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# Rugby World Cup: New Zealand too strong for Wallabies in final

By Dan Colasimone

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## ABC Grandstand Sport

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**PHOTO:** The moment ... For the second time in four years, Richie McCaw (centre) held up the Webb Ellis trophy in front of his team-mates. (Reuters: Eddie Keogh)

## The All Blacks have become the first side to retain the Rugby World Cup by overpowering the Wallabies 34-17 at Twickenham.

The cool heads of New Zealand's veterans saw their side home despite a second-half surge from Australia, with a 50-metre penalty goal and a late drop goal from Dan Carter and a runaway try from Beauden Barrett sealing a third World Cup win for the All Blacks.

Man-of-the match Carter proved his class on the biggest stage, having missed the 2011 final through injury, kicking four penalty goals in total, as well as two conversions and the late drop goal.

The victory ensures both he and another All Blacks great, Richie McCaw, exit the World Cup arena as two-time champions.

"I was just yelling at the ball. I was yelling 'Go! Go!'. So I was very relieved to see it go over," the all-time great said of the drop goal which all-but secured the win for his side.

"It's a special feeling to be part of such a great team."



The All Blacks were clinical in the execution of their plans and highly effective in shutting the Wallabies out of the game for long periods, while keeping the scoreboard ticking over.

Nehe Milner-Skudder's try on the brink of half-time was a deserved reward for a dominant opening period, with Richie McCaw throwing the final pass of

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### SCOREBOARD: NEW ZEALAND 34-17 AUSTRALIA

	34-17	
at Twickenham, November 1 2015		
53%	<b>Possession</b>	47%
54%	<b>Territory</b>	46%
107	<b>Tackles</b>	111
11	<b>Offloads</b>	4

**New Zealand:** Milner-Skudder, Nonu, Barrett tries; Carter 2/3 cons, 4 pens, 1 drop goal

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a move which began in the All Blacks' half.

To that point, the Wallabies had kept it tight with some desperate defending, but immediately after the break Ma'a Nonu opened things up with a scintillating run, cutting through the line before putting on a massive right-foot step to leave Kurtley Beale for dead and score New Zealand's second.

After the intense assault on the Wallabies' line New Zealand had dished out in the first half, Nonu's blistering effort felt like a killer blow.

A fightback from Australia ensured the final would not be remembered as a completely one-sided affair, however.

A frenetic passage of play, in which Drew Mitchell scythed through the New Zealand defence, saw the All Blacks pinned to their own line.

Full-back Ben Smith was adjudged to have lifted Mitchell and was shown a yellow card, and David Pocock dived over from the subsequent rolling maul to give the Wallabies a glimmer of hope.

The Wallabies carried on that momentum and heaped the pressure on their opponents when Tevita Kuridrani latched on to a Will Genia box kick to score their second try which, when converted by Bernard Foley, drew them to within four points.

Rather than crumble, New Zealand remained calm and squeezed Australia out of the game thanks to Carter's six points.

The Wallabies were left with no option but to throw the ball around, and when Mitchell spilled the pill 10 metres out from the line, Ben Smith sent a kick down field and Barrett galloped down the field and grubbered ahead before claiming the try which capped a tremendous display in rugby's blue riband event.

Australia coach Michael Cheika, who has been in charge for just a year and one week, admitted his team had been outplayed by one of the best sides rugby has seen.

"I'm really proud of my lads and I really want to thank the Australian public ... for getting behind rugby. It's a great sport," he said.

"New Zealand won the game fair and square. They have been probably the best team since the last World

ries, Carter 2/3 cons, 4 pens, 1 drop goal

**Australia:** Pocock, Kuridrani tries; Foley 2/2 cons, 1 pen

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Cup.

"And we wanted to challenge them as best as we could and I thought we did that tonight. We still came up short, though."

Wallabies captain Stephen Moore echoed those sentiments.

"Sometimes you just come up against a better team ... [That happened] to us tonight," he said.

## Injuries hobble Wallabies' chances

Australia's cause took a double blow in the first half as workhorse Kane Douglas and playmaker Matt Giteau both had to leave the field through injury.

Douglas's afternoon was over after just 15 minutes when his leg twisted horribly under him after he rose for the ball.

Giteau, whose left-footed kicking added a vital element to the Wallabies' gameplan, was forced off after a head knock in the 25th minute.

Right from the start of the match the All Blacks had pushed the Wallabies right back into defensive mode, and though the men in gold managed to defend their line admirably in the early minutes, Pocock was eventually penalised in the ruck and Carter made no mistake with his kick to make it 3-0.

A series of quick turnovers kept New Zealand rolling forward, but a penalty against them in the scrum allowed Foley to even the scores 14 minutes in.

It was all New Zealand for the remainder of the half, with Carter nailing two more penalty kicks as Australia struggled to hold its line against wave after wave of attacks, which were frequently directed at the blind side of the ruck in order to negate the influence of Pocock.



Michael Hooper impressed with his defensive work, combining well with Pocock when the number eight did manage to get involved in the breakdown, but the Wallabies' efforts were blunted by repeated handling



**PHOTO:** [New Zealand became the first team to win three World Cups with their victory in the final.](#) (Getty Images: Mike Hewitt)




errors and a scrappy lineout.





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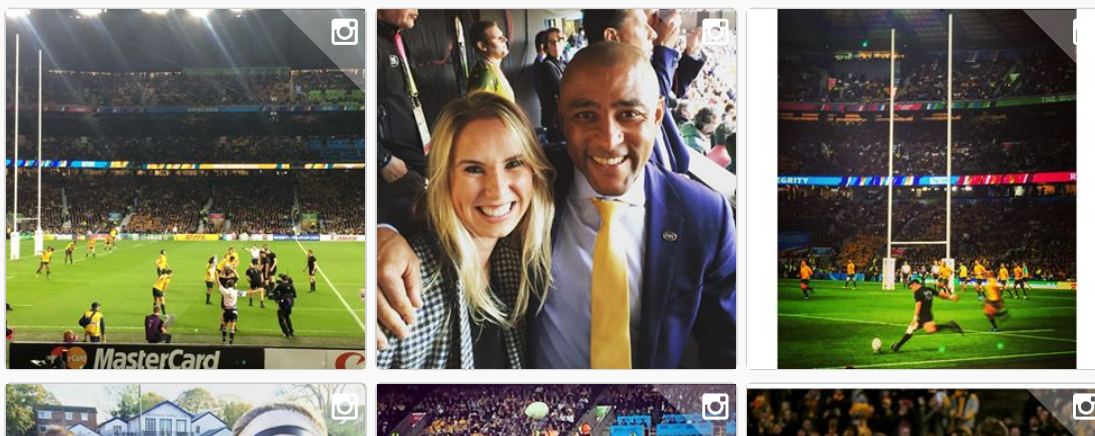
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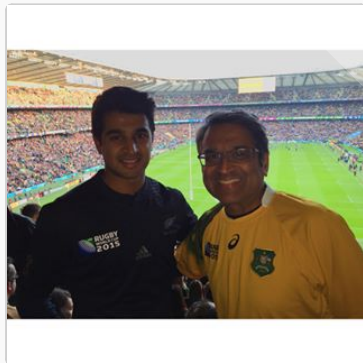
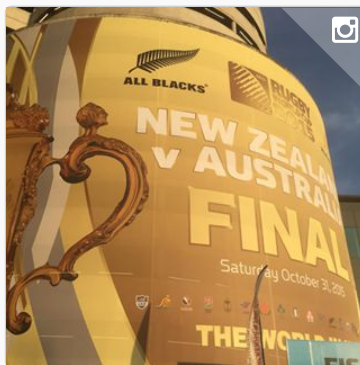
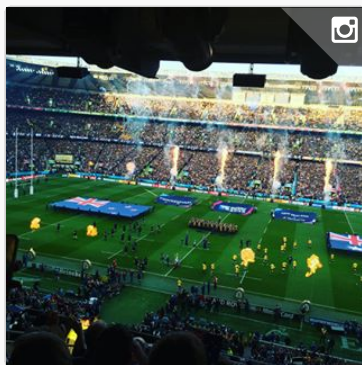
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