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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Muggo returns home.**

Parramatta Rugby has taken another major step to strengthen the club for the 2016 season.

2015 Assistant Coaches Paul Hardwick and Greg Michell are taking over the 1<sup>st</sup> Grade position and will be joined next year by former Wallabies Assistant Coach John Muggleton. Muggo as he is affectionately known was a Two Blues junior and after a switch to the professionals in 1979 won NRL Premierships in the 1980s with the Parramatta Eels. He represented NSW in State of Origin and was a member of the 1982 Invincibles Kangaroo Tour of Great Britain.

After playing Muggo took up a position of Strength and Conditioning Coach and Defence Coach at the Two Blues. He was brought into the Wallabies set up by Rod Macqueen for the successful 1999 Rugby World Cup campaign. The Wallabies famously only conceded one try for the entire tournament resulting in Muggo's defence systems being introduced at all levels of the game around the globe. Muggleton has since coached at NSW Waratahs, Melbourne Rebels and coached Georgia at the 2011 Rugby World Cup. He also coached Llanelli Scarlets in the Anglo-Welsh Cup and Gloucester in the Aviva Premiership.

#### **Coach Paul Hardwick says:**

"There's no question Parramatta's weakness has been in the area of defence and we are thrilled to be able to make such an outstanding appointment. Muggo's experience and expertise is second to none and we are looking forward to learning from the best in the business. Adding to the structure we have also appointed former Welsh Tight Head Prop Ben Evans (28 Test Matches) as set piece consultant and added in Jason Stanton to a specialist role in athlete performance based around evasion and running techniques. We have recruited very well for next year making some important signings and with the addition of Muggo we expect to be stronger and more consistent next year. The new players will add much needed strength and depth. Despite the results last year, I honestly believe there are a number of very talented young footballers at the club already. With the benefit of a strong squad around them and a strong coaching group we'll see a big improvement in their performance".

#### **Club President Brian Blacklock agrees:**

"We're not getting ahead of ourselves. The hard work is being done but there's a lot to do. The appointment of John Muggleton will enable us to provide the experience and platform for not only our players but our coaches as well to improve performance. Consistency is the key to Parramatta being more successful on the field and along with Muggo's appointment we are very excited to have Paul and Greg coaching the First Grade team in 2016. The average age of our 1st XV was just over 20 this year and it's fair to say a number of our players were a year or two early in the top grade. We are delighted with how well our recruitment and retention has gone for next season and we eagerly awaiting the commencement of the 2016 season!"

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*"Celebrating 136 years of Rugby in the Parramatta district"*

