



Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club

AT MT SMART STADIUM, HOME OF THE MIGHTY VODAFONE WARRIORS

Newsletter

10th September 2015

#89

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I WAS IN Ashburton on Wednesday night to help raise money for Mid-Canterbury junior rugby, and what a fantastic time I had.

I flew into Christchurch and was picked up by former DB Bitter Warriors physiotherapist Gill Dunn, who drove me here, here and everywhere.

But the first place we headed to was my old mate Gary Clarke's rugby league museum, and I have to say Gill was mightily impressed. If you are ever in Christchurch make sure you visit Gary Clarke Plastics and check the museum out. It is well worth the effort.

The people of Ashburton were great. Their hospitality was amazing and we were made very welcome. And they made my night when I put up a signed Vodafone Warriors jersey for auction and it made \$2000.

Yes \$2000. You have to know there are not that many leagues in Ashburton, it's a rugby town, so totally amazing support.

And I had a treat up my sleeve too. I arrived with a copy of Sir Graham Henry's new book, signed by the great man and two of our best All Blacks of tall time, Richie McCaw and Dan Carter.

I also had a little video on my phone that Richie and Dan had made for me, urging the punters to bid spiritedly, and they did not let us down. The book went for \$1400.

So thank you in particular to Gill, but to all who made me welcome in Ashburton. Fantastic place.

I love travelling the country and being at grassroots levels. It takes you back to simpler times and reminds you it is not always about the glamour sides.

Me and my mate Gillian Dunn who now lives in Ashburton. Gill used to be the Physiotherapist with the Warriors. She picked me up at Christchurch airport and drove me to and from Ashburton.



In Ashburton



In full flight in Ashburton doing my thing.



Me having lunch with Mid Canterbury Rugby staff in Ashburton.



And big thanks to these two guys for helping me raise \$1400 for Sir Graham's Henry's book in Ashburton.



Reunion Planned

The football manager of the 2005 Kiwis – who smashed Australia 24-0 to win the Gillette Tri-Nations in Leeds - oh, that's right, it's me, is planning a reunion in Sydney during Grand Final weekend.

Already confirmed are Ali Lauititi, who is coming in from the UK, Shantayne Hape, who will arrive from France, and Motu Tony, who is also in the UK.

An open invitation is extended to all former players and management staff, but you must register by contacting Pat Carthy at pat.c@aucklandleague.co.nz

All Over

It is all over for my Vodafone Warriors, beaten by the Bulldogs on the final day of the regular season.

After the season we had it was almost a relief. But at least we went down fighting.

Ahead with three minutes to go after Tuimoala Lolohea's second try of the night, a great comeback from 20-10 down midway through the second half. After losing seven on end there was hope at last but our ball security let us down when an error came. Dogs captain James Graham went over and it was more misery. It's all history now.

Eight losses from our final eight games has been a bitter pill to swallow and I know the fans are less than happy. Much has been written and said about it, the injuries, suspensions, club management and culture within the team all coming under fire.

Some of the senior players have told me they thought the young players who had to step up did great things, but it was way too much of an ask for them long-term.

But even in such a dire year there have been positives, mostly in Tuimoala Lolohea, who has had a good year and been asked to do all sorts of things a rookie NRL player would not normally have to.

Albert Vete was decent all year at prop, and Solomon Kata was good at centre on attack, though perhaps not so flash defensively.

It is hard to remember that we were sitting fourth at one point, and it was looking good.

But that is the nature of the game, although I will say this. We were celebrating 20 years in the NRL and you can't deny that with the hype around that, the fans were entitled to be excited and expectant. What they got was simply not good enough.

Manu Knocked Off His Perch

In a season where we had very little to celebrate rookie centre Solomon Kata denied Manu Vatuvei the honour of being the Vodafone Warriors' top try-scorer for a ninth consecutive NRL season, when he scored against the Dogs on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Vatuvei's campaign ended with a shoulder injury after the loss to St George in Wellington on August 8. It left him with 11 tries from 16 appearances.

Kata scored 12 tries – 11 in his first 13 matches of the season, and added the 12th on Sunday.

Manu has been our leading try-scorer – or top equal – in each of the last eight seasons, with annual tallies of 10 in 2007, 16 in 2008, 13 in 2009, 20 in 2010, 12 in 2011 and 2012, 16 in 2013 and 17 last year.

Kata also shared another impressive achievement in his debut season as one of only three players

in the squad to appear in every game. He made his 24th consecutive outing, as did captain Simon Mannering and hooker Nathan Friend.

It was actually Friend's 69th consecutive appearance in what was his 86th and final game for the Vodafone Warriors before rejoining the Gold Coast Titans.

It was also the 65th match on end for Mannering. The last match he missed was against the Melbourne Storm in round seven in 2013, the only game he hasn't played in the last three seasons.

Finals Draw Sorted Out

All eyes are now on the first round of the NRL and what a round it will be. The first match is on Friday night when the Roosters – who took out the minor premiership play the fourth-placed Storm, then on Saturday the first of the elimination games sees the Bulldogs (5th) play the Dragons (8th).

That game is followed by the Broncos (2nd) against the Cowboys (3rd), and that one will have plenty on it, with pretty much all of Queensland expected to be watching.

On Sunday it is do or die for the Sharks (6th) and the Rabbitohs (7th).

I am excited by the match-ups, obviously not as excited as I would have been had we got there.



Aussies Get Into It

The 2015 NRL Telstra Premiership Finals Series kicked off with stars of all eight teams together to “Light It Up” at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Jake Friend (Roosters), Justin Hodges (Broncos), Gavin Cooper (Cowboys), Paul Gallen (Sharks), Ryan Hinchcliffe (Storm), James Graham (Bulldogs), Greg Inglis (Rabbitohs) and Ben Creagh (Dragons) gathered ahead of what shapes as a great series.

The NRL marked it by unveiling an advertising campaign, again featuring Fall Out Boy’s “Light It Up”.

NRL boss Dave Smith said the finals would be a fitting end to a memorable season. “It’s a great feat to make the finals because our competition gets closer and closer. Like last year, we did not know the makeup and placings of the top eight until the very last game. The best eight teams are through - and the way the competition has been this year we know that anyone can win on their day.”

They Even Have Cheap Pies!

Fans will be able to enjoy a pie and soft drink for \$5 – a discount of more than 50 percent before the NRL Telstra Premiership finals at Allianz between the Roosters and Storm on Friday night and the Sharks and Rabbitohs on Sunday.

“We’re always looking at ways to make it more affordable for families to come to the footy,” the NRL’s Todd Greenberg said.

The deal, combined with tickets starting from \$20, makes it an affordable night.

But it’s only available in the Plaza area outside the southern end right up until kick off – not at the

food and beverage outlets inside the ground.

To purchase tickets to any of this weekend’s Finals matches, go to www.nrl.com/tickets.

Five Get Kiwis Train-on Nod

Tuimoala Lolohea, Solomone Kata will join Simon Mannering, Ben Matulino and Bodene Thompson in the first intake of players in the Kiwis’ train-on squad ahead of the end of season tour to England.

Ruled out after surgery were Thomas Leuluai, Manu Vatuvei and Shaun Johnson – who all played in this year’s Anzac test, plus Ben Henry.

Three other potential Kiwi debutants have also been named – Wests Tigers hooker Manaia Cherrington, and centre Tim Simona and Parramatta second rower Manu Ma’u.

More players will be added to the squad as teams are eliminated from the NRL finals.

Train-on camps will begin on September 23 in Auckland and Sydney, with the 23-strong touring side to be announced soon after the NRL grand final on October 4.

Penrith’s Lewis Brown, Sam McKendry, Elijah Taylor and Dean Whare have been named alongside the manly duo of Kieran Foran and Peta Hiku, and Tiger Martin Taupau.

Two Make Aussie PM Side’s Roster

Departing Vodafone Warriors Nathan Friend and Chad Townsend are in a train-on squad named by the Australian Rugby League Commission to prepare for the Prime Minister’s XIII to face PNG in Port Moresby on September 26.

More players will be added from the teams eliminated in week one of the finals ahead of the naming of a final team on September 15.

Penrith and former Vodafone Warriors coach Cleary has been appointed to coach the side.

Chad Townsend made his 41st and final appearance on Sunday before returning to Sydney to take his place with Cronulla.

Denied a final outing was the injured Sam Tomkins, who leaves to return to Wigan.

NSW Cup Side Welcome Back NRL Players

Back-to-back defeats to the Mounties mean the Vodafone Warriors face a stern challenge to keep their New South Wales Cup finals hopes alive this weekend.

After losing 36-10 to Canberra’s feeder club in their final regular season match the week before, the Vodafone Warriors slumped to a 43-10 defeat against the same side at Belmore on Saturday.

The minor premiership-winning Mounties now advance to week three, and the Stacey Jones-coached Vodafone Warriors will make their third consecutive trans-Tasman trip seeking to stay in the competition against Canterbury-Bankstown at Kogarah (8.10pm NZT).

The fifth-ranked Bulldogs eliminated eighth-placed North Sydney 22-4 on Saturday.

However six players return from the NRL side to boost the team.

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Jones will welcome back centres Matt Allwood and Dominique Peyroux, halfback Mason Lino, props Sione Lousi and Sebastine Ikahihifo, and back rower Raymond Faitala-Mariner.

It means the Vodafone Warriors will have a total of 10 players with NRL experience this week.

Vodafone Warriors: Viliami Kaveinga, Saula Solomona, Matt Allwood, Dominique Peyroux, Ken Maumalo, Ata Hingano, Mason Lino, Sebastine Ikahihifo, Siliva Havili, Sione Lousi, John Palavi, Raymond Faitala-Mariner, David Bhana. Interchange: Zac Tippins, James Bell, Upu Poching, Paki Afu, Daniel Palavi.

Juniors Eye Finals

Wing Tomas Aoake's hat-trick propelled the Vodafone Junior Warriors to a 30-14 win over the Dogs on Sunday, setting up a week one finals clash against the Roosters on Friday night (7.15pm NZT)..

The result cemented us in seventh in the minor premiership.

We are the only club to reach the competition's finals every season since it started in 2008.

During that time we have reached the grand final four times, winning in 2010, 2011 and 2014.

Loose forward Jazz Tevaga, full-back Brad Abbey and wing Paul Ulberg are the only survivors from last year's NYC title-winning side lining up for the Vodafone Junior Warriors against the Roosters at Allianz on Friday (7.15pm NZT).

As the seventh-ranked side the Vodafone Junior Warriors face the sixth-placed Roosters in an elimination play-off.

Tevaga, Abbey and Ulberg begin their second finals campaign after helping the club to its third NYC grand final win when beating Brisbane 34-32 last year.

Three other eligible players from the 2014 champion side are injured; prop Toafofoa Siple (knee) and Nathaniel Roache (pectoral) are sidelined for the season while front rower Bunty Afoa is again out, leaving him stranded on 49 NYC appearances.

Vodafone Junior Warriors: Brad Abbey, Tomas Aoake Marata Niukora, Semisi Tyrell, Paul Ulberg, Kauri Aupouri, Erin Clark, Tualima Tualima, Casey Lafaele, Paul Tuli, Ofahiki Ogden, Matiu Love-Henry, Jazz Tevaga. Interchange: Tyler Mohi, Mattais Heimuli, Amoni Tufui, Lewis Soosemea.

Brad Hits 50

Fullback Brad Abbey became only the 13th player to appear in 50 NYC games for us when he took the field against the Dogs. He joins Ben Henry (64), John Palavi (63), Mason Lino (62), Adam Tuimavave-Gerrard (58), Siliva Havili (57), Ngataua Hukatai (54), Elijah Taylor (52), Nafe Seluini (52), Carlos Tuimavave (51), Omar Slaimankhel (51), Sam Lisone (50) and Siuatonga Likiliki (50).

Spare a thought for Prop Bunty Afoa, left on 49 games when injury ruling him out.

Afoa Junior Player Of The Year

Prop Bunty Afoa is the Vodafone NYC Player of the Year and winner of the Sonny Fai Medal.

Just turned 19, Afoa is still eligible for the NYC next year after two seasons in the competition.

A knee injury has sidelined him

for the last two games, leaving him one game short of joining 13 other players who have appeared in 50 NYC matches for the club. He has also been ruled out of this Friday night's elimination final against the Sydney Roosters at Allianz Stadium.

A Pt Chevalier Pirates junior, Afoa has been exceptional throughout the year.

In 23 games he has gained 2551 metres, averaging 111 metres a game while he has made 677 tackles, an average of 29 a game.

He played for the New South Wales Cup and NYC sides on the same day last month, with a 29-minute stint from the bench in his NSW Cup debut against Penrith and then 53 minutes for the Vodafone Junior Warriors against North Queensland.

Other awards: Rookie of the Year, Brad Abbey; Clubman of the Year, Toafofoa Siple.

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Good luck to the All Blacks but don't forget the Kiwis are Going on Tour

THE KIWIS are having an open training session when they assemble in Auckland before they head to the UK. Keep this date free to come and show your support for the Kiwi Rugby League team and watch them train there will be a free mad butcher BBQ cooked by former KIWIS

Date: Sunday 18 October 2015 Venue: Mt Smart Stadium - No.1



Attention all Ex and Current Kiwis

**The 2005 Kiwis that beat Australia 24 - 0
are having a reunion in Sydney on
Grand Final weekend!**

On **FRIDAY NIGHT 2 OCTOBER AT THE MENZIES HOTEL SYDNEY**
14 Carrington Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia
Phone: +61 2 9299 1000

**They are having a mix and mingle and would invite
any former Kiwis that are in Sydney to join us.**

It will be held at the Menzies Hotel with kick off 7.00pm.

Please contact pat.c@aucklandrugbyleague.co.nz
- Sir Peter the teams football manager will be
in Sydney from Monday 28th September
staying at the Menzies Hotel
his mobile is +64 2193 6105.



**We would love to see plenty
of ex KIWIS AT THE GATHERING**



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To enter: **YOU MUST** subscribe to Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club Newsletter, only one entry per person. Competition closes on **23rd September 2015**, drawn the next day.

Then post a stamped addressed envelope with your name, address and phone number to the address.



A League Of Their Own Tour November 2015

Williment Travel invites you on tour with the Kiwis Rugby League team as they look to take on England in their own back yard in November 2015. The tour is fully endorsed by the NZRL and takes you on a 15 night itinerary full of sightseeing and tourist opportunities, whilst supporting our Kiwi Team in a 3 Test campaign. You will also have exclusive opportunities to interact with the Kiwis squad as part of the tour.

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Vote for Ken Stephen Medallist

VOTING FOR the 2015 Ken Stephen Medallist is now open with fans urged to vote online for the nominee they feel best display leadership qualities both on and off the field.

The Ken Stephen Medal recognises the efforts of an NRL player who has not only achieved on field, but also contributed to community projects off-field.

Nominees include

Matt Gillett – Brisbane Broncos
Trent Hodkinson – Canterbury Bulldogs
Michael Ennis – Cronulla Sharks
Luke Douglas – Gold Coast Titans
Dayne Weston – Melbourne Storm
Josh Starling – Manly-Warringah Sea Eagles
Tariq Sims – Newcastle Knights
Michael Morgan – North Queensland Cowboys
Tim Mannah – Parramatta Eels
Jeremy Latimore – Penrith Panthers
Joel Thompson – St George Illawarra Dragons
Jake Friend – Sydney Roosters
Konrad Hurrell – New Zealand Warriors
Keith Galloway – Wests Tigers

All nominees have been nominated by their clubs after demonstrating significant involvement in charity work, youth development or community support throughout the year.

“The Ken Stephen Medal is one of the highest honours that our Game can bestow on a player and we’ve seen some very deserving players awarded over the years,” said NRL Head of Community, Adam Check.

“The quality of this year’s nominees is outstanding and their commitment to serving their communities is something for all of us to strive for and certainly in line with our Game’s core values of excellence, courage, inclusiveness and teamwork.”

The Ken Stephen Medal will be awarded during the Dally Ms on Monday 28 September. Voting is open now and will close on 27 September.

Fans are urged to learn more about the nominees and their work in the community, as well as cast their vote at www.nrl.com/kenstephenmedal

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Otahuhu Not to Be Denied for Title

OTAHUHU COLLEGE captain Komiti Vetenotu guided his team to a dramatic comeback victory over St Paul's College to snatch the 2015 NZRL National Secondary Schools crown.

With a few moments remaining, St Paul's wing Daymon Abbey crossed in the corner for a try that gave his side a 17-12 lead and seemed to have clinched their 16th title.

But Otahuhu were not to be denied, responding in kind at the other end and leaving Vetenotu with a conversion attempt after the buzzer for victory.

With both teams huddled in prayer, Vetenotu coolly slotted his kick to send his team-mates into rapture and his opponents to despair.

"It was a team effort," he insisted afterwards. "If it wasn't for the boys scoring that try, I wouldn't have had the chance.

"No credit for me, all to the boys."

St Paul's seemed headed for a walkover, when they reached halftime 13-0 ahead.

But their rivals had not given up the ghost and with the ball at their backs after the restart, they piled on two converted tries to close the margin.

"I just kept telling the boys we had been in this position before and to have faith that we could come back," said Vetenotu.

Earlier this week, Otahuhu drew their final pool game with Westlake Boys High and needed a comeback to progress to the semis.

"We've been trading points in other games, but this time we dug deep and came out victorious.

"I'm really proud of my boys - we stuck together from Day One and showed our full potential in this game."

Otahuhu's only previous national title came in 2011, when current Kiwis fullback Roger Tuivasa-Sheck inspired them to victory over St Paul's in the final.

Meanwhile, rugby union breeding ground Wesley College have successfully crossed over to the 13-a-side code, taking out the development final.

The South Auckland school have shown their rugby league potential over the past two seasons, storming through pool play at the last two tournaments.

They ran up 50 points on each of their pool oppo-

nents this week and cruised past Francis Douglas Memorial College 30-4 in yesterday's semi-finals.

But after dominating last year's plate competition in similar fashion, Wesley hit the wall in the final, falling to Papatoetoe High School at the last hurdle.

This year, they completed their assignment, defeating St Thomas of Canterbury 18-12, but had to dig deep.

The southerners jumped out to an early advantage, through tries to Aukilani Tu'au and Klayton Waikato.

But Wesley hit back to draw level shortly before half-time and clinched the win, when half Wetere Pompey split the defence for a try, which he then converted.

"I guess, for me and the team, it was a matter of having that experience and knowing what to do when the heat came on," said coach Lawrence Lawrence.

"Wesley is known for rugby, but a lot of the boys come into the school from a league background and it's a matter of tapping back into that."

Management are now resigned to promotion to the big time - the championship grade - next year.

"We'll have to be a lot more prepared," says Lawrence.

At the end of the tournament, the following were named for the NZ Secondary Schools team to face New South Wales Combined High Schools later this month:

Dylan Clark (Tokoroa HS), Beau Cordtz (St Paul's College), Bostyn Hakaraia (Mt Albert Grammar), Soane Hufunga (St Paul's College), Phoenix Hunt (Otahuhu College), Fine Inisi (Westlake BHS), Kenese Kenese (Manurewa HS), Isaiah Papalii (Mt Albert Grammar), David Phillips (Manurewa HS), Wetere Pompey (Wesley College), Michael Siali-Motu (Manurewa HS), Chris Sio (St Paul's College), Alfred Smalley (Otahuhu College), Fuiva Takitaki (Southern Cross Campus), Siave Togia (Southern Cross Campus), Auzzie Tuwhanga (Mt Albert Grammar), Josh Uta (Manurewa HS), Zae Wallace (Westlake BHS)

Other scores & placings from Day Five of the NZRL National Secondary Schools Tournament.

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NZRL NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Bruce Pulman Park, Papakura

Friday, September 4

23rd/24th

James Cook HS 36 (Huka Paul 2, Samisoni Halalilo 2, Tayler Tupu & Moseligi Lai tries; Vaega Tautua 5 & James Crichton goals) Howick College 14 (Dane Hill, Campbell Taniwha & Joe Mafiko tries; Liam Peyroux goal)

21st/22nd

Onehunga HS 42 (Josiah Brown 2, Joseph Tangulu 2, Sham Purcell, Ben Lacey, Josh Tuaoimaalii-Pauli & Wiaola Tangitepu tries; Tangulu 4 goals) Papakura HS 10 (Brodie Boyce & Noble Taylor tries; Boyce goal)

19th/20th

Francis Douglas Memorial 46 (Steven Snoxell 3, Cody Bunn, Jonathan Fidow, Chris Balson, Isaac Kneepkins, Chris Bryan & Enele Fidow tries; Shaun Phillips 5 goals) Trident HS 16 (Dayne Taniwha, Jonty Nathan & TePoru Curnon tries; Liam Jones 2 goals)

15th/16th

Whangarei BHS 56 (Paul Turner 3, Markal McQueen Stevens 2, Daonald McKenna, Maka Hakalo, Nathan Newton, Lee Turner & Manaaki Tawhiwhirangi tries; Dylan Brown 5, Quentin Tainui 2 & McKenna goals) Rosehill College 0

13th/14th

Papatoetoe HS 36 (Walter Fiftia 2, Foga Autagavaia, Dylan Uate, Mesu Cola, Nuku Ngere & Teny Sofeni tries; Autagavaia 4 goals) Mt Roskill Grammar 12 (Caleb Muliaga & Tonga Vakalahi tries; Andrew Taufia 2 goals)

11th/12th

Aorere College 36 (Maka Whaanga 2, Jiovanni Mauntain Silbery, Taunga Arama, Tyronne Nathan & Phillip Makatoa tries; Nathan 6 goals) Manukura School 8 (Tokanui Sofa & Alex Teu tries)

9th/10th

Kelston BHS 36 (Sefo Pauli 2, Elijah Sufia 2, Emosi

Alamoti, Whitiora Kennedy & Danny Misa tries; Sufia, Tairelle Parker, Aiden Ioane & Utah Ioka goals) Aranui HS 10 (Tala Mailei & Josh Afamasaga tries; Jope Gaunavo goal)

7th/8th

Southern Cross Campus 30 (Kakoi Togoio 2, Ivan Barker, Sila Ulugia & Junior Oloialii Fiso tries; Jan Sepuloni 3 & Amini Latu 2 goals) Tokoroa HS 20 (Marlin Tonge, Braeden Uili, Shayden Teao & Sione Levao tries; Josiah Vaevae & Teao goals)

5th/6th

Manurewa HS 40 (Michael Sili-Motu 3, Niko Moala 2, Evander Siafa & Sitaleki Pohahau tries; Denzel Tutakitoa 5 & Siafa goals) Westlake BHS 8 (Hemi McCarthy & Lotu Inisi tries)

3rd/4th

Mt Albert Grammar 24 (Auzzie Tuwhangai 2, Geronimo Doyle, Preston Riki & Bostyn Hakaraia tries; Kenszel Fa'afo & Hakaraia goals) Tamaki College 10 (Raven Takerei & Joshua Longi tries; Takerei goal)

Shield Final

Wesley College 18 (Saia latu, Rueben Unga & Wetere Pompey tries; Pompey 3 goals) St Thomas of Canterbury 12 (Aukilani Tu'au & Klayton Waikato tries; Waikato 2 goals)

Girls Nines

Otahuhu College 8 (Sisilia Pomee & Rose Iakopo tries) James Cook HS 4 (Claudia Kiddie-Vai try)

Championship Final

Otahuhu College 18 (Pohiva Fonna, Alvin Vaisa & Komiti Vetenu tries; Vetenu 3 goals) St Paul's College 17 (Daymon Abbey, Sione Fakapelea & Sione Ngahe tries; Beau Cordtz two goals, Dylan Tavita one field goal)

Final Placings: 1 Otahuhu College

2 St Paul's College

3 Mt Albert Grammar

4 Tamaki College

5 Manurewa HS

6 Westlake BHS

7 Southern Cross Campus

8 Tokoroa HS

9 Kelston BHS

10 Aranui HS

Suzuki Swift Road Warrior Winner



MEMBER SALLY Vaafusuaga had a chat with Vodafone Warriors TV when she came to the club's office to claim the special prize she won on field before the final home game of the 2015 NRL season.

Five members were randomly drawn to participate in the Suzuki Swift Road Warrior giveaway and Sally, a member for three years, had the winning key that saw her drive away in the Suzuki Swift Road Warrior.

Congratulations Sally. Enjoy your prize.

UK Parliamentary League Group

THE UK Parliamentary Rugby League Group laid a wreath at the Cenotaph memorial in remembrance of those involved in rugby league who have given the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

The ceremony was restored to Challenge Cup Final weekend tradition by HM Armed Forces in 2014, and took place the day before the final. This year's ceremony drew larger crowds from the rugby league family – including Kiwis – showing their support to the Armed Services, and was bolstered by hundreds of visitors to the capital.

The ceremony was conducted by Her Majesty's Armed Forces and led by Vice Chief of Defence Staff and President of Great Britain Armed Forces Rugby League, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach. Joining GBAR-FL and Parliamentary Group Chairman Greg Mulholland MP were RFL Chairman Brian Barwick and Denise Edwards of the Royal British Legion. Challenge Cup Finalists Leeds Rhinos and Hull Kingston Rovers were represented by their Chief Executives Gary Hetherington and Mike Smith, and players Jamie Jones Buchanan and Liam Sutcliffe for Leeds and Hull KR's captain Terry Campese.

The Group's Chairman, Leeds North West MP Greg Mulholland, previously called on fans to be a part of the event. He said "to my mind, this ceremony represents the best of rugby league. Above all else, rugby league is a family and we look after one another. Like any family, we remember those we have lost and this both a poignant ceremony and fitting tribute to those in the game who have done so much for the country and for us."

The Parliamentary Rugby League Group was instrumental in rugby league being recognised in the Armed Services in 1994 and last year, its sister body, politicians' team the Political Animals played an Army Veterans side at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, including many players who took part in the first official Army Rugby League Game 20 years previous.

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It's finals times... time to guess who will be left standing

FEATURES

- **North Queensland** have enjoyed one of their most consistent seasons, but it's not just on the back of their big-name players, they have a supporting cast who carried them through the toughest parts of season 2015;
- **Luke Lewis** started his career in the best way possible—with a premiership within the first couple of seasons. But injuries and poorer form meant he went searching to rediscover the joy of the game;
- It's that time when we get to look back at some of the highlights of the year. We kick off this week with the **Top 5 tries on 2015**;
- He's stepped up ably into the Roosters captaincy this season and though people keep talking about him as a future representative, **Jake Friend** is under no illusions that he will walk into Cameron Smith's No.9 rep jersey;
- **Trent Merrin's** last days at the Dragons are fast approaching and his team-mates are sad to see him go;
- **Jarryd Hayne** has made the big time in the NFL so Tim Fuller takes a look at what that means for his earning potential off-the-field.

PLUS... **Damien Lovelock** recalls the joys of following finals football; **Matt Elliott** takes us inside what's going on in coaches' and players' heads now; **Nathan Brown** breaks down each finals game.

AND: Official team lists; Warren Smith's Big Clash preview of Broncos v Cowboys; News: Broncos wary of former players, Jennings keen for team-mates' respect, Gal says he's not selfish, Creagh knows the Morris threat; Top Eight career farewells.

PODCAST: Special guests Braith Anasta and Ben Ikin.



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Who's that kid?



Jazz Tevaga

Warriors

Date of Birth: September 4, 1995
Junior Club: Papakura Sea Eagles
Position: Lock/Hooker
Height: 178cm
Weight: 90kg
Occupation: Warriors Community department
Contracted until: 2015

The Style

When you look at the numbers, you expect Jazz Tevaga to be massive, the size of David Klemmer or at least Paul Vaughan. After all, little men can't break through 61 tackles in 16 matches or average 150 metres per match in the middle without some real grunt.

But when you meet the 19-year-old, a little guy is exactly what you get. "He's not the biggest bloke but he's a good footballer," says Warriors under-20s coach Kelvin Wright. "He's a bloke who makes himself hard to tackle. He spins, he steps, and he's stronger than he looks. He's one of those footballers who is strong on the field even if they don't look that impressive with the weights."

Tevaga was shifted to hooker last year and it has turned him into one hell of a ball-player before the line.

"It's helped him see a different aspect of the game," says Wright. "His vision has improved. He's starting to recognise opportunities a lot better than he did in the past."

Adding to the mystery the Papakura junior presents before the line, he passes on 40 per cent of his carries with an even distribution between the left and right.

"It's helped my game," he says. "Especially the skill to pass the ball both ways, it's helped me progress in terms of ball-playing in my role. I never used to break tackles. I think it's my fitness enabling me to carry on. A lot of guys get fatigued and that's when I can get my nose through."

The Rap

Nothing sums up Tevaga's determination like his rapid rise from the Warriors' open trials to being a 2014 Holden Cup winner and Kiwis under-20s star. "Everyone picks out the superstars

but the guys who work hard come through a little later. He's caught up, he trains hard and does all the extras," says Wright.

It's why Tevaga does the most off-the-ball work in the Warriors team, with 84 decoy runs and 123 support plays. His next progression is the NRL and, although he's off-contract, Wright has no doubt it's a level he can crack.

"He's capable of playing in the NRL," says the coach. "There are a few things against him, so he'll have to work harder. You look at 80-minute forwards today, guys like Paul Gallen and Simon Mannering, they're bigger than he is. He's got to become an all-round footballer."

"He'll have to improve at hooker and have more up his sleeve. He's got that opportunity with the interchange dropping down. He can become that versatile player who can play back row or loose forward."

The Man Himself

Tevaga admits he's made his fair share of errors on the path to becoming a Warrior, but mistakes only drive him to make a bigger difference in our sport.

"I was brought up in a good environment and I went down the wrong path at high school," he says. "I never thought I'd be where I am. There are a beautiful couple that helped me get to where I am, Spencer and Carmen Taplin, the Warriors' New South Wales Cup manager. They helped me set goals and then I got the opportunity to trial for the Warriors. It was the best thing that ever happened to me."

Has there been anyone at the Warriors who has helped you in particularly with this?

Jerome Ropati is a good mentor. He's a good Christian and he helps me stay on the path. I never want to go back where I was.

We understand you work with him in the community department?

Yeah, with him and another of our under-20s players, Junior Puga. We go to schools and run programs with the kids. We teach them how to run a tournament within their own school and show them modified league games.

- SCOTT BAILEY



Round 26 ROUND-UP

NRL TABLE

	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	DIFF	PTS	FOR			AGAINST			HOME	AWAY
										T	G	FG	T	G	FG		
SYDNEY ROOSTERS	24	18	6	0	2	591	300	291	40	100	94	3	53	43	2	10-2	8-4
BRISBANE	24	17	7	0	2	574	379	195	38	101	84	2	65	58	3	9-3	8-4
NORTH QUEENSLAND	24	17	7	0	2	587	454	133	38	101	89	5	78	70	2	8-4	9-3
MELBOURNE	24	14	10	0	2	467	348	119	32	82	68	3	60	53	2	8-4	6-6
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN	24	14	10	0	2	522	480	42	32	97	65	4	85	69	2	7-5	7-5
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND	24	14	10	0	2	469	476	-7	32	77	79	3	79	80	0	6-6	8-4
SOUTH SYDNEY	24	13	11	0	2	465	467	-2	30	80	72	1	85	62	3	8-4	5-7
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA	24	12	12	0	2	435	408	27	28	71	74	3	73	57	2	8-4	4-8
MANLY WARRINGAH	24	11	13	0	2	458	492	-34	26	84	61	0	88	69	2	6-6	5-7
CANBERRA	24	10	14	0	2	577	569	8	24	97	94	1	97	89	3	3-9	7-5
PENRITH	24	9	15	0	2	399	477	-78	22	72	54	3	80	78	1	7-5	2-10
PARRAMATTA	24	9	15	0	2	448	573	-125	22	83	57	2	102	81	3	4-8	5-7
WARRIORS	24	9	15	0	2	445	588	-143	22	80	61	3	104	85	2	5-7	4-8
GOLD COAST	24	9	15	0	2	439	636	-197	22	76	67	1	113	91	2	5-7	4-8
WESTS TIGERS	24	8	16	0	2	487	562	-75	20	87	69	1	99	81	4	4-8	4-8
NEWCASTLE	24	8	16	0	2	458	612	-154	20	79	71	0	106	93	2	4-8	4-8

Team of the Week Rd26

INTERCHANGE:
 14. Cooper CRONK (Storm)
 15. Justin HORO (Sea Eagles)
 16. Cameron MUNSTER (Storm)
 17. Ben HANNANT (Cowboys)

PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Roger Tuivasa-Sheck (Roosters)
 This guy doesn't quit—and he certainly didn't last Friday. Tuivasa-Sheck could star in whatever game he wanted to play but he finished this match with 243 metres, 12 tackle-breaks, a try and line-break assist. Standard day in the office.

2015 HOLDEN CUP

	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	+/-	PTS
PENRITH	24	20	4	0	2	774	434	340	44
NORTH QUEENSLAND	24	19	4	1	2	923	452	471	43
BRISBANE	24	17	6	1	2	833	570	263	39
MANLY WARRINGAH	24	13	8	3	2	698	568	130	33
WESTS TIGERS	24	12	11	1	2	712	598	114	29
SYDNEY ROOSTERS	24	12	11	1	2	731	670	61	29
WARRIORS	24	11	11	2	2	656	562	94	28
CANBERRA	24	12	12	0	2	646	811	-165	28
MELBOURNE	24	10	13	1	2	588	743	-155	25
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN	24	9	13	2	2	580	623	-43	24
NEWCASTLE	24	10	14	0	2	539	776	-237	24
GOLD COAST	24	9	15	0	2	596	687	-91	22
PARRAMATTA	24	8	14	2	2	541	754	-213	22
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA	24	8	16	0	2	574	716	-142	20
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND	24	7	15	2	2	481	762	-281	20
SOUTH SYDNEY	24	6	16	2	2	528	674	-146	18

2015 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	L	D	B	F	A	+/-	PTS
NORTH QUEENSLAND	48	36	11	1	4	1510	906	604	81
BRISBANE	48	34	13	1	4	1407	949	458	77
SYDNEY ROOSTERS	48	30	17	1	4	1322	970	352	69
PENRITH	48	29	19	0	4	1173	911	262	66
MANLY WARRINGAH	48	24	21	3	4	1156	1060	96	59
MELBOURNE	48	24	23	1	4	1055	1091	-36	57
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN	48	23	23	2	4	1102	1103	-1	56
CANBERRA	48	22	26	0	4	1223	1380	-157	52
CRONULLA-SUTHERLAND	48	21	25	2	4	950	1238	-288	52
WARRIORS	48	20	26	2	4	1101	1150	-49	50
WESTS TIGERS	48	20	27	1	4	1199	1160	39	49
ST GEORGE ILLAWARRA	48	20	28	0	4	1009	1124	-115	48
SOUTH SYDNEY	48	19	27	2	4	993	1141	-148	48
GOLD COAST	48	18	30	0	4	1035	1323	-288	44
PARRAMATTA	48	17	29	2	4	989	1327	-338	44
NEWCASTLE	48	18	30	0	4	997	1388	-391	44

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Those Where the Days My Friend

By John Coffey QSM



MOST SENIOR sports scribes hope they will never be reduced to writing stories of the so-called good old days, regurgitating long-ago triumphs, or, worse still, churning out obituaries of former acquaintances who were once outstandingly fit and successful men and women whose deeds have faded with time.

I was fortunate to have been punted out of the Christchurch newspaper building where I had whittled away 44 working years before it truly got to that stage, and before the venerable old building itself was broken beyond repair by the earthquakes. The obituary assignments which had already come my way were saddening and not a good omen.

But I couldn't help thinking about the "good old days" when recently reading in Australian publications of the increasing suspicion between journalists and NRL players, sentiments which could also be applied to any other professional sport. The era of the coached cliché and guarded answer had arrived long before I departed full-time journalism in 2007.

One Friday afternoon, with the sun over the yardarm and Bailies Bar beckoning, one of our photographers asked if I could find out where and when a borderline All Black was to be married the next day. I knew the protocol demanded I call the Crusaders' media man, so he could call the groom-to-be, and then call me back some time later -- maybe.

Now this bloke was by no means a great All Black and I figured he probably had not done a deal with the Women's Weekly for exclusive wedding coverage. So I rang him direct, asked him the questions and he freely gave me the answers. The photographer was happy and I was able to head for the bar. Meanwhile, all hell was breaking loose.

The Crusaders' media man, on learning he had not been consulted, was outraged. So, too, was the Canterbury Rugby Union boss. So were our union writers on hearing a humble leagueie had directly approached a wearer, albeit briefly, of the silver fern. Nor was the editor overly chuffed that his free tickets to the union's Lancaster Park hospitality box were at risk.

Contrast that with the phone call I received on another Friday afternoon years earlier from Kiwis hooker Alan Rushton. It transpired that Rusty was on

ACC for a work mishap until the following Monday. But his club had an important weekend game and he was anxious to play but not be mentioned in the match report. That was a change: most players complained when they were not given a write-up.

"But Alan", I said, "The Press has been a journal of accuracy since 1861. If you get yourself ordered off or if you score a try your name will be there for all to see." Fair enough, he replied. Rusty toiled mightily in the tight and helped his club to victory. But he never lifted a finger in anger and never threatened the opposing goal-line. His anonymity was secure.

Back in the day when I worked for the now-defunct NZ Press Association on Kiwis tours to Australia in 1967 and Britain and France in 1971 journalists were accredited as fully fledged members of the touring team, travelling and staying with the players, even wearing the jersey in a charity soccer match at Warrington. There was mutual trust and respect.

When the Widnes club presented 29 engraved tankards to the 1971 Kiwis (there were 26 players, two managers, one coach), co-manager Bill O'Callaghan quietly told the chairman they were three short. A few days later three shiny new tankards arrived for myself, radio commentator Murray King and photographer Rhys Morris, even inscribed with the result.

All three of us were assigned a non-playing team member to assist with statistics, comments or whatever, and in France I was grateful to Shane Dowsett's family for speeding me back to our hotels after night games to catch the incoming call from the NZPA office in London. No flash laptops in 1971; just the trusty Olivetti portable typewriter which still sits in my garage. And no English-speaking hotel staff, either, hence the calls having to be made from London.

Occasionally we could reciprocate. In 1967 the small plane to Gympie had enough seats only for coach Lory Blanchard, co-manager Ces Mountford, 15 players (only two reserves then), fellow scribe Bob Jones and myself. Even the physio stayed in Brisbane. Bob and I were made honorary physios for the day, rubbing oily, hairy legs, carting ice and handing out jerseys. I wonder what a modern-day media manager would have thought of that!

Week in Northland Sport

By Ben Francis



Rugby Union

NOT EVEN a fired up Dan Pryor could inspire the Northland Taniwha to victory over the Weekend. Pryor played his first game in four months since dislocating his elbow in the Super Rugby Season. Pryor was a menace finishing the game completing the most tackles

(20) and it seemed like he was always the first to the breakdown trying to get a turnover. But Northland's ability to win lineouts and scrums are costing them. "We couldn't even win our lineouts and if you don't have the ball you don't win the game. We did win a couple and a couple in 80 minutes is not going to win you games" Pryor said post game. To be exact Northland won seven lineouts and lost four while winning six scrums and losing six also.

The Taniwha now turn their attention to Manawatu this weekend. The Turbos who are competing in the Premiership this season are also on the hunt for their first victory of the season.

Rugby League

LAST WEEK was the New Zealand Rugby League National Secondary Schools Tournament which had Whangarei Boys High School taking part, they were in pool D along with Westlake Boys High School, Aorere College and Otahuhu College. Whangarei Boys High won the NorthTec Adam Blair Trophy earlier in the year to gain qualification in this year's competition. In their first hit out they played Westlake and went down 20-10, the following day a Whangarei lost to Otahuhu 20-6. Aorere College also beat Whangarei in the final pool game 16-14 which then saw Whangarei play Papatoetoe, once again it was another close game but Whangarei went down 11-10 in extra time. Whangarei Boys did end the tournament on a high note beating Rosehill College 56-0 to finish 15th overall. Otahuhu who were in the same pool as Whangarei boys went on to win the competition 18-17 over St Paul's College. After trailing 13-0 at the break Otahuhu came fighting back to take the game after the siren when captain Komiti Vetenotu kicked the winning goal. It was Otahuhu's second title, their other title came in 2011 when Roger Tuivasa-Sheck was playing for the team. The Otahuhu girls also won their competition beating James Cook High School 8-4 in the girls final.

The Northern Swords had a tough loss over the weekend to the Counties Manukau Stingrays 77-6 over the weekend in the New Zealand Rugby League Premiership. The Young Northern Swords team will have the next round off and prepare for round four where they will be hosting the Wellington Orcas in Kaikohe. The team will only get better as the season progresses with the majority of the squad under the age of 22, only things can improve from here. Also over the weekend in Kaikohe the Mini Mod's 8s, 10s and 12s all played with Marist winning the U8s, Hokianga winning the U10s, and Tautoro winning the U12s.

The Penrith Panthers U20's secured the Minor Premiership in the Holden Cup over the weekend after beating the Newcastle Knights U20's 36-18. Two Northland boys Corey Harawira-Naera and James Fisher-Harris have both played starring roles throughout the Panthers U20 campaign in 2015. Sam McKendry a product of Dargaville is looking like being back in line for a Kiwis Jersey after being selected for Kiwis Wider squad as they prepare for the tour of England next month.

Continued on next page...



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American Football

LIKE A number of New Zealanders I'm excited for the return of the NFL season when the Pittsburgh Steelers take on the defending champion New England Patriots Ben Roethlisberger up against Tom Brady (who last week won his appeal over deflate gate) but the reason why American Football is appearing in a column about Northland sport is for one reason; Paul Lasike, while Jarryd Hayne has been making world wide headlines and success Lasike who is New Zealand born has also been trying to make it in the NFL after playing three seasons of College Football at Brigham Young University (BYU) Lasike declared for the NFL draft but was not selected.

The Arizona Cardinals signed him as a free agent and Lasike played all four preseason games for the team. Sadly Lasike was one of the last players cut by the Cardinals in deciding their final 53 man roster. Not all bad though for Lasike as he was signed to the Chicago Bears practice squad. Each NFL team can sign up to ten players to practice full time with the squad and can earn around \$178,000 NZD a season. Lasike can sign with another NFL team providing he is added to the 53 man squad. Lasike plays the full back position, which is a combination of blocking and running with the ball.

Before heading to America, Lasike attended the Church College of New Zealand in Hamilton but before that he attended Northland college in Kaikohe. So well done to the man who lived in Northland trying to make it in one of the biggest sports brands in the world.

NSW Warriors Supporters

WE HAVE a lot of loyal and passionate Vodafone Warriors Supporters in Australia, but there is one fan I have a lot of time for. Richard Morgan is originally from Auckland and now lives in Sydney where I have had the opportunity to meet him on a few occasions now, and boy the passion for the mighty Vodafone Warriors shines through as soon as he starts talking about the club, he is a Proud Warrior indeed!

Richard attends every match in Sydney and travels to the regional NSW matches, where he rallies together a bunch of fans and hires a van driving to Newcastle and Canberra to support the boys. He regularly travels to QLD for the Titans and Brisbane matches. What a legend if you ask me.

He has a goal of uniting all warrior fans at matches in Sydney, this is where the team plays almost every 2nd weekend. This is there "home away from home" and the boys need to feel comfortable coming here knowing they have the support on the sidelines. An official supporter's bay needs to be set up with each club, and the location promoted as the only place to be if you are a warrior fan at the game. Injured and travelling players can drop in on the bay and say hi and there could be prizes given out for the best sign and supporter of the day etc. Either way, fan engagement is very much underdone on this side of the ditch to say

the least.

Richard manages a supporter's page where he is doing his best to reach out to all supporters, focusing on where to sit, meet before games and any ticket deals etc. Spread the word and like his page and help grow the support of the Vodafone Warriors!

Like the NSW Warriors Supporters page here - <https://www.facebook.com/Warriorsupporters>

Planning is already underway for next season and how Richard can interact better with the fans, working closer with the opposition clubs to offer better seating and so much more. It's all about us fans coming together as one and being together at games instead of all around the ground.



Hayne's Faith Crucial for His and Other 'Converts' Success

By John Deaker



JARRYD HAYNE, Anthony Mundine, Sonny Bill Williams and Israel Folau have the obvious common ground of being some of Australasian sports greatest cross-code athletes. Many people are quick to acknowledge their great physical natural ability but they also under-state the great mental strength and discipline that these people demonstrate to be able to embrace the challenge of a different code and then achieve so much success in their new endeavor. The strong religious beliefs of all these men shouldn't be ignored as being an important common trait that helps them achieve so highly in two or more very different sporting codes.

One of the many things that has stunned people regarding the 'Hayne Change' was the great belief he had in himself that allowed him to risk the security of a multi-million dollar contract with Parramatta to attempt to make it in the NFL. To most people Hayne had already 'made it' and his desire to step outside his comfort zone seemed almost professionally irresponsible. What motivates a man to search for such greatness!? The presence of a 'higher power' shouldn't be underestimated - Hayne admitted so much in an interview with 'The Footy Show' a few months ago.

"I've had my dark days in San Fran," he confessed.

"I've had days where, literally, if I didn't have my faith I'd be home. I'd be back here in a heart beat. I've sat in hotels, looking at ceilings."

"There's definitely been days when I've questioned it and just said, 'What's doing?' But from a faith point of view, my faith is too strong for me to even consider coming back."

Hayne's story may be the one capturing headlines currently but the importance of people's faith in crossing codes was something that stood out to me when interviewing many of the subjects of the 2008 publication 'The Converts: Crossing Codes' - written in conjunction with Bob Howitt.

Blockbusting winger Inga Tuigamala provided me with the three hour interview that paved the way for this book to become a reality - and during this in depth interview he talked extensively about his faith's role in providing him with the confidence to have a go at professional rugby league. While playing league at Wigan, 'Inga the Winger' also helped another subject of 'The Converts' book, Jason Robinson, to turn his life (and lifestyle) around by becoming a Christian.

Many people (especially in the Northern Hemisphere!) rate the twin-kle-toed former England rugby captain as the most successful convert between rugby and league - while Brad Thorn (indisputably the most successful rugby league forward to switch to rugby union) remains a very staunch Christian to this day.

When you start putting all these names together you can only be left with the conclusion that there's too much damning evidence for all this success changing codes by people with strong religious beliefs to be a coincidence. No, haven't been to church in years - but after writing this article I'm certainly considering showing face at the local church this Sunday - it just might work wonders for my code-switch from cricket to golf!



Jarryd Hayne has been named in three positions on San Francisco's depth chart for the team's season-opening NFL game against Minnesota.

Getty Images Ezra Shaw.

SIX PLAYERS return from the Vodafone Warriors' NRL side to boost the club's New South Wales Cup team for Sunday's sudden-death finals clash against Canterbury-Bankstown at Jubilee Oval (6.10pm kick-off local time; 8.10pm NZT).

The fourth-placed Stacey Jones-coached side had a second life after losing its week one play-off against minor premiership winners the Mounties.

For that match Jones was again without many of his eligible first-choice players through injury or being on NRL duty for the club's final match against the Bulldogs last Sunday.

With the NRL campaign over Jones has been able to welcome back centres Matt Allwood and Dominique Peyroux, halfback Mason Lino, props Sione Lousi and Sebastine Ikaiahifo and back rower Raymond Faitala-Mariner. All contributed as the Vodafone Warriors came within three minutes of stunning the Bulldogs before losing 22-26.

It means the Vodafone Warriors will have a total of 10 players with NRL experience this week, a quality they've been short on in recent weeks.

While the availability of the six returning players has been welcomed by Jones he has also been able to recall Viliami Kaveinga at fullback. Others available are wing Saula Solomona and forward Paki Afu who helped the Point Chevalier Pirates to their third consecutive grand final success in Auckland's Fox Memorial premiership on Saturday. Another back in the side is hooker Zac Tippins from the Mount Albert side beaten in the grand final.

The fifth-ranked Bulldogs eliminated North Sydney 22-4 and go into this weekend's with a 2-0 edge in regular season encounters with the Vodafone Warriors.

Tune in to Sky Sports 2 at 8pm (NZT) on Sunday to support the NSW Cup team on their journey through the finals series.

**VODAFONE WARRIORS v
CANTERBURY-BANKSTOWN
BULLDOGS**

Jubilee Oval, Sydney
6.10pm, Sunday, September 12
Referee: Liam Nicholls

VODAFONE WARRIORS

1 VILIAMI KAVEINGA

2 SAULA SOLOMONA
3 MATT ALLWOOD
4 DOMINIQUE PEYROUX
5 KEN MAUMALO
6 ATA HINGANO
7 MASON LINO
8 SEBASTINE IKAHIHIFO
9 SILIVA HAVILI
10 SIONE LOUSI
11 JOHN PALAVI (c)
12 RAYMOND FAITALA-MARINER

13 DAVID BHANA
Interchange:
14 ZAC TIPPINS
15 JAMES BELL
16 UPU POCHING
17 PAKI AFU
18 DANIEL PALAVI
COACH | STACEY JONES



Canterbury Rugby League Update

Bulls Off To Winning Start

After sitting out Round 1 of the NZRL National Premiership with the bye, the Rockcote Canterbury Bulls opened their title defence with a 28-20 victory over Wai-Coa-Bay Stallions at Tauranga Domain on Saturday. The Chris Bamford-led Bulls powered out to a 24-10 halftime lead courtesy of a try to second-rower James Baxendale and a hat-trick to powerful centre Erwin Sauni. Interchange Nathan Saumalu's try after the break extended the visitors' advantage, before the Stallions posted two late four-pointers.



Aside from Sauni's virtuoso display, the new halves combination of Papanui's CRL grand final hero James Wihongi and ex-Canberra Raiders NYC playmaker Tevin Arona also impressed. The only negative to come out of the solid win was a fractured ankle suffered by fullback Benaiah Crichton.

"That was our target, to go up there and get two points. I thought we would be a bit rusty – and we were – but it was good to get the win," Bulls coach Darrell Coad said. "And from a coaching perspective it was good to get that hit-out and see where we're at and the things we need to work on."

Canterbury Claim Eddie Hei Hei Memorial Trophy

Canterbury kept its perfect record in the South Island Premier Competition with a commanding 48-20 defeat of the visiting Southland Rams in Christchurch. The teams competed for the Eddie Hei Hei Memorial Trophy, struck in honour of the late Eddie Hei Hei, who represented both provinces during a distinguished domestic rugby league career before tragically passing away shortly after a club game in Invercargill in July. Canterbury are tied at the top of the table with Tasman after four rounds.

Canterbury Juniors Make Successful Trip To West Coast

Four Canterbury age-group representative sides made the trip over Arthur's Pass to take on their West Coast counterparts in Greymouth last weekend, with three of the visiting teams emerging victorious. The Canterbury 9 Years team defeated West Coast 40-16, the Canterbury 11 Years side thumped West Coast 54-0 and the Canterbury 12 Years line-up carved out a 42-0 victory over West Coast; meanwhile, the Canterbury 10 Years team narrowly went down to West Coast, 32-28.

St Thomas Brave In NZSSRL Championship Final Loss To Wesley

St Thomas of Canterbury College ended an outstanding campaign in the Auckland-hosted New Zealand Secondary Schools Rugby League Championship with a gallant 18-12 loss to Wesley College in the Developing Grade final. St Thomas opened up a 12-0 lead via tries to Klayton Waikato and Aukilani Tu'uu, but Wesley clawed back to level the scores by halftime and crossed for the only try of the second stanza. Aranui High School was Canterbury's other representative at the tournament and both teams did the region proud.

Bulls Gear Up For Return To Spiritual Home

The Rockcote Canterbury Bulls head back to Rugby League Park for the first time since 2013 this Sunday, hosting the heavyweight Akarana Falcons in a National Premiership blockbuster. The Bulls have predominantly used Denton Oval in Hornby as their base over the past few seasons, but Canterbury Rugby League struck a deal with the Christchurch Stadium Trust to stage the club grand final and all three of the Bulls' 2015 home games at AMI Stadium, which has been the home of rugby union in the province since the 2011 earthquake.

Darrell Coad was hopeful of a big turnout for the clash with the Falcons this weekend in what shapes as one of Canterbury Rugby League's biggest occasions in years. "We've done a lot of work this year to make things as good as we can for the spectators, and (we're excited) about getting back to AMI Stadium. We have got a really good fanbase and we hope they can all get down there on Sunday to support us," the Bulls coach said. "It's always worth eight or 10 points to us, our home support, so if we get good numbers it will be a big help to us."

Team for Rockcote Canterbury Bulls vs Akarana

Letter From Canterbury Bulls

Hi All

Rockcote Canterbury Bulls Coach Darrell Coad has name (see below) an almost unchanged team for this Sunday fixture against Akarana

Danny Latu has been replace by Jack Mundy at wing due to injury

Erwin Sauni moves from the centres to full back to replace the injured Benaiah Creighton who tragically broke his ankle in last weeks game against Wai-Coa Bays

Matt Sauni comes into the centres to replace brother Erwin

Kyle Leka comes into the starting 13 after a very productive game against Wai-Coa Bay

Also into the 17 this weekend is Phil Nati after a solid game for Canterbury in the District competition last weekend

Remember to spread the word Lets

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Player - Jersey Sponsor

- 1 Erwin Sauni -SB Global Logistics
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- 10 Alexander Todd - Champion Freight

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WEST COAST RUGBY LEAGUE



CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Labour Weekend • 23 - 25 October 2015



Programme

Friday 23rd October

7.30pm Get-together (incorporating WCRL 2015 season's Awards).

Venue: Regent Theatre, Greymouth

Saturday 24th October

7pm Dinner function. Guest Speaker, legendary coach Graham Lowe.

Venue: Shantytown

Sunday 25th October

11am Farewell Gathering/photos/lunch.

Venue: Marist RL Clubrooms.

Cost for all functions \$125. Registration required by 23rd September.

Guest Speaker Centenary Dinner



**Legendary Coach
Graham Lowe
QSM, ONZM.**

Lowie's remarkable coaching record:

- The Kiwis 1983/86 • Wigan 1986/89
- Rest of the World 1988 • Manly-Warringah 1990/92
- Queensland 1991/92 • Western Samoa 1995
- Nth Queensland Cowboys 1996

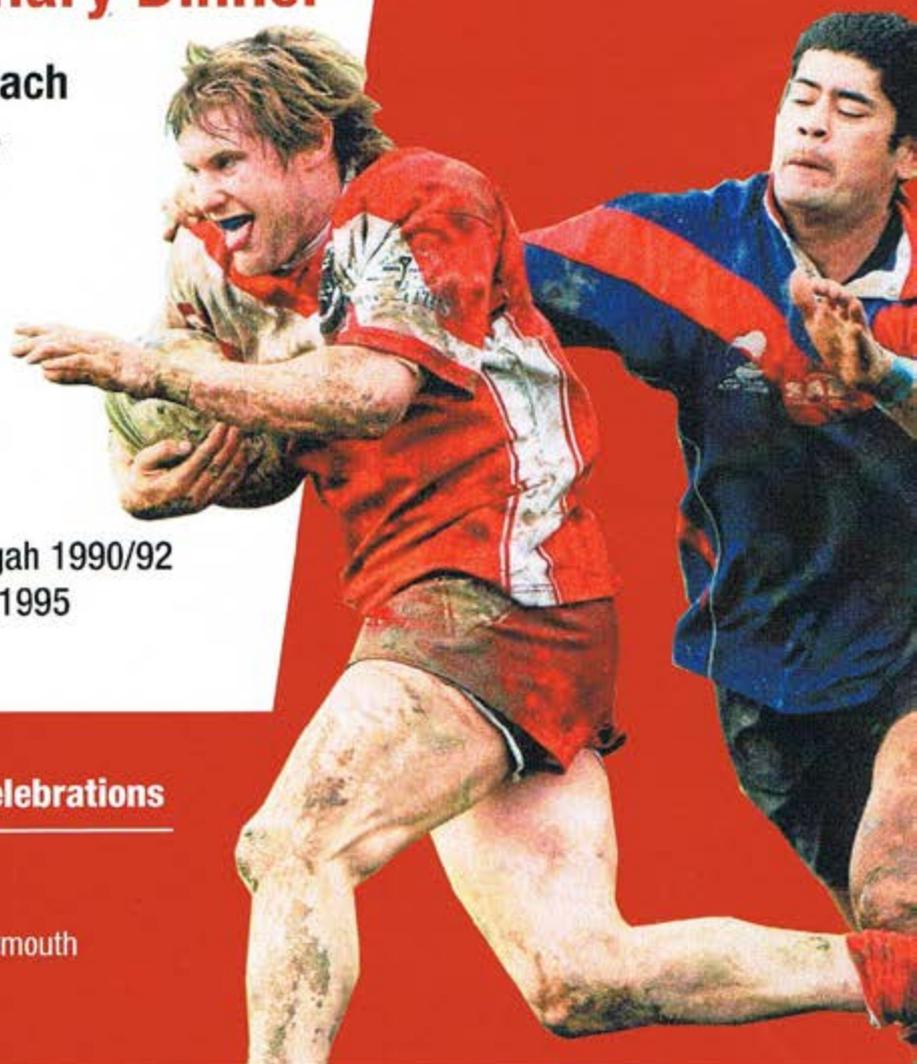
Contact details for WCRL Centenary Celebrations

Chairman: Peter Kerridge, ph. 768 5647

Registrations: Greg Mooney Ph. 768 5728

c/o Lockwood Show Home, 12 Nelson Street, Greymouth

Email: ajmooney@lockwood.co.nz



CENTENARY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS FEATURE MATCH 2ND TEST NZ UNIVERSITIES V AUSTRALIA UNIVERSITIES.
WINGHAM PARK, SUNDAY 2.30PM.

Kiwi Academy Participants Invited to Prestigious American Baseball League

STRONG PERFORMANCES by two young Kiwi baseball players has earned them an invite to play in the Arizona Fall Classic, the hotbed of young baseball talent headed to the big leagues.

Aucklanders Cooper Hutchinson and Jason Mathews returned from the Netherlands over the weekend after putting together a string of top performances, which has resulted in them being offered the chance to play in the league for the Seattle Mariners development team.

All 30 Major League franchises send their best young talent to Arizona each fall to learn more about the game of baseball and hone their skills in an effort to one get called up to the big leagues.

Former Softballer Cooper Hutchinson has played for Baseball New Zealand's 18U and 21U teams over the last 12 months says "To have played for my country at age level and travelled to the Europe elite camp has been amazing and if I'd stayed playing softball I just wouldn't have had these opportunities."

"I really wasn't expecting all of these opportunities to come along so quickly but my love for the game of baseball has really helped," says Hutchinson, "It's been a real ride over the last two years and my parents who are currently living back in Samoa are absolutely stoked for me."

Outfielder Hutchinson (Mt Albert Grammar School) and short stop Mathews (Alfriston College) will be at the forefront of many of the players in Arizona, having been coached by hall of fame player Barry Larkin and former MLB star Steve Finley at the academy.

Fellow academy participant Jason Mathews is an up and coming shortstop and he said that learning to play the position by a hall of fame shortstop (former Cincinnati Reds shortstop Barry Larkin) was unbelievable, "he's just got so much information to pass on and little things like always positioning yourself correctly to field the ball is invaluable."

"At the beginning of the camp I was struggling to hit the ball," said Mathews, "but after a few tips by the experts, I was picking up regular hits."



From Left; Jason Mathews, Steve Finley, Cooper Hutchinson, Barry Larkin

CANTERBURY AMATEUR BOXING CHAMPS

LIVE BOXING action at the Cashmere Club this Saturday, two sessions from 12pm and another from 6pm

Thursday Member Draw climbs to \$2000 major and \$400 minor, must be here to claim the prize.

Coming Soon - "Fantastic Folding Friday"

Live entertainment this Friday with Eddie Simon, back by popular demand, first in best seats.

Saturday ITM Cup action has Canterbury hosting Hawkes Bay, both coming into the match with 4 wins from 4 starts, wear ya colours.

Methven Races Sunday 20th September, limited seats remain, only \$40 for bus travel, all day refreshments and food, ya snooze ya lose.

Courtesy Coach 0800 CASHMERE

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Black Sticks Men / Black Sticks Women
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Friday 9th October
6pm - BSW vs Argentina
8pm - BSM vs India
Sunday 11th October
1pm - BSM vs India

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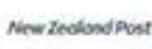
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Black Sticks Sides Pull World-Class Competition

THE BLACK Sticks Men and Women are confirmed to play against two super-powers in world hockey in their lead up to the Oceania Cup being held in Stratford at the end of October.

The Black Sticks Women will face Argentina and the Black Sticks Men will take on India between the 3-11 October with games to be hosted in Blenheim, Nelson and Christchurch.



The Women play their first two games in Blenheim (3rd-4th October) before travelling to Nelson where they play their third test against Argentina and the Black Sticks Men play two tests against India (6th-7th October). The final weekend is in Christchurch where there is a double header on the Friday with the Men playing their fourth and final test on Sunday.

The Men's NZA team will also play two games against India on the 2nd and 3rd October at North Harbour.

It's the second time that Argentina women have been to New Zealand this year – they were here in April for games in Gisborne and for the Hawke's Bay Festival. India men last visited New Zealand six years ago when they played two tests in Auckland and Wellington.

Black Sticks Men's head coach Colin Batch says to have India visit is a real coup and will provide his side with invaluable build up ahead of the Oceania Cup (21-25 October), which is the last Olympic qualifying event for the Black Sticks Men.

“The biggest thing for us is having good competition in the build-up to a tournament. We last played in June and we identified that it was important for us to secure competition before Oceania Cup – so this series will be good preparation,” said Batch.

“The team selected could be significantly different, so having four international tests before we face Australia will help.”

Hockey New Zealand chief executive Malcolm Harris said that although there are obvious high performance objectives in hosting home tests, the events have a wider impact on the growth of the sport.

“Our event strategy to take international games to regional New Zealand has become a proven way for us to help develop the profile, participation, and commercial model for international tests,” says Harris.

“The communities we go to are extremely supportive and both the teams and fans love the experience.”

The Black Sticks Women have never played in Blenheim before, and the New Zealand Men have only ever played one test back in 1958 against Australia. Nelson and Christchurch hosted the Black Sticks Men vs Canada internationals at the end of last year, but they have never hosted an official international test on the women's side.

Tickets are now on sale at www.dashtickets.co.nz. Tickets start from just \$8 with discounted family tickets also available.



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TONIGHTS GUESTS - EP.20

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NZ Lightweight Boxing Champ

NATASHA FITZSIMONS

NZ Women's Black Sticks

KRISSY HUNTER

NZ MMA Fighter

JOHN BREWIN

NZ MMA Fighter

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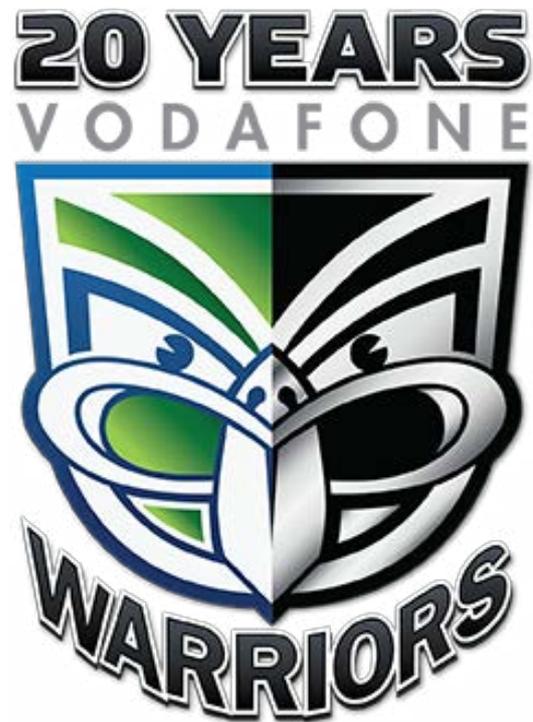
Scintillating conversation. . . laughs. . . irreverent reporting. . . giggles. . . and dangerous demos. . .yeah right!

**Lock it in 8:30pm Thursdays
MEAN MAORI MEAN!**





Sheldon Abby with the signed Warriors Jersey that he won week well done mate.



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

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