



The Hawthorne Club

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# NEWCASTLE TO HOST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RUGBY

Newcastle is to host an international game of women's rugby when the Fijian Women play a Hunter Women's representative team as part of a development tour of Australia.

The Fijian team, known as Fijiana, will play Hunter Women at No.2 Sportsground on Saturday, 16 June. The match will be played at 4.45pm after the Premier 1 clash between Wanderers and Hamilton.

The Hawthorne Club and Hunter Women's Rugby are hosting the Fijians for their four-day stay in Newcastle which will combine rugby, cultural and community elements.

Chairman of The Hawthorne Club, Mark Queenan, said the match presented a great opportunity to promote local women's rugby in an international setting.

"Fijiana will train in No.2 Sportsground and a number of activities have been planned to welcome the team to Newcastle, including a **Women in Sport Breakfast** at the Harbourview Function Centre," said Mark.

"The early announcement of the Fijian visit is generating great interest in local rugby circles and we are expecting a big crowd to attend the match."

President Hunter Women's Rugby, Nicola Roche, said her organisation was looking forward to helping host Fijiana and was very supportive of the game and the four-day visit.

"We are assembling a strong team from our local women's competition which will be coached by Gerry Mason and assisted by former Wallaroo (Australian women's player), Toby McGann," said Nicola.

"Another exciting initiative is the appointing of Newcastle referee, Nick Gaul, to officiate the match."

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Fijiana will train on Thursday morning (June 14) at No.2 Sportground before visiting Waratah Technology High School and the Fijian community at the Ethnic Communities Council Centre at Waratah in the afternoon.

On Friday (June 15) they will attend the **Women in Sport Breakfast** with the Newcastle rugby community and have a 'Captain's Run' at No.2 in the afternoon.

**NOTE:** The Hawthorne Club was established in 1997 by a group of rugby union enthusiasts as a way of supporting the code in Newcastle and the Hunter. The Club draws its name from the late Phil Hawthorne who was born in the region and played with the Wallabies. The club has raised more than \$750,000 for rugby activities in the Hunter Region.

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