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# BRUMBIES

## MATCH DAY PROGRAM 2020 SEASON, ISSUE 4

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Plus500 Brumbies Head Coach Dan McKellar and Super W boss Adam Butt give us their thoughts ahead of today's epic double-header at GIO Stadium.

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Brumbies prop and Canberra local Tom Ross writes about what the Waratahs rivalry means to him, as well as teammate Tom Cusack, and Brumby #2 Marco Caputo.

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Plus500 BRUMBIES RUGBY  
Established: 1996

BRUMBIES PROGRAM  
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# COACHES Q&A

WITH DAN & ADAM



## DAN, HOW ARE YOU FEELING HEADING INTO 'TAHS WEEK?

“Yeah feeling good. We’ve reset after the bye week, an important six-week block for us, and we started it well, certainly against the Sunwolves and again we had to adapt there.”

“It was nice for the players to have Saturday and Sunday off, get away from Rugby for a little bit. Come in and reset and get ready for an important game against the ‘Tahs.”

## ADAM, TOUGH RESULT LAST TIME OUT BUT HOW'S THE SIDE FEELING AFTER THE BYE AHEAD OF YOUR LAST REGULAR SEASON TEST HERE TODAY?



Yeah as you said it was tough against the ‘Tahs in Sydney. I thought we started well but to win against those teams, the top teams you have to do it for the 80 minutes so it’s a good lesson for our girls to learn.

We’ve reviewed it, had ye know, good and honest conversations about what we did wrong and right of course, so we’ve tried to rectify those mistakes in training and put it right ahead of today.



## **YOU KNOW YOU'LL FACE THE REDS NEXT WEEK NO MATTER WHAT BUT STILL PLENTY TO PLAY FOR HERE TODAY?**

Absolutely. Win today and we host the semi-final which would be huge for us. We always feel we have a chance when we play here at home, so we're right up for it today.

We know it's going to be tough. They're an awesome side. You look at what they did to the Rebels a few weeks back and they were unlucky not to win last week so, we know it's as tough a test as the 'Tahs or anyone else.



## **DAN, LOOKING BACK ON LAST WEEK, GOOD RESULT AGAINST THE SUNWOLVES, HOW DID YOU RATE THE PERFORMANCE?**

"Happy to win and get the bonus, but, we were disappointed with those core areas of our game that we are normally really good at, scrum and maul in particular. We conceded our first maul try in a couple of years. That was disappointing, you know you've got to review it and get on with it. We know that our set piece will be at another level on Sunday against the Waratahs.



## **WARATAHS STRUGGLING FOR CONSISTENT FORM, BUT IF THAT A FACTOR IN THIS GAME?**

"No not at all. Waratahs and the Brumbies as I said to the players during the week, you don't worry about form, this is a standalone game...it's just about who is up for it on the day."

"They're a dangerous football side. They have got a lot of really, really good footballers in that team across the board. How many guys have played over 100 Super Rugby Games? There's plenty of them. How many guys have played 70 plus test matches? And they have some exciting young talent coming through.

"Rob's a quality, experienced coach. I think they showed against the Lions and the first half against the Chiefs, when they get it right, they are very dangerous."

"We know it is going to be a big challenge for us."

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# COUNTRY RUGBY

## AT THE CORE MILLER'S CAREER



Brumbies flanker Will Miller is the embodiment of country rugby and the strong community behind it. For today's matchup against the Waratahs, Miller's former club, the Brumbies are celebrating our region, the rural communities that form the backbone of our beautiful nation.

Times have been tough for these areas, that's no secret so tonight, in the spirit of togetherness in these trying times, the Brumbies and the Waratahs are coming together, raising money under one banner, for rural aid.

That's off the field, but on the field, the rivalry still exists and hoping to bring some extra country noise to the ground, the Brumbies have helped every club in our region to get to the game.

Lining up in front of his former teammates, Miller will no doubt appreciate the country flavour as he goes hunting for a first win against the old enemy in Brumbies colours.

Growing up in the village of Berry in New South Wales, Miller comes from a long line of farmers, being fifth generation on his parent's property and seventh generation in the area.

Miller started his love for rugby at a very young age, as a kid, he would watch his dad play at the local Shoalhaven club and began to play around the same time.

"I think the first year I played I was five," Miller Said. "Five or six, there was an under 9s team that they needed numbers for, and dad just chucked me in to make the numbers up."

Even with his busy life as a rugby star, Miller still makes time to come back and visit his home any chance he gets.

"I think it's probably a pretty important part of playing footy, I think, having something on the side that you do, and keep you motivated elsewhere outside of playing rugby's

probably pretty important," Miller explained. "Just your mental health and well-being, so it's a way for me to escape and getaway.

"Before I was playing professional footy it was the opposite, I used to use rugby to get away from the farm a little bit."

Shoalhaven rugby was Miller's old go-to escape before becoming professional and it continues to be a staple for the rugby community in the area.

Captain of Shoalhaven's first grade Steven Brandon believes that rugby brings people together due to how close the community is with one another.

"All the farmers and that sort of things, they bring the attitude which flows through the club, and that's what rugby's all about," Brandon said.

"It's really good for him just to give back and show what he's learned, and you can tell he hasn't changed a bit, 'cause he's into training, he's mucking around with the boys, and the boys love it, they love him coming back."



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# GETTING TO KNOW:

## JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

JINDABYNE BUSHPIGS

## 3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU WANT TO REMEMBER THIS SEASON

GROWTH, ENJOYMENT, CHALLENGING

## NON-RUGBY HERO

MY FAMILY

## COFFEE ORDER

CARAMEL LATTE

## IF I WASN'T PLAYING RUGBY, I WOULD BE

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER & PRIMARY  
SCHOOL TEACHER

## WORST ROOMMATE

LOUISE BURROWS

## MOST ANNOYING TEAMMATE

IRIS VEREBALAVU

## CELEBRITY LOOKALIKE

GLORIA FROM MADAGASCAR

## GO TO KARAOKE SONG

TOES - ZAC BROWN BAND

## BUCKET LIST ITEM

BUNGEE JUMP

## ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

BEING OUTDOORS

## JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

SHOALHAVEN RUGBY CLUB

## 3 WORDS TO DESCRIBE HOW YOU WANT TO REMEMBER THIS SEASON

SUCCESSFUL, ENJOYABLE, UNITED

## NON-RUGBY HERO

DAD

## COFFEE ORDER

NO COFFEE, CHOCCY MILKSHAKE

## IF I WASN'T PLAYING RUGBY, I WOULD BE

DAIRY FARMER

## WORST ROOMMATE

IRAE SIMONE (BIG HEAD)

## MOST ANNOYING TEAMMATE

CONNAL MCINERNEY

## CELEBRITY LOOKALIKE

RYAN GOSLING

## GO TO KARAOKE SONG

MAN, I FEEL LIKE A WOMAN - SHANIA  
TWIN

## BUCKET LIST ITEM

HAVE CHILDREN

## ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT

MILK ON MY CEREAL

PETA COX  
WILL MILLER



# ROSSY REPORTS:

## WHY THIS WEEK MEANS MORE THAN MOST

*Plus500 Brumbies tighthead Tom Ross writes about why Brumbies v Waratahs is special to the players, leaning on Brumby #2 Marco Caputo and Tom Cusack for their perspectives as well for this unique look inside the mindset of players on 'Tahs week!*

As a Rugby kid growing up in the Nations Capital, the first day I marked on the Calendar was always the Brumbies vs Waratahs clash at Canberra stadium.

My family and I would waltz on down to our Bay 56 seats where we would watch Gregan, Giteau, Larkham, Smith and the likes just captivate the Rugby world.

It was a sense of big brother taking on little brother and over the years has seen some almighty clashes as a result of this fierce rivalry.

One game that will always stick with me has to be last year's clash against the Waratahs in Round 5. How could I forget it? It was my first cap for the Brumbies.

Imagine that? Me, a lifetime supporting the Brumbies and the first time I'm running out at Canberra stadium, the blokes in blue are opposite me.

The atmosphere was like no other game of Rugby and to have family in friends cheering on from the stands, made it even more special.

Brumby No.2 Marco Caputo still reminisces the hard-fought tussles that he endured during his time at the Brumbies and believes that the Waratahs game isn't just another fixture.

"It was always the first one you looked for when the draw came out," Caputo said.

"Growing up as a kid, you would always play second fiddle to NSW coming through the ages and the only way to get around that was by beating them.

"I hope that the boys find that extra little effort, whether it comes to putting your shoulder into contact or when it comes to finding that extra one percent to make the whole game worthwhile."

Tom Cusack is as local as they come, a Marist boy and someone I looked up to as a kid coming through the Brumbies ranks.

As a youngster, some of his fondest memories are of getting out to GIO stadium and barracking for the Brumbies.

"I was a massive fan," Cusack said

"To see the likes of Clyde Rathbone and Matt Giteau scoring try after try in the corner was just unreal."

Cusack puts the rivalry down to the close proximity of the two sides and no matter which side of the Territory boundary you come from, come 4:05pm Sunday afternoon, it is on for young and old.

"We have a fair few boys from Sydney who probably grew up wanting to be a Waratah, but are now fortunate enough to be playing for the Brumbies and that itself causes any rivalry," Cusack said.

"Our game against the Waratahs at Bankwest stadium last year was truly memorable.

"Obviously one of the first games played there and we put on an awesome performance to really set up our finals campaign, so that was certainly special."





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Canberra Stadium, March 9, 2013  
Referee: Jonathan White

## BRUMBIES 35 DEF WARATAHS 6

Brumbies (T: R. Coleman, C. Lealiifano, B. Mowen, H. Speight, C: Lealiifano 2, Prior; P: Lealiifano 3)



## STARTING LINE-UP

1. Ben Alexander
2. Stephen Moore (replaced by Siliva Siliva)
3. Dan Palmer (replaced by Scott Sio)
4. Scott Fardy
5. Sam Carter (replaced by Fotu Auelua)
6. Peter Kimlin
7. David Pocock (replaced by George Smith)
8. Ben Mowen (c)
9. Nic White (replaced by Ian Prior)
10. Matt To'omua
11. Clyde Rathbone
12. Christian Lealiifano
13. Andrew Smith (replaced by Joe Tomane)
14. Henry Speight
15. Jesse Mogg

**CROWD: 20,027**



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Genevieve Jacobs



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## BRUMBIES 2020: THE STORY SO FAR

As fires raged in our region, with temperatures soaring to 40+ degrees ahead of round one, if you told Dan McKellar his side would be 4/5 heading into 'Tahs week, he'd probably have taken it. Dispatching conference rivals, the Reds and Rebels in the opening two rounds, the Brumbies got off to their hottest start in recent memory, but it wasn't without its challenges.

First it was fires, forcing the Brumbies to Newcastle for part of their preseason, although McKellar and all of his squad would be the first to say, rugby struggles pale in comparison to those our friends and family were facing across Brumbies country. Then, as the side welcomed the Highlanders to GIO Stadium hoping to maintain their unblemished record, some of the side were struck down with mumps.

That rare challenge was met head on by the Brumbies, the team changing up until gameday but ultimately, a try after the 80-minute mark sunk the Brumbies unbeaten start. That setback, which also ended the Brumbies streak of home wins tracing back to round one 2019, didn't discourage the side.

With healthy reinforcements returning to the team for their trip away to the table-topping Chiefs, there was a renewed belief that

the Brumbies could do a job over in Hamilton, although history was not on their side.

The Brumbies hadn't won a game across the ditch since 2014 as they ran out in their glowing away strip, but from the opening whistle it was the clear the hoodoo of past seasons wasn't going to affect the outcome. It was perhaps, the best 40 minutes the Brumbies have ever played in McKellar's reign. The offloading, the running lines, the commitment to playing adventurous rugby from anywhere; it was a joy to watch.

What was maybe even more illuminating, was the Brumbies defence. They shut down the Chiefs for the first 60 minutes, rendering superstar fullback Damian McKenzie largely ineffective. The Chiefs will be there or thereabouts at the end of the season, so they were always going to have a purple-patch, but the Brumbies hung on for a famous victory.

A bye was followed by a job well done against the Sunwolves last Friday, another curveball in this whacky start to 2020 forcing the game from Osaka to Wollongong

All of that is to say, it's been a fantastic start to the 2020 season for the Brumbies. Top of the conference, two points back from 1st place with a game in hand and a young team growing in confidence every week.







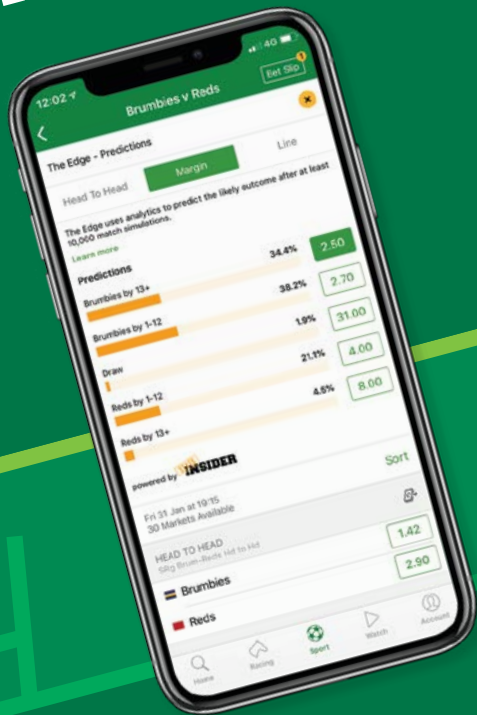
**// It's going to be an interesting battle, but I think we're going to have to take it to them early and up front. //**

**- Tom Banks**



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# MATCH STATISTICS



V



## BRUMBIES V WARATAHS @ HOME

11 W | 4 L

BIGGEST VICTORY

56-9 (1997)

29 MOST POINTS  
CONCEDED  
(2011)

FIRST TIME

26.4.1997: BRU 56 — 9 WAR

LAST TIME

15.3.2019: BRU 19 — 13 WAR



MOST POINTS  
SCORED 56  
(1996)

TOUGHEST LOSS  
17-24  
(1997)

DID YOU KNOW?

THE BRUMBIES DIDN'T LOSE AT HOME TO THE WARATAHS FROM 1996 — 2005.



BRUMBIES



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## MATCH PREVIEW: WARATAHS

Ask any Brumbies fan, or player for that matter, what games means the most to them during the season. Sure, Finals are massive but as far as regular season goes, no game can compare to when the Brumbies take on the 'Tahs.

It's the game the Brumbies identity has always been built on. In 1996, the Brumbies were a team of so-called "misfits", who couldn't make the NSW side. Those Brumbies, and their future ACT brothers since then, have gone on to be the most successful Australian franchise in Super Rugby, with a clear goal; beat the Waratahs.

In 2020, that goal remains the same. Though the Waratahs have struggled for consistent form so far this season, this game remains as important as ever, as a stand-alone fixture and in the context of the Brumbies season.

Sitting five points ahead of the Rebels in the Australian conference, and just two off the pace-setting Sharks in the overall standings, with a game in hand over both of them, the incentive couldn't be bigger for the Brumbies to beat the 'Tahs.

With Melbourne on a bye, and the Reds facing a tricky test against the admittedly underperforming Bulls, the Brumbies could go nine points clear of the Rebels and 14 in front of Queensland if they slip up, with victory today.

It's early, but that's about as healthy a lead you can hope for this early in a season. There's so much rugby to be played between now and finals, and given the start, the Brumbies should be aiming for top spot, not just a place in the quarters but still, all the signs are positive for Dan McKellar's charges.

Whatever way you chose to look at it, the Brumbies are a successful recycling of the ball against the Highlanders from being unbeaten through six rounds but all of that doesn't matter now.

Throw out the first five games, they're gone. Anything can happen when ACT takes on NSW. The Brumbies have the form, the history at GIO Stadium and the roar of our family in the stands. It's going to be a cracker!

# STARTING XV



- 1 James Slipper
- 2 Connal McInerney
- 3 Allan Alaalatoa
- 4 Murray Douglas
- 5 Caderyn Neville
- 6 Rob Valetini
- 7 Will Miller
- 8 Pete Samu
- 9 Joe Powell
- 10 Noah Lolesio
- 11 Andy Muirhead
- 12 Irae Simone
- 13 Tevita Kuridrani
- 14 Solomone Kata
- 15 Tom Banks

## Match Officials

### REFEREE:

Rasta Rasivhenge

### ASSISTANT REFEREE:

Mike Fraser

## Replacements

- 16 Lachlan Loneragan
- 17 Harry Lloyd
- 18 Tom Ross
- 19 Darcy Swain
- 20 Tom Cusack
- 21 Ryan Loneragan
- 22 Bayley Kuenzle
- 23 Tom Wright





Gamble  
Responsibly.

# TALEI QALO WILSON



# Buildcorp



**BRUMBY #14**





# PETE SAMU



**BRUMBY #212**



# SAMMIE WOOD

**TAB**

Gamble  
Responsibly.



# Buildcorp



**BRUMBY #12**





# STARTING XV

## Officials:

### AR2:

Brendon Pickerill

### TMO:

James Leckie

- 1 Angus Bell
- 2 Damien Fitzpatrick
- 3 Harry Johnson-Holmes
- 4 Rob Simmons
- 5 Tom Staniforth
- 6 Lachie Swinton
- 7 Michael Hooper
- 8 Jack Dempsey
- 9 Mitch Short
- 10 Will Harrison
- 11 Mark Nawaqanitawase
- 12 Karmichael Hunt
- 13 Alex Newsome
- 14 Jack Maddocks
- 15 Kurtley Beale

## Replacements

- 16 Robbie Abel
- 17 Tom Robertson
- 18 Tetera Faulkner
- 19 Jed Holloway
- 20 Pat Tafa
- 21 Michael McDonald,
- 22 Lalakai Foketi
- 23 James Ramm





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- 1 Peta cox
- 2 Harriet Elleman
- 3 Louise Burrows
- 4 Michaela Leonard (c)
- 5 Emily sogā
- 6 Emma Masi
- 7 Rebecca Smyth
- 8 Zali Waihape-Andrews
- 9 Jane Garraway (c)
- 10 Ella Ryan
- 11 Darcy Read
- 12 Sammie Wood
- 13 Ainsley Scrivener
- 14 Talei Qalo Wilson
- 15 Claudia Obst

- 16 Tania Afamasaga
- 17 Niki Patterson
- 18 Iris Verebalavu
- 19 Grace Sullivan
- 20 Pearl Rakete
- 21 Phoebe Loughhead
- 22 Pesi Palu
- 23 Allyssa Lolesio-Pua

- 1 Liz Patu
- 2 Ivy Kaleta
- 3 Christina Sekona
- 4 Kiri Lingman
- 5 Lesa Kaleti Mataafa
- 6 Shannon Mato
- 7 Lavinia Gould
- 8 Okeroa Manihera
- 9 Cobie-Jane Morgan
- 10 Zahara Temara
- 11 Ivania Wong
- 12 Sarah Riordan
- 13 Alana Elisaia
- 14 Lori Cramer
- 15 Courtney Hodder

- 16 Averyl Mitchell
- 17 Bree-Anna Cheatham
- 18 Toa Filimoehala
- 19 Saxon Campbell
- 20 Gabby Senft
- 21 Destiny Brill
- 22 Melanie Wilks
- 23 Maraia Tupai





## EMBRACING FIRST SUPER W SEASON

Brumbies newcomer Ella Ryan is embracing her first season with the Brumbies Women's side as they prepare for their final game of the regular season against the Queensland Reds.

The Brumbies know they'll be playing the Reds next week once again in the Semi-final, but that doesn't mean today's matchup doesn't have a lot of meaning for the side. A win for either side would mean they host that grand-final playoff, giving the Brumbies extra motivation to get their first victory over the Reds.

Ryan who is currently completing year 12 at St Claire's College here in Canberra, says her side will be ready to go when the whistle sounds. "I think we're really improving as a team every game," Ryan said. "I think this weekend we're going to come out hard and set ourselves a platform for next weekend, coming into the semi-final.

"Coming off the Waratahs and then into the bye weekend, we've had some extra fitness

sessions and we've had a massive contact session during the week."

Ryan has embraced life in elite sport, at just 17 years of age already making an impact on her fellow students, although the juggling act of guiding the Brumbies attack and studying for ATAR exams isn't always easy. "A few girls come up to me (at school) and thank me for playing that role as a role model to them," Ryan explained.

"That's really empowering for me and a lot of younger girls coming up in the ranks of wanting to play sports at this level. "I go to the gym in the morning, to school and back to field in the afternoon, which is pretty tough but, a lot of the girls have to work, and they have got a lot of heavy loads at work.

"I think school's always a release from sport and sport is a release from school, so, when I am struggling from stress with school work, I always seem to get a rugby ball in my hands and throw around and same with school if I am struggling with rugby commitments, then

school assignments can sometimes help". "All the older girls and younger girls I have moved up with, have really help me transform me into the player I am and have welcomed me into the team".

Ryan will look to link up with co-captain Jane Garraway in the halves once again in today's clash with the Reds. Peta Cox, Harriet Elleman and Louise Burrows start in an unchanged front row while Garraway's skipper partner Michaela Leonard and Emily Sogal combine at lock.

In the backrow, Rebecca Smyth is fit to return to openside flanker with Emma Masi moving to the other side of the scrum. Zali Waihapa-Andrews wears Number 8 having played at six and in the second row this season.

Sammie Wood stays at inside centre outside the halves pairing. Ainsley Scrivener earns a first start for the club at 13 having impressed off the bench. Darcy Read once occupies the left wing once again while Talei Qalo Wilson reverts to a more familiar position on the other flank, that switch bringing the versatile Claudia Obst into fullback.

Tania Afamasaga, Niki Patterson and Iris Verebalavu are the front-row replacements with Grace Sullivan and Pearl Rakete being the other forward finishers. Phoebe Loughhead, Pesi Palu and Alyssa Pau are the match-winners out wide in reserve for the Brumbies, completing the side.

Xxx for a pacey looking back-three who will hope to break down a quality Queensland outfit.

*The Brumbies Women take on the Queensland Reds at 1:15pm in a double header at GIO Stadium, with the Plus 500 Brumbies taking on the NSW Waratahs at 4:05pm.*

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# BEST FANS IN THE GAME

## HOW THE BRUMBIES MADE A YOUNG FAN'S DAY

The Brumbies made their round six Super Rugby match a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a young boy named Christian and his family.

The club received a Facebook message during the week from a Canberra woman inquiring about wheelchair access for her son, Christian Franklin.

In the exchange, the team found out that Christian was suffering from leukaemia, undergoing treatment in a Sydney hospital, and eerily the same strain of the disease that former skipper Christian Lealiifano also battled in recent years.

Rather than just answer her query, the Brumbies organised for Christian to be immersed in their game day from start to finish.

He was involved in the coin toss and veteran prop Scott Sio presented him with a jersey pre-game in the sheds.

Lealiifano sent Christian a message as well, offering his support in a battle that few would truly identify with.

During the game, Christian and his parents sat next to the Brumbies bench, and each player that came off the field shook hands with the whole family as they exited play.

Afterward, Franklin was in the middle of the Brumbies team song, heartily belting out their victory tune.

Sio said he hoped that Franklin had enjoyed the day.

"It was really great to have Christian alongside us in Wollongong, he's a really special kid who's going through a tough time and hopefully we were able to put a smile on his face on Friday afternoon," he said.

**Words: Emma Greenwood/Beth Newman – Rugby.com.au**



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## BRUMBIES PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITIES@WORK



The Plus500 Brumbies are delighted to be working with Communities@Work, as our major charity partner for the 2020 season.

During the partnership, Brumbies Rugby will help raise awareness of Communities@Work and the services they provide to the Canberra community.

Communities@Work is Canberra's largest not-for-profit community organisation, with a long and proud history of working with our community to support positive educational outcomes, and build resilient, sustainable and socially inclusive communities.

Providing a wide range of affordable, innovative and quality education, care and community programs, Communities@Work delivers services that lead to positive social outcomes.

These support services include two community pantries, a clothing program to provide free clothing and accessories for work and special events, a Best Dressed Store to sell pre-loved clothing, a Food Rescue service to collect donations of surplus food from grocery stores and a transitional accommodation program.

The Brumbies have already begun to work closely with Communities@work, visiting Mt. Rogers Primary school in Melba as well as the Community Pantry in Tuggeranong.

Plus500 Brumbies CEO, Phil Thomson said: "Brumbies Rugby are really proud to partner with Communities@Work who do great things in our city and our region.

"Community is the backbone of our organisation and is at the forefront of



everything we do, so to partner with a fantastic organisation like Communities@Work who support our region is a natural fit for us.”

CEO of Communities@Work, Lee Maiden said: “By leveraging the significant resources of both organisations – the Brumbies fan base, a successful high-profile sporting team and Communities@Work’s community connections and reputation – we can inspire and enrich more lives together than we can individually,”

“The Brumbies pride themselves on being a community club and are seeking to strengthen their connection with our local community. There’s no better way to do that than by giving back to that community. This lies at the heart of both organisations.”



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<b>Adelaide</b>	Wed 8th April	6:00pm - 8:30pm	Adelaide Cricket Ground	VISIT <a href="http://qoin.world/live-2020">qoin.world/live-2020</a>
<b>Melbourne</b>	Wed 22nd April	6:00pm - 8:30pm	Marvel Stadium	VISIT <a href="http://qoin.world/live-2020">qoin.world/live-2020</a>
<b>Perth</b>	Wed 6th May	6:00pm - 8:30pm	Optus Stadium	VISIT <a href="http://qoin.world/live-2020">qoin.world/live-2020</a>
<b>Brisbane</b>	Tues 12th May	6:00pm - 8:30pm	Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre	VISIT <a href="http://qoin.world/live-2020">qoin.world/live-2020</a>
<b>Gold Coast</b>	Thu 14th May	6:00pm - 8:30pm	QT Hotel	VISIT <a href="http://qoin.world/live-2020">qoin.world/live-2020</a>

# WESTS FLY ACT FLAG IN FNQ



It's a new era for Wests Rugby, and with current Brumbies Super W coach Adam Butt at the helm, the Lions ventured north to take on FNQ Thunder in a preseason friendly last week.

Some of Westie's current side are from the Far North Queensland region, including one of their standout performers in 2019, Declan Meredith.

Speaking to WIN News Cairns, Butt said his side were looking to make the Cairns trip a regular date on their preseason calendar moving forward.

"It's a big deal for us," Butt said.

"We've got a few players that come from this district so it's a big deal for up here as well.

"It's always nice to give back so that's what we're doing."



Meredith was in sparkling form last season, shocking opponents with his pace and eye for a gap.

Those performances earned Meredith selection in the John I Dent Cup team of the season at flyhalf, reward for a stellar first year in ACT rugby.

"He's a really handy player, really dedicated," Butt explained.

"He's doing well (in Canberra) and we've put him in a leadership role this season.

"We expect big things for him in the future."

Wests went two from two on tour, taking confidence into the new season which kicks off on 28 March.



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# BRUMBIES



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# #TEAMREHAB

Flanker Jahrome Brown made his return to rugby yesterday, seeing minutes in club colours for the Gungahlin Eagles.

The Waikato product was one of the stories of the season in 2019 but hasn't seen any time in Super Rugby to date in 2020 after copping an injury in Runners action against the Rebels A early February.

Elsewhere, Locky McCaffrey is fit to play this week having missed the Brumbies win over the Sunwolves in Wollongong.

Unavailable for selection: Scott Sio, Folau Fainga'a, Blake Enever, Toni Pulu





# WHAT'S COMING UP?

## **PRE-SALE: V STORMERS** **SAT 9 MAY, UNSW CANBERRA OVAL MANUKA,** **7.15PM**

MAKE SURE YOU SECURE YOUR SEAT FOR ROUND 15 AGAINST THE STORMERS AT UNSW CANBERRA OVAL, MANUKA.

**MEMBERS PRESALE - MONDAY MARCH 16**  
**FIRST IN THE QUEUE PRESALE - WED MARCH 18**  
**GENERAL PUBLIC ON SALE - FRIDAY MARCH 20**

## **ROUND 8 V BLUES AWAY** **SAT 22 FEBRUARY, AUCKLAND | CANBERRA** **RAIDERS DOUBLE-HEADER**

THE CAPITAL TAKES OVER AUCKLAND NEXT WEEKEND AS THE BRUMBIES AND NRL'S CANBERRA RAIDERS TAKE PART IN A HISTORIC DOUBLE-HEADER.

## **ROUND 10 V HURRICANES** **SAT 4 APRIL, GIO STADIUM, 7.15PM**

IT'S CAPITAL V CAPITAL, AS THE BRUMBIES TAKE ON THE HURRICANES AT GIO STADIUM, WELCOMING ONE OF SUPER RUGBY'S MOST EXCITING SIDES.

## **ROUND 11 V JAGUARES** **SUN 12 APRIL, GIO STADIUM, 4.05PM**

IT'S SUNDAY FUNDAY AT GIO STADIUM AS THE BRUMBIES FACE A STIFF CHALLENGE AGAINST OUR RIVALS FROM THE LAND OF ICE AND FIRE, THE JAGUARES.

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