

Netball- When OFC Began the Big Push



2014 Premiers- our breakthrough year.

OFC won three football premierships in 2009 followed by U/18 flags in 2010 and 2013.

It was a time of extraordinary success- but even so something was missing.

While OFC struggled at A Grade level in netball for many years we did have success in lower grades but we just couldn't land a flag.

All that changed in 2014 when the girls in the picture above, along with coach Tim Dundoon, gave us the breakthrough we coveted and opened the floodgates for a deluge of flags which continued up until 2019.

In fact the incredible success OFC has enjoyed on the netball court in recent years overshadows the significance of that 2014 victory, which was not a sure thing until the last seconds of that game.

The girls in red and white were playing Wandin, a club that had come to dominate netball until being dethroned by OFC.

On Saturday 20th September 2014 the two teams clashed in the Grand Final at Healesville.

In a lightening start to the match OFC held Wandin to just four goals in the first quarter and led by seven at half time.

That's a very significant lead in netball and should have been enough to secure the Club's first flag in the roundball game.

But maybe that's what the girls were thinking as well at half time because Wandin came out and smashed us in the third quarter scoring nine goals to just four goals.

So heading into the last quarter our lead had been cut to a nail biting two goals.

There was a sea of red around the court with huge numbers of OFC supporters urging the girls on. But the confident cheering we heard in the first half had become a tad high pitched with nervous fans trying to inspire the girls to hold on to their slender lead.

Nic Millwood was captain (and threw 23 goals). She

remembers a tough and wet day with some jittery moments, particularly in the dying seconds.

Nic says Tammy Hall had a great game in GA but it was a late save from Romy Schauble that saved the day.

Another standout memory from the day ? Nic recalls the crowd noise as "deafening" in the last minutes of the match.

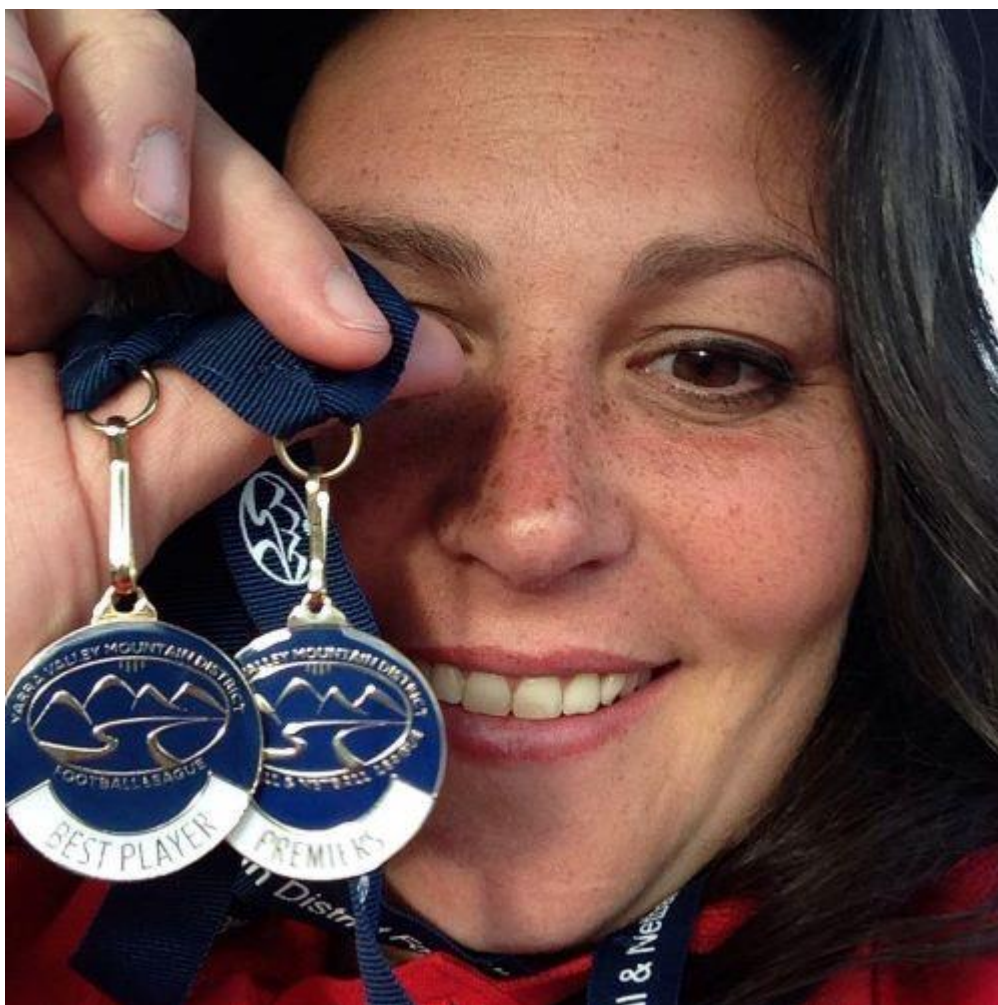
Final score- OFC- 27 Wandin- 25

It was impossible to foresee then that this win at B Reserve level was a precursor to the rise of OFC netball.

Our team- Nic, Nicole Kop, Jayne McIntyre, Romy Schauble, Rhianna Scheurer, Emily Cody, Emily Groszek, Tammy Hall and Alysha Hart.

Veterans Judy Smith and Helen Wositzky were also on the bench but weren't needed.

The win was particularly sweet for Helen who had worked hard for local netball for many years and in 2014 was OFC President.



2014 skipper Nicole Millwood

Another highlight was the form of Nic Millwood who went on to win the competition goal shooting award in B Reserve that year and through steady improvement has risen to become a force at B Grade level.