

**FULL SQUAD AND FIXTURE LISTS PLUS WORLD CUP PREVIEW**



# **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RUGBY SERIES**

**OFFICIAL PROGRAMME  
1-14 JUNE 2014  
\$5.00**





backing the all blacks  
since 1999







**every bit relentless**

# NEW ZEALAND RUGBY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON BEHALF of everyone involved in rugby in New Zealand, it is my pleasure to welcome the New Zealand Black Ferns, Australia Wallaroos, Manusina Samoa and Canada to the 2014 International Women's Rugby Series.

Last year's International Series saw the welcome return of international women's rugby to New Zealand, as well as three impressive Black Ferns victories and the Try of the Year, when Selica Winiata scored a last-minute, length-of-the-field try to secure the second Test.

This year we are looking forward to more fast-paced rugby from the stars of the women's game ahead of the Women's Rugby World Cup in France this August.

Australia are New Zealand's traditional rivals and with the Laurie O'Reilly Memorial Trophy, named after the Black Ferns' first Coach, that match will be a classic. Meanwhile the two Black Ferns matches against Canada as well as the match against Manusina Samoa at Eden Park will be special occasions, as will Canada taking on Australia in a unique rugby event for Tauranga.

All of these squads feature a number of young players who will complement their more experienced teammates and we look forward to seeing how each side goes, while the number of players also involved with sevens reflects the strong growth in that area of the game. I am sure we will see five exciting, hard-fought contests.

I would like to thank our sponsors and partners, in particular adidas, Principal Partner of New Zealand Rugby and AIG, Major Global Sponsor of the Black Ferns for their support of this Series.

Our thanks go to the Bay of Plenty and Auckland Provincial Unions for their hard work in ensuring that the matches run smoothly. Particular note should be made of the efforts of the Bay of Plenty Union, which will be hosting matches at three separate venues.

I would like to wish the teams and officials the best of luck for the matches and for their preparation for the Women's Rugby World Cup in France.

Finally, thank you to all rugby supporters. Whether you're watching at the ground or following from afar we appreciate you getting behind the team and officials.

We hope you all enjoy the rugby!

**Ian MacRae**

NEW ZEALAND RUGBY PRESIDENT







## AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION'S PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ON BEHALF of the Auckland Rugby Union, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Black Ferns, Manusina Samoa and their respective supporters to Eden Park.

This match is the second in the Black Ferns' build up to their Women's Rugby World Cup defence in France and will be followed by the opening All Blacks v England Test.

Auckland has a very proud and successful history in Women's Rugby, having won 13 of the 14 Women's Provincial Championships and producing scores of international players.

Congratulations to all those players who have been selected to play in this match - make sure you wear your country's colours with pride and passion. Enjoy your evening at Eden Park and all the best for the Series and your World Cup campaigns.

**Maurice Trapp**

PRESIDENT, AUCKLAND RUGBY UNION



## BAY OF PLENTY RUGBY UNION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I WOULD like to welcome the visiting teams to the Bay of Plenty. We are delighted to be hosting matches in all three of our sub-regions; Western, Central and Eastern Bay of Plenty.

The Bay is a great place to host the International Women's Rugby Series with many fond memories of past international games.

With women's rugby going through a growth phase at the moment, it is great to have the International Women's Rugby Series in our region. This growth has meant for the first time since 2005, Bay of Plenty will field a team in the Women's Provincial Championship.

I would also like to wish the teams all the best for the Women's Rugby World Cup coming up in August this year and congratulate the players for being selected to represent their countries. Special thanks to the organisers of the series for the work done to facilitate and run this event.

Once more, all the best for the series, play hard, play fair, but most of all enjoy your rugby and time here in the Bay.

**John Dowling**

PRESIDENT, BAY OF PLENTY RUGBY UNION



# GOOD LUCK TO THE BLACK FERNS FROM YOUR BIGGEST SUPPORTERS.

New Zealand has a proud history of producing world-class rugby talent. Men and women who take on the world, and win. This year the Black Ferns will be defending the IRB Women's Rugby World Cup title for the fourth consecutive time, as well as playing a tough programme of local test matches against Australia, Samoa and Canada in June. AIG are proud to be there, supporting these world beaters every step of the way.



As passionate supporters of New Zealand Rugby, AIG are behind all New Zealand rugby teams, and you can be too. Scan the QR code or visit [www.aig.co.nz](http://www.aig.co.nz) to download the 2014 Fixture Calendar, and support every team wearing the silver fern.



Official Insurance Partner



# BLACK FERNS



## 2014 MANAGEMENT TEAM

BRIAN EVANS - Head Coach  
GRANT HANSEN - Assistant Coach  
CATE SEXTON - Manager

## BLACK FERNS OVERALL RECORD

P63 • W54 • L8 • D1  
BIGGEST VICTORY: 134 v Germany, 1998

## APPEARANCES & INDIVIDUAL POINTS

Anna Richards 49, 1991-2010  
Vanessa Cootes 215, 1995-2002

## BLACK FERNS LAST THREE TESTS

20 June 2013 BLACK FERNS 29-8 England  
16 June 2013 BLACK FERNS 14-9 England  
13 June 2013 BLACK FERNS 29-10 England



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Amiria  
RULE**

Age 31 • Canterbury



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Victoria  
SUBRITZKY-  
NAFATALI**

Age 22 • Otago



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Shakira  
BAKER**

Age 22 • Manawatu



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Renee  
WICKLIFFE**

Age 27 • Auckland



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Selica  
WINIATA**

Age 27 • Manawatu



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Halie  
HURRING**

Age 28 • Otago



### PROP

**Aleisha  
NELSON**

Age 24 • Auckland



### PROP

**Stephanie  
TE OHAERE**

Age 29 • Canterbury



### PROP/HOOKER

**Fiao'o  
FA'AMUSAILI**

Age 33 • Auckland



### PROP

**Ruth MCKAY**

Age 27 • Manawatu



### PROP

**Kathleen WILTON**

Age 29 • Otago



### HOOKER

**Te Kura NGATA-  
AERENGAMATE**

Age 22 • Counties Manukau



### LOCK

**Eloise  
BLACKWELL**

Age 23 • Auckland



### LOCK

**Sanita  
LEVAVE**

Age 25 • Wellington



### LOCK

**Jackie PATEA**

Age 27 • Wellington



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Rawina  
EVERITT**

Age 27 • Counties Manukau



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Linda ITUNU**

Age 29 • Auckland



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Justine  
LAVEA**

Age 29 • Auckland



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Casey  
ROBERTSTON**

Age 33 • Canterbury



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Aroha  
SAVAGE**

Age 24 • Auckland



### HALFBACK

**Kendra  
COCKSEDE**

Age 25 • Canterbury



### HALFBACK

**Emma  
JENSEN**

Age 36 • Auckland



### FIRST 5/8

**Chelsea ALLEY**

Age 21 • Waikato



### FIRST 5/8

**Kelly  
BRAZIER**

Age 24 • Otago



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Honey  
HIREME**

Age 33 • Waikato



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Huriana MANUEL**

Age 27 • Auckland





# WALLAROOS

## 2014 MANAGEMENT TEAM

PAUL VERRELL - Head Coach  
JAY TREGONNING - Assistant Coach  
STEVE HAMSON - Manager

## WALLAROOS V BLACK FERNS OVERALL

PLAYED 11  
Black Ferns 11 wins • Wallaroos 0 wins

## OVERALL POINTS

BLACK FERNS 373  
WALLAROOS 58

## WALLAROOS LAST THREE TESTS

5 September 2010 WALLAROOS 22-8 France  
1 September 2010 England 15-0 WALLAROOS  
28 August 2010 WALLAROOS 62-0 South Africa



**PROP**

**Danielle MESKELL**  
Age 40 • Sydney



**PROP**

**Oneata SCHWALGER**  
Age 28 • Victoria



**PROP**

**Caroline VAKALAH**  
Age 31 • ASRU



**PROP/HOOKER**

**Louise BURROWS**  
Age 36 • ACT



**HOOKER**

**Margaret WATSON**  
Age 27 • NSW



**LOCK**

**Rebecca CLOUGH**  
Age 25 • WA



**LOCK**

**Alisha HEWETT**  
Age 28 • ASRU



**LOCK**

**Brooke SAUNDERS**  
Age 29 • ASRU



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Chloe BUTLER**  
Age 27 • Sydney



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Dalena DENNISON**  
Age 29 • Auckland



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Mollie GRAY**  
Age 24 • ASRU



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Michelle Milward**  
Age 28 • ACT



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Liz PATU**  
Age 24 • Queensland



**LOCK/LOOSE**

**FORWARD**  
**Rebecca SMITH**  
Age 29 • NSW



**HALFBACK**

**Nita MAYNARD**  
Age 21 • Sydney



**MIDFIELD BACK**

**Cheyenne CAMPBELL**  
Age 27 • Queensland



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Hayley BARCLAY**  
Age 24 • Queensland



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Madeline PUTZ**  
Age 24 • WA



**UTILITY BACK**

**Tricia BROWN**  
Age 35 • Queensland



**UTILITY BACK**

**Natasha HAINES**  
Age 32 • WA



**UTILITY BACK**

**Ashleigh HEWSON**  
Age 34 • Sydney



**UTILITY BACK**

**Ashley MARSTERS**  
Age 20 • Victoria



**UTILITY BACK**

**Tui ORMSBY**  
Age 36 • Sydney



# CANADA



## 2014 MANAGEMENT TEAM

FRANCOIS RATIER - Head Coach  
MEAGHAN HOWAT - Manager

## CANADA V NZ OVERALL

PLAYED 8  
Black Ferns 8 wins • Canada 0 wins

## OVERALL POINTS

BLACK FERNS 399 • CANADA 31

## CANADA LAST THREE TESTS

19 April 2014 CANADA 14-10 USA  
15 April 2014 CANADA 51-7 USA  
13 Nov 2013 England 32-3 CANADA



### PROP

**Sammy CRANDELL**  
Age 22 • Hornets RFC



### PROP

**Olivia DEMERCHANT**  
Age 23  
Woodstock Wildmen



### PROP

**Hilary LEITH**  
Age 30 • Capilano RFC



### PROP

**Marie-Pier PINAULT-REID**  
Age 25  
Club de Rugby Quebec



### PROP

**Laura RUSSELL**  
Age 25 • Toronto Nomads



### HOOKEER

**Kim DONALDSON**  
Age 30 • Burnaby Lake  
Rugby Club



### HOOKEER

**Mary Jane KIRBY**  
Age 24 • Highland RFC



### LOCK

**Tyson BEUKEBOOM**  
Age 23  
Aurora Barbarians



### LOCK

**Latoya BLACKWOOD**  
Age 28  
St Anne de Bellevue



### LOCK

**Kayla MACK**  
Age 25 • Wild Oats RFC



### LOCK

**Maria SAMSON**  
Age 31 • Calgary Hornets



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Cindy NELLES**  
McMasters Marauders



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Jacey MURPHY**  
Age 25  
Aurora Barbarians



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Karen PAQUIN**  
Age 26  
Club de Rugby Quebec



### LOOSE FORWARD

**Kelly RUSSELL**  
Age 27 • Toronto Nomads



### HALFBACK

**Stephanie BERNIER**  
Age 25  
Club de Rugby Quebec



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Brittany BENN**  
Age 25 • Guelph Redcoats



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Andrea BURKE**  
Age 32 • Capilano RFC



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Mandy MARCHAK**  
Age 31 • Capilano RFC



### MIDFIELD BACK

**Amanda THORNBOROUGH**  
Age 23  
Brandon Barbarians RFC



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Elissa ALARIE**  
Age 28 • St Anne de  
Bellevue Rugby Club



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Emily BELCHOS**  
Age 19  
Markham Irish RFC



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Brittany WATERS**  
Age 31  
Meraloma Athletic Club



### OUTSIDE BACK

**Julianne ZUSSMAN**  
Age 27  
Town of Mount Royal RFC



### UTILITY BACK

**Jessica DOVANNE**  
Age 28 • Velox RFC



### UTILITY BACK

**Magali HARVEY**  
Age 23  
Club de Rugby Quebec



### UTILITY BACK

**Julia SUGWARA**  
Age 31  
Burnaby Lake Rugby Club





# MANUSINA SAMOA

## 2014 MANAGEMENT TEAM

EUINI LALE FAUMUINA - Head Coach

FILOI ENELIKO - Assistant Coach

SERA MIKA - Manager

## MANUSINA SAMOA V BLACK FERNS OVERALL

PLAYED 1

Black Ferns 1 win • Manusina Samoa 0 wins

## OVERALL POINTS

BLACK FERNS 50

MANUSINA SAMOA 0

## MANUSINA SAMOA LAST THREE TESTS

27 April 2013

SAMOA 33-14 Netherlands

23 April 2013

SAMOA 29-0 Sweden

20 April 2013

Italy 65-22 SAMOA



**PROP**

**Ala LEAVASA-BAKULICH**

Age 34



**PROP**

**Tessa WRIGHT**

Age 20



**PROP**

**Ginia MUAVAE**

Age 23



**PROP/HOOKER**

**Charlene FAGALILO**

Age 28



**HOOKER**

**Sally KAOKAO**

Age 35



**HOOKER**

**Laura LEVI**

Age 30



**LOCK**

**Juliana SUA**

Age 19



**LOCK**

**Cynthia TAALA**

Age 39



**LOCK**

**Mellisha LEAANA**

Age 19



**LOOSE FORWARD**

**Vicki CAMPBELL**

Age 32



**LOOSE FORWARD**

**Italia TIPELU**

Age 27



**LOOSE FORWARD**

**Rita LILII**



**LOOSE FORWARD**

**Apaula KERISIANO**

Age 26



**HALFBACK**

**Tulua LEULUAIALII**

Age 32



**HALFBACK**

**Roseanne LEAUPEPE**

Age 30



**FIRST 5/8**

**Bella MILO**

Age 28



**FIRST 5/8**

**Brenda COLLINS**

Age 31



**MIDFIELD BACK**

**Maryann COLLINS**

Age 22



**MIDFIELD BACK**

**Merenaite FAITALA-MARINER**

Age 26



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Justine Manaia LUATUA**

Age 25



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Mele LEULUAIALII**



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Soteria PULUMU**

Age 22



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Taliilagi MEFI**

Age 24



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Tile START**

Age 26



**OUTSIDE BACK**

**Bernadette ROBERTSON**

Age 30

# FIVE ALIVE

THE BLACK FERNS WILL HEAD TO FRANCE IN AUGUST TO TRY TO CLAIM THEIR FIFTH SUCCESSIVE WORLD CUP. IT'S AN AMAZING RECORD AND ONE THEY HAVE WORKED FEARSOMELY HARD TO PRESERVE. LIAM NAPIER REPORTS.

FEATURE COURTESY OF NZ RUGBY WORLD.

**S**uccess, naturally, creates expectation. For the Black Ferns, clinching the last four World Cups inevitably means they are again expected to defend their crown in August.

Comparatively only the Black Sox, with six softball world championships, have a more formidable record at pinnacle events.

"It's a pretty amazing feat the Black Ferns have in terms of World Cups and hopefully we can again be successful in this one," Canterbury second five-eighth Amiria Rule, who played in the 2002 and '06 triumphs, says.

Despite suggestions to the contrary, history affects all teams. A record such as one the Black Ferns possess could be a heavy burden. New players are under pressure to match the achievements of those before them in Paris, while veterans will be eager to lead from previous experience.

"Playing for the Black Ferns you know that legacy and reputation they have," Kelly Brazier, the top points scorer at the last World Cup, says. "You are expected to perform."

Coach Brian Evans, who came on board in 2009, sums it up best, though.

The World Cup is an event his players embrace as it offers a rare chance to actually take on international opponents.

"The players enjoy the challenge," Evans says. "Traditionally it's when the Black Ferns get most of their games. Historically there haven't been a lot of games in between tournaments."

"I suppose there is a bit of pressure with it. They certainly feel a responsibility to

carry on the legacy that was set-up before them. The team culture is incredibly strong and always has been. We're constantly reminding them of what it means to play for the Black Ferns."

Evans' squad has received what could turn out to be a defining wake-up call since the last World Cup.

Sick of being bridesmaids, England, the traditional rivals, pumped significant resource into their environment and immediately reaped rewards.

In a major shock, the English won six successive Tests against the Black Ferns in 2011-2012. Prior to that horror stretch the team boasted a 90 per cent winning record across all Tests.

"Before that I think we lost something like one game in 15 years," Brazier says.

Boosted by the unique ability to have most of their athletes and coaches work together full-time - Evans' main job comes as principal at Kelston Boys' High School in Auckland - England stole the mantle as the world's best side for two years. And it didn't sit right.

"Things like that can make a lot of difference. The first couple of years were hard work because we were chasing the English," Evans says. "They had put a lot of resource into their game. We also lost a lot of players after the World Cup in 2010. We had to rebuild and that takes time. There wasn't enough time and effort put in and we definitely took a dip."

This time, though, it was more than just the traditional post-tournament blues.

"There's always been a dip, because of retirements, after World Cups," Rule says. "That's been a trend over the last 12



**GREAT MOMENT**  
THE BLACK FERNS  
CELEBRATE WINNING  
THE 2010 WORLD CUP.





**WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP**  
**WINNER**



# PLAYERS TO WATCH

## HONEY HIREME

The 33-year-old is showing no signs of either ageing or lacking in desire. Anything but in fact as she is desperate to add a 15-a-side world title to her already bulging collection.

Hireme has won World Cup Sevens gold as well as captaining the Kiwi Ferns at the World Cup last year. Her ability to switch so effortlessly between codes and between the full and abbreviated versions of rugby, has seen her dubbed 'Honey Bill Williams' by her peers.

It's not just her versatility either that drives comparisons: the midfield back is uncannily good at off-loading out of the tackle and that skill is one the Black Ferns will look to play off.

Hireme is a strong ball carrier and line-breaker as well and the Black Ferns will look for her to take them over the advantage line and get them going forward.

## SELICA WINIATA

Lucky the police force is understanding. Winiata will, once again, need to book some time off from her regular profession as a sergeant in Palmerston North. With the ability to cover first-five and fullback she will be a key member of the Black Ferns title defence. "Work is pretty good where they can; they do their best. I've never been declined any leave," she says. "It's not very often you get a police officer representing New Zealand for rugby or any other sport."

Winiata was the best player at last year's sevens tournament in Queenstown and also showed her pace to score the match-winning try after fulltime against England in Hamilton. Don't let her diminutive frame fool you, either. She possesses a deceptively strong fend and frequently sneaks through openings.

## FIAO'O FA'AMAUSILI

Every team needs a leader. Look no further than Fa'amausili for the Black Ferns. Having made her debut in 2002, the Auckland police officer is one of the squad's most experienced campaigners. In one-off tournaments such as World Cups that composure and direction under pressure is vital.

Born in Samoa, Fa'amausili was New Zealand's player of the year in 2011. She's a constant physical force - attributes complimented by her ball playing abilities.

years. We didn't do well in London and as the World Cup approached people realised they needed to develop a little bit more of a work ethic."

In typically blunt fashion, Brazier identified where players were told to lift standards. "The English caught up on us. They were definitely bigger and stronger and ran over us a bit. We had a tough word, pretty much to get our arses into gear," she says. "We needed to be fit to move them around. The girls have been out working hard and it's starting to show."

Evans demanded a dramatic shift in attitude, fitness and conditioning. The results of which were revealing last year as his side extracted revenge and restored the pecking order by sweeping England in three home Tests.

"Previously, before last year, we struggled because our conditioning and speed wasn't up to it," he says. "We had to play some fairly laborious rugby. Now the players have put the work in and last year it showed. They are in a better space to play expansive rugby if it's on. A lot of work for us is done with the trainers around the regions to get them fit."

Preparation for a World Cup has, therefore, never been better. There's nothing like a string of losses to refocus any side. Players are now fitter, faster and stronger as a direct result of stricter requirements. Access to sevens players, most of whom are now contracted full-time, has also increased squad competition.

Both aspects have allowed the gameplan to evolve and utilise traditional New Zealand flair.

"We're always quite a lot smaller than most other teams," Brazier says. "The last

**BOUNCE BACK**  
THE BLACK FERNS  
HAD TO GET FITTER  
AND WORK HARDER  
TO BEAT ENGLAND  
LAST YEAR.







time we played England we didn't have the fitness to move the ball around. With the speed and X-factor we've got in the backs it's good we can play that sort of game now and run other teams around."

Central to those intentions to use width and employ an attacking style has been the rise of lethal wing Portia Woodman [who is injured for this Series] and first-five-fullback Selica Winiata, the top points and try scorer in the 2012 provincial championship with Manawatu.

Woodman, the daughter and niece of former All Blacks Kawhena and Fred, was last year's top try-scorer in the sevens World Series.

Before debuting for the Black Ferns last year her XV's experience amounted to just 15 minutes for Mt Albert Grammar School First XV as a 17-year-old. Since switching from a budding professional netball career with the Auckland-based Northern Mystics, she's captured wide-spread attention and could be the star of the World Cup.

Up front, Canterbury No 8 Casey Robertson provides crucial go-forward and stern defence, alongside fellow loose forward Linda Itunu.

The dynamic ball skills of hooker and influential captain Fiao'o Fa'amausili will also be leaned on more heavily, following Karina Stowers' unavailability due to family reasons. And in the midfield Honey Hireme - dubbed 'Honey Bill Williams' by her peers - makes a welcome return. Her experience in both sevens and rugby league could prove invaluable.

Overall, with 12 players having featured in previous World Cups, Evans is pleased with the balance of youth and experience at his disposal.

"Some of them are into their third World Cup," he says. "That helps a lot. Most of the new players have been around for a couple of years so we're thrilled they've done the work and finally got in the team."

"The sevens girls we are getting access to are great. A lot of them are contracted fulltime, training and working hard on their game. In the backs that helps a lot. Outside of Portia Woodman the others were already top XV players anyway."

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RUGBY SERIES

### THE TEAMS

#### WALLAROOS

The Wallaroos are bringing a blend of youth and experience as well as a new Head Coach - all of which is likely to make them a dangerous opponent for the Black Ferns.

Coach Paul Verrell has 10 players who featured at the last World Cup in 2010 and mixed that up with some cross-over players - women heavily involved

with Australia's Sevens programme. That mix should give them structure and solidity in the core areas, with some pace, skill and vision out wide.

#### CANADA

Canada have a good pedigree in the women's game having finished sixth, fourth and third in the last three World Cups. Like many of the leading women's teams, their

15-a-side squad contains a handful of players who have featured on the Sevens circuit in recent seasons. One of those is the exciting Amanda Thornborough, whose physicality and passion is expected to be a feature of the Series.

#### MANUSINA SAMOA

The Samoans are relishing the prospect at having a crack at the Black Ferns and also

being part of a Series that will give them much sought after game-time. Manusina start their World Cup campaign in August against England and they want to be exposed to some tough rugby before they head to France.

Manusina have the physicality and passion to be dangerous and are likely to be effective at the tackled ball in this Series and also running in the open spaces.





# WOMEN'S WORLD CUP, FRANCE 2014

**MARCOUSSIS AND PARIS** August 1 - August 17

## POOL A

England  
Canada  
Spain  
Samoa

## POOL B

New Zealand  
USA  
Ireland  
Kazakhstan

## POOL C

Australia  
France  
Wales  
South Africa

## FRIDAY AUGUST 1

1300	NZ v Kazakhstan	Marcoussis 2
1500	Canada v Spain	Marcoussis 2
1700	USA v Ireland	Marcoussis 2
1545	Australia v South Africa	Marcoussis 1
1800	England v Samoa	Marcoussis 1
2045	France v Wales	Marcoussis 1

## TUESDAY AUGUST 5

1300	USA v Kazakhstan	Marcoussis 2
1500	Australia v Wales	Marcoussis 2
1700	Canada v Samoa	Marcoussis 2
1545	England v Spain	Marcoussis 1
1800	New Zealand v Ireland	Marcoussis 1
2045	France v South Africa	Marcoussis 1

## SATURDAY AUGUST 9

1300	Ireland v Kazakhstan	Marcoussis 2
1500	Spain v Samoa	Marcoussis 2
1700	Wales v South Africa	Marcoussis 2
1545	England v Canada	Marcoussis 1
1800	New Zealand v USA	Marcoussis
2045	Australia v France	Marcoussis 1

At the end of the pool phase the teams will be seeded based on the position in which they finished in their respective pools.

- 1st Seed** Pool winner with most competition points  
**2nd Seed** Pool winner with 2nd most competition points  
**3rd Seed** Pool winner with 3rd most competition points  
**4th Seed** Pool second place with most competition points

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Semi Finals

1800	2nd Seed v 3rd Seed	Jean Bouin
2045	1st Seed v 4th Seed	Jean Bouin

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

1845	Final	Jean Bouin
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"We're trying to develop different styles so we can adjust at anytime if we have to. The players tend to like to run with the ball and use the spaces."

Four Tests in June - against Australia, Samoa and Canada - presented the perfect opportunity to build valuable momentum leading into their title defence.

While proximity allows the Six Nations powers to play up to 12 Tests each year, such a run of regular fixtures is almost unheard of in the women's game here.

This time it's different. In addition to the June Tests the Black Ferns have also enjoyed camps in January and late April and been boosted by the inclusion of Jason Ryan, Canterbury's scrum coach, to their management team.

Essentially, there are no excuses.

The team should be humming into the French capital.

"In terms of preparation for the World Cup we've probably never had it better so we have to make sure we put it on the field," Rule says. "We've never had the opportunity to play Test matches leading into the World Cup. Usually our only Tests for that year are at the tournament."

Competition at this World Cup is expected to be fierce - more so than ever.

With the Olympic Games in Brazil looming in 2016, the rise in popularity and profile of sevens has seen most countries significantly increase their investment in the women's game, naturally levelling the playing field.

France won their first Six Nations tournament this year and Ireland were also big improvers. Canada beat the English the previous season and the USA, who are grouped with the Black Ferns alongside the Irish and Kazakhstan in Paris, are another noted force.


As usual, Australia will be the dark horse challengers. "We'll need to be on our game from the get go," Evans says. "The USA have been quite strong for a few years. If you drop one game all of a sudden you're relying on numbers and that's not where we want to be."

"Because our record is so good there might be a tendency to think it will just happen, but it won't. There's always some form of upset. We took some losses over

the last few years so it gives you a reality check but we've got a good team."

A lack of profile means the Black Ferns have thankfully never developed excessive egos. They're not a bunch to crave the limelight and this year's squad will be no different. Competition may be stronger than before but it seems Evans has groomed a fit, hungry team that will chase an unprecedented fifth straight title with an understated swagger.

It will take a very good side to stop them. "I've got every confidence we can retain the World Cup and continue that long legacy," Rule says.

"We've got some exciting players and hopefully we've got the right gameplan to punish some teams." 

## NEW THREATS

NO ONE CAN EVER BE SURE WHICH SIDES WILL CHALLENGE IN THE KNOCK-OUT ROUNDS OF THE WOMEN'S WORLD CUP [FACING PAGE].

**UNBEATEN** THE BLACK FERNS HAVE NEVER LOST AGAINST THE WALLAROOS.

# FIXTURES AND MATCH OFFICIALS

DATE	TIME	MATCH	VENUE	REFEREE	ARI	AR2
1 June	5.40pm	BLACK FERNS v WALLAROOS	Rotorua Stadium	Sherry Trumbull	Jess Beard	Brigitte Tyler
6 June	2.30pm	WALLAROOS v CANADA	Tauranga Domain	Jess Beard	Alhambra Nieves	Nicky Inwood
7 June	5.00pm	BLACK FERNS v SAMOA	Eden Park	Alhambra Nieves	Nicky Inwood	Jess Beard
10 June	2.30pm	BLACK FERNS v CANADA	Tauranga Domain	Amy Perrett	Alhambra Nieves	Chelsea Gurr
14 June	2.30pm	BLACK FERNS v CANADA	Whakatane	Alhambra Nieves	Jess Beard	Nicky Inwood

## LAURIE O'REILLY MEMORIAL TROPHY

The Laurie O'Reilly Memorial Trophy was introduced for the one-off Test between the Black Ferns and the Wallaroos in 1998.

It is named for former national coach Laurence O'Reilly, who passed away in 1998 following a battle with cancer. O'Reilly, who was a lawyer until he was

appointed the Children's Commissioner, coached the University of Canterbury and Canterbury teams before being appointed selection convenor for the New Zealand women's team. Australia have never held the Trophy, which is played on the same lines as the Bledisloe Cup.



CLAIRE RICHARDSON.





Jorja lives with burns

# Fund me a cure

Jorja was 19 months old when she suffered severe burns to her neck and chest. Now aged 10, she's had multiple operations and steroid injections to reduce her scarring and continues to have surgery to remove thickened scar tissue. To help us raise the funds for the research that will help cure kids like Jorja, please donate today.

To donate or find out more, visit [curekids.org.nz](http://curekids.org.nz)



**New Zealand  
BLACK FERNS**

OFFICIAL CHARITY

 **cure kids**





# We take concussion seriously. So should you.

Concussion can occur after any impact to the body that causes the brain to shake inside the skull. It doesn't have to be an impact to the head. Players, referees and coaches must do everything they can to minimise or avoid situations that puts players at risk of concussion. But it's also really important to take the aftercare seriously. Here's how:

Level	Activity Undertaken	Time Post Concussion
1	No activity, complete rest Once symptom free and cognitive recovery is demonstrated, proceed to level 2	2 – 3 days
2	Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary cycling	4 – 10 days
3	Sport-specific training (e.g. running activity, ball-handling activity)	11 – 15 days
4	Non-contact training activities	16 – 20 days
5	Full-contact training after medical clearance	<b>23 days</b>
6	Game play	23 + days

The minimum stand-down period for concussed players is three weeks plus a medical clearance - this applies at all levels of New Zealand community rugby. Don't compare this with what you might see when the All Blacks are playing. They play in a professional environment and have trained specialists around them. So, unless you've got a neurologist on hand, ready to put you through heaps of tests, stick to these return to play guidelines. It could save your life.

