



**Up close:** Jeremy Robertson, 8, gets lineout lifted by All Blacks Isaac Ross, left, and Andrew Hore at the All Blacks Road Show in the South Island.

Photo: Marlborough Express

# All Blacks get ball rolling for national tour

The second phase of the All Blacks Road Show kicks off in Whangarei next week.

The free event is a way to bring All Blacks up close to fans and features a series of challenges to give fans and supporters a chance to test themselves against the All Blacks.

The travelling 2009 MasterCard All Blacks Road Show completed its first phase in the South Island in June with more than 14,000 people taking part and nearly 2000 rugby balls given away.

The show took a break while the All Blacks played the Springboks in South Africa, but starts again on Saturday, September 5 in Whangarei, followed by Tauranga, Hamilton, Rotorua and Wellington.

All Black captain Richie McCaw says the experience has been positive for the All Blacks.

“It’s been brilliant for the boys. I personally attended three of the events in the first phase and I’m really looking forward to the second phase in the North Island.”

So far fans have turned out to see All Blacks Richie McCaw, Andrew Hore, Jimmy Cowan, Kieran Read, George Whitelock, Liam Messam, Neemia Tialata, Piri Weepu, Isaac Ross, Brendon Leonard, Bryn Evans, Rudi Wulf and Richard Kahui and legend Buck Sheldford who is touring with the road show for its entire journey.

- The Rugby World Cup 2011 will be in New Zealand for the first time since the inaugural event in 1987. Teams representing 20 nations will compete in 48 matches in 13 host cities, including Whangarei, between September 9 and October 23, 2011.

## Chance to meet the All Blacks

**The road show will be held at Kensington Park near Kensington Ave on Saturday September 5 from 11am to 3pm.**

**Fans will get the chance to score autographs and have their picture taken with the All Blacks players.**