

# RECORD

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OFFICIAL RECORD OF THE BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

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## SEASON LAUNCH



# BROADFORD VS SOUTH BENDIGO

**Saturday, March 28, 2026**

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# Behind the desk.

Tom King



## Season Opener 2026

**It's been 189 days the 2025 Bendigo Football Netball League Grand Final and after a long pre-season the 2026 season is finally here.**

Today is a monumental start to the 2026 season as we head to Broadford, where the Broadford Football Netball Club host South Bendigo FNC in a standalone season opener. It's a unique way to launch the season, and one that gives the entire league community the opportunity to come together and celebrate the beginning of a new chapter.

Today carries extra significance as we officially welcome Broadford FNC into the BFNL community. Their return to a major league has been built on the resilience, and a commitment from their leaders after two years in recess.

To see the club not only return to Saturday competition, but host the opening game of the season, is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the journey they've been on.

On behalf of the league, I extend a warm welcome to everyone at Broadford FNC—players, coaches, volunteers and supporters. We wish you all the very best for your first season in the BFNL and look forward to seeing the club continue to grow and evolve both on and off the field.



While it may be just one matchup to open the season, today will set the tone for what promises to be an exciting and competitive year ahead. With a full 18-round fixture to follow, including marquee rounds across Easter and ANZAC Day, and a series of themed rounds scheduled, there is plenty to look forward to in 2026.

To our clubs, players, umpires, volunteers and administrators—thank you for your tireless efforts in getting us to this point. To our sponsors and partners, your support remains invaluable and greatly appreciated.

Good luck to all involved, and welcome to the 2026 BFNL season.

### THE BENDIGO RECORD IS THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE

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# Chairman's Message.

*Brett Fitzpatrick*



## Welcome to Season 2026

**It's a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the opening of the 2026 Bendigo Football Netball League season.**

There's always a sense of excitement that comes with the first game of the year, but this weekend feels particularly special. We begin the season with a standalone fixture in Broadford, where Broadford Football Netball Club hosts South Bendigo FNC—a match that represents more than just four points to start the year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to officially welcome Broadford into the BFNL. Their return to senior competition is a terrific story and one that reflects the strength of their community. The work that has gone on behind the scenes to reach this point should be acknowledged, and we're proud to have Broadford as part of our competition in 2026.

To see the club hosting the opening match of the season is a fitting way to mark the occasion. It provides an opportunity for the broader BFNL community to come together, support the club, and celebrate the start of what promises to be an exciting year ahead.

I would also like to acknowledge South Bendigo for their role in this historic fixture. As a long-standing and respected club within our league, their involvement adds further significance to the occasion.

As we look ahead to the season, there is plenty to be optimistic about. The league continues to go from strength to strength, driven by the dedication of our clubs, volunteers, players,



umpires and supporters. The BFNL remains committed to providing a strong, sustainable and inclusive competition for all involved.

To our partners and sponsors, thank you for your continued support. Your contribution plays a vital role in the success of our league and the opportunities we can provide across our communities.

I wish both clubs the very best for the opening game, and all clubs a successful and enjoyable 2026 season.

[www.bendigofnl.com.au](http://www.bendigofnl.com.au)



# 2025 Grand Final Scoreboards

## SENIOR FOOTBALL

**Sandhurst**  
**Eaglehawk**

**6.2.38**

**8.6.54**

**10.11.71**

**12.12.84**

**1.4.10**

**4.6.30**

**7.7.49**

**14.10.94**

**Goals:** Sandhurst: Lachie Hood (2), Jacob Austin (2), Cooper Smith, Jack Keating, Lachlan Wright, Lachlan Tardrew, Nicholas Stagg, Fergus Greene, Tom Campbell, Cobi Maxted

Eaglehawk: Jack O'Shannessy (4), Bailey Ilsley (4), Clayton Holmes (4), Ben Thompson, Joel Mullen

**Best:** Sandhurst: Lachie Hood, Lachlan Tardrew, Lachlan Wright, Jacob Austin, Cooper Smith, Jack Keating

Eaglehawk: Joel Mullen, Ben Thompson, Bailey Ilsley, Charlie Langford, Dylan Hanley, Brayden Frost

**Nalder medal:** Bailey Ilsley (Eaglehawk) **Worksafe AFL Victoria medal:** Ben Thompson (Eaglehawk)

## RESERVES FOOTBALL

**Sandhurst**  
**Golden Square**

**2.4.16**

**4.5.29**

**4.5.29**

**4.6.30**

**1.2.8**

**2.4.16**

**3.8.26**

**4.9.33**

**Goals:** Golden Square: 2 Goals: Tanner Rayner (2), Jordan Salathiel, Jack Sampson

Sandhurst: Joel Wharton, Wilson Butler, Charlie Robinson, James Vlaeminck.

**Best:** Golden Square: James Wilkinson, ruckman Matthew Compston, Nic Ross, Jesse Gill, Jack Sampson and Tanner Rayner.

Sandhurst: Louis Banfield, Tanner Nally, Charlie Robinson, Wilson Butler, Joel Wharton, Wil Pinniger.

**TURNER medal:** James Wilkinson (Golden Square)

## UNDER 18 FOOTBALL

**Sandhurst**  
**Golden Square**

**1.1.7**

**5.3.33**

**7.5.47**

**10.6.66**

**2.1.13**

**3.3.21**

**4.5.29**

**5.8.38**

**Goals:** Sandhurst: 2 Goals: Oscar Cail (2), Charles Duke (2), Carter Reid (2), Miller Armstrong, Gus Hay, Jaxon Howard, Oliver Stewart.

Golden Square: Josh Kelly, Archie Eaton, Seth Cooke-Kingston, Jaxon Smith, Melvic Pambai

**Best:** Sandhurst: Carter Reid, Shannon Tardrew, Zane Connick, Harvey White, Gus Hay and Noah Willits.

Golden Square: Melvic Pambai, Archie Eaton, Axel Drummond, Josh Kelly, Xavier Cain and Xavier Grant.

**ASHMAN medal:** Carter Reid (Sandhurst) **Worksafe AFL Victoria medal:**Melvic Pambai (Golden Square)

## NETBALL RESULTS

**A Grade** Kangaroo Flat **59** Sandhurst **51** MVP: Ruby Barkmeyer (KF)

**A Reserve** Kangaroo Flat **50** Sandhurst **29** MVP: Ella Wicks (KF)

**B Grade** Kangaroo Flat **44** Gisborne **55** MVP: Hannah Weier (GIS)

**B Reserve** Gisborne **45** Sandhurst **32** MVP: Shelley Farrugia (GIS)

**17 & Under** Sandhurst **40** Strathfieldsaye **39** MVP: Diana Napoleon (SH)



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo

# 2025 PREMIERS

## Senior Football - Eaglehawk



# 2025 PREMIERS

## A Grade Netball - Kangaroo Flat



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



# 2025 PREMIERS

## A Reserve Netball - Kangaroo Flat



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



# 2025 PREMIERS

## B Grade Netball - Gisborne



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# PREMIER

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Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



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# PREMIERS

## 2025 PREMIERS

### Under 18 Football - Sandhurst



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



# 2025 PREMIERS

## 17 & Under Netball - Sandhurst



# PREMIERS

# Broadford FNC Ready for New Era in BFNL Debut Season

**After a period of recess and rebuilding, Broadford Football Netball Club is set to write a powerful new chapter in its history, returning to the field and court on a Saturday for the first time since 2023 as part of the Bendigo Football Netball League.**

In 2023, Broadford FNC entered recess after competing in the Outer East FNL and while the clubs netball division has continued to compete in the Northern FNL, it has been a long road back to where we are today.

Broadford FNC has deep roots in its local community, and the journey back to competition has been defined by the resilience and determination displayed by some key individuals who all have a shared belief that Broadford FNC deserved to be back on the football field representing the Blue & White.

Now, after months of planning, recruiting and rebuilding both on and off the field, Broadford stands ready to embrace the challenge of senior competition once again—this time on a new stage – as a member of a premier country football and netball League.

Broadford FNC President Bonnie Cavanagh-Welch said the journey back to this point had been both challenging and rewarding for everyone involved at the club.

“It’s been a long road to get here. Coming out of recess has not been easy, but the commitment from our volunteers, players and wider community has been incredible,” Bonnie said.

“The passion for the club and our desire to see our teams compete again has continued to drive us forward and not give up.”

The move into the BFNL presents a fresh start for the club, providing new opportunities both on and off the field as they re-establish themselves in a strong regional competition.



*“It’s been a long road to get here. Coming out of recess has not been easy, but the commitment from our volunteers, players and wider community has been incredible,” Bonnie said.*

*“The passion for the club and our desire to see our teams compete again has continued to drive us forward and not give up.”*

“Joining the BFNL gives us a fantastic platform to rebuild sustainably,” Cavanagh-Welch said.

“We know there will be challenges early, but the focus is on maintaining our strong culture and giving our players, members and local community something to be proud of.”

Broadford’s return to action has also sparked renewed energy within the local community, with strong interest from players, supporters and sponsors eager to see the club back in action.

“There’s a real buzz around the town for the Club.”

“To see people talking about Broadford FNC and getting excited for Round 1—it means a lot to everyone who has worked so hard behind the scenes,” Bonnie said.

Their inclusion not only signifies a new era for the BFNL but highlights a significant milestone in the club’s recovery, showing what can be achieved through strong leadership and community support.

What was once an uncertain future for a proud club has transformed into a story of renewal, with players, volunteers, sponsors and supporters rallying behind a united vision to bring the Roos back to life.

As the countdown to Round 1 continues, Broadford’s focus remains on embracing the moment and laying the foundations for a strong future.

“This first matchday is about more than just three games of footy and four games of netball,” Bonnie said.

“It’s about celebrating the people who helped to bring the club back and celebrating this new chapter in the BFNL.”



The club will officially start their time in the BFNL next Saturday 27 March in a standalone season opener against South Bendigo FNC at Harley Hammond Reserve in Broadford.

The fridges are stocked, the balls are pumped up, and the Broadford Kangaroos are ready to begin their Bendigo Football Netball League journey.

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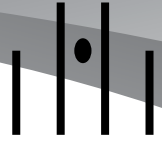


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# Round Preview



## **Broadford's eagerly-anticipated arrival in the Bendigo Bank Bendigo Football Netball League kicks off in a stand-alone clash with South Bendigo.**

The Kangaroos have not fielded a football team since 2023, but kept playing on the Northern FNL's netball courts.

On the footy front Broadford appointed Nathan Thompson as senior coach.

Thompson's experience from more than 170 matches in the AFL with Hawthorn and North Melbourne is a huge plus.

He is no stranger to the Bendigo league having played for and coached Kyneton seniors.

Taking on Broadford's top role is another massive challenge Thompson has jumped into.



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



Many past players have rejoined a Roos squad which boasts "gun" recruit Quinton Narkle who played at AFL level with Geelong, Port Adelaide and Fremantle.

The Kangaroos have put together a young squad determined to be competitive on a journey to challenge the Bendigo FNL's big guns not just in '26, but across many seasons.

Players to watch for Broadford include Riley Edwards, Charlie Neilson, and forward CJ Brill.

A defence led by Ollie Lubeck, Adam Miles and Matt Dunbar faces a huge test against the Bloods.

Fourth last season, South Bendigo has bolstered its squad significantly in terms of experience and size.

A Bloods' line-up jointly coached by Troy Coates, non-playing, and Jack Fallon, playing, has welcomed back former coach Nathan Horbury from Noosa and also signed former Elmore coach Nathan Kay.

There's also plenty of scope in the ruck department as the Bloods have Callum Crisp, a fully-fit Mac Cameron and exciting youngster Zaydyn Lockwood as options.

In attack there's Brock Harvey who earned the Ron Best Medal as the league's leading goalkicker last season and another previous Best medallist in Kaiden Antonowicz.

A talented midfield includes Coen Harker and Tom Templeton who were team-mates at Aspley and join forces with Brody Haddow and Josh Nitschke to set up plenty of attacks.

The Bloods have shifted Will Allen to defence in pre-season to join the hard-running Fallon, Isaiah Miller, Zac Hare and another exciting youngster in Ollie Turnbull.

It's a testing start to South Bendigo's season as the showdown in Broadford will be following by playing Strathfieldsaye in Storm territory at Triple M Park and then Gisborne at Harry Trott Oval.

# FAST FOOD ATHLETES SAY YES TO!





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Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo

**THE SIDELINE VIEW**

WITH **MARK JOHNSON**

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# RISING STAR AWARD 2025

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FOOTBALL WINNER

**Jack McMahon**



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



**Claire McGee**

2025 BART 'N' PRINT  
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# Living the Game

*A word from the Umpires*



## The long wait is over – footy’s back!

The Bendigo Umpires Association are just as excited about being involved in another action-packed football season as anyone else. We do what we do because we love the game, and look forward to playing our part in assisting players and clubs to enjoy the 2026 season.

We anticipate that everyone will quickly adapt to the slight rule changes and interpretations, and we will be looking to educate players and coaches as best we can around these.

The BUA is committed to strengthening its numbers and welcomes new members from across local communities for field, boundary, and goal umpiring roles. The BUA manages all match appointments throughout the season across 6 leagues and is seeking support from those willing to umpire in 2026. These positions are paid, and the association offers flexibility in scheduling based on individual locations. Umpiring offers a great part-time opportunity, with boundary umpiring available from as young as 12 years old. Payments for umpiring are tax-free, as it is considered a hobby.

We also provide extensive support and training. Understanding that officiating demands specialised skills, the BUA offers structured training delivered by experienced umpires. The training covers rule interpretation, game management, positioning, and decision-making



under pressure. Additionally, ongoing mentorship and feedback are available to foster continued growth and development among umpires.

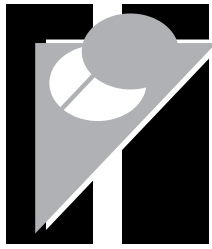
If you have any questions or require further information, please contact BUA Manager Colin Lane via email at [bendigoumpires@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoumpires@gmail.com)

Just as players occasionally make mistakes, so might umpires. We're all human too. Whilst we are happy to receive some honest feedback, we request that it be done respectfully after the game, and not delivered in expletive-ridden comments from the field of play, boundary line or over the fence. We need all the umpires we can get, and one nasty, derogatory comment may be the straw that breaks the camel's back and sees them put the whistle away. Thanks for your understanding.

Enjoy the season!

Interesting in umpiring?

Contact the Bendigo Umpires Association on either:  
**[bendigoumpires@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoumpires@gmail.com) or 0418 569 394**



# Bendigo

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# BROADFORD



## Harley Hammond Reserve, Broadford

**Senior Coach:** Nathan Thompson, Jayden Welch (Ass.)

**Reserves Coaches:** Sean Duggan, Nic May (Ass.)

**Under 18 Coaches:** Jayden Welch, Matthew Dunbar (Ass.)

### SENIOR LIST

1	Louis Thompson	34	Mitch Barclay
2	Jai Heers	35	Jay Eager
3	Quinton Narkle	36	Ryder Primrose
4	Tyrell Dunne	37	Jarrah Younger
5	Sebastian Morris	38	Dave Henderson
6	Angus Hoyne	39	Aaron Altham
7	Rhys Carman	40	Jack Connell
8	Harry Behan	41	Jake Lovell
9	Tait Thomas	42	Christian Neilson
10	Ollie Lubeck	43	Liam Bradshaw
11	Isaac Smithwick	45	Bryce Fleming
12	Jaiden Magor	46	Connor Patch
15	Jayden Welch	47	Xavier Webster
16	Ben Thompson	48	Riley Middleton
17	Wil Eager	49	Toby Hope
18	Jake Hibbs-Hall	50	Mason Leslie
19	Jacob Street-Glasson	52	Sam Ray
20	Tynan Howard	54	Aaron Gleeson
21	Riley Edwards	55	Brodie Abbott
22	Charlie Neilson	56	Jordan Young
23	Sean Duggan	57	Jeremy Bradshaw
24	Owen Sloan	58	Ben Lay
25	Dillon Gillard	59	Hayden Chick
26	Adam Miles	60	Jake Lay
27	Luke Morgan	61	Dean Tydell
28	William Bill Carlin	65	Matt Cormack
29	Jack Brooks	66	Joseph Zakkour
30	Matt Dunbar	67	Owen Kirkham
31	Nick May	69	Steven Lay
32	Craig (CJ) Brill	74	David Hussey
33	Brodie Stray	77	Andrew Pope

### UNDER 18 LIST



1	Frazer McMahon
2	Jack Brooks
3	Charlie Warren
5	Mitchell Browne
6	Devlin Primrose
7	Oscar Spadafora
9	Spencer Bruce
10	Brock Cadzow
11	Christopher Duffin
12	Ethan Calleja
13	Kane Lemmar
14	Caylin Ingram
16	Daniel Quinn
18	Cody Morton
21	Jabe Brown
22	Brayden Foo
28	Jace White
32	Logan Lay
44	Zac Brown

		1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL SCORE
Under 18s		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reserves		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Seniors		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

# SOUTH BENDIGO



**Harry Trott Oval, Kennington**

**Senior Coaches:** Troy Coates, Jack Fallon

**Reserves Coaches:** Caleb Nitschke, Jack Nalder

**Under 18 Coaches:** Travis Eddy, Mark Kramer

## SENIOR LIST


1	Nathan Kay	32	Nathan Horbury
2	Brock Harvey	33	Dujon Fuzzard
3	Tom Templeton	34	Cohen Balnaves
4	Anthony Zimmerman	35	Will Purcell
5	Isaiah Miller	36	Jasper Irwin
6	Jack Fallon	37	Jake Rusbridge
7	Alex Smith-Ralph	38	Scott Stringer
8	Josh Nitschke (C)	39	Ollie Turnbull
9	Brody Haddow	40	Regan Harvey
10	Cody Brooks	41	Patrick Blood
11	Zac Sims	42	Sam Power
12	Will McCaig	43	Bailey Waterman
13	Toby Hardingham	44	Tait Rojewski
14	Macgregor Cameron	45	Sam Langley
15	Zavier Holmes	46	Daniel Heap
16	Callum Crisp	47	Jack Daglish
17	Zaydyn Lockwood	48	Judd Ipsen
18	Jack English	49	Ethan McMahon
19	Will Keck	50	James Barri
20	Coen Harker	51	Kyle Johnston
21	Zac Hare (C)	52	Rufaro Makore
22	James Davies	53	Ben Bacon
23	Will Allen	54	Reece Mitchell
24	Kaiden Antonowicz	55	Austin Long
25	Hayden Geddes	56	Eddie Russell
26	Declan McMahon	57	Sam Nettleton
27	Jasper Langley	58	Declan O' Sullivan
28	Tom Starr	59	Will Toose
29	Fraser McKinstry	60	Ryan Walker
30	Alex Davis	61	Luke Feuerherdt
31	Darcy Backway		

## UNDER 18 LIST



1	Anthony Gray
2	Riley Davey
3	Max Kornmann
4	Aydin Price
5	Chase Poyser
6	Harry Warne
7	Rylan Newman
8	Campbell Wood
9	Miller Flett
10	Henry Turnbull
11	Sebastian Gray
12	Louis Eddy
13	Jacobi Kramer
14	Izaiah Omeara
15	Eamon White
16	Max Nicholas
17	Zavier Ralphs
18	Tom Henderson
19	Will DeVries
20	Arkie Rooke
21	Jack Troy
22	Logan Howell
23	Harry Purcell
24	Jeswin Daniel
25	Brooklyn Smith
26	Harper Fitzallen
27	Hamish Worme
28	Lachlan Magee
29	Chriswin Daniel
30	Doug Billings

		1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL SCORE
Under 18s		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Reserves		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Seniors		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



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# BROADFORD



## A Grade Coach:

Jaimie Hooper

## B Grade Coach:

Jaimie Hooper

## B Reserve Coach:

Bonnie Cavanagh-Welch

## 17 & Under Coaches:

Renee Sari, Chloe Zol



## OPEN SQUAD

Abby Eager	Katerina Davey
Amanda Rothwell-Hiscock	Leah O'Dell
Anita Morgan	Melissa Macartney
April Maunder	Millie Stephenson
Bonnie Cavanagh-Welch	Natarsha Ebert
Brooke Currell	Rainie Ovenden
Caitlin Milner	Renee Sari
Carina Mills	Sarah Heers
Cassie Milner	Sarah Hiscock
Charlotte Donnelly	Shayla White
Danielle Mair	
Ebony Heers	
Eliza Dawson	
Emily Petrovic	
Grace Hannemann	
Hayley White	
Hayley-Jane Hendy	
Holly Dawson	
Jackie De Waele	
Jaimie Hooper	
Jasmine Heers	

## 17 & UNDER

Annabel Bryan
Asha Hiscock
Bonny McGivney
Briana Recinos
Charlotte Bradley
Ellie Taylor
Heidi Hannemann
Molly Wilson
Penelope Gibson

# SOUTH BENDIGO



## A Grade Coaches:

Lauren Bowles & Mel Dillon (Ass.)

## A Reserve Coaches:

Lauren Bowles & Amanda Walters (Ass.)

## B Grade Coaches:

Marita Eddy & Shannyn Keely (Ass.)

## B Reserve Coaches:

Sarah Dennis & Katie Richmond (Ass.)

## 17 & Under Co-Coaches:

Lauren Bowles & Gabe Richards

## 15 & Under Coach: Rox Hayes



## A SQUAD

Andrea Wilson  
Carissa Brook  
Cayde Hayes  
Gabe Richards  
Hayley Harrington  
Izzy Coutts  
Karley Hynes  
Katelyn Parry  
Kira Baldwin  
Kyla Byrne  
Lauren Bowles  
Olivia Begg  
Olivia Mason  
Remi Kuhne  
Sarah Nash  
Shelley DeAraugo  
Stephanie Greene  
Stephanie  
MacCallum  
Tegan Elliston

## B SQUAD

Allana Swatton  
Ariana Ralph  
Bella Eddy  
Caitlyn Bowe  
Casey Mitchell  
Danni Fallon  
Eliza Richmond  
Emma Tomlins  
Holly Giddings  
Jorja Brown  
Laura Power  
Matilda Osborne  
Montana Pinchbeck  
Paige Campbell  
Pheobe  
Van Heumen  
Sandy Shepard  
Sarah Dennis  
Shannyn Keely  
Simone Edgley  
Sunny Childs

## 17 & UNDER

Amalie Blanchard  
Harper Milroy  
Jessica Leed  
Lily Mckee  
Macey Pinner  
Mahli Stone  
Mannan Milroy  
Mia Smith  
Peyton Lakey  
Remy Kearns  
Rosie Sheldrick  
Sophie Mahony

## 15 & UNDER

Bella Cail  
Emily Dullard  
Emmalene Pollock  
Harper Smith  
Inca Bolton  
Indie Colley  
Laila Cail  
Lily Diss  
Lily Hearps  
Ruby Polson

# BROADFORD



# SOUTH BENDIGO

	1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL
15 & Under				
17 & Under				
B Reserve				
B Grade				
A Reserve				
A Grade				

	1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL
15 & Under				
17 & Under				
B Reserve				
B Grade				
A Reserve				
A Grade				

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Your Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in Bendigo and Echuca is supported by the Victorian government and delivered by Mind Australia in partnership with Echuca Regional Health, The Salvation Army, Bendigo Health, Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative (Greater Bendigo) and Thorne Harbour Health.

### More information



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Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



# Reflections...

*with Richard Jones*



## Bloods on-field leaders late 1920s, early 1930s

**South Bendigo needed to re-group after some quiet years in the late 1920s and with the appointment of Angus McIsaac as playing coach in 1928 their committee hoped the club would stage a revival.**

Early in that season the Bloods newsletter and club notes praised McIsaac as “bidding well to being a big factor in steering the club this season.

McIsaac was quite big for the time, standing 6 ft. 1 inch (185 cm) and weighing 13 stone (82.55 kg). The newsletter also mentioned he had a reach of 8 ft 3 ins. (2.51m). The newsletter describes him as “lanky but with a good disposition, and also a determined player who delivers the goods.”

He'd come to South after five seasons with VFL club Richmond. And followed in the steps of another Tiger in BFL Legend Bob McCaskill who'd joined Sandhurst and was to take the Maroons to a string of premierships in a row in the early to mid-1930s.

One thing I discovered when researching the McIsaac story was that --- like McCaskill --- he dearly loved wearing his old yellow and black Tigers' guernsey to training sessions.

There's always something new which pops up when you're researching old BFNL stories.

McIsaac first learned to play footy at Assumption College, Kilmore --- one of the great school sports nurseries.

According to the South notes he showed an aptitude early for the game and at the age of 14

he was playing for the Kilmore senior team in the Midlands Football Association.

He'd only racked up a handful of games when WW1 broke out in 1914, but college footy carried on throughout those war years with Assumption beaten just four times in the four war-time seasons.

An amazing record. McIsaac was assigned a backline role by the coach and the side produced some really talented players.

Among them were Essendon star Greg Stockdale who was a prolific goalscorer for the Dons, Leo Dwyer (North Melbourne), Pat Kennedy (Carlton) and James Stockdale (Echuca, in the then BFL).

McIsaac returned to his family farm home in Mooroopna and because his father had played centre (midfield) for Mooroopna in the Goulburn Valley League the club sought out the son.

Mac stripped for the club in 1919 and played so well that he received an offer to go to (then) VFL club Melbourne.

But he stayed in the GVFL although Mooroopna could not turn finals appearances into a flag. McIsaac was often opposed to Bob McCaskill, the Shepparton captain, in matches-of-the-day.

The eventual Sandhurst F.C. history-maker was one of the stars of Goulburn Valley footy and ironically both men signed up with Richmond, went down to the Punt Road oval, became friends and then quite a bit later found themselves opponents on Bendigo's Upper Reserve.

But before the BFL period McIsaac every week

regularly made the trip from Mooropna to Melbourne each Friday night to take his place in the Tigers' team on Saturdays.

Like the BFL, the Goulburn Valley competition contested their matches on Wednesdays so that schedule allowed players from many Victorian centres to play footy in Melbourne on Saturday afternoons.

No night footy back then, no Thursday or Friday night matches and definitely no footy whatsoever on Sundays.

But the VFL brought in a new rule in 1924 prohibiting a league footballer from playing in two places in the same season.

Unfortunately for Mclsaac he wasn't told in time about the new ruling, so after one Collingwood-Richmond fixture the Magpies protested to the VFL about the Tigers winning the match with ineligible Mclsaac in their side.

The VFL ordered him to stand down. So he went home and played for Mooropna in the '24 finals but the whole saga wasn't over.

The VFL brought him before its match committee at the beginning of 1925 and he was ordered to stand down indefinitely "at the League's pleasure."

It wasn't until mid-1926 that Mclsaac started playing with Richmond again, but somehow he'd fitted GVFL games into his busy playing schedule and Mooropna won premierships in 1923-1924.

When interviewed by the editor of the South club newsletter Mclsaac said he considered Danny Minogue (another former BFL star with long-gone club California Gully) Richmond's best coach and also mentioned former BFL players McCormack, Fincher and the Beares as great teammates.

The South editor asked Mclsaac his impressions of his new South Bendigo side. "The young men of South Bendigo form a likely-looking team, fast and full of vigour and I'd say we'll be hard to beat."

"Other than football 'Mac' has gone in for all sorts of sports including tennis, golf, swimming and fishing. During his ramblings he has included fire brigade work among his activities and gained a few trophies with the Mooropna Fire Brigade.

"He is a good all-round, clean sportsman and as

such Bendigo football followers will be delighted to have him here to watch his football and observe his leadership," the article concluded.

Following Mclsaac's time at the Bloods the South committee appointed another playing coach in the early 1930s.

He was Gerald McKenzie who'd joined the Bloods in 1925, played during Mclsaac's coaching period, and was the first locally-produced South footballer to be appointed paid playing coach of the side in 1931.

And again in the flowery written style of the period the South newsletter reported that McKenzie was "well-known for his sterling qualities as a footballer, sportsman and gentleman."

"Mac lived up to every inch of his reputation and your committee and players fully appreciate the fine manner in which he carries out his duties."

Note: South went down in the 1931 grand final, McKenzie's first season as playing coach: Sandhurst 10.14 (74) def. South Bendigo 8.14 (62).

They didn't win another BFL flag until 1950, but that was the start of a stellar stretch during which time they won five grand finals in seven seasons including a nailbiter in 1955 ---- a one-point victory over Sandhurst: 10.7 (77) to the Hurst's 9.12 (66).

Flags in 1950 and '51 and again in 1954, '55 and '56 (the Melbourne Olympics year). All during super-coach Alan "The Fox" McDonald's period in charge.



## *Richard's 2026 season football tips*

**Top 5:** Eaglehawk, South Bendigo, Sandhurst, Strath Storm, Gisborne.

**Big Improver:** South Bendigo

**Big Slider:** Gisborne

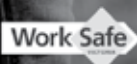
**Spoon:** Broadford

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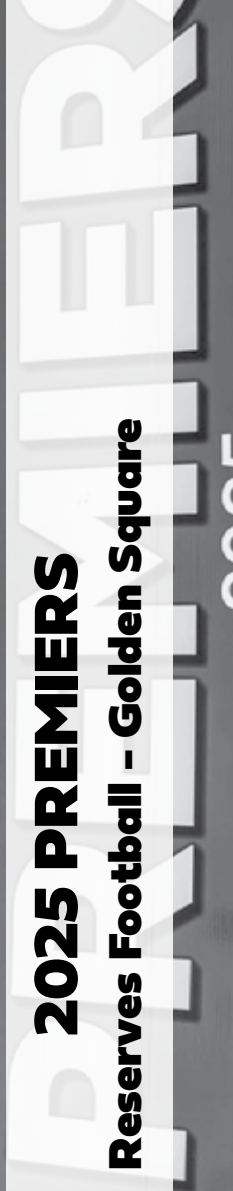
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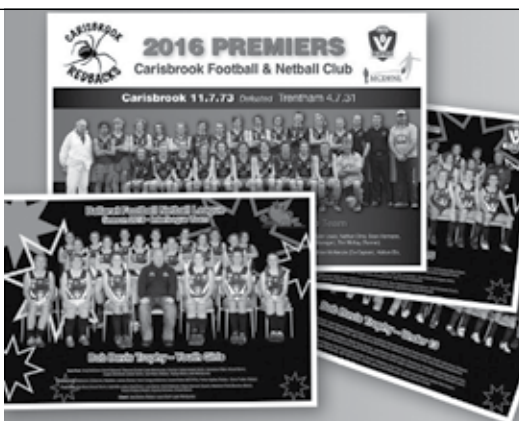
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# REDPHOTOS



# Club Notes



## BROADFORD

Today marks a truly special moment for our club as we take the field and court for our very first games in the Bendigo Football Netball League.

After two years in recess, the return of football to Broadford as well as being able to reconnect the clubs netball program to Saturday competition is something that carries real significance - not just for our players and volunteers, but for our entire community. It's a proud and emotional milestone, and one we've worked incredibly hard to achieve. A huge thank you to everyone who has stuck by us, returned, or jumped on board to support us.

We're stepping into this new era with genuine excitement for the challenge ahead, and with great respect for the strength of the Bendigo FNL. Across the season, we look forward to welcoming BFNL clubs, players, officials and supporters to Broadford, and to building strong connections across the league as we go.

As always, we're committed to continue delivering the warm, genuine country hospitality that Broadford is known for. Whether you're here for the footy or the netty, we hope you feel part of our community and enjoy everything our club has to offer.

A quick note for those travelling from Melbourne way to Broadford this weekend, please allow extra time for your journey and parking due to the Hamilton Street bridge closure, and crowds. We appreciate your patience and planning ahead to ensure a smooth arrival.

We also have our annual Easter Sunday Swap Meet taking place on 6 April for all the swap meet enthusiasts within your networks. Please help us spread the word! For more information: [www.broadfordfnc.com/swapmeet](http://www.broadfordfnc.com/swapmeet)

We can't wait to meet you all. See you at the footy and netty!

**GO ROOS!**



## SOUTH BENDIGO

Round 0 is proudly presented thanks to Schnitz and Kennards Hire.

The wait is over and the 2026 season is here. We are excited to kick things off as we take on Broadford at Harley Hammond Reserve, marking the start of the BFNL Home and Away season. There is a great feeling around the club as players, coaches, volunteers and supporters come together for another year in the red and white.

As we prepare for the season launch, we would also like to warmly welcome Broadford to the Bendigo FNL. We wish the club all the best as you begin your journey in the competition and look forward to seeing Broadford grow and thrive as part of the BFNL community.

This year is also an important one for our netball program as we celebrate the integration of 15 & Under netball into the BFNL. We are proud to welcome our inaugural Under 15 team to the South Bendigo family and look forward to seeing them represent the club throughout the season.

### 2026 Club Leadership

The club is proud to acknowledge the team guiding South Bendigo in 2026:

President: Dujon Fuzzard

Vice President: Julian Lake

Secretary: Nicole Georgeson

Treasurer: Daniel King

Football General Manager: Damien Power

Netball General Manager: Mel Dillon

Club Operations: Anthony Purcell

Executive Operations: Adam Poyser

Communications & Social Media: Laura Power

Junior Football Committee Operations: Roddy Marshall

Junior Netball Committee Operations: Stacey Picot

Child Safety Officer: Jenny Orchard

This leadership group plays a vital role in supporting our players, coaches, volunteers and families throughout the season and ensuring the continued growth of our club.

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## Milestone Game

Congratulations to Ollie Turnbull who will run out for his 50th game for the club this weekend. Reaching 50 games is a fantastic achievement and a credit to his commitment to the Bloods.

## Looking Ahead To Round 1

Next week we travel to take on Strathfieldsaye at Triple M Park, Tannery Lane on Good Friday. Following the conclusion of the Seniors, we will head back to The Belmont and everyone is welcome to come along and continue the day with the club.

## Sponsor Acknowledgement

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A new season brings fresh energy and opportunity across the South Bendigo Football Netball Club. With strong leadership, dedicated coaches and a committed playing group across both football and netball, the club is looking forward to a big year both on and off the field.

Our continued growth at Harry Trott - Kennington Recreation Reserve remains a key focus as we work to build competitive teams, strengthen club culture and create a welcoming and connected environment for our players, members, volunteers and supporters.

We look forward to seeing everyone around the grounds and supporting our teams throughout the season.

*Go Bloods.*

**Please note: Deadline for all copy is 2.00pm Tuesday**



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12-25 year olds can get health advice, support and information from **headspace Bendigo** by calling 5434 5345 or by dropping into the headspace Bendigo at 78-80 Pall Mall, Bendigo.

You can also find us on facebook, headspace.org.au and eheadspace (eheadspace.org.au) or 1800 650 890.



# 2026 Fixture

## Season Launch: 28 March

Broadford v Sth Bendigo

## Round 1: 3 & 4 April

(Good Friday)

Castlemaine v Golden Square

Gisborne v Kangaroo Flat

Strathfieldsaye v Sth Bendigo

(Easter Saturday)

Eaglehawk v Sandhurst

Bye: Broadford

## Round 2: 11 April

Sandhurst v Broadford

Golden Square v Eaglehawk

Kangaroo Flat v Castlemaine

Sth Bendigo v Gisborne

Bye: Strathfieldsaye

## Round 3: 18 April

Eaglehawk v Kangaroo Flat

Castlemaine v Sth Bendigo

Gisborne v Strathfieldsaye

Broadford v Golden Square

Bye: Sandhurst

## Round 4: Split Round

**25 April** (Anzac Weekend)

Sth Bendigo v Eaglehawk (N)

**2 May** (Pat Cronin Round)

Strathfieldsaye v Castlemaine

Sandhurst v Golden Square

Kangaroo Flat v Broadford (PCF)

Bye: Gisborne

## Round 5: 9 May

Eaglehawk v Strathfieldsaye

Castlemaine v Gisborne

Sandhurst v Kangaroo Flat

Bye: Golden Square, Broadford

& Sth Bendigo

## Round 6: 16 May

Strathfieldsaye v Broadford

Gisborne v Eaglehawk

Sth Bendigo v Sandhurst (GW)

Kangaroo Flat v Golden Square

Bye: Castlemaine

## Interleague: 23 May

Bendigo FNL v O&M @ QEO

## Round 7: 30 & 31 May

(Indigenous Round)

Broadford v Gisborne

Eaglehawk v Castlemaine

Golden Square v Sth Bendigo

Sandhurst v Strathfieldsaye (Sun)

Bye: Kangaroo Flat

## Round 8: 6 June

Castlemaine v Broadford

Gisborne v Sandhurst

Strathfieldsaye v Golden Square

Sth Bendigo v Kangaroo Flat

Bye: Eaglehawk

## Round 9: 13 June

Broadford v Eaglehawk

Sandhurst v Castlemaine

Golden Square v Gisborne

Kangaroo Flat v Strathfieldsaye

Bye: Sth Bendigo

## Round 10: 20 June

Sandhurst v Eaglehawk

Golden Square v Castlemaine

Kangaroo Flat v Gisborne

Sth Bendigo v Strathfieldsaye

Bye: Broadford

## Round 11: 27 June

Broadford v Sandhurst

Eaglehawk v Golden Square

Castlemaine v Kangaroo Flat

Gisborne v Sth Bendigo

Bye: Strathfieldsaye

## General Bye: 4 July

## Round 12: 11 July

Golden Square v Broadford

Kangaroo Flat v Eaglehawk

Sth Bendigo v Castlemaine

Strathfieldsaye v Gisborne

Bye: Sandhurst

## Round 13: 18 July

Broadford v Kangaroo Flat

Eaglehawk v Sth Bendigo

Castlemaine v Strathfieldsaye

Golden Square v Sandhurst (RB)

Bye: Gisborne

## Round 14: 25 July

Sth Bendigo v Broadford

Strathfieldsaye v Eaglehawk

Gisborne v Castlemaine

Kangaroo Flat v Sandhurst

Bye: Golden Square

## Round 15: 1 August

Broadford v Strathfieldsaye

Eaglehawk v Gisborne

Sandhurst v Sth Bendigo

Golden Square v Kangaroo Flat

Bye: Castlemaine

## Round 16: 8 August

(Bendigo Health Round)

Gisborne v Broadford

Castlemaine v Eaglehawk

Strathfieldsaye v Sandhurst

Sth Bendigo v Golden Square (BH)

Bye: Kangaroo Flat

## Round 17: 15 August

Broadford v Castlemaine

Sandhurst v Gisborne

Golden Square v Strathfieldsaye

Kangaroo Flat v Sth Bendigo

Bye: Eaglehawk

## Round 18: 22 August

Eaglehawk v Broadford

Castlemaine v Sandhurst

Gisborne v Golden Square

Strathfieldsaye v Kangaroo Flat

Bye: Sth Bendigo

## Qualifying Final

Saturday, 29 August

## Elimination Final

Sunday, 30 August

## Second Semi-Final

Saturday, 5 September

## First Semi-Final

Sunday, 6 September

## Preliminary Final

Saturday, 12 September

## Grand Final

Saturday, 19 September

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