

**Olinda
Ferry
Creek**



**Football
Netball
Club**

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New Era at OFC

Our Club has finally moved on from the turbulent Covid and post Covid eras with a new look Committee taking us forward.

As we know it was a small group of very professional people, Mick Hill, Carey Williams, Leanne Jarchow and Mick Beattie who led the way through some very difficult years. Because of their dedication OFC emerged from the "tough times" in, arguably, it's strongest fiscal position ever.

We thank them along with Tony Hawkins and our other hard workers.

Of the Fab Four only Carey has continued on the revamped Committee.

In a huge plus for OFC one of our most robust community contributors, Ben Selby-Hele has stepped up as president with highly respected former junior prez Patrick Ford coming on board as Ben's deputy.



New president Ben Selby-Hele has so often gone "above and beyond" in his service to the community and the Club. This pic is from 2012 when the Twos were short of players at Mt Evelyn. Ben put up his hand to help- note that he's playing in work boots ! (and yes, we won).

Carey continues as secretary and Ross Seymour makes a most welcome return as our Treasurer.

In a big win for the Club Dana Millwood joins the General Committee and will doubtlessly give "netball" and the club's younger demographic a voice at the decision table.

We also welcome aboard Liam Smith, dad of young gun Luca who joins as from the junior club.

Ben is looking to round out the General Committee with another couple of contributors. If you want to have a say in our future direction, or just want to offer a contribution, please have a word to Ben (0419 622 213)

Boxing On

To all those people who have been asking if Vermont recruit James Box is related to our former captain- coach Chris Box (1991-92), well, yep, James is "Boxy's son.

James says his dad always spoke fondly of the Club and Olinda was "one the best places he every played footy".

He says Box senior also spoke highly of his own goal kicking skills. (OK-without a doubt Chris was one of the most accurate kicks to ever wear the red and white).



"Boxy" junior, brining some more big guy strength and skill to OFC

James played his junior footy at Surrey Park and Heathmont. In a big coincidence he also went to the same school as Peter and Jack Lucas, and obviously played with them at Vermont. Has he set any personal goals for 2024 ? "Only to work hard to contribute to a successful season for Olinda -Ferny Creek".

A tip for Bloods fans- keep an eye out for James's booming left foot.

Speaking of blokes with a stunning left foot- welcome home to 2017 Premiership player Ethan "Bocce" Greenall. We cannot wait to see Bocce hitting-up Shep or Lachie or Noah lace-out.

Bocce is poised to pay his 50th games for us. Meantime another of our favourite sons Cal Beattie is also pulling the boots on again. Cal only needs nine more games to go past his coach Dylan Wilson (164) and move into our all time top 25 players. What a moment that will be for the Club.

In another smart recruiting move midfielder-utility Anthony Giacobbe is joining us from EFNL Premier club Doncaster. Anthony also played for Rosewater in the Adelaide league.



#24- Anthony Giacobbe joins us after laying 17 games for EFL Premier Div cub Doncaster last year.

Also noting- Pat Seymour is back from overseas and poised to build on his break-out 2023 which was cut short by international travel.

With some of our 2017 stars- Bocce, Fuzz and Dylan involved again we can add one more name to that illustrious list- in a great move by our Coach the super popular Mitchy Wright is back on board doing our rehab work. We love ya Mitchy ! Dyl has already indicated he wants to put more time into " player rehab".

Senior training for the men starts on Monday at Olinda Reserve- no footie boots allowed on the oval. We thank Dave and OC for allowing us to use the ground.

Andy Greenall is already doing S and C work with his U/18s. If you know someone who'd like to join our exciting U/18 program text or call A.G. 0410 625 983

Big Surge in Women's Footy.

While its not a lock just yet our women's footy program is attracting so many numbers that there's a chance we could field a team in each division in 2024.

That would be an extraordinary achievement in just three short covid impacted seasons. A number of former players have returned to the Club greatly boosting our list. Simon is looking to hear from any women/girls who want a game of footy and he stresses that no experience is necessary. We'll teach you how to play.

Contact Simon on 0407 653 590 or simply rock-up to training on Tuesday or Thursday (from 6pm) at Kalorama.



A well earned weekend away at Phillip Island for our 2023 premiers

Netball's Major Win

How good is it to see the workers adding the last piece of the puzzle to our incredible netball re-development. The new court is being painted and "lined" prior to Xmas so it's ready for 2024. Will the coaches and players opt to use our traditional court on match day , which has served us so well over many years, or transfer to the newbie ?



Our new netball court- ready for line marking. What a sensational facility we now have at our disposal.

Meantime after two seasons with us, Brie has opted not to continue in 2024 as Senior Coach. She took us to a historic and unforgettable flag in 2022 while the women bowed out in the first week of the finals last season. Chelsea has also taken up a coaching role much closer to home at Officer. We wish them every success in 2024.

Brodes has indicated she won't be looking after D Grade next year so we are open to expressions of interest for the coaching positions in all grades. Give Ben a call **0419 622 213**

Netball Shock

Thanks to Graeme Taylor (more commonly known as "Mary's Dad) for taking on the huge task of collating all the netball "games played".

What a surprise was in store for Graeme when he discovered that Rhi Pendleton had already chalked up over 200 games (we thought Mary was the first when she reached that milestone this year).



The much decorated Rhi Pendleton -our first player to reach the 200 game milestone ?

It's been 10 years since anyone had a stab at collating ALL the figures for the entire history of our netball program- the longer the task was pushed to one side the more onerous it became, partly because we tabulate the games in ALL senior netball grades.

In contrast only "Firsts" matches in football count towards "games played".

So literally there have been hundreds of names to add to the netball list.

We'll let you know when we have put the new netball list up on the website.

Meantime the Men's footy list has been updated, check it out here-

https://websites.mygameday.app/club_info.cgi?c=0-6211-81063-0-0&SID=215709



Incredibly the ageless Dave Noorda added another five games to his tally this year to sit at Number Five on the all time list and needs another 16 games to catch Timmy Scott.

And for the very first time we have collated the women's footy list and added it to our website.

We've learned that 49 women have already worn the red and white in the three years we have fielded women's teams. Claire Hyett and Casey Seymour lead the way, they are both on 41 senior games:

https://websites.mygameday.app/club_info.cgi?c=0-6211-81063-0-0&slD=351296



Casey Seymour (right) is poised to join Claire Hyett this season and play their 50th games for OFC.

OFC Ruck Makes Port Melbourne List

Gee this one is tinged with a bitter-sweet taste. How proud are we that Womens Premiership ruck Chelsea Wilson has made the Port Melbourne list.

Chelsea dominated some of the Port trials and observers said it was clear from the outset she was an absolute stand out.

Of course she's going to leave a huge hole to fill but it's going to be an ideal opportunity for one of the other players to step up.



CHELSEA WILSON

RECRUITED FROM
OLINDA FERNY CREEK

Our Premiership ruck caught the eye of the Port recruiters- and we just know that Chelsea will smash it down at The Borough.

Meantime Aiden Bates has survived the first cut at Eastern and while we hope he makes the 2024 squad we are a bit concerned

about who's going to replace him in our scoreboard on match days.

We also hear that Blair Wilson (Chelsea's brother) has been super impressive at some of the Eastern training sessions while Grace Belloni has been invited to join the Vic Metro summer sessions.

Hammered

It was sort of in the same "unlucky" category of injury which struck down Emmy van Duuren (slipped while jumping down onto netball court pre game and broke her arm) and Josh Sharp (5 minute cameo in first senior game against Narre before breaking a collar bone) but Hamish "Hammer" Fraser's injury could have longer term consequences.

In a nutshell Hammer took a spectacular diving catch for Olinda Seconds in a recent cricket match and ended up in Critical Care at The Alfred after rupturing his spleen.

Hammer was held in there for a few days while specialists determined if the teenager would be able to keep the organ. The good news is he's been released and, at this stage, the spleen will stay on the inside

However he can't play cricket again until February and his return to the footie field next season is also uncertain. Main thing is he's up and about and in good spirits..

Speaking of "good spirits"- you can't keep this bloke down. The irrepressible Glenn "Choco" Taylor, gate keeper extraordinaire, is at last firing on all cylinders after major heart surgery.



Glenn "Choco" Taylor was keen to show us his extraordinary heart surgery scar but in deference to our younger readers we restricted him to just two buttons.

This is probably directed more at the male members of the OFC family but are you out of ideas for Xmas ? Looking for something a little bit unusual that doesn't involve getting lost in the car park at Chadstone ?

Then grab a chance to win \$25k of GOLD BULLION while helping our Club at the same time-

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Now we know some of the older blokes will just stare at this pic looking for the name of the person selling the raffle tix- guys all you do is open up the camera on your phone and point it at the QR (quick response) code- the thing that looks like a checker board after too many drinks.

OFC SHINING ON

Our new solar system is up and working and powering the Clubrooms!!

State and Federal governments tipped in over \$100k each and the Shire of Yarra Ranges also contributed 10s of thousands of dollars towards the project which will make our Social Rooms a community hub during times of emergency.

With eight showers, major catering facilities, a floodlit oval for helicopters and public toilets inside and outside the building it's

the perfect "go to" site.

This is probably a good time to remember that the facility wouldn't have been built without the initial capital injection from the Bendigo Bank (Dandenong Ranges Community Bank, Upwey). What a timely investment that turned out to be- as PK said " from little things big things grow", We should also stress that the Social Rooms are NOT a place of last resort during bushfires.

Monbulk, Belgrave and Upwey recreation reserves are the closest PLRs for Olinda-Ferny Creek people. Kalorama-MtD people are probably closer to Yarra Hills SC in Mt Evelyn .



Locally made batteries and locally made inverters ! All installed by Cliff Wigg from Energy Wired (yep, a local company). The battery is 95kw.

Meantime- the works have been completed on the top ground (Olinda Green). Why dig it up after only a couple of years service ? Well the wrong sand was used in the drainage trenches and prevented the rain water from escaping. New trenches have been dug and the (correct) sand has been infused with grass seed to help it "knit over" asap. Fingers crossed for the start of February, and pre season.



Rabbits have been running amok on the Olinda Green oval- in fact they are so invasive they have the potential to set back the ground's February recovery date. Parks Vic, and local foxes, has been notified of the problem

Was Our Old Ground on Arthur Streeton's Property ?

After following up a number of sources we are as certain as we can be that we have found the site of the original Olinda football ground which was used between 1908 and 1913 .

At the time locals labelled it "Bunker Hill" . We moved to our current site in 1914.

While we had a general idea that the ground was somewhere in the vicinity of "Boulters Nurseries" (up on the hill to the left of the Cuckoo) we are now confident the open space was at the top (peak) of Olinda Crescent. Standing in that area and surveying the topography it's clear there is enough "flatish" land to host a small sports ground.

There was some suggestion that the ground was further along Range Rd at Mt Olinda, but that terrain is steeper and broken up by large slabs of granite rock.

Sources-

1 Mt Dandenong Historical Society- Alan Dodd (son of pioneer

George Dodd) said Bunker Hill was "on the left of Range Road...further on from Everest Crescent. They used to play football and cricket there."

2. from the book "Iris Woolrich Village Pioneer"- "...he (the Vicar) conducted his first church services in Mr Thomas's two room cottage on Bunker Hill (now Olinda Cres) where...the worshippers sat on wooden planks supported by berry buckets."

3. for people travelling between Sassafras and Olinda a short cut was used along a track from near Bella Vista then across Bunker Hill to the settlement. This was prior to Olinda Crescent being formed.

Now, where does Australia's greatest landscape artist Sir Arthur Streeton fit in to this story ?

In 1921 Streeton purchased land bounded by Range Road and Olinda Crescent and a few years later built a house on the block.

He named the property "Longacres" and had shifted there permanently by 1939. He died four years later (and was buried in Fern Tree Gully cemetery).

When you stand on Olinda Crescent and look towards the original Streeton house it's plain that the flat land, which we believe was the original oval, includes a section of this property.

So- In all likelihood the Olinda Crescent footy ground included land which became Sir Arthur Streeton's historic "Longacres" property.

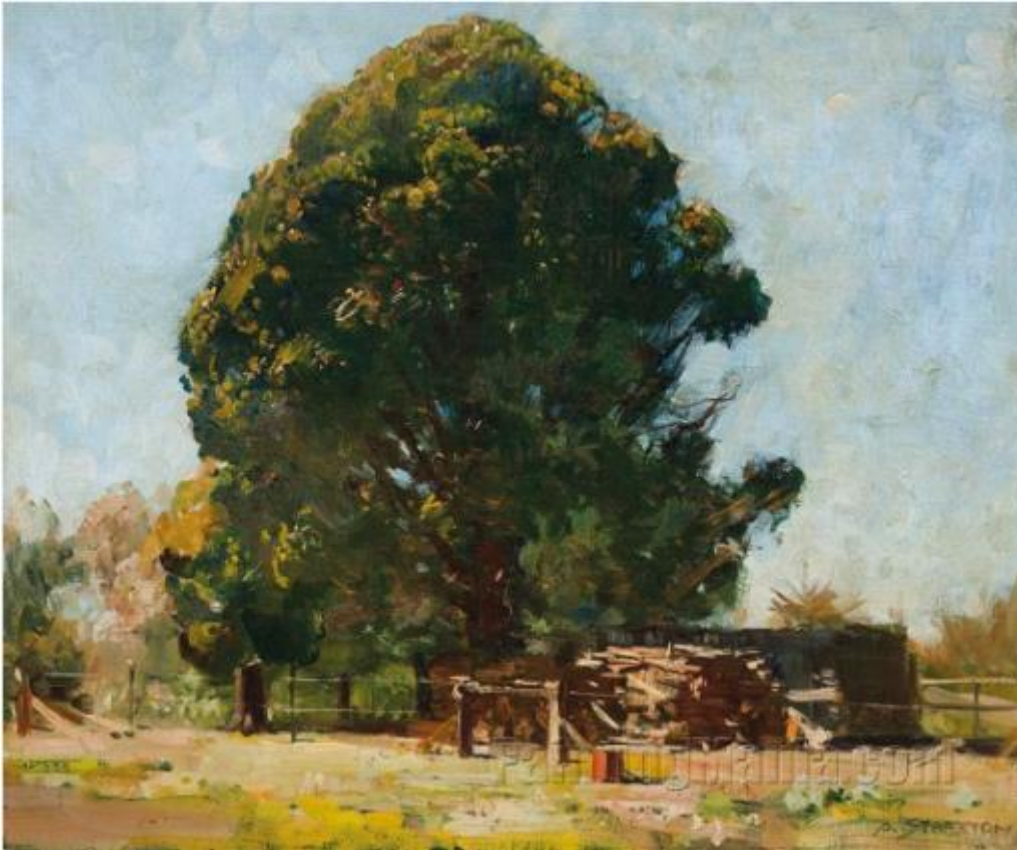


Looking towards the heritage listed original Stretton household which may have been part of the old Olinda ground.

Interestingly when Stretton purchased the property he wrote the following to Fred Mc Cubbin-

"The top part is cleared of all except about 10 fine blackwoods, most beautiful trees (and the blossoms, as you know, a soft yellow like pale butter)' and there's just nice room for a little home to be built with the blackwoods surrounding it".

So this tells us that the property was clear felled except for the fast growing blackwoods. Had they taken root in the decade before he bought the land?



Sir Arthur Streeton's "Blackwood-Longacres" circa 1933. Note how flat the land is AND how other vegetation has grown since his 1921 description of the block.

So- why does any of this matter.?

Well it's important from a Club AND community historical perspective, but it's also intriguing for another reason.

It seems much of the flat area had already been cleared before European settlement.

Alan Dodd takes up the story- there were "two Blacks clearings, the Observatory (Mt Dandenong) and Olinda (Bunker Hill)".

Of course the indigenous people were well gone prior to European settlement in the 1890s.

Who were these indigenous people ? What became of them ? For what purpose had they used "Bunker Hill" over the previous 40,000 (or so) years ?

We think we know the answers to some of these questions but out of respect for our original people we won't be speculating about this until we have their imprimatur.

OFC strongly urges it's players to reach out to older club members if you are in search of career guidance. It doesn't matter what trade or profession you are pursuing there'll be someone to "tap into".

Case In Point-Senior young gun Noah Desta is looking at a media career. He wrote Match Reports for us last season and has just had his first article published in the local newspaper. We are re-printing it here-

The Rise and Rise of Olinda-Ferny Creek Women

Claire Hyett, the captain of the Olinda-Ferny Creek women's footy team , has added her first Best and Fairest trophy to a remarkable 2023 season

Claire's improvement as a player mirrors her team's incredible rise to prominence in the Outer East Football Netball League.

Only three seasons ago the OFC women's side was struggling to get enough people to play and early on they barely troubled the scorer in the League's Second Division.

Fast forward to 2023 and they proudly held the First Division premiership cup aloft as the best team in the whole League. OFC scraped into the Four this year before disposing of the undefeated Healesville in a semi final and then thrashing Pakenham in the Grand Final

Premiership coach Simon Gilson, who has won the Women's "Coach of the Year" for the third time in a row, understands the true importance of Claire's role in the team's amazing improvement "leadership is crucial in developing a group to believe they are capable of achieving success" Simon says.

Gilson recalls the early pioneering crew of Olinda women footballers as a "group of girls willing to learn and give it a crack

with great energy”. Claire provided this group with the direction and passion for the game.



Skipper Claire Hyett, second from left, with other women footballer award winners at the OFC Presentation Night.

As is the case with many sports leaders these days Claire uses the captancy to raise awareness about wider issues in her chosen recreational outlet and while she has a reputation for laying fierce tackles on the field she has also readily tackled big issues such as women’s mental health, wellbeing, gender

equality, and the future of women's football.

Claire sees the recent development of the AFLW as a massive step towards ensuring a future for women in football and hopes we can continue promoting and funding women's sport from a community level to a national level.

She says it's crucial "there's a direct pathway from U9's girls through to senior women"

While Claire has become a leader and high profile footballer in the Outer East competition ironically she "wasn't a big footy fan" and had very little interest in the game while growing up. Her father Michael and brother Percy are both heavily involved with Olinda Cricket Club, although over the last few years Percy has emerged as a very promising player for The Bloods.

The premiership blueprint and foundations laid out by Claire and Simon have allowed Olinda to improve, reach the ultimate success in football, and grow to be a pivotal part of the Olinda community. It's been an incredible story of dedication and commitment to get better.

Meantime former Collingwood player Matt Scharenberg has won the Mick Scott Trophy for OFC's best and fairest player for the third time in a row and exciting Centre player Holly Taubert took home the Alma Fowler Medal for best A Grade netballer.

A huge shoutout to our friends at Fish Creek FNC who lost over 100 years of memorabilia when their clubrooms burned down last year.

(it's believed the fire was started during a burglary).

Fish Creek is the most successful community footy/netty club in Australia, in terms of premierships.

In 2018 they generously hosted us in a pre-season match at Lower Tarwin, near Venus Bay.



Fish Creek football and netball history goes up in flames.

They have set up a Go Fund Me page to help with the rebuild

<http://https://www.gofundme.com/f/our-wonderful-club-start-to-rebuild>

Please mention OFC is you are donating.

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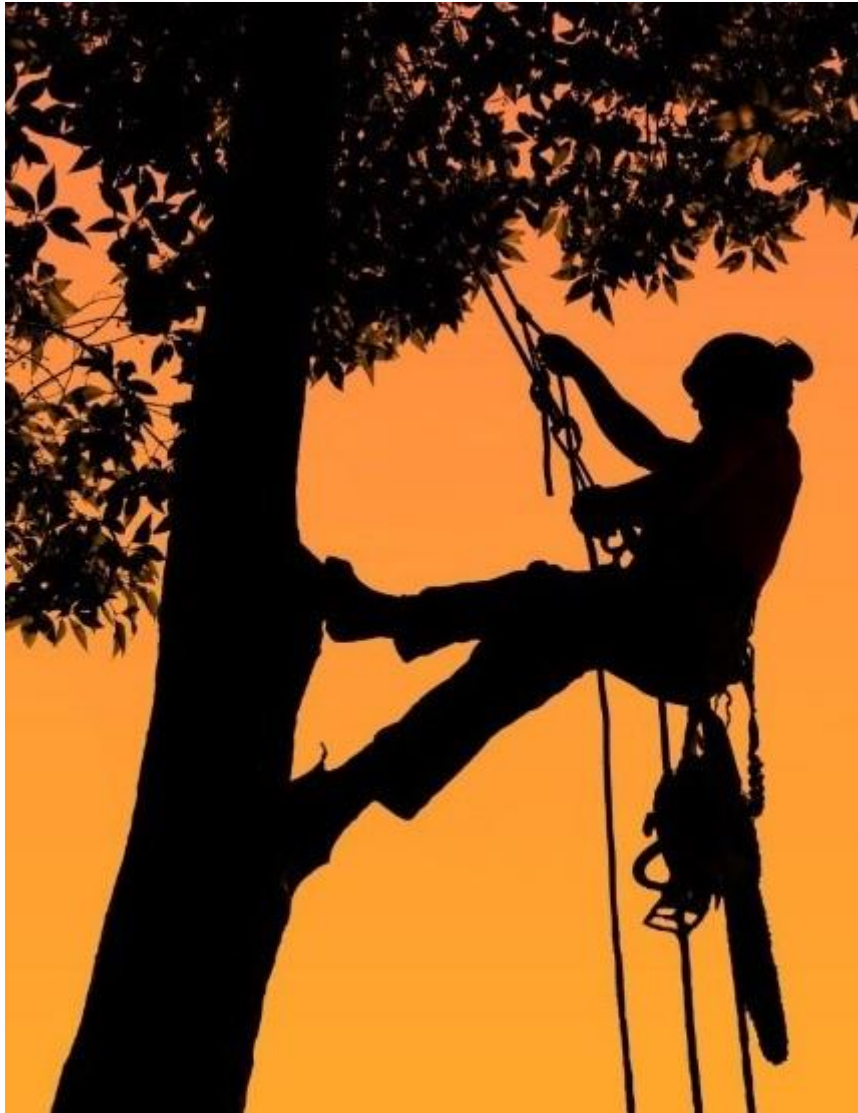
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