



press clip

Eagles' tall timber a hit at Merredin

WEST Coast Eagles big men Dean Cox and Nic Naitanui were hits with their Merredin supporters last Wednesday.

Cox, the more than 270-game Eagles veteran, was booked as guest speaker at a function organised by the Nukarni Football Club.

The event was part of the Aglime of Australia Mates 500 Relay, which passed through Merredin last Thursday on its way to finish at Manjimup tomorrow after 11 days, 1500km and 40 regional towns.

At the last minute his team-mate Nic Naitanui, the high-marking Fijian-born star with the distinctive dreadlocks hairstyle, agreed to join him.

They were greeted by a packed house.

The Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre's grandstand bar was filled with Eagles supporters, local children and the Mates Relay runners and entourage.

The players posed for photographs and signed memorabilia at \$2 a time to raise funds for the men's health issues being supported by the Mates Relay, before auctioneer Robert "Tiny" Holly

introduced them to the crowd.

Cox and Naitanui spoke about their personal histories and how they became involved in AFL.

They answered questions from Mr Holly and the crowd, and shared amusing anecdotes about themselves and teammates they have played with, before leaving for the return trip to Perth.

Later Mr Holly auction sporting memorabilia signed by the pair.

Mates Relay organiser and one of the runners Paul Omodei said the reception the runners and Cox and Naitanui received in Merredin was "fantastic".

Ten participants set off from Mukinbudin on Monday last week, running in a relay.

They started at or before sunrise to cover the distance and stayed overnight at Wongan Hills, Trayning, Bruce Rock, Corrigin and Kulin.

Three new runners joined the relay on the Merredin to Bruce Rock leg.

The event, which was started by six mates from Manjimup in 2011, is raising funds for the Regional Men's Health Initiative and the Prostate

Cancer Foundation of Australia.

☐ Photos: Merredin Mercury.



☐ Eagles family: Febe Irving (12), followed her younger sister's example and got Nic Naitanui to sign her jersey.



Farm Weekly(WA)

Thursday 3/04/2014

Page: 39
Section: Supplements
Region: Perth, AU
Circulation: 12992
Type: Rural
Size: 703.00 sq.cms.



slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



☐ Got his number: Emma Irving (9), a Nic Nat fan with number 9 on her Eagles jersey, was thrilled to meet her idol.



☐ He's tall: Holly Alvaro (6), had her cap signed by Dean Cox.



My mate: Eli Jarvis (10), with Dean Cox.



☐ Frazer Sutherland (9), with Nic Naitanui.



Farm Weekly(WA)

Thursday 3/04/2014

Page: 39
Section: Supplements
Region: Perth, AU
Circulation: 12992
Type: Rural
Size: 703.00 sq.cms.



slice

CUT STRAIGHT TO YOUR NEWS

press clip



My heroes: Eagles supporter Patrick Withers (11), Merredin, was as proud as punch to meet Dean Cox and Nic Naitanui.



Relaxed: Dean Cox (left) and Nic Naitanui answering questions from West Coast Eagles supporters among the crowd at the Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre.