



# **BLACK FERNS**

WOMEN'S RUGBY WORLD CUP 2025 MEDIA GUIDE

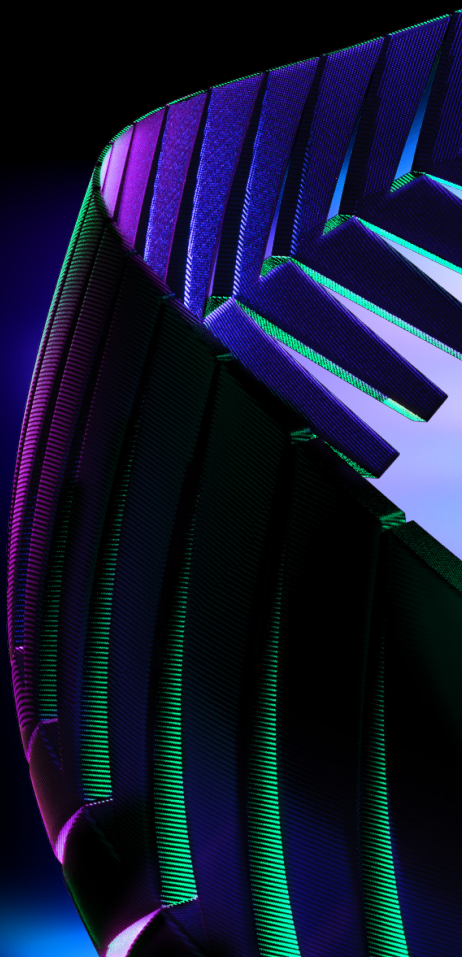
# POOL C FIXTURES

TEAMS	LOCAL TIME	NZT	VENUE
<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Spain	5.30pm, Sun 24 August	4.30am, Mon 25 August	York Community Stadium, York
<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Japan	2.00pm, Sun 31 August	1.00am, Mon 01 September	Sandy Park, Exeter
<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Ireland	2.45pm, Sun 07 September	1.45am, Mon 08 September	Brighton & Hove Albion Stadium, Brighton and Hove



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# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kia ora,

On behalf of New Zealand Rugby, I'm pleased to introduce this year's media guide for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 in England.

Every rugby player dreams of playing in a Rugby World Cup. Pulling on the black jersey at a pinnacle event such as this drives their motivation and hard work for years building up to it. Over the coming weeks, dreams will be fulfilled and memories made that will last a lifetime. I know that Allan, Ruahei, Kennedy and the squad are excited and prepared for the challenge ahead. We wish them the very best in defence of their title.

Having hosted the previous edition of the tournament, we are looking forward to seeing the way it evolves and the engagement which comes with it. We fondly remember the crowds full of noise and colour, travelling supporters adding to the atmosphere, and the way the country got in behind every match. We look forward to seeing similar scenes across England.

There's something contagious about the Black Ferns. Their unique, authentic team culture has resulted in a growing group of passionate

supporters, nicknamed the BFFs – Black Ferns Fans. We know that many will travel to support the team, and many more will be supporting from home across the late nights and early mornings.



A big thank you to the media for your coverage of the game. The continued exposure of women's rugby is a collective effort, and your coverage of the not only the matches, but the players and personalities involved, helps continue to elevate the game and allow the next generation to dream, to believe that maybe one day, they too can be a Black Fern. We appreciate the hard work you will be putting in over the coming weeks.

We hope you find this guide helpful, and that you enjoy the tournament.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Matthew Cooper". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Matthew Cooper**

New Zealand Rugby President



# KEY MEDIA CONTACTS



## **Savannah Tafau-Levy**

Women's Rugby World Cup 2025  
Team Media Manager

NZ Mobile: +64(0)21 403 722

Email: [savannah.tafau-levy@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:savannah.tafau-levy@nzrugby.co.nz)



## **Toby Robson**

NZR Head of Communications –  
High Performance

NZ Mobile: +64(0)21 401 012

Email: [toby.robson@nzrugby.co.nz](mailto:toby.robson@nzrugby.co.nz)

# BLACK FERNS ITINERARY

## EVENT

## VENUE

THURSDAY 14 AUGUST

Travel to York

Principal York Hotel, York

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

**BLACK FERNS** v Spain

York Community Stadium, York

MONDAY 25 AUGUST

Travel to Exeter

Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel

SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

**BLACK FERNS** v Japan

Sandy Park, Exeter

MONDAY 01 SEPTEMBER

Travel to Brighton

Leonardo Hotel Brighton

SUNDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

**BLACK FERNS** v Ireland

Brighton & Hove Albion Stadium,  
Brighton & Hove

MONDAY 08 SEPTEMBER

Travel to Exeter

Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel

# MEDIA INFORMATION

## Media email list

To be put on the Black Ferns' media distribution email database, or update your contact information, email either of the media contacts (Savannah Tafau-Levy or Toby Robson).

## Media schedule

For media planning purposes, please find the Black Ferns' itinerary and media schedule for the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 within this guide. It is also available through the RWC2025 Media Zone. You will be asked to RSVP online to confirm your attendance at each session. Please note that the media schedule is for media planning purposes only and, apart from the publicising of public events, is not for public release. All times are local.

## Media schedule updates

Note that all times are approximate and note that while the team makes every effort to keep to the media schedule, times and locations are subject to change. All updates to the media schedule will be publicised through the RWC2025 Media Zone. Please check the Media Zone schedule daily for any updates.

## Media access

Only media accredited for RWC2025 will be allowed access to Black Ferns media sessions and training. Accreditation must be worn at all times.

## Media session formats

Given the expected high media volume during RWC2025, the majority of Black Ferns media sessions will be in the form of media conferences, one-on-one interviews are on a case-by-case basis. There may be an opportunity for all-in media stand ups at sponsorship or partner events. Black Ferns media sessions will not be 'broadcast live' opportunities.

## Time zones

All times are local British Summer Time (BST). Note that England is 11 hours behind New Zealand.

## Vision and photography access

The Black Ferns will have media access for photography and vision at their trainings. Note, this will take place at the start of training for approximately 15 minutes. Please use the RSVP button on the Media Zone to confirm your attendance at these events.

## Sponsor activity during the tournament

Black Ferns sponsors and partners will be running promotions and media events throughout the RWC2025. We will keep media updated on these events throughout the tournament. Note that these events, including any media opportunities, will be run primarily by the sponsor/partner organisation.

## Media guides

This media guide is available electronically through the Tournament's Rugby News Service.

## Social media

The Black Ferns official social media channels will be in use throughout the tournament so feel free to keep up with the team on:

- Facebook: [Black Ferns](#)
- Instagram: [@blackferns](#)
- TikTok: [blackferns](#)

Receive official updates from NZR on our social channels:

- Facebook: [New Zealand Rugby](#)
- Instagram: [@nZRugbyofficial](#)
- TikTok: [nZRugby](#)
- X: [NZRugby](#)
- LinkedIn: [New Zealand Rugby](#)

<https://stats.blackferns.com/> includes updates to:

- Player profiles
- Black Ferns results and records

# MEDIA SCHEDULE

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Please check the calendar in the Women's Rugby World Cup Media Zone daily, for updates and changes and please RSVP to media events beforehand. Any questions please email savannah.tafau-levy@nzrugby.co.nz.

## WEEK ONE – BLACK FERNS v SPAIN

August 08–August 24

### KEY LOCATIONS

### VENUE

TEAM HOTEL	MATCH VENUE	TRAINING VENUE
Principal York	York Community Stadium	York RI RUFC

### TIME

### EVENT

### VENUE

### ATTENDING

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

4.45pm	<b>Open training (community engagement)</b> Vision access opportunity	York RI RUFC	2x players
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#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

5.00pm	<b>Black Ferns Team Welcome Ceremony</b> Vision access opportunity	Museum Gardens, York	1x coach, 2x players
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5.45pm	<b>Black Ferns Team Welcome Ceremony</b> Media interviews	Museum Gardens, York	1x coach, 2x players
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#### MONDAY, AUGUST 18

10.30am	<b>School visit</b> Vision access opportunity + interviews	Westfield Community Primary School	2x players
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#### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

3.00pm	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	York RI RUFC	
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5.15pm	<b>Media Day</b> Media conference	Principal Hotel	1x coach, 2x players
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#### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Non-media day

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	ATTENDING
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 21</b>			
Non-media day			
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 22</b>			
12.00pm	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	York RI RUFC	
6.15pm	<b>Team Announcement Conference</b> Media conference	Principal York	Head coach, captain, 2x starting players
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 23</b>			
12.00pm	<b>Captain's Run (team training)</b> Vision access opportunity	York RI RUFC	
5.15pm	<b>Eve-of-match briefing</b> Media stand-up	Principal York	1x coach, 2x starting players
<b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 24</b>			
5.30pm	<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Spain	York Community Stadium	

## WEEK TWO – BLACK FERNS v JAPAN

August 25–August 31

### KEY LOCATIONS

### VENUE

TEAM HOTEL	MATCH VENUE	TRAINING VENUE
Mercure Exeter Southgate Southernhay East, EX1 1QF	Sandy Park Stadium, Exeter	Topsham RFC Bonfire Field, Exeter Road, Topsham, EX3 0LY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	ATTENDING
<b>MONDAY, AUGUST 25</b>			
Travel day			
<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 26</b>			
12.15pm	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	Topsham RFC	
4.00pm	<b>Media Day</b> Media conference	Mercure Exeter Southgate	4x players, 1x coach

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	ATTENDING
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27</b>			
Non-media day			
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 28</b>			
Non-media day			
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 29</b>			
11.00am	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	Topsham RFC	
6.15pm	<b>Team Announcement Conference</b> Media conference	Mercure Exeter Southgate	Head coach, captain, 2x starting players
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 30</b>			
3.15pm	<b>Captain's Run (team training)</b> Vision access opportunity followed by interviews	Sandy Park Stadium	
<b>SUNDAY, AUGUST 31</b>			
2.00pm	<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Japan	Sandy Park, Exeter	

## WEEK THREE – BLACK FERNS v IRELAND

September 01–September 07

### KEY LOCATIONS

### VENUE

TEAM HOTEL	MATCH VENUE	TRAINING VENUE
Leonardo Hotel City Centre	Brighton & Hove Albion	Brighton College

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	ATTENDING
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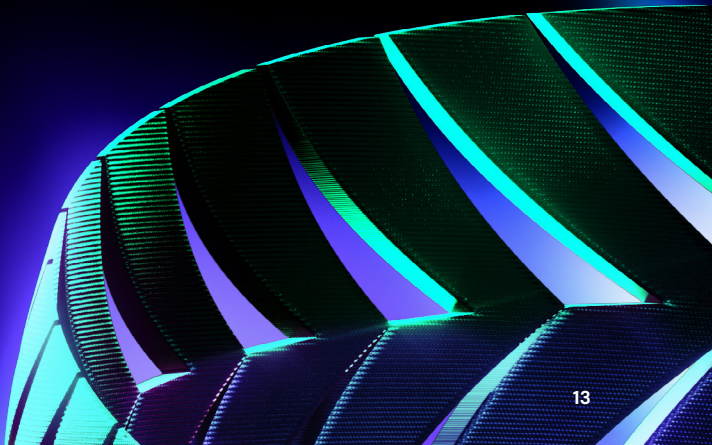
### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 01

Travel day

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 02

12.15pm	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	Brighton College	
4.00pm	<b>Media Day</b> Media conference	Leonardo Hotel City Centre	4x players, 1x coach

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	ATTENDING
<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 03</b>			
Non-media day			
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 04</b>			
Non-media day			
<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 05</b>			
11.00am	<b>Team training</b> Vision access opportunity	Brighton College	
6.15pm	<b>Team Announcement Conference</b> Media conference	Leonardo Hotel City Centre	Head coach, captain, 2x starting players
<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 06</b>			
10.00am	<b>School visit</b> Vision access opportunity + interviews	Patcham School, Brighton	2x players
4.00pm	<b>Captain's Run (team training)</b> Vision access opportunity	Brighton College	
5.15pm	<b>Eve-of-match briefing</b> Media stand-up	Leonardo Hotel City Centre	1x coach, 2x starting players
<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 07</b>			
2.45pm	<b>BLACK FERNS</b> v Ireland	Brighton & Hove Albion	



# MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 25 July 2025

Black Ferns coaches Allan Bunting, Tony Christie, Steve Jackson, Dan Cron and Riki Flutey have selected 33 players to defend their title at the Women's Rugby World Cup 2025 in England next month.

The squad was announced by former Black Fern Honey Hireme-Smiler tonight in front of invited guests and whānau at a special event held in Wellington.

Featured in the squad are 19 forwards and 14 backs, with the positional breakdown of seven props, three hookers, four locks, five loose forwards, three halfbacks, two first five-eighths, four midfielders and five outside backs.

Black Ferns legend Kelly Brazier is locked-in for her fourth Rugby World Cup, while Portia Woodman-Wickliffe, Theresa Setefano and Stacey Waaka will attend their third.

Teenage sensation Braxton Sorensen-McGee is the youngest selected at 18-years-old, and she will make her first World Cup appearance alongside the newest Black Fern, Laura Bayfield, who debuted in the final home Test match v Australia.

World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year Jorja Miller and halfback Risaleaana Pouri-Lane earned their selections through their impressive transition to the fifteens game.

Sixteen players from the 2022 Rugby World Cup winning squad return, including co-captains Ruahei Demant and Kennedy Tukuafu.

Black Ferns Director of Performance Allan Bunting congratulates the 33 players selected.

"On behalf of the coaching group, I'd like to congratulate all our players named tonight in front of their whānau. We are really excited about this group and truly believe they can take us to the next level," Bunting said.

"We've got vast experience across our squad, with more than half of our players having competed at pinnacle events.

"While it's an exciting time for those selected, I'd like to acknowledge the players who have missed out. Their contribution to the black jersey and to our team this year has been immense, and we wouldn't be where we are today without them.

"The level of depth and internal competition we have seen from our wider squad made the selection process very difficult, however this speaks to the growth and exciting future of women's rugby in Aotearoa."

All four Sky Super Rugby Aupiki clubs are well represented in the squad along with strong provincial representation from Northland to Canterbury.

The Black Ferns have assembled in Wellington for their final training camp and depart for England on Wednesday, August 13. They will then kick-off their Pool C matches against Spain (August 25), Japan (September 01) and Ireland (September 08).



# BLACK FERNS SQUAD — FORWARDS

	AGE	SUPER RUGBY	PROVINCE	TEST CAPS
<b>LOOSEHEAD PROPS</b>				
*Kate Henwood	36	Chiefs Manawa	Bay of Plenty	10
Awhina Tangen-Wainohu	27	Blues	Waikato	07
*Chryss Viliko	24	Blues	Auckland	13
<b>HOOKERS</b>				
*Atlanta Lolohea	22	Blues	Canterbury	07
*Vici-Rose Green	22	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	02
Georgia Ponsonby	25	Matatū	Canterbury	31
<b>TIGHTHEAD PROPS</b>				
Tanya Kalounivale	26	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	22
*Veisinia Mahutariki-Fakalelu	20	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	01
Amy Rule	25	Matatū	Canterbury	30
<b>LOCKS</b>				
*Laura Bayfield	26	Matatū	Canterbury	01
Alana Bremner	28	Matatū	Canterbury	29
Chelsea Bremner	30	Matatū	Canterbury	22
Maiakawanakaulani Roos	23	Blues	Auckland	33
<b>LOOSE FORWARDS</b>				
Liana Mikaele-Tu'u	23	Blues	Auckland	29
*Jorja Miller	21	Black Ferns Sevens	Canterbury	2
*Kaipo Olsen-Baker	23	Matatū	Manawatū	12
*Layla Sae	24	Hurricanes Poua	Manawatū	14
Kennedy Tukuafu	28	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	30

# BLACK FERNS SQUAD – BACKS

	AGE	SUPER RUGBY	PROVINCE	TEST CAPS
<b>HALFBACKS</b>				
*Iritana Hohaia	25	Hurricanes Poua	Taranaki	17
*Maia Joseph	23	Matatū	Otago	11
*Risaleaana Pouri-Lane	25	Black Ferns Sevens	Tasman	02
<b>FIRST FIVE-EIGHTHS</b>				
Kelly Brazier	35	Chiefs Manawa	Bay of Plenty	43
Ruahei Demant	30	Blues	Auckland	45
<b>MIDFIELDERS</b>				
Logo-I-Pulotu Lemapu-Atai'i Sylvia Brunt	21	Blues	Auckland	25
Amy du Plessis	26	Matatū	Canterbury	21
Theresa Setefano	30	Blues	Auckland	19
Stacey Waaka	29	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	27
<b>OUTSIDE BACKS</b>				
Renee Holmes	25	Chiefs Manawa	Waikato	23
Ayesha Leti-l'iga	26	Hurricanes Poua	Wellington	26
*Braxton Sorensen-McGee	18	Blues	Auckland	03
*Katelyn Vahaakolo	25	Blues	Auckland	17
Portia Woodman-Wickliffe	34	Blues	Northland	27
<b>NON-TRAVELLING RESERVE</b>				
Krystal Murray	32	Chiefs Manawa	Northland	14

\*denotes first Rugby World Cup



# LOOSEHEAD PROPS

# KATE HENWOOD



## BLACK FERN #245

POSITION	Prop
BORN	28/01/1989
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Opōtiki
PROVINCE	Bay of Plenty
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāpuhi, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui

Loosehead prop Kate Henwood hails from Whakatāne and has long been a notable player of the Bay of Plenty Volcanix Farah Palmer Cup side. The mother of two was called into the Chiefs Manawa team as an injury replacement player in 2023 and grasped the opportunity with both hands. Henwood was soon identified as a standout player in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki, and subsequently found herself starting on debut for the Black Ferns against Australia in 2023.

Henwood became a regular feature in the Black Ferns throughout the 2023 season. Her outstanding work ethic and dominance at set piece has continued to shine through for the Chiefs Manawa across their 2024 and 2025 Sky Super Rugby Aupiki campaign.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Exia Shelford/Edwards.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Black Ferns debut.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Accountant.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Princess Reserve, Opōtiki.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Boy.

# AWHINA TANGEN-WAINOHU



Awhina Tangen-Wainohu is a powerful prop for the Black Ferns and Waikato, celebrated for her resilience and dynamic play. She began her career in provincial rugby with Hawke's Bay in 2017 before moving to Waikato where she has been a standout performer.

In 2022, she made her Black Ferns debut during the O'Reilly Cup Test series against Australia and was later selected for the Rugby World Cup squad. After a hiatus due to injury and motherhood, she made a return to professional rugby with the Blues in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki 2025.

## BLACK FERN #243

POSITION	Prop
BORN	16/12/1997
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Huskies – Hamilton Old Boys
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Kahungunu
INSTA	@awhs_tangen

### Rugby hero growing up?

Laurae Blake and Jaimee Edwards.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Singing the national anthem at the opening game of the Rugby World Cup 2022 in front of my whānau.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A mum with heaps of kids.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium, Waikato.

### Any pets?

One dog named Missy Girl.

### Any hidden talents?

Absolute gun at all card/board games.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Any Man Of Mine – Shania Twain.

### Dream travel destination?

Santorini.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Chris Brown or Rihanna.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Prison Break.

# CHRYSS VILIKO



## BLACK FERN #254

POSITION	Prop
BORN	25/12/2000
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Auckland Marist
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
INSTA	@crishhyy

Chryss Viliko is a formidable prop who represents the Auckland Storm in the Farah Palmer Cup and has been a key member of the Blues Women in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki since 2022.

After overcoming an ACL injury in 2021, she made her debut for the Blues in 2022 and earned her first Black Ferns Test cap against in Australia in September 2023.

Known for her work rate, Viliko is a rising leader on the field.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Dad.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the 2023 Farah Palmer Cup against Canterbury in Christchurch.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A teacher.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park.

### Any hidden talents?

Can play guitar.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Any Mamma Mia songs.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Michael B Jordan.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Mamma Mia.



# TIGHTHEAD PROPS

# TANYA KALOUNIVALE



The Fiji-born and Suva Grammar-educated Tanya Kalounivale debuted for Waikato in 2017, not long after her school days were over.

In the 2020 Farah Palmer Cup, she formed a rock-solid front-row combination with Toka Natua and Grace Houppapa-Barrett. Kalounivale herself scored two tries in six games, including one in the semi-final against the Manawatū Cyclones, taking her stats to three tries from 21 outings for Waikato.

Kalounivale was a part of the inaugural Chiefs Manawa team, and has since become a prominent feature in the Chiefs Manawa starting fifteen, lining up alongside fellow Black Ferns teammates Kate Henwood and Luka Connor in the front row. She made her Black Ferns debut in the 2022 Pacific Four Series against the Wallaroos in Tauranga and later that year was a part of the winning Black Ferns Rugby World Cup squad.

## BLACK FERN #237

POSITION	Prop
BORN	20/01/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Manurewa Rugby Club
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Fijian – Province: Cakaudrove Father   District: Tunuloa Village: Kanakana Mother   District: Somosomo Village: Nabau Estate
INSTA	@tkalounivale_

### Rugby hero growing up?

My brothers.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Black Ferns debut in front of my family.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium in Waikato.

### Dream travel destination?

Anywhere around the world!

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Princess Kate Middleton.

# VEISINIA MAHUTARIKI-FAKALELU



Veisia Mahutariki-Fakalelu is an emerging powerhouse in New Zealand rugby known for her explosive ball-carrying skills. A product of Hamilton Girls' High School, she excelled in multiple sports such as rugby, touch and netball having represented Waikato, the Cook Islands and New Zealand at youth levels.

In 2021, she was part of the Waikato team that clinched the Farah Palmer Cup title contributing a try in the final. Her dynamic performances earned her a post with Chiefs Manawa for the 2025 Sky Super Rugby Aupiki season where she continued to impress. Off the field, Veisia is deeply committed to community services, volunteering weekly at 'The Serve' in Hamilton.

## BLACK FERN #263

POSITION	Prop
BORN	24/11/2004
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Melville
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Tongan/Cook Island
INSTA	@veisiafakalelu

### Rugby hero growing up?

Kennedy Tukuafu.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Farah Palmer Cup.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

In the royal family.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park.

### Any pets?

Dog named Sadie.

### Any hidden talents?

Amazing singer.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Love – Keisha Cole.

### Dream travel destination?

Tonga.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Michael Jackson.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Moana.

# AMY RULE



Amy Rule only started playing rugby in her last two years at Central Southland College but has quickly proved to be a talent in the front row.

Rule moved to Christchurch for university in 2019 and cemented her place as the starting tighthead prop in the championship-winning Canterbury Farah Palmer Cup team before gaining selection in the Black Ferns Development team for their campaign in Fiji.

Following a rapid rise to the professional stage, it wasn't long before Rule made her Black Ferns Test debut in November 2021 against England in Northampton. In 2022, she was part of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 winning squad.

## BLACK FERN #230

POSITION	Prop
BORN	15/07/2000
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Lincoln University
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@amyrule_

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Second Test match v France, 2021.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park, Rugby World Cup 2022 final.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Since You've Been Gone – Kelly Clarkson.

### Dream travel destination?

Italy.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Ted Lasso, Criminal Minds, Rookie.



# HOOKERS

# VICI-ROSE GREEN



Vici-Rose Green is an emerging talent hailing from the Waikato. She's made significant strides in her rugby career, representing her province in the Farah Palmer Cup and playing for the Chiefs Manawa in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki.

Her versatility allows her to excel both as a hooker and loose forward. In 2023, Green's standout performances earned her a spot in Black Ferns XV. Beyond her playing career, Green is committed to growing the game at grassroots level, actively engaging with young players.

## BLACK FERN #266

POSITION	Hooker
BORN	04/08/2002
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Hamilton Old Boys Huskies
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu
INSTA	@Viiiciiii

### Rugby hero growing up?

My brother Vincent Green and my papa Mauga Emery.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Scoring my first try in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki this year.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Police officer.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium, Hamilton.

### Any pets?

1x dog, 7x cats.

### Go-to karaoke song?

I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me)  
– Whitney Houston.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Dwayne Johnson.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

White Chicks.

# ATLANTA LOLOHEA



Following a standout schoolgirl career, Lolohea was just 17 years old when she was part of Canterbury's Farah Palmer Cup team for 2020. However, it wasn't until 2022 where she made her debut against Wellington and had a standout season to be awarded most promising FPC player of the year alongside Hannah King.

Lolohea is the younger sister of Matatū and Black Ferns winger Martha Mataele (née Lolohea). The two were both part of Matatū's championship winning Sky Super Rugby Aupiki side of 2023, with Martha debuting for the Black Ferns later that year.

In 2023 Atlanta was called into the Black Ferns as injury cover during the final week of WXV. Impressing selectors at the time with her professionalism and hard work, she went on to secure her first Black Ferns contract in 2024.

## BLACK FERN #261

POSITION Hooker

BORN 16/04/2003

COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB Marist Albion

PROVINCE Canterbury

TEAMS Blues

IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY Tongan

INSTA @alolohea.o\_o

### Rugby hero growing up?

Jonah Lomu.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Black Ferns debut.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A builder or business owner.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Hagley Park or Marist homeground.

### Any hidden talents?

I can sing.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Cruisin or Islands in the Stream.

### Dream travel destination?

Jamaica.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Luke Combs or Chris Stapleton.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Lord of the Rings trilogy.

# GEORGIA PONSONBY



## BLACK FERN #232

POSITION	Hooker
BORN	14/12/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Lincoln University
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@g_ponse

Georgia Ponsonby started her rugby career as a loose forward, before switching to hooker and establishing herself as one of the best tight forwards in New Zealand. She has been a member of four Canterbury Farah Palmer Cup Premiership winning teams (2018, 2019, 2020, 2022).

Ponsonby was born in Gisborne and boarded at Feilding High School where she picked up rugby. She was selected for the Manawātū Turbos in 2017 and made half a dozen appearances at number eight before a scholarship took Ponsonby to Lincoln University in Canterbury.

In 2021, the success of her positional transformation to hooker was complete when she was picked for the Black Ferns Northern Tour. She made her Black Ferns debut off the bench against France in Pau in 2021 and was a member of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 winning squad.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Richie McCaw.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Scoring a try at the World Cup 2022 final.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Rural banker.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Taihape RFC.

### Any pets?

Yes, sheep.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Superstar – Jamelia.

### Dream travel destination?

Mongolia.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Roger Federer.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Game of Thrones.



# LOCKS

# LAURA BAYFIELD



Laura Bayfield is a rising star in New Zealand Rugby renowned for her athleticism and discipline on the field. A dynamic lock for Matatū in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki 2025, she made an immediate impact in her debut season, starting all six games and scoring a try in a memorable win over Chiefs Manawa.

Bayfield's rugby journey began in 2020 and she became a key figure in Canterbury's Farah Palmer Cup squad over four years. Her outstanding performances earned her selection to the inaugural Black Ferns XV in 2023 and since then has continued to impress. Most recently, Bayfield was named in the Black Ferns July Series squad and played an impressive match for Black Ferns XV in the trial which saw her top all stats. The following week, she made her Black Ferns debut v Australia at Sky Stadium in Wellington and edged her way into the Rugby World Cup squad.

Off the field, Bayfield serves as a captain in the New Zealand Army's 3rd Field and Emergency Response Squadron.

## BLACK FERN #267

POSITION	Lock
BORN	05/03/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Linwood Bulls
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@laurabayfield

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Debut for Matatū in Invercargill.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Army officer (engineer).

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Rugby Park, Christchurch.

### Any pets?

Yes, a dog named Riley.

### Any hidden talents?

Juggling.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Where is the love – Black Eyed Peas.

### Dream travel destination?

Iceland.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Beyonce.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Peaky Blinders.

# ALANA BREMNER



After debuting for the Black Ferns against England in 2021, Alana Bremner has since become an integral part of the Black Ferns forward pack.

In 2019, Bremner played three matches for the New Zealand Development side and had a breakthrough season in 2020, captaining Canterbury to their fourth consecutive Farah Palmer Cup title and bagging eight tries to be their top try-scorer for the season. She finished the year captaining the NZ Barbarians in the two-match series against the Black Ferns. She was the first women's player to notch up 50 matches for Lincoln University, and brought up 50 caps for Canterbury in 2021.

Bremner was a member of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 winning squad.

While away from the rugby field, Bremner is known by team mates to be behind a camera. Bremner is also the younger sister to Black Fern Chelsea Bremner.

## BLACK FERN #223

POSITION	Lock
BORN	10/02/1997
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Lincoln University
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@alanaa_jane

### Rugby hero growing up?

Richie McCaw.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Playing in the Rugby World Cup 2022 final at Eden Park.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

In marketing/photography.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Rugby Park.

### Any pets?

Yes, my dog Leo.

### Any hidden talents?

Can speak gibberish.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Wagon Wheel or anything from Sing Star 80s.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Cameron Diaz.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Money Heist.

# CHELSEA BREMNER



A late comer to rugby, Chelsea Bremner has cemented herself as one of the country's leading lineout forwards in recent seasons.

A breakthrough season in 2019 saw Bremner win the Fiao'o Faamausili Medal for Farah Palmer Cup Player of the Year and she earned her spot in the New Zealand Development XV tour to Fiji where she appeared in all three games for the team.

In 2020, Bremner made her debut in the black jersey, in the domestic series against the Barbarians. She was ruled out of international duty in 2021 with injury, having to wait to make her Test debut alongside her sister Alana in their Pacific Four Series opener against Australia in Tauranga in 2022.

Bremner was a member of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 winning squad. Away from rugby, Bremner is a qualified teacher.

## BLACK FERN #218

POSITION	Lock
BORN	11/04/1995
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Lincoln University
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@chelseajane_11

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the 2022 Rugby World Cup final at Eden Park.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A teacher.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Rugby Park.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Super Bass – Nicki Minaj.

### Dream travel destination?

Japan.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Vikings.

# MAIAKAWANAKAULANI ROOS



Auckland youngster Maia Roos has quickly risen through the rugby ranks, debuting for the Auckland Storm in 2019. Head Girl at Tamaki College, she played two matches for the NZ Barbarians in 2020 and was part of the inaugural Blues women's team.

Roos made her Test debut against England in Northampton in November 2021 and was a member of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 winning squad.

In 2023, Roos became the youngest Black Ferns captain at the age of 21 captaining her side against her country of birth USA and led the Black Ferns to their 2023 Pacific Four Series title. She's been a key member of the Blues in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki, leading her side as captain to back-to-back victories (2024 and 2025).

## BLACK FERN #231

POSITION	Lock
BORN	27/07/2001
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	College Rifles
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Cook Island, Swedish- American – Ngatangī'ia
INSTA	@maiakawanakaulani.roos

### Rugby hero growing up?

My cousin Clayton who played wheelchair rugby for the Wheel Blacks.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Playing rugby with some of my friends on some of the biggest stages.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A community angel.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

Tamaki College, Semenoff Stadium in Whangārei and Eden Park.

### Any pets?

Yes, my beautiful cat Tivaevae.

### Any hidden talents?

I can train cats to do tricks.

### Go-to karaoke song?

What Is This Feeling – Wicked movie.

### Dream travel destination?

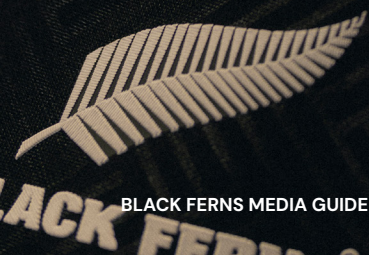
Cinque Terre.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Beyonce or Steph Curry.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Wicked.





# LOOSE FORWARDS

# LIANA MIKAELE-TU'U



Liana Mikaele-Tu'u made her debut in the Farah Palmer Cup for Hawke's Bay while still at Hastings Girls High School in 2019. She first played rugby when she was in Year 11, the same year her high school, Hastings Girls', formed a First XV and was coached by legendary Black Ferns halfback Emma Jensen.

As a teenager, she moved to Auckland for university and continued to rise in the ranks. After just nine games for the Auckland Storm she was selected by the Black Ferns for the 2021 Northern Tour.

She came off the bench in the Black Ferns' 100th test against England and went on to start the remaining three Tests on tour, earning praise for her grit, athleticism. She was also nominated Black Ferns Player of the Year.

Mikaele-Tu'u was part of the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup 2021 squad, where she was a constant feature in the starting line-up, producing some dominant performances.

## BLACK FERNS #227

POSITION	Loose Forward
BORN	02/03/2002
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	College Rifles
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Samoa – Samalaeulu, Taga, Lefagaoali'i, Sinamoga.
INSTA	@lianamikaeletuu

### Rugby hero growing up?

My brothers.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Rugby World Cup 2022 campaign.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Studying physiotherapy.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Sosefina – Fiji.

### Dream travel destination?

Japan.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Keke Palmer.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Lion King – the original version.

# JORJA MILLER



## BLACK FERN #264

POSITION	Loose Forward
BORN	08/02/2004
PROVINCE	Canterbury
BLACK FERNS SEVENS CAPS	#83, 21 tournaments
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@jorjamillerrrr

Touted as one of the best sevens players in the world, Jorja Miller has committed to making the Black Ferns for the 2025 Rugby World Cup. A loose forward in the long form of the game, Miller made her FPC debut for Canterbury in 2021 as a 17-year-old, earning five caps and scoring three tries. She was bought into the Black Ferns camp in 2022 ahead of the Rugby World Cup and went on to make her Sevens debut weeks later at the Rugby World Cup Sevens in South Africa.

Miller is the reigning New Zealand Rugby Player of the Year, after winning the Kelvin R Tremain Award in 2024.

She made her debut for the Black Ferns in Albany in May this year against USA.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Richie McCaw.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Olympic gold.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

School teacher.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Sevens Stadium, Dubai.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Islands in the Stream.

### Dream travel destination?

Japan.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Portia Woodman-Wickliffe.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Love Island.

# KAIPO OLSEN-BAKER



Originally hailing from Gisborne, Kaipo Olsen-Baker has been touted for high honours for some time. A school-girl star in both sevens and XVs for Manukura School, Olsen-Baker is explosive, strong over the ball and has great footwork.

Returning from injury, she was a stand-out performer in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki for Hurricanes Poua in 2022. Olsen-Baker debuted for the Black Ferns later that year against Australia in the Pacific Four Series in Tauranga.

Having missed the Rugby World Cup through injury, Olsen-Baker returned with a strong Farah Palmer Cup campaign for Manawatū in 2023 and shifted south to Christchurch to kick-off her 2024 Sky Super Rugby Aupiki season with Matatū. The move paid dividends and earned her selection in the Black Ferns once again.

## BLACK FERNS #233

POSITION	Loose Forward
BORN	07/05/2002
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Freyberg
PROVINCE	Manawatū
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Porou
INSTA	@kaipo.olsen

### Rugby hero growing up?

My sisters.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Making it to the Sky Super Rugby Aupiki 2025 final.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Police officer.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Otago Field Stadium.

# LAYLA SAE



Layla Sae, the energetic, abrasive and athletic loose forward, has been on the radar of Black Ferns selectors for some time.

Following respective standout seasons during Sky Super Rugby Aupiki and Farah Palmer Cup for the Hurricanes Poua and Manawatū Cyclones, Sae was named in the 2023 Black Ferns end of year tour squad.

Sae, who has type 1 diabetes, an ailment from which she's suffered since she was four, debuted for the Black Ferns off the bench in front of whānau and fans against Australia, for the O'Reilly Cup. Sae went on to be a consistent performer during the Black Ferns WXV campaign.

## BLACK FERN #256

POSITION	Loose forward
BORN	22/10/2000
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Palmerston North Old Boys Marist
PROVINCE	Manawatū
TEAMS	Hurricanes Poua
IWI/VILLAGE/NATIONALITY	Samoa – Samata, Sataua, Saleatoga
INSTA	@laylasae

### Rugby hero growing up?

Jerry Collins and Tana Umaga.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

My first try for the Black Ferns in 2024.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Central Energy Trust Arena, Palmerston North.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Hating On The Club – Rihanna

### Dream travel destination?

Anywhere with a nice beach.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Michael Jackson.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Rush Hour (all of them).

# KENNEDY TUKUAFU

CO-CAPTAIN



Kennedy Tukuafu (née Simon) made her Farah Palmer Cup debut for Waikato in 2018 and immediately established herself as one of the team's most important players.

She was selected for the Black Ferns in 2019 and made four appearances as a replacement for the team in their Super Series in San Diego.

Tukuafu was named Black Ferns Player of the Year in 2021, and despite injury ruling her out of contention for the early parts of 2022, she returned to lead the Black Ferns for the first time alongside fellow co-captain Ruahei Demant in the O'Reilly Cup series.

In 2022, Tukuafu returned from injury to lead the Black Ferns to Rugby World Cup glory, alongside Demant. In 2023 the pair were named as Members of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

## BLACK FERN #210

POSITION	Loose Forward
BORN	01/10/1996
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Hamilton Old Boys
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Chiefs
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori/Niuean
INSTA	@kennedy_tukuafu

### Rugby hero growing up?

Honey Hireme-Smiler.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Rugby World Cup in 2022 and raising the trophy with my co-captain Ruahei.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A pilot.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium in Waikato.

### Any hidden talents?

Make up artist – hair dresser – gymnastics.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Excuse Me Miss – Chris Brown.

### Dream travel destination?

Phillipines.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Daniel Radcliffe.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Harry Potter.



# HALFBACKS

# IRITANA HOHAIA



Iritana Hohaia hails from Ōpunake in Taranaki, and proudly plays for Taranaki Whio in the Farah Palmer Cup. The Hurricanes Poua halfback was called into the Black Ferns in 2021 for their Northern Tour however it wasn't until 2023 Pacific Four Series in Brisbane where the halfback made her Black Ferns debut against Australia. Coming off the bench, she made it a memorable one, scoring her first Test points.

Hohaia was a member of the gold medal winning New Zealand Sevens team at the Youth Olympics in 2018, scoring a try in the Final victory over France. She has also played representative basketball.

Off the rugby field Hohaia serves her Taranaki community as a police officer.

## BLACK FERN #248

POSITION	Halfback
BORN	01/03/2000
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Southern Rugby
PROVINCE	Taranaki
TEAMS	Hurricanes Poua
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Te Āti Awa/ Taranaki
INSTA	@iritana_hohaia

### Rugby hero growing up?

My siblings.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Debut for Black Ferns and winning club rugby final back-to-back with Southern.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

Hawera.

### Any pets?

Two dogs, Toma and Marley.

### Any hidden talents?

Ping Pong.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Always Be My Baby – Alicia Keys.

### Dream travel destination?

Anywhere in Asia.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Chris Brown.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Step up Series.

# MAIA JOSEPH



## BLACK FERN #258

POSITION	Halfback
BORN	20/05/2002
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Dunedin Sharks
PROVINCE	Otago
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Rārua, Rangitāne, Ngāti Maniapoto
INSTA	@maiajoseph

Maia Joseph is a dynamic halfback for the Black Ferns and Matatū. Joseph began her rugby journey with Pōneke, Wellington at age five and later played for University and Dunedin clubs. In 2020, she made her Otago Spirit debut and earned the Fiao'o Fa'amausili Medal as the Farah Palmer Cup Player of the Year in 2022.

In 2024, she made a successful return to rugby after being sidelined due to a knee injury and made her debut for Matatū and then the Black Ferns in the Pacific Four Series against the USA.

Rugby talent isn't scarce in the Joseph household as she is the daughter of former All Black Jamie Joseph.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Debuting for the Black Ferns.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A doctor.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Forsyth Barr.

# RISALEAANA POURI-LANE



Risi Pouri-Lane made her international sevens debut in 2019 and has become one of the leading players in the Black Ferns Sevens.

She has the unique distinction of being the only New Zealander to win a gold medal at both the Youth Olympics (Buenos Aires 2018) and the Olympics (Tokyo and Paris).

She was 17 when she first debuted for Tasman, playing four matches at first five in their inaugural Farah Palmer Cup season, and followed up with six caps for Bay of Plenty in 2020 at halfback.

## BLACK FERN #265

POSITION	Halfback
BORN	28/05/2000
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Rangiuru or Kahurangi
PROVINCE	Tasman
BLACK FERNS SEVENS CAPS	#77, 30 tournaments
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kuia. Samoa villages – Malie & Fagalii.
INSTA	@risaleaana.pourilane

### Most memorable rugby moment?

First time playing rugby in an all boys team or winning the Paris Olympics with family in crowd.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A business owner.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Hong Kong or FMG Stadium in Waikato.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Any old school karaoke song.

### Dream travel destination?

The Pacific Islands or Japan.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Queen Latifa.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

The original Lion King.



# FIRST FIVE-EIGHTHS

# KELLY BRAZIER



## BLACK FERN #153

POSITION	First five-eighth
BORN	28/10/1989
PROVINCE	Bay of Plenty
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	New Zealand European
INSTA	@kellybrazier

Kelly Brazier is a distinguished women's rugby player across Black Ferns and Black Ferns Sevens, renowned for her versatility and leadership on the field.

She began her rugby journey at a young age, playing for Otago and later representing Canterbury and Bay of Plenty in the Farah Palmer Cup. Her exceptional skills and leadership were instrumental in Chiefs Manawa's triumph in the inaugural Sky Super Rugby Aupiki title in 2022.

Brazier made her Black Ferns debut in 2009 and has since earned over 40 test caps contributing to team successes in multiple Rugby World Cups. She's been a pivotal member of the Black Ferns Sevens, securing Olympic gold and silver medals as well as gold and bronze at Commonwealth Games.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Jeff Wilson.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Playing on Carisbrook as a 5-year-old.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

Twickenham.

# RUAHEI DEMANT

CO-CAPTAIN



Ruahei Demant has overcome more setbacks than most to achieve her rugby goals. The first five-eighth endured no less than three knee reconstructions after her 2013 debut for the Auckland Storm. But she bounced back to crack the Black Ferns for the first time in 2018, following in the footsteps of younger sister Kiritapu, who wore the black jersey in 2015.

In 2019, she was accorded the honour of playing for the UK Barbarians team against Wales in Cardiff. Demant's time management skills are also finely honed in, along with her training and match commitments for her College Rifles club, the Storm and the Black Ferns. Off the field, she is a fully qualified lawyer.

In 2022, she was named as captain for the Pacific Four Series in New Zealand and led the Black Ferns to Rugby World Cup glory in the same year. In 2023 Demant, alongside Black Ferns co-captain Kennedy Tukuafu, was named as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

## BLACK FERN #196

POSITION	First five-eighth
BORN	21/04/1995
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	College Rifles
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Te Whānau ā Apanui, Te Whakatōhea, Ngāti Awa
INSTA	@ruaheidemant

### Rugby hero growing up?

Jerry Collins.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Making the Black Ferns with my sister in 2018. She had already debuted in 2015.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A lawyer.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

College Rifles on ANZAC Day and Eden Park.

### Any pets?

Yes, his name is Bullet and he's a 10-year-old white and tan Jack Russell terrier.

### Any hidden talents?

Wrestling, I can roll my tummy and touch my tongue with my nose.

### Go-to karaoke song?

It's Time To Play The Game.

### Dream travel destination?

Iceland to see the Northern Lights, but anywhere cool with my darling.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Modern Family.





# MIDFIELDERS

# LOGO-I-PULOTU LEMAPU-ATAI'I SYLVIA BRUNT



Logo-I-Pulotu Lemapu-Ata'i Sylvia Brunt has seen a quick rise to the top. At just 18 she made her Black Ferns debut off the bench against Canada in the 2022 Pacific Four Series in Waitakere.

She captained Mt Albert Grammar 1st XV team who won the College Sport Auckland Championship, was a member of the Ponsonby Senior Women's team that won the 2020 Coleman Shield and in the same year she debuted for the Auckland Storm. An impressive midfielder, Brunt plays for the Auckland Storm and the Blues in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki. In 2025, Brunt was also awarded Pasifika Women's Breakthrough Player of the Year at the Pasifika Hall of Fame awards.

Since the Black Ferns Rugby World Cup success in 2022, which Brunt was a part of, fellow Black Ferns midfielder Amy du Plessis and Brunt have formed an entertaining midfield combination. The duo were standouts across the Black Ferns 2023 Test season, and a combination set to flourish as the team prepare for the 2025 Rugby World Cup.

## BLACK FERN #239

POSITION	Midfield
BORN	01/01/2004
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Ponsonby Rugby Club
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Samoan – Fa'atoia, Apia, Leufisa, Sataua Falealupo
INSTA	@_sylviabrunt

### Rugby hero growing up?

Sonny Bill Williams, Portia Woodman-Wickliffe and Theresa Setefano.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Playing rugby with my sister and friends at high school (Mt Albert Grammar School).

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A teacher.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

Samoa.

### Go-to karaoke song?

They Don't Know – Savage, Aaradhna.

### Dream travel destination?

Japan.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Adele.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Princess Mononoke.

# AMY DU PLESSIS



Amy du Plessis was born in South Africa but has made Southland and Otago her home. Having immigrated from the Republic when she was seven, her family settled in Invercargill. She first made her mark in the strong Southland GHS First XV programme, where she combined with Alena Saili in the midfield to help the school win its first national Top 4 final in 2016.

Du Plessis was also making her mark in sevens, where she was a fixture in the Black Ferns Sevens Development squad through 2018-19.

By 2018 she was in Otago, debuting for the Spirit, and forming a potent midfield combination with Kilisitina Moata'ane. In the 2020 Farah Palmer Cup, she scored two tries in her five outings for the Spirit, giving the University club player nine tries in 15 FPC matches.

## BLACK FERN #219

POSITION	Midfield
BORN	07/07/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Christchurch
PROVINCE	Canterbury
TEAMS	Matatū
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	South African
INSTA	@_amyduplessis_

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Debuting for the Black Ferns.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Doctor.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Twickenham.

### Any pets?

Two dogs, Milah and Tilly.

### Dream travel destination?

Italy.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Rihanna.

# THERESA SETEFANO



Boasting one of the most impressive rugby resumes, Theresa Setefano has tasted plenty of success across both sevens and XV's.

She debuted for the Black Ferns Sevens in 2016 and months later cracked the squad for the Olympics, the following year she debuted for the Black Ferns and went on to be part of the Rugby World Cup winning squad. She has three Olympic medals, and two Rugby World Cup titles to her name.

The midfielder has 27 caps for the Auckland Storm, and played in the inaugural Super Rugby Aupiki season for the Blues.

## BLACK FERN #194

POSITION	Midfield
BORN	25/02/1995
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Ponsonby Rugby Club
PROVINCE	Auckland
BLACK FERNS SEVENS CAPS	#66, 40 tournaments
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Samoan – Afega, Sagone, Tiavea, Manunu
INSTA	@theresafitz_12

### Rugby hero growing up?

Mum.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Rugby World Cup 2022 in front of my family.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Pacific health worker.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park.

### Any pets?

Not yet, but would love to get a dog soon.

### Any hidden talents?

I can play the drums.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Turn The Lights Down Low – Lauryn Hill.

### Dream travel destination?

Hawai'i.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Jesus.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Lion King.

# STACEY WAAKA



Another star in both formats of the game, Stacey Waaka has had a very similar trajectory to her midfield teammate and good friend, Setefano.

With two Olympic Gold medals and two Rugby World Cup titles, she has won every pinnacle event on offer in sevens and XV's. She has 26 caps for Waikato in the FPC and holds the Waikato record of most tries in one season (11, in 2014).

## BLACK FERNS #183

POSITION	Midfield
BORN	03/11/1995
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Ruātoki
PROVINCE	Waikato
BLACK FERNS SEVENS CAPS	#67, 35 tournaments
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Arawa
INSTA	@staceywaaka

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Honey Hireme-Smiler.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Rugby World Cup 2022 on home soil.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Business owner.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium, Waikato.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Valerie.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Beyonce.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Drumline.





# OUTSIDE BACKS

# RENEE HOLMES



Renee Holmes represented New Zealand in four sports before her 21st birthday. After ventures in football, taekwondo and ultimate frisbee she switched to rugby aged 16 and cracked the Black Ferns for the first time in 2020.

Originally from Gisborne, Holmes played for the Hawke's Bay Tui and Bay of Plenty Volcanix before a shift to Waikato for her Bachelor of Health, Sport and Human Performance studies in 2019. She promptly won the Waikato player of the year award for her work at halfback and first five before turning heads at the Ignite Sevens. In 2020, she shifted to fullback.

She made her Black Ferns debut against England in Exeter in 2021 and was a member of the Black Ferns victorious Rugby World Cup 2021 squad.

## BLACK FERN #221

POSITION	Fullback
BORN	21/12/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Hamilton Old Boys
PROVINCE	Waikato
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Porou
INSTA	@renee_holmes7

### Rugby hero growing up?

Christian Cullen.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Goal kicking in a World Cup final.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

A football player.

### Favourite rugby ground to play at?

FMG Stadium.

### Any pets?

Yes, 4 cats (crazy cat lady).

### Go-to karaoke song?

Cruisin by Huey Lewis.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Sam Kerr or Lionel Messi.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Money Heist.

# AYESHA LETI-I'IGA



A try-scoring sensation at club rugby, Ayesha Leti-I'iga was rewarded for her 2018 Farah Palmer Cup form and is now considered as one of the county's top wingers. Having made her debut for the Wellington Pride at just 16 years of age, Leti-I'iga is now a mainstay in a side joining four other Wellington Pride teammates in the 28-strong end of season tour squad in 2018.

A former school-aged sprinter, Leti-I'iga brings a balance of strength, speed and an ability to find the try line. During the 2017 and 2018 club rugby seasons the young winger amassed over 50 tries for her Wellington club team Oriental Rongotai. She was a member of the Black Ferns victorious Rugby World Cup 2021 squad, scoring two tries in the 34-31 final victory over England.

## BLACK FERN #201

POSITION	Wing
BORN	03/01/1999
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Oriental Rongotai (Otide)
PROVINCE	Wellington
TEAMS	Hurricanes Poua
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Samoaan – Lalomauga
INSTA	@ayesha_leti

### Rugby hero growing up?

I didn't have one as I was a late bloomer to rugby, did look up to Catherine Tuivaiti (netballer).

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning club rugby finals in 2019, it was my grandpa's last time he watched me play.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Full time dog mum, maybe run a dog day care?

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Black Ferns to play at Jerry Collins Stadium or somewhere in the islands.

### Any pets?

A beautiful French mastiff, my son Maddix.

### Any hidden talents?

Beating everyone at card games like speed.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Any sing-a-long.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece, all paid for pretty please!

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Mark Walberg.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Prison Break or Coco.

# BRAXTON SORENSEN-MCGEE



Braxton Sorensen-McGee is quickly becoming one of the brightest stars in New Zealand rugby. At just 18, she has already made significant strides in rugby union playing fullback for the Blues in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki and representing Auckland in the Farah Palmer Cup.

Her debut season with Auckland in 2023 was marked by a standout performance that earned her Rookie of the Year award. In 2025, she made a lasting impression in her first season of Sky Super Rugby Aupiki including a runaway try in the final helping the Blues to a 26-19 win over Matatū.

## BLACK FERN #262

POSITION	Fullback
BORN	26/10/2006
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	College Rifles
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Samoan, Māori, Tongan, Cook Island – Lotopa, Aleisa, Ngāti Wai, Ngāpuhi.
INSTA	@braxtonsorensenn

### Rugby hero growing up?

My brother.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Sky Super Rugby Aupiki 2025 title with the Blues.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Twickenham.

### Any pets?

Yes, one dog his name is Thunder.

### Any hidden talents?

Can do a backflip not standing.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Grenade.

### Dream travel destination?

Greece or Hawaii.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Kevin Hart of Nathan Cleary.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Teen wolf.

# KATELYN VAHAAKOLO



## BLACK FERN #247

POSITION	Wing
BORN	18/04/2000
PROVINCE	Auckland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Maniapoto Tonga – Nukua'alofa
INSTA	@katelynvahaakolo

Katelyn Vahaakolo had her first taste of Bunnings Warehouse FPC in 2022 with the Auckland Storm, having previously played rugby league for the Newcastle NRLW side.

She returned to rugby league at the back end of 2022 to fulfil her dream of playing for the Kiwi Ferns at the Rugby League World Cup in the UK. However, the lure of a Black Ferns jersey saw Vahaakolo return to rugby union where she has quickly learned her craft in the outside backs and midfield for the Blues during their Sky Super Rugby Aupiki campaign.

In 2023 Vahaakolo was selected for the Black Ferns, and made her debut in Brisbane against the Wallaroos in the opening Pacific Four Series Test. It was of no surprise following an exceptional debut Black Ferns season the talented winger was later named World Rugby Women's Rookie of the Year. In 2024, Vahaakolo had an exceptional Sky Super Rugby Aupiki season receiving Blues Player of the Year.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Nobody, because didn't grow up playing but sports hero – my dad!

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Doing the haka for my whānau/ancestors as a Black Fern.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Back up dancer for a celebrity or an Indigenous Studies Specialist.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Would love to play on a field in Tonga.

### Any hidden talents?

Can do splits depending on the day.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Any Disney song.

### Dream travel destination?

Tonga or Thailand.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Usain Bolt or Stitch.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Friday Night Lights or Tangled.

# PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE



Portia Woodman-Wickliffe is a trailblazer and Black Ferns legend across XVs and sevens formats. After announcing her retirement from international rugby in 2024, Woodman-Wickliffe unretired, making herself available for Black Ferns team selections in 2025.

Renowned for her pace and try-scoring prowess, she returned to the field in 2025 representing the Blues in Sky Super Rugby Aupiki.

A recent Sky Super Rugby Aupiki 2025 champion with the Blues, her previous achievements include winning two Rugby World Cups (2017 and 2022), two sevens Rugby World Cups (2013 and 2018) and winning Olympic and Commonwealth golds. She holds the record for top try-scorer in Rugby World Cup history. In 2025, she also surpassed Black Ferns Vanessa Cootes and broke the all-time record for the Black Ferns after scoring seven tries in the Pacific Four Series final v USA.

Woodman-Wickliffe was also recognised by World Rugby as Sevens Player of the Year in 2015, Women's Player of the Year (XVs) in 2017 and in 2020, was named the top women's sevens player of the decade. She can also add Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit to her list of accolades after being recognised in this year's Kings Honours.

## BLACK FERN #172

POSITION	Wing
BORN	12/07/1991
COMMUNITY RUGBY CLUB	Taiamai/Kaikōhe
PROVINCE	Northland
TEAMS	Blues
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Māori – Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahu
INSTA	@porshwoodman

### Rugby hero growing up?

My dad Kawhena Woodman and Jonah Lomu.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Running out at Semenoff Stadium in Whangārei during the Rugby World Cup 2022.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Snowboarding at the X Games.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Eden Park, the field I made my Black Ferns debut at in 2013.

### Any pets?

No, but if I did it would be a rottweiler named Princess.

### Any hidden talents?

Loudest burps you've ever heard.

### Go-to karaoke song?

Little Ole Wine Drinker.

### Dream travel destination?

Egypt.

### Celebrity you'd love to meet?

Michael Jackson.

### Favourite movie or TV show?

Harry Potter.

# KRYSTAL MURRAY



## BLACK FERN #226

POSITION	Prop
BORN	16/06/1993
PROVINCE	Northland
TEAMS	Chiefs Manawa
IWI/VILLAGE/ NATIONALITY	Te Pātū
INSTA	@_muzza_k

Krystal Murray is a formidable prop who made her Black Ferns Test debut off the bench against England in Exeter and was a key contributor to the Black Ferns' victory in the last Rugby World Cup, scoring a try in the final against England. That same year, she was named the Supreme Winner of the 2023 Tai Tokerau Māori Sports Award for her contributions, as well as being named Northland Sportsperson of the Year and Sportswoman of the Year at the Conbrio Northland Sports Awards.

A proud Northland representative in the Farah Palmer Cup, she still holds the Union's top women's point-scorer and was the leading try-scorer in the 2021 Farah Palmer Cup. She currently plays for the Chiefs Manawa in the Sky Super Rugby Aupiki.

### Rugby hero growing up?

Jarome Kaino.

### Most memorable rugby moment?

Winning the Rugby World Cup final in 2022.

### If you weren't a rugby player, you'd be?

Nun.

### Favourite or dream rugby ground to play at?

Twickenham.



# PRONUNCIATION GUIDE (PHONETICS)

<b>Laura Bayfield</b>	(Law-rah Bay-field)
<b>Kelly Brazier</b>	(Kel-lee Bray-zee-ah)
<b>Alana Bremner</b>	(Ah-la-na Brem-ner)
<b>Chelsea Bremner</b>	(Chel-sea Brem-ner)
<b>Logo-I-Pulotu Lemapu-Atai'i Sylvia Brunt</b>	(Loh-ngoh-ee-Pu-loh-tu Leh-ma-pu Ah-tie-ee Syl-via Brunt)
<b>Ruahei Demant</b>	(Roo-a-hey (rolled r) Dehm-ant)
<b>Amy du Plessis</b>	(Ay-me doo Ples-see)
<b>Vici-Rose Green</b>	(Vik-ee-Rose Green)
<b>Kate Henwood</b>	(K-ate Henwood)
<b>Iritana Hohaia</b>	(Ee-ri (rolled r)-tah-na Hoh-high-ah)
<b>Renee Holmes</b>	(Ren-ay Homes)
<b>Maia Joseph</b>	(My-ah Joseph)
<b>Tanya Kalounivale</b>	(Tah-nia Car-low-nee-vah-leh)
<b>Ayesha Leti-l'iga</b>	(Eye-eesh-a Leti-ee-ee-nga)
<b>Atlanta Lolohea</b>	(At-lant-a Loh-loh-hair)
<b>Veisia Mahutariki-Fakalelu</b>	(Vay-sin-nee-ah Mahu-tah-ree-key Far-car-leh-loo)
<b>Liana Mikaele-Tu'u</b>	(Lee-ah-na Me-car-eh-leh Too-oo)
<b>Jorja Miller</b>	(Jaw-jah Miller)
<b>Kaipo Olsen-Baker</b>	(K-eye-poh Olsen-Baker)
<b>Georgia Ponsonby</b>	(George-a Ponsonby)
<b>Risaleaana Pouri-Lane</b>	(Ree-sah-leh-ah-na Pou-ri (rolled r)-lane)

<b>Maiakawanakaulani Roos</b>	(My-ah-car-vah-na-car-oo-lah-ni Roos (w is a v sound))
<b>Amy Rule</b>	(Ay-mee Rule)
<b>Layla Sae</b>	(Lay-la Sah-eh)
<b>Theresa Setefano</b>	(Teh-ree-sa Seh-teh-far-noh)
<b>Braxton Sorensen-McGee</b>	(Brax-tin Sor-en-sen McGee)
<b>Awhina Tangen-Wainohu</b>	(Ah-wh-ee-na Tang-en Wai-noh-who)
<b>Kennedy Tukuafu</b>	(Ken-ned-ee Too-koo-ah-fu)
<b>Katelyn Vahaakolo</b>	(Kate-lin Va-ha-koh-loh)
<b>Chryss Viliko</b>	(Chris Vil-ee-koh)
<b>Stacey Waaka</b>	(Stacey Waah-car)
<b>Portia Woodman-Wickliffe</b>	(Porsh-a Wood-man-Wick-liffe)

#### NON-TRAVELLING RESERVE

<b>Krystal Murray</b>	(Krys-til Mah-ri)
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# MANAGEMENT TEAM

<b>Director of Performance</b>	Allan Bunting
<b>Rugby Lead and Attack Coach</b>	Tony Christie
<b>Defence Coach</b>	Steve Jackson
<b>Forwards Coach</b>	Daniel Cron
<b>Backs and Skills Coach</b>	Riki Flutey
<b>Campaign Manager</b>	Shane Fletcher
<b>Team Manager</b>	Nelly Strickland
<b>Team Administrator</b>	Lauren Cournane
<b>Doctor</b>	Alyse Cameron
<b>Lead Physiotherapist</b>	Gabby McCullough
<b>Assistant Physiotherapist</b>	Lauren McDonald
<b>Lead Physical Performance</b>	Brad Anderson
<b>Assistant Physical Performance</b>	Joel Marshall
<b>Nutritionist/Sports Scientist</b>	Logan Posthumus
<b>Global Marketing Manager</b>	Ashleigh Johansson
<b>Commercial Manager</b>	Tessa Burmester
<b>Communications Manager</b>	Savannah Tafau-Levy
<b>Senior Content Producer</b>	Rachael Whareaitu
<b>Digital Media Manager</b>	April Yorwarth
<b>Performance Analyst</b>	Ryan Runciman
<b>Performance Analyst Support</b>	Jayson Ross
<b>Mental Skills Coach</b>	Iain Saunders

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Allan Bunting**

Director of Performance

Bunting was appointed in 2023 following his success as former Black Ferns Sevens Coach and Black Ferns Manager of Culture and Leadership. His credentials are world-class: involved with the Black Ferns Sevens set up for a decade, overseeing their achievements at every international tournament during that period; leading the Chiefs Manawa to an inaugural Sky Super Rugby Aupiki title in 2022; and empowering the growth of the Black Ferns to assist in achieving their Rugby World Cup victory.



**Tony Christie**

Rugby Lead & Attack Coach

Christie joined the Black Ferns in 2023 following his success achieved with Matatū and Canterbury National Provincial teams. Christie was part of the transformation that saw Matatū go from being challenged in pre-season to winning the Sky Super Rugby Aupiki competition. In 2022 he was named as Assistant Coach for the New Zealand Under 18 Barbarians squad. His creative and innovative style that brings the best out of players enhances the mix of coaches we have.

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Steve Jackson**

Defence Coach

Jackson has been an accomplished coach for generations. Notable success with Counties Manukau as Assistant Coach and Head Coach of North Harbour, successfully winning the National Provincial Championship and gaining promotion to the Premiership. In 2017 Jackson was named as the Blues Forward Coach before being appointed as Samoa's Head Coach the following year. Jackson holds an abundance of knowledge and overseas experience which will be instrumental for the continued growth of the Black Ferns defence.



**Daniel Cron**

Forwards Coach

Cron is an experienced Forwards Coach known for his technical expertise in scrummaging and set-piece play. He brings a wealth of knowledge developed over years of working in high performance rugby environments including Super Rugby Pacific and national teams. The son of legendary All Blacks Scrum Coach Mike Cron, Dan has carved his own path and his passion for the game and commitment to excellence makes him a vital part of the Black Ferns.

# MANAGEMENT TEAM



**Riki Flutey**

Backs and Skills Coach

Following a successful playing career as a former New Zealand Māori and British & Irish Lions international, Flutey transitioned to coaching with a wealth of knowledge. Inspired by his daughter Madison who plays rugby, Flutey has been an asset to a number of women's teams, while fulfilling his duties as Highlanders Assistant Coach in 2019. His coaching experience has broadened his perspective, while deepening his commitment to the growth of women's rugby.



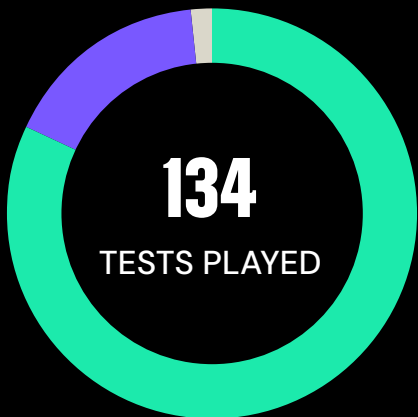
**Jenelle Strickland**

Team Manager

Strickland brings an abundance of experience, having managed the Tasman Mako for four years before her appointment with the Black Ferns Sevens, which she held for a further four years. Within her roles she has been instrumental in the delivery of logistics and operational aspects of the team. In addition, she played an important role in the leadership and direction of team culture and wellbeing. Strickland has also been a key leader in the education and growth of team managers in her former role as Education & Wellbeing – Education Advisor at New Zealand Rugby.

# BLACK FERNS RECORD

as at 01 August 2025



**110**  
WINS

**22**  
LOSSES

**02**  
DRAWS

**82%**

WIN PERCENTAGE

## BLACK FERNS TEST MATCH RECORDS – SINGLE TEST

**HIGHEST SCORE** 134 v Germany,  
1998 Rugby World Cup

**MOST TRIES** 22 v Germany,  
1998 Rugby World Cup

**MOST CONVERSIONS** 13 v Scotland,  
2017 Rugby World Cup

**BIGGEST MARGIN** 128 v Germany,  
1998 Rugby World Cup

**BLACK FERNS ALL TIME  
TEST MATCH APPEARANCES**

KENDRA COCKSEGE	68
FIAO'O FA'AMAUSILI	58
EMMA JENSEN	49
ANNA RICHARDS	49
ELOISE BLACKWELL	46
RENEE WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE	46
RUAHEI DEMANT*	45
KELLY BRAZIER*	43
SELICA WINIATA	40
LINDA ITUNU	38
ALEISHA-PEARL NELSON	38
CASEY ROBERTSON	38

**MOST CAREER TEST POINTS**

KENDRA COCKSEGE	404
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	240
VANESSA COOTES	215
KELLY BRAZIER*	201
SELICA WINIATA	195

**MOST CAREER TEST TRIES**

PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	48
VANESSA COOTES	43
SELICA WINIATA	39
ANNA RICHARDS	29
KATELYN VAHAAKOLO*	24
RENEE WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE	24

**MOST INDIVIDUAL POINTS IN A TEST**

VANESSA COOTES	45 (9 tries), v France, 1996
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	40 (8 tries), v Hong Kong, 2017
TAMMI WILSON	36 (6 tries, 3 conversions), v USA, 1999
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	35 (7 tries), v Japan, 2022
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	35 (7 tries), v USA, 2025

**MOST TRIES IN A TEST**

VANESSA COOTES	9 tries v France, 1996
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	8 tries v Hong Kong, 2017
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	7 tries v Japan, 2022
PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE*	7 tries v USA, 2025
TAMMI WILSON	6 tries, v USA, 1999

\*Rugby World Cup 2025 Black Fern


# RECENT RESULTS

DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	VENUE
<b>2025 O'REILLY CUP PRESENTED BY BUPA</b>			
12 July	Australia	45-12	Sky Stadium, Wellington
<b>2025 PACIFIC FOUR SERIES</b>			
24 May	USA	79-14	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
17 May	Canada	27-27	Apollo Projects Stadium, Christchurch
10 May	Australia	38-12	McDonald Jones Stadium, Newcastle
<b>2024 WXV 1</b>			
12 October	France	39-14	BC Place, Vancouver
06 October	England	31-49	Langley Event Centre, Langley
29 September	Ireland	27-29	BC Place, Vancouver
<b>2024 TWICKENHAM TEST</b>			
14 September	England	12-24	Twickenham, London
<b>2024 O'REILLY CUP PRESENTED BY RYMAN HEALTHCARE</b>			
14 July	Australia	62-0	Ballymore Stadium, Brisbane
25 May	Australia	67-19	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland
<b>2024 PACIFIC FOUR SERIES</b>			
19 May	Canada	19-22	Apollo Projects Stadium, Christchurch
11 May	USA	57-5	FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton
<b>2023 WXV 1</b>			
04 November	England	12-33	Go Media Mt Smart Stadium, Auckland
28 October	Wales	70-7	Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin
21 October	France	18-17	Sky Stadium, Wellington
<b>2023 O'REILLY CUP PRESENTED BY RYMAN HEALTHCARE</b>			
30 September	Australia	43-3	FMG Stadium Waikato, Hamilton
<b>2023 PACIFIC FOUR SERIES</b>			
14 July	USA	39-17	TD Place, Ottawa
08 July	Canada	52-21	TD Place, Ottawa
29 June	Australia	50-0	Kayo Stadium, Brisbane




# RUGBY WORLD CUP RESULTS

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2021 (PLAYED IN 2022)

 Final	12/11	Black Ferns 34 – 31 England	Eden Park, Auckland
Semi Final	05/11	Black Ferns 25 – 24 France	Eden Park, Auckland
Quarter Final	29/10	Black Ferns 55 – 3 Wales	Northland Events Centre, Whangārei
Pool Match	22/10	Black Ferns 57 – 0 Scotland	Northland Events Centre, Whangārei
Pool Match	16/10	Black Ferns 56 – 12 Wales	Waitakere Stadium, Auckland
Pool Match	08/10	Black Ferns 41 – 17 Australia	Eden Park, Auckland


## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2017

 Final	27/08	Black Ferns 41 – 32 England	Kingspan Stadium, Belfast
Semi Final	23/08	Black Ferns 45 – 12 USA	Kingspan Stadium, Belfast
Pool Match	17/08	Black Ferns 48 – 5 Canada	Billings Park UCD, Dublin
Pool Match	13/08	Black Ferns 121 – 0 Hong Kong	Billings Park UCD, Dublin
Pool Match	10/08	Black Ferns 44 – 12 Wales	Billings Park UCD, Dublin

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2014

5th Place Play Off	18/08	Black Ferns 55 – 5 USA	Stade Jean Bouin, Paris
5th Place Semi Final	14/08	Black Ferns 63 – 7 Wales	Stade Jean Bouin, Paris
Pool Match	10/08	Black Ferns 34 – 3 USA	Marcoussis
Pool Match	06/08	Black Ferns 14 – 17 Ireland	Marcoussis
Pool Match	01/08	Black Ferns 79 – 5 Kazakhstan	Marcoussis

## RUGBY WORLD CUP 2010

 Final	06/09	Black Ferns 25 – 17 England	Twickenham Stoop, London
Semi Final	02/09	Black Ferns 45 – 7 France	Twickenham Stoop, London
Pool Match	29/08	Black Ferns 41 – 8 Wales	Surrey Sports Park, Guildford
Pool Match	25/08	Black Ferns 32 – 5 Australia	Surrey Sports Park, Guildford
Pool Match	21/08	Black Ferns 55 – 3 South Africa	Surrey Sports Park, Guildford

### RUGBY WORLD CUP 2006

 Final	18/09	Black Ferns 25 – 17 England	Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton
Semi Final	13/09	Black Ferns 40 – 10 France	Ellerslie Rugby Park, Edmonton
Pool Match	09/09	Black Ferns 21 – 0 Scotland	Ellerslie Rugby Park, Edmonton
Pool Match	05/09	Black Ferns 50 – 0 Samoa	St Albert Rugby Football Club, St Albert
Pool Match	01/09	Black Ferns 66 – 7 Canada	Ellerslie Rugby Park, Edmonton

### RUGBY WORLD CUP 2002

 Final	26/05	Black Ferns 19 – 9 England	Estadi Olímpic De Montjuic, Barcelona
Semi Final	22/05	Black Ferns 30 – 0 France	Estadi Municipal (Cornella De Llobregat), Barcelona
Pool Match	19/05	Black Ferns 36 – 3 Australia	Estadi Municipal (Cornella De Llobregat), Barcelona
Pool Match	14/05	Black Ferns 117 – 0 Germany	Estadi Municipal (Cornella De Llobregat), Barcelona

### RUGBY WORLD CUP 1998

 Final	17/05	Black Ferns 44 – 12 USA	National Rugby Centre Stadium, Amsterdam
Semi Final	13/05	Black Ferns 44 – 11 England	National Rugby Centre Stadium, Amsterdam
Quarter Final	10/05	Black Ferns 46 – 3 Spain	National Rugby Centre Stadium, Amsterdam
Pool Match	06/05	Black Ferns 76 – 0 Scotland	National Rugby Centre Stadium, Amsterdam
Pool Match	03/05	Black Ferns 134 – 6 Germany	National Rugby Centre Stadium, Amsterdam

### RUGBY WORLD CUP 1991

Semi Final	12/04	Black Ferns 0 – 7 USA	Cardiff Arms Park, Cardiff
Pool Match	10/04	Black Ferns 24 – 6 Wales	Llanharan, Cardiff
Pool Match	06/04	Black Ferns 24 – 8 Canada	Glamorgan Wanderers, Cardiff

# THE BLACK JERSEY

In 1893, the recently-formed New Zealand Rugby Football Union resolved that the New Zealand Representative colours should be “a black jersey with Silver Fern leaf, Black Cap with Silver monogram, white knickerbockers and black stockings”.

Since those early days, the black jersey has gone through a few changes – fit, material, manufacture and features have all varied over time and the collar and neckline have changed – but the colour black and the fern have remained constants.

For the women’s game, 2002 was the first Rugby World Cup played under the Black Ferns name, which first came into use in 1998. Prior to this, the team had been known as the “New Zealand Women’s Team” on their jerseys. This was also the first women’s Rugby World Cup played in adidas kit.

For Rugby World Cup 2021 (played in 2022), hosted in New Zealand, the team took the field in adidas’ first-ever kit designed specifically for the Black Ferns. adidas worked with players through to process, including body-mapping and materials testing. This allowed the players to give specific feedback on the look, feel and performance of the jersey.

In this year’s Women’s Rugby World Cup 2025, the Black Ferns will again wear a jersey bespoke to the team. Central to the new jersey is a weave design, selected by the players after discussions with adidas, as it represents the unbreakable bond and strength of people and cultures.

adidas teamed up with artist Teresa Murray from the New Zealand Māori Arts and Craft institute (Te Puia) to create a bespoke turapa panel that embodies the culture of the Black Ferns. The team’s continual pursuit of excellence, unbreakable bond as a sisterhood and the importance of the team as a collective are reflected via the Poutama, Kaokao and Niho Taniwha patterns.

Incorporated following player feedback is an updated all-white, fold-over collar, which has been constructed as part of a raglan sleeve structure to allow more space for movement in the sternum and shoulder areas. Another special addition is a refreshed take on the fern – a spiral shape inspired by the unfurling frond of a native New Zealand silver fern, which symbolises strength, growth and new beginnings.

# BLACK FERNS HAKA

## KO UHIA MAI – LET IT BE KNOWN

Ever since the men's Native Team of 1888–1889 performed a haka, the combination of both rugby and haka has long enjoyed a special place in the hearts of all New Zealanders.

The haka is a war posture dance used to awaken the fighting spirit of the warrior “Kia kōrero te katoa o te tinana” (“The whole body should speak”).

The Black Ferns perform haka as a statement of who they are as New Zealanders and who they represent. Ko Uhia Mai was composed for the Black Ferns by Māori rugby leader Te Whetu Tipiwai. It speaks of wāhine (women) uniting for strength, to overcome the challenges that lay in front of them. The team has performed their haka since 2006.

### Te reo Māori

Ā, ūhia mai  
Ko wai ngā hine?  
Ko wai ngā hine?  
Ko ngā Mamaku e ngunguru nei.  
Hī, au, au, auē hā!  
Ko Hine-ahu-one, ko Hine-tītama,  
Ko Hine-nui-te-pō.  
Ki te whaiao, ki te ao mārama e.  
Hī a hahā!  
Mauri ki te rangi,  
Me te whenua,  
Ngā kapua whakapipi,  
Mai i ngā maunga titia e!  
Hī a hahā!  
He tia, he tia,  
Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.  
Mai i ngā tōpito,  
Ki ngā moutere  
O te ao whānui e.  
Hī a hahā!  
Tū mai rā, koe,  
Te mana wahine,  
Te whare tangata,  
Ngā Mamaku o Aotearoa.  
He tia, he tia. He ranga, he ranga.  
Tūruki, tūruki.  
Paneke, paneke.  
Haramai te toki.  
Haumi e, hui e,  
Tāiki e!  
Hī!

### English

Let it be known  
Who are these women  
It's the Black Ferns rumble  
From Hineahuone, Hinetitama and  
Hinenui te po we came  
To transfer from the heavens to the world  
of enlightenment  
Life force from above  
Life force from below  
The gathering clouds  
The mountains that pierce the sky  
Let us proceed  
To the seas  
From the corners of the island  
To the neighbouring islands  
And around the world  
You stand tall and proud  
Women of strength  
Who will bear the future  
The Black Ferns of New Zealand  
Rise and press on  
When the challenge arrives  
We will gather and unite together  
Strength together  
It will be done

# NATIONAL ANTHEM

'God Defend New Zealand' became an official national anthem of New Zealand in 1977.

Previously, 'God Save the Queen/King' served as the sole anthem and is still occasionally used, principally where a royal representative is present.

The words were written by poet Thomas Bracken, an Irishman who had emigrated to Otago, and were first published in July 1896 as part of a newspaper competition to find a suitable tune for a national song.

The competition was won by John Joseph Woods of Lawrence in South Otago, who is said to have written the music in a single sitting, and 'God Defend New Zealand' had its debut performance at Dunedin's Queen's Theatre on Christmas Day in 1896.

'God Defend New Zealand' has five verses, each of which may be sung in English or Māori. Typically, only two verses are sung: the first verse in Māori and then repeated in English.

## GOD DEFEND NEW ZEALAND

e Ihowa Atua  
o ngā iwi mātou rā  
āta whakarongona  
me aroha noa  
kia hua ko te pai  
kia tau tō atawhai  
manaakitia mai  
Aotearoa

God of Nations at thy feet  
In the bonds of love we meet  
Hear our voices we entreat  
God defend our free land  
Guard Pacific's triple star  
From the shafts of strife and war  
Make her praises heard afar  
God defend New Zealand

# NEW ZEALAND RUGBY

A lot has changed since the first game of rugby on our soil in 1870, but one thing has remained constant – Kiwis love their rugby.

Charles Monro is recognised as the person who brought the game to New Zealand and ensured that it thrived. He organised the first game of rugby played in New Zealand in May 1870. Since the inception of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (as it was known) in 1892, the organisation administering the game has had a significant responsibility as guardians of rugby. Today, as New Zealand Rugby (NZR), the health of our national sport remains the key focus. NZR strives to lead, grow and promote rugby from the grassroots level through to our Teams in Black.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, there's over 470 rugby clubs, more than 155,000 players, 10,000 coaches, 1,500 referees and countless volunteers who contribute to our game week in, week out. We know that when we have a strong, vibrant domestic game, that our New Zealand teams excel internationally. Our Teams in Black represent our country with exceptional skill and massive pride, and our on-field performances and support structures are revered around the world.

Parts of rugby have changed, but that core has remained. It's a game which inspires and unifies families, communities, regions and a nation, something we will always champion and cherish.



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Wellington  
PO Box 2172  
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Auckland  
PO Box 2453  
Shortland Street

