

**Olinda  
Ferry  
Creek**



**Football  
Netball  
Club**

- 
- \* OFC- a benchmark club**
  - \* Catching Up With Netball's Mel T**
  - \* OFC Coach Makes Victorian Team**
  - \* Men's Footy Recruiting Coup**
  - \* Past Players- Round One Huge Day**
    - \* High Flyah Kyah**
  - \* We solve a 55 year old OFC mystery**

### **2024- OFC A Benchmark Club ?**

There's so much to get through in our first newsletter of the year but what better place to start than with confirmation that OFC will be fielding teams in all grades of the footy and netball competitions which makes us one of the League benchmark clubs (again).

So congrats on the hard work everyone has put in so far.

Meantime new Head Men's coach Dylan Wilson is already having a big impact on the group, Women's Footy has strong numbers and a couple of surprises while it's been a huge lift for everyone at the club to see the enthusiasm that new Netball coach Jake Hederics is bringing to the court.

OK, welcome to the 2024- it starts THIS SATURDAY with our women footballers in action at Woori in a pracky game - so lets get going.

## Where's " Mel T " Been ?

How good is it to see the netball numbers growing and the enthusiasm of the group under new coach Jake Hederics.. and what a bonus with the popular Mel Thomas "back in town"

So what's she been up to ? Check this out -



*Let us present to you "Dorothy Thomas", daughter of Mel- our new mum took time out in 2023 to focus on "Little Dot"*

Mel and Dana Millwood have been working hard behind the scenes to support Jake and their input is starting to produce exciting results  
Player numbers , and the "vibe", have been great at training. Dana said there were over 30 players on court last Thursday night (with 36 on the list) and the girls are "loving it".

A new A Grade team is also coming together with some young local players

committing in recent weeks.



*Congrats to new coach Jake Hederics on the positive environment he's created around the netball program- Jake is the one with a moustache.*

Also thanks to the girls for a huge vote of support for the new netball court- Dana says it's "awesome".

## Hederics Makes Big V Team

Yep, we had plenty to say above about Jake , now here's a bit more. He has been named in the Victorian team for the Australian Championships in Brisbane over Easter.

Jakes says he expects to play GD but says " it's not unusual for me to get moved across the three defensive positions".

The Vics have taken the silver medal at the last three Championships- lets see if

**Jake can bring home the gold.**

## **Men's Footy Recruiting Coup**

**When we heard that Dylan was looking for an Assistant Coach we thought given his professional and sporting contacts it's going to be interesting to see who he teams up with.**

**Well "interesting" doesn't quite cut it. In fact it's a massive undersell.**

**Welcome aboard Scotty Barrow.**

**Scott has extensive experience with a number of AFL clubs and Olympians working on high performance, leadership, personal development and other key ingredients which these days are baked into the young sportsman/woman.**

**Given the large number of exciting youngsters coming through our program Scott is a perfect fit for OFC.**



*Assistant coach Scott Barrow- has worked with Melbourne, Carlton, the Victorian Institute of Sport, Vicpol and other elite bodies.*

Dylan and Scott worked together for a number of years and when our coach asked if he'd like to get involved at OFC he was "instantly keen".

Dylan says Scott's main role will be to "help design training and strategy and target specific players to bring out the best in themselves and their teammates."

A huge mountain welcome Scott !

## **Stu Horner Back In The Red and White**

**In a 2024 bonus for OFC Stu Horner, one of our best juniors in the last couple of decades, has nominated the Red and Whites as his home club in 2024.**

**Stu is continuing to play a leadership role at VFL club Box Hill and has been appointed a "Development Coach".**

**In previous years pressure has been applied to youngsters who leave our competition and join a VFL club to nominate an EFL Premier Div team as their "home club".**

**Stu produced some outstanding footy in last year's Box Hill finals campaign and they were understandably very keen for him to continue with the Hawks. With a bit of luck he'll be back in the red and white for a round or two.**



***Stuey Horner- on the coaching panel at Box Hill but has nominated OFC as his home club- at this stage we are hopeful he'll be available for Round 11 in June.***

**Meantime "Bloodlines" has spoken to a few players about life under Dylan Wilson. "Tough" and "fantastic" are two regularly used adjectives. It's also great to see another of the "2017 Flag Crew" - Mitchy Wright- back Up Top.**

**Mitch is responsible for Strength and Conditioning but has been moving so well at**

**training we wonder if this gun wingman might play a few games ?  
In some other footy news AG has moved into a Specialist Coaching role with U/17  
premiership coach Scott Tonkin overseeing the Under 18s.**

-----  
*it's with a great deal of sadness we report the recent passing of Gwen Horner.  
Gwen and husband Bob ( who passed last year) were a part of the OFC "family" for  
decades, firstly watching son Geoff rip it up in the Seniors and more lately watching  
Stu, Cam and Jess in action.*  
-----

## Kyah "The Flyah" Heads to Eastern

**Wow- yet another of our premiership winning women footballers is on the fast track  
to elite footy.**

**Kyah "Flyah" Barry has made the final cut at Eastern Ranges, which is an awesome  
achievement given the cut throat nature of our sport once you step up a level.**



***Catch me if you can- generally they can't- Kyah Barry has made the final 2024 squad at Eastern Ranges***

Meantime hard work and self belief has paid off for Lily Carlin. Lily, a dual winner of our coaches award ( a fact that we promise to never draw attention to again Lil) has been offered a "train-on" spot at Box Hill after doing pre season up until Xmas with Port Melbourne. OFC will still be her home club.

Port have already snapped up our ruck star, Chelsea Wilson while Georgia Stubbs went to North Melbourne with pick 30 in the AFL Draft..

So that's four members of our premiership squad potentially moving on to higher honours (five if we count the awesome Grace Belloni who is continuing at Eastern).





***Five members of our sensational 2023 Div 1 premierships squad are now set to play at the elite level.***

Training numbers continue to be excellent for our women, and they will be our first team "over the top" when they meet South Belgrave in a practice match this Saturday at Woori Yallock . It's an early one folks, 8.30 ball up.

Finally "Bloodlines" noticed Women's footy skipper Claire Hyett working with Netball's Mel Thomas on achieving grants for "women's programs" at OFC. It's inspiring to see the two sports putting their heads together for the overall benefit of our women members.

### **MAKE IT A DATE**

**16/3 - football- Women v South Belgrave at Woori Yallock 8.30 am. Men- no fixture confirmed as yet because of ground availability.**

**24/3 -football- Juniors, Reserves, Seniors, Women v Mooroolbark at Mooroolbark. The action starts at 10.30.**

**13/4 Past Players day- Round One- we host Emerald- and**

following that the massive 2024 All Star Player Auction. All Past Players admitted free of charge- join us in the Social Rooms as Dyl makes his coaching debut.

25/4- Anzac Day clash at Upwey ON ANZAC DAY. This will be the League's "stand alone" game on that day so will be a major fixture.

-----  
# we asked Prez Ben who's got the gong so far for "best off ground" in 2024- he said some people have taken on huge workloads but he singled out Theo Zaharopoulos for some amazing work in the footy dept.  
Also noted- we really really need someone to work as back up in the Bar on Thursday nights- see Ben or Carey  
-----

## New Look at OFC

*Senior player Noah Desta is majoring in media studies and to help him hone his craft we encouraged him to write match reports for us last year. He also had his first piece published in the local Star newspaper and recently saw a second item in print- this is his story-*

Olinda Ferny Creek Football Netball Club has undergone a major makeover with fresh leadership and management on and off the field in 2024.

Local builder and former junior coach and player, Ben Selby-Hele, has stepped up as president, replacing the long-serving Michael Hill. However, Michael isn't lost to OFC and has placed his vast club and league experience at Ben's disposal to use as a sounding board whenever required.

Ben has seen the club from many different angles. He has watched on as a parent, been an Auskick coordinator, team manager, runner, and committee member.

Because of Ben's past ties to the club, he understands the benefits of volunteering at grassroots level sport. Ben's focus on participating in community sport made the choice of pursuing the club presidency straightforward, "it was a natural pathway for me."



***President Ben Selby pointing out the continued improvement in facilities at our great club***

OFC's aim in 2024, according to the President, is to continue to build on the successes of past leaders – OFC has been voted the League's best-conducted club a number of times, most recently in 2023. And what will he bring to OFC in 2024 - "clear and open communication, positive leadership, mentoring, inclusion, and bridging the equality gap."

OFC also has a revitalised committee which has taken over from the hard-working executive who guided us through the COVID and post-COVID eras. Meanwhile, one of the Club's favourite sons, the highly respected 2017 Premiership skipper Dylan Wilson, has returned as senior coach. Dylan knows first-hand how special it is to taste the ultimate success in football and what it takes to get there. He aims to "foster a confidence and belief in the group that they can challenge the bigger teams in our league."



*More of this please- coach Dyl Wilson setting a few goals for 2024*

Dylan will be directing OFC with the help and guidance of second year captain, and his past Premiership teammate, Lachlan Taylor. Dylan says the skipper's "leadership qualities are clear, and I've been blown away by his dedication to the Bloods." Being past teammates, the pair have experienced success and have a strong bond and "understanding of what is important for team success."

With pre-season well underway, the new coach has been especially "pleased with the energy and enthusiasm of the group " and the "great dynamic between the younger players and the older guys. The senior players are hungry for team success, and the kids are looking to establish themselves as key pieces in that senior team."

In the final addition to the pool of new leadership at OFC ,Jake Hederics has signed on as Head Coach of the Netball program. Jake has a rich history of leadership, both as an athlete and on a range of committees in his line of work. He is a current player in the Open Men's Victorian and Australian Netball sides and was a training partner of the Collingwood Magpies in 2023.

Jake has tasked himself with the job of bringing "enthusiasm, empathy, and responsibility " to OFC and says in a very short time the club and the girls have "made him feel right at home." Jake is really excited about the future of Olinda's Netball program and believes that with the right guidance, this youthful group will "continue to develop into a strong unit".

Completing the leadership structure at OFC is Women's Football coach Simon Gilson, who took the team to a surprise 2023 Division One flag. Simon's program

has proven so popular that OFC has attracted a big influx of players pre season.

## Taking Your Support To The Next Level

With our new look Committee comes lots of fresh ideas , and a few tried and true ones that are being tackled with renewed vigour.

So here are four ways you, or your business, can help OFC improve in 2024.

Choose your favourite way ( or ways?) to get involved

**#1** - Treasurer Ross Seymour is looking after player sponsorships. Some of the players are chasing a generous benefactor to get behind them in 2024. Perhaps you have a favourite player you'd like to help, or perhaps your business needs some exposure via the extensive supporter base and network of contacts at OFC ?

The player sponsor receives an invoice (if they run a business this can then be claimed as an advertising expense) along with a membership card that enables free entry to our home games.



Sponsor a netballer or footballer and get your certificate (and business?) promoted on our social media and displayed in the clubrooms.

You can find more details- including forms on our website- just spool to the PDFs at the bottom of the home page-

[https://websites.mygameday.app/club\\_info.cgi?client=1-6211-81063-0-0&fbclid=IwAR2JWS-5PScTFOKe0pQTioOVK2Uj9S5CruQU26re5HrOINmBQf\\_GTL3m\\_k](https://websites.mygameday.app/club_info.cgi?client=1-6211-81063-0-0&fbclid=IwAR2JWS-5PScTFOKe0pQTioOVK2Uj9S5CruQU26re5HrOINmBQf_GTL3m_k)

or give Ross a call 0419 383 909

**#2** the new kid in town. This is going to be **BIG** .

Sasha Sullivan is the guy behind our 2024 Player Auction. Based on 2023 B and F results, and recruit reputations, Sasha and his awesome friends have divided all our footballers and netballers up into squads which you'll be able to bid for the evening of Round One.

In fact this is so big we are putting outa separate "stand alone" Bloodlines next week with all the teams and all the details. We wouldn't even do this for a Taylor Swift visit, that's how big this is folks.



*A sample squad from Sasha's Player Auction on the evening of Round One*

**#3** tried and true. Carey's weekly Club Lotto draw is up and running in 2024, with a few minor tweaks to make it more exciting.

We like this one because it's a monthly commitment you don't even notice. A bit like

Netflix ( and Prime and Brit Box come to think of it).



# OFCFNC



## 2024 CLUB LOTTO

NEW FORMAT COMMING YOUR WAY.

FIRST DRAW 11 APRIL.

LIVE DRAW EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT AT 8.30PM

25 weeks with the opportunity to win the weekly prize jackpot  
along with the MAJOR & MEGA spins!

### HOW IT WORKS:

- Weekly spin every Thursday night @ 8.30pm
- First spin Thursday 11 April
- \$10 per week per number.
- 23 x \$300 weekly spins
- 1 x \$500 major cash spin (6 June)
- 1 x \$700 mega cash spin (TBC)
- Lotto limited to 100 numbers.
- One person can purchase multiple numbers.
- \$250 upfront payment OFCFNC bsb:633 000 Ac 152 077 657
- or \$10 weekly payleadr/direct debit link to be provided.

For more information see Carey, call or email:

0417398834

olindafcnf@gmail.com



**#4-** no frills, no bells and whistles, it's the Presidents 300 Club. This entitles you to free ground admission and drinks and nibbles at home games (and more) , plus a warm feeling inside from quietly supporting Ben, and your Club. Contact Ian Taylor

0487 192 437

**So there you have , there are a heap of ways to get involved at our Club and each has it's own merits.**

**Ross's Player Sponsor deal is a ripper if you, or more particularly your business, wants some profile at OFC but you don't want to commit to a full corporate sponsorship program.**

**Sasha's Player Auction is the newbie and is shaping as heaps of fun.**

**Carey's Club Lotto has the weekly draw- and a couple of bigger draws, so there's a bit of a "thrills and spills" flavour to it.**

**Ian's Presidents Club tends to attract those who want to quietly support the Club with no fuss but lots of match day fun.**

## **Precinct Update-**

**OK so things are building up nicely "on field" as we head to the season opener in mid April but we can tell you there's also plenty happening off field as well.**

**Work is now complete on the new netball court and cricket nets and the fencing has come down. The netball court is sensational, sitting very close to the footy oval and ensuring that the bottom end of the precinct will be a hive off activity on match days. How good does it all look !!**





*Only three metres- and a 10 metre fence- separate the new netball court from the footy goal square- it's going to be an amazing atmosphere !!!*

**BUT-** and it's a sizable "but" - fencing is still up on the Olinda Green oval which won't be available for use until the week after Easter . Initially it was hoped the ground could be used from the start of Feb but colder than expected weather thru Dec and Jan prevented the grass from "knitting over" above the drainage slits.



*Hmmm- the drainage slits have knitted over at the Olinda Green oval but need a little more time for the grass to "take". Let's hope the drainage works properly this time !!*

**Meantime we have a grant application in for asphaltting in front of the clubrooms and along the entrance road up to the end of the new netball court. Fingers crossed on that one.**

**We are also continuing to explore options for providing the women's footy program with it's own space. Clearly catering for the large number of women members at OFC has got to be a major focus for the precinct governing body Hilltop.**

**In the weeks ahead you may also notice some plants and new signage appearing at the main entrance as we seek to compliment the infrastructure works which are now complete (except for asphaltting!)**

**Inside the Social Rooms there's a colour screen above the door to the kitchen and toilets- this is the solar panel monitor. Sadly the new project fell short during the recent power outage because a communications card failed. This was unrelated to the storm, but it meant we couldn't open the rooms for showers and phone charging until the system was repaired.**

## 1968 Mystery Solved

We are going to take you back more than 55 years- all the way to August in 1968.

After dominating the Eastern Football League Division 3 competition with three flags in a row OFC was about to play it's first finals match in Division 2.

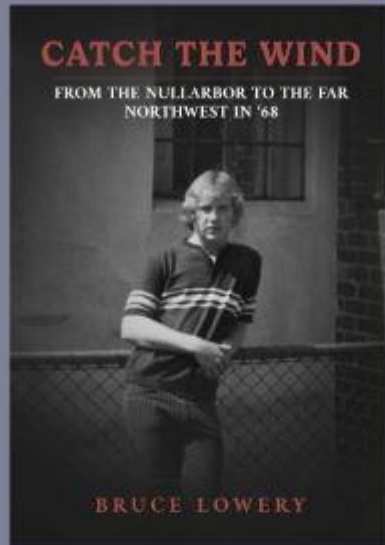
The Bloods had a star studded line up which included two of our all time greats- Johnnie Bye ( who won the League B and F that year as an 18 year old ruckman and then went down to Hawthorn) and Peter "Wacker" Jones who had returned home after "graduating from the school of hard knocks" at Port Melbourne.

But on the day of the match one player was missing.

That guy was youngster called Bruce Lowery who had literally "left town" and was hitch hiking to Perth after a "girlfriend issue". Bruce eventually returned to Olinda and made amends, he became a premiership player, senior coach and Life Member. but all that was ahead of him as he headed West with next to no money , nowhere to sleep and no friends or relatives to offer him a bed.

Half a century later he's written about his colourful exploits "on the road" and the book is an evocative snapshot of rough and tumble Aussie life in the late 1960s.

Bruce has invited us all to join him for the launch of "Catch The Wind" -



Signed copies  
available!

# Book Launch

**OLINDA RESERVE**

**7TH APRIL 2024 FROM 3 TO 5PM  
71-73 OLINDA MONBULK ROAD, OLINDA**

RSVP to Bruce on [bslowery@bigpond.com](mailto:bslowery@bigpond.com) or [0413 830 930](tel:0413830930)  
Or just turn up on the day!

**All welcome!  
Light refreshments provided with full bar.  
No entry fee**

You can find out more about the book- and the March 25 online launch - at

<http://www.brucelowery.com>

-----  
Please check out all our business partners below in case there's  
some way they can help you-



Call 1300 695 098

Community Bank

Upwey

 Bendigo Bank

Call 9754 1200



HILL'S BUILDING SERVICES

P.O. Box 99 Okra 3788 Chris 0438751207 DB-18273  
hillsbuildingervices@hotmail.com

Call Chris 0438 751 207



LEISURE POOLS

SWIMMING IN QUALITY AND STYLE

Call Brendan on 0419 320 667

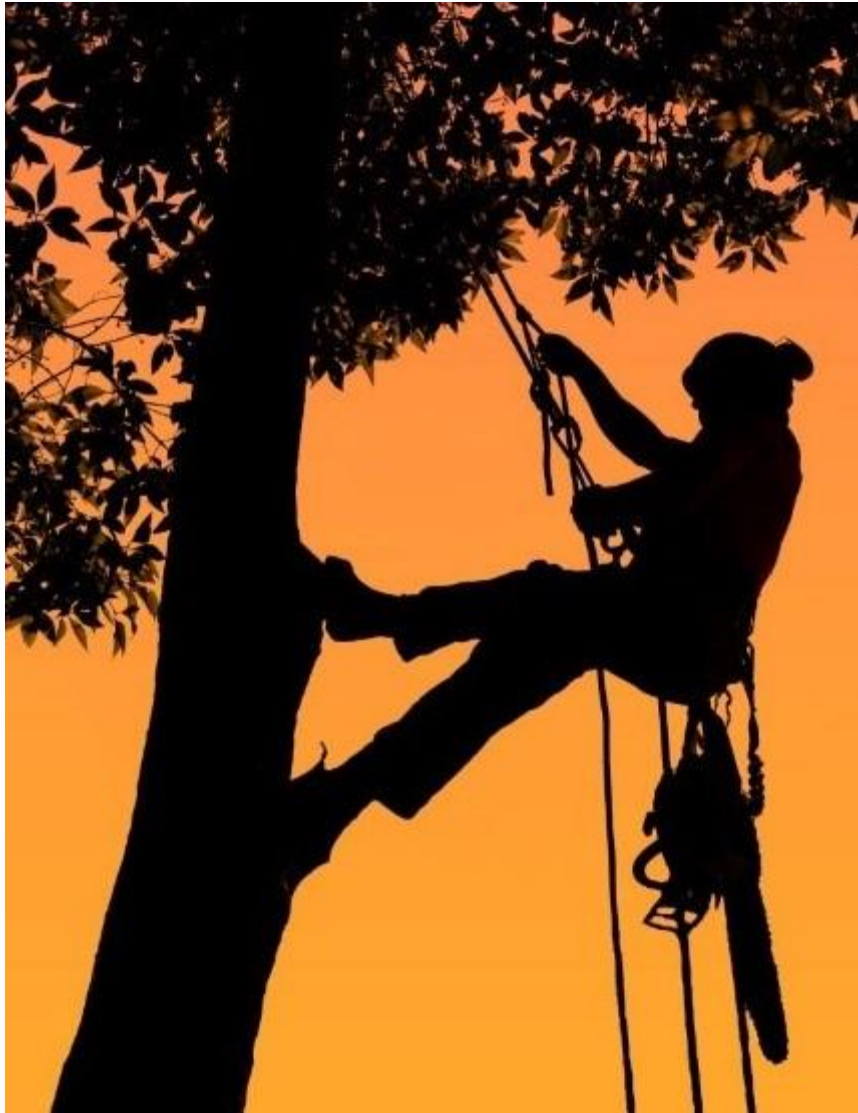
Have a chat to Jake Calvert if you are looking for work- or looking to hire



Call Andy on 0410 625 983



Call Alex- 8719 2881



**Mt Dandenong Tree Services-Call Mike 0407 561 229 or  
email [mikestewarttrees@hotmail.com](mailto:mikestewarttrees@hotmail.com)**





Call Trevor 9751 2375 [https://www.bellrealestate.com.au/office?office\\_id=4](https://www.bellrealestate.com.au/office?office_id=4)



Call Matt 9580 3983



Call Steeny- 0447 512 542



Call Prakash 9751 1269



Call Duncan on 9751 1976



Office 97545401 email [daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au)



Call Moss 9751 2999 or drop in to use the 24 hour dog wash



Call Hayden- 0433 744 258

The Mortgage Choice logo is set against a blue background. It features a stylized logo of three curved lines in blue, orange, and white. To the right, the words "Mortgage Choice" are written in white. Below this is the tagline "Better choices for a better life" in a smaller white font. Further down, the name "Dean Yeomans" is written in white, followed by a white telephone icon and the number "0403 778 668". At the bottom, a small white laptop icon is followed by the URL "MortgageChoice.com.au/dean.yeomans".

Call Deano for a chat about your mortgage options



Call Olinda IGA on 9751 2428

Angel Dental



Don't buy new tyres until you talk to Stef Rosier- Patrick and Matt's father.



---

[forward to a friend](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)