



When the Lights Stayed On: The Bald Eagles vs Kangaroos Classic

13 June 2026, Dukes Oval, 4pm

Interclub | v Blue Mountain Kangaroos | Unknown length quarters

One of the few confirmed facts from the evening is this: the lights stayed on.

Beyond that, certainty becomes optional, because it turns out things happening in footy are very hard to remember when you're inside it.

On a warm winter evening, the Bald Eagles were hosted by the Blue Mountains Kangaroos in a match that quickly moved beyond sport and into what can only be described as oral history in real time.

The instruction was simple, if anatomically ambitious: "get a fist through the middle of their hands".

In practice, fists were only loosely involved. Instead, the game evolved into elbows, heads, shoulders, accidental forearms, and general body positioning that suggested everyone had collectively misunderstood the concept but committed fully regardless.

Remarkably, despite the disappearing hooter, questionable timekeeping, broken finger, swollen eye, bloodshed, footwear failure and possible destruction of a nationally significant sacred tree, the lights remained operational throughout.

1st Quarter - Sneaker Steve, early blood, and the first myth of the sacred tree

Balmy conditions greeted the opening bounce, described by one observer as "like a wonderful English summer evening, but with more accidental violence."

Before a ball was even bounced, Shotput Steve B suffered what will forever be known as the Shotput Steve to Sneaker Steve transition event. His shot-put boots disintegrated in pre-game warm-up, forcing him into improvised footwear that immediately earned Feather Duster status before play had even officially begun.

The Eagles started well through early ball movement, with the team doing well in general link-up play through the middle and helping transition the ball without dominating proceedings - steady, functional involvement rather than spotlight moments.

Cathy opened the scoring with a behind off the knee under terrific pressure from Clare, setting the tone for a quarter where precision would be optional but effort mandatory.

Then Steve Wall entered and broke football, briefly.

He took a neck-height contested mark, burst through traffic like a man actively offended by defence, and kicked truly. Moments later he added another long-range goal. It was clear he wasn't in the mood for just kicking goals. He was marking, tackling, soccering balls forward with his knee, bursting through congestion, and generally behaving like a man who had mistaken a friendly football match for a one-man demolition derby with headband issues.

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Toby added two goals, while Brody immediately established himself as the most dangerous player on the ground, repeatedly breaking lines with powerful runs through traffic that made defensive structures look optional.

Defensively, Andy and Neil were already under siege but holding firm.

The Eagles produced one of the passages of the night when Pete somehow scooped the ball between his legs to Ben. Steve provided the shepherd, Brody launched another attack, and the chain eventually found its way through Will, Toby and Cathy for a well-earned major.

Early chaos arrived quickly:

- Chris was involved in a heavy head clash that split an opposition player open, resulting in significant blood flow and Marc later being unintentionally “decorated” in it
- Don copped a friendly-fire forearm from Brendan, straight to the nose
- A rescue helicopter appeared briefly, reconsidered its life choices, and left

Play was briefly interrupted by the first reports of damage to what one highly reliable on-field source later described as “a sacred tree, and possibly the last one in Australia”. No culprit was identified at the time, although witnesses reported seeing a reflective-headed individual in the vicinity.

By quarter time, the Eagles held control, but the match had already begun writing its own mythology.

2nd Quarter – Robby’s illusion, Spider-Man energy, and rising chaos

The Kangaroos responded, and the game tightened into a scrappy, physical arm-wrestle.

Robby produced the quarter’s defining moment: a complete miss-kick that deceived everyone on the field, allowing him to gather and convert a goal anyway. It remains unclear whether this was elite deception or pure accident, but either way it is permanently archived in club folklore.

Andy, Donald and Marc continued steady involvement through link play and pressure acts, contributing without scoreboard recognition but remaining consistently useful in transition.

Glenn began to influence stoppages heavily, his movement style described as “Spider-Man warm-up protocol transferred into live football”, a technique that raised medical questions but proved effective.

Steve Wall added a Feather Duster entry with a sprayed behind that failed basic directional expectations.

Ben found Chris just outside 50 with a kick that, unlike some earlier efforts, didn't continue over Brody's head. Chris attacked the loose ball with customary enthusiasm and absolutely no regard for self-preservation. It was excellent football at the time, though later events would suggest it may have come with future consequences.

Around the ground:

- Brody continued to break lines at will
- Marc and Toby remained active in forward movement
- Andy, Neil, Pete and Don absorbed increasing defensive pressure

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- Ben was everywhere and nowhere simultaneously

The quarter slowed into controlled chaos, with stoppages, whistles, and increasing confusion about timekeeping legitimacy.

By this stage players began asking “How long left?” with increasing frequency. No satisfactory answers were recorded.

As the quarter wore on, further witness statements began to emerge regarding the Sacred Tree Incident. No official suspect had been named, but investigators were understood to be focusing on a bald male matching Brendan's general description.

Brendan denied all knowledge and continued playing.

A late Kangaroos goal ensured the contest remained alive.

Half-Time – Tactical clarity (loosely defined)

Steve Wall delivered the now-famous instruction:

“Pick the ball up, get the ball and have some fun with it. Get a fist through the middle of their hands!”

The second half would interpret this loosely.

3rd Quarter – Josh arrives, Brody becomes Bustling Barry Hall (premium edition), Chris takes impact

The third quarter saw Josh emerge as a genuine forward presence, presenting strongly and finishing multiple opportunities. His transformation from unknown quantity to key target was rapid and effective, making him one of the more valuable forward-half contributors.

Brody's influence escalated further. His work through packs resembled a more refined, and significantly better-looking, version of Bustling Barry Hall - still crashing contests and winning ball, but doing so with a fluidity that made it look almost effortless. He repeatedly broke through congestion, linking play and generating forward momentum that the Kangaroos struggled to contain.

Steve Wall added another goal with his non-preferred foot, immediately informing all nearby witnesses before cramping almost instantly, as if celebration triggered muscular shutdown. Brody's second confirmed goal was a left-footer shortly after.

Further enquiries regarding time remaining were lodged with officials. Again, no useful information was obtained.

Chris' defining moment came in a contested situation where he committed fully into a head-first contest, absorbing significant impact and immediately developing a rapidly swelling black eye. Those future consequences arrived.

If the half-time talk was about “fisting through packs”, the reality of this quarter was that it had evolved into elbows, heads, and survival instincts. The Eagles adapted accordingly.

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Defensively, Brendan, Andy, Pete, Neil and Steve Wall were heavily involved as the Kangaroos attempted to stay in touch.

Clare continued building Golden Eagle credentials through key defensive efforts, while Brody remained the standout across both ground coverage and contest impact.

By the third quarter the Sacred Tree Investigation had become one of the game's major storylines. While no formal charges had been laid, several eyewitnesses claimed the suspect possessed a highly reflective scalp and had been observed operating near the affected vegetation.

Coincidentally, Brendan was enjoying a solid quarter.

4th Quarter – Cramp epidemic, broken fingers, and the disappearance of time

Marc opened the final quarter with a long-range goal from extreme distance, immediately raising debate about measurement accuracy. Chris is positive it was at least 75m, although his one-eyed depth perception may have been a bit off. Distance estimates in the final quarter should therefore be viewed accordingly.

Don continued playing through the entire second half with a broken finger, only later discovering the diagnosis.

Pete was safe as houses through the middle, repeatedly finding targets and calming things down whenever the game threatened to descend entirely into chaos.

Clare produced a crucial goal-saving intervention on Brody, denying a certain major and reinforcing her defensive value.

The Eagles defence stood tall again as the Kangaroos tried to mount one last challenge.

As the game entered its final stages, investigators appeared increasingly confident they had identified a person of interest in the Sacred Tree matter. While Brendan remained innocent until proven guilty, all available evidence was becoming remarkably inconvenient.

Then the cramp wave arrived.

Steve Wall kicked a goal and immediately collapsed without seeing it go through. Ben followed shortly after with a long-range goal of his own before also entering full cramp shutdown, effectively scoring and retiring simultaneously. Glenn, however, still had plenty of energy late. Whether this was due to superior fitness or the controversial Spider-Man warm-up routine remains under investigation.

Brody continued running relentlessly, covering enormous ground and repeatedly breaking lines despite fatigue having clearly left the conversation. Remarkably, Sneaker Steve's replacement footwear continued to hold together, making it one of the day's more unexpected success stories.

Andy and Brendan cleared pressure under increasing strain, and Pete remained composed as always.

Meanwhile, it was realised at some point while the BBQ was being fired up that the timer hadn't been started for the quarter. Never mind - the sausages smelt great, and Marc was lining up for a shot.

The timekeeper, silent for approximately 97 minutes, suddenly rediscovered his responsibilities at precisely the worst moment.

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Marc was denied his final opportunity.

The game ended sometime around 5:40pm after a 4:00pm start, though this remains unverified.

Closing Note

The lights stayed on. Everything else remains under investigation.

Sneaker Steve survived pre-game equipment collapse. Brody dominated contests with a rare blend of power and finesse. Josh emerged as a genuine forward weapon. Cathy applied constant forward pressure. Clare saved goals at critical moments. Marc took too long to kick at the end. The team continued to play through injury. And somewhere in the background, sacred trees remain unconfirmed casualties of war.

Unconfirmed goal kickers included Steve W (4ish), Josh (4ish), Toby (2ish), Cathy (1ish), Marc (1ish from 85m), Glenn (maybe some-ish), Robbie (at least 1ish), and Brody (at least 2ish, including a left-foot effort), with additional contributors not reliably recorded due to timekeeping irregularities. Final score remains unknown, though multiple independent witnesses agreed the Eagles "probably edged it" - a statement which carries no official weight but considerable emotional truth.

The Eagles did not so much complete a match as survive one, against a Kangaroos side that gave as good as it got.

Football, once again, was the real winner.



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