

**Olinda
Ferny
Creek**



**Football
Netball
Club**

- "A Grade" Win on Dana's Day

- Senior's Skipper Scores Big

-Women Win- One Of Their Best Ever ?

- Remarkable Reserves Game !

- Divas keep Finals Hopes Alive

- All Star voting- Josh Wallis, Ethan Royle-Young, Lachie Taylor and Mackenzie Bourne impact the voting.

Insane Saturday

Any one of our four big wins on Saturday would have given us a headline but you would not believe all the "stories within the stories" so it's hard to know where to start this week.

"A Grade's" big win on the day we celebrated Dana Millwood's 150th is hard to top, although the skipper's four goals before half time in the Senior footy, barely a day after arriving home, takes some beating.

Our Reserve's team got over the line on the back of two amazing goal kicking efforts (this story is one for the ages) while the OFC women capped off the day with one of their best ever wins at Upwey and could also be our lead story

So read on...and enjoy !!!



Our huge day started at 11.30 with youngster Matilda Brewster helping D Grade to a great win.



The day finished with the twilight game at Upwey- and the win by our women was every bit as spectacular as the evening itself.

DON'T FORGET IT'S A SPLIT ROUND AND THERE'S NO MENS FOOTY OUR NETBALL THIS WEEKEND. BUT THE BOYS HOST SEVILLE ON FRIDAY NIGHT- GET ALONG AND SUPPORT THEM- WHILE THE WOMEN ARE VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR CHALLENGE AT PAKENHAM ON SATURDAY.

"A GRADE"- SOME MILESTONE MAGIC

OK. we're not saying that it would've been a huge let down if we lost to Gembrook on Dana Millwood's historic 150 game "milestone match". On the other hand, lets not beat around the bush, a loss would have sucked all the air out of those red balloons.



Senior footballers joined our netballers to celebrate Dana's 150th.

Let's not forget The Brookers beat us by seven goals in Round 2 and we went into this game missing some key players.

At 3/4 time the scores were tied-up at 34 a piece and there was huge tension around the court. But 15 minutes later there was a roar so loud it could be heard at the other end of the ground as A Grade saluted 47-44.

Our top scorer was....wait for it...Dana's sister-in-law Nic Millwood who answered a call for help and played just her second game of the season. Nic finished with 23 goals, only one ahead of co-captain Harper Scott who was again possibly our best player.

Harper and Nat Moraitis have been consistently in our best players in recent weeks.



For heaven's sake Owen, concentrate !! "Spider" Millwood was at the A Grade netball on Saturday to watch sister-in-law Dana play her 150th and wife Nic rip it up in GA but got distracted.

Observation- it's been our toughest season "on court" for years. In fact possibly our toughest ever, but the spirit around the young group has been remarkable. Perhaps that's why we got over the line on Saturday.

OFC 47 Gembrook 44

Best Players-Harper Scott, Natalia Moraitis, Nic Millwood

Goal Scorers- Nic Millwood 23, Harper Scott 22, Mera Pringle 2

Seniors Move Up To Fourth On Ladder

OFC chalked up it's eighth win of the season against Gembrook and it was enough to edge out Upwey in fourth place.

We set-up the win on the back of some high pressure tackling in the first quarter and a cameo performance from skipper Lachie Taylor.

Lachie only arrived back from overseas on Friday morning but soon adjusted to the cooler (read: freezing) conditions and was quick out of the gate with two commanding goals in the first quarter and another "pair" in the second, including one from an almost impossible angle on the boundary.



Skipper Lachie Taylor back from OS with what appears to be a suntan. Lachie made a sensational six goal return in his first game since May.

Patrick Rosier was as indomitable as Taylor and kicked two goals in two minutes

just before half time to help us to a 27 point lead at half time.



"Go bro"-Mattie Rosier congratulates brother Patrick on back to back goals just before half time.

Despite a lengthening injury toll (Patrick Seymour, Frank Seal and Ned Ford) we played out the match strongly expanding the lead to over 40 points at the end. This is in contrast to recent home games when put the cue in the rack in the last quarter after building up a match winning lead.

It was a strong "all-round" team performance this week so just the one "take

away"- lion-hearted Josh Wallis was probably our best player. He's enjoying an outstanding season.

OFC 19.16.130 Gembrook 12.9.81

Best Players- Josh Wallis, Matthew Scharenberg, Patrick Rosier, Lachlan Taylor, Sam Cuthbert, Oakley Jessop

Goal Scorers- Lachlan Taylor 6, Patrick Rosier 3, Ned Ford 2, Noah Desta 2, Daniel Toma 2, James Box 1, Matt Rosier 1, Jonty Scott 1, Sam Cuthbert 1



275 game North Melbourne player Michael Firrito comes to grips with U/18 gun Blair Wilson.

Blair wasn't born when Michael started his AFL career in 2003.

By The Way - Frank Seal suffered a nasty finger dislocation and, as it was described to us, the digit was pointing in three directions. Rather than finger re-straightened professionally (which meant possible missing out of that night's social function)
Frank did the job himself on the spot.

This week we celebrate Matt Scharenberg's 50th. This is much bigger than a "normal 50th" because it's the first time Shep has chalked up this milestone in a career that took him from South Australia to Collingwood.. He underwent knee recos in 2016, 2018 and 2020, so yeh its pretty special for Matt, and all of us.



Women's Win For The Ages

Seriously, does it get any better than this ? Seemingly down and out in the last

quarter at Upwey our women somehow came from behind and managed to find a way to get the job done.

While our finals berth was pretty much secured before this game the win means that fourth placed OFC is now just four points adrift of Upwey. More important than those points is the massive psychological boost we took from the game.



Lily Carlin kicks a clutch goal to reward OFC with a sensational come from behind win at Upwey

Upwey 3.6. 24 OFC 4.6.32

Best Players- Lily Carlin, Madeleine Collins, Chelsea Wilson, Ruby Gilson, Olivia Edwards, Vanessa Bateman

Goal Scorers- Lily Carlin 1, Olivia Edwards 1, Ashleigh Thomson 1, Mackenzie Bourne 1

Don't forget to settle back, put your feet up and check out Sacha's "must read" women's footy report below.

Ressies -You Had To See It To Believe

There was very little to separate these two teams in the first quarter of the game- except for the will-of-the-wisp incredibly creative Ethan Royle-Young who lit up the game with three goals in 12 minutes.

There was very little to separate these two teams in the second quarter of the game- except for the sublimely talented and high marking Zach Seal who did even better than Ethan and incredibly kicked three goals in a hectic nine minutes.



Youngsters Ethan Royle-Young (30) and Zach Seal kicked all our six goals between up until half time half time.

Both boys finished with four goals. Clearly both are senior players "in the making" although Ethan needs to overcome a "shoulder condition" before he can weave his magic on a bigger stage.

OFC went on to enjoy a much needed 19 point win but the second half wasn't without it's dramas as the backline leaked three quick goals in the last quarter and The Brookers threatened to over run us.

The Zed Man reacted quickly and sent Davey Noorda down back to staunch the

bleeding.



Daniel McNaughton enjoyed one of his best game of the year and was happy to back himself against the odds.

Some take aways-

U/18 player Etienne Griersmith-Rowe set up a first quarter goal and his pace and skill were instrumental in keeping The Brookers at bay in the last 20 minutes
Dan McNaughton had probably his best game of the year, he was outstanding in the first quarter when the pill was hot.

Jack Lucas was AGAIN among our best- that's nine times in 13 games.

Ollie Clarke dominated his flank/wing.

Chris, Boydy and Caleb thwarted numerous Gembrook attacks.

All in all, a great win over a top five team.

OFC 12.6.78 Gembrook 8.11.59

Best Players- Ethan Royle-Young, Lachlan Boyd, Jack Lucas, Zachary Seal, Daniel Mcnaughton, Darcy Falkner

Goal Scorers- Ethan Royle-Young 4, Zach Seal 4, Daniel McNaughton 1, Josh Yuki 1, Jack Lucas 1, Angus Nelson 1

Media personality Brian Nankervis will soon grace us with his presence- don't miss out on the biggest social night in the Hills.



**Music Trivia with Brian- book now-
Get a group organised and book your tickets ASAP.**

BYO nibbles

Drinks being sold at the bar (no BYO) - with happy hour from 7-8pm

For further information, or to confirm a table, email Carey: olindaofcnc@gmail.com

Tickets bought via transfer (\$50)

OFCFNC

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D Grade Keeps Finals Hopes Alive

It was a "must win" game for the Divas as they strive to stay in the race for the finals, and they didn't let us, or themselves, down.

Leading by eight goals at half time they restricted Gembrook to just three goals in the last two quarters and ran away to a 21-8 win.

A highlight was surely the growing confidence of Matilda Brewster who threw 15 goals and then shot another eight with C Grade in the following match. which took her past the "century" for the season.

It was a wonderful "team win" but Ruby Fleming played a key role in transition and Jas Donner was a "pillar" in defence.

OFC 21 Gembrook 8

Best Players- Matilda Brewster, Ruby Fleming, Jasmin Donner

Goal Scorers- Matilda Brewster 15, Sam Mikulandra 6.



Jas Donner and Emmy van Duuren- some "Diva pressure".

C Grade- we had the "two Sarahs" (Seddon and Kennedy) back with us for the first time since June and at half time the scores were locked together and it looked like OFC was going to start this very special day with back to back victories. But The Brookers did a job on us in the second half and we weren't able to go with

them.

In the end the nine goal loss probably wasn't a fair reflection of just how close this game had been for the first half an hour, but the better side took the four points, and that's what counts.

OFC18 Gembrook 27

Best Players- Charli Merrett, Sarah Seddon, Charlotte Rickards

Goal Scorers- Matilda Brewster 8, Mickey Balzereit 7, Molly Jones 3.



Sarah Kennedy in C Grade action.

B Grade- after last week's triumph at Emerald the girls were treated to a quick reality check as Gembrook overwhelmed us in the first quarter.

We hit back in the second quarter reducing the eight goal margin to just six but, stung by their losing quarter, Gembrook came out after half time and put the match result well and truly beyond doubt.

Thanks to Jess Day for helping out, and a huge thank you to Caitlin who had a great

match on her sister's big day.

OFC 30 Gembrook 46

Best Players- Caitlin Portarianos, Emily McCall, Sofia Mikulcic

Goal Scorers- Caitlin Portarianos 15, Mel Thomas 15.



Thank you to the Portarianos family who've contributed so much to OFC netball over the years (Tommy Millwood gets a free kick here).;

OFC's Come From Behind Win At Upwey

report- Sacha Sullivan

This is the first Women's match report for 3 weeks after a "bye for Bloodlines" followed by a bye for the team.

The last offering was a lacklustre, lethargic, uncommitted effort, and that was just the match report. The game itself, 3 weeks ago, a loss at home to nemesis Healesville, had little to celebrate or highlight, and contributed to the insipid match report.

They say a week is a long time in football, well 3 weeks is an eternity, because Olinda Women's team has followed it's most disappointing display of the season,

with easily it's 2 best performances since last year's barnstorming finals.

Put on a big pot of coffee, drink it, then start making hamburgers because this is going to be a big one.....



There's been great improvement in this group- and also the off field team- note how Sacha now needs just one hand to master the magnet board.

What is Bloods footy? What is Bloods culture?

Freezing cold. Windy. Pounding rain. Mud. Injuries. Low numbers.

Is Bloods culture not merely coping with these adversities, but embracing them and rising to another level while others recoil and wither as suggested in the Bloodlines editorial last week?

If it is, then this Olinda Women's side has Bloods culture coursing through it's veins, and it's last 2 games have been nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The first, an heroic victory in the most horrendous near freezing conditions against Berwick Springs away (In the Land of The Lost!).

Olinda started the game with only 16 players, but were forced to play with only 14 on 16 for the last quarter and a half, not only managing to defend a slender lead, but

extend it.

The girls shivered off the ground black and blue from the bruising encounter and the cold, but justifiably proud with the brave, united effort.

It will not be easily forgotten.

On Saturday night on the mud flats at the Upwey Dome, Olinda Women's team managed to achieve 3 feats that have alluded them so far this year which are crucial for the run home to Finals:

A win against a team above it on the ladder – Olinda won the premiership from 4th last year, and if they hope to repeat they will most likely have to do so from 4th again, meaning they will need to beat all the sides above it.

2 wins in a row – Massively important, winning form is good form, and this year's Premiers will need 2, possibly 3 wins in a row.

A come-from-behind win – This builds the belief that no matter the circumstances, the team will fight to the end, and this belief is contagious.

Olinda defeated a fierce Upwey in muddy conditions, overcoming an 8 point deficit with 7 minutes left in the game to claim a gutsy 6 point victory against the home side.

The feeling in the rooms before the game was jubilant, perhaps because of the impending DJ night at the Club Saturday night, or perhaps because of the free mud bath beauty treatment they were about to receive?!

Most likely it was the inclusion of 3 fresh faces kitted up in red and white, all with a very strong footy pedigree behind them.

Kiah (KB) Burgess is a foundation member of Olinda Women's, first as Assistant Coach, then as a player. At her best she is a strong intercept mark with lethal burst speed and a booming kick. Kiah struggled with injuries and stepped away from the playing field, but impressively became Team Manager for the Club's 2023 Premiership side. She is a beloved member of the Olinda family, fingers crossed her injuries are behind her.

Mackenzie or "Macca" (Supremacy) Bourne comes as a regular Eastern Ranges ruck/forward. Macca has been on Olinda's list all year, but has been unable to play due to a broken foot, then Eastern commitments. Macca's impact on Saturday was as immediate as it was impressive. What we saw was a strong marking, fast leading, long kicking enforcer, who knows where and when to run and how to use her size.

Lets hope Saturday wasn't a cameo, but a preview of a blockbuster career at the Bloodery.



Ash Thomson kicks a crucial goal in her first game for OFC- and her first game in three years.

Ash (Thommo) Thompson comes to the Club as a peer of Heckle&Jeckle (Ness&Ruby) plus a host of others. She has played 4 years of juniors at Narre Warren North Foxes as a midfielder/Centre half back. Fast, strong and smart, Thommo was given the prestigious #32 vacated due to the season ending injury to India (Bruiser) Griffiths. Why is it so prestigious? Made famous at the Club by legend Andy (AG) Greenall, it is most famous for being the number of his (and the Women's Coaches!) childhood hero Tim Watson. The number can only be worn by the fast and the strong and Thommo fits the bill perfectly. The first time we saw Thommo burst out of a pack brought a smile to the sentimental Coaches' faces. The fact she's a Melbourne supporter soured the deal a little Saturday night, but we're rapt to have her. As an aside, how could a team that now has a Lily and a Thommo in it possibly fail?! (younger readers may need to look up Lillee and Thompson, plus Tim Watson for that matter to understand any of these references!)

The game itself started in perfect fashion for the bloods with some elite ball

movement resulting in a goal within 90 seconds. The ball scrambled it's way to Upwey's half forward line and Ruby (Dukes) Gilson burst backwards out of the pack with a handball to Nessy(Westside) Curnow (nee Bateman) who handballed further backwards to Anna (Goanna) Hughson in space who wheeled around the boundary and laced out a pass to Captain Courageous Claire(Bear) Hyett on the wing. Coach Simon has been working on this inside to outside ball movement with the girls for years, and it's incredibly satisfying when it's executed precisely. As the ball made it's way to the centre, Miss Football Lily (Laser) Carlin powered out of a contest to Ness again who pinpointed a pass out the front of a charging Macca Bourne who marked strongly in front of her close checking opponent. Macca lined up from the edge of the square and booted a towering drop punt to the top of the goalsquare.

As the ball spilled to the feet of the pack, who was there to scoop it up? You know who, Olivia (The Weapon!) duly mopped up the crumb and delivered one of her signature left foot snaps over the goal umpire's head, post high. The Coaches gave each other a look....this was great footy!

Such champagne football was never going to be easy in the sea of mud, and the next 3 quarters turned into a brutal slog, albeit with some great moments.

Olinda's tackling pressure was ferocious, and the best it's been since last year's finals. The scene was set early in the 1st quarter when Kyah (The Missile) Barry nailed her opponent, Upwey goalsneak Jess Occhipinti in a holding the ball tackle 4 times in 1 minute, the first a "Missile-special" chase down tackle, from which she got her nickname. Bafflingly none of the tackles were rewarded, but it was a great sign of intent.

At the 10 minute mark Upwey bombarded their goals for a short period, managing 1.2. Olinda had a similar period up the other end at the end of the quarter, both teams going in square on 8 points at quarter time.

Upwey goaled at the 5 minute mark of the second quarter from a clever snap, and Olinda would toil all quarter until the last minute when 2 of the debutants combined for an uplifting goal. Ash (Thommo) Thompson won a contest in the centre and pumped the ball into centre half forward. As an Upwey player picked up the ball, a blistering tackle by The Weapon allowed the ball to spill free and be gathered up by none other than Macca (Supremacy) Bourne who ran clear and bombed a 45m rocket that bounced through the unattended goal square. The girls rushed from everywhere to congratulate their new teammates, and it was game on, Olinda going into the half time break only 1 point in arrears.

The 3rd quarter was a war of attrition, and there were multiple extended breaks as

an Upwey player was taken from the ground on a stretcher and another received medical attention on the ground. We hope the Upwey girls are ok.

With the reduced length quarter, both sides struggled to score and there were no goals recorded, Olinda going into the final break 2 points down.

The scene was set for a thrilling final quarter , and it didn't disappoint. Not wanting to spoil the ending, there was some foreshadowing earlier in the match report that Lily and Thompson might have a part to play.....

The last quarter started with a brutal moment, followed by the comedic yet brilliant.

The ball was cleared from Upwey's backline to the wing in front of our Coaches. As Macca picked up the ball she was tackled by 2 Upwey players and fed the ball to Maddy (MadDog) Collins who was picked up by an Upwey player and thrown/slung over the boundary line. Macca immediately ran in and put that Upwey player on her backside. If we didn't love her after her 1st goal assist or 1st goal....we certainly loved her then!! The free kick was given against Macca and MadDog went to stand the mark. Not sure what Mads said , if anything, but the Upwey player taking the kick gave her a shove. Now, everybody who knows Mads knows that she doesn't fall over when pushed, but she inexplicably went down like a sack of potatoes! Whistle blown, free kick reversed! Mads has received a fair bit of ribbing since the incident, mostly from a certain Assistant Coach, but it really was a brilliant, clever moment that turned Upwey's aggression against themselves.

At the 7 minute mark, Upwey scored a goal from an errant Olinda kick-in, putting them 9 points in front...

The ball lived in Olinda's forward line, and they managed a point, before an excellent forward entry by The Weapon went to Ash (Thommo) Thompson who was infringed and given the free kick on the sharp angle.

In the most "no-fuss" goal ever seen, Thommo simply walked in and threaded the goal! 2 points down....

Again, the ball lived in Olinda's forward line and 2 points in quick succession levelled the scores....

With 2 minutes to go Miss Football Lily Laser won a free kick on the forward flank, and was gifted a 25m penalty for reasons yet unknown. Let's set the scene... Lil hadn't kicked a set shot goal since juniors and was right on the edge of her range. The ball thundered off her boot with the sound every perfect drop punt makes, and cleared the line by millimetres!

All Olinda players on the field descended on their co-Captain in a great moment, but

there was still 2 minutes left....

The staunch Olinda players fought tooth and nail to create stoppages, then when they got to the outside it was game over.

A legendary win!

Before we get into individual special mentions, a special duo deserve to be lauded...

Co-Captains Claire Hyett and Lily Carlin were massively influential in the victory. Club legend Tim Scott took a training session a number of weeks ago, working on the inside to outside transition. What Tim said was that the heart of the inside ... where the ball is in it's fiercest dispute, is a warzone where you fight for your life to get that ball.

Claire and Lil are warriors that were constantly in that fight Saturday night, and rarely lost. There is footage of both of them crawling on hands and knees to get to the next contest. If people weren't inspired by this they weren't watching! The duo, even though severely undersized, even both took ruck contests around the ground, which proves they would do anything for this team. They are both amazing leaders and role models, and we are so lucky to have them.



Exhausted but jubilant- contrast this pic with the pre match above.

SPECIAL MENTIONS:

Lily Carlin – If you see Miss Football and have a bit of spare cash, please give her

some because she recently received her rates notice for Upwey Recreation Reserve.... Because she owns it! Lil gets BOG most time she plays at the Dome and Saturday was no exception. Game winning goal was the cherry on top.

Claire Hyett – Truly inspirational, throws herself into everything and runs herself to the point of exhaustion.

Maddy Collins – Vintage Mads, taking goal saving marks in defence or snap shots up forward, with a swathe of intercept marks and tackles in between. All as a forward pocket (we think??)

Mackenzie Bourne – Amazing debut. Big, strong, fast and smart. Please come back Macca!!

Chelsea Wilson – We have a team ethos , “create a stoppage, we’ve got the best ruck in the comp”. It’s true, and we do, but poor Chelse had more than her fair share of stoppages to deal with Saturday. Of course she won every one of them!

Olivia Edwards – Liv plays in the hardest position on the football field- small forward, yet has been Olinda’s best this year which is testament to her talent. A mud pit is a nightmare for a small forward, but Liv had a hand in 3 of the side’s 4 goals, and she continues to be a matchwinner.

Ruby Gilson – Big day for Ruby dukes. She burst into the pre-game with a contagious energy, and carried that onto the field, tackling and creating stoppage at every opportunity. Rubes took the lead in the 3 quarter time address, and we know how that ended....!!!

Ness Bateman – Whatever Ness does is usually quality, and she is a smart footballer who hates wasting a possession. Saturday night was no exception

Anna Hughson – Olinda’s most reliable footballer. Never loses a contest and always extracts the ball.

Kyah Barry – sacrificed her game to nullify Upwey’s most dangerous forward, while still managing to take intercept marks and getting clearances

Anja Hulston – Cult hero Onions was charged with defending Upwey’s matchwinner and Captain(who kicked 3 against us last time). 0 goals for Bangers and the points go to Onions!!

Martha Box – 2 weeks at full back since the departure of full back savant Casey

Seymour, for 0 goals against. The batten has been passed and the legend continues!

A great win in trying conditions. It does not get any easier, as the girls travel to Pakenham next Saturday morning to take on the League leaders. They'll be doing their best to keep this winning streak going!

PIC OF THE WEEK



In community sporting clubs it's sometimes the little things that bring meaning to our lives-- here Mattie Ryan celebrates after squeezing one more car in behind the goals at the top end.

ALL STAR VOTING-

A nice "welcome home" present for Lachie Taylor , with his Lionhearts team saluting thanks to BOGs to Josh Wallis and Ethan Royle-Young, and vote getting

games to Lachie and Mackenzie Bourne.

What better way to finish this week than with DANA MILLWOOD doing the "Toyota leap" as she celebrates her 150th- that's because Dana knew that, later on Saturday night, after Tommy and their daughter were in bed, she would be free to go online and buy some more Toyota "Good For Footy" raffle tickets.



For a chance to help OFC- and have a shot at winning nearly \$300k of prizes, follow this link and buy some tickets (all money goes back to the Club)-

<https://toyotagoodforfooty.raffletix.com.au/olindafernycreekfnc?q=buy>



Yep- that was about as wet as it gets- the new drainage on the top oval (Olinda Green)worked well, but the surrounds struggled to cope with nearly 90mls in 24 hours.

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



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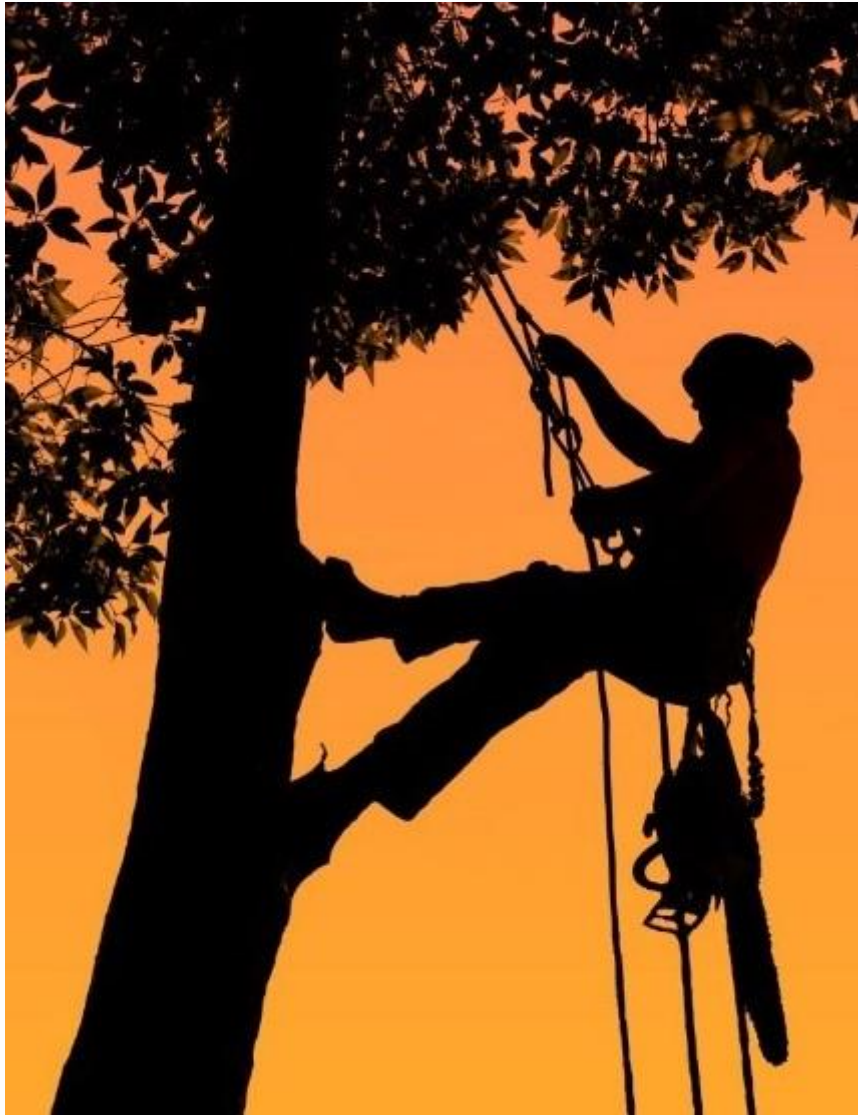
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Don't buy new tyres until you talk to Stef Rosier- Patrick and Matt's father.



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