



Bendigo  
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Bendigo



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2023**



**Bendigo Football Netball League**  
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BFNL Board & AFLCV Staff.....	1	Maryborough FNC Review .....	19
Notice of 2023 AGM.....	2	Sandhurst FNC Review .....	20
2023 AGM Agenda.....	3	South Bendigo FNC Review .....	21
Minutes from 2022 AGM.....	5	Strathfieldsaye FNC Review .....	22
BFNL Manager's Report .....	8	2023 Grand Final Football Medallists.....	23
BFNL Chair's Report.....	10	Previous Goalkickers.....	24
AFLCV Commission Report.....	11	2023 Goalkickers.....	25
Castlemaine FNC Review .....	13	BFNL Football and Netball Premierships...	26
Eaglehawk FNC Review .....	14	2023 Grand Final Football Scoreboard.....	27
Gisborne FNC Review.....	15	2023 Grand Final Netball Scoreboard.....	28
Golden Square FNC Review .....	16	2023 BFNL Awards.....	30
Kangaroo Flat FNC Review .....	17	2023 Michelsen Medallists.....	32
Kyneton FNC Review .....	18		

**BENDIGO FNL BOARD CHAIR**

**PROFESSOR CAROL MCKINSTRY**

<b>BENDIGO FNL GENERAL MANAGER</b>	<b>BENDIGO FNL BOARD MEMBER</b>
<b>CAMERON TOMLINS</b>	<b>SAM MCGEE</b>
<b>BENDIGO FNL BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>BENDIGO FNL BOARD MEMBER</b>
<b>ELLYSE MCNISH</b>	<b>ANDY WALKER</b>
<b>BENDIGO FNL BOARD MEMBER</b>	
<b>CHERYL ELVEY</b>	



Senior Football Premiers Golden Square FNC and A Grade Netball Premiers Gisborne FNC



**AFLCV REGIONAL GENERAL MANAGER**

**CRAIG ARMSTEAD**

**NETBALL OPERATIONS MANAGER & HDFNL MANAGER**

**JAN MANNES**

**AFLCV FINANCE AND LVFNL MANAGER**

**LAURA NAUGHTON**

**COMMERCIAL, MEDIA & OPERATIONS MANAGER**

**TOM KING**

**JUNIOR FOOTBALL OPERATIONS**

**NATHAN WILLIAMS**

**BENDIGO FNL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

The Bendigo Football Netball League respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of all lands and waters on which we train and play. We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and future.

**BENDIGO FNL COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY**

Every person in the Bendigo Football Netball League (BFNL) community has a responsibility to understand their role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

The BFNL is committed to promoting and protecting the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and preventing abuse from occurring by fostering a culture where children feel safe and empowered.

We also seek to ensure the cultural safety of First Nations children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

Front cover: Noah Wheeler (2023 Michelsen Medallist) and Chelsea Sartori (2023 Betty Thompson Medallist).

## NOTICE OF BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2023

Notice is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League Inc. will be held at the Bendigo Club (22 Park St, Strathdale), on Wednesday 17th January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.

### Business:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023.
2. To receive and consider the reports of the BFNL Chair and BFNL Manager, the Profit and Loss Accounts for the year ended 31st October 2023, the Balance sheet as at that date, and the Auditors Report.
3. Election of vacant Board positions as per nominated candidates:

Board to consist of a minimum of 7 persons with maximum of 9 persons.

In accordance with Part 5, Division 3 of the BFNL Constitution: Carol McKinstry, Andy Walker, Sam McGee, Cheryl Elvey and Ellyse Roper will retire as Board members by rotation.

4. Appointment of Auditor for 2024.
5. General Business - General discussion in which matters may be raised for consideration of the BFNL Board.

Nominations for the BFNL Board and any other business to be transacted, must be delivered to the BFNL Manager prior to 6.00pm on Wednesday the 3rd of January 2024.

By Order of the Bendigo FNL Board of Management



Cameron Tomlins  
BFNL Manager

## AGENDA OF BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2023

Agenda of the 40th Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League, to be held at the Bendigo Club, on Wednesday 17th January 2024 commencing at 7.30pm.

### Business:

#### 1. Welcome and apologies.

Motion that apologies be accepted:

Moved:

Seconded:

#### 2. Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January 2023.

Motion that the minutes are recorded as a true and accurate record:

Moved:

Seconded:

#### 3. Business arising from the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

#### 4. Presentation of the Chair's Annual Report.

#### 5. BFNL Manager's Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.

Motion that the Annual Reports of the BFNL Chair and BFNL Manager be accepted:

Moved:

Seconded:

#### 6. AFL Central Victoria Commission Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.

#### 7. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year ended 31st October 2023.

Motion that the Annual Financial Statement be confirmed as a true and fair record of the financial position of the BFNL during and at the end of the financial year:

Moved:

Seconded:

## 8. Election of vacant Board positions.

Board to consist of a minimum of 7 persons, and a maximum of 9 persons.

In accordance with Part 5, Division 3, Election of Board Members & Tenure of Office of the BFNL Constitution:

Carol McKinstry, Sam McGee, Andy Walker, Cheryl Elvey, and Ellyse Roper will retire as Board members by rotation.

Seven nominations were received for the vacant positions:

### Carol McKinstry

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Sam McGee

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Andy Walker

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Cheryl Elvey

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Ellyse Roper

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Craig Findlay

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

### Todd Deary

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

\* Craig Findlay & Todd Deary submitted official nominations after being appointed by the BFNL to fill casual vacancies in September 2023.

## 9. League affiliation 2024

Motion that the BFNL affiliate with AFL Victoria, AFL Central Victoria, and Netball Victoria for season 2024:

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Appointment of Auditor(s)

Motion to appoint Kelly & Partners / MGR Accountants as the League's auditor for the coming 12 months:

Moved: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconder: \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Other Business:

a. Nil.

## 12. Meeting Closed.

## MINUTES OF 39TH BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2022

Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League, held at The Bendigo Club, on Wednesday 18th January 2023.

Meeting opened: 7.33pm

### Attendance:

**Board Members:** Carol McKinstry, Beres Fitch, Andy Walker, Sam McGee, Cheryl Elvey, Ellyse Roper, Cameron Tomlins (BFNL Manager)

**BFNL Clubs:** Caleb Kuhle (Castlemaine), James Hanley (Eaglehawk), Mandy Dimasi, Tony Brancatisano, Debbie Brancatisano (Gisborne), Ian Symons, Gill Sawyer (Golden Square), Leigh Bailey, Chatheesha Jasotharan (Kangaroo Flat), Kelvin Noonan (Maryborough), Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst), Glenn Cowling, Tim Reed (Strathfieldsaye).

**Guests:** Gavin Hore (AFLCV Commission), Craig Armstead (AFLCV Region Manager)

**Apologies:** Luke O'Keefe & Rod Barty (Strathfieldsaye), Rick Townsend (South Bendigo), Hayden Evans (Kyneton), John Wood (Gisborne), Rohan Molenaar.

### Business:

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

Acknowledgement of Country, Board Chair extended warm welcome to all Presidents, BFNL Board members, guests in attendance on behalf of AFL Central Victoria Commission, and other attendees in general.

#### Motion that apologies be accepted.

**Moved:** Leigh Bailey **Seconded:** Kelvin Noonan **Carried**

#### 2. Minutes of the 38th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 19th January 2022.

#### Motion that the minutes are recorded as a true and accurate record

**Moved:** Mandy Dimasi **Seconded:** Debbie Brancatisano **Carried**

#### 3. Business arising from the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

No business arising.

#### 4. Presentation of the Chair's Annual Report.

- a. BFNL Board Chair (CM) provided a verbal report summary, highlighting:
  - i. Reflection on 2022 season - significant interest & increased crowds
  - ii. Welcome return to Finals with almost all clubs represented - noted increased spectator enthusiasm and support despite unkind weather, particularly on Grand Final day.
  - iii. Successful implementation of Premier Data, valued investment that raised league profile.
  - iv. Good financial year for league, based on prudence and strong financial management.
  - v. Disappointed interleague program was deferred, however noted overwhelming success of Netball Vic Association Champs, special thanks to all coaches/team mangers.
  - vi. Thanks to all Board members for dedication, hard work, and personal support.
  - vii. Thanks to AFLCV RM Craig Armstead and AFLCV staff support, continuing a strong professional working relationship.
  - viii. Special thanks to retiring longstanding Board member Beres Fitch for 12-years' service, noting specific support of Interleague programs, wisdom, ability to 'think beyond the obvious' and provoke deeper thought, continued personal support provided for several BFNL Chairpersons.

#### 5. BFNL Manager's Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.

- a. BFNL Manger (CT) provided a verbal report summary, highlighting:
  - i. Special thanks to all BFNL members, players, volunteers, Presidents, Committees involved in 2022 season
  - ii. Thanks to clubs for involvement in various BFNL themed rounds
  - iii. Special thanks to new and continued league sponsors, local council, media outlets, BUA, BFNL Board members, retiring Board member Beres Fitch, AFLCV staff for dedication and support
  - iv. Congratulations to all Premiership teams and individual award winners
  - v. Congratulations to Maryborough U18 football & 17/U teams for returning and playing Finals
  - vi. Congratulations and thanks to netball representative team coaches, supports staff, and players/families
  - vii. Note new initiatives introduced including Premier Data, live streaming
  - viii. Note pleasing increase in overall football/netball team participation

#### Motion that the Annual Reports of the BFNL Chair & Manager be accepted:

**Moved:** Kelvin Noonan **Seconded:** Mark O'Farrell **Carried**





CAMERON TOMLINS - BFNL MANAGER

## Mission Statement

**“The Bendigo Football Netball League will provide a professionally administered league which is strong and vibrant. It prides itself on having a major competition status within regional Victoria. The Bendigo Football Netball League legacy is to leave the game and community in better shape for current and future generations.”**

After finally overcoming the lingering impacts of the global pandemic, season 2023 met our expectations as the final positive step towards a return to a return to 'normal' atmosphere for community sport and the Bendigo Football Netball League in general.

First and foremost - congratulations to all teams and clubs along with the countless devoted support staff and volunteers for their tireless effort and dedication to season 2023. Furthermore, congratulations to all 2023 BFNL Premiers, and individual awards winners.

Participation across BFNL football and netball experienced further growth, as did general interest and competitiveness. This was underlined by the most successful finals series experienced during the past decade, showcased by several intense and exciting football and netball Grand Final results on the biggest day of the year.

The success of the finals series was built from a solid platform, commencing with teams from no less than 9-clubs represented in during the first week of the series. An outstanding result.

In stark contrast to season 2022 grand final conditions, the near perfect weather and conditions were conducive to high quality competition. To have both the Under 18 football and the senior football grand finals each determined by a goal or less, and two 1-goal netball results created an incredible atmosphere across the duration of the day.

It is an honour to again be able to congratulate all our Premiership teams on an incredible season, along with the hundreds of devoted support staff and volunteers on their tireless effort and dedication.

Congratulations to the Golden Square senior football team, who held on by 6-points to take out the 2023 Premiership over Sandhurst. These two teams were arguably the best during the regular season, and the game will go down in history as one of the greats. Not to be outdone, the atmosphere at the netball courts was phenomenal as Gisborne's A-Grade netballers stormed home to edge Sandhurst out of contention for a 5th consecutive A-Grade Premiership by one solitary goal.

In what has been discussed as one of the greatest BFNL netball matches of all time, those in attendance were blessed to experience the level of talent on the court. Sandhurst achieved a remarkable feat with all 5 netball teams qualifying for Grand Finals, claiming the A-Reserve, and B-Grade premiership cups. Gisborne took out the 17 & under by 1-goal, whilst Kangaroo Flat claimed the B-Reserve crown.

Sandhurst claimed the 2023 Reserves football cup with a hard-fought match against Eaglehawk, and Gisborne's Under 18 footballers went back-to-back, holding on for a 4-point thriller against Golden Square.

Congratulations to all individual award winners announced and presented at the 2023 Michelsen Medal. To be able to celebrate another successful season by recognising several outstanding individual seasons in their respective competitions is a great highlight on the calendar for the League. The prestigious evening ended by presenting two highly deserved winners of the highest individual honours in the BFNL.

Congratulations to Noah Wheeler of the Eaglehawk Football Netball Club on claiming the Michelsen Medal win for a stellar season, whilst fan favourite and regular vote getter, Kangaroo Flat's Chelsea Sartori ended the count on top to claim her first Betty Thompson medal after many close calls.

We also congratulate 2023 Ron Best Medallist Lachlan Sharp from Strathfieldsaye, whose 93-goals saw him claim the award named in honour of BFNL Legend inductee Ron Best, for the third time of his stellar BFNL career. And we introduced the winners of our Rising Star award, with Charlotte Sexton from the Sandhurst FNC and Maryborough's Taj Bond being judged the best emerging talent within the league.

Our sincere appreciation extends to our appointed netball representative team coaches, team managers, families, and all volunteers who assisted the BFNL selected netball teams during another successful 2023 Netball Victoria Association Championships campaign. Thank you to every selected player for accepting the challenge to proudly represent the BFNL, whilst continuing your individual development at the highest possible level.

Both the BFNL 17 & Under and Open teams verified the current high standard of BFNL netball, on qualifying for the 2023 Association Championships Finals, particularly the Open team who fell agonisingly short at Semi Final stage to the eventual winner Banyule & Districts.

Our program coaches in Nicole Donnellon and Sharni McPherson for the 17 & under team, and Open coach Jayden Cowling again created a strong high-performance atmosphere for our players to further develop and successfully test themselves against the best netballers across the state.

During the regular season, we proudly supported and hosted several valuable themed rounds, and we thank all associated organisations, foundations, individuals, and clubs for their support. We are privileged to have an opportunity to use community football and netball as

a platform to publicly support and raise awareness for important causes providing positive impact on our local communities.

Many of our players are role-models for emerging generations, and we thank them for their involvement and investment into such educational programs. Whilst we support as many great causes and initiatives as possible, we are also conscious of the additional burden this can create on volunteers so are conscious to limit themed round participation, which in turn allows clubs to focus on themed programs of specific importance to their members.

Themed round highlights during season 2023 included a hugely successful Indigenous round supported by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation which ended in a remarkable after the siren senior football win to Kyneton over Eaglehawk, TAC Road Safety Round, and the Pat Cronin Foundation Round featuring Kangaroo Flat and Gisborne providing education, resources, and strategies to the wider community to empower young people so that together we can stop violence and end the coward punch.

I would like to take the opportunity to extend the Kyneton Football Netball Club our best wishes after the announcement they will not affiliate with the Bendigo Football Netball League for season 2024. With a long and proud history within the BFNL, it is disappointing they will not compete in our major league next year, however, personally I am supportive of any club's choice to ensure they compete in a competition they feel gives the club the best chance of future sustainability.

As we look back on the season that was 2023, we also remember the legacy of Dallas Keogh-Frankling who tragically passed away earlier this season. Whilst devastating to the local Castlemaine and Kyneton communities, and wider BFNL community in general, the support and comradery displayed by countless clubs, organisations, and individuals across the entire Country was remarkable. As was the resilience and leadership displayed by the Castlemaine FNC during the tragic incident which was astonishing and difficult to put into words.

## Business and Media Partners

The continued support of our corporate partners is critical to our ability to coordinate a successful, exciting, and vibrant competitions. We thank all new and returning partners of the league for the ongoing investment in community football and netball. We are fortunate to have the ongoing support and investment of several valued partners.

The Bendigo Bank continued as the major supporter of local community sport, including football and netball in general. The continued investment of the Bendigo Bank allows us to assist clubs with participation, inclusion, social connection, and provides opportunity to support the varied physical, social, and mental benefits of being involved in a local sporting association.

Our ongoing partnership offers local clubs' opportunities to directly benefit from the referral program initiative, via the financial incentive program for club members who bank with the Bendigo Bank.

We express our sincere gratitude to our loyal continued major sponsors of the BFNL:

- Bendigo Mazda, the continued major sponsor of all BFNL netball competitions
- Broadcast and statistics analysis partner Barry Plant Bendigo
- Workforce XS for the sponsorship of match day footballs, BFNL representative and interleague programs, and for managing Finals security requirements.
- Reserves competition sponsor Harmac Homes
- Under 18 competition sponsors Sportspower Bendigo.
- The Bendigo Club, hosts of the annual Michelsen Medal event
- Bart 'n' Print, who sponsor the highly anticipated Rising Star awards, along with providing league printing and design services such as match day Record production
- Goal scoring partners Coffee Storm
- Pinot & Picasso, who partnered with the league for the first time in 2023, investing in netball through the popular new netball 'Player Portrait' series which recognised upcoming netball talent within the league.
- We sincerely thank all other partners for their varied support including Sherrin, Bendigo Times, Gold Central Victoria, Bendigo Party Hire, Great Ideas Awards and Gifts, High St X-Ray, Simon Rosa Landscaping, Neverland Store, and Cleanaway.

The BFNL are grateful for the various valued media partners who promote our league.

We sincerely thank the entire sports team at the Bendigo Advertiser for their extensive and in-depth analysis of all things BFNL football and netball. The ongoing support from Bendigo Advertiser covers the Senior football 'Bendigo Advertiser Cup' presented to the

premiership team each year and were again the media partner of our highly successful Premier Data statistical analysis platform.

We appreciate the dedication of Bendigo's Fresh FM 101.5 for their continued broadcast and comprehensive coverage of the BFNL competition throughout the regular season and finals series. The Fresh team also contributed by hosting the 2023 pre-Michelsen Medal count, venturing into live streaming of football and netball counts.

Thanks to Red Onion Creative for the provision of all match video, highlights, and live-streaming services. These are all areas the BFNL will continue to invest in to increase the overall access and the profile of the League which continues to provide an attractive point of difference for the BFNL. We thank the team for allowing us to film and stream a highly entertaining A-Grade netball finals series, and the recent development and launch of impressive interactive BFNL website.

We extend our sincere appreciation to a host of other individuals that provide quality services to the BFNL:

- Steve Dilks from SAA Imaging for amazing photography services throughout the season, covering weekly matches and several special BFNL events.
- Kylie Ellis, who is renowned as the best vote-caller in the region calling the 2023 Michelsen Medal and pre-count events.
- Our professional and knowledgeable MC Joel Peterson who again hosted the Michelsen Medal, Season Launch, and 2023 Grand Final Day proceedings including commentating the A-Grade netball Grand Final live.
- Nathan Dole's thorough previews and analysis of football and netball matches weekly.
- Richard Jones for his regular highly anticipated historic recollections relating to the BFNL.

## Summary

At times, volunteering for a club is consuming, demanding, and draining. Volunteers become stretched yet continue to ensure their clubs are successful and sustainable. Our clubs are the heart of our communities, and whilst sometimes volunteer investment goes somewhat unnoticed I personally thank everyone that positively contributes to the success of your club.

Whilst many clubs rely on a team of countless individual behind the scenes, a special thanks to club Presidents and Committees for the leadership and direction. As I move around the league and speak with many enthusiastic individuals during the season, it is inspiring to witness the varied motivations and passion club volunteers express. Clubs flourish under good people, so please consider taking on small volunteer roles at clubs where possible, to lighten the load on too few current club volunteers.

A sincere thank you to all BFNL players, coaches, officials, supporters, for the demonstrated commitment to your club. Your passion drives our clubs and the League, ultimately creating a sustained platform for sustainability and success.

Thanks to Michael Hockley, Dean Goodridge, Sharon McColl, and the entire team from the Bendigo Umpires Association for the development and provision of football umpire appointments during the season. It can be a difficult yet rewarding job for our umpires, and at times in 2023 umpire talent pools were stretched. We sincerely thank all umpires for their service, dedication, and willingness to be part of our strong competition, our clubs who were required to provide club umpires on occasion during 2023, and strongly encourage any interested prospective umpires to consider getting involved.

We strive to maintain strong relationships with the City of Greater Bendigo and surrounding Shire Councils and thank them for their cooperation and support to allow opportunities for the League and clubs to utilise local facilities. We will continue to advocate for positive outcomes for clubs including facility development, to allow us to continue to increase participation and inclusion across all codes, grades, genders, and formats. Facilities and infrastructure development was highlighted by the grand opening of the modern and impressive Harry Trott Oval Kennington, the permanent future home base of the South Bendigo FNC.

I acknowledge in appreciation the significant contribution of BFNL Chair Carol McKinstry along with the entire BFNL Board who are all volunteers investing their time, knowledge, and support to the league, along with recognising outgoing AFLCV Region General Manager Craig Armstead and all staff members from AFL Central Victoria for their varied and amazing support and assistance provided during what is a long season.

We will continue to ensure that BFNL participation, competitiveness, and strategic planning development allows us to ensure clubs are supported and the league remains vibrant. Let's continue to work together to deliver a brand that confirms the BFNL status as the premier football and netball league in Central Victoria.





The 2023 BFNL season is one that will be remembered for some time. While it was successful in many areas, there were some major events that will have a lasting impact. It was the last season that the Kyneton Football Netball Club participated in the league following the disastrous and ill-fated intervention by the AFL CV Commission to review football competitions in the region. It will also be remembered for the tragic death of Dallas Keogh-Franklin who passed away after playing in an Under 18 match for the Castlemaine Football Netball Club. Dallas' passing saw an entire football and netball community come together to support the Castlemaine and Kyneton Football Netball Clubs as well as the Castlemaine community and Dallas' family. The leadership shown by both clubs to support their members and Dallas' family was amazing.

Participation and the ability of clubs to field all teams improved in 2023 with only one club not having a full complement of netball teams. The sourcing of umpires and club volunteers was challenging as we continue to recover from the pandemic. Crowds and club memberships increased, and the opening of the Harry Trott Oval facilities was a highlight of the season. This courageous decision to shift from the Queen Elizabeth Oval by the South Bendigo Football Netball Club has already seen an increase in community support for this club and larger crowds in attendance. Many thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo and the State Government for their funding contributions to make this happen.

While we did not have interleague football, our netballers participated in the Association Championships. The 17 & Under netballers were successful in the qualifying tournaments and gained much from the experience of competing in the Association Championships. Our Open team narrowly missed the grand final however again demonstrated the high standard of our competition. Many thanks to our coaches and team managers for their expertise and efforts.

The 2023 final series was a success with nine of the ten clubs participate in the final series and higher attendances. Congratulations to all that participated and to teams who won premierships, including Golden Square for winning the Senior Football and to Gisborne for winning the A Grade Netball.

Our presentation evening for the various league awards was very successful and congratulations to Chelsea Satori for winning the Betty Thompson Medal, to Noah Wheeler for winning the Michelsen Medal and to the Sandhurst FNC for winning the McCann Champion Club award. This was also the first year of awarding the Carol Bingham Medal for the B grade netball best and fairest in recognition of one of our league legends.

The BFNL Board and manager have continued to work hard to ensure financial stability and where possible, reduce financial burden on clubs. In 2023 a subsidy was again given to the first BFNL fee instalment to each club. Where possible, we have continued to subsidise the BFNL Record and video recording of each senior football match. While revenue for the finals series was increased, unfortunately the costs of staging the finals has also risen considerably.

We continue to have wonderful support from our media partners, in particular the Bendigo Advertiser who provide comprehensive coverage of both football and netball. Fresh FM continue to broadcast games and this year we continued to live stream a match of the round via our Facebook. Further use of Premier Data has increased both game development and general interest in our league. Our presence on social media has continued to grow ensuring clubs, players and supporters are kept up to date on the latest news and developments. Many thanks to our media partners for their support and excellent reporting throughout the year.

With the retiring of the long-standing board director Beres Fitch we co-opted Craig Findlay and Todd Deary to fill casual vacancies. Both Craig and Todd have had a long association with the BFNL with Craig having a long involvement with the Bendigo Umpires Association and Todd as player, coach, and club committee member.

Once again, I would like to thank the club presidents and committees for their tireless work and support throughout the season. Your patience and cooperation in sourcing umpires when there were shortages and willingness of clubs to work together to ensure matches went ahead was testimony to the collegiality that exists in this league. It is an interesting and challenging time, but the BFNL Board is committed to strongly advocating for the needs and recognition of being a premier league within our region.

I would like to thank the various staff and volunteers connected to the AFL CV Hub. We have had a very productive working relationship with Craig and his team and appreciated their dedication. The new system introduced for the tribunal was successful and we thank the chair and the tribunal members for their diligent work throughout the season.

The work of our League Manager Cameron Tomlins keeps going to another level and we very much appreciate his tireless and exemplary work. Cameron is constantly looking for opportunities to enhance our league for all involved and I think I speak on behalf of our clubs as well as the BFNL Board in saying that his work keeps adding to the level of professionalism and quality every year.

Many thanks to the Bendigo Bank, our league naming rights partner, for their long-standing support of our league. Their ongoing support of grassroots football is much appreciated as well. Thanks also to Bendigo Mazda for their ongoing support of netball, Workforce XS, Harmac Homes, the Bendigo Club, Bart 'n' Print, SportsPower Bendigo, Coffee Storm, Cleanaway, Sherrin, Bendigo Party Hire, High St X-Ray, Great Ideas Awards and Gifts, Simon Rosa Landscaping, Pinot & Picasso, the Neverland Store, and Red Onion Creative for their valued support this year. Thanks also to our media partners (Bendigo Advertiser, Fresh FM, WIN TV, Bendigo Times, Gold Central Victoria) who have continued to promote our league and clubs.

Finally, I would like to thank all the BFNL Board Directors for their tireless commitment and considerable time. We are extremely fortunate to have a range of skills and experience across our Board.



Gisborne footballers, supporters and netballers alike celebrate A Grade's amazing come from behind victory against Sandhurst.

## The Year

Following significant interruptions during 2020 and 2021, undoubtedly the greatest highlight from 2022 was that we were able to complete a full home and away season of football and netball, and then enjoy exciting finals series. While COVID still had an impact with teams missing players, coaches and volunteers week to week, and club's having administrators unavailable, we were ve Congratulations to all clubs who competed across our region during season 2023, we acknowledge and appreciate the tireless efforts of our clubs to facilitate football and netball participation across Central Victoria.

All clubs across our region play such a valuable role in their local communities. Increasingly, our football netball clubs are providing important social connections in addition to the physical and mental benefits for those actively participating. Club volunteers contribute so much to make this happen, and often do so regularly without wanting acknowledgement or recognition.

2023 provided many highlights, along with various challenges, however it was pleasing to witness a broad return to normality with most impacts of the recent global pandemic largely behind us. This was evident across the region both throughout the season, however particularly across the various league finals series that were well attended, successful, and highly competitive.

However, recent trends of poor or unacceptable match day conduct remain a focus area, from junior players and spectators through to senior competitions. Antisocial actions or abuse demonstrated by players, officials, or spectators will not be tolerated and as a region we will continue to explore programs or initiatives for implementation to enhance the match day experience for all attendees.

The 27th of May 2023 will be long remembered as one of the most difficult days for local football in Central Victoria as treasured and valued Castlemaine FNC under 18 footballer Dallas Keogh-Frankling died suddenly in tragic circumstances following a match against the Kyneton FNC. Whilst the local communities were struggling to comprehend Dallas' passing, the outpouring of support from the wider football and netball community across the country was overwhelming. We thank and appreciate all those who offered and provided support during the extremely difficult time.

We remember Dallas, and will continue to facilitate support for his family, friends, teammates, umpires, and coaches.

## Congratulations

On behalf of AFL Central Victoria, we extend our sincere gratitude to the volunteers, administrators, players, coaches, and families from all clubs who made this such a successful year.

We congratulate all clubs who were represented in their respective finals' campaigns, including all season 2023 premiership teams. Premiership success is difficult to accomplish, and whilst the ultimate measure of club success is far greater than a premiership cup, those associated who achieved grand final success will have fond memories of that triumph for years to come.

Congratulations to all players who won individual awards in 2023 either at League or Club level, whilst most value team success higher, we hope clubs and teammates were able to celebrate those individual achievements.

## Thank You

A significant amount of time and investment is required to administer teams, clubs, competitions, and leagues. It is important we acknowledge and appreciate the work of our important stakeholders:

- Thanks to the countless volunteers across the region who enable our clubs to function and allow matches to proceed each week. Thousands of people are required region-wide on match days to ensure games can be played.
- With over 400 matches played every weekend across netball, football, and hockey, umpires are critical to participation. Umpiring sports remains a difficult yet rewarding role, and we appreciate the investment from every person who umpired in

some capacity this year. Many Association umpires went above and beyond as required, participating in multiple games on the same day or weekend to support players and clubs. Our appreciation extends to club appointed umpires who offered their services when local Umpire Association pools became exhausted at times. Please remember games don't occur without umpires so please be respectful to all umpires who, like the players, are trying their best.

- AFL Central Victoria are fortunate to have great support from local partners, at club, league, and regional level. The varying support they deliver allows direct benefits to clubs and local communities via a range of initiatives, investments, and activities. Of significant mention, major partner Bendigo Bank invests in the region to reduce financial burden on clubs, whilst generating further support via the club referral program which offers vital funds directly to affiliated clubs by referring new business to the bank.
- We are thankful to also maintain strong relationships with community partners such as the TAC, Headspace Bendigo, Love the Game, Agnico Eagle, and the Pat Cronin Foundation. A special thanks to the TAC for facilitating the Club Rewards program, incentivising grassroots clubs across the state for showing a commitment to promoting road safety during the 2023 season. We congratulate all local clubs for their investment in the program to promote road safety, particularly those successful Central Victoria football and netball clubs who were recipients of rewards up to \$10,000 through the program.
- Thanks to the group of skilled volunteers who offer their time to assist with tribunal and investigation operations, which is an important, complex, and necessary function.
- Our appreciation extends to local media outlets across the entire Central Victoria region. We are thankful to receive great coverage, promotional content, and support from various outlets in print, radio, or television. Media remains a valuable source of information for local communities across all regions of our competing clubs.

## Participation

For AFL Central Victoria, the 2023 season has been a successful one with more football and netball players than we had in 2022. Importantly our player numbers were also higher than in 2019, the most recent fully completed season before COVID. Similarly, we had significantly more registered coaches (head coaches and assistant coaches) than we did last year.

Ensuring we continue to enjoy growth in the future requires committing financially now. Jointly with AFL Victoria, this year we have invested in Auskick programs across our region, boosted staff presence in over 80% of our schools, and coordinated multiple coach and umpire development courses.

In terms of elite club support, in February this year we secured both the Essendon and North Melbourne AFL clubs to conduct community camps in Bendigo, and four Suncorp Super Netball clubs competed in the 'Bound 4 Bendigo' weekend at the Bendigo Stadium.

We were pleased to deliver several successful participation programs during 2023:

- NAB Auskick Program
- AFL Primary Play Programs (free AFL program delivered to primary schools)
- AFL Kinda Play Programs (free AFL program delivered to kindergartens)
- Footy4Fun
- Junior X and AFL 9's

This year, Auskick participation reached 61 active programs across our region, consisting of 48 Community Auskick Programs and 13 AFL Victoria Led Programs including a mixture of at-school, Koori, and all-girls offerings.

Conducting these programs enabled AFL Victoria to promote NAB AFL Auskick and Community Football, to ultimately transition participants into community leagues and clubs.



Jack Geary leads Golden Square out to do battle with Sandhurst in the senior Grand Final.

## Development & Pathways

AFL Central Victoria provided a full year of football and netball academies in Bendigo and North Central. It was fantastic to see young athletes participate in these programs and develop a range of skills. Similarly, the academies provide a great pathway for coach learning and development.

AFL Central Victoria (Bendigo) junior football teams played representative games in Mooropna against Goulburn Murray Junior League and Murray Football League, and in Bendigo against the Ballarat Football Netball League.

The North Central Academy played in the Gala Day held at Marist College (Bendigo). Our Central Victoria Football League senior women's and U18 Girls team played high quality football in round robin representative matches against Northern Country Women's League and North-East Border Female Football League in Mooropna.

All leagues in our region had representative netball teams who attended tournaments along with Netball Victoria Association Championships. This included age groups from 13 & under, right through to open age. Netball academy players participated in the Sunbury tournament in July, a successful campaign ended with all 6 teams qualifying for finals, 4 making Grand Finals, and 3 eventual winning teams.

V/Line Cup carnivals were again coordinated for our best under 15 female and male players. Both carnivals were held in Shepparton for the most talented under 15 players across all areas of country Victoria. It was a pleasure to witness the level of skill demonstrated by emerging talent from across our region. We appreciate the investment of all coaches and other volunteers who contributed to the success of the event.

Gala days engaging junior footballers and netballers from the various leagues in our region were coordinated to enable participants to come to one location and compete against each other with great success, a special thanks to all involved.

AFL Central Victoria provided multiple programs and activities for the education and development of coaches and umpires, across both football and netball.

These programs involved a range of practical and classroom education, facilitated, and delivered by several highly credentialed presenters.

## Infrastructure

Congratulations to all concerned in both State and Local Governments, all clubs, and stakeholders for driving facility development within the region.

Exciting facility developments during 2023 included:

- The official opening and delivery of the major pavilion development at Harry Trott oval in Kennington featuring new change and social rooms and landscaping, leading to the recent decommission and demolition of the existing South Bendigo FNC social rooms within the Queen Elizabeth Oval precinct, and outdated adjacent brick grandstand toilet facilities.
- Delivery of the Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct at Catherine McAuley College in Junortoun.
- After an extended period of closure preventing early season Newbridge FNC home game fixturing due to the extreme flooding events of late 2022, significant repairs, contamination extraction, and various upgrades led to the re-opening of Riverside Park Newbridge, headlined by a scheduled mid-season 'Flood Recovery Game'.
- A major upgrade at Donaldson Park in Wedderburn has commenced which will include new facilities and unisex change rooms for players and umpires, with stage 2 scheduled for completion in early 2024.
- New netball courts at Leitchville Recreation Reserve.
- Several clubs welcomed lighting upgrades, and minor change room upgrades (player/umpire) at various clubs throughout the region.

Finally, our sincere appreciation to all staff members across both Bendigo and Swan Hill hubs.

The level of knowledge, service and dedication displayed by staff members to deliver high quality competitions and assist our leagues and clubs continually exceeds expectations.

Specific thanks to Craig Armstead for his tireless work, who as AFL Central Victoria Regional General Manager concluded employment in October 2023, Michael Hartley who was on short term contract with AFL Central Victoria, and AFL Victoria during the year, for their various contributions.



## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Brendan Shepherd**

**RESERVES**  
**Caleb Kuhle**

**UNDER 18**  
**John Watson**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Fiona Fowler**  
**Gary Cooke**

**A RESERVE**  
**Gary Cooke**

**B GRADE**  
**Fiona Fowler**  
**Chloe Hughes**

**B RESERVE**  
**Nikkea Hogan**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Kelly Hartman**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Matthew Filo**

**RESERVES**  
**Thomas Wilson**

**UNDER 18**  
**Archie Rixon**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Fiona Fowler**

**A RESERVE**  
**Abbey Grindal**

**B GRADE**  
**Kristie Lennon**

**B RESERVE**  
**Paige Mitchener**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Megan Wilson**

# CASTLEMAINE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Caleb Kuhle  
**Secretary:** Stuart McLennan  
**Treasurer:** Trevor Butcher

**Committee:** Ron Cawthorn, Liam Wilkinson, Georgia Banks, Tracey Watson, Mark Shannon, Annette Kuhle, Damien Sharrock, Victoria Christie, Shawn Rixon, David Stephens, Fiona Fowler

The club had another year under the guidance of Kuhle as President, Cooke & Fowler lead the netball department, but the football department had a change of coach with Brendan Shepherd for 2023.

Brendan was a returning premiers player from 2000 with Castlemaine and stood in for the outgoing Don Moran.

The club began the year off with the sad passing of much-loved club legend and life member, Chris 'Heppy' Cole.

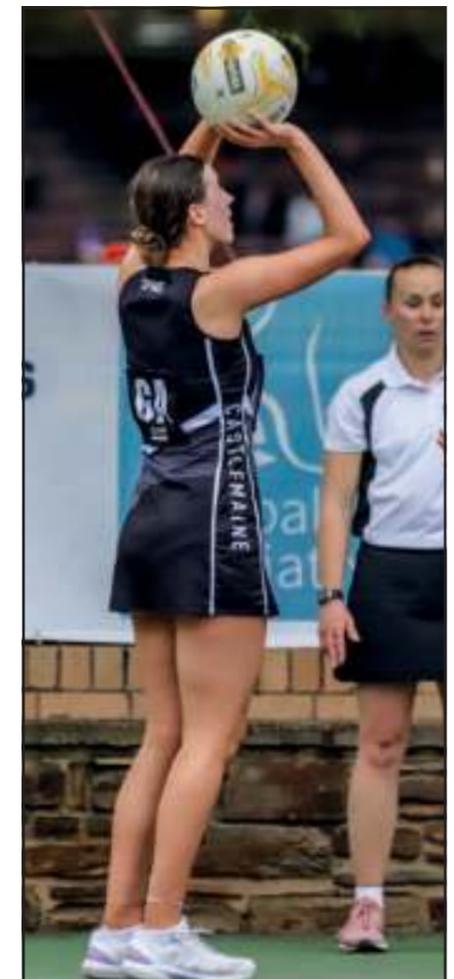
The football playing group in legacy of Hep pushed to keep the club moving forward through the dark times and strive to be 'Relentless' on and off the field.

In what was speculated by media outlets the last days of CFNC, to the credit of the players and volunteers, Castlemaine took to Round 1 and achieved wins in both A Grade netball and Senior's football to announce that the club was still here and wanting to improve.

The thoughts of the entire club went out to one of our own families, May 27th marked the passing of Under 18 football Dallas Keogh-Frankling at Kyneton after the fixture for the round. The club thanks the continued support provided by Carol and Cameron from the BFNL, the AFLCV Commission and the fellow BFNL clubs that wrapped their arms around our players, supporters and coaches; particularly Golden Square and Kyneton.

The netball was a shining light for the club at the back end of the season with both A grade and A reserve finishing in the top 5 for consecutive years. Unfortunately, A reserve fell out the first week of the final's series, but the Cooke & Fowler lead A grade side kept fighting. Gary and Fiona could not be prouder of the side to go three rounds into finals albeit disappointing to not go the whole way, but to go out in the Preliminary Final to the eventual Premiers was a mighty effort.

The club is gearing up for a big year in 2024!





# EAGLEHAWK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** James Hanley  
**Secretary:** Gerard Ilsley  
**Treasurer:** Rani Madden  
**Committee:** Archie Lenten, Kevin Price, Brett Crapper, Matt Eliades, Damian Miles, Elley Lawton, Deb Lawton, Paige Combridge, Cassie O'Toole, Bron McQueen, Oscar Madden

## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Travis Matheson**  
**RESERVES**  
**Darcy Richards**  
**UNDER 18**  
**Dennis Grinton**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Kylie Piercy**  
**A RESERVE**  
**Eleisha Saunders**  
**B GRADE**  
**Kate Clow**  
**B RESERVE**  
**Tess Doran**  
**17 & UNDER**  
**Jackie Gallagher**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Billy Evans**  
**RESERVES**  
**Ethan Hanley**  
**UNDER 18**  
**Noah Eliades**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Eleisha Saunders**  
**A RESERVE**  
**Rani Madden**  
**B GRADE**  
**Isabel Eliades**  
**B RESERVE**  
**Sharni Simpson**  
**17 & UNDER**  
**Josie Walsh**

The season of 2023 started off with the big news that former AFL St. Kilda captain Jarryn Geary was returning to the club as a coach and player.

It was great to have him back for the games he played before he once again suffered two serious injuries. Regardless, Jarryn was all class and helped our young group gain confidence in their own ability.

Jarryn has just been appointed development coach at the Western Bulldogs and we wish him all the best and thank him for what he did for our club in 2023.

Elsewhere, Noah Wheeler won the Michelsen Medal, and Isabel Eliades finished Runner Up in the B Grade netball award, both claiming respective league Best and Fairest awards on Michelsen Medal night.

The seniors did a wonderful job to play two finals, but injuries to key players hurt the team badly.

Our reserves made the grand final after being on top all year, but when it counted, they fell short and, in the end, lost by 3 goals.

Ryan Wellington won the league goalkicking for the reserves with 56 goals.

Dennis had a young group in the under 18s, winning 3 games, however, could have won more with greater commitment from his group. In the end it was a great learning year for the boys who are going to front up again in 2024.

Over at the netball court the girls are going through a rebuild, and for the top A squad group it was a matter of just improving each week to see if they could chalk up some wins. In the end, A Grade ended with 5 wins, A Reserve got 5, B Grade won 8 and were knocked out of



finals last game of the season, B Reserve made finals with 9 wins but were eliminated week 1, and the young 17s secured 4 victories for 2023.

All in all, the netballers had an enjoyable year.

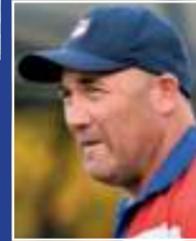
Off the field, James and his hard-working committee had a tough year trying to get everything done especially at home games, however a shortage of volunteers to help run canteens, bars etc. was evident. There is no denying like most clubs, we need more help to get everything done, which helps keep the cash coming in.

The crowds were better in 2023 than they were in 2022, and hopefully in 2024 they will be even bigger again when the new look Borough takes to the field.

James and his team have some exciting things planned for the 2024 season, so it promises to be an entertaining and hopefully winning 2024 season.

We would like to thank Cameron at BFNL, the umpires, the media, and all those who help make our league run so smoothly.

Congratulations to our major award winners Paul Whitfort - Best Club Person, Dave Lawton - Committee Helper Award, Noah Wheeler - Michelsen Medallist, and Ryan Wellington - Reserves Football League Goalkicking Award.



# GISBORNE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** John Wood  
**Secretary:** Mandy Dimasi  
**Treasurer:** Debbie Brancatisano  
**Committee:** Tony Brancatisano, Gyllean Eales, Darren Mitchell, Tony Andrews

## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Brad Fox**  
**Rob Waters**

**RESERVES**  
**Anthony Belcher**

**UNDER 18**  
**Rob Kerry**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Tarryn Rymer**

**A RESERVE**  
**Tarryn Rymer**

**B GRADE**  
**Bronwyn Slater**

**B RESERVE**  
**Kara Murray**  
**Leesa Lord**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Rylee Connell**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Flynn Lakey**  
**RESERVES**  
**Hayden Doricic**  
**UNDER 18**  
**Jarrold Ainsworth**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Zoe Davies**  
**A RESERVE**  
**Charlotte Crook**  
**B GRADE**  
**Milly Shaw**  
**B RESERVE**  
**Lily Prater**  
**17 & UNDER**  
**Bella Connors**

2023 was another very successful year for the GFNC. The on-field success reflected the hard work that goes on behind the scenes by the Committee, coaching and support staff and a host of volunteers. Their efforts were validated by the success that we were able to achieve as a club.

The netball department's record this year was remarkable. All five teams made finals with A Grade, A Reserve, B Grade and 17/U playing in Grand Finals.

The 17/U team provided a great start to Grand Final day by winning by 1 goal that was scored in the dying seconds of the game. The win gives coach Rylee Connell back to back premierships.

Coached by Tarryn Rymer, the A Grade team were able to score the last 6 goals of the grand final and defeat the powerful Sandhurst team in an epic game that will go down as one for the ages.

The A Reserve team, with Tarryn Rymer as coach, played brilliantly all season but were unable to overcome Sandhurst in a tight match. Similarly, the B Grade team (Bron Slater coach) played well but unfortunately went down to a very strong Kangaroo Flat team. The B Reserve team (co-coached by Kara Murray & Leesa Lord) capped off a tremendous year with a berth in finals but were not able to proceed to the Grand Final.



Men's football was a mixed bag over the 2023 season. After winning the 2022 premiership, the Senior side saw the departure of 11 players. A change of coach late in the 2023 season saw 2022 Premiership coach Robbie Waters back in the fold and some good wins late should slingshot us into 2024 on a very positive note.

Our Reserves footballers had a very good year and played in finals. It was a fantastic coaching effort by coach Anthony Belcher considering the pressure on player numbers and a great effort by the players to keep performing every week under often adverse conditions. Boyd Nalder had another terrific year in Reserves football taking out the League medal for Best and Fairest for the 2nd consecutive year.

After winning the 2022 premiership and again under the expert guidance of coach Rob Kerr, our U18 footballers went back to back in winning the 2023 flag. Over the last two years we have been able to give many of our U18 players a taste of senior football which will hold us in good stead going forward as we continue to give local boys the chance to play football for the town they grew up in.

On a sad note, GFNC acknowledges the passing of club stalwart and club legend Sharon "Blackie" Black. Sharon's love of the GFNC knew no bounds and her contribution to the club over so many years was amazing.





# GOLDEN SQUARE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Ian Symons  
**Secretary:** Gill Sawyer  
**Treasurer:** Wendy Donegan  
**Committee:** Chris Richards, Ricky Jenkyn, Nick Carter, Brendan Stewart, Greg Pain, Andrew Wicking, Liz Watkins, Dave Symons, Kellie Martin, Tanner Raynor, Jon Coe

Season 2023 was a successful year both on and off the field/court. While the senior football team won the Premiership, the Under 18's played off in a grand final, and our Under 17's netball team also played finals, to finally finish third. Importantly, our players of the future show enormous promise.

Christian Carter coached the senior football group to a Premiership. This adds to his record of being a Premiership captain and player, playing over 200 games player and being a Life member. In guiding the team to this year's flag, Christian devoted enormous hours and effort to getting the best result for our players, the club and our members.

Lauren Swatton is taking a back seat from coaching the Under 17 girls, after the girls stellar effort in reaching the Preliminary final.

Benita Swatton was coach of our A grade squad, and we thank her also for her work in developing our young netballers. We also sincerely thank Lauren Klenitz for stepping in and coaching our B grade squad.

Brad Eaton has also achieved much, dual coaching the Under 16's and reserves, with Paul Hamilton (AFL talent identification manager) and Rowan Warfe (ex Fitzroy and Sydney Swans player) coaching our Under 18 team. After being on top of the ladder for most of the season, they fell agonisingly short by 4 points in the Grand Final. The boys developed a great attitude to improvement and being their best. The game against Castlemaine was

exceptional, when the theme for the day was sportsmanship and kindness.

Membership, sponsorship, player numbers and attendances were all well up on previous years. The club appears to be in a great position in the immediate and longer term future to grow and prosper. Amalgamation with our Junior club has been high on our agenda and should be completed during 2024.

Executive Committee members are to be congratulated, for working behind the scenes to support the success of the club. Secretary Gill Sawyer dealt with many major strategic issues, Chris Richards and Rick Jenkyn were heavily involved in netball and football and Nick Carter has been integral to discussions around amalgamation with our Junior club. To all our committee members, we say a huge thankyou.

This year, three of our membership were awarded Life membership. Bruce Claridge after a life time of involvement as club chaplain, Matt Compston for his 200th senior match and Jack Geary, for his 200th game, 9 years as captain and 6 Premierships! Congratulations to these three outstanding people, who have contributed so much to our club.

Our volunteers are the life blood of any netball and football club, and without them we couldn't exist. 20 of our finest people were nominated as volunteers of the week, with Gill Sawyer voted the Greg Pain volunteer of the Year.



# KANGAROO FLAT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Leigh Bailey  
**Secretary:** Chatheesha Jasotharan  
**Treasurer:** Peter Leersen  
**Committee:** Carl Roberts (Vice President), Greg Barras, Julie Smith, Hayley Smith, Anthony Furlong, Todd Newman (Junior President), Jarrod Nelson, Scott Mitchell

The season got off to a pretty good start for the club all round, the preparation from both football and netball couldn't have been any better.

Our on-field results once again didn't reflect the hard work that players put in over the year even though the seniors won 5 games compared to 4 last year.

You could clearly see that the improvement that was gained showed the boys could have easily ended up with a few more wins on the board, had things gone their way, with injuries being the biggest factor.

As always the lessons learnt can only help build what is required to take the next step and become even more competitive.

The netballers started the year with some unfinished business again, as always they have been up there near the top for such a long time.

A Grade, were really determined to take that next step and they knew it was going to be a very hard job, as a lot of other clubs have been slowly bridging the gap between the top three clubs. Things didn't help the cause with three A grade girls suffering season ending knee injuries, but the depth was still there to fill the gaps and you could see by the results that they were still clearly in the race.

Four of the five teams made the finals, with the highlight being the B Reserve girls pulling off what was an amazing premiership win that was fully supported by all the other girls and the club, well done to them for such a brilliant year.

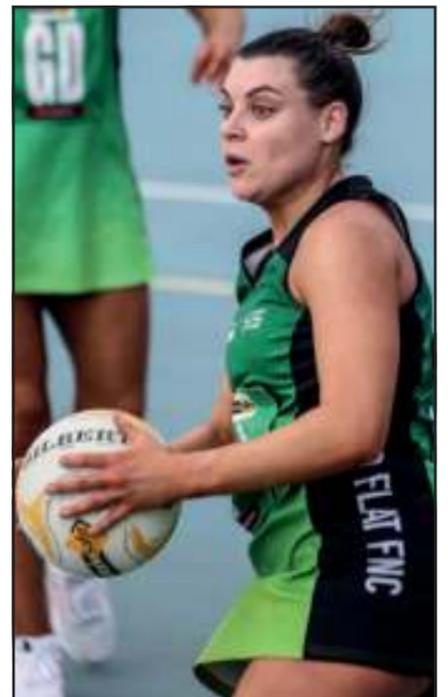
Like every year the enormous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes is so vital to the running of the club, obviously so much of it going unnoticed. Without the efforts of these people, it would be a difficult task, but we always seem to get the job done. A massive thank you for the fantastic work from all the committee, coaches, trainers, support staff and volunteers and especially to all our players. A big thank you to our fantastic members, supporters, and sponsors as well.

We welcome Michael Ellings to the role as our new Senior football coach and to Jayden Cowling committing as our A Grade Netball coach for a further 2 years is fantastic for our netballers and their further development.

Staying focused and sticking to our goals and objectives will hopefully put us on the path to achieve what we deserve for all the hard work that is done.

Being part of such a great team makes me feel so proud to be part of the Kangaroo Flat Football Netball Club and I look forward to the season 2024 knowing with all the hard work ahead we will be able to challenge for finals in all grades, both football and netball. Stronger and more successful going forward.

Leigh Bailey, President



## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Christian Carter**



**RESERVES**  
**Brad Eaton**

**UNDER 18**  
**Paul Hamilton**  
**Rowan Warfe**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Benita Swatton**

**A RESERVE**  
**Benita Swatton**

**B GRADE**  
**Lauren Klenitz**

**B RESERVE**  
**Lauren Klenitz**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Lauren Swatton**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Tom Toma**

**RESERVES**  
**Tanner Rayner**

**UNDER 18**  
**Jack McMahon**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Cass Humphrey**

**A RESERVE**  
**Elise Richards**

**B GRADE**  
**Holly McPhee**  
**Lindsay Andrews**

**B RESERVE**  
**Rebecca Ashman**  
**Cassidy Porter**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Abbi Wells**

## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Nathan Johns**  
**Jeremy Hayes**

**RESERVES**  
**Mitchell Holt**

**UNDER 18**  
**Steve Balcke**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Jayden Cowling**

**A RESERVE**  
**Nicole Donnellon**

**B GRADE**  
**Laura Brooks**

**B RESERVE**  
**Kate Newman**



**17 & UNDER**  
**Kath Schmidt**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Ryan O'Keefe**

**RESERVES**  
**Jarryd Wiegard**

**UNDER 18**  
**Zach Bird**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Chelsea Sartori**

**A RESERVE**  
**Ashlee O'Shea**

**B GRADE**  
**Darcie Fry**

**B RESERVE**  
**Claudia Shelton**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Gemma Roberts**



# KYNETON FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Hayden Evans  
**Secretary:** Vini Pinto  
**Treasurer:** David Yunghanns  
**Committee:** Travis Prendergast (Vice Pres), Jodi Prendergast, Daniel Murray, Charlie Bracey, Nat Korinfsky, Sarah Correa, Loryn Savoia, Luke Beattie, Ashleigh O'Gara, Caitlyn Samson

What a massive year we have had in 2023! The KFNC have worked so well as a team this year and as a club we could not be prouder of every single person who has contributed in 2023. This is just a small list of achievements below;

- The successful transition of our senior women's and juniors into the RDFNL
- Premiership win for our Senior Womens football and U17s Netball
- Decision to move all Kyneton FNC teams into the RDFNL for season 2024 and onwards.
- Setup of new Junior football sub-committee for season 2024 and beyond.
- New coach and player recruitment across all grades for season 2024.

As you can see we have been very busy and we strongly believe this will have us in a much stronger position heading into the 2024 season.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our club manager Nikki Young. Again this season Nikki has exceeded all expectations.



Her tenacity and drive has ensured new sponsors have been secured and the club is in a strong position leading into 2024.

Thanks to our fantastic committee who have faced some very challenging times over the past 12 months.

Please ensure when you get a chance to thank each and every one of these great people for their outstanding contribution and club leadership.

As we all know Clubs like ours cannot function without the generosity and passion of our fantastic committee and army of volunteers.

We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team driving the Kyneton Tiger train onwards and upwards.

Please share the excitement amongst the Kyneton community as I firmly believe we will go from strength to strength in season 2024.

Please continue to support our great club - We are only getting stronger and the community spirit is building.



## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Paul Chapman**  
**Darren Chambers**

**RESERVES**  
**Ryan Pretty**

**UNDER 18**  
**Ethan Foreman**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Di Guest-Oakley**

**A RESERVE**  
**Areya Fisher**

**B GRADE**  
**Teghan Butler**

**B RESERVE**  
**Kirsty Draper**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Tash McIntyre**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Cameron Manuel**

**RESERVES**  
**Lachie Crean**

**UNDER 18**  
**Cody Young**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Tilly Shepherd**

**A RESERVE**  
**Katelin Turner**

**B GRADE**  
**Kelsey McColl**

**B RESERVE**  
**Grace Tremayne**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Jennifer Girvan**



# MARYBOROUGH FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Kelvin Noonan  
**Secretary:** Adam Lowery  
**Treasurer:** Anna Bartlett  
**Committee:** Alisha Chadwick, Brady Neill, Brendan Roughead, Cameron Skinner, Leanne Postle, Melissa Adams, Natasha Howell, Rachael Palmer, Sally Neill, Terry Hillier, Troy Bursill, Ty Stewart

## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Coby Perry**

**RESERVES**  
**Callum Rowe**

**UNDER 18**  
**Brady Neil**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Jordan Macilwain**  
 Assistant: Carla Hare

**B GRADE**  
**Keely Hare**  
**Maggie Tranter**

**B RESERVE**  
**Dale Harris**  
**Grace Brady**  
**Sharine Lanfranchi**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Alicia Cassidy**  
 Assistant: Tali Chadwick

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Joel Swatton**

**RESERVES**  
**Brady King**

**UNDER 18**  
**Tom Myers**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Amanda Durbridge**

**B GRADE**  
**Chloe Egan**

**B RESERVE**  
**Molly Palmer**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Ella Patten**

On behalf of our committee, I am extremely grateful for your collective efforts to keep the Club alive, and I do not say that lightly. The Club has been challenged over the past 3 years and numerous questions have been asked by people both within the Club and in the general football community, and rightly so if you look solely at the performance and results of the senior teams, both football and netball. If you look at all the other aspects of the Club, for example financially, junior development, and individual success at League level, there is plenty of good news to report and to be proud of.

Having said that, we cannot continue to be solely a pathway Club for Juniors to excel and leave. The emergence of the new Club in Maryborough is a very important aspect of the development of football/netball in Maryborough and in my view a vindication of what we were trying to achieve over the



past few years to have the three Clubs come together. Both the new Club and our Club have the opportunity to work together to further the interests of both Clubs to ensure their existence and development, and not to work to each other's detriment.

The discussions had at League level with the other Clubs in the Central Victoria Commission, discussing movement of Clubs within three Divisions, the decision by Kyneton to leave, the emergence of a possible new U18 team as a precursor to its senior team entering the BFL are examples of the changing world of the football/netball we compete in. The BFL Board, Cameron the Executive Officer and Carol, the President have done a terrific job in consulting us, and juggling all the factors they need to consider, when making decisions for the betterment of our sport in the Central Victoria area, and I thank them for their assistance.





# SANDHURST FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Mark O'Farrell  
**Secretary:** Len Nally  
**Treasurer:** Peter Watson  
**Committee:** Dave Gallagher, Rose Gallagher, Danny Ellis, Bill Robertson, Cath Robertson, Matt Smith, Bryan McCormick, Erin Molenaar, Neki Tzouroutis, Adam Poyser

It was a successful year for the Sandhurst Football Netball Club, although it is difficult not to feel we were close to celebrating significant success, with near misses in 3 grades.

Firstly, thank you and congratulations to our coaches, assistants, team managers and the support staff that lead our players week in week out with instilling our players with the skills, belief and culture of representing the Sandhurst Football Netball Club. Your efforts that resulted in all teams making the finals and 7 of 8 teams making the grand finals is simply extraordinary and I'm sure unprecedented.

Congratulations to the successful premierships winning teams, A reserve netball, the reserves football and the B grade netball teams. These wins were well celebrated in the den in the days following the grand final and the next challenge for our club is to turn the relative level of success this year into more premierships in more grades, starting in 2024.

To the amazing 2023 club committee, thank you for your never-ending hard work and dedication to making the club run smoothly. It is a pleasure to be involved with this group of people. Thanks to Secretary Len Nally, treasurer Peter Watson, Cath & Bill Robertson, Rose & Dave Gallagher, Bryan McCormick, Matt Smith, Danny Ellis (with support from Kylie) and Erin Molenaar. What a gun team you are.

Thank you to Ion Hann, president of our GD coterie group, Shane Meade, Kevin Walsh, Peter Watson, Peter Perez and Robert Walsh for running our GD group.

Thank you to Rohan Molenaar for again taking care of our players in your capacity as club doctor and for leading out training team of Geoff, Martine, Liam, Hoody, Toni, Jacob and leading hydration officer Nick.

Thank you to some of our core workers including Brendan, Shane, Angela, Tony, Russell, Gayle and your crew.

Well done to our junior teams that celebrated success and thanks to Neki Tzouroutis and Adam Poyser for your leadership.

Thank you to our full list of sponsors, from the major sponsors Hotondo Homes, Grilled and the Rising Sun all the way down to our minor sponsors. Our club cannot survive without this support, and I encourage our whole club to support our sponsors whenever possible. Keep them in mind whenever you are looking for a service or product that our sponsors can supply.

Finally, thank you to each and every volunteer that assisted the club this year. All assistance is welcome, and we do our best to ask for helpers, but don't hesitate to offer your services to any committee members if you wish to become more involved.



## 2023 COACHING STAFF FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Nathan Horbury**

**RESERVES**  
**Daniel Nalder**

**UNDER 18**  
**Shaun Leech**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Janelle Hobbs**

**A RESERVE**  
**Liz Taylor**

**B GRADE**  
**Vanessa Saunders**

**B RESERVE**  
**Melanie Oldfield**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Vanessa Saunders**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Mac Cameron**

**RESERVES**  
**Zac Sims**

**UNDER 18**  
**Evan Santos**

## NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Chloe Langley**

**A RESERVE**  
**Stephanie Greene**

**B GRADE**  
**Shaina Brook**

**B RESERVE**  
**Kisandra Shepherd**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Eden Clifford**

# SOUTH BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Rick Townsend  
**Secretary:** Michelle Forrester  
**Treasurer:** Dylan Robertson  
**Committee:** Dujon Fuzzard, Alan Ellis, Gary Bath, Gill Davey, Natasha Rowe, Ron Hiatt, Trevor Wright, Martin Harrington, Nicole Georgeson, Jenny Arnold, Amber Hollis, Riley Walsh, Sam Maher, Mark Baker, Ian Connaughton, John Pawsey

What a huge year at has been for the club as we transitioned from the QEO to Harry Trott Oval for our first full season at our new home.

The opening game coinciding with the official opening of the venue from a South Bendigo Football Netball Club perspective was a great occasion. Prior to the senior games we had many dignitaries, including now Premier Jacinta Allen who was a great supporter in the funding of the complex, along with Federal minister Lisa Chesters, Mayor Andrea Metcalf among many key government and council representatives.

Most importantly were the many loyal and passionate South Bendigo people who have contributed to the club in so many ways over many years and decades.

Whilst the weather was not kind to us it did not dampen the enthusiasm of a massive crowd providing a great atmosphere. The day was an overwhelming success and solidified our strong belief that the hard decision to move from our home of 130 years at the QEO was the correct one for the long-term sustainability and growth potential of our club.

We saw a considerable increase in our attendances at Harry Trott Oval. It is such a great place to watch football and netball and has a real community feel which was also replicated at our junior games.

One of the most pleasing aspects is how the move has brought all sections of the club closer together. By having the netball courts in close vicinity to our social rooms and that spectators can easily be involved in the netball and football games simultaneously created a great vibe on game days.

On field and court, we continue to show consistent performances with our senior football team making the finals again for the third year in a row. Similarly, our A Grade Netball have been a consistent representative in finals action however for both teams we could not proceed past the first week.

There are so many people who are responsible for the running of a football and netball club and our volunteers are a special group. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group who love the club and enjoy the environment we have. It's difficult to name individuals as there are so many, however know that you are appreciated.

To our players, coaches and support staff thank you for your commitment both on and off the field, building our strong culture and making the club such a great place to be around.

To our Executive, committee, and volunteers both at senior and junior level, thank you for your tireless work and dedication to the club.

Finally, to Cam and the BFNL Board, thank you for your tireless work along with your support.





# STRATHFIELDSAYE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



**President:** Luke O'Keefe  
**Secretary:** Tim Reed  
**Treasurer:** Brodie Rogers  
**Committee:** Rod Barty, Glen Cowling, Dearne Cowling, Alison Wilson, Dustin Cluff, Bill Ashby, Russell Ratcliffe, Leone Patterson, Matt Hargraves

## 2023 COACHING STAFF

### FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Darryl Wilson**

**RESERVES**  
**Jakob Finch**

**UNDER 18**  
**Jordan Wilson**

### NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Steph Freemantle**

**A RESERVE**  
**Fiona Schubert**

**B GRADE**  
**Kristen Pollock**

**B RESERVE**  
**Belinda Boyd**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Fiona Schubert**

## 2023 BEST & FAIRESTS

### FOOTBALL

**SENIORS**  
**Daniel Clohesy**

**RESERVES**  
**Shannon Murphy**

**UNDER 18**  
**Siologa Su**

### NETBALL

**A GRADE**  
**Caitlyn Hamilton**

**A RESERVE**  
**Jackie Geary**

**B GRADE**  
**Chelsea Crapper  
 Tahlee O'Keefe**

**B RESERVE**  
**Meg Johns**

**17 & UNDER**  
**Lainey Pollard**

It gives me great pleasure to give the 2023 edition of the Strathfieldsaye Football Netball Club Presidents report.

The year started strongly with a big pre-season and some enjoyable practice matches against some quality opposition, the players and coaching staff very confident of a strong season ahead.

It was quite another testing season ahead with many players representing the club through both senior and reserves football, with illness and injury depleting our teams once again.

On a more positive note, we had 6 teams represent the Mighty Storm in finals action, and although we didn't win the ultimate prize, we were once again a feared opponent narrowly missing out on a win in the Preliminary Final, a true testament of the hard work of all involved.

Our social functions were once again well supported and the Ball was our night of nights which saw a large turnout with everyone enjoying a fantastic night at the St. Francis Hall.

As a club we got to witness some more great moments with the 200 senior game milestones of Lachlan Sharp and Shannon Geary. 3 Fantastic club members were given life membership in Justin Gordon, Shannon Geary and Darryl Wilson.

I would like to thank the tireless work of our fantastic coaching groups, both football and netball always have the club and players wellbeing as their first thought, great professionalism and great to work with.

To the committee and our beloved volunteers, strong and successful clubs don't just happen, its 100% because of your time and efforts that our players are fortunate enough to have their local club being operated by such a committed group of people.

A special thanks to Carol and the BFNL Board, along with Cameron Tomlins for your continued work and support of not just Strathfieldsaye, but the whole Bendigo Football Netball League.

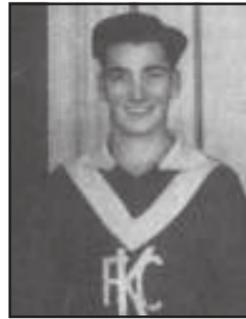
Finally, I would like to wish all office bearers and committee the very best of luck for season 2024.

- Luke O'Keefe, President



# GRAND FINAL MEDALS





## NALDER MEDAL

The Nalder Medal is presented to the best player on the ground in the first eighteen grand final.

It is named of Alan Nalder a former South Bendigo and Kennington player. Alan played for South Bendigo during the McDonald Era and moved on to Kennington where he coached them to their only premierships in 1956.

A very talented on-baller, he was tragically killed in an accident on the way home from Benalla at the young age of 32.

The Golden City Football League named the league senior best and fairest award in his memory.

When the Bendigo and Golden City leagues combined they initially kept two divisions, but in 1983 the League became one division.

At that point the league decided to continue his memory by recognising the best player on the ground in the grand final.



**2023 NALDER MEDALLIST**  
**Jack Geary**  
 GOLDEN SQUARE



## TURNER MEDAL

For anyone who grew up in Bendigo the name of Roy Francis "Dick" Turner was well known and respected.

Dick was the truant officer in Bendigo and many young students got to know Dick well.

Passionate about his community he served on council for 17 years and wore the mayoral robes on three occasions.

His true love was the Golden Square Football Club and he is credited with giving the boys from Country Vet Oval the Bulldog as its emblem.

He called football on 3BO for over 30 years and was Chairman of the newly formed Bendigo Football League before standing down due to ill health.

A bust of Dick sits in Golden Square keeping an eye on his favorite part of town.



**2023 TURNER MEDALLIST**  
**Harrison Free**  
 SANDHURST



## ASHMAN MEDAL

Linking the best player on the ground for the Under 18 competition to Rod Ashman is a perfect fit.

An outstanding junior for Eaglehawk he won the Symons Medal as the Best & Fairest player in the Bendigo Football League in 1971.

Making his name initially as a goal-kicker his size saw him move to on-ball roles. Carlton saw something in him at a young age and he went on to become one of Carlton's great players in their great era. He finished with 236 games and 370 goals and had premiership medallions in 1981 and 1982.

His service was recognised by being inducted into both the Carlton Hall of Fame and their Team of the Century. In 2007 he became player welfare officer at Carlton.



**2023 ASHMAN MEDALLIST**  
**James Gray**  
 GISBORNE

YEAR	NAME	CLUB	TOTAL
1923	Ike Jones	Eaglehawk	54
1924	R. Scott	South Bendigo	78
1925	Charlie Nicholls	Castlemaine	58
1926	Percy Forbes	Sandhurst	70
1927	Ern Smedley	Castlemaine	79
1928	John Cook	South Bendigo	84
1929	Frank Ford	Sandhurst	62
1930	Frank Crapper	Eaglehawk	108
1931	Roy Moore	Sandhurst	78
1932	Frank Crapper	Eaglehawk	145
1933	Frank Crapper	Sandhurst	90
1934	NOT AWARDED		
1935	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	82
1936	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	88
1937	Stan Sinclair	Rochester	82
1938	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	100
1939 to 1945	World War 2		
1946	NOT AWARDED		
1947	Vin Kelly	Rochester	49
1948	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	66
1949	Ken Connaughton	South Bendigo	54
1950	Frank Scholes	Sandhurst	63
1951	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	78
1952	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	52
1953	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	107
1954	Keith Elliot	Golden Square	76
1955	Ern Parker	Echuca	86
1956	Ray McHugh	Sandhurst	71
1957	John Waddington	South Bendigo	72
1958	Ray Poulter	Castlemaine	81
1959	Ron Ford	Sandhurst	62
1960	Clive Philp	Kyneton	75
1961	Merv Hicks	Echuca	64
1962	Ray Willet	Rochester	67
1963	Ray Willet	Rochester	53
1964	Terry Nolen	Sandhurst	87
1965	Kevin Shearn	Golden Square	76
1966	Les Kaine	Kyneton	84
1967	Brian Jones	Rochester	68
1968	Robert Morton	South Bendigo	108
1969	Ron Best	Golden Square	137
1970	Ron Best	Golden Square	107
1971	Greg Kennedy	Eaglehawk	139
1972	Keith Raynor	Eaglehawk	69
	Peter Hutcheson	South Bendigo	69
1973	Ron Best	Sandhurst	108
1974	Ron Best	Sandhurst	135
1975	Ron Best	Sandhurst	145
1976	Ron Best	Sandhurst	108
1977	Peter Woodford	Castlemaine	76



**Mancel Davies**  
1935, 1936, 1938



**Ray Willett**  
1962, 1963



**Greg Kennedy**  
1971



**John Jefferies**  
1987



**Steven Reaper**  
1998, 1999, 2002,  
2003, 2004

YEAR	NAME	CLUB	TOTAL
1978	Ron Best	Golden Square	124
1979	Ron Best	Golden Square	137
1980	Ron Best	Golden Square	145
1981	Wayne Crosby	Castlemaine	112
1982	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	113
1983	Ron Best	Northern United	124
1984	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	120
1985	David Collins	Sandhurst	84
1986	Gavin Exell	Northern United	87
1987	John Jefferies	Castlemaine	73
1988	Danny Ellis	Sandhurst	78
1989	Leigh Williams	Golden Square	102
1990	Shawn McCormick	Northern United	79
1991	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	82
1992	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	136
1993	Andrew McClellan	North Bendigo	112
1994	Shane McCluskey	Maryborough	100
1995	David Lancaster	Kangaroo Flat	105
1996	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	84
1997	David Lancaster	Kangaroo Flat	76
1998	Steven Reaper	Kyneton	110
1999	Steven Reaper	Kyneton	100
2000	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	132
2001	Phil Hetherington	South Bendigo	72
2002	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	70
2003	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	86
2004	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	75
2005	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	77
2006	Matt O'Toole	Golden Square	82
2007	Damien Brown	Eaglehawk	59
2008	Jordan Barham	Gisborne	75
2009	Justin Maddern	Kangaroo Flat	81
2010	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	145
2011	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	125
2012	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	148
2013	Justin Maddern	South Bendigo	67
2014	Stephen Milne	Strathfieldsaye	89
2015	Matt Gretgrix	Eaglehawk	82
2016	Dylan Johnstone	Golden Square	79
2017	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	124
2018	Kaiden Antonowicz	South Bendigo	76
2019	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	129
2020	Season Abandoned		
2021	Season Abandoned after Round 17 (12 Rounds completed)		
2022	Joel Brett	Golden Square	92
2023	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	93

## 2023 Ron Best Medallist

# LACHLAN SHARP

## STRATHFIELDSAYE



### Senior Goalkickers

<b>Lachlan Sharp</b>	<b>Strathfieldsaye</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Joel Brett</b>	<b>Golden Square</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Brock Harvey</b>	<b>South Bendigo</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Steven Stroobants</b>	<b>South Bendigo</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Lachlan Wright</b>	<b>Sandhurst</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Will Keck</b>	<b>South Bendigo</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Cameron Manuel</b>	<b>Kyneton</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Lewin Davis</b>	<b>Eaglehawk</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Braydon Vaz</b>	<b>Golden Square</b>	<b>33</b>



### Reserves Goalkickers

<b>Ryan Wellington</b>	<b>Eaglehawk</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>Tim Brooks</b>	<b>Kangaroo Flat</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Rowan Fox</b>	<b>Strathfieldsaye</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Jordan Salathiel</b>	<b>Golden Square</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Jacob Plowman</b>	<b>Kyneton</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Luke Crawford</b>	<b>Sandhurst</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Hayden Doricic</b>	<b>Gisborne</b>	<b>26</b>



### Under 18 Goalkickers

<b>Alex Carr</b>	<b>Sandhurst</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Jasper Cheesman</b>	<b>Strathfieldsaye</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Taj Bond</b>	<b>Maryborough</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Matthew Barake</b>	<b>Gisborne</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Darcy Edmiston</b>	<b>Golden Square</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Tommi Turner</b>	<b>Golden Square</b>	<b>28</b>

## SENIOR FOOTBALL

YEAR	PREMIERS	RUNNER UP
1924	Eaglehawk 14.17 101	d Rochester 8.9 57
1925	South Bendigo 7.2 44	d Castlemaine 6.4 40
1926	Castlemaine 13.18 96	d Sandhurst 8.16 64
1927	Sandhurst 9.11 65	d Castlemaine 8.14 62
1928	Echuca 11.9 75	d Castlemaine 10.10 70
1929	Sandhurst 18.11 119	d South Bendigo 11.10 76
1930	Sandhurst 17.9 111	d Eaglehawk 9.9 63
1931	Sandhurst 10.14 74	d South Bendigo 8.14 62
1932	Sandhurst 16.20 116	d Eaglehawk 7.9 51
1933	Sandhurst 29.15 189	d Maryborough 10.12 72
1934	Sandhurst 11.17 83	d Castlemaine 8.4 52
1935	Eaglehawk 11.15 81	d Sandhurst 7.17 59
1936	Kyneton 12.9 81	d Sandhurst 10.8 68
1937	Sandhurst 16.16 112	d South Bendigo 6.15 51
1938	Golden Square 21.13 139	d Eaglehawk 14.7 91
1939	Golden Square 14.8 92	d Maryborough 12.12 84
1940	Sandhurst 13.18 96	d Sandhurst 13.13 91
1941	Eaglehawk 17.16 118	d South Bendigo 11.14 80
1942 to 1944	League in recess due to World War 2	
1945	Golden Square 23.20 158	d Eaglehawk 8.9 57
1946	Eaglehawk 14.10 94	d Golden Square 13.12 90
1947	Sandhurst 18.19 127	d Golden Square 11.8 74
1948	Sandhurst 16.24 120	d Eaglehawk 8.9 57
1949	Sandhurst 11.22 88	d South Bendigo 9.19 73
1950	South Bendigo 10.12 72	d Echuca 6.10 46
1951	South Bendigo 24.12 156	d Eaglehawk 20.8 128
1952	Castlemaine 15.9 99	d Sandhurst 9.16 70
1953	Eaglehawk 12.13 85	d Sandhurst 9.12 66
1954	South Bendigo 11.9 75	d Sandhurst 9.7 61
1955	South Bendigo 10.7 67	d Sandhurst 9.12 66
1956	South Bendigo 10.19 79	d Eaglehawk 9.15 69
1957	Eaglehawk 14.17 101	d Kyneton 10.11 71
1958	Rochester 8.11 59	d Castlemaine 7.10 52
1959	Rochester 15.19 109	d Kyneton 12.6 78
1960	Kyneton 9.8 62	d Rochester 8.11 59
1961	Kyneton 12.13 85	d Rochester 9.6 60
1962	Rochester 9.17 71	d Golden Square 7.20 62
1963	Rochester 16.22 118	d Kyneton 10.14 74
1964	Golden Square 10.10 70	d Rochester 9.7 61
1965	Golden Square 12.19 91	d Rochester 11.11 77
1966	Kyneton 15.6 96	d Golden Square 2.12 84
1967	Echuca 12.13 85	d South Bendigo 10.15 75
1968	Eaglehawk 8.16 64	d South Bendigo 8.10 58
1969	South Bendigo 10.10 70	d Eaglehawk 9.13 67
1970	Echuca 15.13 103	d Sandhurst 14.13 97
1971	Eaglehawk 15.13 103	d Golden Square 3.10 28
1972	Golden Square 14.12 96	d South Bendigo 11.9 75
1973	Sandhurst 14.14 98	d Golden Square 7.10 52
1974	South Bendigo 17.13 115	d Sandhurst 14.9 93
1975	Golden Square 14.13 97	d Sandhurst 12.14 86
1976	Golden Square 15.13 103	d Kyneton 9.7 61
1977	Sandhurst 14.10 94	d Golden Square 9.19 73
1978	Sandhurst 19.10 124	d Golden Square 18.13 121
1979	Golden Square 21.14 140	d Sandhurst 8.1563
1980	Eaglehawk 17.20 122	d Golden Square 19.6 120
1981	Sandhurst 16.19 115	d Castlemaine 6.10 46
1982	Eaglehawk 18.19 127	d Golden Square 6.12 48
1983	Sandhurst 17.16 118	d Golden Square 17.9 111
1984	Nth United 18.16 124	d Eaglehawk 12.10 82
1985	Nth United 19.18 132	d Sandhurst 14.18 102
1986	Nth United 25.18 168	d Eaglehawk 11.9.75
1987	Nth United 23.15 153	d Eaglehawk 14.7 91
1988	Golden Square 10.13 73	d Nth United 8.11 59
1989	Golden Square 14.13 97	d South Bendigo 11.13 79
1990	South Bendigo 15.24 114	d Golden Square 14.8 92
1991	South Bendigo 14.14 98	d Castlemaine 10.16 76

## YEAR PREMIERS

1992	Castlemaine 14.13 97
1993	South Bendigo 20.22 142
1994	South Bendigo 20.15 135
1995	Kyneton 18.13 121
1996	Kangaroo Flat 18.18 126
1997	Kyneton 18.15 123
1998	Maryborough 19.11 125
1999	Maryborough 20.17 137
2000	Castlemaine 12.11 83
2001	Golden Square 14.11 95
2002	Gisborne 21.13 139
2003	Gisborne 18.12 120
2004	Sandhurst 15.14 104
2005	Gisborne 14.17 101
2006	Gisborne 13.11 89
2007	Eaglehawk 12.12 84
2008	Eaglehawk 14.11.95
2009	Golden Square 16.12.108
2010	Golden Square 11.21.87
2011	Golden Square 25.18.168
2012	Golden Square 16.10.106
2013	Golden Square 14.18.102
2014	Strathfieldsaye 20.18.138
2015	Strathfieldsaye 8.12.60
2016	Sandhurst 12.18.90
2017	Strathfieldsaye 13.10.88
2018	Eaglehawk 13.6.84
2019	Strathfieldsaye 14.10.84
2020	Season Abandoned
2021	Season Abandoned after Round 17 (12 Rounds completed)
2022	Gisborne 5.20.50
2023	Golden Square 10.11.71

## RUNNER UP

d Golden Square 14.8 92
d Sandhurst 11.11 77
d Golden Square 13.9 87
d South Bendigo 11.10 76
d Kyneton 15.20 110
d Golden Square 7.14 56
d Sandhurst 12.6 78
d Castlemaine 17.4 106
d Kangaroo Flat 9.17 71
d Sandhurst 12.9 81
d Golden Square 7.18 60
d Eaglehawk 11.7 73
d Gisborne 10.15 75
d Eaglehawk 10.10 70
d Golden Square 9.10 64
d Gisborne 12.10 82
d Golden Square 12.17.89
d South Bendigo 10.11.71
d South Bendigo 8.10.58
d Eaglehawk 5.3.33
d Gisborne 14.19.103
d Strathfieldsaye 12.9.81
d Sandhurst 12.11.83
d Sandhurst 8.5.53
d Golden Square 8.10.58
d Eaglehawk 7.14.56
d Strathfieldsaye 9.5.59
d Eaglehawk 10.20.80
d Strathfieldsaye 2.10.22
d Sandhurst 9.11.65

## A GRADE NETBALL

YEAR	PREMIERS	RUNNER UP
1991	Golden Square 53	d Sandhurst 47
1992	Eaglehawk	d Golden Square
1993	Golden Square 40	d Eaglehawk 27
1994	Sandhurst 46	d Golden Square 45
1995	Sandhurst 32	d Eaglehawk 27
1996	Eaglehawk 36	d Sandhurst 33
1997	Kangaroo Flat	d Sandhurst
1998	Eaglehawk	d Sandhurst
1999	Eaglehawk 37	d Sandhurst 36
2000	Sandhurst 44	d Eaglehawk 19
2001	Kangaroo Flat 61	d Sandhurst 46
2002	Sandhurst 46	d Maryborough 40
2003	Kangaroo Flat 47	d Sandhurst 42
2004	Kangaroo Flat 62	d Golden Square 50
2005	Sandhurst	d Kangaroo Flat
2006	Sandhurst 46	d Golden Square 45
2007	Sandhurst	d Golden Square
2008	Golden Square 29	d Kangaroo Flat 25
2009	Kangaroo Flat 38	d Golden Square 25
2010	Kangaroo Flat 27	d Eaglehawk 26
2011	Golden Square 49	d Sandhurst 42
2012	Eaglehawk 31	d Sandhurst 30
2013	Gisborne 39	d Kangaroo Flat 38
2014	Kangaroo Flat 53	d Golden Square 35
2015	Golden Square 43	d Strathfieldsaye
2016	Kangaroo Flat 56	d Golden Square 47
2017	Sandhurst 48	d Golden Square 40
2018	Sandhurst 53	d Gisborne 47
2019	Sandhurst 42	d Kangaroo Flat 35
2020	Season Abandoned	
2021	Season Abandoned after Round 17 (12 Rounds completed)	
2022	Sandhurst 48	d Kangaroo Flat 33
2023	Gisborne 40	d Sandhurst 39



## SENIOR FOOTBALL GOLDEN SQUARE

Golden Square	2.6	5.8	6.9	10.11.71
Sandhurst	3.1	4.3	7.7	9.11.65

Goals: Golden Square - L. Barrett 3, J. Brett 2, R. Hartley 1, L. Duguid 1, B. Vaz 1, T. Toma 1, H. Freckleton 1

Sandhurst - M. Thornton 3, S. Conforti 2, A. Collins 2, A. Day-Wicks 1, J. McLean 1

Best: Golden Square - J. Geary, R. Monti, T. Strauch, M. Compston, R. Hartley, T. Toma

Sandhurst - N. Walsh, S. Conforti, H. Hosking, J. McLean, I. Ruff, N. Stagg

### NALDER MEDAL

Jack Geary (Golden Square)

### WORKSAFE AFL VICTORIA MEDAL

Noah Walsh (Sandhurst)

Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



## RESERVES FOOTBALL SANDHURST

Sandhurst	2.2	3.3	7.4	8.5.53
Eaglehawk	1.0	2.0	3.2	5.6.36

Goals: Sandhurst - L. Crawford 2, J. Wharton 2, J. Nihill 1, H. Free 1, J. Keating 1, S. O'Farrell 1

Eaglehawk - R. Wellington 1, L. Drummond 1, J. Daley 1, E. Hanley 1, J. Greenwood 1

Best: Sandhurst - H. Free, J. Keating, M. Leyden, T. Calvert, S. O'Farrell, L. Crawford

Eaglehawk - J. Daley, E. Hanley, O. Madden, H. Bourke, M. Ronchieri, S. Dean

### TURNER MEDAL

Harrison Free (Sandhurst)



## UNDER 18 FOOTBALL GISBORNE

Gisborne	1.1	4.1	6.1	8.5.53
Golden Square	2.1	2.3	4.6	7.7.49

Goals: Gisborne - J. Gray 4, J. Clough 2, M. Barake 1, J. Ainsworth 1,

Golden Square - J. McMahon 3, T. Turner 1, H. Kelly 1, B. Cain 1, N. Warfe 1

Best: Gisborne - K. Minns, J. Gray, J. Gentles, E. Williams, J. Ainsworth, F. Weber

Golden Square - J. McMahon, N. Sherriff, Z. Wescott, O. Eaton, X. Carter, T. Turner

### ASHMAN MEDAL

James Gray (Gisborne)

### WORKSAFE AFL VICTORIA MEDAL

Jack McMahon (Golden Square)



## A GRADE NETBALL GISBORNE

**Gisborne 40  
Sandhurst 39**

MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER IN  
GRAND FINAL

**Claudia  
Mawson**  
(Gisborne)



## A RESERVE NETBALL SANDHURST

**Sandhurst 43  
Gisborne 33**

MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER IN  
GRAND FINAL

**Charlotte  
Sexton**  
(Sandhurst)



## B GRADE NETBALL SANDHURST

**Sandhurst 56  
Gisborne 45**

MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER IN  
GRAND FINAL

**Elli  
Williams**  
(Sandhurst)



## B RESERVE NETBALL KANGAROO FLAT

**Kangaroo Flat 48  
Sandhurst 41**

MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER IN  
GRAND FINAL

**Lydia  
Lowndes**  
(Kangaroo Flat)



## 17 & UNDER NETBALL GISBORNE

**Gisborne 50  
Sandhurst 49**

MOST VALUABLE  
PLAYER IN  
GRAND FINAL

**Bella  
Connors**  
(Gisborne)



## SENIORS - MICHELSEN MEDAL

Noah Wheeler (EH).....	24
Flynn Lakey (GB).....	22
James Coghlan (SH).....	18
Thomas Toma (GS).....	18
Sam Conforti (SH).....	16

## RESERVES - MCDONALD MEDAL

Boyd Nalder (GB).....	16
Jacob Greenwood (EH).....	15
Alex Jenkyn (GS).....	14
Bailey Ilsley (EH).....	11
Ryan Pretty (KY).....	11
Ryan Wellington (EH).....	11

## UNDER 18'S - GEORGE SYMONS MEDAL

Tom Myers (MB).....	25
Zac Wescott (GS).....	24
Alex Carr (SH).....	23
Lachlan Thompson (KY).....	17
Dayten Uerata (SH).....	16

## A GRADE - THOMPSON MEDAL

Chelsea Sartori (KF).....	25
Shae Clifford (SH).....	22
Ashley Ryan (KF).....	21
Fiona Fowler (CM).....	21
Chloe Langley (SB).....	20

## A RESERVE - HOLBORN MEDAL

Kelsey Ralph (SH).....	25
Stephanie Greene (SB).....	22
Emma Moroney (KF).....	20
Alexandra Russ (GB).....	18
Amanda Walters (SB).....	18
Kelsey Pallpratt (SH).....	18
Rylee Gallagher (EH).....	18

## B GRADE - BINGHAM MEDAL

Baylee Eve (KY).....	32
Isabel Eliades (EH).....	25
Briona Giddings (SH).....	20
Darcie Fry (KF).....	19
Matisse Appleby (SB).....	16
Shaina Brook (SB).....	16
Taylah Ranieri (GB).....	16

## B RESERVE - B RESERVE MEDAL

Ashlye Faulkner (KF).....	26
Isabelle Whiteley (SH).....	26
Kirsandra Shepherd (SB).....	24
Rebecca Ashman (GS).....	23
Meg Johns (SS).....	22

## 17 & UNDER - SING MEDAL

Ella Patten (MB).....	30
Neve Pinner (SH).....	28
Megan Wilson (CM).....	26
Bella Connors (GB).....	24
Reese Gilchrist (SH).....	22



**Taj Bond**  
MARYBOROUGH

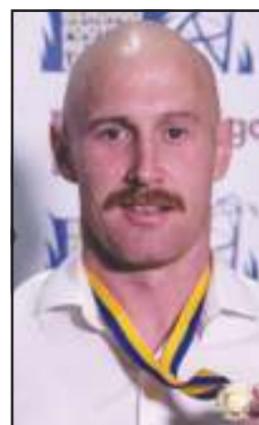
**Charlotte Sexton**  
SANDHURST



**2023 NETBALL CHAMPION GOAL THROWING AWARD**  
Sandhurst



**DAVID McCANN MEMORIAL CUP 2023 CHAMPION CLUB AWARD**  
Sandhurst FNC



**SENIOR GOALKICKING RON BEST MEDAL**  
Lachlan Sharp  
Strathfieldsaye  
93 Goals



**RESERVES GOALKICKING**  
Ryan Wellington  
Eaglehawk  
55 Goals



**UNDER 18S GOALKICKING**  
Alex Carr  
Sandhurst  
52 Goals



**2023 ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Claudia Mawson  
Gisborne

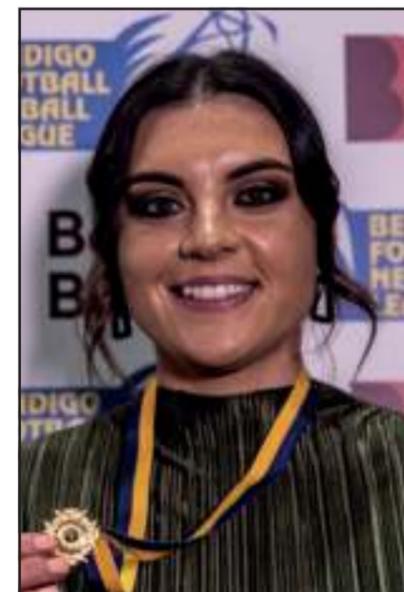


**2023 ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP 17 & UNDER PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Bella Connors  
Gisborne

Photos courtesy of Bendigo Bank



**MICHELSEN MEDALLIST**  
Noah Wheeler (Eaglehawk)  
SENIOR FOOTBALL



**THOMPSON MEDALLIST**  
Chelsea Sartori (Kangaroo Flat)  
A GRADE NETBALL



**HOLBORN MEDALLIST**  
Kelsey Ralph (Sandhurst)  
A RESERVE NETBALL



**B RESERVE MEDALLISTS**  
Ashlye Faulkner (Kangaroo Flat) and Isabelle Whiteley (Sandhurst)  
RESERVES FOOTBALL



**GEORGE SYMONS MEDALLIST**  
Tom Myers (Maryborough)  
UNDER 18 FOOTBALL



**MCDONALD MEDALLIST**  
Boyd Nalder (Gisborne)  
RESERVES FOOTBALL



**SING MEDALLIST**  
Ella Patten (Maryborough)  
17 & UNDER NETBALL



**BINGHAM MEDALLIST**  
Baylee Eve (Kyneton)  
B GRADE NETBALL



**2023  
MICHELSEN  
MEDALLIST**

**NOAH  
WHEELER  
EAGLEHAWK FNC**



Pics courtesy  
SAA Imaging,  
Bendigo

**2023  
BETTY THOMPSON  
MEDALLIST**

**CHELSEA  
SARTORI  
KANGAROO FLAT FNC**



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