

A slice of good fortune

Picture: Anna Warr



PARRAMATTA Eels quartet, Jarryd Hayne, Tim Mannah, Nathan Hindmarsh and Ben Smith have given a big thumbs up to new club sponsors Criniti's Ristorante in Parramatta. The four key members of coach Stephen Kearney's squad in 2011 met with fans and sampled the menu last Wednesday at the family-owned-and-run busi-

ness in Church Street.

They also met with the local junior rugby teams including the Kellyville Bushrangers' girls rugby league team (right) who are looking for more 'Princesses' to join them.

Details: kellyvillebushrangers.com.au.



ON THE HILL with Eels' member Peter Lichaa

My name is Peter Lichaa and I was born with blue and gold blood. My family and friends refer to me as a "tragic" Parramatta fan but I don't look it that way. It is my privilege to support a club with such a long and proud history. As another season rolls around filled with hope and anticipation, there is the smell of something different in the air at

Parramatta. There is a chance our time in the premiership wilderness will come to an end. Stephen Kearney has been ruthless with the preseason training regime adopting a "take no prisoners" approach, with a focus on discipline, fitness and attitude. The trial form has been impressive with dominant performances against the more fancied Tigers and Panthers. There has been an emphasis on teamwork, structure and defence with signs of massive improvement. The Warriors will be a difficult assignment for Parramatta, but it will serve as an indicator for the year ahead. If the Eels can match the Warriors in the forwards and create opportunities for Hayne, they could steal the two points.