

AB fans put up good fight

All Blacks Andrew Hore and Isaac Ross pitted their skills against Marlborough rugby fans yesterday – and didn't always come out on top.

About 1500 people braved the chilly weather at Blenheim's Lansdowne Park to join in the MasterCard All Blacks Roadshow. The four-hour event featured five rugby challenges that gave the public a chance to test themselves against Hore and Ross.

At each challenge fans could also see how they stacked up against the ABs' leaderboard. Activities included catching a high ball, pushing over for a try, passing left and right, throwing in to a lineout, and place-kicking a goal from a variety of angles.

The roadshow is stopping in 13 towns and cities. The Lansdowne Park visit was the sixth stop before it moves on to Auckland.

Photos: DEREK FLYNN



Lining up to lineout: All Blacks Andrew Hore, left, and Isaac Ross size up the target zones in the lineout challenge



Leverage: Eight-year-old Jeremy Robertson gets a solid boost by Andrew Hore and Isaac Ross to collect the ball in a makeshift lineout.



Sweet shot: Egged on by the crowd, Blenheim's Nicki Rillstone tries her hand at the lineout challenge



Try time: Moutere Rugby Club player Lockie McCormick, 14, left, takes on All Black Isaac Ross in the roadshow's try-scoring challenge.



Hallowed jersey: Former All Black and rugby legend Buck Shelford, far left, with current All Blacks Andrew Hore and Isaac Ross, far right, present Marlborough mayor Alistair Sowman with an All Blacks jersey signed by 2009 team captain Richie McCaw. The jersey is a thank you gift from the All Blacks to the people of Blenheim for their support over the years. 169000



Keen spectators: Blenheim's Dave Chambers and two-year-old son Max soak up some of the MasterCard All Blacks' Roadshow action. 169001



Lofty tutor: Eleven-year-old Cassidy Robertson gets a quick-fire kicking lesson from Isaac Ross before competing in the kicking challenge. 169015