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**Olinda
Ferny
Creek**

**Football
Netball
Club**

- Women keep Belgrave Scoreless

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- Footy in the Snow

- Our First Netty Flag: 10 Years Later

- All Star voting- the Seal Bros, Jas Donner, Nat Moraitis, Ruby Gilson and Campbell Hutchin in the votes

This week we welcome Upwey to "Up Top"- it's Community Bank Shield Day- sponsored by Bendigo Bank (Dandenong Ranges Community Bank). \$500 worth of canteen vouchers coming our way- and \$500 to the winning club.

10.45 U/18s
11.25 D Grade
12.25 C Grade
12.30 Reserves
1.30 A Grade
2.20 Seniors
2.50 B Grade
4.45 Women v Berwick Springs

OFC Women Keep Belgrave Scoreless



So why are we using a netball pic in a footy story ? Well you know what a shocker of a day it was on Saturday ? Two footballers/netballers spent a fair chunk of it chasing leather. That's Martha "X" Box with the "GK" bib and Ness Bateman is squeezed in just to the right of the goal post. They helped out in D Grade in pouring rain and then fronted at Belgrave for the twilight footy game. We are very proud of you guys.

We're reluctant to keep using the Women's team's very first match as a benchmark for our stories but this one is a bit special.

Remember a few years back in our first match, at Belgrave, when we struggled to just get a single score on the board ?

Well fast forward to 2024 and boy times have changed. We kicked 3.9 at Belgrave in the twilight game while holding the Magpies to donuts.

The result is a tribute to the leadership group, on-field and off-field.

With one round to go the women have already locked away an Elimination Final against Upwey on Saturday 10 August. Time and venue TBC.

Lets get behind them when they play Berwick Springs in the last home and away game of the season on Saturday. It's another twilight match at home.

Belgrave 0.0.0 OFC 3.9.27

**Best Players- Lily Carlin, Claire Hyett, Chelsea Wilson, Ruby Gilson, Madeleine Collins,
Olivia Edwards**

Goal Scorers- Ruby Gilson 1, Chelsea Wilson 1, Madeleine Collins 1

**Don't forget to check out the blow by blow women's action- and it was pretty hectic-
with Sacha. His report appears below.**

Seniors in Battle For Finals Berth

One of the many good things about sport is that no matter how bad the result the sun always comes up the next day, but that scenario sure felt under threat on Saturday when Monbulk turned our world upside down.

Sure the warning signs had been there for a few weeks. The Hawks had enjoyed a 70 point win over Upwey and an 80 point win at Berwick Springs.

But even when they slammed on six straight goals in the first quarter no one at the Hawk Nest was expecting them to double their lead by the end of the match. Surely we'd fire a shot or two? Nope didn't happen.

But yes the sun came up on Sunday and we already turned our thoughts to the next month of footy.

This is (roughly) the equation.

If you check the ladder for a five year period- say between 2014 and 2018- you'll find that 10 wins was usually enough to secure a finals spot.

That was in a 10 team competition with at Top Five.

However we have 12 clubs in the current division and there's a Top Six. Currently we're in fifth place with eight wins- two wins clear of Monbulk (which has now moved into the Top Six) and Mt Evelyn.

This is the run home-

OFC -plays Upwey, Pakenham, Wandin, Narre

Monbulk- plays Mt Evelyn, Narre, Pakenham, Officer

Mt Evelyn- plays Monbulk, Woori, Berwick Springs, Narre

So it looks like nine wins will be required to play finals. Monbulk travels to Mt Evelyn on Saturday and you would think The Rovers would have to win that to have a chance of replacing the Hawks in the Top Six.

But as a famous old OFC fan called Larry Beckett once said " you now what lads, footy can be a funny game". We're tipping the Top Six won't change.

Monbulk 13.9.87 OFC 1.7.13

**Best Players- Matthew Scharenberg, Josh Wallis, Mathieu Rosier, Peter Lucas,
Patrick Rosier, Francis Seal
Goal Scorer-Mathieu Rosier**

BTW- Monbulk historian, and former president, Armin Richter has a vast knowledge of local footie and was able to recall a game in the mid 1990s when The Hawks restricted us to just 1.3 in a mud heap at Olinda. Armin's contribution came from a good place but sadly it didn't lift our spirits at 4.45 on Saturday.



Help us out here guys- was this the mid 90's Mud Mayhem game when Monnie kept us to nine points ?

C Grade See Win

Congrats to C Grade who enjoyed an upset win at Monbulk and put some pressure on The Hawks campaign to make finals.

Romy Rankin played just her second game of the season and along with the two Sarahs (Kennedy and Seddon) gave the team some much needed experience , and calmness under pressure. We were a goal down at quarter time but clawed our way to a three goal lead at the last break and went on to win by four.



Sarah Seddon and Romy Rankin added vast experience to our C Grade defence

Can the girls do it again when they play another potential finalist, Upwey, this week
?!

A couple of footnotes- if you've checked the scores at "Game HQ" you'll notice Molly Jones apparently threw 19 goals after shooting just three goals for the entire season !!! What a story!

In fact the scores have been entered incorrectly and it was of course Rianne Fraser who top the scoring list in her first game back for a month. Boy have we missed her
!

Youngster Matilda Brewster shot eight goals. to go with her seven in the earlier game in D Grade, and is really finding her feet.

Monbulk 23 OFC 27

Best players-Rianne Fraser, Sarah Kennedy, Romy Rankin

Goal Scorers- Rianne Fraser 19, Matilda Brewster 8

Under 18s Still In Finals Race

Despite the loss to Healesville on Saturday morning OFC is still clinging to fourth place on the ladder- and this week we play fifth placed Upwey.
And how about this for a nail biting finish to the season- there are only three games

to go in the Under18s and in two of those matches OFC and Upwey will clash. Both games are at Olinda.

In between those matches OFC hosts Healesville and Upwey meets bottom team Seville so clearly our fate is in our hands.



Kit Sutton takes a big grab at Healesville- Jess Winters has the best view in town.

Meantime we sent a scare through the Healesville camp with a three goal first quarter on Saturday- however they gradually pegged us back to build a three goal lead by the last break and went on with it from there.



***This time it's Campbell Hutchin taking a big grab with Kit looking on.
Thanks to Bek Hutchin for the pics (we featured Campbell because it's a ripper
grab, not because it's the photographer's son)***

From the desk of coach Scotty-

Back to the large expanses at Healesville and the boys got off to a fantastic start in the first quarter to go into the break with a lead. Unfortunately the momentum couldn't be sustained and Healesville came away with a 34 point win. Consistency for four quarters is what we need to concentrate on as we had plenty of good patches and opportunities throughout the game but didn't capitalise. Etienne Griersmith-Rowe continued his stellar season with his impressive workrate and his "will" to get from contest to contest. Zach Seal also gave us plenty of run off half-back. It was great to see skipper Charlie Hooper making an impact not only just up forward but in midfield as well. U/16 boys Lachlan Tonkin and Lenny Barry continued their improvement. With an extremely important three weeks to go the boys will need to bring their best, which is capable of beating anyone, to move into finals contention.

Healesville 9.12.66 OFC 5.2.32

**Best Players-Etienne Griersmith-Rowe, Zachary Seal, Charlie Hooper, Max Monkhorst, Lachlan Tonkin, Campbell Hutchin
Goal Scorers- Charlie Hooper 2, Samuel Blenkiron 1, Mathtas Sleeth 1, Tavish Aitken 1.**

Under 18s in 2025

Meantime Outer East has made an early commitment to fielding an Under 18 competition in 2025.

This year they have fielded U/18s AND U/19s.

This move makes sense because it dovetails nicely with the Junior competition where the oldest age group is U/16.

How will this impact us ? Most of our current team are U/18 again next season- they'll be joined by a batch of boys coming up from U/16 so we should have a strong squad of "kids".

A small number of boys will transition to senior football , among them the exciting young midfielders Mattias Sleeth and Bon Sullivan plus emerging ruck talent Max Monkhorst who's already been having an impact in the Twos.

Community Bank Shield Up For Grabs On Saturday

OFC and Upwey will do battle for the Dandenong Ranges Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) Shield on Saturday.

The Shield is currently held up Upwey- and we really want to "bring it home". \$1,000 will also be up for grabs. The Bank is donating \$500 to the winning team and another \$500 worth of canteen vouchers.



Bank staff will be on hand. Talk to them about your current mortgage situation- can you do better ?

Ask them about business or personal loans- it's all informal and a rare opportunity to get professional advice with no strings attached.

Many of us took our business to the Community Bank some years ago because -

1. you get personal service- you can actually walk into the bank and talk to someone.

2. there's a financial kickback for the Club.

3. the Bank has tipped millions of dollars into our local communities (in fact we couldn't have built our Club Rooms without them).

We thank Life Member, and Bank director, John Faull, for his continued advocacy on our behalf. Let's get behind Jonnie- and the Bank.

Ressies- Hopes Washed Away.

As we've seen a few times this year our younger and quicker Twos team struggles in the wet against the bigger bodied teams.

It happened again at Monbulk, even as we outplayed and outscored The Hawks in the first half of the match (3.6 to 3.3 at half time).

A couple of things then happened- OFC players abided by League directives and remained on the ground during the half time break- in freezing conditions and heavy rain. The umpires and the home team went inside.

We also lost one of our key players, Darcy Faulkner to a leg injury.

After the break we seemed to play reactive footy- we didn't score in the second half while Monbulk booted another three goals.

We're not going to dwell on this fixture but a couple of things need highlighting- Rhys Cottam-Starkey was awesome in his first game since mid June, Josh Yuki had his best game of the season and U/18 skipper Charlie Hooper kicked his first goal in the seniors.

Monbulk 6.10.46 OFC 3.6.24

Best Players-Chris Darling, Josh Yuki, Angus Nelson, Oliver Clarke, Rhys Cottam-Starkey, Connor Keegan

Goal Scorers- Charlie Hooper 1, Zach Seal 1, Ollie Clarke 1



Meantime Theo "Zed Man" Zaharopoulos has confirmed he won't be coaching the Twos in 2025. Theo is also stepping back from his role on SMG. Basically he's been doing the work of two people (while also featuring on Reality TV!!)

We asked Theo about his decision- "I love OFC, the people and the culture, I couldn't imagine gong anywhere else. My decision is purely to have a commitment free 12 months away from footy to recharge. I've also started a new job in the corporate world (in the City) so that new commitment along with the family doesn't leave much time for footy.

I hope to be back after a break and will still be spruiking OFC to potential recruits." From the President- "Theo has been a huge asset on SMG and as Reserves Coach. He'll be greatly missed and we thank him profusely for his contribution to our wonderful Club."

Our door is always open for The Zed Man.

Biggest Social Night in the Hills Coming Soon

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: olindaefcnc@gmail.com

Tickets bought via transfer (\$50)

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Our First Netball Flag- 10 Years After

Wow, is it really 10 years since we won our first netball flag !

Where did that decade go ?

To recognise the anniversary the girls are getting back together during the Wandin round (Aug 17), More about that wonderful Flag victory closer to the day.



Tenth year anniversary of our first flag win- celebrations coming soon to some Social Rooms near you

Two members of this team have played matches for us this year- can you name them ?

Meantime- A Grade- so that was a really tough day at a really wet "office". Just like the senior footy we move on quickly.

Best Players- Jess McCall, Natalia Moraitis, Harper Scott



Co captain Ella Grigg- trying to stop the goal scoring deluge in the heavy rain.

B Grade was more competitive than "A" losing by 10- youngster Rianne Fraser stepped up with 14 goals in just her second game in B Grade- her season total is up to 281.

Best Players- Cate Anderson, Sofia Mikulcic, Emily McCall



Teenagers Millie Grigg and Rianne Fraser in B Grade action

D Grade's team was padded out by footballers Ness Bateman and "X" Box. Down by nine goals at the last break the girls didn't concede and fought back to lose by

six.

Best Players-Jasmin Donner, Martha Box, Matilda Brewster



Jas Donner was among our best players in defence in the previous round- this week she stepped up in attack !

Women Show Courage In Big Win At Belgrave

By Sacha Sullivan.

Olinda Women's triumphed in their most brutal contest of the season so far,

keeping Belgrave scoreless and running away 27 point winners at Belgrave on Saturday night.

The game itself could be described as spiteful, with Olinda players being slung multiple times, one elbowed in the head and another sent to hospital with an ankle injury.

Rather than recoiling, our girls met aggression with aggression and showed no signs of being intimidated, tackling and bumping their Belgrave counterparts off the ball at every opportunity. What is equally pleasing is that Olinda would not be drawn in to playing a roaming scrum style, but were able to play the game they wanted to play, showing some of the best, cleanest ball movement of the season. Coach Simon said “ I think it’s easily our most complete performance of the season so far”. What was most pleasing, was that every single player contributed to the win, and this is the driving ambition of any team in any sport.

Olinda’s Coaches take “stat points” on every game, measuring acts such as effective kicks, handballs and marks, as well as tackles, spoils, bumps and creating stoppages. Olinda’s highest stat point games in it’s history were the 2 finals last year. Olinda’s first quarter on Saturday was the highest ranking quarter since those games, which is very encouraging for the post season. This year, an average of 6 players per game achieve a rank of over 20 points which is considered a very good game. On Saturday 12 players reached that mark which also bodes very well. In yet another positive, a number of Olinda players played their best games of the season to date.

It was a dark night



It was a dark night for The Magpies with Chelsea Wilson about to put us further ahead.

Coach Simon has been concentrating heavily on positioning , and Saturday proved the message is getting through, players with the ball having many more targets to kick to around the ground and especially the forward line.

One early example of this came at the 10 minute mark of the first quarter when Captain Courageous Claire (Bear) Hyett won a contest in the centre and powered to centre half forward, firing a perfect pass into the hands of Amalija (Mars) Kostich-Angerson in the left forward pocket. Marsie went back and kicked a perfect drop punt to the top of the square, where Maddy (MadDog) Collins took a strong contested clunk against 3 Belgrave defenders. Mads calmly slotted the goal and it really was an impressive execution of the type of forward entries Olinda are striving for.

At the 7 minute mark of the second quarter, the ball was deep in Olinda's forward line and Ruby (Dukes) Gilson was holding her wing position wide in Olinda's defensive wall. As a Belgrave player looked to clear the ball, Olivia (The Weapon) Edwards managed to affect a tackle, causing the kick to hack. Ruby Dukes burned off her opponent and scooped up the ball, and not breaking stride kicked a perfect drop punt from long range, the ball sailing straight over the goal umpire's head.



Ruby Gilson swooped on a loose ball- and kicked a ripper goal on the run.

In any other side in the competition this would have been goal of the year, but Olinda has a certain Weapon who kicks goal of the year most weeks! In the last quarter, Olinda swung some changes and moved Jacquie (The Giant

Slayer) Ring into the ruck and Chelsea (The Big Kahuna) Wilson to full forward. At the 7 minute mark , Jac fired out a handball from the centre to Miss Football Lily (Laser) Carlin who sprinted clear of her chasing opponent and thundered a peach of a long range pass onto the chest of a leading Maddy MadDog. Coach Simon suggested that this might be the best individual kick of the season, so long, fast and straight it travelled. Mads pushed back hard then sighted The Big Kahuna charging out from the goal square, then hit her lace out in a perfect pass. Chelsea went back and slotted the goal post high in a rapturous moment for the team. These would be Olinda's only 3 goals for the evening, but there would be plenty of chances in between, the side kicking 9 points and a few missing altogether. There were also a plethora of individual and team highlights throughout the match. Rather than individual shout outs, which every member of the squad of 21 deserves, I will instead give a shout out to the 3 lines who all performed their task superbly :

BACKLINE – After a disjointed start to the season, are firming as this season's heroes. Martha ("X") Box, Anja (Onions) Hulston, Anna (Goanna) Hughson, Kyah (The Missile) Barry, Maeve (Nightlife) Higgins, Kiah (Strapper) Burgess and newly anointed member Ash (Thommo) Thompson have kept their immediate opponents goalless for the second week in a row. Zero points in total for the opposition is a momentous achievement indeed.

MIDFIELD – A powerful comeback after last week's disappointing loss. Collectively were very influential getting clearances, and 2 way running, impacting at both ends of the ground. Chelsea (The Big Kahuna) Wilson, Claire (Bear) Hyett, Lily (Laser) Carlin, Nessy (Westside) Curnow (nee Bateman), Ruby (Dukes) Gilson and Lucy (The Boogie Woman) Hilton were humming like a well oiled machine on Saturday and set the tone with their fierce contested work. Ok, one special shout out....how good is it to see Lucy (Goose) settling back in after a long absence. It's heartwarming to see her at the bottom of every pack where she belongs! Thoughts go out to Ness too, who was having a massive game before a traumatic ankle injury ruined her night halfway through the third quarter, sending her off to hospital. Get better soon Ness, we need you!

FORWARD LINE – Was a bit of a wasteland last week. This week looked organised, energised and cohesive. Liv (The Weapon!) Edwards, Maddy (MadDog) Collins, Charlotte (Webby) Edwards, Eloise (Ello) Tyler, Jacqui (The giant Slayer) Ring, Amalija (Mars) Kostich-Angerson and Charli (Chucky) Humphries are all oozing with talent and are surely the most dangerous unit in the competition when on song. Overall, it was a very powerful team performance which was a pleasure to watch. Hopefully we get to see more football like this for a few more weeks (4 preferably!!). Hosting Berwick Springs at home next Saturday twilight, if the Bloods girls play anywhere near the level they did in this game, you'd be mad to miss it.

Snow at Olinda ?

There was plenty of snow about on Melbourne's outskirts last weekend- but none Up Top.

It's interesting that people from the Flatlands who have played footy or netball at Olinda often seem to have stories about the snow.

But , in contrast, our players often say it doesn't snow as much as people claim and we hardly ever see it !

All we can say is that when it DOES snow it often creates news.

This is from The Sun newspaper in July 1952- two things stand out- firstly the amount of snow that had fallen and secondly the two teams that were playing in the snow. Neither team was Olinda.

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Probably our all time snow pic is this one- the ground is being marked out with a leaf blower !!



This pic is from Aug 11 2019- juniors are hosting a finals day !!! The only way to mark out the ground was with a leaf blower .

Juniors Host Finals

The dust is settling on another successful home and away season for the Young Bloods with the U16s, U14 boys and U11s getting through to finals **AND PLAYING AT HOME THIS SUNDAY.**

Firstly, it's worth recognising the teams that didn't make finals. The U12 Girls and the U13 Boys were in it right until the last round where results didn't go their way! The U14 Girls were a headache to their competition but several narrow loses to the top sides kept them out. Congratulations on great seasons, all three teams

surpassing expectations!

We also need to recognise the silverware already won by the U10 Girls and the U9s winning their respective Lightning Premierships! Both sides went through their comps undefeated! There's a few players to watch out of this group! Billie James-Hodge tells me she kicked over 20 goals in the U10 Girls carnival!!

And for this week, we see the U11s, U14 Boys and U16 Boys in action.

Tim Francis' U11's have had a really strong season finishing 2nd on their ladder. Emerald will have a tough day down at Talaskia against Upwey whilst we face Woori at home. It's a tough comp and anyone can probably win it so get behind the boys as they give it a real crack!

The U14s, coached by senior players Lachie, Pat and Frank have gone through the season undefeated and really haven't been challenged. Finals is a whole new game though and they'll have to stay switch on for the next few weeks. It's great footy to watch with high scoring, great ball movement and some really talented players that will have an impact at senior level in the next few years so don't miss this one!

And finally, Scotty's U16s will be trying to set the cat amongst the pigeons in the top division of the U16s. Their best footy is really good and they'll lift with your support as they try and knock off Mt Evelyn. With several players already tasting senior football, they'll be up for the fight!!

Huge congrats to Simon and all the OFCJFC crew on a great season (with more to come).

All Star Voting

Franks Fighter back up the top this week, with a good spread of votes over 5 teams to Frank Seal, Zach Seal, Campbell Hutchin, Ruby Gilson, Nat Moraitis and Jaz Donner.

Things must be getting tight up the top of the Leaderboard, with projected leader Lily's Legends being cruelled by injuries and some of the bottom ranked sides starting to find form.



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



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