

16 October 2020

## Stage being set for an electric Bledisloe Cup clash at Eden Park

Eden Park has been a much-loved venue for 117 years and home to some of the world's most memorable sporting history. New Zealand will this weekend be one of the few countries in the world to welcome back live sport and entertainment amongst a pulsating throng of fans.

On Sunday, the stage will be set for another unforgettable battle of the Tasman when the All Blacks face the Wallabies in the second test of the Bledisloe Cup series.

A small resurgence of COVID-19 cases saw Auckland move back into lockdown which meant several matches were either called off, cancelled or postponed. However, at 11.59pm on Wednesday 7 October restrictions were lifted and the New Zealand Government announced that unrestricted crowds were welcome at the eagerly awaited Bledisloe Cup.

With a period of 10 days to prepare the country's largest stadium for a sell-out crowd, Eden Park says its lean team is well prepared and excited to deliver another unforgettable experience.

"We look forward to welcoming a capacity crowd of near 50,000 of our nation's team of 5 million who all played a key role in reducing the spread of COVID-19. A special thank you to the more than 3,000-strong workforce who help to deliver events and make it possible for the return of live sport and entertainment at Eden Park," says Chief Executive Officer Nick Sautner.

The stadium is revered domestically and around the world and holds special memories for All Blacks fans with their winning percentage at Eden Park being 87%.

"The All Blacks hold a 34-year winning streak against the Wallabies at Eden Park, one of the most impressive records in sporting history. There's no question this stadium has immense mana for both athletes and fans," says Sautner.

"The health of staff, athletes and patrons remains our priority and our team contributed to developing 'the Covid Code' for Government. Following the move to Alert Level 1, a number of additional measures will be in place at Eden Park such as sanitiser stations, digital and static hygiene promotion signage and additional cleaning of frequently used surfaces. The Park's QR code will be available for those utilising the NZ COVID Tracer App," adds Sautner.

Eden Park will play a key role in contributing to Aotearoa's economy through future events including the three Women's World Cups (2021 Rugby World Cup, ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and FIFA Women's World Cup 2023) and Te Matatini hosted at Eden Park.

**ENDS – Please make contact if you would like images supplied post-match.**

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MEDIA RELEASE

## All Blacks history at Eden Park:

- The last time the All Blacks lost at Eden Park:
  - 9,604 days on Sunday
  - 3,019 All Blacks tests have been played
  - The All Blacks have lost 46 tests at other venues
  - ['Love is All Around'](#) by Wet Wet Wet was the number one song in New Zealand
  - The Lion King was the number one film at the cinema
- In the 87 test matches at Eden Park since 1921, the All Blacks have only lost 10 times and their winning percentage is 87%.
- The last time Australia won at Eden Park was a Bledisloe Cup winning 22-9 victory in 1986.
- The All Blacks have seen off 42 opponents since their 20-23 loss to France in 1994.
- The next highest unbeaten run is 22 by England at Twickenham between 1999 and 2003.
- Australia hasn't won a rugby test at New Zealand's national stadium since Bob Hawke was Prime Minister and Crocodile Dundee was a hit movie.

## About Eden Park

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally iconic arena, located in central Auckland. With 117 years of history, the Park has hosted some of the world's most memorable sporting moments from cricket, to rugby, to rugby league and football. A range of other community initiatives and events are also hosted throughout the year.

Eden Park Trust operates as a statutory not-for-profit body corporate, registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. Its objectives are to promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Auckland region.

Its rich history and profile is unmatched by any other stadium in the country. From its beginnings as a cricket ground in 1903, Eden Park became the primary venue for major summer and winter sport in Auckland when in 1913, the owner, Auckland Cricket, leased winter use of the ground to Auckland Rugby.

A Deed of Trust establishing Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as the beneficial owners of Eden Park was signed in 1926 and has since been enshrined in legislation. Most notably remembered for hosting the 1987 and 2011 Rugby World Cup Finals, Eden Park remains the home of both Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as it has been for more than a century.

Each year, more than half a million sports and entertainment fans from around the world visit Eden Park. The stadium successfully hosts sell-out crowds of up to 50,000 on match days and hosts more than 1,000 non-match day functions per year.