



ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**BENDIGO FNL
BOARD CHAIR**Professor
Carol McKinstry**BENDIGO FNL
GENERAL
MANAGER**Tom King
**BENDIGO FNL
BOARD MEMBERS**

Sam McGee



Ellyse McNish



Andy Walker

Keely
McDonald

Craig Findlay



Todd Deary

**AFLCV
REGIONAL
GENERAL
MANAGER**Cameron
Tomlins**NETBALL
OPERATIONS
MANAGER
& HDFNL
MANAGER**

Jan Mannes

Laura
Naughton**Bendigo Football Netball League**

PO Box 871, Bendigo 3552

Phone (03) 5434 2400 Fax (03) 5434 2444



Notice of 2025 AGM	1
Agenda of 2025 AGM.....	2
Minutes of 2024 AGM.....	4
BFNL Manager's Report	7
Chair's Report.....	9
AFLCV Report	10
Interleague 2025	13
Eaglehawk Football Netball Club	15
Gisborne Football Netball Club	16
Golden Square Football Netball Club	17
Kangaroo Flat Football Netball Club.....	18

Sandhurst Football Netball Club.....	19
South Bendigo Football Netball Club....	20
Strathfieldsaye Football Netball Club	21
BFNL Life Membership	22
2025 Grand Final Football Medallists....	23
Previous Leading Goalkickers	24
Football & Netball Premiers.....	26
2025 Football Grand Finals.....	27
2025 Netball Grand Finals.....	28
2025 BFN Award Winners	30



Senior Football Premiers Eaglehawk FNC and A Grade Netball Premiers Kangaroo Flat FNC.

Front cover: 2025 Betty Thompson Medallist Shae Clifford (Sandhurst FNC) and

Michelsen Medallist Billy Evans (Eaglehawk FNC)



NOTICE OF BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2025

Notice is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League Inc. will be held at the Bendigo Club (22 Park St, Strathdale), on Wednesday 15th January 2025 commencing at 7.30pm.

Business:

1. To confirm the Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025.
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 2025 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, Todd Deary, Craig Findlay & Ellyse Roper will retire as Board members by rotation.

4. Appointment of Auditor for 2026.
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 Thursday the 1st of January 2026**.

By Order of the Bendigo FNL Board of Management

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom King".

Tom King
BFNL Manager

AGENDA OF BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2025

Agenda of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League (BFNL), to be held at The Bendigo Club, on Wednesday 14th January 2026 commencing at 7.30pm.

Business:

1. Welcome and apologies.

Motion that apologies be accepted:

Moved:

Seconded:

2. Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

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

Moved:

Seconded:

3. Business arising from the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

4. Presentation of the Chair's Annual Report.

5. BFN Manager's Report contained in the Annual Report booklet.

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

Moved:

Seconded:

6. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year ended 31st October 2025.

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

Moved:

Seconded:

7. Election of vacant Board positions.

Carol McKinstry, Sam McGee, Andy Walker, Todd Deary, Craig Findlay, and Ellyse McNish will retire as Board members by rotation.

Ten nominations were received for the vacant positions:

Jeremy Brown

Nominated: Luke O'Keefe (Strathfieldsaye FNC) Seconder: Dujon Fuzzard (South Bendigo FNC)

Craig Findlay

Nominated: Leigh Bailey (Kangaroo Flat FNC) Seconder: Carol McKinstry (BFNL Board)

Brett Fitzpatrick

Nominated: Rick Townsend (South Bendigo FNC) Seconder: Steve Sharp (Broadford FNC)

Todd Deary

Nominated: Leigh Bailey (Kangaroo Flat FNC) Seconder: Wendy Donegan (Golden Square FNC)

Caleb Kuhle

Nominated: Tim Matheson (Castlemaine FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

Keely McDonald

Nominated: Rani Madden (Eaglehawk FNC) Seconder: Leigh Bailey (Kangaroo Flat FNC)

Ellyse McNish

Nominated: Steve Sharp (Broadford FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

Colin Rosa

Nominated: Rani Madden (Eaglehawk FNC) Seconder: Dujon Fuzzard (South Bendigo FNC)

Rick Townsend

Nominated: Steve Sharp (Broadford FNC) Seconder: Leigh Bailey (Kangaroo Flat FNC)

Carol McKinstry

Nominated: Steve Sharp (Broadford FNC) Seconder: Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst FNC)

* *Keely McDonald submitted an official nomination after being appointed by the BFLN to fill casual vacancies in March 2025.*

As per the BFLN Constitution clause 52 (2), a ballot must be held in accordance with rule 53. Nominated persons must receive a majority vote to take a place on the Board.

The Board shall comprise of a minimum of seven (7) persons and a maximum of (9) persons.

Sam McGee appointed to act as returning officer and will conduct the ballot.

Clause 53 of the BFLN Constitution states:

- 53. BALLOT

1. If a ballot is required for the election for a position, the Chairperson of the meeting must appoint a member representative to act as returning officer to conduct the ballot.
2. The returning officer must not be a nominated candidate for the position.
3. The ballot will be decided by a show of hands.
4. In respect of the election of persons to the Board of Management the following persons shall be entitled to vote in the poll taken in respect of that election:
 - a. The Board shall have one vote;
 - b. Each club member shall have one vote;
 - c. In the event of there being an equality of votes the Chair shall have a casting vote.
 - d. The returning officer must declare each candidate who receives a majority vote elected.

8. League affiliation 2026

Motion that the BFLN affiliate with AFL Victoria, AFL Central Victoria, and Netball Victoria for season 2026:

Moved: Seconded:

9. Appointment of Auditor(s)

Motion to appoint RSD Audit as the League auditor for the coming 12 months:

Moved: Seconded:

10. Other Business:

- a. Presentation of 2025 Premiership Flags:

- Senior Football - Eaglehawk FNC
- A-Grade Netball - Kangaroo Flat FNC
- A-Reserve Netball - Kangaroo Flat FNC
- Reserves Football - Golden Square FNC
- B-Grade Netball - Gisborne FNC
- B-Reserve Netball - Gisborne FNC
- Under 18 Football - Sandhurst FNC
- 17 & Under Netball - Sandhurst FNC

- b. No other business received.

11. Meeting Closed:

MINUTES OF 41ST BENDIGO FNL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - SEASON 2024

Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo Football Netball League, held at The Bendigo Club, on Wednesday 15th January 2025.

Meeting opened: **7:36pm**

Attendance:

Board Members: Carol McKinstry, Andy Walker, Sam McGee, Cheryl Elvey, Ellyse McNish, Todd Deary, Tom King (BFNL Manager)

BFNL Clubs: Leigh Bailey (Kangaroo Flat), Shan Jasotharan (Kangaroo Flat), Dujon Fuzzard (South Bendigo), Ron Hiatt (South Bendigo), Rani Madden (Eaglehawk), Rod Barty (Strathfieldsaye), Bill Ashby (Strathfieldsaye), Ian Symons (Golden Square), Caleb Kuhle (Castlemaine), Shawn Rixon (Castlemaine), Steve Sharp (Broadford) & Mark O'Farrell (Sandhurst)

Guests: Cameron Tomlins (AFL CV), Nicholas Falconer (Region Council)

Apologies: Craig Findlay (BFNL Board) Tony Brancatisano (Gisborne FNC), Mandy Dimasi (Gisborne FNC), Andrew Wicking (Golden Square FNC), Lisa Roberts (Golden Square FNC)

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: Todd Deary

Seconded: Ellyse McNish

Carried

2. Minutes of the 40th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 17th January 2024.

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

Moved: Leigh Bailey

Seconded: Todd Deary

Carried

3. Business arising from the minutes of the 2023 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. Highlighted key challenges for season 2024 with a reduction to 9 Clubs and Maryborough FNC's ability to not field a full quota of teams for the majority of 2024.
- ii. Successful Netball Victoria Association Championships in both Open and 17 & under.
- iii. The return of Senior Interleague Football was pleasing as the BFNL began a new partnership with the VAFA.
- iv. Memorable Michelsen & Thompson event with, club comradery, very well attended, extend thanks to clubs for commitment.
- v. Appreciation of process that led to Broadford FNC joining the BFNL at the end of 2024.

- vi. Fortunate to receive strong ongoing coverage from media partners, note increased league resources into social media & content.
- vii. Pleased to introduce the Volunteer Recognition of Service Award for 2024 with our first two recipients being awarded this evening.
- viii. Special thanks to Clubs, their committee & Executive and volunteers for all their hardwork and commitment in 2024.
- ix. Appreciation & recognition of all league partners
- x. Appreciation of BFNL league manager & all AFLCV staff hub..

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

- a. BFNL Manager (TK) provided a verbal report summary, highlighting:
 - i. Special thanks to all BFNL members, players, volunteers, Presidents, Committees involved in 2024 season.
 - ii. Congratulations to all Premiership teams and individual award winners.
 - iii. Congratulations and thanks to football and netball representative team coaches, support staff, and players/families.
 - iv. Thanks to clubs for involvement in various BFNL themed rounds.
 - v. Extend best wishes to Maryborough FNC who have gone into recess for 2025 but are still aligned to the BFNL.
 - vi. Welcome Broadford FNC who have joined the BFNL but will remain in recess for 2025 with an aim to join the League in 2026
 - vii. Special thanks to new and continued league sponsors, local council, media partners, BUA, BFNL Board members & AFLCV staff for dedication and support
 - viii. Special thanks to Cameron Tomlins who moved on as BFNL Manager into the AFL CV Region Manager role.

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

Moved: Caleb Kuhle

Seconded: Sam McGee

Carried

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

- i. Cameron Tomlins report contained in the annual report booklet (taken as read).

7. Presentation of the Financial Report for the year ended 31st October 2024.

- a. Brief financial overview offered by BFNL Manager & Chair (TK/CM):
 - i. Posted season loss for 2024.
 - ii. Revenue down due to average Finals series (weather and lack of spread of competing Clubs), decreased sponsorship and League subsidised players tickets for Finals. club subsidies, and financial grants.
 - iii. Expenditure also down due to reduced game filming and umpiring costs.
 - iv. BFNL has managed to maintain a reasonable bank balance and necessary cash reserves which are required for season start-up expenses and the associated costs that the league are required to pay to get the league underway (prior to any funds being received fees/sponsors).

Motion: 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: Cheryl Elvey

Seconded: Andy Walker

Carried

8. Election of vacant Board positions.

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

Currently, the BFNL Board has 7 persons.

In accordance with Part 5, Division 3, Election of Board Members & Tenure of Office of the BFNL Constitution no BFNL Board Members will retire by rotation.

No nominations were received for the vacant positions.

9. League affiliation 2025

Motion that the BFNL affiliate with AFL Victoria, AFL Central Victoria, and Netball Victoria in 2025:

Moved: Caleb Kuhle

Seconded: Mark O'Farrell

Carried

10. Appointment of Auditor(s).

Motion to appoint RSD Audit as the Leagues auditor for the coming 12 months:

Moved: Cheryl Elvey

Seconded: Todd Deary

Carried

11. Other Business:

i. Awarding of the Volunteer Recognition of Service Awards to:

- a. Shawn Rixon – Castlemaine
- b. Ron Hyatt – South Bendigo

ii. Presentation of 2024 Football Premiership Flags

- a. Sandhurst FNC – Seniors, Reserves & Under 18's

iii. 2025 AFLCV Expo (TBC)

- a. AFL CV Expo to return to an in person event in 2025
- b. Will be hosted at La Trobe University with a date TBC
- c. High profile key-note speaker to be involved.
- d. Partners will be present

iv. Scheduled AFL Club Community Camps (CT)

- a. Carlton FC 3rd & 4th February
 - i. School, junior club, Auskick centres
 - ii. Possible coach/volunteer forum - TBC

Thanks all for attendance and varied support.

Meeting closed: 8.17pm

TOM KING - BFNLMANAGER



2025 was a super year for the Bendigo Football Netball League. Beginning with Round 1 on 12 April and culminating with a spectacular Grand Final day on 20 September, the 2025 season was played over 24 weeks where community spirit was to the fore across the League.

Most importantly, I must congratulations to all teams and clubs along with the countless devoted support staff and volunteers for their tireless effort and dedication to the 2025 season.

Another huge congratulations must go to all 2025 BFNLM Premiers, and individual awards winners on their terrific season in 2025.

2025 Premiers

Our 2025 Grand Final day was headlined by a remarkable Senior Football Grand Final that saw Eaglehawk kick 7 goals to storm over the top of Sandhurst in thrilling fashion. The final siren created scenes of yesteryear with hundreds of Burra faithful storming the crowd to celebrate with their team after what was one of the more unbelievable final quarter performances.

Importantly though, a successful Grand Final day can only be built with a solid platform, which occurred in Week One of the Finals with all 8-clubs represented during the first week of the series. A testament to the work that all Clubs put in across the season.

With 5 Clubs claiming Premiership glory, success was well spread across the league.

Headlining the Premiership winners was dual A-Squad Netball Premierships for Kangaroo Flat who claimed long-awaited A-Grade and A-Reserve Premierships with two commanding performances over Sandhurst. The A-Grade victory completed an undefeated season for what is one of the strongest teams in recent memory.

Joining Kangaroo Flat with multiple netball premierships was Gisborne who took the B-Grade and B-Reserve Premiership double defeating Kangaroo Flat and Sandhurst respectively.

If it wasn't for the Senior football, the 17 & Under netball might have taken game of the day honours with a last gasp after the siren goal from Sandhurst propelling them to 1-goal victory over a gallant Strathfieldsaye.

The Dragons also claimed the Under 18's football premiership with a strong win over Golden Square, capping of a remarkable season for the young Dragons.

Golden Square got some revenge on Sandhurst in the Reserves winning a low scoring nail-biter over the Dragons with a late goal put them 3-point ahead. The goal was just the eighth goal of the match.

Again, congratulations too all 2025 Premiers.

2025 League Award Winners

Congratulations to all individual award winners who were announced and presented at the 2025 Michelsen Medal at the Bendigo Club. To be able to celebrate another successful season by recognising the magnificent achievements of individuals in their respective competitions is always a highlight on the calendar for the League.



The prestigious evening saw the final vote of the night determine the Michelsen Medallist for 2025 with Billy Evans (Eaglehawk) capturing 3-votes in the final match of the season to take his total to 23, three votes ahead of runner-up, Lachlan Tardrew (Sandhurst).

Congratulations to Billy for putting together such a consistent season as Captain of a Premiership team.

Congratulations to Sandhurst FNC young-gun, Shae Clifford who claimed her maiden Betty Thompson Medal on 22-votes after a superb season with the Dragons

We also congratulate 2025 Ron Best Medallist, Brock Harvey from South Bendigo, whose 48-goals saw him claim the award named in honour of BFNLM Legend inductee Ron Best.

During the Michelsen & Thompson event, we introduced our Rising Star award winners with thanks to Bart 'n' Print. Congratulations to Sandhurst's Claire McGee and Golden Square's Jack McMahon for being judged the best emerging talent within the league.

Other League Best & Fairest included:

- Sing Medal | 17 & Under Netball | Holly Brewer | Gisborne | 27 Votes
- B Reserve Netball | Briona Giddings | Sandhurst | 31 Votes
- Bingham Medal | B-Grade Netball | Reese Sutton | Gisborne | 19 Votes
- Holborn Medal | A-Reserve Netball | Ella Wicks | Kangaroo Flat | 24 Votes
- Symons Medal | Under 18's Football | Joint Winners
 - Oscar Cail | Sandhurst | 21 Votes
 - Cahal Blandthorn | Eaglehawk | 21 Votes
- McDonald Medal | Reserves Football | Archie Rixon | Castlemaine | 14 Votes

Representative Football & Netball

2025 saw us host the Victorian Amateur Football Association (VAFA) at the QEO on 13 July. With Senior football and Under 19's football on the schedule, the large crowd in attendance were treated to a fantastic display of representative football.

Coached by Simon Rosa, and gallantly co-captained by Gisborne's Jack Reaper and Sandhurst's Lachlan Tardrew, the senior squad wore the blue & gold guernsey with pride and competed strongly throughout the match.

At the final siren, the scores were level and in steady rain the match went to extra time where the VAFA kicked away for score a 10-point victory in what has been widely regarded as one of the greatest matches seen on the QEO.

Sandhurst's Lachlan Tardrew took home the Derrick Filo medal for Best on Ground after a flawless performance.

Coached by Jason Stevens, our Under 19's represented the League gallantly against a formidable opponent but were out matched, going down by 90 points.

The Robert 'Ninga' O'Connell Medal was presented for the first time to Bendigo FNL captain and Gisborne on-baller James Gray.

Our 17 & Under representative netball team was again a shining light of 2025 going undefeated through a 3-tournament schedule, qualifying them for the Association Championships in Melbourne.

The team had a terrific outing in Melbourne winning 6 of their 11 matches to finish in 5th position.

Thank you to our 17 & under coaches in Sharni McPherson & Alison Leech who again created a strong high-performance atmosphere for our players to further develop and successfully evaluate themselves against the best netballers across the state.

2025 saw the BFNL not field an Open Rep Netball team in 2025 for Netball Victoria's Association Championships due to player availability relating to eligibility rules for players aligned to the Victoria Netball League. I thank Tarryn Rymer for her work in attempting to get a team together.

We thank all coaches, players, training staff and volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to supporting both our football and netball representative programs.

Attention for our Rep programs now turns to 2026 when the BFNL will host the Ovens & Murray FNL at the QEO on 23 May.

2025 Themed Rounds

As with other seasons, in 2025 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.

Themed round highlights during season 2025 included the return of ANZAC Day football and netball at the QEO as South Bendigo hosted Eaglehawk, a hugely successful Indigenous round supported by the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, TAC Road Safety Round, and the Pat Cronin Foundation Round featuring Strathfieldsaye & Golden Square 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.

Our Valued Partners

Our commercial partners are critical to our League and enable us to deliver successful, exciting, and vibrant competitions. We acknowledge and 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.

A longtime supporter of the BFNL, the Bendigo Bank once again supported the League as the major supporter of our football and netball competitions. Their continued dedication and investment allow 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 with the Bendigo Bank 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 also extend our deepest thanks to the below loyal partners who helped us throughout 2025:

- Bendigo Mazda, the continued major sponsor of all BFNL netball competitions and representative netball.
- Workforce XS for the sponsorship of match day footballs, our representative programs, and for managing Finals security requirements.
- 2025 saw us welcome Kieser Bendigo as a proud partner of the BFNL, supporting our match vision and Premier Data statistics initiative.
- Our Reserves football competition sponsor, Drummond Golf Bendigo who have invested in the League to support the Reserves Player of the Week.
- Under 18 competition sponsors Sportspower Bendigo.
- The Bendigo Club hosts of the annual Michelsen Thompson Medal event and other events across the season.
- 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
- 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, and Cleanaway.

The BFNL are grateful for the valued media partners who promote our league across multiple mediums.

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 a proud supporter of our highly successful Premier Data statistical analysis platform.

Thanks to Premier Data who again supplied the BFNL statistical analysis giving the League a point of difference while helping players and coaches pinpoint strengths and areas that could use improvement for both players and teams.

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, Interleague & finals series. The Fresh team also contributed by hosting the 2025 pre-Michelsen Medal count streaming it live across their frequencies.

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 through match replays and highlights on social media.

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 2025 Michelsen & Thompson Medals and pre-count events.
- Our professional and knowledgeable MC Joel Peterson who again hosted the Michelsen Thompson Medal, Season Launch, our Interleague matchup and our Grand Final day including calling the A-Grade netball Grand Final live.
- Nathan Dole's thorough previews and analysis of football and netball matches weekly.
- Kieran Iles regular netball feature stories, highlighting the stories that matter in our netball competition.

- Richard Jones for his regular highly anticipated historic recollections relating to the BFLN.

Summary

BFLN Clubs are the heartbeat of our communities and whilst volunteer work is thankless, I personally thank single person that positively contributes to the success of every club.

Understanding that there are many volunteer roles at every club, I must say a special thanks to club Presidents and Committees for the leadership and direction through 2025 and for keeping an open line of communication to myself and the BFLN Board.

A sincere thank you to all BFLN players, coaches, officials, supporters, for the unwavering commitment to your club through what is a long pre-season and season. Your drive underpins each BFLN Club, the League which ultimately creates a solid platform for sustainability and success.

Thanks to Michael Hockley and Dean Goodridge and the entire team from the Bendigo Umpires Association for the development and provision of football umpire appointments during the season. Umpiring can be a challenging role at times, and we thank all umpires for their service, dedication, and willingness to be part of major league football in 2025

I sincerely thank AFL Central Victoria staff who provide support to myself throughout the season including Jay Cathrine who as AFL CV Operations Manager, leads the Match Review & Tribunal

processes and AFL CV Region Manager Cam Tomlins who is always available to provide support and advice while continuing to be a conduit between the BFLN and AFL Victoria.

A special shout out to the retiring Jan Mannes who has provided netball administration assistance to the BFLN for several years. Jan's knowledge and understanding of netball processes and policies is second to none and the BFLN wish her all the best with her retirement.

I acknowledge and thank the BFLN Board led by Chair, Carol McKinstry who are always supportive of me as BFLN Manager and regularly go over and above to help put the League in the best position possible.

The BFLN Board are all volunteers who invest their time, knowledge, and support to the benefit of the League, so thank you.

In summary, the future of the BFLN is bright. 2025 threw up lots of challenges but in the background, we are working to ensure that BFLN participation, competitiveness, and strategic planning development allows us to ensure clubs are supported and the league remains vibrant.

Let us continue to work together to deliver a brand that confirms the BFLN status as the premier football and netball league in Central Victoria.



CHAIR'S REPORT

PROFESSOR CAROL McKINSTRY - CHAIR, BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL LEAGUE



This year, we refreshed the BFLN Strategic Plan for 2025-2029. We have made significant strides against the strategic plan's four pillars: Competition, Brand, Facilities, and Governance. We are committed to working towards our vision of continuing to be the Major League in Central Victoria while fostering a strong and vibrant environment that sets the benchmark for excellence, inclusivity, and growth. We have achieved a very healthy financial surplus this year, which is a testament to our sound financial management and strategic planning. This year, we have increased our social media presence and streamed more games, allowing us to reach a wider audience and engage more with our community.

Our goal of returning the league back to 10 clubs is well underway. We have seen all clubs involved in the finals series, with seven clubs competing on Grand Final day. This level of participation is a positive indicator of the league's competitiveness. We hosted the VAFA for senior and U19 football at the QEO which was a very successful day and an amazing display of high quality football. We have also signed a two-year agreement with the Oven & Murray Football Netball league, which will enhance our interleague status and provide more opportunities for our players to showcase their talents in two competitions of football and three competitions of netball. While the VAFA were wonderful interleague partners for football we are keen to see both football and netball back together in future interleague.

A special thank you to our interleague coaches, team managers, and sponsors for their dedication and support, including those involved in the 17 and under team competing in the Victorian Netball Association Championships. Their contributions have been invaluable to our success and development of players.

A highlight of the year was the Hall of Fame evening which occurs

every five years. Congratulations to the eight new inductees into the Hall of Fame: Chris Greene, Gary Cowling, Luke Saunders, Kylie Ellis, Danny Ellis, Rod Threlfall, Rose Gallagher, and Matthew Aston. Additionally, we honoured our two new legends, Brendan Hartney and Peter Moroni. We extend our gratitude to the selection panel: Shaun McCormick, Burt McIvor, Adam Bourke, Beres Fitch, Carol Cathcart, Carol Singe, and Karly Bingham, for their diligent work in selecting these deserving individuals.

Our Michelsen and Thompson Medal presentation evening was also a highlight. Congratulations to all the best and fairest winners and other award recipients. We also were delighted to welcome Nina Cass and Briona Giddings as our new life members. Their long-standing commitment and contributions to the league have been exemplary.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Tom King and my fellow Board Directors for their unwavering support and dedication. We also acknowledge Sam McGee, Andy Walker who are leaving the board and Cheryl Elvey who left the Board earlier in 2025. Sam and Andy have had a significant impact on the Board in a range of areas and we are indebted to them for your contribution over the ten years they have been on the Board. Cheryl has made a significant contribution particularly during the pandemic, enabling the BFLN to remain financially sustainable. With Cheryl leaving, we co-opted Keely McDonald to join the Board earlier this year.

The BFLN Board would also like to make special thanks to Jan Mannes (netball), Janine Pittock (netball mentor), Laura Pollock (bookkeeping), Cameron Tomlinson (AFLCV RGM), and the Regional Advisory Council members for their invaluable contributions this year. We have again appreciated the support of

the BUA, particularly in provision of umpires for all levels of our football competition.

Thank you to our sponsors especially Bendigo Adelaide Bank who have been our long-time league naming rights partner.

Other key League partners that are all highly valued contributors to the BFNL include Bendigo Mazda (Major sponsor of BFN Netball), WorkforceXS (Interleague sponsors), Kieser Bendigo, Drummond Golf Bendigo, Sportspower Bendigo, the Bendigo Club, Bart n Print, Coffee Storm, Sherrin, Bendigo Times, Gold Central Victoria, Bendigo Party Hire, Great Ideas Awards and Gifts, High St X-Ray, Simon Rosa Landscaping, and Cleanaway.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited about the inclusion of Broadford FNC, the 15 and Under netball competition, and the interleague competitions for both netball and football, with five teams participating. Additionally, we are pleased to see the facility development at Strathfieldsaye and Golden Square, which will further enhance experiences for players, spectators and club members.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to the BFNL. Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and growth in the coming years, building on a very solid foundation for the future.

BFNL Board Meeting Attendance Record											
Board Member & Portfolio	Nov	Dec	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Carol McKinstry – Chair Governance & Risk Hall of Fame	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Andy Walker Facilities	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
Sam McGee Law, Governance & Compliance	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ellyse McNish Marketing & Fundraising	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Todd Deary Representative Football & Netball Hall of Fame	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Craig Findlay Strategic Relationships	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Keely McDonald – Casual Vacancy (Joined March 2025) Law, Governance & Compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓
Cheryl Elvey (resigned March 2025) Finance/Treasurer	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A



AFLCV REPORT

We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to another successful season throughout 2025 across all leagues and associations within the Central Victoria region.

AFL Central Victoria continues to be deeply grateful for the vital role that clubs play in supporting and strengthening their local communities. Our football and netball clubs provide meaningful social connections and contribute significantly to the physical and mental wellbeing of thousands of participants. Beyond their core purpose of enabling community sport, many clubs go above and beyond by offering additional support services, rallying behind those in need, and acting as important community hubs.

For AFL Central Victoria, 2025 completes the first full successful year of transition moving from the former 'Commission' model, across to the newly appointed Region Council under the leadership of AFL Victoria.

In a relatively short time, the Region Council has demonstrated strong capability and commitment to driving positive change across Central Victoria, working to ensure a sustainable and viable future for all clubs. We were pleased to welcome new Region Council members Claire Lowe and Paul Scullie who joined mid-way through the 2025 season. Both have already contributed valuable expertise, insight, and enthusiasm in supporting the advancement of local leagues and clubs.

During 2025, Region Council supported the significant 'Northern Futures Project', led by the Central Rivers League Board. This was a comprehensive sustainability review that has resulted in major structural outcomes for the northern part of the region. As a result, all Golden Rivers FNL clubs will compete in the Central

Murray FNL from season 2026, apart from Macorna FNC, who have affiliated with the Loddon Valley FNL.

Looking ahead, the Region Council will continue working closely with leagues and clubs as several critical planning initiatives commence, each focused on strengthening the long-term health and sustainability of football and netball in the region. These projects will be underpinned by data-driven evidence, consultation, and transparent engagement, ensuring thoughtful and future-focused recommendations.

AFL Central Victoria remains committed to investing in support resources, including participation, game development, and club development, and will continue to assist clubs across all areas of operations, volunteer support, administration, compliance, and governance.

Congratulations

On behalf of AFL Central Victoria, we extend our sincere appreciation to the volunteers, administrators, players, coaches, and families from every club who contributed to another strong and enjoyable year across our region.

We congratulate all teams who proudly competed in finals campaigns, along with every premiership team crowned in the 2025 season. Achieving premiership success is never easy, and while a club's impact reaches far beyond a trophy, those who secured grand final victories will no doubt treasure the memories for years to come.

Congratulations also to all players recognised with individual honours, whether at Club or League level for your outstanding

performance across the 2025 season. While most participants strive for team success above all else, we celebrate every individual achievement that reflects dedication, skill, and commitment.

Thank You

AFL Central Victoria remains deeply appreciative of the significant contribution clubs make to their local communities. Our football and netball clubs provide vital social connections and support the physical and mental wellbeing of thousands of participants.

Many clubs extend well beyond their primary sporting purpose, offering valuable community services and genuine care for those in need.

To the volunteers who make all this possible, often quietly and without expectation of recognition - we say thank you.

We acknowledge and sincerely thank the countless volunteers across the region whose ongoing effort enables clubs to operate and ensures competition can take place each week. With hundreds of roles being fulfilled and thousands of hours contributed, your support is the backbone of community sport.

With more than 400 matches played every weekend across football, netball, and hockey, umpires are essential to participation. Umpiring remains both challenging and rewarding, and we greatly appreciate the commitment of all who officiated this year. Many Association umpires generously took on multiple matches to support clubs, and we also thank club-appointed umpires who stepped in when required. Please remember games cannot occur without umpires and respectful treatment and environments remain critical.

AFL Central Victoria is fortunate to receive outstanding support from partners at club, league, and regional level. Their contribution directly benefits clubs and communities through investment, initiatives, and shared opportunities. Major partner Bendigo Bank continues to provide substantial financial relief for leagues and clubs and further generates club support through its referral program, directing valuable funds back to grassroots football and netball.

We value our strong partnerships with organisations including the TAC, Headspace Bendigo, Love the Game, and the Pat Cronin Foundation. We especially thank the TAC for once again delivering the Club Rewards Program, which encourages Victorian grassroots clubs to champion road safety throughout the 2025 season. Congratulations to all Central Victorian clubs who engaged in this important initiative, and to those who received reward funding for their efforts.

Our appreciation extends to our dedicated volunteers who support tribunal and investigation duties which are an important and complex function. Recent enhancements to the match review and disciplinary framework have significantly improved processes and reduced pressures on umpires, clubs, and volunteers.

We thank our regional media partners across print, radio, and television for their ongoing coverage and promotion of local sport. Media remains an invaluable communication channel for communities and supporters across Central Victoria.

Participation

Throughout the 2025 season, the AFL Victoria Participation & Programs team delivered an incredible volume of tailored participation programs across the Central & Northern regions.

Through extensive touch points across regional schools & clubs, the team was able to facilitate and deliver a range of products and programs including:

- NAB AFL Auskick & Superkick Programs at Schools
- All Girls Auskick & Superkick Programs
- Community Club Auskick & Superkick Centres
- AFL Primary Play (free programs delivered at primary schools)

- Sport Schools Program (AFL Victoria staff delivered or Teacher Led)
- 'Unders' - a community based junior football transition program
- Multiple AFL Victoria delivered School Holiday Programs
- AFL Nines - AFL Victoria delivered social competition

The purpose of these programs is to continue expanding community participation while creating clear pathways for new participants to become involved with local clubs. AFL Central Victoria, together with AFL Victoria, remain committed to investing in initiatives designed to attract and retain as many participants as possible. This includes exploring alternative formats such as AFL Nines, providing opportunities for those seeking a different way to enjoy Australian Rules Football, and commence their football journey from a range of backgrounds.

During the 2025 season, Bendigo and surrounding districts were thrilled to host the Essendon Football Club (AFL & AFLW) and the Carlton Football Club (AFL) as part of their AFL Community Camps. These visits saw players and staff engage with schools, deliver clinics, run coaching and leadership development sessions, and visit junior football clubs across the region. The positive impact of these community connections is significant, and we sincerely thank the AFL clubs, players, coaches, and support staff for their time, energy, and commitment to grassroots football.

Development & Pathways

AFL Central Victoria again offered local development opportunities for football and netball players across our region in the form of Academy programs. These programs offer a great opportunity for young athletes to participate and further develop a range of skills, under the leadership of some of the best coaches across the region. Similarly, our Academy programs provide a great pathway for local coaches learning and development.

The Bendigo Bank Junior Football League (BJFL) again participated in the La Trobe University Interleague Challenge against the Goulburn Murray Junior League and Murray Football League, hosted this year at the Rochester Football Club, where a round robin format was held for the Under 13, 14 and 15 Boys. The BJFL also hosted the Ballarat Football Netball League in the annual Goldfields Challenge for the Under 14 Girls, 16 Girls, 13 Boys, 14 Boys and 15 Boys at Catherine McAuley College (CMC).

This year the Champions IGA Central Victoria Football League (CVFL) seniors travelled to the Mildura Sporting Precinct to play against the Millewa FL in what was a great day and event for both leagues and gave both sets of players the chance to test themselves against some of the best female talent across Victoria and some parts of NSW.

V/Line Cup carnivals were again coordinated for our most promising under 15 female and male football players. The 2025 carnivals were held in Ballarat 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, who represented their region and clubs with pride. We extend our gratitude for the investment of all coaches, match officials, support staff, and importantly families of our selected players who contributed to the success of the event.

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. AFL Central Victoria Netball academy players successfully participated in the Shepparton Netball Association tournament in May and the Maryborough District Netball Association in July following their 12-week training program.

We extend our sincere thanks to all coaches, officials, support staff, and, importantly, the families who invested their time and

commitment to ensure the success of these programs. Junior gala days were also delivered across the region, providing an opportunity for footballers and netballers to come together and compete in a one-day format, our appreciation goes to everyone involved.

AFL Central Victoria provided multiple programs and activities for the education and development of coaches, umpires and administrators, across both football and netball. These programs involved a range of practical and classroom education, facilitated, and delivered by several highly credentialled presenters.

Infrastructure & Facilities

Congratulations to all concerned in both State and Local Government, all clubs, and stakeholders for driving facility development within the region. Exciting facility developments for delivery during 2025 or 2026 include:

- Works have recently commenced to redevelop the existing ground floor of the pavilion at Golden Square Recreation Reserve to meet today's service standards and expectations for accessibility, gender equity, sustainability, player safety and functionality.
- The City of Greater Bendigo has purchased Backhaus Oval which was identified in the 2020 Golden Square Recreation Reserve Master Plan and 2022 Golden Square Structure Plan as an ideal site to address Golden Square's undersupply of public open space. The City are currently undertaking a range of works to ensure the facility is safe for community use, with works to be completed by July 2025.
- Works have also recently commenced on the refresh of the Strathfieldsaye FNC netball courts at Tannery Lane, for delivery during the 2026 season
- The City of Greater Bendigo has commenced construction on the new pavilion at the North Bendigo Recreation Reserve, with a future stage two to include a new football/netball/cricket community sporting pavilion.
- The progression of masterplans for the Elmore Recreation Reserve, and the design of a new multi-purpose community hub at the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve through Sport and Recreation Victoria's Regional Community Sports Infrastructure Fund, and the proposed development of a centralised sport and community pavilion, two netball courts, and the demolition of the existing buildings and landscape

integration works at Camp Reserve, Castlemaine.

- Redevelopment of the junior oval at the Strauch Recreation Reserve in Huntly, including the installation of a new irrigation system and resurfacing works, partial fencing and the re-laying of the synthetic cricket pitch to bring the facility up to standard.
- Several clubs welcomed lighting upgrades, and minor change room upgrades (player/umpire) at various clubs throughout the region.

Grants & funding

The 2025 Victoria Toyota Good for Footy Raffle has provided a valuable boost to participating community clubs, with a combined total of \$4,875 raised across the ten AFL CV clubs.

Through the TAC Rewards Program, our clubs collectively received \$33,250 in funding. The Pyramid Hill FNC received the highest amount funding across the region through their efforts promoting road safety awareness.

The AFL Central Vic region has again achieved some awesome results with Telstra Country Football Grants. \$25,135 has been spread across 6 clubs within the region supporting a range of different upgrades. These items range from things such as line markers and indigenous jumpers, right through to behind the goal netting and scoreboards.

Perhaps the most notable mention for 2025 was the announcement of the Colbinabbin Multi-Purpose Community Hub Development through Sport and Recreation Victoria's regional infrastructure fund.

People

Finally, we acknowledge the considerable efforts of all staff across both the Bendigo and Swan Hill hubs. Their knowledge, professionalism, and commitment to delivering high-quality competitions and supporting our leagues and clubs continues to exceed expectations.

This year has also been one of transition, with valued AFL Central Victoria staff members moving on to pursue exciting new opportunities. We extend our sincere appreciation to those individuals for their significant contribution and dedication to the region, including Nathan Williams, & Jared Hill. We also acknowledge and congratulate Jan Mannes, who will retire at the end of December following an extraordinary career in community sports administration. Jan leaves an enduring legacy, and we wish her every happiness as she spends more time with family.

It would be remiss not to recognise the collective investment and support demonstrated by our current AFL Central Victoria team more broadly, who have consistently maintained an exceptionally high standard of service to leagues, associations, and clubs. The commitment and willingness of our staff to go above and beyond, including often in their personal time, has been remarkable, and we express our deepest thanks. The successful delivery of the 2025 season would not have been possible without you.

Looking ahead, AFL Central Victoria remains committed to supporting our community through the implementation of the AFL Victoria RAC Strategies Project. This initiative will guide the transition to a more sustainable and self-managed future for leagues across the state, ensuring local decision-making, strengthened club support, and improved long-term outcomes for community football and netball across our region.



Extra time decides Bendigo's clash with VAFA

Extra time was played for a result in a brilliant showdown between the Bendigo Bank Bendigo FNL's senior footy team's clash with the Victorian Amateur Football Association on 13 July 2025.

For the second year running Bendigo took on the VAFA's best from Premier B to Division three. This contest was on the turf of the blue and gold at Queen Elizabeth Oval in View Street. Inter-league footy was back at the famous venue for the first time since 2019.

All eight of Bendigo's clubs were represented in a team coached by Golden Square's multiple premiership winner and gun on-baller Simon Rosa. Co-captains were Gisborne's gun defender Jack Reaper and Sandhurst on-baller and co-coach Lachlan Tardrew. Vice-captain for Bendigo was Sandhurst key forward Fergus Greene.

The VAFA made a flying start to the match as it slammed on seven goals in the opening quarter to be up 45-19 at the first break. The VAFA raced to a 12-nil lead as Michael Nicholls and Bailey Payze were on target.

Sandhurst's Fergus Greene booted Bendigo's first goal. Matt Fewings goaled for the VAFA. The first of three goals by Sandhurst's Cobi Maxted cut the margin to seven points. Hugo McGlashan replied for the VAFA and then Maxted goaled again for Bendigo. It was a strong finish to the term by the Amateurs as Jordan Busutil, Michael Nicholls and Matt Fewings capped the work of the midfield and on-ballers.

Goalkickers for the BFN in the second were Castlemaine coach Michael Hartley, Cobi Maxted and South Bendigo's Brock Harvey. The blue and gold hit the front in the seventh minute of the third quarter when Fergus Greene nailed his second. The VAFA regained the lead through Boston Dowling.

South Bendigo's Kaiden Antonowicz slotted his first major before Riley Virtue was on target for the Amateurs to lead 61-55 going into the final quarter.

In the fourth it was Hartley on target for Bendigo, but a Michael Nicholls goal put the VAFA in front again. A run of four consecutive behinds meant Bendigo led 68-67 before a point by the VAFA forced the contest into five-minute halves of extra time.



Goal of the day honours went to Bailey Payze with a running shot from an acute angle in the pocket at the Barnard Street end. Three shots by Bendigo ended in points before James Allen goaled for the VAFA to seal an 81-71 victory.

The BFN will rue missed opportunities, finishing the second half kicking 1 goal and 10 behinds. While they had plenty of opportunities, the failure to capitalise and the arrival of some rain worked against the Blue & Gold in what will go down as one of the great Interleague battles of recent memory.

The Derrick Filo Medal for Bendigo's best player was awarded to Sandhurst gun on-baller and Co-Captain of the Bendigo FNL, Lachlan Tardrew.

One of the greatest players in Bendigo's inter-league history, Derrick Filo's career of more than 400 matches included multiple premiership victories. He also holds the league record of 23 inter-league matches and was Michelsen medallist as league fairest and best in 1991 at Castlemaine. Filo's first grand final victory was with Castlemaine in 1992. He was playing coach in Kyneton's premiership wins in 1995 and '97. A brilliant career rolled on at Eaglehawk where he led the Two Blues to premiership glory in 2007 and '08.

Other best players for the Blue & Gold were Cobi Maxted (Sandhurst), Lachie Hood (Sandhurst), Callum Crisp (South Bendigo), Zac Vescovi (Gisborne) and Cooper Smith (Sandhurst).

The footy action at the QEO kicked off with the under-19s match. The VAFA charged to a 35-8 lead by quarter-time and then won the second term, 26-12.

The Amateur Association's rising stars were too strong for the young stars from the Bendigo FNL and more than doubled their first half score on their way to a 125-36 victory. Playing against the VAFA's Premier side, the task was always going to be tough but to the teams credit they continued to fight and enjoy the honour of wearing the BFN jumper.

Louis Hodder and Tyson Nagel kicked three goals as Jack Cheep, Johnathon Gambaro and Charlie Richardson added two each.

The Robert 'Ninga' O'Connell was presented for the first time to Bendigo FNL captain and Gisborne on-baller James Gray. Other best players for the BFN were Jed Daniels (Strathfieldsaye), Jack McMahon (Golden Square), Ollie Morris (Sandhurst), Joe Hayes (Strathfieldsaye) & Oscar Cail (Sandhurst).

The Bendigo FNL's under-19 team was coached by Jason Stevens from Kangaroo Flat.



 Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



CASTLEMAINE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



President	Caleb Kuhle
Secretary	Tim Matheson
Treasurer	Trevor Butcher
Committee	
Susan McLennan, Jackie McLean, Shawn Rixon, Mark Shannon, Jordan Cochrane, Liam Wilkinson, Nikkea Hogan, Carly Haddock	

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Michael Hartley
Reserves	Darby Semmens
Under 18	Bailey Henderson

NETBALL

A Reserve	Vanessa Saunders
B Grade	Nikkea Hogan Jack Davidge
B Reserve	Nikkea Hogan Jack Davidge
17 & Under	Vanessa Saunders

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Patrik Balta
Reserves	Archie Rixon
Under 18	Oscar Giddings

NETBALL

A Reserve	Sarah McLean
B Grade	Nat Quinn
B Reserve	Lily Waters
17 & Under	Madeline Springate

Firstly, congratulations to all members of the club for successfully completing another year in the BFN. Competition was tough in all grades, and it is a real testament to the hard work and grit of the volunteers, coaches, and players.

There have been some great highs and extreme lows for us as a club and community this year, but the highlights as follows:

1. Finals appearances for the Reserves football team, the first open age football team to play BFN finals in over two decades.
2. Senior Women's football achieved another premierships this year.
3. The endeavour of the Junior committee and coaches to get multiple sides into finals.

Thank you to all outgoing committee members and coaches, special mention to Vanessa Saunders on her return to CFNC this year and working closely with our wider netball group. To Michael Hartley and Harmit Singh thank you both for your efforts over the past two seasons, working with the committee and players to establish professional standards to compete in the BFN.





EAGLEHAWK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President Rani Madden

Secretary Gerard Ilsley

Treasurer Jess Tauelangi

Committee

Bec Mullen, Archie Lenten, Paige Combridge, Bron McQueen, Brett Crapper, Gavin Parkes, James Hanley, Dean Lawry, Sarah Murley, Leigh Crapper

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors Travis Matheson
Clayton Holmes

Reserves Ryan Wellington
Rhys Foster

Under 18 Jared Webster
Jonty Neaves

NETBALL

A Grade Janelle Hobbs

A Reserve Janelle Hobbs

B Grade Paige Combridge

B Reserve Melanie Oldfield

17 & Under Kim Schepers

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors Braydon Frost

Reserves Noah Eliades

Under 18 Cahal Blandthorn

NETBALL

A Grade Allira Holmes

A Reserve Tia Reaper

B Grade Georgia Warne

B Reserve Holly Palazzo

17 & Under Kate Wilson

2025 PREMIERSHIPS

PREMIERS

FOOTBALL

Seniors

We started 2025 with what we believe is making history for our club when Rani Madden was elected president. As far as we know she is not also the first lady to be elected president but we also think she is the youngest to be elected to the role and we can also report Rani along with her hard working committee did a sensational job.

Football 2025 Jared and Jonty did a great job with the under 18s at times playing with only 18 or 2 and 3 up from the under 16s they never lost their cool and never gave up which did themselves and club proud.

In the reserves who were coached by Ryan and Rhys at times they also struggled for numbers but won the last game of the year to sneak into the finals which was a great effort but were eliminated in the first week of finals.

Then we had the seniors what a season finished 3rd on the ladder were not given much hope of beating the 2 above them had a disaster in the second semi when they were beaten by 10 goals won their way through to the grand final and after being 4 goals down at 3 quarter time stormed home to take out the premiership by 10 pts WOW-WOW-WOW.

Travis and Clayton did a sensational job and it is great to have them back next year to defend their title.

Also well done to Billy Evans who took out the Michelsen Medal for 2025.

This also created another first Rani the first female premiership president.

In the netball our girls improved in every grade led by senior coach Janelle Hobbs. A Grade made the finals for the first time in a few years A Reserve just missed out on making finals B Grade finished 6th on the ladder after a steady year B Reserve struggled at times but registered some good wins and a very young Under 17 side had a couple of wins and would learn from playing against older opposition.

Janelle has agreed to steer the ship again next year so we are shaw our girls will improve even more.

As we said before we thank all those who worked around the club we would also like to thank all our valued sponsors for their ongoing support and last to all our one eyed sensational supporters thanks for your support which was sensational through the finals.

That's it thanks for 2025 and see you in 2026.





GISBORNE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President	Tony Brancatisano
Secretary	Mandy Dimasi
Treasurer	Debbie Brancatisano

Committee

Tony Andrews, Gyllean Eales, Kate Luxmoore, Darren Mitchell

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Rob Waters
Reserves	Jeremey Pennefather
Under 18	Jordan Ryan

NETBALL

A Grade	Tarryn Rymer
A Reserve	Claudia Mawson
B Grade	Rylee Connell
B Reserve	Shelley Farrugia
17 & Under	Zoe Davies

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Brad Bernacki
Reserves	Hugo Olive
Under 18	Lucas Carnell

NETBALL

A Grade	Kirby Elliott
A Reserve	Alexandra Russ
B Grade	Hannah Weier
B Reserve	Milly Shaw
17 & Under	Holly Brewer

2025 PREMIERSHIPS



NETBALL

B Grade
B Reserve

2025 was another successful year for GFNC, with seven of our eight teams qualifying for finals. The netball department delivered an exceptional season. All five teams progressed to finals, with the 17/U and A Reserve sides reaching the semifinals and A Grade advancing to the Preliminary Final. The year was highlighted by outstanding premiership victories from both the B Grade and B Reserve teams, with Hannah Weier (B Grade) and Shelley Farrugia (B Reserve) awarded Best on Court in their respective grand finals.

Men's football experienced mixed results, with both the Senior and U18 teams qualifying for finals despite significant challenges. Player unavailability due to injury and travel impacted all grades throughout the year. The Senior team finished the home-and-away season in 3rd place and pushed through to the Preliminary Final, where they fell short against a fast-finishing Eaglehawk. The U18s also fought valiantly in their Elimination Final but were ultimately unsuccessful.

We extend our congratulations to players recognised with league-level honours. Reese Sutton was awarded the BFNLL Best & Fairest in B Grade netball, while Holly Brewer claimed the BFNLL Best & Fairest in 17/U netball - both outstanding individual achievements. Zoe Davies and Kirby Elliot were both named in the BFNLL A Grade netball Team of the Year. Similarly, Pat McKenna, Brad Bernacki and James Gray were members of the senior football BFNLL Team of the Year.

Our on-field success is a direct reflection of the dedication and hard work occurring behind the scenes. Thank you to our Committee, our many volunteers, and our loyal members and sponsors for the invaluable support you provide. To our coaches and support staff across netball and football - your expertise, leadership, and commitment brought out the best in our players throughout the season.

Off the field, the strength of the Club's culture was evident in the respectful and constructive manner in which discussions regarding GFNC's potential transition to a different league were conducted. We sincerely thank our members and players for their support as the Committee continues its work to secure the Club's long-term future.





GOLDEN SQUARE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President Andrew Wicking

Secretary Lisa Roberts

Treasurer Wendy Donegan

Committee

Greg Pain, Ian Symons, Mackenzie Alford, Kellie Martin, Sheldon Burke, Keiran Burke, Hayley Smith, Tanner Rayner, Kylie Wescott, Julie Dillon

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors Brad Eaton
Jason Thomas

Reserves Henry Anderton
Josh Baird

Under 18 Dean Strauch

NETBALL

A Grade Teagan Redwood

A Reserve Ollie Ryan

B Grade Erin McGurk

B Reserve Monique Hay

17 & Under Claire Hope

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors Terry Reeves

Reserves Tanner Rayner

Under 18 Byron Ritchie

NETBALL

A Grade Keira Lawry

A Reserve Holly McPhee

B Grade Tia Chen

B Reserve Chloe Dynon

17 & Under Anya Basilewsky

2025 PREMIERSHIPS



FOOTBALL

Reserves

The highlight of Season 2025 was the Men's Reserves Premiership. One of three sides with a legitimate claim to the trophy, it was our boys that reigned supreme on Grand Final Day against traditional foes, Sandhurst. This has been a happy bunch this year under Head coach, Henry Anderton, and assistants, Josh Baird and Brett Monti.

Our younger cohorts also led the way this season with our U17 netballers falling agonisingly short of a Grand Final appearance by one goal in overtime.

Our U18 Boys footballers were a bit of an unknown quantity at the start of the season but the players worked hard throughout the year to develop individually and as a group. That hard work was rewarded with a Grand Final berth against a powerful Sandhurst outfit.

We should be proud, as a club, of the role we have played in the development of girls and Women's football in our region. Along with the Juniors, we are probably the only club to have fielded teams across all age groups, and with full numbers.

Our CVFL Seniors were, once again, top two all season. And, once again, they came up against Castlemaine in the decider at the QEO.

Our U18 Girls have made the finals, including the Preliminary Final and last year's Grand Final, over the past three years. Thanks to Kellie Dadds, and her support team, for their hard work this year.

Our 2025 netball season, outside the 17s, didn't quite get the upward momentum we might have expected after a more competitive 2024 season.

The Men's Senior Football side were flying through the pre-season but some injuries to key players just prior to the season start, and the delayed return of others, meant that we fielded a very young side for the first half of the year.





KANGAROO FLAT FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President	Leigh Bailey
Vice President	Craig O'Hara
Secretary	Chatheesha Jasotharan
Treasurer	Adam Melis
Committee	

Julie Smith, Kate Newman, Andrew Membrey, Kathy Hywood, Veronica Roberts, Jason Stevens, Danny Clapp, Scott Jackman, Scott Mitchell

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Tyrone Downie Jason Stevens Barry Pitson
Reserves	Mitch Holt Isaac Douthie
Under 18	Andrew Kent

NETBALL

A Grade	Jayden Cowling Ruby Barkmeyer
A Reserve	Ash Ryan
B Grade	Kate Newman
B Reserve	Nina Cass

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Ethan Roberts
Reserves	Patrick Murphy
Under 18	Finn Mulclair

NETBALL

A Grade	Ruby Barkmeyer
A Reserve	Ella Wicks
B Grade	Darcie Fry
B Reserve	Taylah Collins
17 & Under	Peyton Chambers

2025 PREMIERSHIPS

NETBALL

A Grade
A Reserve

2025 started really well, football and netball preparations had been put in place prior to Christmas. All netball teams were selected in the November preseasn tryouts.

Behind the scenes, the committee, coaching staff, trainers and volunteers were already up and running, prepared for round one. The players were all fit and ready to go, with some players departing and a few new arrivals, everyone was ready to get into the season.

With a new look football department, it was all about rebuilding and putting a plan in place to develop and become a competitive side in the BFL going forward. On the field we didn't see the success we would have liked, however, the structure and foundation was hopefully laid to set the side up for next year and beyond.

The boys have been working hard in the background to put together a squad that will be on the up, going forward and they'll continue that work right up to the first bounce next season.

The Netballers hit the season running, Jayden Cowling and the coaching group were out to avenge last year's grand final loss, all the teams from A Grade down were always going to be strong finals contenders from the outset. The girls all had an amazing season, all achieving stellar performances. The 17's & Under kept improving all year, excelling all expectations and making the finals with all the other grades.

After very strong performances, we were lucky enough to get A Grade, A Reserve & B Grade into the Grand Final, with both A Grade & A Reserve taking out the premierships, a magnificent achievement from all the girls.

Heading into 2026, we are excited at what lies ahead, with our netballers aiming to strengthen their ranks and aim for more success, our footballers will be also aiming to go to the next level and be a team not to be taken lightly, ultimately taking a few scalps along the way

Having all our netball teams in finals, which was an awesome effort and then having the BFL finals alcohol tender, it was a logistical nightmare, however, we made it work, as we always do. On behalf of the club, I sincerely thank you for your contribution throughout the finals series to volunteer your time and effort to support our great club.

2026 brings an exciting new chapter to the club. With success in netball, they are hoping to build on that and go back to back in both A Grade and A Reserve, then take the next step for all the other sides to contend for a premiership also.

The work will continue in 2026, with the committee, football & netball departments working tirelessly to ensure season 2026 is bigger and more successful than the last. The measures that have been put in place off the field will ensure the club's strength going forward.

We look forward to seeing you all next season.





SANDHURST FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President Mark O'Farrell

Treasurer Peter Watson

Committee

Matt Smith, David Gallagher, Rose Gallagher, Bill Robertson, Cath Robertson, Ketih Dowsett, Calin Mackie, Michael Prowse Kellie White

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors Bryce Curnow
Fergus Greene

Reserves Lachlan Prest

Under 18 Darcy Mills

NETBALL

A Grade Tamara Gilchrist

A Reserve Tamara Gilchrist
Rose Gallagher

B Grade Jarileey Scholes

B Reserve Kate McDougall

17 & Under Carol Cathcart
Rose Gallagher

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors Lachlan Tardrew

Reserves Henry Edwards

Under 18 Harvey White

Senior Womens Arkie Donnelly

U18 Womens Mia Maxted

NETBALL

A Grade Shae Clifford

A Reserve Katie Dean

B Grade Charlie Coghill

B Reserve Briona Giddings

17 & Under Jaido Raco

2025 PREMIERSHIPS

FOOTBALL

Under 18

NETBALL

17 & Under



2025 has been a successful year for our club with plenty of success during the year on the field in all levels of our club. Not all of the grand final results went our way but there is no denying that our overall success during the season should be something we are all proud to be involved in. There has been plenty for our members and supporters to celebrate during the year.

The work to keep our club functioning starts pretty much immediately after the finish of each season and I thank our hard working committee, coaches, players and club volunteers for the amazing work you all do each season.

Well done to all our coaches through the junior and senior teams in both the football and netball and the support crew that assist our coaches so well each week.

Congratulations to our teams who were successful with winning grand finals this year. The combined success of the club saw us take out the David McCann Memorial club champion award again this season, an award that recognises overall club success.

To the over 100 volunteers that contribute each week, THANK YOU ALL. Where would we be without your support.

We have a great many sponsors with our major partners, Grilled, Hotondo homes and the Rising Sun hotel. Our club cannot survive without the support of our sponsors and I implore all club members and support our sponsors as much as possible. Thanks to Samantha Scanlon and Peter Watson for coordinating our sponsors.





SOUTH BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President	Dujon Fuzzard
Secretary	Nicole Georgeson
Treasurer	Daniel King
Committee	
Julian Lake, Rick Townsend, Adam Poyser, Damien Power, Gill Davey, Roddy Marshall, Ben Dillon	

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Troy Coates Jack Fallon
Reserves	Caleb Nitschke Jack Nalder
Under 18	Carl Hardingham Travis Eddy
NETBALL	
A Grade	Lauren Bowles Mel Dillon
A Reserve	Lauren Bowles Amanda Walters
B Grade	Marita Eddy Alison Leech
B Reserve	Vicki Brook Katie Richmond
17 & Under	Amber Hollis Sarah Nash

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors	Brody Haddow
Reserves	Xavier Holmes
Under 18	Jasper Irwin
NETBALL	
A Grade	Gabe Richards
A Reserve	Lauren Bowles
B Grade	Shannon Bice
B Reserve	Emma Tomlins
17 & Under	Amber Anderson Madi Gill

After a challenging season in 2024, the Harry Trot sporting precinct was rocking in 2025. We saw strong participation numbers through our junior football and netball programs, including at Auskick level. With new leadership and investment into our senior football and netball programs, we have enjoyed increased attendance at our home games in 2025, which we expect to continue as we integrate further into the Kennington community. Our club also continued to promote awareness of important social issues, including road safety and the impact of low vision on the lives of those affected. Our sponsors and volunteers continued to support us ably, allowing us every opportunity to create a club that develops talent, is fun, inclusive and fosters positive values.

Our on-field results saw a significant rise in performance this season, with our Senior Football and A-Grade Netball sides both rising to 4th position. To our players, I am incredibly proud of you all for the collective effort involved in achieving this. To our coaches, I thank you all for your tireless work in Season 2025. You all have my full endorsement, and I look forward to supporting your football and netball programs in 2026.

I would like to acknowledge the contributions of our 2025 Committee. Collectively, we have worked hard in 2025 to ensure that our club is safe, secure, sustainable and continues to grow. With an eye on the future, we have laid the foundations for on-field and on-court prosperity in 2026. This has required vision, strategic planning, critical thinking, ambition, bravery and robust discussion. We have been thorough, agile and entrepreneurial. Thank you all for your commitment to South Bendigo FNC in 2025 and am sure that you all share my view that our club's future is bright.

In 2026, we will strive to improve our standing in all grades of the BFLN. We hope to showcase great local football and netball that can be enjoyed by all, and we look forward to the season ahead. I hope to see you all again in 2026 and I thank you for making South Bendigo Football Netball Club your destination in 2025.

Go Bloods!





STRATHFIELDSAYE FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

President Luke O'Keefe

Secretary Tim Reed

Treasurer Kris Malia

Committee

Leone Paterson, Rod Barty, Belinda Christy, Russell Schischka, Wendy Ratcliffe, Bill Ashby, Matt Hargreaves, Ash Barbetti

2025 COACHING STAFF

FOOTBALL

Seniors Luke Freeman

Reserves Ben Lester

Craig Simpson

Under 18 Lachie Ratcliffe

NETBALL

A Grade Jess Mangan

A Reserve Kirsten Pollock

B Grade Mayayle Dole

B Reserve Sally Nicholson

17 & Under Fiona Schubert

2025 BEST & FAIRESTS

FOOTBALL

Seniors Bode Stephens

Reserves Zac Grieve

Under 18 Ashlee Stevens

NETBALL

A Grade Emmie Banfield

A Reserve Layla O'Shea

B Grade Tahlee O'Keefe

B Reserve Olivia Erwin

17 & Under Lexie Fennell

It gives me great pleasure to give the 2025 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 5 teams represent the Mighty Storm in finals action, all our teams battled hard through the finals series with 1 team getting beaten on Preliminary Final day and our under 17 netball team going into the grand final. It was a very tough and physical game, but the girls showed the true Storm passion, only being defeated after the siren by 1 goal. A fantastic effort by the club and 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 All Seasons.

I would like to thank the tireless work of our fantastic coaching groups, both football and netball always having the club and players wellbeing as their first thought, a fantastic ground 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 BFN Board, along with Tom King 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 2026. Best of luck to all, Go the Mighty Storm.



Life members reflect on netball journey

Newest life members of the Bendigo Bank Bendigo FNL, Nina Cass and Briona Giddings have racked up hundreds of goals, intercepts and matches across their remarkable stints in netball.

Both were inducted to a special club at the Michelsen-Thompson Medal night held at the Bendigo Club.

A playing stint of more than 300 matches for Cass started with Golden Square in 1992 and rolled on with Kangaroo Flat. Cass was a triple premiership winning player for the Kangaroos. A premiership-winning coach and long-time committee member for the Roos, Cass is rapt with the green and white's on-going success on the netball court. She was courtside, along with many Roos fans as the club competed in three grand finals in 2025.

There have been many influences across Cass' sporting career and many lasting friendships. Among those to have played a big part were long-time coach Carol Bingham, Cath Wicks and Melinda Keighran.

It was basketball where Cass first excelled and she went on to play more than 100 games with the Bendigo Braves and also be part of the AIS program, WNBL and Australian under-21 team. A trailblazer who crossed from basketball to netball, Cass was rapt to see the impact that Heather Olive, Gabe Richards and Lucy Spalding have had on the netball court.

Whether it be coaching, timekeeping or filling in the scoresheet, Cass is willing to chip in.

"I just love being involved and giving back to a club that has given me so much."

Cass was also quizzed by awards MC Joel Peterson about the challenges of playing and coaching. "It's harder to coach than to play. As a player you can sometimes control what's happening in a game, as a coach it's not so easy."

Across a long-time involvement with the Bendigo FNL, Cass has watched netball go from strength-to-strength.

"There are so many stars in the BFN. To have many of the girls who represent Bendigo Strikers in the VNL is so great for the league."



Nina Cass (above) and Briona Giddings (below)

Cass said a reason so many are playing or involved with netball is purely a love for the game. More than three decades after she first played for Golden Square, Nina Cass still provides plenty of energy and wisdom for netballers of all abilities and ages.

After initially deciding to play maybe a season or two with Sandhurst, Briona Giddings is still with the Dragons 20 years later. The gun defender will be on court this Saturday for the B-reserve premiership showdown with Gisborne from 10.30am. Another outstanding season for Giddings was capped by polling 31 votes to be runaway winner of the league's fairest and best award. It was her sixth league medal victory in a season where Giddings also played her 300th match for the maroon and blue. "I thought I would play one more season. I did not expect this," Giddings said after being presented with the medal.

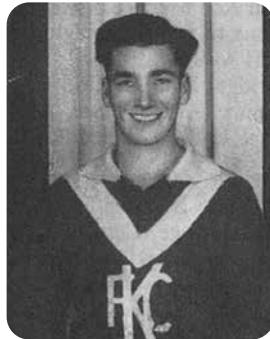
A build-up to a grand final is nothing new for Giddings who has played in 15 grand finals across all senior grades in the Bendigo FNL for a tally of 10 premierships, five runner-up. There is not a lot time spent thinking about the match as the mum of three is kept busy. "The support from my family is amazing."

After starting her netball journey with Newbridge, Giddings joined then Maroons' team-mate Jannaya Webb in the switch to Sandhurst. "The plan was to play a couple of years with Sandhurst and then go back to Newbridge," said Giddings. Year one was capped by the first leg in a premiership hat-trick in A-grade.

All these years later Giddings is at a club where there's been plenty of individual and team success. Best known for her defensive play, Giddings started as a goaller with Newbridge and also spent time in mid-court. "Goal defence is a position I am most comfortable at. I will never play goalkeeper, though."

In a career marked by so many highs she did not want to put one achievement above all. "There have been lots of special moments."

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 premiership 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.



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.



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.



2025 NALDER MEDALLIST

**Bailey
Ilsley**
EAGLEHAWK



2025 TURNER MEDALLIST

**James
Wilkinson**
GOLDEN SQUARE



2025 ASHMAN MEDALLIST

**Carter
Reid**
SANDHURST

PREVIOUS LEADING GOALKICKERS



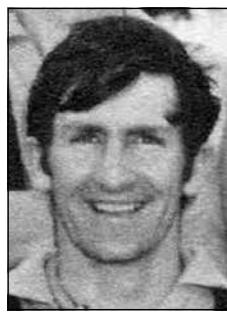
YEAR	NAME	CLUB	TOTAL	YEAR	NAME	CLUB	TOTAL
1923	Ike Jones	Eaglehawk	54	1978	Ron Best	Golden Square	124
1924	R. Scott	South Bendigo	78	1979	Ron Best	Golden Square	137
1925	Charlie Nicholls	Castlemaine	58	1980	Ron Best	Golden Square	145
1926	Percy Forbes	Sandhurst	70	1981	Wayne Crosby	Castlemaine	112
1927	Ern Smedley	Castlemaine	79	1982	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	113
1928	John Cook	South Bendigo	84	1983	Ron Best	Northern United	124
1929	Frank Ford	Sandhurst	62	1984	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	120
1930	Frank Crapper	Eaglehawk	108	1985	David Collins	Sandhurst	84
1931	Roy Moore	Sandhurst	78	1986	Gavin Exell	Northern United	87
1932	Frank Crapper	Eaglehawk	145	1987	John Jefferies	Castlemaine	73
1933	Frank Crapper	Sandhurst	90	1988	Danny Ellis	Sandhurst	78
1934	NOT AWARDED			1989	Leigh Williams	Golden Square	102
1935	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	82	1990	Shawn McCormick	Northern United	79
1936	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	88	1991	Daryl Gilmore	Eaglehawk	82
1937	Stan Sinclair	Rochester	82	1992	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	136
1938	Mancel Davies	Eaglehawk	100	1993	Andrew McClellan	North Bendigo	112
1939 to 1945 World War 2				1994	Shane McCluskey	Maryborough	100
1946	NOT AWARDED			1995	David Lancaster	Kangaroo Flat	105
1947	Vin Kelly	Rochester	49	1996	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	84
1948	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	66	1997	David Lancaster	Kangaroo Flat	76
1949	Ken Connaughton	South Bendigo	54	1998	Steven Reaper	Kyneton	110
1950	Frank Scholes	Sandhurst	63	1999	Steven Reaper	Kyneton	100
1951	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	78	2000	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	132
1952	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	52	2001	Phil Hetherington	South Bendigo	72
1953	Harry Morgan	Eaglehawk	107	2002	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	70
1954	Keith Elliot	Golden Square	76	2003	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	86
1955	Ern Parker	Echuca	86	2004	Steven Reaper	Gisborne	75
1956	Ray McHugh	Sandhurst	71	2005	Steven Oliver	Castlemaine	77
1957	John Waddington	South Bendigo	72	2006	Matt O'Toole	Golden Square	82
1958	Ray Poulter	Castlemaine	81	2007	Damien Brown	Eaglehawk	59
1959	Ron Ford	Sandhurst	62	2008	Jordan Barham	Gisborne	75
1960	Clive Philp	Kyneton	75	2009	Justin Maddern	Kangaroo Flat	81
1961	Merv Hicks	Echuca	64	2010	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	145
1962	Ray Willet	Rochester	67	2011	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	125
1963	Ray Willet	Rochester	53	2012	Grant Weeks	Golden Square	148
1964	Terry Nolen	Sandhurst	87	2013	Justin Maddern	South Bendigo	67
1965	Kevin Shearn	Golden Square	76	2014	Stephen Milne	Strathfieldsaye	89
1966	Les Kaine	Kyneton	84	2015	Matt Gretgrix	Eaglehawk	82
1967	Brian Jones	Rochester	68	2016	Dylan Johnstone	Golden Square	79
1968	Robert Morton	South Bendigo	108	2017	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	124
1969	Ron Best	Golden Square	137	2018	Kaiden Antonowicz	South Bendigo	76
1970	Ron Best	Golden Square	107	2019	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	129
1971	Greg Kennedy	Eaglehawk	139	2020	Season Abandoned		
1972	Keith Raynor	Eaglehawk	69	2021	Season Abandoned after Round 17 (12 Rounds completed)		
	Peter Hutcheson	South Bendigo	69	2022	Joel Brett	Golden Square	92
1973	Ron Best	Sandhurst	108	2023	Lachlan Sharp	Strathfieldsaye	93
1974	Ron Best	Sandhurst	135	2024	Fergus Greene	Sandhurst	80
1975	Ron Best	Sandhurst	145	2025	Brock Harvey	South Bendigo	48
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

2025 Ron Best Medallist

Brock Harvey South Bendigo



Senior Goalkickers

Brock Harvey	South Bendigo	48
Steven Stroobants	South Bendigo	44
Fergus Greene	Sandhurst	38
Kaiden Antonowicz	South Bendigo	37
Jack O'shannessy	Eaglehawk	36
Tom Campbell	Sandhurst	34
Pat McKenna	Gisborne	34



Reserves Goalkickers

Will Purcell	South Bendigo	28
Tanner Rayner	Golden Square	28
Ryan Wellington	Eaglehawk	26
Joel Wharton	Sandhurst	21
Jordan Salathiel	Golden Square	19
Dylan Hickey	Castlemaine	17



Under 18 Goalkickers

Oscar Cail	Sandhurst	44
Logan Howell	South Bendigo	41
Lucas Jones	Gisborne	35
Archie Eaton	Golden Square	26
Lucas Borg	Gisborne	25
Xavier Grant	Golden Square	24
Carter Reid	Sandhurst	24

Totals as at end of Round 18 (finals not included)

FOOTBALL & NETBALL PREMIERS



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 South Bendigo 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
1992	Castlemaine 14.13 97	d Golden Square 14.8 92
1993	South Bendigo 20.22 142	d Sandhurst 11.11 77
1994	South Bendigo 20.15 135	d Golden Square 13.9 87
1995	Kyneton 18.13 121	d South Bendigo 11.10 76
1996	Kangaroo Flat 18.18 126	d Kyneton 15.20 110

YEAR PREMIERS

1997	Kyneton 18.15 123	d Golden Square 7.14 56
1998	Maryborough 19.11 125	d Sandhurst 12.6 78
1999	Maryborough 20.17 137	d Castlemaine 17.4 106
2000	Castlemaine 12.11 83	d Kangaroo Flat 9.17 71
2001	Golden Square 14.11 95	d Sandhurst 12.9 81
2002	Gisborne 21.13 139	d Golden Square 7.18 60
2003	Gisborne 18.12 120	d Eaglehawk 11.7 73
2004	Sandhurst 15.14 104	d Gisborne 10.15 75
2005	Gisborne 14.17 101	d Eaglehawk 10.10 70
2006	Gisborne 13.11 89	d Golden Square 9.10 64
2007	Eaglehawk 12.12 84	d Gisborne 12.10 82
2008	Eaglehawk 14.11.95	d Golden Square 12.17.89
2009	Golden Square 16.12.108	d South Bendigo 10.11.71
2010	Golden Square 11.21.87	d South Bendigo 8.10.58
2011	Golden Square 25.18.168	d Eaglehawk 5.3.33
2012	Golden Square 16.10.106	d Gisborne 14.19.103
2013	Golden Square 14.18.102	d Strathfieldsaye 12.9.81
2014	Strathfieldsaye 20.18.138	d Sandhurst 12.11.83
2015	Strathfieldsaye 8.12.60	d Sandhurst 8.5.53
2016	Sandhurst 12.18.90	d Golden Square 8.10.58
2017	Strathfieldsaye 13.10.88	d Eaglehawk 7.14.56
2018	Eaglehawk 13.6.84	d Strathfieldsaye 9.5.59
2019	Strathfieldsaye 14.10.84	d Eaglehawk 10.20.80
2020	Season Abandoned	
2021	Season Abandoned after Round 17 (12 Rounds completed)	
2022	Gisborne 5.20.50	d Strathfieldsaye 2.10.22
2023	Golden Square 10.11.71	d Sandhurst 9.11.65
2024	Sandhurst 10.8.68	d Gisborne 10.4.64
2025	Eaglehawk 14.10.94	d Sandhurst 12.12.84

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
2024	Gisborne 43	d Kangaroo Flat 41
2025	Kangaroo Flat 59	d Sandhurst 51

2025 FOOTBALL GRAND FINALS



Pics courtesy
SAA Imaging,
Bendigo

SENIOR FOOTBALL EAGLEHAWK

Sandhurst 12.12.84 lost to Eaglehawk 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)



Bendigo Bank

drummond golf

RESERVES FOOTBALL GOLDEN SQUARE

Sandhurst 4.6.30 lost to Golden Square 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)



Bendigo Bank

SPORTSPOWER

UNDER 18 FOOTBALL SANDHURST

Sandhurst 10.6.66 defeated Golden Square 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)

2025 NETBALL GRAND FINALS



A GRADE NETBALL KANGAROO FLAT

**Kangaroo Flat 59
Sandhurst 51**

MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER IN
GRAND FINAL

**Ruby Barkmeyer
(Kangaroo Flat)**



A RESERVE NETBALL KANGAROO FLAT

**Kangaroo Flat 50
Sandhurst 29**

MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER IN
GRAND FINAL

**Ella Wicks
(Kangaroo Flat)**



B GRADE NETBALL GISBORNE

**Kangaroo Flat 44
Gisborne 55**

MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER IN
GRAND FINAL

**Hannah Weier
(Gisborne)**



2025 NETBALL GRAND FINALS



B RESERVE NETBALL GISBORNE

**Gisborne 45
Sandhurst 32**

MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER IN
GRAND FINAL

**Shelley Farrugia
(Gisborne)**



17 & UNDER NETBALL SANDHURST

**Sandhurst 40
Strathfieldsaye 39**

MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER IN
GRAND FINAL

**Diana Napolean
(Sandhurst)**



2025 BFNLL AWARD WINNERS



SENIORS - MICHELSEN MEDAL

Billy Evans (EH)	23
Lachlan Tardrew (SH)	20
Brody Haddow (SB)	18
Brayden Frost (EH)	15
Matthew Wilkinson (SH)	12



RESERVES - MCDONALD MEDAL

Archie Rixon (C)	14
Jaxon Vroom (EH)	12
Hugo Olive (GIS)	11
Siologa Siu (SS)	11
Tanner Rayner (GS)	11

UNDER 18'S - GEORGE SYMONS MEDAL

Cahal Blandthorn (EH)	21
Oscar Cail (SH)	21
Melvic Pambai (GS)	18
Adam Triplett (SB)	15
Xavier Grant (GS)	15

A GRADE - THOMPSON MEDAL

Shae Clifford (SH)	22
Ruby Barkmeyer (KF)	18
Chelsea Sartori (KF)	14
Sophie Shoebridge (SH)	14
Abbey Ryan (KF)	13

A RESERVE - HOLBORN MEDAL

Ella Wicks (KF)	24
Paynton Jolliffe (SS)	22
Alexandra Russ (GIS)	19
Ava Lowndes (KF)	17
Harriett Whiteacre (SH)	17

B GRADE - BINGHAM MEDAL

Reese Sutton (G)	19
Lucy Spalding (SS)	17
Molly Drum (KF)	16
Taylah Ranieri (GIS)	16
Ashlye Faulkner (KF)	13
Gabbi Turner (SS)	13

B RESERVE - B RESERVE MEDAL

Briona Giddings (SH)	31
Chelsea Crapper (SS)	19
Taylah Collins (KF)	16
Milly Shaw (GIS)	15
Karly Bingham (KF)	14

17 & UNDER - SING MEDAL

Holly Brewer (G)	27
Rosie Jarvis (CM)	21
Jaida Raco (SH)	20
Lexie Fennell (SS)	16
Juliet Hogan (GS)	15



**MICHELSEN MEDALLIST
SENIOR FOOTBALL**

**MCDONALD MEDALLIST
RESERVES FOOTBALL**

Billy Evans
Eaglehawk

Archie Rixon
Castlemaine



**GEORGE SYMONS MEDALLIST
UNDER 18 FOOTBALL**

Cahal Blandthorn
Eaglehawk

Oscar Cail
Sandhurst



SENIOR GOALKICKING RON BEST MEDAL

Brock Harvey
South Bendigo
48 Goals



RESERVES GOALKICKING

Will Purcell
South Bendigo
28 Goals

Tanner Rayner
Golden Square
28 Goals



UNDER 18S GOALKICKING

Oscar Cail
Sandhurst
44 Goals



THOMPSON MEDALLIST A GRADE NETBALL

Shae Clifford
Sandhurst



HOLBORN MEDALLIST A RESERVE NETBALL

Ella Wicks
Kangaroo Flat



BINGHAM MEDALLIST B GRADE NETBALL

Reese Sutton
Gisborne



B RESERVE MEDALLIST B RESERVE GRADE NETBALL

Briona Giddings
Sandhurst



SING MEDALLIST 17 & UNDER NETBALL

Holly Brewer
Gisborne



**DERRICK FILO
MEDALLIST SENIOR
INTERLEAGUE BEST ON
GROUND**
Lachlan Tardrew



**ROBERT O'CONNELL
MEDALLIST UNDER 19
INTERLEAGUE BEST ON
GROUND**
James Gray



**BEST PLAYER
17 & UNDER
REPRESENTATIVE
NETBALL**
Lila Kelly

**2025
MICHELS
MEDALLIST**

**BILLY
EVANS**
Eaglehawk



 Pics courtesy
SAA Imaging,
Bendigo

**2025
BETTY THOMPSON
MEDALLIST**

**SHAE
CLIFFORD**
Sandhurst





**BENDIGO FNL LIFE
MEMBERSHIP**
Nina Cass



**BENDIGO FNL LIFE
MEMBERSHIP**
Briona Giddings



KIESER VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS 2025

Highly Commended: Laura Power (South Bendigo), Winner: Julie Smith (Kangaroo Flat),

Highly Commended: Paige Combridge (Eaglehawk),

Kieser Rep: Will Brohm

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 (BFL) community has a responsibility to understand their role

in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

The BFL 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.

Design and print by

bART^{NP}PRINT

03 5441 6600 • www.bartnprint.com.au



Part of the team

When you choose to bank with Bendigo Bank, good things happen in your community.

Like our support of the Bendigo Football Netball League.

And when you belong to one of Australia's biggest banks, good things happen with your banking too.

Feel good about who you bank with.

Find out more. Call into your local branch or search Bendigo Bank and mention referral code 4910 AFL Central Victoria.

B Bendigo Bank