

# RECORD

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## INTERLEAGUE 2026



VS



**SATURDAY 23 MAY, 2026**  
**QUEEN ELIZABETH OVAL, BENDIGO**





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# Schedule of events



vs



## 2026 Interleague – Saturday 23 May

- 9:00am** Gates open
- 11:15am** 15 & Under Netball commences
- 11.50am** Under 18 Football / 17 & Under Netball teams gather on field in front of Grandstand  
MC Joel Peterson to welcome all teams, acknowledgement to country, National Anthem and coin toss
- 12pm** Under 18's Football commences
- 12:45pm** 17 & Under Netball commences
- 2.11pm** Senior Football / Open Netball teams gather on field in front of Grandstand  
MC Joel Peterson to welcome all teams, acknowledgement to country, National Anthem and coin toss
- 2.20pm** Senior Football commences
- 2:30pm** Open Netball commences
- 3:45pm** Open Netball – Players and coaches gather on court for presentations
- 4.45pm** Senior Football – Players and coaches gather in front of grand stand on oval for presentations

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# 2026

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# From the Chair

*Brett Fitzpatrick*



The Bendigo Football Netball League today proudly returns to the traditional format of Interleague Football and Netball, welcoming the Ovens and Murray FNL to the best ground in country football, the Queen Elizabeth Oval.

Led by Chair, David Sinclair and General Manager, Kane Arendarcikas, the OMFNL are a powerhouse of country football and netball and today we reignite a rivalry that so many remember and cherish from years gone by.

Interleague competition has taken many forms over the years and today marks an exciting return to one of country sport's most anticipated occasions.

With both leagues showcasing the very best talent available, spectators are set to enjoy an outstanding display of competition and skill. The day features five highly anticipated contests across both football and netball, including 15 & Under, 17 & Under and Open Age Netball, along with Under 18 and Open Age Football. Across all grades, today promises to deliver a fantastic showcase of talent, commitment and representative pride.

Both leagues are also proud to support a new initiative introduced by *The Herald Sun* and *Weekly Times*, in partnership with the *Beyond Blue Foundation*, recognising on-field success with an award being presented to the league achieving the best overall results across all football and netball grades.

While one league will ultimately celebrate success on the scoreboard, we are equally mindful of the broader purpose behind this

initiative and the awareness it seeks to create. The messages of connection, support and mental wellbeing extend beyond today's competition and into our teams, clubs, colleagues, families and wider communities.

Days like today do not happen without support from League sponsors and today we thank Workforce Security as long time BFNL representative supporters. We also thank Kieser Bendigo, Guzman y Gomez, Evolution Pools & Spas, Bendigo Mazda, Simon Rosa Landscaping, La Trobe University, Fair Dinkum Builds Bendigo, Coolabah Turf and Fortem Financial. Please make sure you support those that support us.

We congratulate all players representing their league today, from those proudly wearing representative colours for the very first time to those returning once again to the interleague arena. We encourage you all to compete with pride, embrace the occasion and provide a memorable spectacle for everyone watching at the QEO and beyond - one that will be spoken about long after the final siren.

Finally, we extend our congratulations and appreciation to all coaching staff, managers, medical teams, runners and volunteers involved. The time, commitment and energy you dedicate behind the scenes is invaluable, and today's event would not be possible without your efforts.

We wish all teams the very best and look forward to a fantastic day of Interleague Football and Netball.

**Herald Sun**





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# O&M FNL Chair

*David Sinclair*



The SS&A Ovens & Murray Football & Netball League is once again proud to participate in interleague football and netball against the Bendigo Football Netball League, continuing a rivalry renewed after almost 30 years. In an era increasingly dominated by talent pathways and elite programs, these matches provide an important opportunity for our footballers and netballers to test themselves against the best at community level.

Our footballers and netballers are excited to compete at the picturesque Queen Elizabeth Oval — one of regional Victoria's iconic sporting venues — against one of the state's oldest and strongest football and netball leagues.

The O&M Senior football team will again be coached by Myrtleford and former Werribee star Jake Sharp. Jake brings extensive coaching experience and a strong passion for interleague football and the continued success of the O&M. He will be assisted by Jason Hollard, Simon Curtis and Nathan Parker, while Ben Talarico returns for a third year as coach of our U/18 representative team.

Former Wangaratta premiership coach Kellie Keene will lead the Open netball side, while Shaylah House transitions from the U/15s to coach the U/17 team. Liv LaSpina and Emma Sinclair will oversee the U/15 squad. All bring outstanding experience and leadership through their involvement in Ovens & Murray netball as both players and coaches. Our teams are also fortunate to be supported by a dedicated group of assistants, managers, trainers, officials and volunteers whose commitment ensures these programs continue to thrive.

Many thanks to the Lavington and Corowa Football Netball Clubs for hosting training sessions and providing meals throughout

the campaign. We also sincerely thank Strathfieldsaye Football Netball Club for hosting our league on Friday evening and providing dinner for the group. Special acknowledgement must also go to League staff Kane Arendarcikas and Michael Bouquet for their tireless work coordinating the campaign and managing the logistics.

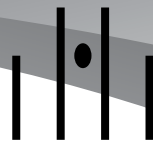
I would also like to personally thank BFNL Chair Brett Fitzpatrick, League Manager Tom King and the Bendigo Football Netball League Board for inviting the O&M to participate and for their ongoing commitment to representative football and netball. While AFL Victoria continues to provide no formal interleague structure, we remain committed to ensuring this important fixture continues, with plans for the match to return in 2027 somewhere within the Ovens & Murray region.

Finally, thank you to Sandhurst Football Netball Club and the City of Bendigo for hosting today's matches at such a wonderful venue.

Best wishes to all players, coaches, officials and umpires participating today. We hope for a competitive, enjoyable and injury-free day across all matches.

Thanks to our business partners, including: SS&A Club, Go TAFE, Sundancer Homes, McRae Motors, Opal Packaging, CUB, 7Albury, 1494 2AY, Snap Printing Solutions, Adroit Insurance & Risk, Platinum Signs & Media, Club Warehouse, Sherrin, New Balance, Health Focus Physiotherapy, Footsteps Podiatry, Solar Electrical, Tobin Bros Funerals, Premier Data and Roadsaf North East.

# Football Preview



**AFTER a wait of 29 years, Bendigo finally has a chance to again lock horns with Ovens and Murray on the footy field.**



The Simon Rosa-coached Bendigo will be aiming to capitalise on home-ground advantage at Queen Elizabeth Oval as it strives to end O and M's winning streak against the blue and gold.

Past three showdowns between these leagues which were in 1992, '95 and '97 ended in wins for the stars from the border by margins of 14, eight and nine points.

A great rivalry between these leagues was forged in the inaugural Victoria Country

championships grand final in 1954 when Ovens and Murray defeated Bendigo on Ballarat's turf.

It was the first of 14 division one triumphs for O and M which racked up 20 grand final appearances in the top bracket.

Two of Bendigo's finest inter-league victories were in the country championship semi-finals of '89 and '90 against Ovens and Murray.

A 16-point win by a Bendigo team coached by the late Neville Strauch and captained by



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo





Sandhurst legend Brendan Hartney against the O and M in Lavington was capped by winning the series grand final against Geelong on the QEO.

The following season and Bendigo again beat O & M in Lavington on the way to being the championships runner-up.

Although the frequency of inter-league footy is not what it used to be the “buy-in” from those selected in their respective squads has impressed coaches and selectors.

An initial training squad of 53 for Bendigo included players from all nine clubs.

At the announcement of the training squad, Simon Rosa said the depth of talent across the BFNL made selection incredibly challenging.

The build-up to the big clash has included a training session at Castlemaine, another at Dower Park, and two at Queen Elizabeth Oval.

The Bendigo FNL has a great mixture of premierships-winning experience and leadership.

Key players for the Blue and Gold include Sandhurst co-coach Fergus Greene on a wing or in attack, and a midfield mix that includes Castlemaine coach Bailey Henderson, Eaglehawk’s Ben Thompson.

Castlemaine’s Michael Hartley will again be a crucial target in attack along with Sandhurst’s Cobi Maxted and Golden Square’s Jack Stewart.

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An outstanding season by Kangaroo Flat's Angus Macpherson means he is likely to be starting ruckman where he teams up with South Bendigo's Brody Haddow and Gisborne's Dylan Johnstone.

For Macpherson the inter-league is this season's final and a chance to show his skill in what's shaping up to be a match of high stakes and pressure.

In defence Bendigo has the strength of Gisborne captain Zac Vescovi, Eaglehawk's Jonty Neaves, and Sandhurst's Lachlan Wright in the marking contests.

Versatility and a willingness to attack are two of the major strengths of both squads.

The blue and gold has the dare and dash of South Bendigo's Josh Nitschke, Sandhurst's Lachie Hood, Strathfieldsaye's Zane Keighran, and Gisborne's James Gray.

All 10 clubs in the Ovens and Murray were represented in the training squad.

The Jake Sharp-coached O and M of '26 will be determined to mark four in a row against Bendigo in a match where both leagues have joined forces to raise awareness about mental health.

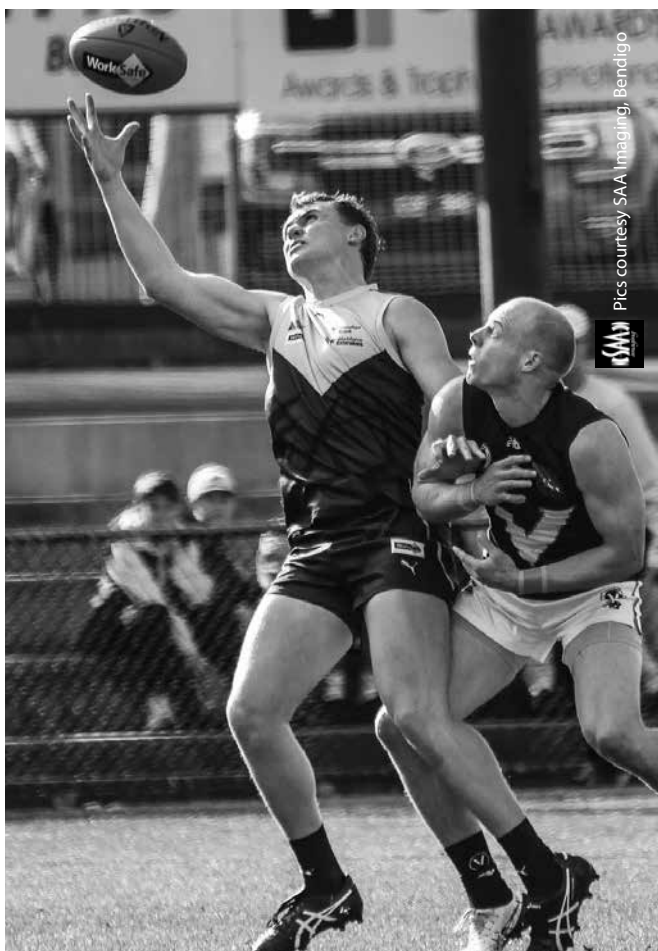
A great day of footy action kicks off with the under-18s.

The Jason Stevens-coached Bendigo has several players who have excelled in senior footy in this or previous seasons.

All nine clubs were represented in a final squad of 26.

Selectors had a tough task of finalising a final team of 22 players and three emergencies.

Among those to watch will be Golden Square's Archie Eaton who has kicked 11 goals in five senior matches this season.



Gisborne's Will Elliott has performed well in his five senior games for the Bulldogs.

Strathfieldsaye's Archie Stevens marked his senior debut for Storm on Gisborne's turf and has 10 goals in four under-18s matches this season.

Storm clubmate Ezekiel Cousins played his first senior match against Broadford last Saturday and kicked three goals.

Captain of Castlemaine's under-18s team, Ben Jardine has played four senior matches for the Magpies this season.

South Bendigo's Logan Howell was in the Bloods' senior team in the season opener at Broadford and previously played senior footy for Maryborough.

**#6**

*Fergus Greene*

Sandhurst FNC



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



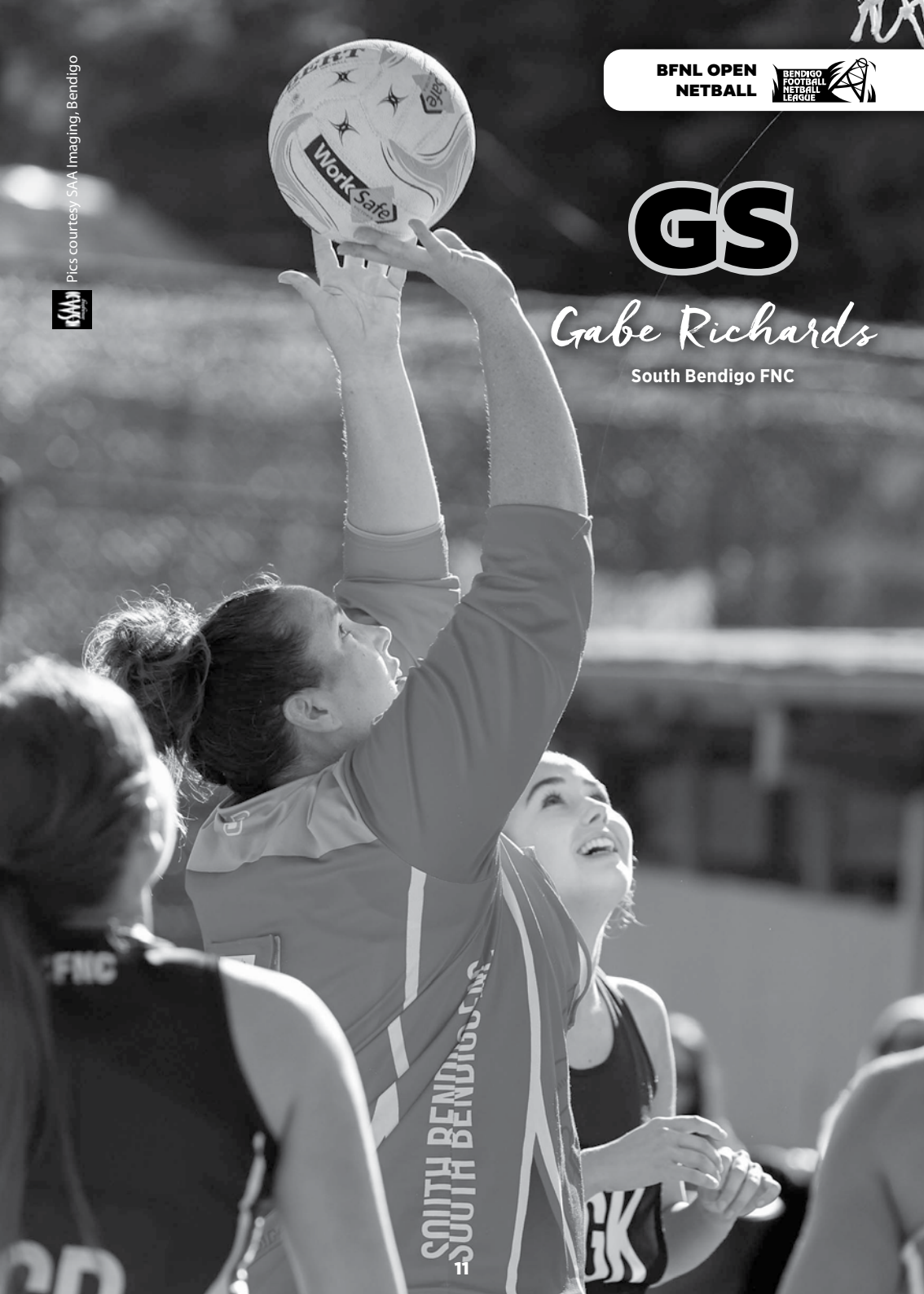
**BFNL OPEN  
NETBALL**



**GS**

*Gabe Richards*

South Bendigo FNC



# WA

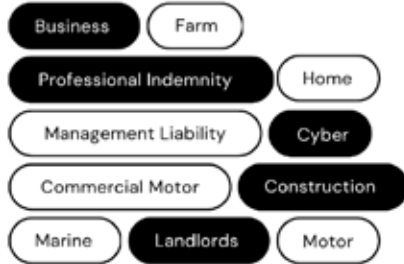
*Ash Ryan*

Kangaroo Flat FNC



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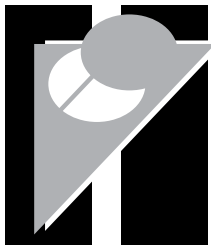




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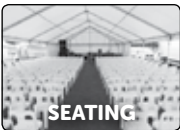
# Bendigo

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# Netball Preview

## BFNL, O&M big guns primed for Interleague stoush

BFNL and Ovens and Murray netball leaders have identified the ability to adapt to changing game situations and fresh opponents as the keys to success in their senior netball showdown at the QEO today.

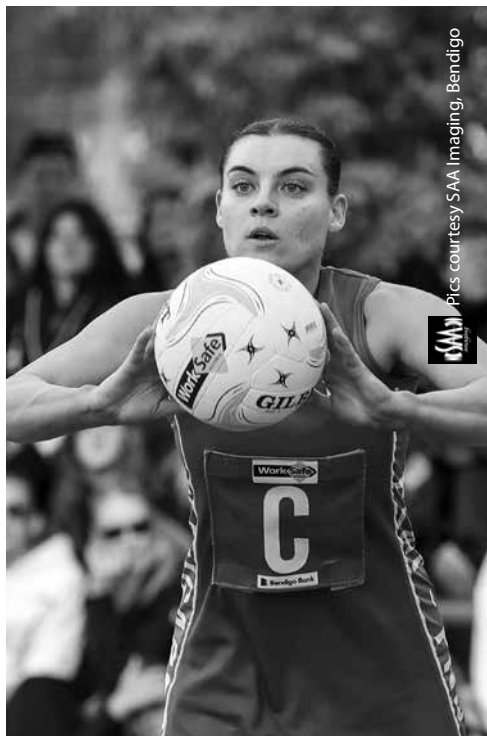
As with most interleague contests - the first of two involving the two leagues over the next two years - the much-anticipated clash will present plenty of unknowns, headlined by player unfamiliarity.

The two leagues have squared off only occasionally over the last decade in Association Championships round robin matches (two eight-minute halves), but have never played each other in a full-scale interleague clash.



Bendigo won the last such meeting 18-10 in 2023, despite the O&M playing off in the final against Banyule District and the BFNL being eliminated in the semi-finals.

While O&M have regularly been involved in interleague matches in recent times against Goulburn Valley, this year's clash marks a return to representative netball for the BFNL senior team, which last played against Outer East in 2018.



Four of the players from that game – Chelsea Sartori, Abbey and Ash Ryan and Meg Williams – will again don the blue and gold.

With a prodigiously talented line-up, boasting plenty of VNL and other big game experience – and even a sprinkling of SSN representation – at her disposal, BFNL coach Tarryn Rymer is rapt to back on the interleague stage.

“Obviously, with the structure, it’s been more manageable going back to just the one (interleague) game and having more players available for selection,” she said.

“It’s going to be great for the girls to test themselves against an obviously strong Ovens and Murray.

“It’s a long way for their players to come and it’s a bit of an unknown. We don’t really know too much about any of their players.

“I feel it’s pretty important for us to have a versatile group, to change the combinations up as much as we may need.

“But we’ve tried to make sure we have some existing connections across the court when selecting the team.”

The BFNL team, to be captained by two-time league best and fairest Sartori, comprises players from four of the league’s nine clubs.

Four are from reigning premiers Kangaroo Flat, including former Melbourne Vixen Ruby Barkmeyer – the vice-captain – three from Gisborne, two from Sandhurst and one from South Bendigo.

Rymer – a dual A-grade premiership coach with Gisborne – sees her side’s versatility and established connections as their strength.

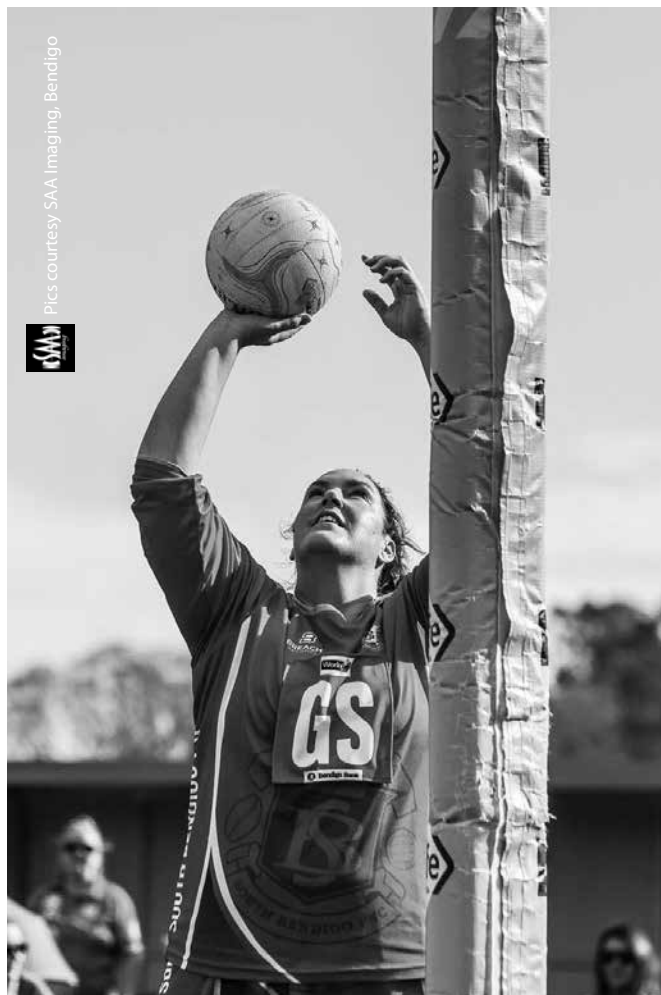
“It will be one of those games in which we will have to adapt and try and figure out our opponents as quickly as possible,” she said.

“But the other side of it is, when you don’t know too much about the opposition, you are able to really focus hard on our ourselves and what we do.

“We’ve talked about being flexible and being able to change things up, depending on different game scenarios and what is thrown at us.”

Strong all over the court, the experience and skill of Barkmeyer and Abbey Ryan, combined with the strength and smarts of South Bendigo’s Gabe Richards in attack, shapes as an obvious key to victory.

Like the BFNL, O&M will boast plenty of existing connections, with only four clubs represented in the 12-player team, including a team-high five from second-



placed Wodonga Raiders and four from Wodonga.

Undefeated league leaders Yarrowonga have two players in the team – Mandy Allan and Gemma Muldoon – while Mikaela Trethowan is the sole Corowa-Rutherglen representative.

O&M netball director Tamara Matthews is excited by the team's blend of youth and experience and overall high-calibre of talent.

“A lot of our players have played rep netball before, but we also have some young up and comers and some new faces coming through,” she said.

“It’s a nice mix.

“What we do have is some nice club connections through the team, with most clubs having more than one representative.

“That’s a real bonus in terms of on-court connection, as we have seen in the past.

“Wodonga Raiders are certainly having some big wins and have just the one loss to Yarrowonga, who were grand finalists against them last year, and are traditionally strong.”

Matthews hailed the inclusion of Raiders goal keeper Eliza Mooney as a big inclusion for the O&M.

No stranger to Bendigo netball fans, Mooney is into her second season with the Strikers VNL 23-and-under team and was their best and fairest last season.

“She’ll give us some great height, combining with our other defenders in her Raiders teammate Mackenzie House and Cara Woodman (Bulldogs), against some pretty quality Bendigo shooters,” Matthews said.

At the other end of the court, Wodonga Bulldogs goal shooter Molly Moylan is coming off an impressive national championships campaign, helping Victoria to an under-19s bronze medal.

The 18-year-old last year co-captained the 17-and-under state team.



Joining her in the goal circle will be experienced interleague reps, Yarrowonga’s Allen and Raiders’ Emily Stewart and Taylor Donelan, best on court in her club’s first-ever A-Grade netball premiership last season.

Matthews said the opportunity for the league to test itself against one of country Victoria’s acknowledged best in Bendigo was one too good to pass up.

“We are aware that there are some very high level netballers playing in that competition; it’s going to be great for our girls to come up against some fresh faces,” she said.

“We’ve worked hard on trying to get our selection processes right in terms of building a culture and team of players who feel privileged to pull on and Ovens and Murray dress.

“These girls want to be there.”

Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



**BFNL SENIOR  
FOOTBALL**



**#28**

*Jonty Neaves*

Eaglehawk FNC

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# 15 & UNDER NETBALL



**Coach:** Steph Freemantle  
**Assistants:** Nikkea Lee-Hogan  
**Team Manager:** Bec Macumber



**Coach:** Olivia La Spina  
**Assistant:** Emma Sinclair  
**Netball Director:** Tamara Mathews

Name	Club
Alana Borchard	Sandhurst
Ava Hope (C)	Golden Square
Elle Gilchrist (C)	Sandhurst
Ellie Macumber	Sandhurst
Evie Gretgrix	Sandhurst
Harper Gordon	Sandhurst
Maddison Ryan	Golden Square
Mia Smith	South Bendigo
Piper Fynch	Castlemaine
Regan Hay	Golden Square
Sienna Raco	Sandhurst
<b>Training Partners</b>	
Alicia Crowley	Sandhurst
Lily McKee	South Bendigo
Ruby Kelly	Sandhurst

Name	Club
Ruby Cardwell	Wodonga
Milla Corcoran	Myrtleford
Jessica Jones	Lavington
Sienna Linsen	Wodonga
Ruby Livingstone	Wodonga
Lexie Looby	Wangaratta
Goldie Lyons	Lavington
Emerson O'Neill	Wodonga Raiders
Ella Polkinghorne	Wodonga Raiders
Indi Rijnbeek	Wodonga Raiders
Grace Saunders	Wangaratta
Hayley Way	North Albury

	1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL
<b>BFNL</b>				
<b>O&amp;M FNL</b>				

# 17 & UNDER NETBALL



**Coaches:**

Sharni McPherson and Nikki Donnollen

**Team Manager:** Jo Morrish



**Coach:** Shaylah House

**Assistant:** Bridget Flint-Chapman

**Netball Director:** Tamara Mathews

Name	Club
Ady Nielson	Strathfieldsaye
Alexis Manson	Kangaroo Flat
Anya Basilewsky	Golden Square
Chloe Tweed	Strathfieldsaye
Eden Pollard	Strathfieldsaye
Juliet Hogan	Golden Square
Lexie Fennell	Strathfieldsaye
Lily Wise	Golden Square
Peyton Chambers	Kangaroo Flat
Rachael Flood (C)	Golden Square
Scout Hayes	Golden Square
Sophie McDermott	Strathfieldsaye
<b>Training Partners</b>	
Maycee Rinaldi	Sandhurst
Eve Grant	Sandhurst

Name	Club
Chelsea Ackerly	Lavington
Brylee Carkeek	Wodonga Raiders
Ahri Cohen	Wodonga
Gemma Corcoran	Myrtleford
Lainey Draper	Wang Rovers
Zali Fryer	Wodonga Raiders
Zahra Hazeldine	Myrtleford
Izzy McMahon	Wangaratta
Chloe Richardson	Wodonga Raiders
Maddie Smith	Wodonga Raiders
Lucy Tinkler	Wodonga Raiders
<b>Emergencies:</b>	
Isy Kreutzberger	Lavington
Priya Kohlhagen	Lavington

	1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL
<b>BFNL</b>				
<b>O&amp;M FNL</b>				

# OPEN NETBALL



**Coach:** Tarryn Rymer  
**Team Manager:** Kellie Martin



**Coaches:**  
 Jodie House, Kellie Keen  
**Netball Director:** Tamara Mathews

Name	Club
Abbey Ryan	Kangaroo Flat
Ash Ryan	Kangaroo Flat
Charlee Kemp	Gisborne
Chelsea Sartori (C)	Kangaroo Flat
Gabe Richards	South Bendigo
Kirby Elliot	Gisborne
Meg Williams	Sandhurst
Ruby Barkmeyer (VC)	Kangaroo Flat
Sophie Shoebridge	Sandhurst
Tilly Shepherd	Gisborne

Name	Club
Maddy Allen	Yarrowonga
Taylor Donelan	Wodonga Raiders
Blaynee House	Wodonga Raiders
Mackensy House	Wodonga Raiders
Gemma Muldoon	Yarrowonga
Molly Moylan	Wodonga
Maisee Pell	Yarrowonga
Brielle Reeves	Wodonga
Emily Stewart	Wodonga Raiders
Maggie St. John	Wodonga Raiders
Mikaela Trethowan	Corowa Rutherglen
Cara Woodman	Wodonga

	1/4 TIME	1/2 TIME	3/4 TIME	FINAL
<b>BFNL</b>				
<b>O&amp;M FNL</b>				

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**Coach:** Simon Rosa

**Assistants:**

Tyrone Downie, Wayne Mitrovic,  
Bryce Curnow, Troy Coates,  
Nick Carter, Nathan Thompson

**Team Manager:** Russ Schishka

**Runners:**

Adam Baird, Kain Robins

**LEADERSHIP**



**Fergus Greene**  
Captain



**Bailey Henderson**  
Vice Captain



**Ben Thompson**  
Vice Captain

1/4 TIME 

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1/2 TIME 

--	--	--

3/4 TIME 

--	--	--

FULL TIME 

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# BFNL SENIORS

No	Player	Club	Goals	Behinds
2	Jack Fallon	South Bendigo		
5	Bailey Henderson (VC)	Castlemaine		
6	Fergus Greene (C)	Sandhurst		
8	Jack Stewart	Golden Square		
8	Zane Keighran	Strathfieldsaye		
9	Brody Haddow	South Bendigo		
10	James Gray	Gisborne		
11	Lachie Hood	Sandhurst		
12	Tyson McKenzie	Strathfieldsaye		
14	Dylan Johnstone	Gisborne		
15	Caleb Connick	Sandhurst		
16	Zac Vescovi	Gisborne		
17	Josh Nitschke	South Bendigo		
18	Tom Strauch	Golden Square		
19	Nick Keogh	Kangaroo Flat		
20	Lachie Wright	Sandhurst		
26	Oscar White	Eaglehawk		
27	Tyh Evans	Eaglehawk		
28	Jonty Neaves	Eaglehawk		
29	James Schishka	Strathfieldsaye		
30	Michael Hartley	Castlemaine		
31	Jayden Burke	Golden Square		
37	Harrison Sheahan	Castlemaine		
42	Ben Thompson (VC)	Eaglehawk		
43	Cobi Maxted	Sandhurst		
47	Angus MacPherson	Kangaroo Flat		



**Coach:** Jake Sharp

**Assistants:**

Charlie Morrison,  
Andrew Mann, Scott Rowan

**Team Manager:** Greg Dawson

**Bench:** Anthony Laspina

**Runner:** Nathan Parker

1/4  
TIME

--	--	--

1/2  
TIME

--	--	--

3/4  
TIME

--	--	--

FULL  
TIME

--	--	--

# O&M FNL SENIORS

No	Player	Club	Goals	Behinds
1	Charlie Morrison	Wodonga		
2	Alex McCarthy	Wangaratta Rovers		
3	Ashton McPherson	Myrtleford		
4	Jack Glanville	Lavington		
5	Harry Hewitt	Wangaratta		
6	Jake Gaynor	Albury		
7	Noah Bradshaw	Wodonga		
8	Patrick Lavis	Corowa Rutherglen		
10	Josh Muraca	Myrtleford		
11	Nick Bracher	Wodonga Raiders		
13	Bailey Frauenfelder	Yarrawonga		
14	Jack Mapleson	Wangaratta		
15	Foster Gardiner	North Albury		
16	Archer Scammell	Wodonga Raiders		
17	Jaxon East	Myrtleford		
18	Will Christie (C)	Wangaratta Rovers		
19	Ty Quade	Albury		
20	Tom Bracher	Wodonga Raiders		
21	Riley Smith	Myrtleford		
22	Alex Bennett	Lavington		
23	Max Byrne	Albury		
24	Tom Forrest	Corowa Rutherglen		
25	Kaelan Bradtke	Corowa Rutherglen		
26	James Georgialis	Wodonga Raiders		
27	Jace McQuade	Wangaratta Rovers		
28	Tim Oosterhoff	Lavington		
29	Harvey Cribbes	Wodonga Raiders		
30	Jack Elliott	Yarrawonga		

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222 Ogilvie Avenue, Echuca VIC 3564

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Support is available for people aged 26 years and over and you don't need a referral, Medicare card or visa. You can talk to staff who have their own experiences of mental health challenges and/or alcohol and other drug use.

This service is delivered by Mind Australia in partnership with Echuca Regional Health, The Salvation Army, Bendigo Health, Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative (Greater Bendigo) and Thorne Harbour Health.

### More information





#5

*Bailey Henderson*

Castlemaine FNC



**Coach:**

Jason Stevens

**Assistants:**

Lachie Ratcliffe,  
Josh Baird,  
Jeremy Rodi

**Team Manager:**

Brendan Stewart

**LEADERSHIP**



**Anthony Gray**  
Captain



**Will Elliott**  
Vice Captain



**Will Bartlett**



**Logan Howell**

Deputy Vice Captains

1/4  
TIME

--	--	--

1/2  
TIME

--	--	--

3/4  
TIME

--	--	--

FULL  
TIME

--	--	--

# BFNL UNDER 18s

No	Player	Club	Goals	Behinds
1	Anthony Gray (C)	South Bendigo		
3	Will Bartlett (Dep VC)	Strathfieldsaye		
4	Joshua Kelly	Golden Square		
6	Louis Eddy	South Bendigo		
9	Will Elliott (VC)	Gisborne		
13	Lachlan McKay	Sandhurst		
21	Harry Byrne	Sandhurst		
22	Lachie Magee	South Bendigo		
23	Ezekiel Cousins	Strathfieldsaye		
24	Xavier grant	Golden Square		
25	Riley Evans	Gisborne		
32	Campbell Wood	South Bendigo		
33	Miller Armstrong	Sandhurst		
35	Ben Jardine	Castlemaine		
36	Riley O'Donnell	Strathfieldsaye		
38	Logan Howell (Dep VC)	South Bendigo		
39	Oliver Britt	Castlemaine		
40	Oscar Giddings	Castlemaine		
41	Jabe Brown	Broadford		
44	Ali Gill	Eaglehawk		
45	Seamus Doherty	Strathfieldsaye		
46	Will Mayes	Strathfieldsaye		
48	Brayden Franken	Kangaroo Flat		
49	Archie Eaton	Golden Square		
50	Archie Stevens	Strathfieldsaye		



**Coach:**

Ben Talarico

**Assistants:**

Luke Sims, Brady Morton,  
Chris Knowles

**Team Manager:** Vince Jones

**Bench:** Simon Plunkett

**Runner:** James O'Brien

1/4 TIME

--	--	--	--

1/2 TIME

--	--	--	--

3/4 TIME

--	--	--	--

FULL TIME

--	--	--	--

# O&M FNL UNDER 18s

No	Player	Club	Goals	Behinds
1	Owain Boyle	Wangaratta		
2	Max Collins	Wodonga		
3	Callum Moffat	Wodonga Raiders		
4	Jesse Quade	Albury		
5	William Harrington	North Albury		
6	Zachary Harris	Wodonga Raiders		
7	Harrison Westmoreland	North Albury		
8	Harry Goonan	Lavington		
9	Branden Parkin	Wodonga		
10	Archie Jaques	Yarrowonga		
11	Zachary Harris	Wodonga Raiders		
12	Jed Marek	Wangaratta Rovers		
13	Jai Sneddon	Yarrowonga		
14	Jayden Forge	Corowa Rutherglen		
15	Riley Griffiths	Lavington		
17	Rhys Finnimore	Wodonga Raiders		
18	Riley O'Sullivan	Albury		
19	Blake Morgan	Albury		
20	Samuel Trembath	Yarrowonga		
21	Jack Parker	Wangaratta		
23	Ashton Scholz	North Albury		
24	Lenny Sims	Wangaratta		
25	Jye Eckhardt	North Albury		
26	Jack Ford	Wangaratta Rovers		
27	Eli Saunders	Wangaratta Rovers		
29	Nick Morrison	Albury		

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# WD

*Kirby Elliot*

Gisborne FNC



Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo



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#8

Zane Keighran

Strathfieldsaye FNC





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**#4**

*Joshua Kelly*

Golden Square FNC

# Hartney reflects on Bendigo's glory days against O & M

**There were many highs across Brendan Hartney's footy playing career of 223 matches for Sandhurst and more than 20 representing the Bendigo Football Netball League.**

Among the greatest for the league legend was being captain of the Bendigo FNL team which beat Ovens and Murray in the Victoria Country championships semi-final at Lavington in 1989.

It was the first time Bendigo had won in O and M territory near the border.

A team coached by the late Neville Strauch and led by Hartney scored a 16-point win on a muddy and wet Lavington ground.

Later in the season and Bendigo defeated Geelong in the championships decider at Queen Elizabeth Oval in Bendigo.

"The semi-final against O and M in '89 was one of the best wins to be part of," Hartney recalled in the lead-up to the inter-league rivalry being renewed on May 23 at the QEO.

"That was as good a win as I have played in," Hartney said.

"Bendigo had never beaten O and M up there."

The Strauch-led inter-league campaign of '88 until '90 is a golden era for the Bendigo FNL.

After being runner-up to Geelong in '88, Bendigo's run a year later began with a win against Goulburn Valley in Shepparton, and then against O and M in Lavington.

"Belief in the team grew dramatically after the semi-final."

Hartney said the catalyst for Bendigo's success began three seasons earlier when Bendigo beat Ovens and Murray at the QEO by 34 points.

The team was coached by Denis Higgins, a premiership-winning coach with Eaglehawk who later took charge at South Bendigo.



"Denis was one of the best coaches I have had," Hartney said.

"His passion for inter-league was incredible.

"O and M had won the championship the year before, so it was an enormous effort to beat them.

"The work Denis and the selectors put in and preparation on our opponents was amazing."

By 1988 it was Neville Strauch who was coaching Bendigo.

"Neville was so thorough in everything he did. His research, attention to detail, and being able to have players want to play inter-league was amazing."

The loss to Geelong in the '88 grand final ignited a spark for Hartney and a talented squad to be number one a year later.

Bendigo's run to the '89 title was led by the likes of South Bendigo coach Peter Bradbury and gun rover Peter Tyack, Castlemaine's Keirin Lourey and Lachy Butler, Sandhurst full-back, Eaglehawk's Bert McIvor and Peter Crone, and Northern United's Matt Allan and Rick Marklew.

The blue and gold beat O and M in a semi-final a year later, but Bendigo's quest for back-to-back titles was thwarted by Latrobe Valley in Sale.

Most of Bendigo's campaign across three years was away from home.

"The bus trips played a big part in team bonding, as did some training sessions in Castlemaine and Kyneton," Hartney said.

"Neville's goal was to involve all the league as much as possible.

"Opponents became team-mates for a few matches and all wanted success."

A dual premiership player with Sandhurst and winner of the Michelsen Medal as league fairest and best in '87 and '89, Hartney said playing inter-league was something he aspired to do from a young age.

"Inter-league matches were like finals and there's so many great memories from those days."

The Hartney's family involvement with Sandhurst FNC and the Bendigo FNL stretches back more than 80 years.

Another fierce rivalry is played out this Saturday when Sandhurst takes on South Bendigo in Kennington for the Graeme Wright Memorial Cup.

A big crowd is likely to include Brendan Hartney watching on.

# INTERLEAGUE PHOTOS

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# Living the Game

*A word from the Umpires*



Just as being chosen to represent your League in football or netball is considered an honour, so too for umpires to be selected to officiate. We congratulate the following football umpires who have been chosen to represent their respective leagues:

Age	Discipline	Year began umpiring	# Games Umpired
<b>BENDIGO UMPIRES</b>			
<b>David Carter</b>			
24	Field	2016	300
<b>Nathan Dunn</b>			
18	Field	2021	210
<b>Chris Sexton</b>			
15	Boundary	2024	33
<b>Blake Dobbin</b>			
16	Boundary	2023	96
<b>Paul Martin</b>			
56	Goal	2017	364
<b>Coby Hilson</b>			
16	Field	2022	124
<b>Jobe Hutchinson</b>			
14	Boundary	2024	57
<b>Carter Andrews</b>			
15	Boundary	2024	50
<b>Will Dohnt</b>			
23	Goal	2021	127

Age	Discipline	Year began umpiring	# Games Umpired
<b>BORDER UMPIRES</b>			
<b>Aaron Thrum</b>			
25	Field	2017	114
<b>Cameron Bywater</b>			
16	Boundary	2024	55
<b>Dylan Sidebottom</b>			
24	Field	2014	105
<b>Isaac Moore</b>			
17	Boundary	2022	125
<b>Peter Keen</b>			
47	Goal	2022	88
<b>Ryan McMahon</b>			
48	Goal	2005	137
<b>Thomas Johnston</b>			
18	Boundary	2020	130
<b>Tommy Lockhart</b>			
17	Field	2023	86
<b>William Sayers</b>			
15	Boundary	2023	101



 Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo

**GS/GK**

*Rachael Flood*

Golden Square FNC

**GS**

*Ady Nielson*

Strathfieldsaye FNC

Pics courtesy SAA Imaging, Bendigo





#1

*Anthony Gray*  
South Bendigo FNC

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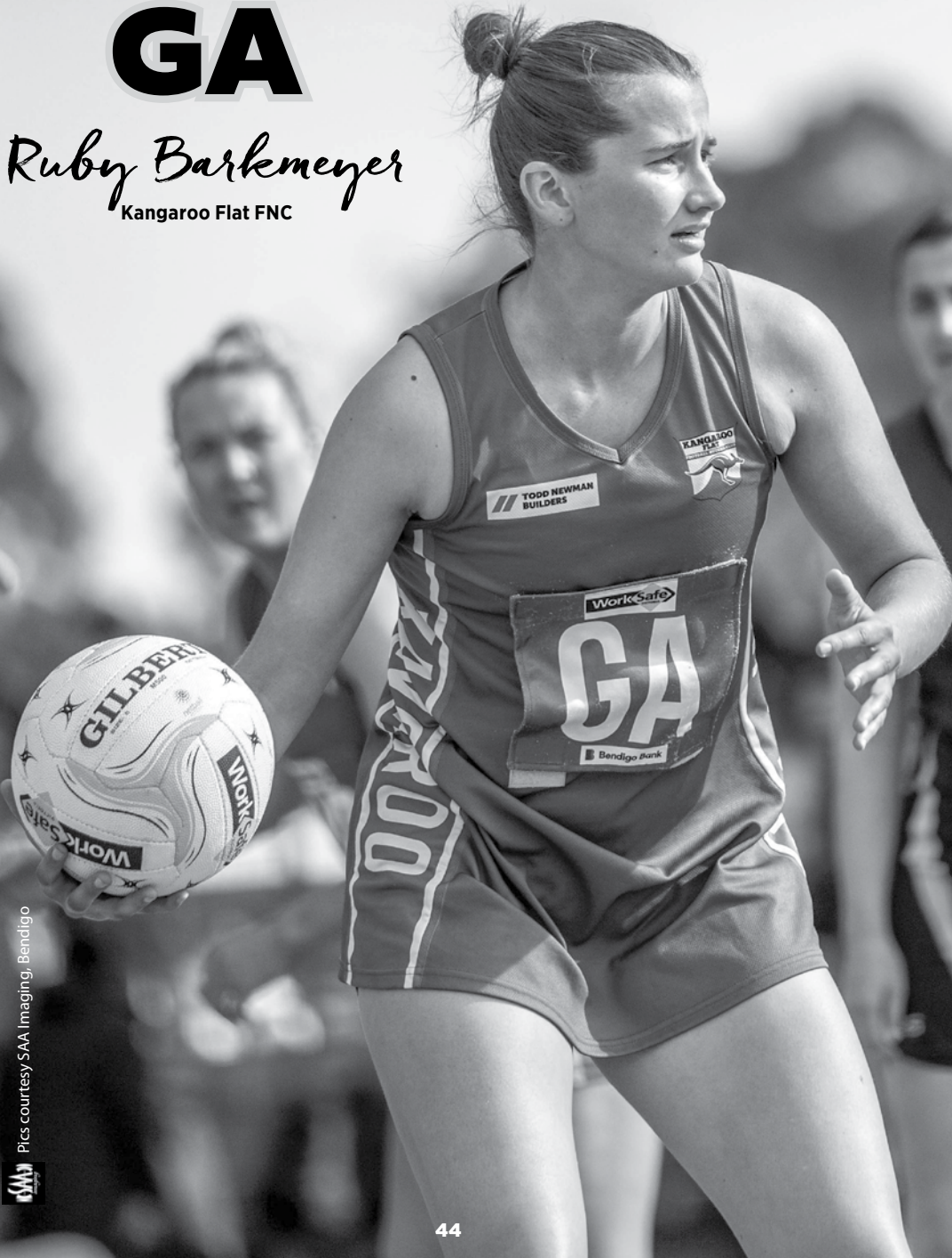
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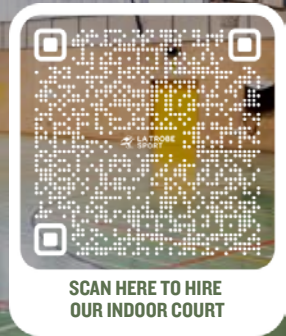
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