



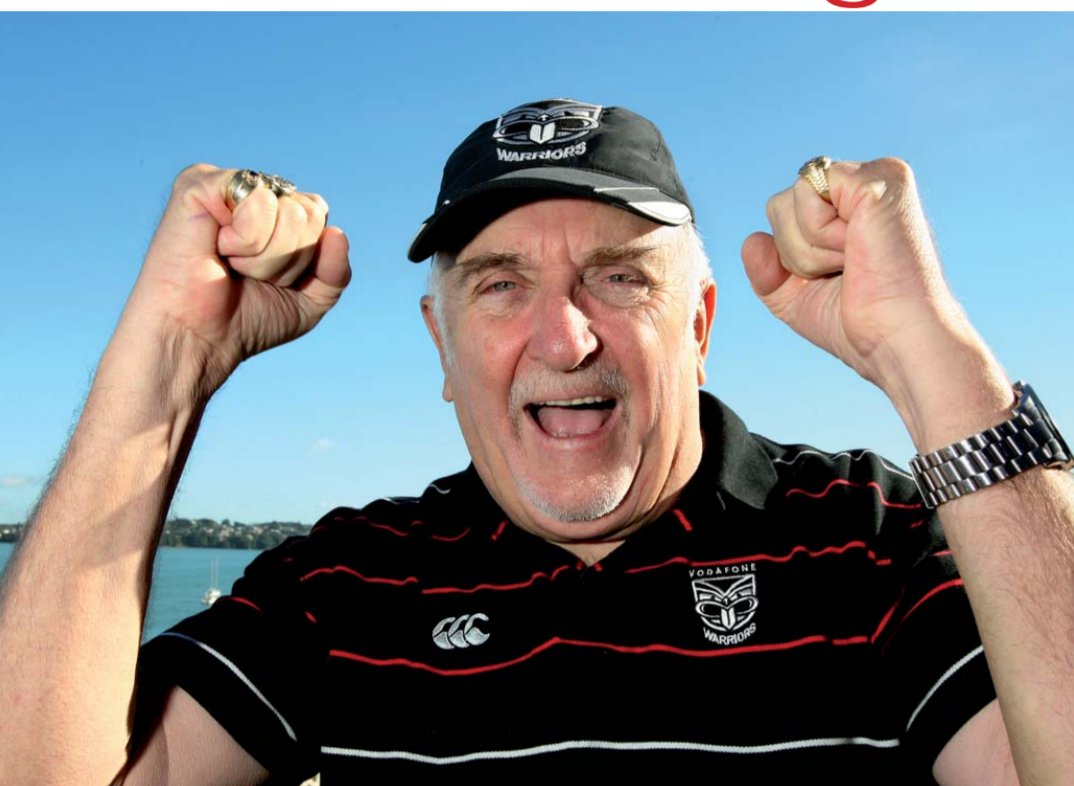
# Sir Peter Leitch's Mad Butcher Club at Mt Smart Stadium

## NEWS 2012

Newsletter NO: 01

YOU CAN CHECK OUT MY BLOG on  
<http://play.vodafone.co.nz/vodafonewarriors>

### Here's to a great 2012!



Well 2012 has arrived, leaving behind a year that many of us would probably rather forget.

But this year has started pretty well for me. The knee operation I had last year that troubled me all year and caused me all sorts of grief has at last started to come good.

I have much more movement in the knee and I'm walking well and have even been able to get on my bike and out in the kayak.

If only things were progressing that well for our friends in Christchurch, where the shakes just keep on rumbling in.

I am off down there on January 20 to have a bit of a barbecue with the police, ambulance and fire staff, and the again on the 30th with old mate the Rugby World Cup-winning former All Blacks coach Sir Graham Henry.

We are off to see police, fire service and ambulance staff, who are still doing such a magnificent job.

Graham was chuffed, I can tell you, to receive a knighthood and I could not be more pleased for him. He is a top bloke and when I asked him if he would join me on my goodwill visit he did not hesitate.

I am personally right behind and connected with the people of Christchurch because they still need our support.

So if you're reading this and you're from Christchurch, keep on going and **do not give up the fight**. And if you live elsewhere in the country and have friends in Christchurch don't hesitate to give them a ring and ask them how they're doing - they really do appreciate your support!

I know some people are getting very down, and that is something I know a bit about because I got very depressed when things wouldn't go well for me with the knee operation last year.

I bounced back with the love and support of some very good people, including those from Christchurch, who had plenty of other things to worry about. To be honest I'm very fortunate not only to have a wonderful wife and family but also to have very, very good mates - and to all of you a huge THANKS for your support - it's very much appreciated.

I know it is easy to say when you are in Auckland, but chin up and keep on going. Don't let those quakes beat you.

There is an old saying that there is always someone worse off than you and that was brought home to me this week when I was in my local chemist. A bloke came up to me and said, "You're the Mad Butcher aren't you? I go to the same doctor you do, and I have just been diagnosed with prostate cancer."

Then he said what was really on his mind, "I'm scared."

I told him, "Mate when I got diagnosed with a rare kind of bladder cancer, I was more than scared." Truth be known I might have even used language a bit more colourful than that.

I'd rather have an earthquake than be told I had cancer again I can tell you. I was able to chat to him a little bit and give him some advice and the names of a couple of people I know who have battled the disease, and I'm pleased to say I've heard from that bloke again and he is in a much more positive frame of mind, just from having someone to talk to. So if you are feeling alone and frightened in Christchurch reach out to a mate, a loved one and talk. It helps.

I had a good break out on Waiheke Island and even managed to read my first book in 60 years, since my dyslexia has always made it virtually impossible. And what a story it was. Hugh Green: The Story of an Irish Immigrant Who Never Left Home.

It is the story of an Irishman who arrives in New Zealand and makes his fortune, then repays the country that welcomed him by working tirelessly in many charities and helping all sorts of people and groups. Some are quick to tell me that I have done a bit but Hugh Green is a quiet hero who few people will know about. It's a tremendous story but you can't buy the book in the shops, you have to ring (09) 622-3800 to order it. The price is a donation to the Society of St Vincent de Paul just one of the many charities Hugh has supported over the years.

On the rugby league front, my old mate the Little General Stacey Jones has just started a new job, coaching and development officer with the Auckland Rugby League.

I have to say that the league has done a terrific job developing the game at a local level and I'm already looking forward to another season following the Mighty Mangere East Hawks.

Of course I'm also excited about March 4. Bet your mortgage on seeing me at Eden Park that Sunday when the mighty Vodafone Warriors open their NRL campaign in a repeat of last season's grand final up against the champions Manly.

### GRAND FINAL REMATCH



VODAFONE WARRIORS  
VS  
MANLY SEA EAGLES  
SUNDAY 4 MARCH, 2PM KICK OFF

Please forward this  
newsletter to all your mates

The Sea Eagles will arrive under new coach Geoff Toovey who was a legend at the club as a player, clocking up an impressive 238 first grade games for the club. And of course we're fronting up with our new coach too so either Brian "Bluey" McClennan or Toovey is going to have a perfect NRL record after the final whistle. Bluey is enjoying his time and well he should. His is a classic tale of local boy makes good. He started his playing career with the Mt Albert Lions and went on to coach very successfully at several clubs. And of course he was in charge of the Kiwis when they won the Four Nations 24-0 over Australia.

He has succeeded in England too and the buzz around the Warriors is that things are tracking very nicely.

We also have another big date at Eden Park to look forward to. Lock and load April 20 because on that day Eden Park is the only place to be.

The Kiwis will take on Australia in an Anzac test and we won the last Anzac test we hosted in this country. So don't say you weren't told. Lock the date in and get your tickets as soon as you can.

**And if you need any NRL gear, pay a visit to [www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz](http://www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz) and just click on shop. Your purchase will help keep the museum going.**

Just a few weeks to go before it all kicks off again can't wait. Bring it on!

## The Mad Butcher Waiheke Island Kayaking Club

Here's some great pictures of our Kayaking Club meeting at my house on Waiheke Island where we paid tribute to one of our members who had become a Knight and is now affectionately known as Sir Graham Henry. This club is possibly the only Kayaking Club in the world with TWO Knights paddling in it!



Please forward this newsletter to all your mates

### VODAFONE WARRIORS – 2012 NRL TRIALS

**Saturday, February 4 - Kick Off 6.00pm :** Vodafone Warriors v Gold Coast - North Harbour Stadium, Albany  
Ticket information on [www.stadium.co.nz](http://www.stadium.co.nz) soon (children free).

**Saturday, February 11 - Kick Off 7.00pm :**  
Vodafone Warriors v South Sydney - BCU International Stadium, Coffs Harbour

**Saturday, February 18 - Kick Off 5.00pm :**  
Vodafone Warriors v Sunshine Coast Sea Eagles - Toll Stadium, Whangarei

Tickets available from Ticket Direct ([www.ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) or 0800 4 TICKET) Forum North box office and Toll Stadium reception. Ticket costs are Grandstand: \$15 Adult, \$10 Child or Terraces and Embankment: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child plus applicable booking fees. There are also hospitality options available for corporate and public guests by contacting Toll Stadium.





## The Peoples Museum

The museum is open  
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING  
From 10am - 1pm

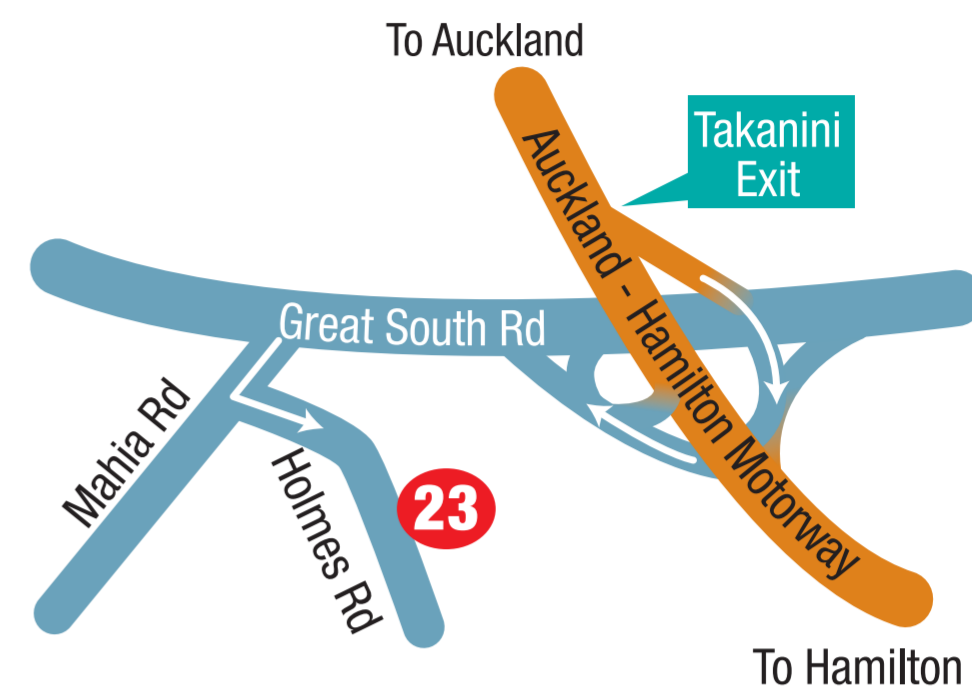
We also have a great NRL retail shop  
check out our website on

[www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz](http://www.sirpetersmuseum.co.nz)

## Sir Peter's SPORTS MUSEUM

23 Holmes Rd, Manurewa

Entry by gold coin donation



### A VERY BIG THANKYOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS!

Without our sponsors fantastic support the Mad Butcher Club wouldn't be as great as it is. If you get the opportunity to support them please do whenever you can!



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