listen to the interviews.

Can I also pass on my congratulations to the chefs and staff who presented the food.

I had reservations on how so many people would be able to be fed at the one time. Not only was the food easily accessible but delicious. As soon as one dish ran out, the staff had another piping hot to take its place and the selection was tremendous.

Once again a big thank-you to you and everyone else who made it an enjoyable day.

Best wishes,

**Mike Brown**

# Couldn't make it to the Kiwis Long Luncheon?

Then 2015 Kiwis Long Luncheon memorabilia is now available.



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Commemorative Plate**

**2015 Kiwis Rugby League Tour To  
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# State of Origin Tonight!



I called in into the Queensland camp on Monday to catch up with the guys Jak Lillyman and Cameron Smith.



QLD State of Origin Bus.



Melbourne is ready for State of Origin.



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## 2 for 1 Vodafone Warriors tickets. Score

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It was my mate Lyndsay's birthday on Friday so we got him a cake and presented it him at the Kiwis Long Luncheon and sang him happy birthday!



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

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## 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.



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