

GISBORNE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC



MEDIA RELEASE

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Home Ground upgrades attracts new Bulldogs!

The recent 'Demolition Day' at Gardiner Reserve has provided a much needed revamp for the Gisborne Football Netball Clubrooms. The refurbishment and upgrade provides a new Trainers Room with new massage tables, player change area, toilet facilities, 5 showers a state of the art Ice Bath.

Manager of Football Operations, Damian Slater said that 'The upgrades to our facilities are long overdue. As the competition and professionalism in the Bendigo Football League continues to grow we need the ability to retain our talented young players coming through the ranks and attract new players to the Club with modern and up to date facilities.

He went on to say that, 'Both the newly appointed Executive Committee and the 25 representative strong General Committee, of the GFNC considered these upgrades vitally important for the players. The number of volunteers, community supporters and players we had for 'Demolition Day' really proved to us that we continue to have a committed player and supporter base, which is a great way to start the 2010 Season.'

Over the summer the Club saw the departure of key players such as Anthony Belcher (Retirement) Jason Duff-Tyler (Retirement) Ty Elliott (Retirement) Rod Sharp (transfer to Sunbury).

Slater said that 'The Club this year has specifically set out to invest and recruit a number of young local players who we believe can step up and play competitive senior football this year. We are focused on the development of younger players and our rebuilding phase. For the first time in 10 years we have had vacancies in those key positions that have been dominated by the likes of Duff Tyler, Elliott, & Belcher, they are big shoes to fill but a great opportunity for our new recruits to really put their names to these positions. We know that by investing the time and effort in our younger player we will position ourselves well for future years'.

The improvement to the Gardiner Reserve Clubrooms must have provided the icing on the cake for the recruitment because Slater along with Seniors Coach Ty Elliott secured the services of exciting new players that include:

Jarad Lynch, a 190cm versatile rookie who can play either end of the field effectively, Jarad was the former 'Rising Star' for the Ballarat Football League. Ben Shippard, from Woodend a much needed utility and classy ball carrier will provide drive through the midfield, his skilful disposal will provide a headache for opposing teams and Jared Arnold a young wingman with plenty of pace was a great pick up and a local boy from Woodend.

This year will also see the return of Assistant Coach and Michelson Medal winner Luke Saunders, Luke is rumoured to be training hard and 100% sound after a chest injury saw him benched for the larger part of the 2009 Season. Premiership player Adam Pavroski will also return the Bulldogs senior line up after a broken ankle last year.

The Doggies have enjoyed significant success over the last 10 years in the BFL, often referred to as the 'powerhouse club' of the League they have consistently set the standard for other clubs to live up to and this year the focus will be on development, rebuilding and accountability both on and off the field.

Newly elected President, Phil Illman said that, 'The 2010 Season has provided us with the opportunity to take a more strategic approach to where we want to take Club over the next 5 years. We want to build our local brand within our community; we recognise the importance of building the capacity of our Club and developing our young footballers and netballers to reach their full potential. Providing that pathway will be critical for us over the next 5 years.

He went on to say "Rest assured the Doggies bark will not be worse than their bite, we will be very competitive this year and have every expectation to play Finals football'.

ENDS – for further information please call Gisborne President, Phil Illman 0418 342 805