

# Olinda Ferny Creek and Wandin deserve to take the YVMDFL Division 1 netball grand final stage

David Turner, Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader

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IT's only fair that it's ended this way.

On Saturday, Olinda Ferny Creek and Wandin will take to the court at the Healesville Sports Complex to do battle for the Yarra Valley Mountain District Football League Division 1 A Grade netball premiership.

They deserve to be there after finishing first and second on the ladder after the home-and-away season. Olinda was the minor premier, with a one game break to Wandin, while the Bulldogs had a further two-game break to the rest of the field.

The two clubs are loaded with talent and are piloted by two of the most astute coaches going around — Tamara Luke (Olinda Ferny Creek) and Kate Upton (Wandin).

The Bloods will start slight favourites but, as with most grand finals, picking a winner is in the realm of tossing a coin.

Olinda Ferny Creek won both regular season games comfortably but, in the second semi-final just two weeks ago, Wandin stormed home and fell just a few goals short.

**Round 6 (May 16):** Olinda Ferny Creek defeated Wandin 45-36 at Olinda

**Round 18 (August 22):** Olinda Ferny Creek defeated Wandin 41-30 at Wandin

**Second semi-final (September 5):** Olinda Ferny Creek defeated Wandin 36-33 at Healesville.— Tamara Luke

**TAMARA LUKE (Olinda Ferny Creek)**

**You've beaten Wandin three times this year:**

“Every game we've had against them, we've prepared really well. But, in the semi-final, they really came back at us. We don't take them lightly.”

**What's the key to a big Olinda win:**

“Just defensive pressure, it's the one thing we'll really focus on. Just that relentless one-on-one pressure.”

**It's a special feeling come grand final time in the YVMDFL:**

“Every time you go into the local shops, they’re all asking ‘How are you doing? and ‘Did you win?’”

**KATE UPTON (Wandin)**

**Olinda has won all three games between you this season:**

“We have been a bit depleted in the attack end this season (losing two players to pregnancy). And, with Ella Priestly away with ANL (Australian Netball League) it’s taken them a little while to gel.”

**What’s the key to a big Wandin win:**

“Make sure we’re not standing around watching, waiting for someone else to do the workload.”

**Grand final day, the two best sides and a big crowd:**

“It’s going to be a great game of netball, there’s some talented players out on the court.”

Healesville Sports Complex

Saturday, September 19

**10:15am:** D Grade: Olinda Ferny Creek v Wandin

**11:30am:** C Grade: Wandin v Olinda Ferny Creek

**1:00pm:** B Grade: Mount Evelyn v Wandin

**2.45pm:** A Grade: Olinda Ferny Creek v Wandin

