



# **gungahlin** **EAGLES** **MEDIA RELEASE**

25 JUNE 2010

## A word from the President

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After the competition bye, the Eagles look to continue their strong start to the season this Saturday against the one-team town of Queanbeyan. Over the last few years, Queanbeyan have been one of the competition's most improved clubs featuring in the last three First Grade grand finals as well as fielding very strong Second Grade and Colts' sides. This weekend's fixture will mark the halfway point of the 2010 season and with the club having the bye next week it is important to go into the break on a positive note.

With the unavailability of some of the Premier Grade players the club's depth will be put to the test but with the character our players have shown to date I am sure those players will be up to the test. Congratulations to Sam Needs and Ryan O'Sullivan who were selected in the ACT Under 19's squad to play the ACT Schoolboys this Sunday in the Schoolboys' last hit-out before they go to Nationals.

### **Reminder**

All players, support staff and supporters are welcome back to The Dickson Tradies around 6:30pm for a few drinks.

*Lee O'Sullivan*

## GAME PREVIEWS

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

This week's game against Queanbeyan will be a closely contested affair. Typically the Eagles - Whites matches are always very tough and physical encounters with both sides keen to use the ball and play expansive footy. In last season's contests, each game was won by 1 point with both sides winning the games away from home.

The Whites are typically slow starters and usually hit their straps by mid season - nothing has changed this year. The Whites attack from anywhere on the field and will be very physical at the breakdown and in defence. The Whites will also look to unleash their Brumbies & Australian U20 players Nic White and Robbie Coleman.

Eagles' new recruit Michael Lund gets his first start in the top grade and will be keen to put in a good performance and force his way into the top squad.

*Marco Caputo*

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

This weekend will undoubtedly be the biggest challenge to confront the mighty Eagles 2nd Grade team this season. The Queanbeyan Whites have been dominant victors against all of their opposition so far this season and have the best for & against percentage of any team, in any grade in the J I Dent Competition at this stage of the season.

With an ever increasing injury toll, illnesses and unavailabilities, the pressure has begun to show on the 2nd grade roster. A number of experienced players from the 3rd Grade team have been called into the side for this week's match. Matt Power, Chris Connolly and Mick Edwards have all been playing very well in the 3's and deserve their chance in 2's, and as always they will present themselves with a lot of enthusiasm and commitment. The remainder of the 2's squad remain upbeat and desperate to make amends for our poor showing last time out against West's. Big games from our highly credentialed front row of Iveni, Hoges and Webber, will lay the platform for a dominant set piece that will provide the catalyst for an upset Eagles' victory at Campese Oval.

*Tim Davis*

### COLTS

This weekend will see the Eagles' Colts taking on the unbeaten Queanbeyan Colts for the outright top spot on the competition ladder after Round 1. The two teams currently share the top position even with the Eagles having lost once. The Eagles have maintained their position on top due to the consistent four try bonus point performances in each match played so far this year.

The Colts have been looking forward to this match over the past week and have trained hard in an attempt to knock over the Queanbeyan team, who has been keyed as one of this year's favourites to take out the Colts' competition. Like other grades, the Colts' team will have to do this without a number of key players through injury and unavailability. However, the boys that come into these positions are looking forward to the tough challenge and will not leave anything behind when it comes to their performance on the field.

It is expected that the highlight of the game will be the Eagles' forwards play, which will again be led around the park by vice captain Sam Needs. Also look for a great clash in the centres with Queanbeyan hosting two representative centres against our own two young guns Tom Hyland and Ryan O'Sullivan.

*Tony Whittaker*

### T3

The season so far for T3 has been a huge success with us sitting 3 points clear on top of the ladder with a huge for and against advantage. We have had tough games against 2 of the top four teams and come out on top, which shows that we definitely have what it takes to take out the comp. However we recently lost our first game to Cooma who we should have thrashed, showing that we cannot afford to become complacent. The lead up to the Cooma game was disrupted with training being cancelled and coming off the back of some tough games. We turned up without being committed to playing our best rugby whereas the Cooma guys played out of their skins and pipped us by a penalty goal.

This week against Queanbeyan is a chance to finally make up for that performance after being forced to take 2 weeks off due to the comp byes. Hopefully the T3 faithful will see a team rearing to go and despite a depleted squad, due to players in higher grades being unavailable, will play to their potential and keep improving every week from now until September.

*Mark Dawes*

### T4

This Saturday the mighty T4 from the Gungahlin Eagles are up against the highly fancied Royals Molonglo. Both teams are in the top 4 and it promises to be an exciting clash, with both teams getting 4 try bonus points from each of their wins this season. T4 have been building towards something special this season and they are peaking at the right time! Hold on to your hats, this game could be a classic encounter and will go a long way to deciding the top 4 at season's end!

T4 will be looking for a team effort across the park and will have an excellent chance of winning the game if they support each other in defence and attack. GO T4!

*Tim Deacon*

## Player profile: Liam Winton

**Player Sponsor:** AG ELECTRICAL (ADAM GRESHAM)

**Date of birth:** 6/3/86

**Height:** 194cm

**Weight:** 108kg

**Position:** Lock / Backrow

**Rep. honours:** Australian Barbarians, Brumbies Runners, ACT

**Junior clubs:** Nil

**Previous clubs:** Penrith Emus

**What age did you start playing union?** 18

**Who are your footy heroes?** Ben McGee

**Who's been the biggest influence on your career?** Myself

**Celebrity you would most like to meet:** Carl Barron

**Pre-match rituals:** Sleep in, watch TV. pre game toilet break, eat lots of sushi.

**What would you spend your last \$20 on?** Maccas

**Most annoying team mate:** Ben McGee

**Favourite movie:** Don't Mess With The Zohan

**Favourite TV show:** Seinfeld

**Favourite band:** No favourites. I'll listen to pretty much anything.

**2010 goals:** Lead Gungahlin to a Premiership. Secure a \$15 contract.



## Player profile: Brendan O'Neill

**Player Sponsor:** EAGLES BOXING GROUP

**Date of birth:** 17/07/84

**Height:** 189cm

**Weight:** 95kg

**Position:** Flanker

**Rep. honours:** Brumbies Provincial. Canberra Vikings.

**Junior clubs:** Daramalan College

**Previous clubs:** Nil

**What age did you start playing union?** 7

**Who are your footy heroes?** Tim Horan, John Eales, George Smith.

**Who's been the biggest influence on your career?** My dad

**Celebrity you would most like to meet:** Thom Yorke, Nelson Mandela.

**Pre-match rituals:** Left sock and boot first. Not running through the tunnel.

**What would you spend your last \$20 on?** Buy a round for my mates.

**Most annoying team mate:** Ben McGee

**Favourite movie:** The Boondock Saints

**Favourite TV show:** Entourage

**Favourite band:** Silverchair, Radiohead.

**2010 goals:** Win the grand final!



## Player profile: John Melhado

**Player Sponsor:** CIC INDUSTRIAL CLEANERS

**Date of birth:** 25 September 1974

**Height:** 5'10

**Weight:** 87.5kg

**Position:** Wing

**Rep. honours:** Unfortunately started playing too late

**Junior clubs:** Unfortunately started playing too late

**Previous clubs:** Royals

**What age did you start playing union?** 31



**Who are your footy heroes?** George Gregan, George Smith, Stephen Larkham

**Who's been the biggest influence on your career?** My Rugby career- all my team mates at present. My actual Career- My family (mother)

**Celebrity you would most like to meet:** Megan Fox

**Pre-match rituals:** Big breakfast coffee, a couple of smokes and gotta wear my lucky undies

**What would you spend your last \$20 on?** Beers (not light beers this time)

**Most annoying team mate:** Danny Evers (and I'm a PEST? seriously!)

**Favourite movie:** Iron Man

**Favourite TV show:** The Rugby Club

**Favourite band:** ACDC

**2010 goals:** To develop a successful exporting business and be a part of a grand final winning team (club! ALL GRADES)

## SPONSOR'S PROFILE

**Ray White**  
Belconnen

The opening of Ray White Belconnen in March 2010 saw local brothers Ben and Sam Faulks combine with Doug O'Mara and Scott Jackson to form a new force in the Canberra Real Estate Market. Ray White Belconnen is dedicated to providing each and every one of their clients with a memorable real estate experience.

The Gungahlin Eagles are proud to continue their longstanding relationship with the Faulks family, with Ben and Sam both been a part of the Eagles family since their birth. Their father was once the President of Daramalan Rugby Club, Ben has played many 1st Grade games for the Eagles and Sam has played every grade bar Colts and also spent 2 years working tirelessly as the Eagles Junior Development officer.

Be sure to contact Ben and Sam at Ray White Belconnen for all of your Real Estate needs.

## Comments from members on our Mailing list.

Great to read the latest info on the Eagles up here on the Sunshine Coast. Keep them coming.  
Bob Grant

Fantastic reports. I love getting these, and they are a good read. I also note with delight that Royals are cellar dwellers in 1st Grade.....good spot for them.

Kind regards  
Jim Gordon WA

Just a short note to say it was great to read the newsletter especially with all the great wins over the old enemy Royals!!!Also, great photos (I actually recognised most of them!!) and really great to see so many GREAT Dara/Gungahlin family names perpetuated in the next generation across the teams.

Kind regards  
John Diamond



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Tooheys

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