

**Olinda  
Ferry  
Creek**



**Football  
Netball  
Club**

**- Netball- They Did It !**

**- Nick Keegan's Not So Quiet Saturday**

**- Martha is One Out Of The Box**

**- Lachies Lionhearts Finally on All Star Podium**

**This week-**

**10.45 U/18s v Healesville**

**11.25 D Grade**

**12.30 Reserves**

**12.25 C Grade**

**1.30 A Grade**

**2.20 Seniors**

**2.50 B Grade**

**4.45 Women v Upwey**

**NB- match times can sometimes be "tweaked" closer to game day**

**Our Netballers Salute**

**Our netball story so far has been well documented- the toughest season in a decade, young players being fast tracked etc but as we know a win or two can change everything.**

**Heading into Saturday's matches at Berwick Springs there was belief that we could come away with some much needed points but also a nagging concern about what the downside would be if we failed to bring home the chocolates.**

**Those fears were quickly dispelled as D Grade put us on the board early and we went on to win three of the four games, including an emphatic 35 victory in the big A Grade match.**

**You can check all the match details below but a big shout out to Dana and the coaches who have worked so hard to enjoy this moment. We are sure there are more to come.**



***How good to see former Netball Vic President, Richelle McKenzie helping us out again. A quick check of Richelle's CV shows she's held just about every significant position in Victorian netball at some stage. Her two children, Rod and Lisa, both played for OFC.***

***Here she's giving some advice to D Grade GS Sam Mikulandra -who shot the lights out on Saturday***



***Teenager Mera Pringle is helping to coach D Grade while also getting a heap of experience in "A". It's a Pringle high five for Ruby Fleming after the Divas big win.***

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*Be careful folks- we can name a half a dozen relationships that have blossomed at OFC and ended up in marriage !!*

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## Women Footy- A Massive Win

A few things caught our eye at Berwick Springs (once we'd finally found the ground) on Saturday morning- the ferocious OFC attack on the ball, the large contingent of male players and parents who were there supporting our women and the return of Chelsea Wilson.

The ruck tyro, who was signed by Port Melbourne over Summer, has been recovering from a broken finger.



*Chelsea Wilson, back from injury and given the green light by Port Melbourne to play for her local club. Chelsea's brother Blair is also coming back from injury at Eastern Ranges and was able to play for our U/18s on Saturday night at Mt Evelyn.*

**Our 46 point margin at Berwick Springs was our biggest win of the year and gives us a good firm toe hold on fourth place on the ladder.**

**It didn't go unnoticed how much we enjoyed the open space on the big ground. Meantime Sacha is back with us this week- you can read his match report below.**

**Berwick Springs 1.2.8 OFC 7.12.56**

**Best Players- Kyah Barry, Madeleine Collins, Vanessa Bateman, Private player, Lily Carlin, Olivia Edwards**

**Goal Scorers- Madeleine Collins 3, Olivia Edwards 2, Martha Box 2,**

**Nick Keegan's Big Day Out**

The former senior star drove from his home in Elwood to watch brother Connor play for the Twos on Saturday- an hour later Keegs was running around in a red and white jumper.

The former League junior Best and Fairest, and 2017 premierships player, has put his footy career in mothballs after re-injuring a shoulder last season.



*Nick Keegan enjoying a pre game kick of the footy at Berwick Springs after coming along to watch his brother play- little did he realise that shortly later he'd be in an OFC guernsey and running out with the Twos.*

In typical Keegs fashion his "great vision" allowed him to set up our first goal with a deft handball to co-captain Jack Lucas. He gave us an action replay of that goal in the third quarter when Jack happily kicked another.

A big shout out to the coach Theo "The Zed Man" Zaharopoulos- each week he

turns his own home into The Zed Man's Call Centre as he tries to put a competitive team on the ground.

On Saturday he also played a cameo "on field" role and booted a cunning last quarter goal after craftily nudging his opponent under the ball.



*Spring heeled Darcy Faulkner had a great ruck battle against another high leaping basketballer on Saturday - and as usual took the points*

This is what also caught our eye-

- Dyl Arnold's dominance across half back. He was a welcome inclusion in the team when an "injury call" came too late for him to be named in the Ones.
- Ethan Royle-Young kicked three goals and provided a touch of talent up forward. Just gotta keep him on the park.
- former Vermont junior Kaleb Foster has been among our best players in two of the three games he's played for us. Let's hope we see more of him

**Berwick Springs 3.5. 23    OFC 11.9.75**

**Best Players- Kaleb Foster, David Noorda, Caleb Johnson, Dylan Arnold, Oliver Clarke, Jack Lucas**

**Goal Scorers- Ethan Royle-Young 3, Jack Lucas 2, Ayden Borden 2, Oliver Clarke 1, Theo Zaharopoulos 1, Josh Yuki 1, Nick Keegan 1.**

## Senior Footy

Gee it's hard to know where to start with this one.

Racking up 19 scoring shots while restricting your opponent to six goals but still losing - that's something you don't see very often.

Clawing our way to a four point lead at three quarter time and then failing to kick a major in the last term as we piled on six straight behinds- that's something you don't see very often either.

So what happened ? Our ball use (kicking) during the day was probably the worst for the season so far, and conditions were perfect. People will have their own theories about why.

Something else we need to mention- and it's not an excuse for one of the League's bigger upsets of the season so far- but will help explain the shock result.

We went into the Pakenham match the previous week missing a heap of players, including engine room dynamos Pooch and Shaggy Bull- fast forward to the Berwick Springs game and we'd lost another four- Mitchy Wright, Sam Cuthbert, Ben Watson and Dyl Arnold.

So yeh it's hard to maintain continuity with that sort of attrition rate.

On the plus side- U/16 boys Aiden Bates and Tom Ford got more valuable senior experience and what a bonus to have 2023 League Reserves B and F James Royle-Young step up to the Ones. He was among our best players and was absolutely sensational in the last quarter.

Berwick Springs- 6.6.42    OFC 4.15.39

Best Players- Lachlan Taylor, Percy Hyett, Francis Seal, Daniel Toma, James Royle-Young, Matthew Scharenberg

Goal Scorers- Lachlan Taylor 2, Mathieu Rosier 1, Francis Seal 1

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## Netball-Something to Savour

Now back to our lead story this week and netball's big round at Berwick Springs.

D Grade- it was just the victory we needed to get the day off on the right foot and by half time, with a nine goal lead, it was clear we were outclassing the locals.

It was only Jess Day's second match for us but it's clear she is a wonderful asset.

Her work through the centre was faultless and she fed some perfect ball into Sam Mikulandra. Sam was unstoppable and finished with 27 goals.

Jess's dominance also allowed us to play the versatile Sarah Kennedy in the circle

and our GA finished with nine goals of her own.  
This week we play the top team in this grade and it's a great opportunity to really  
test ourselves.

**Berwick Springs 21 OFC 38**  
**Best Players-Jessica Day, Samantha Mikulandra, Jasmin Donner**  
**Goal Scorers- Sam Mikulandra 27, Sarah Kennedy 9**



***D Grade- Jessica Day- making perfect position again-in just her second game Jess has brought some extra poise and experience to the group.***

**C Grade- after D Grade's big win the girls hit the court ready to go and they raced to a massive nine goal lead by quarter time. It was their best start to a match this year. This time around there was to be no third quarter lapse, which has happened on a**

few occasions this year,  
Mickey and Rianne were unstoppable inside the circle and were named MVPs but a  
big shout out to the defenders who restricted the locals to just 15 goals.

Big test against a top four team this week girls !!

**Berwick Springs 15 OFC 43**

**Best Players-Mickey Balzereit, Rianne Fraser, Charli Merrett**

**Goal Scorers- Rianne Fraser 20, Mickey Balzereit 17, Aleisha McKay 6**



***C Grade- Mickey Balzereit- having an outstanding season and about to shoot one of her 17 goals.***

**B Grade- it looks like Berwick Springs targeted this match as a huge chance to grab four points with their A Grade skipper playing her first match for the season in this grade, as well as skippering "A".**

**We were also a bit stretched for numbers and Sarah Seddon and Mickey Balzereit had to double up after earlier games in C Grade.**

**Mel T had her best game since Round One shooting 17 goals.**

**Berwick Springs 48 OFC 37**

**Best Players- Melanie Thomas, Emily McCall, Emma Van der nest**

**Goal Scorers- Melanie Thomas 17, Caitlin Portarianos 14, Mickey Balzereit 6**



***B Grade -Berwick Springs had extra height and strength in the circle which was a huge challenge for Cate Anderson and our other defenders .***

**A Grade- this win has been a long time coming but gee it felt good when we got there. In fact it felt pretty darn good from early in the first quarter when we took a lead that we never surrendered.**

**In such a comprehensive win we're reluctant to single out any individuals- but we'll do it anyway- Nat Moraitis had probably her best game of the season.**

**Also -Molly's massive haul of 40 goals takes her season tally to 143.**

**It's a confidence building win- lets see if we can take it up to ROC this week.**

**Berwick Springs 28 OFC 63**

**Goal Scorers- Molly Argoon 40, Harper Scott 23**

**Best Players-Eloise Argoon, Natalia Moraitis, Molly Argoon**



*A Grade- Jess McCall to Dana and we're off again.*

## **Juniors In The Twilight Zone**

**For the second time this year the U/18s had to travel to Mt Evelyn for a stand alone game while the rest of the Club was elsewhere (Berwick Springs)**

**Its a character building exercise that's for sure.**

**But despite the challenges Scott and the boys face each week they keep bouncing back with great resilience.**

**In just his second game for us Todd Mckay was a stand out- and it was also a huge bonus to have Blair Wilson back with us from Eastern for this game.**

**What have we learned about junior footy this season so far- with fewer clubs fielding "Unders" teams- and the competition split between U/18s and U/19s- there is a real concentration of talent.**

**Much of the footy we've seen has been remarkably good for this age level, in fact some of it has been sensational and (on occasions) as good as we see at Senior level. So over and above the scoreboard results it's a great learning process for the kids.**



*Twilight footy- Zach Seal kicked two at Mt Evelyn*

From Coach Scotty- playing against a quality side the boys got off to another slow start and never recovered. Mt Evelyn's pressure around the contest and ball movement was extremely impressive and our boys couldn't match them throughout the game. Cass Hine and Etienne Greirsmith-Rowe continued their good form and it was fantastic to see Blair Wilson on the field putting in a strong performance for his first game of the season. There's still plenty of work to do with this group and plenty of upside for the team. Stay positive and stay focused.

**Mt Evelyn 12.12. 84 OFC 3.6.24**

**Best Players-Todd Mackay, Blair Wilson, Charlie Hooper, Etienne Griersmith-Rowe, Bon Sullivan**

**Goal Scorers- Zach Seal 2, Cassian Hine 1**

## **Martha- One Out of the Box**

We noticed Martha "X" Box kicked two goals for the Women's Team on Saturday at Berwick Springs, which sits nicely with the 28 goals she's already got.

Wait a minute - 28 goals already ?

Yep, the 28 goals are in netball where she's played three games in the circle for our D Grade team.

Martha has also played seven games of footy .

She is an amazingly versatile athlete with excellent hand/eyes skills and superb judgement.

What does she do in her spare time ? Well believe it not over Summer she's skipper of Olinda's cricket team ( which made it back to back Flags this year) !!



***Martha Box- #29- two goals on Saturday , which sit nicely alongside the 28 she's scored in netball.***



*Martha Box leads OCC to back to back flags- check the scoreboard above the players- M Pringle 22. Marvellous ! The player on the extreme right in the back row looks uncannily like our own Lily Carlin.*

## **Big Win on Big Ground For Our Women**

The Big Fella is back- here's Sacha Sullivan's report-

**OFC Women burst back onto the winners' table with an entertaining 46 point victory against Berwick Springs away on Saturday morning.**

**Berwick Springs is Shangri-La, a magical, exotic haven far, far away that nobody can find. Hollywood has a new film in development, "Indiana Jones and the search**

for Berwick Springs". Dan Brown has a new book coming out called "The Berwick Springs Code, where the protagonist must solve an endless array of riddles and puzzles to find the mythical paradise. Olinda Women's had a back-pocket player named to play there 2 years ago who never made it and hasn't been seen again. *(Editorial intervention is called for here- we made similar comments to the girls on the gate and they replied " Yeh, but it's not as tough as trying to find that Olinda ground).*

When the players and supporters finally emerged from the suburban jungle the heavens opened up to the sound of harps and violins playing. What greeted them was a sprawling oval with a lush green carpet of grass, short and soft on top but hard as concrete underneath. During the game Olinda players bounced at every opportunity, and would have had more bounces than the rest of the season combined. What a joyous novelty it is to bounce a football and have it come straight back to you rather than plug and disappear into the mud. Another novelty was perplexing for the forest dwelling Mountain Women. The sky was blue, and BIG, with not a tree to be seen. There was not a breath of wind, and there was a bright yellow thing in the sky that burnt their skin and caused a weird watery substance to pour out of their foreheads. How strange!! What a relief to get back to their Mountain home next week...cold, damp, gloomy, with a patchy , muddy oval that all the local dogs and wildlife use as a toilet. Paradise!

The Olinda players, and midfielders in particular were ecstatic during the week with the news that ruck savant Chelsea (Big Kahuna) Wilson would be playing her first game for the season. Chelse is without peer as a tap ruck, not just in the competition, but in the state. Chelse and her midfielders have various methods of planning their clearances, and on Saturday they employed the clock method. While most rucks would struggle to give you 12, 3, 6 and 9 o'clock, you can ask The Big Kahuna to give you 7.14 and 23 seconds and you can hit that spot at speed and she'll put it on your chest. It was an absolute pleasure to see Chelsea running around again in red and white, hopefully we get to enjoy her presence a little longer before the Port Melbourne VFLW team realise what a star she is.



***How accurate is Chelsea's tap work- well at times it just like clockwork.***

**Saturday was a breakout game for full forward Martha ("X") Box, kicking her first 2 goals for the club and having a hand in a couple of others. Full forward can be a lonely place, especially in a side that isn't winning games. Martha's persistence and dedication to always marking or bringing the ball to ground has been her strength , and the team and supporters were elated that she was finally rewarded on Saturday.**

**Another breakout performance was from Maddy (MadDog) Collins who has been building her form week on week, but still searching for her first goal back at The Bloodyery. Mads' drought was broken in fine style on Saturday, kicking 3.4 for the game in a dominant display. The highlight came after the final siren as Mads lined up from 45m near the boundary. Mads' booming drop put was never in doubt and almost matched cousin Phoebe's long bomb at Upwey on ANZAC Day.**

**Berwick Springs beat up the younger, smaller Bloods in the corresponding game last year, but MadDog wasn't playing that day. Mads has the best hip&shoulder in the competition, and every opponent should be rightfully petrified when they see it turning their way.**

2 more players building back to their commanding 2023 form are top 2 B&F place getters Captain Courageous Claire (Bear) Hyett and Kyah (The Missile) Barry.

Claire is the Queen of Olinda's mosquito fleet, and can be regularly seen throwing her small frame into dangerous situations or bursting out of packs delivering quality ball. Saturday was the most "Claire Hyett" game we've seen from her so far this season. The Missile was born to play on the wide, firm Berwick Springs ground. She would have run kilometres on Saturday without a Berwick Springs player laying a hand on her, so quickly and easily she evaded them with her bouncing runs.

Nessy (Westside) Curnow (nee Bateman) had a solid game in the middle, her tough contested work and clever ball use a standout.

Besties Maeve (Maisy) Higgins and Charlie (Chucky) Humphries had great games. Maisy has become a mainstay at centre half back, and it's no coincidence that Berwick Springs kicked their only goal while she was off the field.

Chucky had her best game for the club so far, taking marks at will around the ground. Her handball to "X" Box in the goal square was a match highlight.

Speaking of highlights, Anna (Goanna) Hughson received a sickening bump in the last quarter that reverberated across the ground. She immediately dusted herself off and delivered a pin-point pass onto the chest of her teammate in the middle. That's Bloods Culture at it's best.

Another player that exemplifies the Bloods spirit is Casey(The Vault) Seymour who weathered a barrage of physical attacks at full back , but beat her opponent as she does every week and has done since her first game.

Saving the best for last, this correspondent is running out of superlatives to describe the amazing form of Olinda's Thelma&Louise.

Olivia (The Weapon!) Edwards is in the form of her life, getting noticed by the opposition (receiving weekly tags) and The League who have her as a regular in their team of the week and are even raving about her on their media programs. So they should, because Liv is doing things on the football field that no other player in the Competition is doing at the moment. Liv's 2 goals on the weekend has her sitting second on the League's goal kicking ladder.

As for Miss Football Lily (Laser) Carlin, her determination and commitment to getting the best out of herself is contagious, and she is setting a fantastic example not just to her teammates and coaches, but to anyone who watches her play.



*Laser Lily zeroing in on the ball - which she did to devastating affect on Saturday*

As an aside, Lil should audition for the cast of Avatar 2, so blue she is from all the bruises she is collecting from her ferocious play.

Lets see if these 2 can extend their 7 week streak of being Olinda's best 2 players on the ground .

Olinda will play Upwey at home at The Bloodyery twilight next Saturday, and will be looking to take winning form heading into the King's Birthday bye the following week.

Sorry, I forgot to write about the actual game. Oh well, here goes.... We played awesome footy and we won!!

**Berwick Springs 1.2.8 OFC 7.12.54**

**Best Players-Kyah Barry, Madeleine Collins, Vanessa Bateman, Lily Carlin, Olivia Edwards**

**Goal Scorers- Madeleine Collins 32, Martha Box 2, Olivia Edwards 2.**

## Injuries



***Our own "Heeney" in action in the junior finals- Isaac Tonkin broke his collar bone at the weekend in the Seniors. Last Saturday we were missing eight players from the team which beat Emerald in R1. Isaac is the ninth to go missing( that doesn't include Ned Ford, who didn't even make it to the starting line)***

Seeing Nick Keegan at Saturday's fixture made us think about one of the most impactful forms of injury still left in the modern game.

With the clampdown on sling tackles and head contact we are seeing fewer concussions ( thankfully). But broken collar bones and popped shoulder remain a blight.

Keegs was hit (in a legal tackle ) last year while bending over the ball. A player running at great speed impacted a stationary player, and something had to give. Likewise on Saturday when youngster Isaac Tonkin was the victim of an almost identical "player contact" and suffered similar consequences.

To prevent these "impact injuries" we are going to have to take a lot of "contact" out of the sport and few people want that.

Good luck with rehab Isaac !!

**PIC OF THE WEEK**



*AusKick on Saturday morning- it was crystal clear at Berwick Springs and the fog has just about lifted Up Top. What a special part of the world we live in.*

## **All-stars update**

### **Weekly winners for round 7.**

**The Missile Factory (owned by our Women's team) salute.**

**BOGs to Kyah Barry and Cass Hine. Big votes to Maddy Collins too.**

**Great to see the expensive Lachie's Lionhearts finally on the podium- where have you been guys ?!!**



**OLINDA ALL-STARS**  
**PLAYER AUCTION 2024**  
**WEEKLY WINNERS – ROUND 7**  
(Based on Play HQ Best players)

**1<sup>st</sup> – THE MISSILE FACTORY**  
Owners : Lily Carlin, V.Bateman, M.Box, L.Clarke, R.Gilson, C.Hyett,  
A.Kostich-Angerson, M.McCheyne, C.Seymour \$350

**2<sup>nd</sup> – THE MOUNTAIN MARAUDERS**  
Owner : Bruce Wilson \$600

**3<sup>rd</sup> – LACHIE'S LIONHEARTS**  
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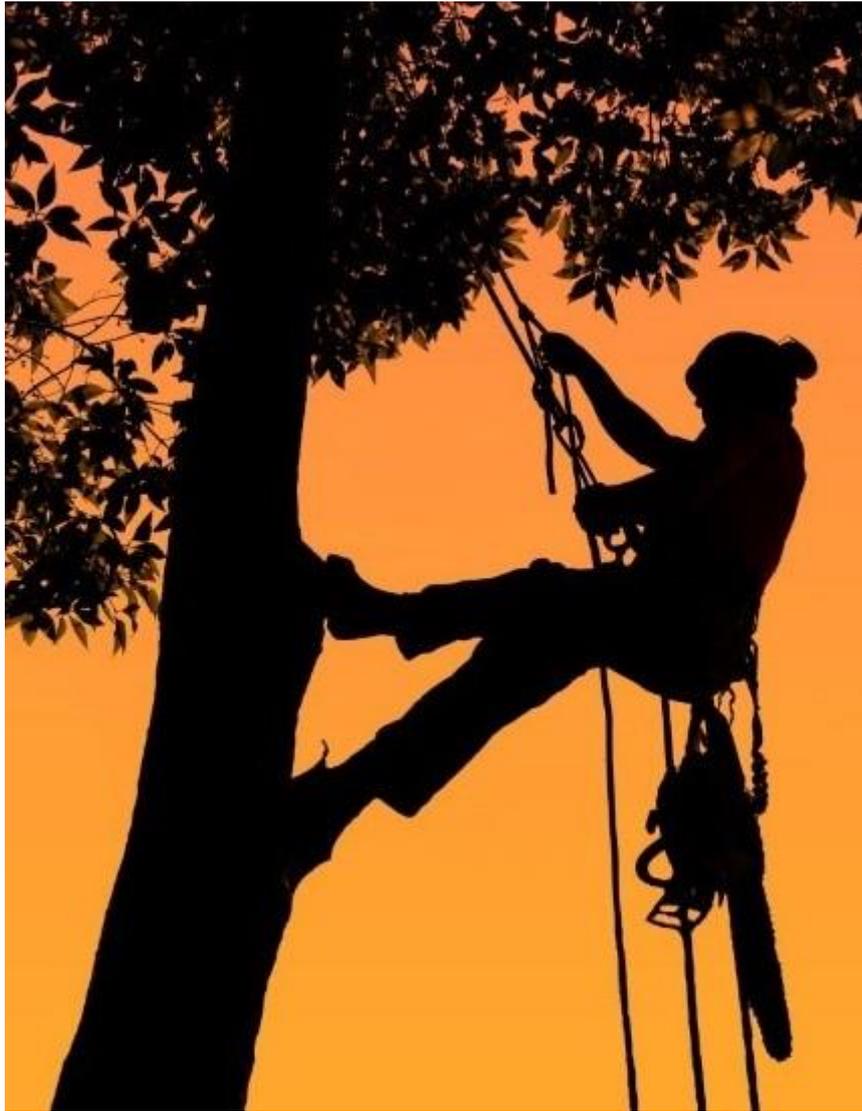
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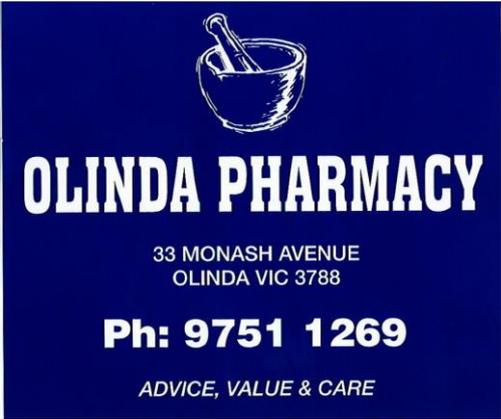
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