The 2014 Squad

Pita Ahki
Kane Barrett
Luke Braid
Tom Donnelly
Joe Edwards*
Charlie Faumuina
Jamison Gibson-Park
Frank Halai
Bryn Hall
Jerome Kaino
Baden Kerr
Steven Luatua
Benji Marshall
Tom McCartney
Keven Mealamu
George Moala
Liaki Moli
Chris Noakes
Ma`a Nonu
Brendon O’Connor
James Parsons
Charles Piutau
Sam Prattley
Culum Retallick
Francis Saili
Peter Saili
Angus Ta’avao
Patrick Tuipulotu
Ofa Tu’ungafasi
Lolagi Visinia
Piri Weepu
Jackson Willison
Tony Woodcock

Simon Hickey
Tevita Li
Tom Murday
Albert Nikoro

*subject to medical exemption
SIR JOHN KIRWAN

POSITION  Coach
DATE OF BIRTH  16.12.64
COACHING ROLES NEC Green Rockets
Japan 2007-2011

Sir John Kirwan returned home to New Zealand as Head Coach of the Blues in 2013. After a distinguished playing career for Auckland and the All Blacks he began his coaching career in Japan in the late 1990s. Since then he has coached both the Italian and Japanese national rugby teams. In the 2012 Queen’s Birthday Honour list, Kirwan was appointed a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to mental health awareness.

MICK BYRNE

POSITION  Assistant Coach
DATE OF BIRTH  02.12.58
COACHING ROLES All Blacks skills coach
2005-12, Japan - Forwards and Skills coach -
2009-2011.

Mick Byrne, a former AFL player, joined the Blues in 2013 for his first Super Rugby coaching role in New Zealand. He has previously coached with Kirwan in Japan and held several specialist skills coaching roles with the All Blacks, Brumbies, Wallabies and Scotland. Byrne’s coaching will focus on the forwards and kickers in the Blues squad.

GRANT DOOREY

POSITION  Assistant Coach
DATE OF BIRTH  03.02.68
COACHING ROLES CSBJ Rugby Top 14, Italy
Assistant Coach 2003-05, Japan Assistant
Coach 2007-11

Grant Doorey joined the Blues in 2013 for his first Super Rugby coaching role. A former rugby league player, Doorey worked alongside Kirwan as assistant coach for both Italy and Japan. He will be in charge of the backline and skills with the Blues in 2014.

SIR GRAHAM HENRY

POSITION  Assistant Coach
DATE OF BIRTH  08.06.46
COACHING ROLES Auckland provincial
couch 1992-97, Blues Head Coach 1996-
98, Wales Head Coach 1998-2002, British
& Irish Lions Coach 2001, Blues Technical
Advisor 2003, All Blacks Head Coach 2004-11
(World Cup Winning Coach)

Sir Graham Henry has a long and illustrious coaching career and returns to Auckland where it all started in the 1990s. Henry was the first ever coach of the Blues in 1996 and since then has gone on to coach Wales, the British and Irish Lions and the Rugby World Cup 2011 winning All Blacks. Henry joined the Blues for the 2013 season and in 2014 will be the technical advisor for the Blues.
### PITAHKI

**Position**: Midfield Back  
**Physical**: 1.80m 95kg  
**Date of Birth**: 24.9.92  
**Province**: North Harbour  
**Provincial Caps**: 24  
**Provincial Points**: 10 (2t)  
**Provincial Debut**: 2011 v Manawatu  
**Super Caps**: 0  
**Super Points**: N/A  
**Test Caps**: 0  
**Test Points**: N/A  

“Pita was probably our most improved player last season on and off the field. He went away with the New Zealand Sevens team and we got a really mature young man back. He’s had another good ITM Cup season with North Harbour playing outside Francis and we see him as a big part of our future.”

### KANE BARRETT

**Position**: Blindside Flanker  
**Physical**: 1.94m 111kg  
**Date of Birth**: 27.5.91 at New Plymouth  
**Province**: Taranaki  
**Provincial Caps**: 28  
**Provincial Points**: 10 (2t)  
**Provincial Debut**: 2010 v Otago  
**Super Caps**: 3  
**Super Points**: 0  
**Super Debut**: 2013 v Bulls  
**Test Caps**: 0  
**Test Points**: N/A  

“Kane had a mixed season last year. He’s a fantastic team man and has a really strong work ethic so we’re looking for him to get more game time and really settle into Super Rugby next year.”

### LUKE BRAID

**Position**: Openside Flanker  
**Physical**: 1.85m 101kg  
**Date of Birth**: 5.10.88 at Tauranga  
**Province**: Auckland  
**Provincial Caps**: 61  
**Provincial Points**: 50 (10t)  
**Provincial Debut**: 2007 v North Harbour (Bay of Plenty)  
**Super Caps**: 57  
**Super Points**: 30 (6t)  
**Super Debut**: 2010 v Lions (Chiefs)  
**Test Caps**: 0  
**Test Points**: N/A  
**Test Debut**: N/A  

“He’s our captain. He is an outstanding team guy, a brilliant player and a guy who will be driving the culture forward so he’s incredibly important to us.”

### TOM DONNELLY

**Name**: TOM DONNELLY  
**Position**: Lock  
**Physical**: 2.00m 113kg  
**Date of Birth**: 1.10.81 at Rotorua  
**NPC Team**: Otago  
**Provincial Caps**: 83  
**Provincial Points**: 25 (5t)  
**Provincial Debut**: 2002 v Marlborough  
**Super Caps**: 84  
**Super Points**: 15 (3t)  
**Super Debut**: 2004 v Chiefs  
**Test Caps**: 15  
**Test Points**: 0  
**Test Debut**: 2009 v Australia  

“I think Tom’s the perfect addition to our squad with the loss of Ali Williams and Anthony Boric and we’re looking forward to having his experience and knowledge in the group.”
JOE EDWARDS

POSITION: Loose forward
PHYSICAL: 1.94m 108kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 21.9.93
PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 15
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v Manawatu
SUPER CAPS: 0
SUPER POINTS: N/A
SUPER DEBUT: N/A
TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: N/A
TEST DEBUT: N/A

“Joe is injured but he’s one of our young guys that we’re excited about and he needs to do his recovery following shoulder surgery and get back out on the football paddock.”

CHARLIE FAUMUINA

POSITION: Tighthead Prop
PHYSICAL: 1.85m 128kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 24.12.86 at Auckland
PROVINCE: Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 45
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2007 v Counties Manukau
SUPER CAPS: 45
SUPER POINTS: 10 (2t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2009 v Sharks
TEST CAPS: 14
TEST POINTS: 0
TEST DEBUT: 2012 v Argentina

“Charlie has really grown in his time with the All Blacks. He was injured for us for most of the season but we need to make sure we get him out there next year as he’s the difference.”

JAMISON GIBSON-PARK

POSITION: Halfback
PHYSICAL: 1.77m 81kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 23.2.92 at Great Barrier Island
PROVINCE: Taranaki
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 21
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2012 v King Country
SUPER CAPS: 11
SUPER POINTS: 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2013v Bulls
TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: N/A
TEST DEBUT: N/A

“We’re looking for him to have a good second year. He had a difficult first year, a few cameos off the bench and he ended up starting a few games. We need him to take those learnings and make sure he plays to his potential in 2014.”

FRANK HALAI

POSITION: Right Wing
PHYSICAL: 1.95m 105kg
DATE OF BIRTH: 6.3.88 at Tonga
PROVINCE: Counties Manukau
PROVINCIAL CAPS: 21
PROVINCIAL POINTS: 35 (7t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT: 2010 v Counties Manukau (Waikato)
SUPER CAPS: 16
SUPER POINTS: 50 (10t)
SUPER DEBUT: 2013 v Hurricanes
TEST CAPS: 0
TEST POINTS: N/A
TEST DEBUT: N/A

“I’m so pleased he got into the All Blacks. He had a great debut season with the Blues and I’m expecting him just to grow and grow.”
BRYN HALL
POSITION Halfback
PHYSICAL 1.83m 89kg
DATE OF BIRTH 3.2.92 at Auckland
PROVINCE North Harbour
PROVINCIAL CAPS 20
PROVINCIAL POINTS 45 (5t, 4c, 4p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2012 v Waikato
SUPER CAPS 1
SUPER POINTS 0
SUPER DEBUT 2013 v Crusaders
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“Bryn had a hard year last year which was heavily disrupted by injury and illness. We need him to get back and start putting pressure on the other two halfbacks and have a big season.”

JEROME KAINO
POSITION Blindside Flanker
PHYSICAL 1.96m 110kg
DATE OF BIRTH 6.4.83 at Tutuila, American Samoa
PROVINCE
PROVINCIAL CAPS 54
PROVINCIAL POINTS 45 (9t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2004 v Poverty Bay (Auckland)
SUPER CAPS 83
SUPER POINTS 20 (4t)
SUPER DEBUT 2004 v Reds
TEST CAPS 48
TEST POINTS 40 (8t)
TEST DEBUT 2006 v Ireland

“I’m looking for some X-factor from Jerome coming back from Japan. He’s excited to be here and we want him to recapture the form that made him the world’s best.”

BADEN KERR
POSITION First five-eighth
PHYSICAL 1.90m 90kg
DATE OF BIRTH 9.6.89
PROVINCE Counties Manukau
PROVINCIAL CAPS 28
PROVINCIAL POINTS 321 (2t, 52c, 69p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2010 v Otago
SUPER CAPS 12
SUPER POINTS 52 (11c, 10p)
SUPER DEBUT 2013 v Crusaders
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“Baden had a great ITM Cup season with Counties Manukau. His first season with the Blues was all about knowing what Super Rugby involves and next year we need him to step up and put pressure on Noakesy and also Benji for a starting spot.”

STEVEN LUATUA
POSITION Lock / Blindside Flanker
PHYSICAL 1.96m 115kg
DATE OF BIRTH 4.4.91 at Auckland
PROVINCE Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS 24
PROVINCIAL POINTS 15 (3t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2011 v Canterbury
SUPER CAPS 20
SUPER POINTS 20 (4t)
SUPER DEBUT 2012 v Lions
TEST CAPS 8
TEST POINTS 0
TEST DEBUT 2013 v France at New Plymouth

“Not much needs to be said about Steven Luatua. He had a fantastic season last year and really stepped up with the All Blacks so we’re looking for him to kick on next year.”
BENJI MARSHALL

POSITION  First five-eighth/Fullback
PHYSICAL  1.82m 93kg
DATE OF BIRTH  25.2.85 at Whakatane
PROVINCE  N/A
PROVINCIAL CAPS  0
PROVINCIAL POINTS  N/A
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  N/A
SUPER CAPS  0
SUPER POINTS  N/A
TEST CAPS  0
TEST POINTS  N/A
TEST DEBUT  N/A

“Everyone’s excited about his involvement, he’s already been in the organisation and everyone likes his professionalism and what he’s going to bring so it’s going to be great to see him grow into it.”

TOM MCCARTNEY

POSITION  Hooker
PHYSICAL  1.85m 109kg
DATE OF BIRTH  6.9.85 at Palmerston North
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  85
PROVINCIAL POINTS  20 (4t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2007 v Thames Valley (North Harbour)
SUPER CAPS  58
SUPER POINTS  10 (2t)
SUPER DEBUT  2008 v Chiefs
TEST CAPS  0
TEST POINTS  N/A
TEST DEBUT  N/A

“He’s a guy who sacrificed himself for the squad last year by going to loosehead prop. It probably didn’t work out and he’s now back at hooker in a position he enjoys so that’s fantastic.”

KEVEN MEALAMU

POSITION  Hooker
PHYSICAL  1.81m 108kg
DATE OF BIRTH  5.11.90
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  65
PROVINCIAL POINTS  70 (14t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  1999 v North Harbour
SUPER CAPS  152
SUPER POINTS  45 (9t)
SUPER DEBUT  2000 v Brumbies
TEST CAPS  108
TEST POINTS  60 (12t)
TEST DEBUT  2002 v Wales

“It’s great to have our Matai back. He had an interesting year last season with his late return but we’re looking forward to him leading us forward in 2014.

GEORGE MOALA

POSITION  Wing
PHYSICAL  1.85m 104kg
DATE OF BIRTH  20.3.79 at Tokoroa
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  65
PROVINCIAL POINTS  70 (14t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  1999 v North Harbour
SUPER CAPS  152
SUPER POINTS  45 (9t)
SUPER DEBUT  2000 v Brumbies
TEST CAPS  108
TEST POINTS  60 (12t)
TEST DEBUT  2002 v Wales

“It’s great to have George Moala back in the team. We signed him late but he had a good season for us last year, he had a few issues off the field but he’s really turned himself around so we’re looking forward to more of his barnstorming runs next season.”
LIAKI MOLI

POSITION  Lock  
PHYSICAL  1.97m 114kg  
DATE OF BIRTH  4.1.90 at Auckland  
PROVINCE  Auckland  
PROVINCIAL CAPS  38  
PROVINCIAL POINTS  20 (4t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2010 v North Harbour  
SUPER CAPS  16  
SUPER POINTS  5 (1t)  
SUPER DEBUT  2012 v Hurricanes  
TEST CAPS  0  
TEST POINTS  N/A  
TEST DEBUT  N/A  

“I think it needs to be Liaki Moli’s year. Liaki is a player who’s been rated right throughout his career and we’re looking for him to step up into that role now that he’s going to have a good chance.”

CHRIS NOAKES

POSITION  First five-eighth  
PHYSICAL  1.81m 88kg  
DATE OF BIRTH  21.7.85 at Auckland  
PROVINCE  Bay of Plenty  
PROVINCIAL CAPS  42  
PROVINCIAL POINTS  242 (4t,45c,43p,1d)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2007 v Southland (Otago)  
SUPER CAPS  25  
SUPER POINTS  164 (3t,28c,31p)  
SUPER DEBUT  2012 v Chiefs (Highlanders)  
TEST CAPS  0  
TEST POINTS  N/A  
TEST DEBUT  N/A  

“A lot was said about Noakesy last year. He may have surprised a few people with how well he played but he didn’t surprise us. We know how good he is, he’s coming back from a neck injury and he’s going to be an important cog in the team. We need him to continue the form that he had last season.”

MA’A NONU

POSITION  Second five-eighth  
PHYSICAL  1.82m 107kg  
DATE OF BIRTH  21.5.82 at Wellington  
PROVINCE  Wellington  
PROVINCIAL CAPS  61  
PROVINCIAL POINTS  140 (28t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2002 v Hawke’s Bay  
SUPER CAPS  133  
SUPER POINTS  230 (46t)  
SUPER DEBUT  2003 v Crusaders (Hurricanes)  
TEST CAPS  86  
TEST POINTS  125 (25t)  
TEST DEBUT  2003 v England  

“I’m really excited about coaching him. There’s going to be a lot of talk about him but I know he’s going to play well and perform for us on the field.”

BRENDON O’CONNOR

POSITION  Openside Flanker  
PHYSICAL  1.86m 100kg  
DATE OF BIRTH  11.9.89 at Gisborne  
PROVINCE  Hawke’s Bay  
PROVINCIAL CAPS  28  
PROVINCIAL POINTS  25 (5t)  
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2010 v Manawatu (Canterbury)  
SUPER CAPS  17  
SUPER POINTS  0  
SUPER DEBUT  2012 v Cheetahs (Crusaders)  
TEST CAPS  0  
TEST POINTS  N/A  
TEST DEBUT  N/A  

“Brendon had a strong ITM Cup with Hawke’s Bay and was a great guy to have around last season. He probably didn’t get as much game time in a starting position as he’d like but it’s fantastic to have someone of his quality in the side.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Physical</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>Provincial Caps</th>
<th>Provincial Points</th>
<th>Provincial Debut</th>
<th>Super Caps</th>
<th>Super Points</th>
<th>Super Debut</th>
<th>Test Caps</th>
<th>Test Points</th>
<th>Test Debut</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>James Parsons</strong></td>
<td>Hooker</td>
<td>1.86m 95kg</td>
<td>27.11.86 at Palmerston North</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>40 (8t)</td>
<td>2007 v Wellington</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30 (6t)</td>
<td>2012 v Force</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>“James was one of the most improved players last year both on and off the field so we’re looking for him to continue growing next season.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charles Piutau</strong></td>
<td>Fullback</td>
<td>1.85m 95kg</td>
<td>31.10.91 at Auckland</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50 (10t)</td>
<td>2010 v Bay of Plenty</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>10 (2t)</td>
<td>2012 v Force</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>“Charles showed just what he could do when he played wing and fullback for the All Blacks recently. He’s an absolute excitement machine and one of our young leaders.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sam Prattley</strong></td>
<td>Prop</td>
<td>1.96m 113kg</td>
<td>16.1.90</td>
<td>Auckland</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>5 (1t)</td>
<td>2010 v Wellington (Tasman)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2013 v Crusaders</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>“He was the players’ player of the year for Auckland in the ITM Cup. He’s a guy who wants to play for us and is really improving with more time in the environment.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culum Retallick</strong></td>
<td>Lock</td>
<td>1.98m 113kg</td>
<td>8.5.84 at Rangiora</td>
<td>Bay of Plenty</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>40 (8t)</td>
<td>2007 v Hawke’s Bay</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2010 v Lions (Chiefs)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>“He was a pleasant surprise last year and a great guy to have in the squad. He’s a great lineout technician and really played well for us last year so we want that to continue in 2014.”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FRANCIS SAILI

POSITION Second five-eighth
PHYSICAL 1.80m 96kg
DATE OF BIRTH 16.2.91 at Auckland
PROVINCE North Harbour
PROVINCIAL CAPS 22
PROVINCIAL POINTS 20 (4t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2011 v Canterbury (Auckland)
SUPER CAPS 21
SUPER POINTS 15 (3t)
SUPER DEBUT 2012 v Stormers
TEST CAPS 1
TEST POINTS 0
TEST DEBUT 2013 v Argentina in Hamilton

“Francis is a really important player for us. He’s new to the All Blacks, is really exciting and needs to step into Rene Ranger’s role of being our x-factor player.”

PETER SAILI

POSITION Loose forward
PHYSICAL 1.99m 109kg
DATE OF BIRTH 4.1.88 at Auckland
PROVINCE Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS 61
PROVINCIAL POINTS 15 (3t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2008 v Poverty Bay
SUPER CAPS 60
SUPER POINTS 20 (4t)
SUPER DEBUT 2009 v Force
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“I thought Pete was the unsung hero of the Blues last season. He did a lot of work, a lot of ball carries, he had fantastic involvement in the team and he needs to carry on doing what he’s been doing in 2014.”

ANGUS TA’AVAO

POSITION Tighthead Prop
PHYSICAL 1.94m 125kg
DATE OF BIRTH 22.3.90 at Auckland
PROVINCE Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS 38
PROVINCIAL POINTS 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2010 v Taranaki
SUPER CAPS 22
SUPER POINTS 5 (1t)
SUPER DEBUT 2012 v Chiefs
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“Angus is one of our young up-and-coming guys who was put under pressure last year following Charlie’s season ending injury and by the end of the year we really saw his qualities. It’s important to have someone like him in the squad who is going to be the future.”

PATRICK TUIPULOTU

POSITION Lock
PHYSICAL 1.98m 120kg
DATE OF BIRTH 23.1.93 at Auckland
PROVINCE Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS 7
PROVINCIAL POINTS 10 (2t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2013 v North Harbour
SUPER CAPS 0
SUPER POINTS N/A
SUPER DEBUT N/A
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“He’s a fantastic kid; a former New Zealand Under 20 player and we’re looking for him to really add value to our locking stocks with his ball carrying skills and his excitement.”
LOLAGI VISINIA

POSITION  Fullback
PHYSICAL  1.92m 101kg
DATE OF BIRTH  17.1.93
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  17
PROVINCIAL POINTS 35 (7t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2012 v Manawatu
SUPER CAPS  1
SUPER POINTS 0
SUPER DEBUT 2013 v Chiefs
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“Lolagi was one of our young guys last season. He played for the New Zealand Under 20 and played a few games for us towards the end of the season. He’s still learning his trade, he had another good ITM Cup with Auckland and he’s going to be really special as he graduates from the Wider Training Group to the full squad next year.

PIRI WEEPU

POSITION  Halfback
PHYSICAL  1.78m 96kg
DATE OF BIRTH  7.9.83 at Lower Hutt
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  64
PROVINCIAL POINTS 281 (6t, 58c, 45p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2003 v Otago
SUPER CAPS  114
SUPER POINTS 303 (6t, 51c, 57p)
SUPER DEBUT 2004 v Bulls (Hurricanes)
TEST CAPS 71
TEST POINTS 103 (7t, 10c, 16p)
TEST DEBUT 2004 v Wales

“Not much needs to be said about Piri. He’s an important leader, he did a fantastic job for us last year, he’s totally committed to the Blues and is a really important part of the team.”

JACKSON WILLISON

POSITION  Centre
PHYSICAL  1.83m 94kg
DATE OF BIRTH  5.9.88 at Hamilton
PROVINCE  Waikato
PROVINCIAL CAPS  60
PROVINCIAL POINTS 75 (15t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT 2007 v Taranaki
SUPER CAPS  52
SUPER POINTS 35 (7t)
SUPER DEBUT 2009 v Waratahs (Chiefs)
TEST CAPS 0
TEST POINTS N/A
TEST DEBUT N/A

“Jackson had a fantastic year last season, he carried a little bit of injury late but he totally sacrificed himself for the team. He’s our rock in the backline and keeps the organisation honest and moving forward.”
Tony Woodcock

Position: Prop  
Physical: 1.84m 119kg  
Date of Birth: 27.1.81 at Helensville  
Province: North Harbour  
Provincial Caps: 54  
Provincial Points: 10 (2t)  
Provincial Debut: 2000 v Waikato  
Super Caps: 125  
Super Points: 45 (9t)  
Super Debut: 2002 v Hurricanes  
Test Caps: 105  
Test Points: 45 (9t)  
Test Debut: 2002 v Wales

“I’m really excited about working with Woody and having him back in the franchise. He’s one of our people, he’s had his OE and we’re thrilled to have the world’s best loosehead prop back at the Blues.”

Simon Hickey

Position: First five-eighth  
Physical: 1.74m 83kg  
Date of Birth: 12.1.94  
Province: Auckland  
Provincial Caps: 16  
Provincial Points: 134 (3t, 22c, 25p)  
Provincial Debut: 2012 v Manawatu  
Super Caps: 0  
Super Points: N/A  
Super Debut: N/A  
Test Caps: N/A  
Test Points: N/A  
Test Debut: N/A

“He’s a really exciting prospect at 10. He had a good ITM Cup and was awarded the Auckland player of the year. We’re looking forward to him putting pressure on the others for a starting position because we think he’s got what it takes.”

Tevita Li

Position: Wing  
Physical: 1.82m 94kg  
Date of Birth: 23.3.95 at Auckland  
Province: North Harbour  
Provincial Caps: 4  
Provincial Points: 5 (1t)  
Provincial Debut: 2013 v Counties Manukau  
Super Caps: 0  
Super Points: N/A  
Super Debut: N/A  
Test Caps: 0  
Test Points: N/A  
Test Debut: N/A

“He’s probably one of the most talked about young men around at the moment. He played against France and played like he was 25 so we think he’s got a big future and we can’t wait to get him involved.”
TOM MURDAY
POSITION  Lock
PHYSICAL  2.00m  112kg
DATE OF BIRTH  27.4.89 at Australia
PROVINCE  Northland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  10
PROVINCIAL POINTS  5 (1t)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2013 v Waikato
SUPER CAPS  0
SUPER POINTS  N/A
SUPER DEBUT  N/A
TEST CAPS  0
TEST POINTS  N/A
TEST DEBUT  N/A

“Tom has come from our franchise region with Northland in Whangarei. He's come over here from Australia and has Kiwi parentage and really wants to give Super Rugby a crack. He's a good ball carrier, he works well in the air and I think he will be a real asset to our locking stocks.”

ALBERT NIKORO
POSITION  Wing
PHYSICAL  1.74m  98kg
DATE OF BIRTH  7.8.92
PROVINCE  Auckland
PROVINCIAL CAPS  8
PROVINCIAL POINTS  11 (1t, 2p)
PROVINCIAL DEBUT  2012 v Southland (Tasman)
SUPER CAPS  4
SUPER POINTS  0
SUPER DEBUT  2012 v Brumbies
TEST CAPS  0
TEST POINTS  N/A
TEST DEBUT  N/A

“Albert had a season disrupted by a bad injury. We saw what he could do against the Reds when he started and booted a 55 metre penalty kick and he’s just someone we think has a big future so we’re looking forward to having him back from injury.”