

[Transcript] Between Two Beers Podcast / Steve Price Reflects on Rugby League Career, Losing his Father, Sonny Fai and more!

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We'll be cutting the best clips and video highlights from each episode and posting there.

On this episode of Between Two Beers, we talk to Steve Price.

Steve is a legend of Rugby League on both sides of the Tasman.

In Australia, he played 222 games for the Bulldogs and 16 for Australia before moving to New Zealand in 2005 to captain the Warriors.

Steve's impact on New Zealand transcended Rugby League, where he racked up 91 caps for the Warriors across four years,

but also opened a supermarket in Waipu, coached Rugby League at Mount Albert Grammar School and became a pillar of his community,

which was recognised when he was appointed a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2010.

In this episode, we talk about Steve's high-achieving family and how two of his kids are now professional athletes,

the tragic loss of his father to suicide last year and how it impacted him,

what makes a good leader and how he navigated challenges across his career,

like the scandals that enveloped the Bulldogs and the loss of sunny fire at the Warriors,

that origin fight behind the scenes of the supermarket business, Celebrity Treasure Island and much, much more.

Steve may well be New Zealand's favourite Australian, and after listening to this, he'll be easy to see why.

He's achieved incredible success in all facets of his life and has so much brilliant wisdom to share.

This was a really special one.

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This episode was brought to you from the Export Beer Garden Studio.

Enjoy!

Steve Price

Oh, yes, a frothy one.

Haha, welcome to Between Two Bears.

How are you mate?

Yeah, very good. We're excited to have you in the Export Beer Garden Studio today.

Shay is very excited for this episode.

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He might have to rain the big guy a little bit, okay?
I've been frothing all morning, to be honest with you.
Like, I got into The Winner's Bible, a book a few years ago,
and it talked about kind of improvements you can make to your life,
and they spoke about if there's people that you know that are inspirational you want to aspire to be like,
have imagery of them around.
So as a man in his late 20s, early 30s, you were a photo up on my wall.
Oh, wow.
As someone that I aspired to be from what I'd seen.
So to have you in here today is pretty amazing for me.
I also stalked you a little bit on the netball courts here in Auckland.
My niece, Eddie Teana, played with Jamie Lee through the years,
and I had a copy of your book that I always wanted you to sign,
but I was always too shy to come up and ask.
So I've actually brought it here today.
So after this, I'd love you to sign this book for me.
My pleasure.
I've got Stephen Price anecdotes and notes in my head from woe to go,
but like Stevie said, he will reign me in because I'm already babbling,
and fanboying hard out here.
Do you get a lot of 40-year-old men coming up to you and sort of can't control themselves?
Oh, certainly the age has changed over time.
There's no younger ones now, they just walk past you.
They're more my age that come up on Saturday, which is really cool,
no matter where you are, it's awesome.
You're in New Zealand.
This is the last stop on a three-day sort of media tour to promote Celebrity Treasure Island.
How's it been being back in the spotlight?
Which also is one of my favourite shows too.
Regular listeners will know I'm a big reality TV fan,
so I'm all coming up Millhouse today, it's great.
Yeah, that's good.
It was great to be flying back into New Zealand.
There's so many great memories here in the country,
and then to catch up with the people that I spent some time with
in a beautiful place that I hadn't been to much when I was living here.
So down in Wanaka, what a beautiful place.
I didn't know the people before the show,
and to get to meet them and play a part in the show with them was really, really cool,
and learn a lot about them.
You know, some really great opportunities.
Tummy E.T. lying under the stars, just chewing his ear off,

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listening to all of his stories of his life, and yeah, it was awesome.

Yeah.

I can't wait to rip into that.

That's so good.

So part of our process is we reach out to your friends and family and anyone that we can think of to help uncover some good yarns, which sort of helped paint a picture of Steve Price perhaps the public hasn't seen. Three of your family members sent the same story, so I was hoping you could indulge us.

This is a bit scary.

It's a piggyback incident with Casey, and it was a number of years ago, but quite an interesting anecdote.

Yes, so my mother-in-law was down at the time,

and I remember taking the kids to bed,

and so instead of just, you know, walking the kids into the bedroom, the kids go, oh, can we have a piggyback dad?

And so, yeah, right, I jump on, so I think Casey was first,

Jamie was second, and then Riley was last,

and Casey's quite, like, skinny bony,

and she's just wrapped around me, straight,

and I'm walking past saying goodnight to the mother-in-law and the wife,

and then next thing, just passed out.

She put the sleepbelt on me, and we've all just hit the floor,

and I was actually, like, out for about five or 10 seconds,

and I'm woken up, and my wife is standing over me, laughing at her.

My mother-in-law, I'm worried about the kids, they're all right, they're laughing.

So, yeah, I've been taken out by my,

what she would have been, probably five at the time.

Is that where the voice went back in those days?

It would have been, obviously, no oxygen to the brain, mate.

I was gone, so, yeah, maybe a few other opposition teams

should have taken up my daughter's technique

of how to dominate me.

That would be quite a scary sight, big unit like you.

Yeah.

Just going down, like, just face first, holy shit.

Yeah, I hit the floor, we had a timber floor, so it was a fair noise,

and, yeah, don't remember any of it, to be honest.

Before Stevie jumps into the next one, Casey did want me to ask, have you got a favourite child?

No, I love my children all equally.

It's the one constant, because she's always in me,

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because, obviously, J.M.A. plays netball and Rollics playing league, and she's sort of like, oh, I'm the weird, the misfit, you know, obviously, they're the favourites.

And I said, no, sweetie, you're all my equal favourites.

There you go.

Well played.

So, the other one that popped up from multiple was, a few times, apparently, there was a family game of touch, and there was one game in particular,

Boys vs. Girls at Marist High School Fields.

I love a guest's reaction when they know the story,

and they're going, I'm going to have to actually unveil this one.

And I've got Casey's version, but I'd love to hear your retelling of it.

So, yep, Just Family.

So, myself, my wife, Joe, Jamie, Casey, Riley.

I think it was me and Riley against Joe, Casey, and Jamie.

And, yep, just a general game of touch.

Good game, you know.

Anyway, my wife has made a break down the wing,

and she starts commentating that she's away,

and she's going to score, and I go, oh, is she just?

So, I don't know, there used to be a fox teller.

I don't know if you ever saw it,

but there was this old lady running along,

and then this guy just comes across and levels up.

I actually did that.

I said, nah, you're not.

And so, I raced across.

It was probably one of the best cover tackles of everyone.

She dropped it, and she's got almost double jointed knees.

Brent always hated it, because he had four knee-recons.

He goes, if I had Joe's knees, I'd have never had a knee injury.

But it has almost wrapped around me and her and everything,

and I thought, oh, no, she's done her ACL,

and she's got up saying, you effing idiot,

what were you doing?

And just got the football through it at me,

and then just started walking home.

Come on, we're going home.

Your father's just ruined this game.

What's your reaction on that point?

When you're playing with kids and you go a little bit,

as an adult, you go a little bit too far, rough and tumble.

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When is your wife?
Are your tail between legs kind of skulking back home
a little bit later on?
Well, I was sort of confused.
I'm going, like, it's a game.
And, like, you sort of were igniting yourself.
Amazing.
Don't carry on, like, you're going to score,
and, yeah, I'm away, and she thought she was Ray Wine.
Oh, so good.
Yes, Joe Price is up the sideline.
Steve Price can't catch you.
It's all gone.
I'm over, blah, blah, blah.
No, you're not, Douse.
So Casey's retelling of it was, he said,
you came out and your sort of Aussie socks pulled up.
It was a family game attack.
Full noise.
And you've come up, your Aussie socks pulled up,
and they're like, right, he looks like he means business.
And he said, there's another one,
like, you put this big bomb up.
I kicked off.
I kicked off.
And Jame is quite, she's quite similar.
Jamey, Raleigh's underneath it, and he's tiny, Raleigh.
And Jamey's just absolutely come through
and in the air court and knocked Raleigh out,
like, actually knocked him out.
And Joey's like, up me.
I said, mate, I only put the kick up.
Like, what about Jamey's the one who knocked Raleigh out?
And Raleigh gets up after that, and he's OK.
He probably should have went off for a HIA.
They weren't the thing back then, but...
The same game.
Same game.
And this is, sorry, that's the opening act of the game.
That was before, yeah.
Oh, mate, amazing.
Yeah, that was before, say, I think the girls scored
and we kicked off.

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And that was the kick off.
Jamey's just wiped Raleigh.
And then, yeah, I finished the game by taking out Joey.
Amazing.
She didn't talk to me all the way home.
We used to live in Taylor's Raid.
So, it's only up the Raid.
And, yep, she was off, gone.
And I had to pick up the footy, and the kids are going with her.
I got a little duck behind Mum, and I'm by myself.
Full kit as well.
Full kit.
So good.
Luckily, I was close enough to be able to get inside
before she locked the door.
I can see what it locked me in.
The question for you too, and probably more prominent for you
with adult kids, is there a point where you stop
with the physical challenges against your kids?
Because they've outlasted you.
They're faster than you now.
Even as a retired athlete, Stephen, with all due respect,
you're still in that.
The kids are still coming up, and you're a good regional athlete.
But as a former pro athlete, is there a point where you go,
ah, look, we're done with the running races.
We're done with the bench press comps.
Yeah, so Jamie, that happened in Auckland.
She was at the Magic, and she'd have this training stuff
that she'd have to do.
So, I'd retired, and I'd put my hand up to, you know,
yep, let's go, Jamie, we'll do it, you know.
Anyway, so I'd go, and I was beaten up all the time.
And then there was this one time where we did it,
and I didn't beat her.
And then I'd just go on, that's it, you do it now.
And then I just started just doing the watch.
It was before I was actually running with her,
and that's the time when I've gone, oh, okay,
I couldn't keep up with her, which was great for her.
Good confidence for her, and yeah, demoralising for me.
But Rosie, Jamie would always be the dominant one
in the family with the kids, and always picking on Rolls,

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being the youngest.
And then one day, he took her on, and yeah,
she didn't beat him.
Yeah, right.
And so that stopped between those two.
But between him and me, he's always young buck.
Come on, Dad, you know.
And I learn a few tricks in my time,
so I've still got a few more up my sleeve,
so I'm still getting him.
But he's 22 now, and he's doing pre-season every year,
and all the wrestling techniques,
and so he taps out most times.
But yeah, I'm sure there's going to be a day not too far away
where I'm not going to be able to control him.
That's such a different perspective on rough housing,
like a dad with a son as well,
when you've got a former rugby league player
and a current rugby league player going at it
in the lounge floor.
Imagine there's some sights there.
Yeah.
Oh, no, we don't do it in the house.
Not allowed.
Not allowed.
Joey said no.
No.
Yeah, we both scared of her.
So those yarns are great.
Because from the outside,
it seems like you've cracked the code with family.
You met your wife when you were teenagers.
You've been together since.
You've raised three amazing kids.
Jamie's a world champion.
Netballer, Riley, professional rugby league player.
And Casey, as we mentioned, affecting lives as a nurse.
But most importantly, it seems like
there's just so much love and respect there for each other.
And I've got a young family,
and I would love them to have the bond
that you share with your kids now sort of later in life.
So I guess the question is, what advice do you have

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for dads or parents to create the bonds
and the love that you have?
Yeah, I suppose we had Jamie very young.
Oh, not very young.
We were 21, which we weren't expecting to.
But it's been the greatest thing that's happened to us
because we were quite young,
and we had no idea how to be a parent.
And we've learned each time.
We've hopefully got better as we went through.
Parallel J-Mo had us at our rawest.
And then by the time Riley arrived here,
he had support with Jamie, but also us.
And I suppose we both grew up in,
our parents both got divorced.
And I think one of our goals was to marry someone
that was your hope is forever.
But we're really good.
We're great mates, first and foremost.
And I think the biggest thing to do is just be genuine.
And you can't say something and not do it.
So whenever we do stuff and say stuff
and whatever, we've got to be able to back that up.
And I think they're your best examples for your kids.
You can't protect them from the badder elements of society.
So there was times where Jamie would want to go to a party
and she was quite young.
And instead of saying, no, we'd go.
Absolutely. That's fine.
If there's any issues, like give us a ring.
And to her credit, one of the first times that she did go,
it was over here in New Zealand, she went
and it wasn't a real good situation.
And she obviously was aware of that.
And she rung us sort of straight away
and she actually brought three or four of her mates home with her
to take them out of the situation too.
And I said to Jamie that night, I said,
this is amazing.
This is what you pray your kids are going to do.
And they're not perfect.
They're going to make mistakes.
We all make mistakes.

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But yeah, I think that's one of the biggest things they've obviously from a professional sporting perspective have seen the goods and the bads as well through my career. And also their uncles with Brent, there's nothing that they wouldn't have seen. So they're fully aware of what they're getting into and you just hope your kids do what they're passionate about and they get really excited about doing so. And the three of them are doing that, which is great. And they're with really nice people. They're beautiful people that they've actually connected with in the way their partners and who they hang around. So that makes you really proud. I saw some internet video a week ago that stuck with me and it was someone talking about what success means and it's not all the money in the world and it's not all the achievements. It's your kids wanting to hang out with you when you're older. And I thought about you because in talking to all of your kids, the way they speak about you is just so great. Yeah, well, Jamie has brought up actually Christmas this year. So between Christmas and New Year's, she's taken it upon herself. She's gone, we're going somewhere together because they've got partners and stuff, so they do, you know. So actual Christmas and New Year's, we may not be together, but she said, I don't care. We're locking this away for this period. And we're going up to 1770, which is a beautiful place just up around Gladstone there in Queensland on the coast. So we're going up there for three or four days with their partners and Joe and I, and it'll be awesome. And Jamie has really pushed that. So that's great. Rather than us being the ones who are always, come on, you know, come up. And Jamie, whenever she gets a chance, she always wants to fly up in case she's on the sunny coast. She's just finished building her house, her entice, and then rolls his in Townsville.

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So he's on his way to Sydney,
but yeah, he comes down when he can, when he can.
And I just really enjoy the conversations that we have.
And Joe speaks to him a lot every day.
I don't speak to him as much just because I'm away working,
which, you know, I'm disappointed with,
but I think you look back at your own life.
And my mum and dad split when I was younger.
So did Joe's mum and dad.
I was brought up by mum and my stepfather.
I didn't have a lot to do with that.
And I suppose all the things that I felt as I missed out on,
I want to make sure that my son doesn't and my daughters don't.
And that's being around for their big moments.
And, you know, feeling as though they can ring you anytime
and talk to you about anything, no matter what it is,
rather than hiding stuff.
And, you know, I don't prefer that I'm going to have all the answers,
but if you're aware of it, then you can either help them in doing it
or find a way to find someone that can help them
or teach them about understanding how they can help themselves
or avoid things, you know.
We'll be right back after this short break.
From the outside, like I said,
and what you've just spoken about is so much happiness and warmth and love.
But there's also been dark times
and there's been some difficult times lately.
If you're open to it, would you be able to talk to us
about what happened with your dad recently?
Yeah, so February 11, 20, what are we, 23?
22, 2022, I got a phone call from my half sister
to say that dad had passed, which was a huge shock
and then found that he committed suicide.
So dad was someone that I didn't have a lot to do with when I was younger
but would sort of be there every now and then.
It was almost so I could avoid paying maintenance to mum,
but mum wasn't worried about that.
But back then the government would find him
and pretty much make the make payments
and so he'd just go underground basically
and as soon as we'd find where we were, it was just more to say at A.
And he sort of felt as though he just had to spend money on us all the time
to make up, but I just wanted to spend time with him, you know?

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So over the time as we got older, you know, I talked to him a lot more and yeah, it was really cool.
And then towards the end there was moments where he'd just sort of say, Stevie, I'm tired, I'm worn out, I'm done sort of thing and he'd said that a lot through his life.
So I didn't really see it as what ended up happening but now I look back on it and I sort of thought, well maybe I should have said I've done something more, but you know, talking to people in that situation, you're always going to have unanswered questions and you can't wrap yourself up in anxiety and that about what you could have done because at the end of the day it's done and that's the saddest thing about that situation, it's forever.
So at least a lot of people behind that missafe person, like it was his birthday the other day, you'd get a random call ordering him and he was very unique, very different to me and that type of thing but you'd really look forward to it.
So I just disappointed I suppose for the kids, their grandfather's not going to see their kids and that type of thing and he would have loved that.
But yeah, it is what it is.
I was on the show on the first anniversary so I didn't really know how to handle it and yeah, a lot of the guys on the show really were amazing, spoke about it around the campfire one night and sort of opened up a lot of people to talk about different things in their life as well which put things in perspective and really helped.
So I didn't really know how I should have felt that was the hardest thing. In a weird way, it's amazing that you were able to share that experience with some people who maybe have some tools in their tool set through the show to be able to kind of help you around that period.
Well, and then to actually understand that there's some people that had a bit worse off experiences, you know, and I didn't say anything on the day because I didn't want, I don't know, I just didn't want people to feel sorry for me or anything like that.
So you're trying to be this big tough person but people could tell that there was something wrong and they kept asking me, are you alright?
And I go, yeah, I'm all good.
But then, yeah, it was that night where I just sort of said, I'm really sorry. There's nothing going on here because you're in a game

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and you don't want people to feel as though there's any underlying issues. They've taken the rice and not asked permission for it.

So, yeah, that was one of the things that I wanted to be really open in the show and just be myself.

So it took me all day to build the courage up to do that.

And then when I did it, yeah, it was incredible how then the conversation and I think if anything, it taught me that by talking to people that I suppose you can trust,

the actual benefit you get from it is unknown and so huge.

It was so soothing.

I wish I had spoken about it earlier that day

because I would have had a lot better day.

I didn't have a great day in regard to, it wasn't a terrible day

but it could have been a better day and it was my fault

because I was too scared of talking about stuff.

Have you taken that out of the show

and put it into your everyday life now?

Absolutely.

So, yeah, things like that were really good

and that was the thing I was saying about talking to a guy like Tummy

like so wise and so passionate about what he believed in

and had to work so hard to get other people to start to understand

why he was doing certain things even if they didn't feel at the time

it was the right thing or saw him as a danger or saw him as an enemy.

He just stuck with it and believed in it.

Anyway, that was probably my biggest concern going into the game

because I knew that it was that time period

and I was wondering, no matter where I was,

when it happened I go right in 12 months time

what is going to happen on this day?

How am I going to feel?

That exact same thing.

Similar time of year is where my father passed away, February 17th.

I know it's imprinted into my head and it is like that

when it's coming up to that date you clam up and you're thinking

how am I going to feel about this?

What's going to be dredged up?

What's going to trigger me?

And it's an interesting thing, isn't it,

an experience to kind of go through

knowing that there's going to be grief there

and you're going to have to deal with it?

Yeah.

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One of the great things I suppose when I was here was when we had Sonny Fye who, you know, he drowned and it was terrible, I got on really, really good with Sonny and so I then decided to get a tattoo, you know, in honour of Sonny and my wife sort of said, so someone special means so much to you in your life, you're going to get a tattoo every time they pass and I go, well, no, no. And she goes, well, why are you just going to get one tattoo? Why don't you get a tattoo that represents whatever it is that you're trying to represent? And I said, okay. So I was good mates with Tiki Tane and so, you know, I was, I rang up Tiki and probably the best person to ring up about tattoos because he has got a lot. He's got a couple. He's got a lot. And yeah, so I rang Tics and I sort of said, you know, I want to get this tattoo to signify that and so his cousin or his bro, Inia Taylor, and Inia's, like he did once worries all the tattooing on that and he's done Case Muse and a few famous New Zealanders. I went to him and it was out sort of towards Bethel's way where Sonny drowned and the tattoo I got, it sort of goes from here to here. It's like a sleeve. It's got a whole lot of stuff that's my story because it's sort of like a moldy sort of Pacifica type sleeve and I didn't want to come across as being a plastic just turning up here and he's an Aussie trying to carry on and be like, I sort of said Inia about that and Inia said, mate, it's like Chinese, you don't have to be Chinese to eat Chinese. You know, and it's your story and as long as you know what all the things mean to you, that's what's most important. And I go, sweet, that's a great way to explain it. So it took 24 hours to do this tattoo and the last bit was tap tap. He did the old style. So it's got, you know, indigenous in it for obviously where I'm from, Australia.

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My heritage is Celtic.
So it's English, Scottish and Welsh.
So it's a lot of those patterns in there
as well as Pacifica like moldy, tongan, Samoan, Fijian
because of the people that I played with
or had a lot to do with.
And yeah, it's got a toodle in the middle of that
and it's my spiritual side.
So he chose the turtle because in Pacifica
they were saying about, you know,
a man made an agreement with turtle
that when someone passed it was important
that in return the turtles would come
and lay their eggs on the beach
and then the turtle would take the spirits
and free them to the ocean as a, you know,
as a interaction.
And we did the turtle and while we're going
through that process it was three weekends
of eight hour sessions in a row
and it was before the 2009 season
so I got it done before the season started.
Sunny went missing on the 4th, I think, of January
and 4th or 5th, 4th, I think, we started training on the 5th
and he's telling me all the stuff
as we're going along of all the meanings,
you know, the shark teeth, about continuous strength.
They just keep on coming forward.
Waves, another one that's continuous strength.
All of these things and then I've got the turtle
and it's got two eyes on its shell
which is spiritual eyes overlooking me
and my family and friends that are here
and it's the people who are no longer here
that are very special to me.
The four legs are the kudas, obviously my grandparents
who are very important to me
and the shell is obviously protection
and shelter and that type of thing.
So we're going through this process every time.
You imagine 24 hours of spending time with someone
and he's so knowledgeable.
Anyway, the tattoo was done on the Sunday night

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on the Monday morning early he rung me
and he goes, Bro, he goes, they're not going to find Sunny
and I said, how can you say that?
And he said, I'm telling you they're not going to find Sunny.
There was a turtle washed up on Murai Beach this morning
and he had a fight over it and there was a person lying beside it
and it was almost toe to toe, right?
So it's a very old turtle, big old turtle
that's washed up and passed on the beach.
He goes, the ocean has given something special
from it to the land to say thank you
for giving something special from the land to the ocean in Sunny.
So he said he'll never be found and he hasn't to been this day
and the turtle was what he chose as the spiritual side of it.
So it's crazy how that happened the next day
after the tattoo was finished.
So it's quite crazy.
I'm not writing a whole lot of stuff
but I do believe there's something else
and I am very spiritual in regard to that.
So it's a really special tattoo to me
and it was quite ironic that Sunny was the one who possessed me to do it
and all the people who have passed even dad,
they're a part of that turtle now, which is cool for me to know.
There's, thank you firstly for sharing that incredibly personal story
and there's a part of me that's curious about your feeling towards your family.
I've heard you speak about it actually before
about the influence that New Zealand had
and then hearing you retell that story and the layers to it as well.
Did that New Zealand experience really impact you and your feelings towards family?
Yeah, 100%. Family is so important to me before I come to New Zealand.
Like, it's not, that wasn't the case.
But being here over the time that we're here,
just the interactions that you have with every family,
go under my eyes, like all that type of thing just reinforces the connection
and the bond and the tightness and the strength of what family means and brings
and even the boys, you know, training wouldn't be a training
because something happened at home.
Like in Australia, that was not acceptable.
You've got a job, you've got to be at work
and that would be not constant but you understand and appreciate it
and it just sort of hit home to what is most important in life
and it is the people you come home to every night.

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That's how I ended up in New Zealand.
You know, I'm not saying that I was being done wrongly done by the Bulldogs
but I thought I'd be there forever
and then I saw some other people who were true blue,
born and bred Bulldog people who were then not given the opportunity
of working at the club anymore for not their fault.
I've just gone, that could happen to me.
And then I realised, wow, who I come home to every day is the most important
because they're there forever.
Football or sport is for a period of time.
These guys are forever.
So to come to New Zealand, I knew it would be a different experience
but I knew it wouldn't be completely different.
So if we went to the UK, for example, it's quite different.
During the time there's sort of terrors and stuff was happening
and I thought, I didn't want to go to England
and then get caught over there and not be able to get home.
I still love playing in the NRL.
I still love playing for Queensland, Australia and the club.
We're really happy for me to do that.
My biggest fear coming to New Zealand was how my wife and kids would feel
and mate, I've got to say it was the greatest part of our whole experience.
Jamie was eight, Casey was six, Riley was three.
And I think Rosie left when he was 17.
Jamie would have been about 20 and Casey would have been about 18 or 19.
So a huge part of their life and it's really shaped them as the young people they are today
and they've got such a beautiful connection with New Zealand
through friends, people and the country.
That'll be something they'll have forever.
So it's really cool. It's very unique.
To give a bit of context for the listeners,
so you were a huge deal, right?
Bulldogs played 222 games.
The captain played for, you're an Aussie icon
and the decision to come to New Zealand was huge news.
The reasons you've described, but there's also like a Warriors video,
I think she said there was, like a combination.
Like players, as part of their recruitment, I think it was twofold.
Mick Watson was really creative.
So when they first reached out to me,
because we had the salary cap situation with the dogs
and I'd agreed to a deal, but hadn't actually signed it yet.
And then the salary cap thing hit and then we got a new CEO

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and he was saying, oh, we want to sign you first as captain.
And I said, well, we've already agreed to a deal.
When he saw the deal, he goes, oh, we can't do that.
We can't honor that.
So pretty much stayed on what I was on,
which was cool.
And they said, we'll do a two year deal
and then it's two year in your favor.
And no one knew that except for us.
But a guy who was actually Mick's brother-in-law
worked at the club at the time
and he knew the contract, say he told Mick
and then they just reached out to me out of the blue
and said, he just said, would you actually be interested
in having a chat?
And I said, why not?
So we had a chat and that actually got me interested.
The Warriors were a team that were always tough to play against.
I always felt as though they could be a superpower of the comp.
I went to the Bulldogs and the culture
and they'd been so successful and there was a standard set.
If you couldn't attain that, you didn't survive.
And I didn't feel that that was the case at the Warriors.
I had some success, but it was fleeting, it was up and down.
And I thought, how cool to be at my stage in my career
to be able to go to a place and have an impact
on what I walked into at the Bulldogs.
And when they were talking about Reuben Wiki also,
I go, oh, one of the most fiercest competitors,
but you hear every guy talk about
one of the greatest teammates you could play with.
And I thought, in New Zealand, Reuben is the king.
These young Kiwi kids that are coming through
would absolutely love to be playing with Reuben Wiki.
I thought that'd be a cool thing to be a part of.
And I was sick of getting run around by Stacey Jones too,
to be honest.
Was he one of the four that recorded a video?
So there was, I think it was Monty,
Modibene Stace, Arwen, and Modibene Brent Webb.
And they honestly spoke about what it would mean to them
to play with Steve Price at the Warriors.
And I was just, I don't know,

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where there was ego that took over, but I've gone, wow.
Like, that's mad.
You know, like, I've only looked at them as opponents
and to actually then tweak that and go,
far out they actually would love to play in a side with me.
And like, I've always, you know,
admired how skillful and talented all the boys were.
But I'd never actually thought about it like that.
So that wasn't the reason why I came,
but it certainly was, yeah, there's a piece in a puzzle
and that's another piece that starts to make a beautiful picture.
And you speak to family.
I think they brought Joe over for a weekend
without anybody knowing as well.
Yeah.
So I was in Origin Camp and I just said to Joe,
I said, I can't make a decision about going to the Warriors
unless I know you are comfortable with going to the place
because you've never been in New Zealand.
So I said, I'm not going to make the decision.
I've been in New Zealand.
I know what it's about.
I reckon we can have a great time.
But most importantly, if you're not happy,
happy wife, happy life, right?
So it won't be cool if you're not happy.
And yeah, so the club organized it.
She stayed at a hotel and, yeah, Donnie May and he organized
going on a barbecue and all this doing the big, the big sell.
And I just sort of said,
the only question I'll ask you, could you live in New Zealand?
And she goes, yep, I could live in New Zealand.
No problem.
And so that was it.
So then I made the call.
I had some come back from Origin Camp,
got to the Leagues Club at the Bulldogs.
I don't know.
They must have heard that I was really contemplating on going.
And I spent from seven in the morning till 11 that night
at the Leagues Club just talking to the Bulldogs
about what they wanted to do to keep me.
And I went home that night and I sat down with Joey

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and I spoke to Wayne Bennett about it.
He said, mate, I don't see it being a problem for you.
I think it'd be good.
I think you'd be great for them and they'd be great for you.
And then I don't know what it was,
but I just said to Joey, I said, I reckon we should go.
You know, and it was a big decision for me
because I was captain and it was something I dreamt of.
And I'm a very loyal person.
So I was committed to the dogs.
I just want to be a one club man.
But this was something bigger than just rugby league,
in my opinion.
And made the call.
And when I told my manager, he was like, hey, are you serious?
Because he didn't have any guys at the Warriors.
There was a manager who had probably most of the boys.
And he didn't know the owners.
He didn't know the management.
He was just really unsure about it.
And he goes, are you sure?
And then I go, yep, 100%.
So we met with the Warriors that next morning and told him
I was signing, signed the contract.
Who was it?
You or was it Joe that put in the fine print
that they had to sign Brent Tate in a couple of years time?
No, that was...
For unaware listeners, Brent Tate is Joe's brother.
Little brother.
Who is your brother, obviously.
Which the family keeps saying he's the mistake.
And he says it's a bit...
He says he's to his mum, it's the best mistake you've ever made.
Ah, it's a good comeback.
So I think he's eight years younger than us.
So Peter, it's Joe's sister.
She's the oldest. She's two years older than us.
And then Joe, and then Brent, he's eight years younger.
So I've known Brent since he was three.
To see him come through and achieve the things he achieved
is so humbling and proud, you know, of him.
And it almost got to the stage.

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I was at the Warriors, we played the Broncos in Brisbane and Brent was playing.

And there was a family wedding on out in Roma and they couldn't beat the game.

So I ran at Brent as much as I could and he used to wear that neck brace.

He did a little rabbit killer and jarred his neck and he stayed down.

I didn't...

Well, Brent's family didn't talk to me for two and a half weeks.

I got blacklined.

Really?

Yeah, it was quite...

And I just said, stop being a winger, man.

Like, seriously.

Okay, you can come play with me at all.

So that's fine, man. Come over.

I said, well, that's what I said to him.

I said, the only way it's going to change is if you're on my team.

Otherwise, I'll just keep doing it.

Yeah, nice.

And Warriors, we were looking for someone like him and experienced a super competitor.

Because what was your impressions of the joint when you first arrived?

You've played against them.

Yeah.

You've been at a very successful organisation and the dogs very...

And then you come into a brand new, a bit like us, playing in an away studio today, a new surrounding, new environment.

What were your first impressions or your first takeaways?

It was really different to what I thought.

Yeah.

They'd just had success, sort of 2002, Grand Final, 2003.

It was pretty good.

2004, equal last.

Wasn't the worst of worst that they've had?

It was the equal last.

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No, equal last.
So I think Souths were fine against Got the Wooden Spoon.
So I went from the Penn House.
We won the comp at the Bulldogs.
And I moved to the Warriors.
It was, yeah, the doghouse.
They're lowest.
Yeah, very different to what I actually thought.
I thought it would just be a case of just getting the boys pretty excited.
Very talented group.
Will be sweet as, you know.
But yeah, there was a lot of stuff going on behind the scenes, players being sent to England.
And yeah, it was quite crazy, actually.
And I suppose John Hart coming on board,
Wayne Scarra coming on board, you know,
Campy was there and then Ivan coming in.
We started to get a bit of consistency and solidarity and we were able to then build a solid squad instead of losing quite talented players, Ali Lahtiti and Louis Anderson and his brother Vinny.
And we were sort of losing these Brent Webb, Francis Melly, some superstars that I really looked forward to come to play with.
Even Stace, like, he went to Catalan's.
Yeah, but then we're, I've did a great job.
Recruitment did a great job and we were able to put a bit of a squad together that was really consistent.
We'll be right back after this short break.
I'm really keen to get your take on leadership because across 17 years in the NRL, you were a great leader at the Bulldogs and the Warriors. You helped them rebuild.
But I'm sure you also witnessed and experienced some really weak leaders or bad leaders.
What is it that makes a good leader and what was your style of leadership?
That's a good question.
I always was a leader when I was in the juniors and then when I got to the Bulldogs, it was almost like the King of England, like you've got to wait your chance and you might

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get it because...
Captain and waiting or whatever it was.
Terry Land was captain for so long
and then we had Simon Gillies and then Darren Britt
and then Darren decided to go to England
which gave me the chance.
I really wanted it but the big thing that Steve
folks had an issue with was my inconsistency.
I wasn't consistent and he said,
I can't have a captain who's not consistent.
So that'll answer probably your first question
is you've got to be consistent.
You cannot lead if you aren't performing.
He said his biggest question mark over me was that,
so I had to try and find a way to show him consistency.
I was always a good trainer.
I loved trying to lead and push myself
and that type of thing.
So I just continually start to do stuff like that.
When I got the situation where I might have been a chance,
I went and saw a sports psychologist at the time
and he just says, right,
what do you think it's going to take
to be the captain of the Bulldogs?
And so just blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.
And then he just said, you've got all the answers, mate.
I don't know why you're here.
So that gave me a bit of confidence.
I had a deal of fair bit like,
so first game I was captain of the dogs,
we lost to the West Tigers who we should have won easily.
First game of the year and then the second game
we drew against the Broncos.
So after two games, we're one of the favourites.
My captain's ship and we haven't won a game yet, you know?
So it's starting to get some question marks asked.
And then we went on this 17 game winning streak
and it was a time where I'm not being arrogant
or up ourselves,
but I never felt we were going to get beaten
no matter what situation we're in.
That's just how we were playing
and the Warriors were the one who beat us

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over here in Mount Smart.
They did a bit of a job on us actually,
and we won a real more steam roll on it.
Then we came up against the Warriors
and they taught us a lesson.
Then the salary cap thing came out a week or so later
and we're out of the comp
in regards to being able to win the comp.
What did that teach you about leadership?
Yeah, honest, just being honest,
I always sort of thrown in front of the cameras
to be the representative because Mace
and a few others started having their opinions,
Mace being Willie Mace, who's not short of them.
Well, speaks and then thinks, you know.
And at the time, we needed to be really consistent
and very respectful.
We had a real chance to,
I thought to really make a real progressive march
in a way that would never have been imaginable.
So, yep, put our hands up, we've made a mistake.
We're committed to continue to play in this competition
and to the rules that we've been given.
We weren't going to play in the semis, sweet as.
You know, Dave, that's fine.
David Gallup, who I spoke to a bit.
We played Canberra after we got tied the decision,
which was devastating.
We got 39 points taken off us.
So, you take 39 points off a team,
they're going to be negative most of the time.
Well, that's our good will going.
We played Canberra first 20 minutes,
we were down 20 mil.
We came back and I think we lost 32-28.
The next week we played Melbourne and absolutely give it to them.
And then we played our last game at home against Brisbane,
who, if they won that game, become minor-premiers.
We won, and I told Wayne, I said,
we're going to win tonight.
And he goes, no, you're not.
And I said, we are.
The crowd around onto the field,

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we got cheered around on their shoulders.
It was a day we won the comp.
It was one of the most emotional nights
I've ever been a part of.
Club like the Bulldogs were running really high.
You know, everything was going good.
Pre-season, 2004, there was from Cross Harbour,
there was Sexual Assault.
Alligations made against members of the team.
And again, we felt the best way to approach it
was to have minimal voices and be very consistent.
So, again, it was mainly me,
not really the CEO or the coach.
It was predominantly me.
We were in very different situations.
So, we're dealing now with sexual assault accusation.
I've got two girls.
I've got a son, I've got a wife.
I was on the trip.
So, to come home first and foremost,
that were you one of them?
There's a question that's asked.
And then, you know, not being able to go to schools,
which we did a lot of school visits
because of the height of,
and totally got it right.
So, what we decided to do was all sort of be
a part of the process investigation
to try and get it done as quick as we could
because we believed that there was nothing to be.
So, we all got DNA tested and interviewed the police
and quite intimidating,
never been in that situation before.
This thing went on for six months.
So, we're the front three pages,
the back three pages of all the papers.
And it was a task force put in place.
It was huge.
So, eventually it came out that there wasn't enough evidence.
This was a thing that is sort of really hard to cop
because it wasn't finalised in regard to saying,
no, they're not guilty.
It was almost insinuating we believe they're guilty.

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We just didn't have enough evidence to prove it.
And so, every time there's anything to do with
a sexual assault accusation or the Bulldogs 2004
get brought up every single time.
So, that was quite daunting
as a person to have to speak to the public
about something that is massive.
Like, I know having girls, like if it was my daughters,
man, I'd want to find out what was going on, you know?
So, that taught me a lot again.
And then I signed with the Warriors and I come to the Warriors
and I didn't come to the club.
We're expecting to be the leader.
I just thought Rouge was going to be the man
and that was cool and I was OK with that.
And then when I got asked to be the captain,
I was like, wow, really me?
And I thought, OK, well, I've experienced salary cap,
I've experienced sexual assault accusations,
been a captain for three years in the field.
I can handle this.
And, yeah, not even a clue
what I was getting into at the Warriors.
Very completely different dynamic,
very different individuals, very different club,
very different environment.
And I actually learnt so much about leadership.
Under Ivan and the players that I played with,
they weren't sub-leaders because they were huge leaders
in their own right, they just didn't have a C
on Game Day beside their name
and really learnt to, not to rely,
but to communicate with everyone
and to be able to have 30-plus players
and to have a coverage of 30-plus players
making sure that everyone's OK,
you can't do it yourself.
And we had a high number of Aussies in the team,
so there was about 11 in the squad.
So they'd probably predominantly talked to me,
some of them wouldn't because we didn't have that personality.
That's cool.
But then the Māori, Tongan, Samoan,

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they'd be talking to Rouge or Stace or, do you know what I mean?
And if one of the boys wasn't quite right,
instead of me going and ripping into him
and saying, what's going on? You're trying like a bastard.
Rooms or someone might come to me and say,
oh, you know, only this week is some stuff going on.
He'll be right by the weekend. It's all good.
Sweet. Learned so much, mate.
So to answer your question, it's been a long answer,
but I totally think there's no hard and fast one-way to be a leader.
I think it depends on where you are, what you're doing,
who you're with, who you are.
I think the best thing that you can do is be very genuine
and authentic as an individual,
because as soon as you try and be someone else,
people see through it.
So I couldn't be Darren Britt or Simon Gillies or Terry Lam.
You know, I wasn't those people.
I had to be Steve Price,
and that was probably one of the biggest things I learnt
when I come to the Warriors.
I made some decisions early in games
when I came with an injury.
So my first game for the club was against Manly.
First game of the year.
And we got a penalty, and I went to take the two,
and all the boys are blowing up on the tap.
You tap and go, yeah.
Because that's what they did.
And I almost said, boys, I watched the last year,
and the tap and go didn't work.
We're taking the two.
And we ended up losing by two points in that game,
but I think it was really good for me
to understand what I was getting into,
the experience on the field with him,
leading to that game.
And then as we went along,
I was learning about them and each individual,
and they all learned about me and at the Bulldogs.
I'd been at the club for 10 years,
and all those boys that I was in the team with,
I saw come through as kids.

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So I knew how they ticked, everything about him.
Braith and Asta, if he wasn't having a good day,
you wouldn't have a gallery,
because that was his way.
He'd react back to you, and that wasn't good.
Whereas Brent Sherwin, if he put a rocket up him,
he'd almost reset, and he'd be right.
And so those different personalities,
it's not how they tick, and the Warriors,
it might have been Roobs, just having the arm to Benny Matz,
or someone like that, that would work.
So yeah, it's really interesting that dynamic.
It can be very, very different, depending on where you are.
One of the biggest challenges you faced
in your leadership at the Warriors was Sunnyfyre.
Looking back now, I mean, dealing with loss of a teammate
and the trauma that you're going through,
you probably didn't really appreciate it at the time.
But reflecting back, would you do things differently
across that year?
Yeah, I reckon we would have,
whether it was as a group or individually,
we would have done a lot more work on each individual
to deal with it.
Because we're rugby league players, but we're human beings,
and I think we just thought,
we're going to go and do this for Sunny,
and his number and his signature on our jersey for the year,
and we were playing for Sunny,
and we didn't make the finals that year.
And so, I was really embarrassed about that,
because that didn't represent what Sunny meant to us at all.
So, either you don't say something like that,
or we need to go about it very differently.
And it probably really hit home to me
when I watched Manu on 60 Minutes at the end of that season,
and he was his usual self, the gold teeth,
laughing and giggling and all that.
And then at the end, the lady sort of said,
so what impact has the loss of Sunny for I had on you?
And he just lost it.
He completely changed.
He was crying, and there's snot coming out of his nose,

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and you could just, and I was doing it too,
and I know that there would have been 20 or 25 or 30 other guys
who were in the squad doing exactly the same,
and I go, wow, like this should have happened,
back in January.

You know, like, it's not dealing with it.

It's just almost putting Sunny at rest
and being able to go, you know, we're going to do so much,
and we're going to do it for us in representative of you,
more so than we're doing this for you,
and didn't fire a shot, really.

I do recall you, I think it was at a stand-up out at Bethel's.

I think it was at Mount Smart.

When you know exactly where I'm going with this,
and that endeared you to me, again,
as something that you look up to.

Well, I was embarrassed.

At the time, I was really embarrassed,
because I try and be a strong individual,
particularly for me teammates,
and particularly during that time,
I thought we needed to have that real strength,
but when I look back on it,
we probably needed more of what happened.

So, yeah, the reporter asked me very much the same question,
and it was very...

it was almost straight after it had sort of happened,
and, yeah, so I'm trying to be as normal as I can be,
and then I just lost it.

I was blubbing and could hardly talk, and, yeah.

So, I don't know,

there's no perfect way to deal with things
as we were talking about before,
but, mate, he was such a beautiful, beautiful soul.

So, ahead of his time,
he packed so much into nearly 21 years of his life
and impacted on so many people,
and would have been a huge star in our game
with his athletic ability,
and I'd spent a lot of time with Sonny,
because, you know,
he was someone that sort of really looked up
to probably, to us, I mean, Rubz,

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and I loved doing stuff with him,
because he took it on board straight away, you know?
Defensively, he was a big beast,
and I just said, if you get yourself a little bit lower
and you don't even have to try hard,
you're going to empty blokes out,
and we started working on that,
and he did actually start to,
and he goes, this is so easy, bro, you know?
But I'd always rip into him at training,
he was really strong in the gym,
and he'd do, like, 200 KLA bench presses,
and I said, mate, you've got to stop doing
these Tyrannosaurus rex bench presses,
like, it's touched titties,
and then go, full length's not these
little half-little Tyrannosaurus, you know?
And I'd say, right, let's stop doing that,
let's do full-length ones,
and he couldn't hardly do two then, right?
And I'd go, now, let's take some of these off,
and let's get your real bench press weight, right?
Same with chin-ups, like you'd be doing these
You've got to completely release those,
and then go, and little things like that,
but my favourite thing about Sonny
was I'd come to training early,
and all I'd hear is laughing out of the team room,
and what he would do,
he'd come to training early,
because he didn't have Wi-Fi at home,
or internet at home,
so he'd come to training
and say he could watch all the YouTube stuff,
and he would just be sitting in there,
he'd be there two hours before training,
sitting in there watching YouTube stuff,
cracking himself up,
but this is a diversity of his impact,
was there'd be a five-year-old
to a 95-year-old grandma
who would absolutely love him in the same way.
That was his impact.

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Was there a good yarn about him
winning a Warriors karaoke competition?
Yeah, so I used to have a night
at sort of the start of the year before the first game,
so I'd invite all the players, the staff,
and their partners or wives,
and I'd always have a theme,
so to be, say, P,
so you'd have to dress up something,
P, pirate, policeman, whatever.
Glad you clarified that,
that could have got us in a lot of hot water
for methamphetamine use,
so it's good that we got there.
None of that, none of that.
So we'd do that,
and then I thought,
what else can we do,
but with the boys,
and you probably know better than anyone,
you've got to have prizes, otherwise they won't.
So I saw Mr. Rapati,
he gave me some long board skateboards,
which the boys thought were pretty cool,
so Best Female, Best Male Dress,
they won that, right?
And then I thought,
let's have a karaoke machine,
just to add a little bit.
So I did that,
and I thought, if we have that,
no one's going to get up and use it,
it's going to be a waste,
so we'll have a prize for that.
So we had an iPad and an N.A.,
which back then...
So anyway, I let the team know,
boys were having the night on Saturday night,
iPad and N.A. for karaoke,
Best Singer,
you know,
long board skateboards for Best Dress,
blah, blah, blah,

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anyway,
Sonny pulls me aside,
and he goes,
bro, I really want that iPad and N.A.
And I said,
all you got to do is sing,
mate, you're singing,
you're the best,
you get your iPad and N.A.
bro,
I'm not real good at singing,
though.
I said,
well, you got to have to do something,
mate.
Anyway,
on the night,
Rubz was absolutely slaying it.
He's sung about 10 songs.
It's all over, right?
Next thing,
the music starts
and it's banger boys,
banger bus or whatever it's called.
The banger bus is coming.
Yeah.
You got the one,
you got the one, Steve.
So anyway,
so,
Sonny comes out
and we're going,
oh, here we go,
what's going to happen here?
And he starts to sort of
not sing,
because he was miming
and it wasn't good,
he wasn't even in time.
And all of a sudden,
he got to the beanie bit
and then he started just
doing his chest

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and wiggled his hips a little bit
and then
started undoing a button
and mate,
all the wives
had just started to lose it.
I'm going,
oh, here we go.
He was chiseled,
absolutely chiseled.
He was a beast, man.
He was a beast.
So then he started undoing the shirt
and then he gets his shirt off
and he will flicks it.
I think
Grant Revelli's Mrs.
copped that one on the face
and she's like nearly melted
on the spot.
And then
he ended up getting down,
I think,
through his speedos
by the end of the song.
And yeah,
it was done, man.
Yeah.
Reve, sorry, Kaz.
Sonny's got it.
Sonny's got it.
And yeah,
it was,
oh, mate.
It was awesome.
That's too good.
I spoke to
Tady in the buildup to this
and I sort of
asked him a little bit about you
and
he had some really nice
words to say

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what I'll get to later.
But he also mentioned something
which caught my interest,
which was a clairvoyant.
He said,
there's a clairvoyant
into Wumba
and there's some interesting yarns
that you see.
You're both seeing her
and she's come up
with some interesting...
Yeah,
a lot of things that actually
happened.
When I was saying before
about the tattoo,
I do believe there's
something else and
I don't know
whether it's the people
that are no longer here
who help
guide you
or direct you
or whatever,
but yeah,
Kara, her name is
and
she was on a
couple of TV shows
a few years ago
and one of her friends
went there
and they just sort of
said when I was at the
Bulldogs,
I was like,
okay,
so I went and saw her
and I remember
the first time I went to her
and she said to me,

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you're going to win a big award.

And I was at the Bulldogs

at the time

and I was going,

I think I was 20,

I'm going,

there's no big award.

I'm going to win

like I'm not playing regular

first grade.

Yeah,

no worries,

that's cool.

Another one

she was saying about,

Jo was pregnant

and we didn't know

that she was

and she actually was.

And it was like,

obviously in the early stages,

but yeah,

it wasn't after that

that obviously,

I got a pregnant.

It was like,

she was pregnant,

we didn't know.

And then

the award,

I got clubbing of the year,

which I don't know why

I got clubbing of the year,

like I was young

but obviously other people

at the club

thought I was doing great

and that type of thing.

So,

yeah,

it sort of got me thinking,

wow,

like this,

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and then as we went along
and particularly,
she brought stuff up about
Peter Moore
and how he
still has a big part
to play
in my life
and
grandparents,
great-grandparents,
people like that,
that I was sort of close to,
that I no longer hear
how they
are around
and just sort of say
they're
doing this
or helping with that
or,
yeah,
so I haven't seen it
for a couple of years.
I'm going to go and actually
see her next week,
so,
well,
it's weird
because I'm doing it by Zoom,
so,
I'm not sure how that's going to work.
Yeah.
Because I said to her,
I said,
it's hard to see her
because of my work and stuff
and her husband
who's organised
and he's just saying,
mate,
we just do Zoom now
and Rolly's done it

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and so is Joe
and
they'll blown away
but what she said,
I just don't know
how that can connect.
Yeah.
But he just goes,
just give it a go,
mate,
and if you're not happy with it,
that's fine,
we'll sort it out
but
it's no different.
You just ask Rolly and Joe.
Did she pick your ankle injury
that eventually finished
your career?
Some of your injuries?
Yeah,
she did talk about pain
and I think at the time
I did have some pain,
but it wasn't the pain
that I was going to have.
Because were you getting
injections every couple of weeks
to get you through?
Yeah,
I was getting a local
into my heel
for two years.
So,
we're talking after origins
straight into a worries game.
So,
yeah,
I ended up,
it's quite funny,
Brendan McCallum
was
with Puma

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when I was with Puma
and
he was wearing rugby league boots
at training
and I needed to wear
different
because of my heel.
So I was wearing
cricket shoes
and I just got
tagged,
I was doing tags for training
because I found it really hard
to run
after a game
so I wouldn't really
do anything until later
in the week
or if it was after an origin
I wouldn't train at all
until the game.
And I just
take painkillers
during the game in there.
And the,
I got a quarter
zone
before an origin,
it was on a Monday,
origin is in Melbourne
and my origin was on Wednesday
and they actually did it
via MRO.
So they went straight into the Bursa
and
that's probably one of the most painful
things I've had is a needle
straight into the bone of your
of your
heel
and couldn't walk after it.
I'm thinking
how am I going to play

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an origin in two days?
But
yeah, within the next day
I couldn't even feel it.
It was unbelievable.
So I had the operation
because I decided
2010 was going to be
my last year.
So I ended at 9
had the operation
so I could have a good season
not having to have
locals
every game
and I could train
every day of the week
and stuff like that
really wanted to enjoy my last year
and
unfortunately I got
golden staff
and end up having
three operations
and not playing in 2010
which is a real shame
but
when I look back
it was probably the best thing
that happened because
if I had played that year
every game
I might have wanted to play again
but by that
ban
you can't play mate.
So I made it final
and I hated it
because I hated missing games
but
it was probably the best
for the club
and probably the best for me.

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We'll get to the transition
into life afterwards
but injuries seem to be
a theme
in big matches for you.
I think you were ruled out
of
the grand final
in your last season
with the Bulldogs.
Mr Rugby League
World Cup final.
Lost to the Kiwis.
And
missed your last season
that you were contracted
to play.
Like that's a fucking
shitter of a run-of-luck.
It is.
I always try
and look at the positives
on things
and when you look at it
to actually be in a situation
like that
to be in a situation
to miss a World Cup
to be in a situation
to miss a grand final
to be in a situation
to miss your 18th season
I'm pretty proud of that.
Yeah.
If you know what I mean
like
you actually up yourself
to think
oh
it ruined my career
because I missed
out on those opportunities
they would have been

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magnificent
to have had
just to be able to be on the
field
on that night
on grand final night
last game for the club
blah blah blah
same with
you know
the World Cup
my last origin game
I got in a fight
in the last minute of the game
I didn't have a fight
on the footy field
in my whole career
really
and that
it wasn't me
and I don't blame Brent
or
you know like Brent
Brett Wyatt
or
you know anybody in that
like at the end of the day
I remember having that call
and I'd been punching the mouth
plenty of times in my career
and I just copped it
and walked away
and that time
for whatever reason
I don't know why
I was probably sick of
being that bloke
who just got
not picked on but
you know
you cop a punch in the mouth
and then
oh yeah

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what are you going to do mate
I don't know why
but I decided
nah
buggy
I'm going to stick out for
myself
and it didn't end up
working out for me
but
this disappointment
I have about that
is that was my last
origin moment
and I played 28 games
but that's the most
things that people talk about
everyone that I
come across almost
talk about
that moment
more than any
in 28 games
and
I'm really sad
because that doesn't represent
my career
but you know what
like I learned
a big lesson
and I'm proud of myself
for not having fights
in footy games
and I had one
I call it
was a professional fight
that was me
watching and
I'm none from one
it was a TKA
but I got TKA
and I woke up
to Kevin Rudd

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you know which people
it's a strange referee
yeah
no
in the dressing room
I was
I was snoring
you were out out
and then
yeah they took me off
and I woke up
in the dressing room
which is quite
not
weird because
Justin Paul
who
picked me up
looked at me and dropped me
he states that
I was giving him
verbal
and that
I was
playing it up
when he picked me up
like he was basically saying
I was going to punch in the face
because you were
giving me
giving me lip
and then that's why
I did what I did
well mate I was
snoring
yeah
and the doctors
were out
that I was snoring
I was
as a Queensland
I remember being incensed
at the time

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and like Justin Hodges
reaction
the team's reaction
I guess spoke to what
you meant to them
as a player as well
because
yeah it was
another part of disappointment
was
we had a chance
to win a
clean sweep
that game
and Pat
was injured or sick
he didn't play
and we didn't have
a good camp
and I was crook
and then
played
a couple of the boys
didn't
prepare
the way they should have
and
a couple of them
are big names right
and
one of them
almost didn't
make it onto the field
it was that bad
oh wow
in the
captain's run
like
I'm talking not good
yeah
so Mal almost
made a call
that he wasn't going to play

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and it would have brought a guy
and he became
very very good for us
but
I think it was a line in the sand
for our team
we were achieving
pretty good things
but it was a wake up call to say
you could
achieve greatness
but
you're hiding
yourselves to blame now
and you saw
Wales didn't want to be beaten
and they came with real aggression
so
there's no guarantees that
if we had a prepared better
we would have won
but
we didn't give ourselves a chance
that game
and I
never got to be a part
of a clean sweep
and it ended up being
my last series
ended up being my last game
yeah
I suppose it just puts
in perspective
that
when you say
literally
every opportunity
you got on an origin field
was a privilege
and it could have been
your last
and it actually was
so I was playing 2010

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thought I'd
hopefully get to play
three more games in
2010
and I didn't
because I didn't play
so
what a way to finish
my origin career
and I'm like
not sort of cool
I'm quite proud that
we didn't bring that up
after talking about
how everybody else
brings it up
no no
not having to go there
it's fine with my story
yeah yeah
but it's
it's nothing
that everyone remembers
everyone remembers
and
yeah I don't know
it's just disappointing
because it wasn't my career
that wasn't how I played
and I was almost
you know
when people say
oh you're one of the toughest
I wasn't one of the toughest
like
I was always challenged
when I was coming through
the grades
I've not been tough enough
or aggressive enough
or
and like
one of my proudest things

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was that
I don't believe I changed
I was still me that kid
who came through
and I was still able to
make it
with all those people
back home
who didn't think I was
because I didn't have
this this this
now I'm not being rude
or
or trying to be a smart ass
but
when I heard those
remarks
I looked at those people
and I go
you don't know
what it takes to be an
NRL player
because you haven't played
NRL
so
I'm not going to listen
to what you're saying
because I believe
that I can be
and I'm going to try to be
if I don't
that's cool
I'll give it my best shot
but
I don't need you
to basically
tell me
that I won't be able to make it
because I don't think
you are credentialed enough to
unless you've done it
then I'd go
fair enough

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like because you know what it takes
and there's people
that almost
boast that they're a big part
of me actually making it
well they sort of were
because of what they kept saying
to me
and you don't go to say
I'm going to
do that to you
because I wanted to make it
I didn't want to make it
more because
they said I won't
but it just continues to add
to it and
I almost look at those people
and sort of go
yeah like you were
a big part of me making it
but it's not the one
that you thought
like they thought
I had run up Peter Moore
and I told him about this kid
in Tuumba
no he didn't
well if you did
he didn't listen
because I know
when Peter Moore
wanted to know about me
and it was for completely
different reasons
so yeah
and that's what I feel
so really sorry for kids
coming through
no matter what it is
that they're trying to do
where there's people
not around them

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to actually pump
their tyres up
you be what you want to be
and do the absolute best
to try and get there
if you don't
that's cool
because it's going to give you
so many like lessons
that are going to help you
in other parts of your life
yeah
we'll be right back
after this short break
awesome news
if you just got your
class ACDL
we have an academy
out of Auburn
and there for those
trailer technicians
that love working on tractors
we have several positions
in our Auburn terminal
it's warm in the winter
cool in the summer
so
want more information
check us out at
there's so
we could spend hours
in your footy career
but there's stuff
I want to get to
past it as well
and so you finish up
at the Warriors
in the last season
and you're injured
and then it's time to
come up
but you don't leave New Zealand
and I think we've

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heard the reasons
why you stayed
but then you got into
the supermarket business
I'm quite keen to hear
about like
why you got in
and why you got out
yeah just
stumbled across some people
who were in it
they spoke to me about
why aren't you doing this
and I sort of said
actually I don't know
mate
let's go and have a coffee
and I have a chat about it
so I had that chat
and was really impressed
I'd never thought of anything
like that
and then spoke to Bruce
he's my mate here
Bruce Sharik
and sort of said to him
about it and Bruce
he goes yeah man I know
a fair few other boys
that are doing the whole
foodies thing
and yeah
they love it
you know why not
the chat out in the world
for the uninitiated
licensed to print money
in the supermarket industry
fact or fiction
because we've got a mate
who's just got into it
yeah
Willie's down

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round
yeah
yeah it is man
but it's
he'll be able to tell you
it's not an easy track
which is
why right
it's like being a professional athlete
like
everyone wants to be it
but not everyone can be
so psychometric tests
doing two years
packing shelves
not getting paid
everywhere
because
you've got to see
how the different setups are
meet the different owners
and the owners
get to have a say on
you as a person
and your traits
and
so you're
it's almost
you're an advertising
little bandwagon
road trip
going around
is that right
100% man
you've got to go to other stores
and
100% cut your teeth
that's to get
approved as an operator
so
you have to
you have to
earn the right

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to be
approved
to be an operator
and then
once you're that
then you can then look at stores
that are available
and then you apply for those stores
and then you go through
another process
three people
that's narrowed down to
and then the interviewed
and then they'll decide
foodstuffs will decide on
who
the potential new owner
will be of that store
and then you negotiate
with the current owner
and you have to come up
with a deal on guidelines
there's strict guidelines
within that
and it's a process
mate
then you get the store
and then
black and white
how you perform
will be basically
like NRL career
how you progress
was this
were you thinking about this
in your last years
of what you know
no
no
just
it was random
so random
so

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I was coaching
man amic grandma
first 13
and
I
I think
I went
to the local new world
and sort of said
hey
I want to
give these boys
an opportunity
that is different
the rugby league
program at mags
was rugby league
is not seen as
the high
you know
it's not first 15
not first 11
mags is like royalty
right
rugby
and then league
was a fair way down
I'll train up
in the archery field
I'm man
I'm man over here
right
so
so I said to Dale Burton
who was the principal
at the time
my wife seemed to me about coaching
and Dale seemed to me
about coaching him
and I go right
alright I will
but
I go

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we've got to be able to
train and play on number one
like
the first 15
I said end
I'm going to do New Jersey's
and
I'm going to be doing this and that
and blah blah blah
yep and he's gone
yep yep yep all good
so yep he did
to his word
he did
and I took that on
and what I could see
was the boys weren't
the best behaviours at the school
all the best attenders
and I go right
this is going to be a way
to get the kids
to come to school
every day
because they all want to be
in a real place
and I go I'm not going to be
a superstar
but not all you are going to play
in the NRL
that's real
alright so you've got to have
a backup plan
so the only way we're going to do this
is to learn
what we need to learn
to be best prepared
for the next stage right
so I went to the local
New World
and sort of said to him
this is my plan
I've got a footy team

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I said I want to get them
working
to earn
opportunities to grow
what they're going to receive
or when we do the nationals
we go and stay at a camp
rather than at home
with the family
and whatever situation there
and I can be consistent
and we're together
and all this
so yeah
went to him
and he goes
mate
this is awesome
he goes
yep
I'll do what you want me to do
so what we organised
was two boys
every Friday, Saturday, Sunday
from four o'clock
would come to the New World
and would collect trolleys
and they'd be in their number ones
so they'd represent in the school
and they'd be collecting trolleys
and if they had a good attitude
and that type of thing
they'd have to do the induction
to be employed
and they'd get offered a job
if they show the right attitude
and six of the boys got
offered a job
and six of them stayed there
for a good period of time working
which is great right
so it taught them
really good lessons about that

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the other bit was
must attend every day
you can't get in trouble
so
Sir Tilly Tupinua
who's at the roosters
Tilly was in our team
and he was
pretty much going to school
one day a week
and the reason
it's as simple as this right
he would get into trouble
because he didn't have
the right school shoes
so I'd break every individual down
and go okay
what's the challenges we've got
what are we going to work with
so I went and bought him
a pair of school shoes
he stopped getting detentions
the reason why I wasn't going to school
because as soon as he'd get there
at form class
he'd get a detention
so there's my lunch time gone
I'm not going to school
I don't want to be spending
more time in the classroom
he's an active kid right
so he played one game
it was a trial game
he was in another school
killed him brain him
I said
did you like that
he goes yep
loved it
I said alright
if you want to play rugby league
in this team
all you've got to do

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is come to school every day
behave yourself
and you'll get to do that
right
so his turn around was unreal
he's come to school every day
he stopped playing up in the classroom
because he wasn't getting into trouble
because of the bad start to the day
and I was getting complaints
from teachers
because he wasn't being engaged
so I go
mate you used to complain about
the guy who wasn't happy
and now he's quiet
and you complain
that he's not engaged in your class
this is a guy who wouldn't hand assignments in
or do tests
and straight away
he got like a C
for the first time in his life
and then he got a B
and then there was one thing
he got an A in
and you could just see
this kid completely changed
he got so much pride in himself
so all of these little things
I was doing with these boys
I'm trying to think of the guy's name
as the owner
he's such a great bloke
he goes mate this is amazing
this is what we're about
so then he got me an interview
at foodies
after we had the coffee
and I went in
and had to sit down
with the gatekeeper
and I got through that

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interview
and then had to do the psychometric tests
and do the two years
lucky enough that I was doing
ambassadorial stuff
so I had that flexibility
and I was getting paid
so I could cover
not working
in the stores
and then got approved as an operator
and put in for Waipu
and got the store
I'll visit there later on
I've just come down from Mungify today actually
I'm staying up there for the weekends
we'll head up to Waipu
tell me
has that experience ruined
supermarket shopping for you
now on the other side
no I love it
you don't go in and like go
they could be facing things up
a different way
signs of shopping mate
is that right
there is
absolutely
absolutely and
foodies are one of the best
there's a whole world
that we don't know about
I'll bet you still want to have a sick handshake
and everything
three shoppers
snake walkers
boundary riders
and fuzzy wuzzies
really?
what's the difference
so fuzzy wuzzies are the ones
who go in

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they know what they want
they get it
and get out
so probably your tradies
who are going in for smoker
just no time
get in the store
get me stuff
get out
boundary riders
they'll go and get
milk
produce
meat
that's me
pretty much
around the outside of the store
which is where it all is
so you've got to do the whole store
and then out
it's good
and then snake walkers
they'll do every aisle
probably mum
doing the weekly shop
they'll be there for over an hour
she's doing the whole lot
in different stores
I'm a snake walker
in different stores
at different times
those shoppers will be in the store
predominantly
and so
the science of the shopping
is to put different things
in different places
yeah that winds me up
that winds me up
chocolate bickies
like somewhere else
I'm going why are they here this time
why is the toothpaste over there

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so you can buy them
I read some interview
it's really good hey
you did where you talked about
you'd be like stocking shelves
and people would come and say
pricey
you've fallen on tough times
what's going on
what the hell are you doing here
in your Mount Albert Grammar
number one
stocking shelves
no so yeah
that was when I had the store
and I'm just sort of going
so there's a real misconception
so
you sort of see it as printing money
but there's
it's like
not a trade
but it's a profession
and you look at the people
who work in the supermarket
there's butchers
and there's bakers
and they're
they're professionals
but
like even I had that philosophy
when I was a kid
like
everyone who worked at a supermarket
is sort of someone
that didn't qualify at school
or
but it's definitely not the case at all
and
that was one of the things
as I went through
and I did a lot of that
internal sort of studying stuff

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and I really
encouraged my stuff
to be doing
that sort of stuff as well
because it really
they would grow as individuals
and you'd have a
15 year old young female
who's at school
and
spent three years with me
and then we'd be leaving
to go to university
and completely different kids
to when they first started with you
and that's
what part of the four squares about
is
given that confidence
and
you know being a bit more outgoing
and being able to deal with
different people
and
you know all that sort of stuff
having responsibilities
you know being disciplined
being on time
you know working hard
during the whole time
all of that sort of stuff
and
yeah I loved that
I loved it
and it's
probably the closest to rugby league
that I've ever
experienced
since playing footy
my understanding was
once you get into that game
you're in there for life
but you did

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four years and then got out
three
three
how come you left
I
yeah I
I just knew
we were getting older
obviously our parents
are getting older
and I
I just didn't want to be away
from our parents
not having spent
real quality time
we're in Sydney 12 years
and we're here 13 years
25 years away from
our family
and all the lessons
we were talking about
before of what New Zealand
had taught me is that
to be around your family
and Joe
they're a really close family
that
you know Joe's family
and
we had been away
for a long time
so
to have the kids come back
just before they left home
like Jameau went to Sydney
before we come back
so she'd sort of
fly on the coop
but
Kase and Rolls
came back with us
Rollie still had a year
to go at school

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Kase just finished
I thought it'd be really cool
good timing
to get him back there
otherwise
we'd be coming back
they'd be probably staying
or
you know
otherwise I would still be in here
mate
I don't say this
disrespectfully
but I just think
of how much
energy and focus it takes
to run a supermarket
and mine was
an A grade
smaller version of
the big picture
it only gets bigger and bigger
as you go up
which I was really looking forward to
but
I could see how challenging it was
for time with family
and that type of thing
and I didn't want to
challenge that
so
I knew that if I took the next step
we're
we're riding it now
because
there's a lot of money
that's involved
as well as
you're stepping into a new world
which is a lot more
responsibility
and
and that type of thing

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and
yeah I was just a bit
concerned about
losing
especially when the kids were still around
and I
probably now
it would probably a lot better
if I was doing it now
so
if it was 5 years
or 10 years further down
than where I was
I'd still be doing it
because
it'd just be me and Joey
and the kids would be doing anything
but
yeah just timing was
I thought
we've sort of got to do this now
there was some chat
towards the back into your career
that you might be
an NRL CEO
and waiting
as well
is that
like you think you were doing
at the time
is that still something
which may be on the horizon one day
or are you done
with footy admin
you know what
I'm really confused
about actually what
I want to do
yeah I did my MBA
I love
leading people
I love
helping people grow

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and becoming better
rugby league is my passion
so I thought
wouldn't that be a great fit
you know both worlds
I did the gym
and footy at the dogs
it was only for 12 months
I signed a three year deal
but
there was a lot of stuff going on at the time
and
I think there was a little bit of fear
of me taking roles
and
all that sort of stuff
but at the end of the day
I probably wasn't prepared
as good as I could have been for it
and I suppose
when I retired from footy
I probably should have
I was almost hoping or praying
for someone to
take me under their wing and say right
this is where you're going to get to
this is where you're going to start
and this is what you've got to do
between now and then
to get to there
instead
I sort of went back to Aussie
got asked to go on the board at the Bulldogs
did that
then the opportunity come up as gym and footy
I've always wanted to do that
yeah jump in and do it
it's a big job mate
Bulldogs are a big club
things weren't going great at the time
dealing with salary cap
big turnover of players
and all sorts of stuff

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bit of fighting going on the background
because of the board
so it was probably wrong time
wrong place
and the wrong person
our CEO
first time he'd been a CEO
first time a gym or footy
first time our chair had been a chair
there's a whole lot of firsts
taught me a fair bit
didn't scare me
but there's a lot of politics
and I think I'd have to be better prepared
and you've got to have a lot more support
if you don't have the support
you're wasting your time
and I've got a lot of respect
for the administrators in the game
because I know now what goes on
behind doors
and in front of doors
and mate it's a tough gig
so then the coaching side
I never thought I wanted to be a coach
but when I coached Mags
I loved it
loved it
then I did some stuff
and Sonny coached a couple of years ago
with the under 20s there
and really enjoyed it
but again how do you
get into coaching
like you've got to start
and I need salary
to survive
and yeah I wouldn't be able to do that
so and if I commit to something
I want to be able to really commit to it
like I did at Mags
it was almost a full time job
like my wife used to say

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mate it's not an NRL team
it's a schoolboy team
and I said yeah but
if we set a standard
you treat the boys like dogs
I like like dogs
you treat the boys with respect
and at a standard
there's no excuses
they'll do that
and it was awesome
got them a fitted mouth guard
and skins
and we went swimming for recovery
and you know all these sort of stuff
so it just got the boys to start
to think about what professionalism looks like
Transport us to current day
you're a bit confused
you're not really sure what you're doing
you get a call to go on Celebrity Treasure Island
I'm assuming a call is out of the blue
how long did the decision make
mate it's not a brain
New Zealand's favourite Aussie
coming back for my favourite TV show
is it a year straight away
or is it another
oh shit I don't have to think about it
so that was Brucey
so Brucey rings me
because Bruce sort of looked after
all my off field stuff
when I was in New Zealand
but I did do some stuff
for celebrity speakers
when I was here
doing circuits with corporates
and so those guys run Brucey
and said
they'd really like to have Steve
on Celebrity Treasure Island
and he said

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I don't know what you're thinking
whether you want to or not
but I'll leave it with you
and you get back to me
and let me know
so I rang Joey
I said what do you reckon
and she goes
well you're the one who's got to do it
pause there
do you even know what the show is
before you've agreed to it
not really
good
yeah not really
and so
tried to look it up
and being an Aussie
I can't download the app
and all that sort of stuff
like geo blocking it
pisses me off too
all the stuff that was on there
was quite short snippets
so it didn't really
show me exactly
what the show was about
you're on an island
with some people
and there's some sort of
it's not dancing with the stars
so already I'm okay with it
well Joey will never let me
go and dance with the stars
she goes because they all end up
oh yeah
yeah so she says
you're not going on that
straight inside secrets
sorry back to Celebrity Treasure Island
carry on
so
yeah

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and then I've just gone
through all the process
I'm going well why wouldn't I
why wouldn't
what would stop me from doing it
yeah packing my pants
I thought do I try and
learn as much as I can
or do I just go in and go
you know what
whatever it is it is
and let's
I went with the latter
and yeah
I reckon it was a pretty good way
to go in
so literally no
no idea
and when I start half talking
to James and
few of the others like
mate they're in psychopedias
oh really
like seriously they love it
and
I was just going
oh maybe I should have
learned a little bit about
what's going on
but as soon as you get there
you touch down on the island
I'm assuming
no it's a big island
yeah
yeah
on location
on location
is gamesmanship
Steve Price kicking in
are you
are you all in
as soon as you get there
can I throw one of my random

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analogies like I normally
is it like walking into
a new dressing room
of new teammates
and you've got a size
people up and go
okay this is the pecking order
this is how I can work this
that's how I think
I fucking
I'm pitching myself to get on the show
alright
but is that like
is that what you do
Fly Brisbane
Queenstown
go to the hotel
and I'm staying at
and I'm going for dinner
and at dinner
I'm going to meet
people from the game
and the first person
to walk into the room
it was a private room
walk in was Tummy
and I'm going
hey mate
and he goes
hey mate
I go
are you here for
did you know him prior
not really
yeah wow
but I had seen him
yeah
but yeah
I'd never spoken to him
and
yeah then we sort of got
chatting like
this is sort of weird

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and all that
and then other people
started walking in
and
yeah
then
it was like okay
and
so
got told a little bit
what was sort of
the gist
and
had no idea who
who were up against
because two teams
yeah and didn't
meet them until
we'd done a challenge
and
then
our challenge was against them
that was the first time we saw
oh wow
so it was proper like
no smoking mirrors
and proper you walk in
and you go
oh okay
oh
oh
and they're doing the same to you
100%
100%
amazing
how tight are the NDAs
like when you leave
yeah
like there was a
um
treasure
treasure island party
last night

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what's an NDA
like non-disclosure
like
oh yeah
you can't say who won obviously
does everyone know
I don't know
you don't know
no I swear I don't know
that's so good
yeah
wait we might have given it
no no
we might have to reiterate that
no
that means you didn't win
no I'm not saying that
hahaha
but what's an NDA
was a good one
can't have a fucking NDA
and not know what an NDA is
well brilliant
brilliant brilliant
I'm saying I don't know
I don't know
yeah yeah
so that's the company line
I don't know
everyone gets asked
I don't know
I don't know
yeah very good
yeah
interesting but
the people
the other people you met
does it become a family
like do you develop
close enough bonds with them
that
well I didn't know
them

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and they all do
and
yeah catching up
like last night
it was like
a reunion
like it was cool
and
yeah
and mate
strap yourself in
because there's stuff
that it's
it's happening right
so that's cool
when
when that's like that
that you can catch up
and
it's very much like footy
where there's
mate you're gonna have
some battles man
but yeah after it
like
yeah we'll
we'll get on well
and respect
and it's really cool
also it's a place
take you out of your
element
I mean
you're saying you're at a place
you're not really sure
what you're doing
and you're confused
I'm sure after this trip
to New Zealand
even this little junket
and these experiences
and that one back then
it just changed

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your perspective on things
a little bit is it
give you a bit of a shift
yeah I'm really looking
forward to seeing the show
because I know
what I went through
and
and how
in my head
things were going
but then
how it actually
is presented
it can be really different
and I'm really looking
forward to that
because
when I did my
work like that as well
like
did Nepal
and Katmandu
Keena Mustang
and
I remember
all of the
experiences that I had
but then
other people's vision
of that story
was a little bit different
to what
mine was
but it was so cool
to see it
in that light
yeah
and that's going to be
this as well
like there's some creative
people
who are part of the show

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who are going to have
all of this footage
they're going to put together
in a way
that's going to be
absolutely mind blowing
and next level
that
I probably wouldn't have
any idea of
oh my god
I didn't realise
that's how I would look
or
do you know what I mean
sound or come across
or
I didn't know that person
was thinking that
or said that
or
do you know what I mean
like they're all the things
that still don't know
so
how are you going to watch it
in Australia
unsure yet
yeah hopefully
I'll be able to get something
but that's
yeah it's something
that I would have said
to the guys
at Warner Brothers
and TVNZ
is
I've had a lot of
people
reach out to me
and say
mate we want to watch it
like they're in Australia

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and
yeah because it's a New Zealand
thing it's only
here in New Zealand
so
yeah we'll have to
all
make a trip over
and have a view
we'll just take a cinema
or just
we'll just have a junket
just watch the whole
hey
I won't keep you much
long I know you've got
a flight to catch soon
but the thing
that I want to talk about
she might have
a few bits and pieces
but the New Zealand
Order of Merit
yes
as an Aussie
who came over
and spent
the time you did here
you received that acknowledgement
I understand there's a story
that you thought
it was a wind-up
when you first
100%
got a letter
got the
royal logo
on it
and saying what it was
yeah so I thought
it was the boys
just
jammed me up

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because
there's some real pranksters
in every team
and so I rang the B-Hope
and just said
like
I've received this letter
and then
she sort of
confirmed my details
just to make sure it was me
and I said
I just want to know
whether this is legit
or just someone's
mucking around
and she goes
oh no no
it is
someone's nominated you
and it's up to you
you look
whether you accept it
or not
and I said
oh absolutely
this is huge
like I can't believe it
and she goes
well someone is
and I said
but I'm Australian
here in the Commonwealth
and you
you're living here
and blah blah blah
so yeah
I was blown away
Mum come over
Joe and the kids were there
Government House
amazing ceremony
and there was some

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truly incredible people that were
I was very
well not very embarrassed
I was very
proud but I was
sort of embarrassed
when you're looking at people
who've done so much
in a community
for 50 or 60 years
and I'm
sort of a
Aussie who
you know
who's been
rewarded
with something very similar
to them
so I
wear it very proudly
on my LinkedIn
as a
you know
as a
I don't know what you'd call it
as a
part of my
story
and it's really cool
to be able to explain to people
what it means
because so many people do ask
oh what does that mean
and then I tell them
and they go
what so like
you're like
an order of Australian metal
but in New Zealand
I said
yeah and they go
how did you get that
look

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it's so impressive
I wonder if the clairvoyant
time stamped her
big award
which you should be referring to
this one
you know
there you go
there you go
just on that same
Aussie New Zealand tangent
Arwen Gutenbeil
retold a great story
of doing the Huckabucking in Palace
for the Queen
the late Queen
you were on that tour
as playing the
Delhi messenger role
the one Australian
that was in that group
in the group
did you get to do
did you partake
in that Huckabucking as well
I was trying my best
yes I was in the Huckabucking
amazing
yeah it was amazing
and spoke to the Queen
after it
and she pointed out
that my Huckabucking
was a bit different too
did you really
the other boys
and then I told her
that I was Australian
and she goes
I could tell
there was a little bit of a difference
but with that
I'd been out of the Aussie side

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for a few years
Ricky Stewart called me
back into the team
we played in Wellington
on the Saturday
and that was when Mark
Gazinu got knocked out
by Steve Maddow
so
we won that game
pretty easy
I even scored that day
well that
next morning
I had to get on a flight
with the Kiwi boys
to go to England
so
I was really weighing up
I'd never really done the Hucker
so
I knew I had to do it
and I'm thinking
when I'm going to learn it
and I didn't think
it was appropriate
leading into a test match
against New Zealand
sneaking off to learn
the Hucker with Rubz
or whoever
Bailey Mack or whoever
it was going to be
so
basically left it
until I landed in England
with the boys
went to the hotel
we then went
and had a quick training session
come back, had a shower
and then we're on our way
to the New Zealand Embassy

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to meet with the representative
of New Zealand there
for a cup of tea
and then on to Buckingham Palace
and so
I'm like the Wiggles
I'm learning
20 minutes to learn the actions
20 minutes to do the words
20 minutes to put it all together
and then on the bus doing it
and even at
the Embassy
I'm doing it in the background there too
and then get to
Buckingham Palace
and amazing
to go through those gates
like I've been to the gates
outside of them
standing there taking photos
but to actually
go through the gates
and in behind
and you see what's there
and then you're going to these
incredible rooms
and then for
you know the Queen
and Prince Philip
to come down as well
and then introduce themselves to us
or us to be introduced to them
and sort of splitting the forwards
and backs
and the Queen spoke to the backs
and Philip
spoke to the forwards
and then swapped around
and then we went and did the Hucko
and they got I think 200 staff
in the palace
and majority of them

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all of them were Australians or Kiwis
I don't know the Queen had
something that she loved having
Australians and Kiwis so
they're all on the staircase
watching us because
they know what's going on as well
and yeah then we
we started into it
and Rubez led that one
and after he couldn't talk
he couldn't talk for about three days
so we did it
in front of the Queen
and then we did it
at Leeds Station
because the Orgulls did that
100 years earlier
and I'm at peak hour so five o'clock
and in that one
Dave Kidwell led that one
and we're doing Kamate
and we're doing the slap
and I thought he was going
ah to start into it
but he's just going
ah and he kept going
and I started into it
and Tommy Tupo
Billy he was beside me
and he lost it
because I've started
and no one else has
and I'll try to recoup
and I go back to that
and be quiet
and he's losing it
we're both in the back
I wouldn't go in the front
that just would not be good
so I'm in the background
and trying to
re-gather myself

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and he's losing it
and ah and then we did it
before the game
and then we did it after the game
because Stace retired again
I think it was for the fourth time
but he retired again
and um yeah so we did it
in honour of him
um so I got better at it
by the fourth time
but certainly
yeah it probably wasn't
I'm a big cup of tea man
and the best cup of tea I've ever had
was at Buckingham Palace
is that right?
and I thought it would be the little cup
you know like
twining sort of thing
but it was mug
and I so dearly wanted one
and I think ah I think
um ah and talked about
some boys became
um new owners of some tea
teaspoons which I wish I had
I've got one of those as well
but I really wanted a tea cup
I was almost going to ask the Queen
if I could
ah respectfully
but um yeah
I didn't have the brass monkeys
judgment
it's like asking for a signature
on a book
I think they know what happens
but yeah I just wanted to be out front
and she might have made a joke
about it she might not
but I just didn't have the balls to
to do it

[Transcript] Between Two Beers Podcast / Steve Price Reflects on Rugby League Career, Losing his Father, Sonny Fai and more!

but cool experience
hey this has been such an epic chat
um I'm going to start to wrap us up
I was just reflecting on
talking about your dad
and talking about Sunny
and being in the press conference
and showing that vulnerability
I think it's really important
now I mean we have a lot of these conversations
on this podcast
of men of a certain age
who never used to show emotion
and now they do
and the way that you talked about
your dad on the island
with the contestants
and you've shared with us today
and just the value
and speaking about it
when people are going through hard times
there's just
as a strong male role model
it's just so valuable
so thank you
yeah it is a hard one
and I sort of don't blame mum
but certainly mum's the emotional one
of our family
um and yeah
when I'm proud of something
or very honoured
or something means something to me
I do quite easily get emotional
um and it's something that's always bugged me
I've always tried to
um be in more control of that
but um I haven't been able to
and I'm actually surprised
that I didn't lose it
in this to be honest
um the last couple of times
I've spoken about that

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I've actually been able to
to hold it together a bit
so yeah maybe I'm getting more mature
or maybe um yeah I'm just
proud to be talking about it
rather than really upset
to talk about it because of
not that you blame yourself
but whether you could have done
anything else
I think I've actually grasped
the fact that none of us
could have done anything else
it was his decision
and he's his own man
and uh something I regret every day
but at the end of it
there's so many things that happen
in our life that yeah
can never change
um and you learn from it you know
so I'll learn from
signals I reckon
if I do speak to people
to be very honest
and upfront and be not afraid
to ask those questions
of being there to support
because you know sometimes
that's all it can take
I know my mum one day ran into a lady
she hadn't seen for a long time
gave her a big hug and a kiss
said to her how great it was to see her
and that afternoon
she got a um a bouquet of flowers
sent to her house from that lady
and she said I was in the darkest place
I've ever been in my life
and running into you
changed that
and it just it reset me on
what life and what my life's about

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and having such beautiful friends
like yourself thank you
like mum was losing it you know
but you just don't know
what people are going through
and at different times say
um yeah whether people
have the courage to ever tell you that or not
but sometimes that's all it can take
you're so right um you don't know
what people are going through
and but your your sunny disposition
and life and in the way that you've become
a leader in pretty much every environment
you've entered into
it's just so inspiring like it's been
so cool Chandia
I'm just going to finish with
before I throw to Shea
with what Tady said
I asked him what makes
um Steve so special he said
he's one of the most giving blokes
you'll ever meet in your life
he's such a giving person
he's always helped others
he gets a kick out of it
that's the way captain the club he's played for
and the reason he was skipper for so long
he genuinely cares about them
you won't find a better bloke
and after talking to you today
I mean it's pretty clear
but I'll throw to Shea for the big outro
mate you talk about um
the courage to say things you didn't want to say
I didn't want to tell you
that I had your photo on my wall
at 29 30 years of age
but one of the reasons I did
was for that vulnerability
and that ability to show emotion
during a time where emotion was needed

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and like I've listened to you
sat here and listened to you
as a son, as a father
as a husband, as a brother-in-law
as an uncle
I'm sure you're doing amazing things
as a boss, as someone who looks to lift other people up
it's incredible there's been so many
lessons and takeaways from this
episode that I think going to resonate
with a whole cross-section of people
it's wonderful to have you back in Aotearoa New Zealand
even for a short space of time
I'm sure people are going to fall in love
with our favourite Aussie again
on Celebrity Treasure Island
and we hope the whole family
will be back here sometime soon to enjoy the Aotearoa
that we have for Stephen Price and the kids
Thank you mate
it's truly humbling when
you're here even with what you were saying
to have an impact on people's lives
when you're just a normal person
having fun doing what you do
and it's really cool
so thank you for sharing that with me
and thanks for having me on your program
like yeah
it was really cool to get a message from you guys
to follow you and I did
and I've loved watching
the stuff that you're doing
cheers Steve
amazing
thank you mate
that was awesome
hey guys thanks for tuning in
to see short form videos of all the best moments
from the set follow us on Instagram and TikTok
and join our private facebook group
called Ambassadors to be part of the behind the scenes
discussions about the shows

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