



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 17 August 2012

- South Sydney Rabbitohs and ANZ Stadium to pay tribute to Australian Defence Force and Peacekeeping personnel at round 25 vs Parramatta Eels

The South Sydney Rabbitohs and ANZ Stadium are dedicating their final home game of the season to the brave men and women of the Australian Defence Force who are serving in Australia and on operations and peace keeping missions overseas, as they take on the Parramatta Eels in the 'Australian Defence Force Challenge' on Sunday 26 August at 3pm at ANZ Stadium.

Thousands of Australian Defence Force and Peacekeeping personnel and their families will be invited to attend the Rabbitohs vs Eels match free of charge to help recognise their contribution to security and stability around the world.

In conjunction with celebrating the career of retiring Rabbitohs prop Scott Geddes, plus other players who are departing the Club at the end of the season, special video messages from troops deployed around the globe will be played on the big screens at ANZ Stadium, including messages of support from key Rabbitohs players.

The Navy Ceremonial Marching Band will be performing on the day, including the Australian National Anthem just before kick off.

The match ball will also be delivered by a Sea Hawk Helicopter, and will be presented to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force and proud Rabbitohs supporter, Air Marshal Mark Binskin, on the turf at ANZ Stadium.

Volunteer Australian Defence Force and Peacekeeping personnel will be taking up a gold coin collection at the gates on game day to help raise funds for the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial which will be situated in Canberra.

Australian Defence Force Chief, General David Hurley, said Australians should be proud of their servicemen and women.

"Our Defence Force personnel have earned an international reputation as dedicated and highly skilled professionals. We ask a lot of them and this event offers a chance to recognise the valuable work they do at home and overseas."

Rabbitohs CEO Shane Richardson said: "This is a very important game for us in terms of the 2012 season, but also in recognising the efforts made by Australian troops all around the world.

"We have worked closely with the Australian Defence Force to put together a great tribute to the men and women who are representing our country both here and overseas, and we're looking forward to inviting Defence Force personnel and their families to enjoy the game at ANZ Stadium, and to help raise funds for the Peacekeeping Memorial Project."



Interested parties can also support the fund raising appeal by purchasing tickets to the Australian Peacekeeping Dinner. The dinner will be hosted by David Koch, with guests General David Hurley and retired General, Peter Cosgrove. Performances on the night include Adam Harvey, Deni Hines and Prinnie Stevens from 'The Voice', to be held on Friday 24 August at the Shangri La Hotel in Sydney.

Contact international events for more information on 02 9213 2900, or email andrew@internationalevents.com.au.

Gates for this game will open at the earlier than usual time of 12:25pm with the Toyota Cup under 20s game between the Rabbitohs and Eels scheduled for a 12:30pm kick off. The NRL fixture will kick off at 3pm.

Tickets for the Australian Defence Force Challenge match between the Rabbitohs and Eels can be purchased from Ticketek by visiting www.ticketek.com.au or by calling 132 849.

To learn more about the Peace Keeping Memorial Project, please visit <http://www.peacekeepingmemorial.org.au/>.

For more information please contact:

Jeremy Monahan (Rabbitohs) on (02) 8306 9930, 0412 240 197 or jmonahan@rabbitohs.com.au, or; Defence Media Operations (02) 6127 1999 or mediaops@defence.gov.au.

The South Sydney Rabbitohs enjoy one of the richest histories in the sport of Rugby League. Established in 1908, South Sydney has won 20 first grade premierships, more than any other, and has provided a record 64 internationals for the Australian Kangaroo squad. Fiercely loyal to its origins, the Club has consistently worn the cardinal red and myrtle green colours since its inception, a lasting tribute to the rabbit vendors who first played for the Club in the inner suburbs of Sydney. The rebirth of the Rabbitohs began on 7 June 2006 through a new partnership between Russell Crowe, Peter Holmes à Court and the Members of the Club. The Club's Ticketed Membership now stands at over 12,000, with total Memberships in excess of 20,000 in 2011, the highest for any Sydney club. As a tribute to the Club's unchanging and significant legacy, the National Trust of Australia has awarded the Rabbitohs the prestigious status of National Community Icon, the first such award to any sporting organisation in Australia.

CEO: Shane Richardson
Chairman: Nicholas Pappas

Membership hotline – (02) 8306 9922
www.rabbitohs.com.au/membership

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