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## Australian women's rugby sevens team visit Loreto Normanhurst before Amsterdam showdown

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Emma Carrigan, 12, Rachel Crothers, 19, Lucy Illek, 12, Brooke Anderson, 18, and Claudia Bell, 16, at Loreto Normanhurst. Picture: ADAM WARD

Source: News Limited

**AUSTRALIA'S women's sevens team were put through their paces at Loreto Normanhurst last week, training before an enthusiastic audience of schoolgirls.**

The side play at a tournament in Amsterdam this weekend - if they beat New Zealand, a world championship beckons.

Among the onlookers on Friday was Loreto's own rugby star, 16-year-old Claudia Bell.

"We have about 20-30 keen players here," she said.

"I just love the feeling of being on the run with the ball and just the whole camaraderie of playing a team sport."



Training on Loreto Normanhurst oval. Picture: ADAM WARD

Source: News Limited



Action from the training session. Picture: ADAM WARD  
Source: News Limited



Loreto Normanhurst students cheer on the 7s girls during training. Picture: ADAM WARD  
Source: News Limited

Claudia is the youngest player in the Macquarie University sevens team and a member of the NSW under-16 squad. She began playing rugby league as an eight-year-old in her hometown of Gravesend, near Moree, switching to rugby when she turned 11.

"I come from a big rugby family, so I sort of grew up with it," Claudia said.

Eighteen-year-old Australian utility player Brooke Anderson said it was exciting to see so many girls interested in the sport. Watch the sevens tournament live from 8pm on Friday at [wsws.irb.com](http://wsws.irb.com) ([wsws.irb.com](http://wsws.irb.com)).



The national women's rugby sevens team take a short break from an intense training session.

Picture: ADAM WARD

Source: News Limited

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