

## Women Start Finals Campaign With a Win

### U/19 Boys Stunner

## Madi T Chalks Up a Netball Century

## James Merlino updates us on Redevelopment

## Grunter and Grace- our Channel 7 stars !!

## OFCFNC's Finals Campaign Begins With a Bang

Congrats to our Womens team which opened the Club's finals campaign with a huge win over Pakenham on Sunday.

We should note that the girls struggled to kick a goal in the Second Division of the competition when the team played it's first game last year. Now they are through to the Preliminary Final of Division One and play Healesville on Sunday.

You can read Sacha Sullivan's Match Report below.



*Our Women's Footy through to Prelim- thankfully there were no injuries in the post match celebrations.*

Meantime the U/19 boys enjoyed a stunning upset win over Officer, at

**Officer. OFC could only field 12 boys but they ran their hearts out and enjoyed a comfortable victory.**

**While there wasn't a weak link in the team a lot of the heavy lifting was done by U/17 boys Lachlan Bates and Christian te Boekhorst along with the tireless Ethan Royle-Young.**

**Wins also to Senior and Reserves footy and A Grade, C Grade and U/17 netball-which have shored-up their finals aspirations.**

**Our junior club finished its home and away campaign on Sunday and huge congrats to Simon Gilson and all his coaches- we have made finals in every grade- boys U/17,U/15, U/13 and U/11. Girls U/16 and U/12. The juniors also have teams in U/10 and U/9 but they don't play finals.**

**BTW- which Junior coach had such a good day at the AFL he left his car at the train station recently and caught a cab home ? It was only when he went to load his kids, clipboards and gear into the car the following day that he realised where he'd left the vehicle. No names, no pack drill but we sometimes weave complicated webs.**

### **UNDER 19 BOYS-The Desperate Dozen !!!**

**You always know it's going to be a tough day at the office for U/19 Coach Adam Borg when you see him staring at the ground entrance pre match- Borgey's fingers are invariably crossed in the hope enough boys will arrive to constitute a team.**

**A minimum of 12 players are required- and that is precisely the number who took the field for us on Saturday at Officer. But "boy o boy" they were certainly the desperate dozen.**

**They hit the ground running in the first quarter and enjoyed a three goal lead before Officer fought back in the second stanza and pretty much equalled the ledger.**

**After that it was one way traffic and our mighty kids ran away with the game for a (almost) 10 goal win.**



***Ethan Royle-Young was literally unstoppable in the second half.***

**Ollie Clarke and Jonty Just were unpassable in the backline, skipper Lachie Boyd was resolute in defence and dangerous when he drifted down field.**

**U/17 player "The Hammer" Fraser played his best game of the year while James Mc Bride put the pedal to the metal after half time when he repeatedly ran the ball out of attack. What a great season he's having. Laine Fraser took a rest from ruckwork at half forward ( !!) and jagged a couple of goals while Jared Smith continually presented.**

**Josh Meadows booted three, and could have had more, as Officer showed they were incapable of containing him.**

**Special mention to Darcy Faulkner who has a huge influence on matches every time he goes into the ruck- his second half ruckwork was pivotal to our victory.**

**Finally- saving the best to last- U/17 boys Lachlan Bates and Christian teBoekhorst were sensational right through the game, running from goal square to goal square on a big ground, while Ethan Royle-Young was untouchable in the second half and dominated the action.**

**There we go- that's the Desperate Dozen- we've mentioned them all and they've proven again that it ain't over until Borgey can find only 11 kids pre match.**

**THIS WEEK- the boys are at Pakenham (not at Narre with the rest of us- lets get down there and support them)**

**Officer 6.11.47 OFC 15.13.103**

**Best Players- Ethan Royle-Young, Oliver Clarke, Lachlan Bates, Jonty Just, James McBride, Darcy Falkner**

**Goal Scorers- Lachlan Bates 4, Joshua Meadows 3, Laine Fransen 2, Christian teBoekhorst 2, Ethan Royle-Young 2, Darcy Faulkner 1, Oliver Clarke 1.**

## **The Stars Shine At Upwey**

**By Sacha Sullivan**

**Olinda Women's Team march into the second week of finals after a sturdy 48 point win against Pakenham in front of a vocal crowd at Upwey on Sunday.**

**It is the second time this year Olinda has played a marquee game at The Cauldron at Upwey, and the girls were anything but overawed with the occasion. The mood in the rooms pre-game was exceptionally energetic and positive.**

**The air of excitement was no doubt aided by the sight of a kitted-up (and strapped up) full forward Phoebe Dixon raring to go, a decision that was made 11.30 that morning and was a surprise to all. Phoebe was told by the surgeon that a return to play this season was out of the question, but in a true example of "Bloods culture", Phoebe refused to desert her teammates in a do-or-die final and it is to her great credit.**

**This was the perfect recipe for a barnstorming start to the game by Olinda. Unfortunately things don't always go to script in football, and Olinda seemed tentative and overall lacked composure for the first quarter and a half.**

**Elimination finals have their own tempo, and both teams struggled to adjust. 16 a side is always a challenge for Olinda and due to some quirk the team ended up with 5 forwards on the bench for much of the game.**

**Pakenham decided to play 2 loose players in defence, and forwards Phoebe Dixon and Maddie Collins were regularly double teamed.**

**From the start of the game ruck master Chelsea Wilson gave Olinda's midfield first use, and they continued to pump the ball into Olinda's**

**crowded forward line.**

**Often in life, the most gifted people do amazing things with seemingly little effort. Think of the best musicians, actors or sports people who seem to be able to perform the sublime without trying. The same could sometimes be said of 15 year old Grace Belloni, who can accomplish anything on a football field and it often seems effortless. Sunday, Grace's effort was on display for all to see, and it was a very impressive, dominant performance. Grace was placed into the starting midfield for the first time this season, and shortly into the game had a Pakenham player sent to her for a hard tag. For the duration of the game Grace fought every contest whether on the ground or in the air with a manic fervour, and won most. Grace topped off her best on ground performance with 3 classy goals.**

**Lily Carlin loves playing at Upwey, and for the second time this season she brought her own football to the game, having won the Anzac Day medal there earlier in the year. Lily's work inside and outside of the contest, coupled with her precise ball use was prolific all game, and was decisive in the victory.**



***Lily Carlin- catch me if you can. Usually they can't.***

**Captain Maddie Collins prowled the forward line like a lioness all game, and is able to deliver the brilliant or the brutal at will. Maddie dealt with**

some puerile hecklers on the hill in true style, curling one of her 2 goals through the middle from deep in the pocket.

The word tentative is not in Claire Hyett's dictionary and she is a relentless competitor, not just every game, but every contest.

Amalija Kostich Angerson started a centre half forward after 2 months filling in for Chelsea Wilson in the ruck, and her presence in the forward line made a noticeable impact. Amalija's pressure was particularly telling in keeping the ball in Olinda's forward line, and she kicked an impressive long range goal for the second week in a row.



*The return of ruck gun Chelsea Wilson has freed-up Amalija Kostich (#7) in the forward line.*

Phoebe Dixon had an excellent game at full forward, and generated plenty of opportunities for herself and her teammates. Phoebe kicked 2 goals but could have kicked more with straighter kicking, and all while battling 2-3 opponents on her own.

On the wings, the 2 Emms shined, Emmalee Keegan continuing her excellent form, and Emma McLauchlan playing her best game in 2 months.

Isla "Pipes" Bradbury was lively all game, and used her speed and ball use to great effect.

**Defensive weapon Alex Gunn had a very effective day in her usual run-with role.**

**Special mention to young gun Ruby Gilson, who in the third quarter sold some candy with GST and sales tax applied that even Eddie Betts would have been envious of!**

**Overall it was a pleasing team effort by Olinda, but they will be concentrating on making a faster start when they come up against their nemesis Healesville in the Preliminary Final at Yarra Junction next Sunday.**

**OFC 9.16.70 Pakenham 3.4.22**

**Best Players- Grace Belloni, Lily Carlin, Madeleine Collins, Claire Hyett, Amalija Kostich, Chelsea Wilson**

**Goal Scorers- Grace Belloni 3, Phoebe Dixon 2, Madeleine Collins 2, Amalija Kostich 1, Emmalee Keegan 1**

### **Seniors Close-In On Finals Appearance.**

**By Frank Seal**



***"Captain Courageous and the Kids"- Kelsey Currie with teenagers Tyler***

***Belloni and Percy Hyett- they all have one thing in common- they relish the hard ball.***

Coming off three straight wins, Olinda's seniors had a week off to ponder their next battle against a struggling Officer side. It was a sunny yet windy day at Officer and on a large, variable surface, the Bloods were faced with unusual conditions - large areas of dry even ground with patches of quagmire - making for a scrappy contest.

At the business end of the season and with a huge challenge against ladder leaders Narre Warren in the following round, there was an emphasis on the here and now and the Bloods were determined to focus on the match at hand.

Kicking against the wind in the first quarter, Olinda struggled to establish an early lead despite clearly winning the territory battle. Officer was effective entering inside 50 and put up a good defensive fight. Isaac Tonkin was dynamic out of defensive 50 with his ball use and Matt Scharenberg's efforts were crucial both in the air and on the ground, allowing clean defensive exits. Midfielders Kelsey Currie and Tyler Belloni were hard and strong as usual, gaining significant metres and providing opportunities for Lachy Taylor and Matt Rosier to capitalise. The game was tied at 4-1-25 at the first break.

While the wind was favourable, Olinda looked to establish a decent lead in the second quarter. With some quick run and dash through the middle of the field, the Bloods were getting numerous inside 50s. Nick Keegan began influencing the game with his fast-paced play and handball receives, feeding the key forwards with deep entries and adding a goal himself. Noah Desta was playing with flair in front of goal, wrong-footing the opposition with some ankle-breaking moves and adding a goal as well. The midfielders were getting on top at stoppages, and the backs were holding up brilliantly, conceding no score for the quarter. The Bloods led 44-25 at half-time.

Still mindful of the conditions, Olinda focused on maintaining their scoreboard advantage into the third quarter wind. Officer's midfielders scrapped hard, winning the clearance battle to open the half and putting Olinda's backs under pressure. Dale Rohrmann was getting on top of his matchup, spoiling most contests, and disposing the ball efficiently. The conditions were impacting the ball use of both teams, and some costly defensive 50 errors for Olinda, resulted in two Officer goals for the



quarter. Senior debutants Oscar Sarafian and Chris Darling were cool under pressure, playing their roles well given the conditions. With attacking intent, the Bloods moved the ball inside forward 50, where the goal-kickers outscored the opposition for the quarter and established a four goal  $\frac{3}{4}$  time lead.



*The boy with the big motor- the longer the game goes the bigger the impact Peter Lucas has on a match. On the extreme left is Chris Darling who made his Senior debut.*

With the game poised for a strong Olinda finish, the Bloods unleashed an avalanche in the fourth quarter, kicking eight goals to one. The backs aggressively pushed high up the ground. James Belli displayed quality ball use inside 50. Pete Lucas and Kelsey Currie worked well defensively to win as many contests as possible.

Nick Keegan repeatedly burst through the midfield sending the ball forward where Lachy Taylor (clunking strong marks) and Matt Rosier (winning hard ground ball) capitalised on the delivery, booting seven goals between them for the quarter. At the final siren, Olinda had claimed a big (116-47) victory to go one game clear in the top 4 and set up the rest of their season.

Officer 7.5.47 OFC 17.14.116

**Best Players- Matthew Scharenberg, Peter Lucas, Lachlan Taylor, Mathieu Rosier, Kelsey Currie, Chris Darling**

**Goal Scorers- Lachlan Taylor 6, Matt Rosier 5, Noah Desta 2, Kelsey Currie 1, Percy Hyett 1, Peter Lucas 1, Nick Keegan 1.**

### **Maddy Taylor Tons Up**

We'll have more to say next week about this extraordinary athlete but we wish A Grade netball star Maddy Taylor all the best this week in her 100th game for the Club.

What a match to bring up her Tonne as we face ladder leader Narre Warren- at Narre.



***Madi Taylor with the 2015 A Grade premiership Cup-the first of the four occasions she would hold it aloft.***

***Meantime our A Graders fired a warning shot at Narre this week with a stunning 15 goal win over ROC ( Rythdale-Officer- Cardinia. While the Officer footy club reverted to it's original name the Netty club has retained it's decades long title).***

*OFC is second on the ladder- behind Narre- while RIC has been breathing down our neck in third place so it's hard to overestimate the value of this win by Brie DeJong's girls.*

*The ageless Krista Tomlinson led the way with her usual impeccable mid court running and judgement, while Hayley Howard showed once more she's coming of age with 37 big goals.*

*We don't know what Brie said the girls pre match but they were electrifying in the first quarter throwing a game high 20 goals. OFC has now thrown 60 goals or more in four of our last six games.*

**ROC 45   OFC 60**

**Best Players- Krista Tomlinson, Hayley Howard, Taylah Werner**

**Goal Scorers- Hayley Howard 37, Tayah Werner 18, Holly Taubert 5**

### **Reserves- The Return of The Hunter.**

**Lots of smiles in the Clubrooms recently when Hunter Greenall made a re-appearance after spending time in Queensland with his brother. Hunter- a stand out player right through his junior career- has flirted with senior footy for a couple of years so it was a late season win for OFC when he rocked up at training.**

**He snared an early goal and gave us yet another strong target up forward.**

**Bottom line- he'll add another dangerous dimension to our Reserves finals campaign and if he gets himself match-fit he'll certainly give the Senior squad some extra depth.**



*Hunter Greenall- back in the Red and White at the right time of year.*

Meantime the win at Officer pretty much locked away a finals place for OFC so it was a treat to see Dylan Arnold regain some of his best form and Ryan Goldberg continue to grow in leaps and bounds in the ruck. Mitchy Low also stood out with his strength "in close" and run through the middle when the opportunities arose.

Big test this week for our boys against the unbeaten Narre Warren.

Officer- 4.5.29 OFC 10.12.72

Best Players- James Royle-Young, Dominic Woodfield, Dylan Arnold, Mitch Low, Connor Keegan, Thomas Rogers

Goal Scorers- Tom Rogers 4, Glenn Stevens 4, Jack Lucas 1, Hunter Greenall 1

### B Grade Netty

Your Bloodlines correspondent could only watch this game until halfway through the second quarter and left the court feeling confident we were about to put another four points between ourselves and ROC.

OFC was five goals in front.

Soooo it was something of a shock to see the final scoreline with ROC easing home by three goals and leapfrogging us on the ladder.

However with a finals appearance locked in for our girls you could argue that the result is academic as we struggle to cover a few illnesses. On the plus side some of the younger girls are getting invaluable experience which will greatly enhance our finals depth.



**RODC 38    OFC 35**

**Best Players- Harper Scott, Rhiannon Pendleton, Teagan Bethune  
Goal Scorers- Jessica Horner 15, Harper Scott 15, Medl Thomas 5**

### **C Grade- Business As Usual (Almost)**

**Lets cut to the chase here, this group has been awesome in 2022 however a couple of times they've only found top gear when they've been hard pressed by a determined opposition.**

**That was certainly the case against ROC and in fact the Red and White were down by a goal at the main break. We then wreaked havoc with a 17-3 third quarter to put the match beyond ROC's reach.**

**Coach Chelsea Maher is very much aware we will need to be switched on from the start against Narre this week if we are to challenge them. Narre is the only team to beat us this season- we cannot wait to see OFC in action against them.**



**ROC 34 OFC 44**

**Best Players- Bindi Bates, Victoria Clark, Ella Grigg**

**Goal Scorers- Bindi Bates 27, Mel Thomas 11, Victoria Clark 6**

### **D Grade- D for Danger Time**

**Wedged in between ROC and Narre on the ladder we needed a big showing against the top team last Saturday ahead of our match-up against third placed Narre this week.**

**On paper we were missing a couple of key players but the return of Sarah Kennedy plus the inclusion of some of our junior stars gave us reason for optimism.**

**Suffice to say we were perhaps expecting too much and this line up probably needed a few more matches to gel, instead they confronted a well drilled unit that has lost only one match this season.**

**Lets hope we get another crack at them next month !**



*Michelle Tomlinson had her hands full against ROC*

**ROC 30 OFC 18**

**Best Players- Michelle Tomlinson, Julie Smith, Sarah Kennedy  
Goal Scorers- Kaz Bates 7, Julie Smith 7, Michelle Tomlinson 4**

### **U/17s-Hitting Form at Right Time**

**OK so we expected to beat sixth placed ROC and lock in our finals appearance ( OFC is fifth on the ladder) but it's the scoreline that demands our attention.**

**We've played ROC three times this season, the first time we drew with them, the next time we edged them by six goals and on Saturday we romped home by 9.**

**The result is even more laudable when you factor in the two point deficit at quarter time.**

**We'll have more to say about this team next week but there's reason to believe we can push deeper in the finals action than perhaps we thought a few weeks ago.**





*Under 17s- aiming higher?*

**ROC 20 OFC 29**

**Best Players - Chloe Biggs, Djay Elliott, Olivia Spence  
Goal Scorers- Djay Elliott 23, Paige Claringbold 3, Mera Pringle 3.**

## James Merlino Updates Us on Redevelopment

Our retiring local member, and former Deputy Premier, James Merlino visited us last week.

Hilltop chair Ben Selby-Hele had invited Mr Merlino to the Olinda Green (our second oval) to say thanks for all the work he did to ensure the sports and rec precinct has become such a "jewel in the Dandenong's crown", as he put it.

Mr Merlino played the key role in the redevelopment after the golf course land became available in 2012. At the time a handful of people from OFCFNC lobbied National Parks to open up the golf course to the local community.

The long serving MP for Monbulk told us he still gets a thrill when he passes the precinct and sees so many people using the new oval and the playground.



*Ben Selby-Hele presents James Merlino with a children's drawing of the amazing precinct he helped bring to life. Representatives of local sports clubs- and dog walkers- thanked the retiring MP.*

Duncan Brown was among the locals who turned out to thank Mr Merlino . While Duncan is well known to the senior and junior footy clubs he has also played a major role in saving the Olinda pool.

Duncan said during the summer immediately prior to the big makeover at the pool only 400 people used the facility. In comparison last summer the pool had 18,000 patrons!!

Looking ahead Mr Merlino says the main car park for the playground and oval will shortly receive an upgrade. The old golf club building will be demolished and the cafe will be replaced. We'll also learn soon about more precise dates for the new netball courts and cricket nets. On a personal note Mr Merlino says he has no immediate career plans and will take his family to the Outback before heading to Europe.

## Our Two Channel 7 "Stars"

Did anybody notice the half time interview with the "Aus Kicker of the Week" during the Melbourne-Fremantle match last Friday night?

With hundreds of thousands of people tuned-in Olinda youngster Grace Fernando was interviewed by Mathew Richardson.



*Olinda's Grace Fernando with Richo- Grace "cornered the market on cuteness"*

Grace's dad Ross is our AusKick coordinator and his daughter, along with hundreds of other kids, had to send an audition tape to Seven. The Seven producers were so impressed with her she was chosen as the AusKicker of the Round .

As a reward Grace will get to attend the Grand Final and hang a medallion around the neck of a winning player.

Ross will also be a Grand Final day guest- and who do they barrack for ? Melbourne of course !!!

Two days later our Sports Management Group chair Grant Faull was also a guest at the MCG- this time courtesy of Toyota's "Good For Footy" promotion.

Grant- and wife Kaz- joined dozens of other footy volunteers at the Tiger-Lions game.



*Grant and Kaz at "The G"- a great reward for a tireless worker (and his understanding wife). Thanks to Gav Bowman for capturing the screen shot when the Seven cameras featured footy's leading volunteers. ( what a pity that scoreline went south).*

### Vale Arthur Gill.

Last week we reported on the sad passing of 1966 Premiership coach Arthur Gill.

Arthur's role in OFC's storied history is short, successful and very colourful.

A key defender he was recruited to the Club from South Belgrave after the 1965 flag.

Trevor Billington stood aside as coach and Arthur replaced him while also assuming the role of Captain.

OFC finished third on the ladder and in one of the greatest finals campaign in our history disposed of Coldstream in the First Semi then rolled top team Norwood in the Preliminary Final before famously beating Wandin with the last kick of the day in the Grand Final on a muddy bog heap at Lilydale.

Making the win even more impressive was the fact we got the chocolates without Arthur! He suffered a serious hand injury in the week leading up to the grand final and missed the match.

1965 captain Sandy Gammon stood in for Arthur and made it back to back flags as skipper,

## PIC OF THE WEEK.

A Man and His Castle-



*Our own Grant "Grunna" Faull- among the Toyota "Good For Footy" Australian volunteers of the year at the MCG on Sunday.*

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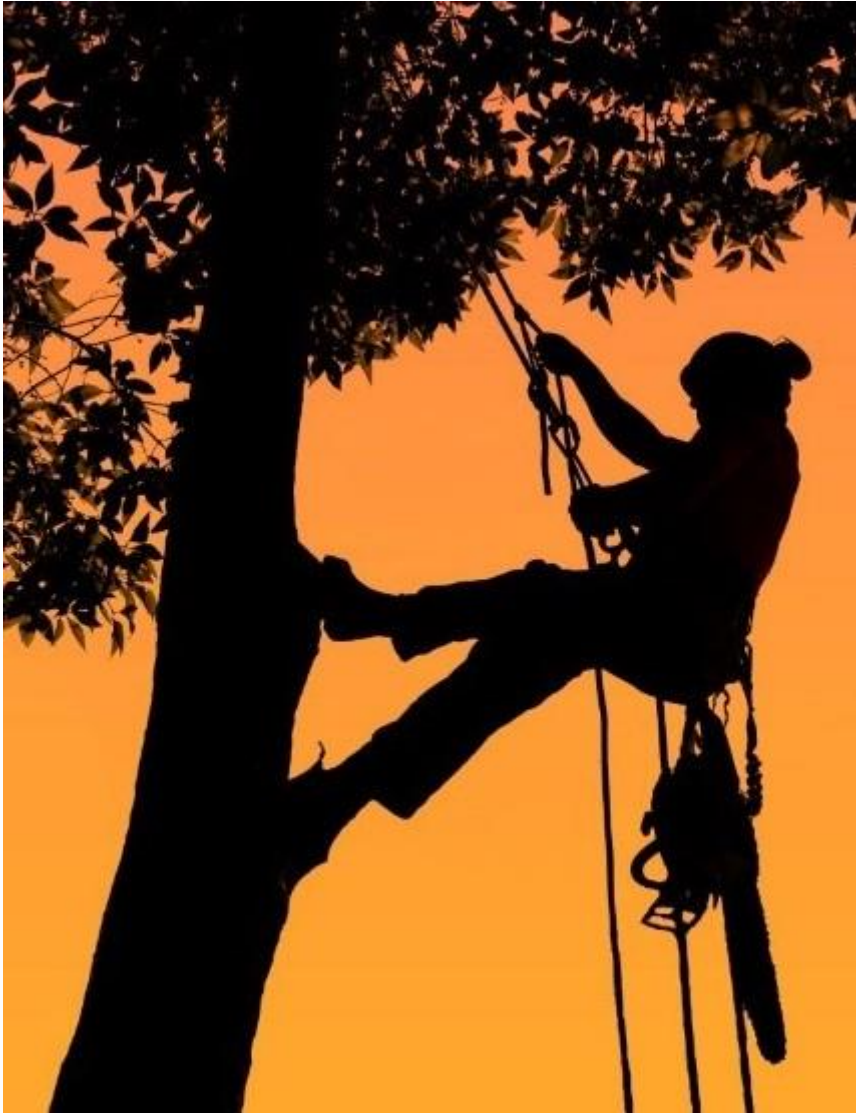
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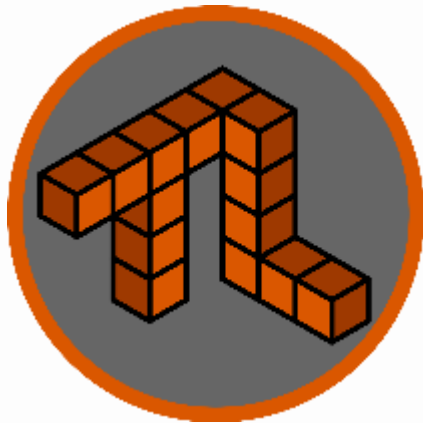


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