



OLINDA FERNY CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual General Meeting
MONDAY 14th October 2024





2024

Annual General Meeting MONDAY

14th October 2024

Olinda Reserve Clubrooms

AGENDA

1. Presidents Address
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of Previous AGM - business arising, move and accept.
4. Reports as presented in the Annual Report: -
 - Presidents Report:
 - Secretaries Report:
 - Treasurer:
Present 2024 Financial Statements.
 - SMG Report
 - Football Coaches Report
 - Netball Coaches Report
5. All Positions Declared Vacant

TEMPORARY AGM CHAIRPERSON replacing outgoing President.

6. 2024/25 Committee elected – President elect then takes the chair.
7. General Business:
 - Motion to ratify the Life Membership to Dave Noorda.
 - U18 medal dedication.
 - Medal presentation for every 50 games after the first 100.
8. Next Meeting: TBA 9. Meeting Closed.



PREVIOUS MINUTES

Annual General Committee Meeting: Monday 23 October 2023 Club Rooms / Olinda Recreation Reserve

Meeting opened: 7:17pm

1. ATTENDEES:

Leanne Jarchow, Mick Hill, Mick Beattie, Ian Taylor, Carey Williams, Paul Wicks, Neil Arnold, Grant Faull, Trevor Currie, Bruce Lowery, Matt Styring, Rick Wall, Geoff Horner, David Ardley, Derry Robertson, Paul Steen, Theo Zaharopoulos, Patrick Ford, Chris Lucas, Jack Lucas, Ross Seymour, Lachlan Taylor, Matt Blanchard, Dylan Wilson, Rachelle Credlin, Josh Wallis, Sacha Sullivan.

2. APOLOGIES:

Jacqui Wicks, Ben Selby-Hele, Tim Scott

3. 2021 MINUTES:

Ratification of 2022 minutes:

Moved: Carey Williams **Seconded:** Neil Arnold **Adopted**

4. 2022 REPORTS:

President	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Secretary	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Treasurer	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
SMG	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Netball Squad	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Senior Football Coach	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Women's Football Coach	– Report as tabled in Annual Report
Reserves Football Coach	– Report as tabled in Annual Report

All reports accepted as read.

Moved: Geoff Horner **Seconded:** Paul Wicks **Accepted**

5. Business Arising:

- Treasurer query confirming gate revenue down compared to 2022 due to not fielding U18 football and netball court works.
 - SMG/ Bruce Lowery paid tribute to Mick Hill for all his hard work as President.
- All reports accepted as read.

Moved: Geoff Horner **Seconded:** Paul Wicks **Accepted**

6. Independent Chairperson

The 2022 Committee was discharged. Ian Taylor then took the temporary chairperson role.

7. Nominations received prior to meeting and ratified:

President: Ben Selby-Hele.

Nominated by Carey Williams 2nd Derry Robertson. Accepted



Vice President: Patrick ‘Paddy’ Ford.

Nominated by Ben Selby-Hele 2nd Mick Hill. Accepted **Treasurer: Ross Seymour.**

Nominated by Carey Williams 2nd Ian Taylor. Accepted

Secretary: Carey Williams. Nominated by Ian Taylor 2nd Neil Arnold. Accepted

General committee member:

Liam Smith. Nominated by Paddy Ford 2nd Josh Wallis. Accepted

Ian Taylor. Nominated by Carey Williams 2nd Ross Seymour. Accepted

Email 18/10: **Dana Millwood.** Nominated by Carey Williams 2nd Ben Selby Hele. Accepted

Off the floor: **Paul Steen** Nominated by Rick Wall – declined.

Josh Wallis Nominated by Ian Taylor – declined.

8. SPECIAL / GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Paddy Ford chairs meeting in Ben Selby-Hele absence. Report tabled.
- Welcome back and congratulations to Dylan Wilson on his Senior Coaching role for 2024.
- Question on car park, it's surface / scope of works.

9. MEETING CLOSED: 8.03pm

10. NEXT MEETING: To be advised 2024.

2024

Committee of Management

President:	Ben Selby-Hele
Vice Presidents:	Patrick “Paddy” Ford
Secretary:	Carey Williams
Treasurer:	Ross Seymour
Hilltop Representative:	Carey Williams & Ben Selby-Hele
General Committee:	Liam Smith, Melanie Thomas, Dana Millwood, Ian Taylor

Sports Management
Group:

Ben Selby
Theo Zaharopoulos
Dana Millwood



PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Ben Selby-Hele

I am honoured to have served this great club in this my inaugural year as President. This decision was based on the recognition that OFCFNC needed a younger and re energised leadership to take it forward.

Nonetheless, I have the utmost respect, admiration and gratitude of the previous committee, SMG & volunteers who had worked tirelessly for years and decades to make OFCFNC a flagship community sporting club. To Mick Hill, Bruce Lowery, Grant Faul, Rick Wall and the many others who make themselves available to answer my calls, questions and offer constructive feedback as I navigated this year - THANKYOU.

Season 2024 will be remembered as a rebuilding year. A new committee (excluding x1). A new senior Netball coach. A new senior Football Coach and several new players certainly has brought a reinvigorated breath of fresh air to Olinda.

It takes a big team to make a club like Olinda happen. It is very important that this team of people are recognised and acknowledged.

To the 2024 Executive committee of Paddy Ford (VP), Carey Williams (Sec) & Ross Seymour (Tres), Thank you for your tireless work and commitment throughout this year your diverse opinions meant there was never a dull moment.

To the general committee of Dana Millwood, Mel Thomas, Liam Smith and Ian Taylor, Thank you for your valued input and ideas.

This club would not exist without volunteers and sponsors. To our major sponsor GCP - Graeme Wilson we Thank you whole heartedly for your 25 plus years of ongoing support of the OFCFNC, this commitment exemplifies community spirit.

To all our sponsors, your contributions make our club viable, and we look forward to working with you again in 2025 and beyond.

To our trainers, coaches, team managers, match day helpers, bar staff, apparel coordinators, kitchen hands, property steward, social media, newsletter, ground marker, timekeeper and everyone else in between - Thankyou.

And finally, to our fine young Netball and Football players. Many of you stepped up this year to help run our club. Be that in the canteen, on the gate, match day preparation or on a committee - Thankyou. To do this, is both internally rewarding and beneficial for our club, a win win for all.

The goal for 2024 was to establish a welcoming and positive culture at OFCFNC. As a result of everyone's efforts and attitudes we were awarded "Best Conducted Club" for 2024 by the league - Well done OFCFNC

Enjoy your summer with Family and friends and I look forward to seeing you all raring to go in 2025.

Ben



SECRETARIES REPORT – CAREY WILLIAMS

2024 started completely fresh. A good size committee and lots of enthusiasm for what the season ahead had in store.

It has been a steep learning curve this season, dealing with the League, the rules, the finer details of what it takes to run a Football / Netball club. After years of experience at the helm, it was back to the start for a lot of us. Thankfully, Mick & Grant have been on hand to help and give much needed advice and guidance when needed.

It takes a village to bring up a child, it takes so much more from that village to run a Club!

With my other apron on, the kitchen has continued to be the place to be (if not on the field or on court) it has been hard work but so much fun. Thanks to those players that fulfilled 'canteen duty', there will be a greater requirement for a regular roster next season so be ready!!

I'm not getting any younger and my desire to continue may require a little more help.

THANK YOU AGAIN....

To Derry, Sheldon, Kim, Kathy thank you all for making our little contribution so much fun and I look forward to 2025.

And to Chris Box who did the 12-2 shift every home game, showing parents never stop helping with their kids sport!

Volunteers are always welcome, there is always something to do and somehow you can help...just ask or say yes when asked!!



League recognitions for 2024, on behalf of OFCFNC I highlight the following club ambassadors mentioned in despatches, and team achievements: -

Senior Men	Semi Finals
Women's Football	Elimination Final
Matt Scharenberg	Outer East Team of the Year.
Olivia Edwards, Charlotte Edwards, Lily Carlin & Chelsea Wilson	Outer East Women's Team of the Year.
Women's Football	Best Conducted Team
Football / Netball	Best Conducted Team



2024 TREASURER'S REPORT – ROSS SEYMOUR

The 2024 season has resulted in a loss to the club of \$40,618. While this is disappointing, I feel the committee has run the club spending as little as possible in running a premier league football netball club. To remain competitive, we must focus on raising more income to avoid future losses. The club has had the luxury of money raised from previous years allowing for this poor year of income.

We had budgeted for sponsorship for 2024 to be \$100,000 but managed to only raise \$63,166 from direct sponsorship. We reintroduced player sponsorship for the 2024 resulting in the club receiving \$21,650 in player sponsors. This raised a further \$11,320 for the club and reduced the players who found sponsorship registration fees by \$10,330. The club needs to focus on growing our sponsorship on all levels and I believe there are some new sponsorship concepts to be launched for the 2025 season.

Fundraising is split into two categories; active fundraising which comprises of player functions and passive fundraising which includes raffles and lotto etc.

The player functions have been exceptionally successful this year and has raised funds well above expected levels. They have also built a culture at the club which helps make OFCFNC a club that I believe people want to be a part of. I would like to thank the work of Lachie, Botch, Ruby, Ness and Mera who put an enormous amount of work into planning, promoting and running these events. Each and every event has been popular and well attended along with being profitable for the club.

There is \$5025.00 of income from 2024 presentation night ticket sales included in fundraising for this year that will have an expense in the 2025 financials.

The passive fundraising of raffles and lotto has raised the club a lot of money over the last few years, but this year has really struggled. I believe there is significant raffle fatigue, and we need to look elsewhere to raise these funds. Fundraising was down \$20,000 on what we had budgeted for.

Our catering has had a successful year, and I would like to thank Carey and her crew for once again providing exceptional food and drink all year. Thank you also to Scott who ran our bar on match days and Ian Taylor who covered the bar most Thursday's and post-match functions. Catering exceeded our budgeted expectations purely a result from Careys tireless work.

The league needs to understand the financial pressure clubs are under. The league is constantly increasing prices for fees, apparel and umpires. They have increased staff for no apparent gain to the clubs or competition but have increased the bureaucracy and compliance which they enforce with monetary penalties. I have a personal issue with the league charging women a fee to play netball and a second fee if they wish to play football. If we are a combined football netball league, each player should only pay one admin fee to the league. My interactions with the league do nothing to make me want to volunteer and contribute at club level with the heavy handed and arrogant manner the league responds. I will not be taking a committee position next year and would like to thank all from this year's committee and the players and coaches for their support over the last year. Ross.

Profit and Loss

Olinda Ferny Creek Football Club

For the year ended 30 September 2024



2024

Trading Income

300 Club memberships	2,554.54
Advertising	18,399.97
Annual Memberships	1,645.45
Apparel Sales	11,781.18
Bar Takings	48,803.22
Canteen Takings	28,394.97
Dinners	18,141.26
Football other income	135.00
Football Player Registrations	19,787.66
Fundraising and Special Events	64,880.59
Game Day Gate	18,069.98
Interest Income	2,312.70
Netball Player Registration	7,030.43
Sponsorship	63,166.35
Total Trading Income	305,103.30

Cost of Sales

Apparel	14,593.53
Canteen Supplies	14,889.81
Dinner Costs	12,146.31
Total Cost of Sales	41,629.65

Gross Profit **263,473.65**

Operating Expenses

Advertising	427.26
Bank Fees	1,450.14
Bar purchases	25,911.26
Cleaning	1,510.90
Contract Payments	161,575.23
End of Year Wrap Up	11,589.75
First Aid and Safety	7,452.64
Football Equipment	4,259.99
Fundraising Expenses	19,245.45
General Expenses	7,654.57
Insurance	4,147.88
League Fee	16,727.29
Light, Power, Heating	5,608.56
Netball Equipment	1,620.88
Office Expenses	286.75
Primary Care	9,100.15
Printing & Stationery	242.54



	2024
Repairs and Maintenance	270.00
Training and Wellbeing	3,934.76
Umpire Fees	21,076.25
Total Operating Expenses	304,092.25
Net Profit	(40,618.60)
Profit and Loss	Olinda Ferny Creek Football Club

Balance Sheet

Olinda Ferny Creek Football Club As at 30 September 2024

	30SEPT2024
Assets	
Bank	
OFCFNC - SMG	1,017.00
OFCFNC Indulgence Raffle	49,003.43
OFCFNC Operating Account	62,020.33
OFCFNC Statement *155	1,154.23
Total Bank Current Assets	113,194.99
Fixed Assets	
Accounts Receivable	1,100.00
Apparel on Hand	8,324.50
Canteen Stock	600.00
Cash floats	1,490.50
Wilson Trust Account	7,797.03
Total Current Assets	19,312.03
Total Assets	162,695.09
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
GST	(1,912.94)
Rounding	0.20
Total Current Liabilities	(1,912.74)
Total Liabilities	(1,912.74)
Net Assets	164,607.83
Equity	
Current Year Earnings	(40,618.60)
Retained Earnings	205,226.43
Total Equity	164,607.83



2024 SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP REPORT – BEN SELBY-HELE

With the departure of Grant Faull, Bruce Lowery & Tim Smith at the conclusion of 2023, 2024 was always going to be a challenge for the SMG. However, step in Theo Zaharopoulos (Football operations) Dana Millwood (Netball Coordinator) and myself as chair and together this team worked tirelessly to ensure that OFCFNC were able to field 7 teams in Premier league Division in 2024

With the departure of Brenden Donovan - Senior Men's Football Coach and Brie de Jong - Netball squad coach. SMG's first and primary role was to secure these two critical coaching positions.

The appointment of Dylan Wilson as Senior Men's Coach sent a buzz of excitement throughout the OFCFNC community. Dylan is highly respected by all and brings a level of professionalism and culture commensurate with OFCFNC values. We look forward to watching Dylan grow and develop as a premier league coach at OFCFNC.

Congratulations Dylan on getting Olinda to the Preliminary finals in this your maiden year of coaching with support and assistance from Matt Scharenberg.

Jake Hederics appointment as A&B Coach has been a breath of fresh air to netball at Olinda in 2024. Jake brings enthusiasm, inclusion and excitement to netball. Jake and Dana have worked closely with all the grades and although we would have liked more wins, 2024 is the beginning of a new era of netball at Olinda - Watch this Space. At the start of this year, it didn't look like we would be able to field U18's football, fast forward and Scott Tonkin has cemented himself as a solid fixture at OFCFNC. Although highly competitive this year the U18 just fell short of finals. One big positive, based on the talent of youth we have the future looks very bright at Olinda.

There are many people that I would like to Thank for making 2024 a very successful year. Theo Zaharopoulos for the countless meetings and hours spent securing players at the start of the season and the too often juggle of finding players to field a reserves team each week during the season

Dana Millwood - For taking on the Netball co-ordinator role and making netball a success in 2024

Pat Seal, Chris Lucas, Malcolm Ryan and Brian Bateman - for being excellent Team Managers.

Liam Smith - For his diligent data entry and constructive committee input.

Andy Greenall - For stepping in whenever required and offering up his home gym to one and all.

Trevor Currie - for running a well-oiled machine property steward machine

Mark Dalziel - For helping out whenever required.

Rick Wall - For Time keeping and Bloodlines- Best read in the Eastern Suburbs

Mick Hill - For blowing the Netball courts clean before training.

Paul Wicks - For line marking, rain, hail and shine and producing a very good E&B Roll.

Matt Ryan - Gate Keeper and purveyor of fine tunes.

To Rach, Jess, Mel, Casey and all the trainers for caring and keeping everyone going. To all the coaches and coaching staff - congratulations on a successful year and we Thank you for promoting football and netball in a positive way.

Bruce Lowery & Grant Faull, for always being available for consultation and feedback.

Dave Noorda for reaching the amazing milestone of 300 games. A Huge achievement well done Dave.

Dana Millwood on achieving 150 games and to all the volunteers that help make game day possible.

With confirmation that Jake Hederics, Dylan Wilson, Scott Tonkin & Simon Gilson will be coaching again our 2025 momentum has already begun. Cont...



2024 SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP REPORT – continued:

In exciting news Simon Gilson will chair SMG in 2025 with Dana Millwood continuing as Netball Coordinator. Simon's cool and thoughtful demeanour will make him the ideal person to carry our club forward in the very important behind the scenes role of SMG chairperson.

I would like to finish by Thanking all those people that supported the tough decisions that SMG had to make earlier in 24 and late 23 for our club to progress to a better version and a desirable place to be.

Ben.

2024 SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP NETBALL REPORT –DANA MILLWOOD

Olinda Ferny Creek Football Netball Club fielded 4 senior netball teams for the 2024 season with 51 netball athletes taking the court during the season. We had a total of 15 new athletes to the club and 8 athletes returned to the club following having some time off. Of the 51 athletes, we had a group of 8 athletes who were available to fill in when required, this included former OFC netball athletes and OFC women's football athletes. I would like to formally thank these players for their support during the season. Unfortunately, the planned under 17's team was withdrawn due to lack of eligible athletes, however the 6 athletes eligible for under 17's all played in senior teams with great success.

Jake Hederics was appointed head coach for the 2024 season and coached A, B and C grade teams: with players Mera Pringle and Sarah Seddon coaching the D grade team and Dana Millwood providing assistant coaching duties for the C grade. Jake has signed as Head Coach for 2025 and will coach A and B grade.

Jake has brought a renewed sense of positivity and respect to the program, and this has shown in the strong training numbers seen throughout the season. Training sessions completed with all teams being able to train together, with the addition of the second netball court over the break between 2023 to 2024. This has brought a greater sense of connection and culture to the program and athletes, with a higher number of netball athletes attending Thursday night post training dinner and social functions. Jake has brought a strong defensive focus to training and a focus on basic skills. Player feedback provided at the conclusion of the season showed a high number of athletes returning to play in 2025.

A major challenge during the season has been covering vacant positions in teams when athletes have been unavailable through illness, injury or holidays. However, this has provided an opportunity for athletes to play in a higher grade and has created pathways for those who are wanting to improve and develop their skills and games. Providing these opportunities, although at times through necessity, has galvanized the strong 'team first' culture we are developing and has seen athletes who have previously played in one team for many seasons really shine and succeed in a high grade. I am extremely proud of the squad this season for their strength and commitment. In 2025, we are aiming to have 9-10 athletes in each team to ensure improved availability and this will be achieved by recruiting between 5-10 netball athletes who are committed to playing a full netball season. This includes the targeted recruitment of 1-2 A grade standard athletes to support the young and developing A grade team.

Another challenge faced has been managing training sessions with one nonplaying coach. This required playing coaches to, at times, step into the 'coach' role and forgo portions of training as a player. The coaching group has worked to provide a high level of training for all ability levels across the squad. I would like to acknowledge the workload of Jake, taking on 3 teams in his first year as head coach. Jake has been supported by Rochelle Mackenzie throughout the year.

Cont.....



2024 SPORTS MANAGEMENT GROUP NETBALL REPORT –continued:

I would like to formally acknowledge and thank Rochelle for her support, particularly for gameday coaching on two occasions when Jake was unavailable due to his state and national team duties.

Recruitment is currently underway for a C and D grade coach for the 2025 season, with Mera and Sarah committing to coaching the under 17's team. This will ensure that training sessions in 2025 will have improved coaching coverage and therefore each team will have more time with their team coach.

Unfortunately, we did not have any teams in the finals in 2024, however the improvement in each team was evident. A grade finished the season off with a close loss to semi-finalists, Wandin, in a live streamed match in round 18, finishing 10th.

B grade had a completely new team in 2024, with no athletes having previously played together. Significant improvement was shown, with the team finishing 10th.

C grade featured athletes new to the section and new to the club, playing multiple games with narrow losses, finishing 10th.

D grade was the best performing team with 6 wins for the season, finishing 9th.

Although the overall win: loss ratio for the year was not the most successful Olinda has seen in recent times, what the squad has gained in terms of positive culture, resilience and unity has shone through. Olinda has supported happy athletes, who enjoy playing netball, whilst also developing their skills and contributing to the club and community. The pathways for athletes to a higher-grade team have been rejuvenated and will continue to be a focus for 2025.

I would like to thank every player, parent and club member for their support in my first year as Netball Coordinator. Particularly the players who helped more than were asked with scoring and increased home game duties this year. I am so proud to represent the club and the netball program and look forward to 2025. Dana

2024 SENIOR FOOTBALL REPORT – DYLAN WILSON

Success is a term often thrown around without proper consideration for what it represents. It can be measured in many ways and can mean vastly different things to different people. Ideas of success range from the material, to the physical, the psychological, and even the spiritual.

So, what is success to OFCFNC, and by extension, the senior football side?

If you ask spectators, sponsors, volunteers, the players, the first thing that would spring to mind is winning.

Winning games and, ideally, winning premierships.

By this measure, we have had a successful year, coming from second bottom in 2023 to a finals win in 2024. However, it is my assertion that winning is, and must always be, secondary to other indicators of success.

I believe Olinda Ferny Creek has always known this, whether it has been explicitly stated or not. Winning is a byproduct of more important things. Deeper things. Club culture, team cohesion, player enjoyment and motivation stemming from feelings of belonging and safety. The club is a place where members of the community get connection and support. Having these as markers of success ensures long-term success. Talent, money, and wins will always ebb and flow across the lifespan of a club, but the deeply engrained values are what make up the club's legacy.

This year we have reconnected with the club's values and taken the first steps in recreating a football environment that people want to be a part of. A program that players seek out, fully understanding that we cannot offer financial incentives that other clubs can, but instead a culture and level of enjoyment and satisfaction that others cannot. Cont..



2024 SENIOR FOOTBALL REPORT continued:

Off-field successes

Development of team values / guiding principles

During preseason, a team meeting was held to explore why everyone who did so, chose to play football at Olinda. Three key themes emerged:

For social reasons (i.e., to play with mates and be part of a great club)

For competitive and performance reasons

For the satisfaction of contributing to something beyond themselves

From this exercise, three guiding principles were established.

“One Club” aimed to acknowledge the diversity of reasons people seek to be involved at Olinda and celebrate them equally. We wanted to strengthen the relationship between all players in all sides; 18s, reserves and seniors. No one should feel that their value as a person is based on their football ability.

“Bloods Footy” aimed to encourage players to take responsibility for the teams they played for. Vocal leadership and empowering our young leaders were a major focus. We also spoke of care; care for each other, care in our football actions, and care in the way we represented ourselves and OFCFNC. In this vein, no leadership group existed this year. Instead, after announcing a Captain and Vice, all players were expected to demonstrate leadership in the ways they could offer.

“The 5th Quarter” encouraged time together even after the game had finished and aimed to contribute to our club’s formidable reputation as one of good quality and character.

Players were encouraged to stay around after every game, home and away, to support our club and others.

On-field successes

Training

There was an emphasis this year on physicality and competitiveness during training sessions. Drills involving 1 v 1 competition featured heavily in preseason, and all training activities had a scoring

system to drive engagement and intensity. In post-season meetings, several players commented that they had not enjoyed training and football as much as they did this year for a long time.

An area we can improve on next year is Tuesday night training. Tuesday nights had consistently lower numbers compared with Thursday nights. This was largely due to other responsibilities such as family or work. It is the coaching panel’s challenge to attempt to shift this trend heading into the 2025 season. There is no black-and-white approach that will solve the issue but more depth in the list certainly helps, putting pressure on players to prove themselves or risk non-selection.

Match Day

I am really pleased with how productive we have been this year. Starting with a blank slate, we have established a clear style of football on both the offensive and defensive ends, which gives the players clarity and stability from which to grow from. Our jump in ladder position comes with the inclusion of only a couple of recruits, highlighting the growth and development in the existing list. With a finals win under the belt, I think our young squad will be starting to believe how good they really are and will be searching for greater heights in the coming years.

Magnets were shifted readily during the year, searching for the best combination. What we found is that there is immense versatility in the list which makes us an adaptable and unpredictable side to play against; qualities that will surely hold us in good stead in future seasons.

Cont...



2024 SENIOR FOOTBALL REPORT continued:

Season Overview

Home was a fortress this year; the boys only dropped two games there and they were late in the piece to the Grand Finalists. Highlights from the year included seeing Bloodbath in full force at home against Gembrook and Narre, with the latter game being ever so close to our first win against Narre and a real statement to the league. Unfortunately, we had some disappointing performances against lowly sides, losing to three teams who didn't make finals. Our results show an alternating rhythm, winning one game, then losing the next. Improving our consistency and creating the right psychological environment for the team on away games are areas we will look to improve next year; this will be a sign of a maturing team.

Coaching and Support

This year I declined to have an assistant coach from the outset; being my first year I wanted to understand what support I required, rather than fill support positions unnecessarily. I did, however, have a lot of support for which I am grateful.

Matt Scharenberg, whose expertise was invaluable as co-coach.

Lachie Taylor was Captain and virtually functioned as my assistant coach, driving standards at training and assisting in the development of drills and sessions.

Sir Trev Currie deserves the very next thank you; reliability personified, he was there from day one ensuring that everything training related was available and in working order, allowing me to focus on the content of sessions.

Scott Barrow came on as a 'coach's assistant' and mentor to me, helping me distil my ideas and messages to their simplest form for maximum impact. Scott is a brilliant mind with experience at the highest level in sport and it is a privilege to have him invested in what's going on at Olinda Ferny Creek.

Tim Scott got involved after his cricket commitments wrapped up and invested a heap of time and energy into me and the team.

Rach and the trainer's team is a constant and we are always extremely grateful for the time they put in.

Thanks to Pat Seal who helped as team manager (not bad on the Rock Trivia table too just quietly). And thanks to Liam Smith who put the team sheet up each week.

There are of course more people who do unseen work – thank you to all who supported me and the team this year. What a pleasure it was, and I look forward to season 2025 already.

Dyl





2024 RESERVES FOOTBALL – THEO ZAHAROPOULOS

2024 was a tough season for the reserves group winning just 4 games and finishing the season with a percentage of 61% at equal bottom position on the ladder. This was after starting the year at 2 wins from the first 3 rounds. One of those wins was against Upwey who played off in the Grand final.

Lack of depth in the playing list, commitment to training, injuries in the seniors, the Under 18's fixture and player availability, lack of game day support regularly resulted in playing short or no interchange bench, a runner or water carriers. Combined all contributed to game day results.

On a positive note, the on-field improvement towards the end of the season was noticeable in the results pushing several stronger clubs throughout each game. The exposure of senior footy to several of the Under 18's boys and seeing them embrace the step up should leave you with confidence success through youth isn't too far away. The emergence of Jack Lucas, strongly supported by Chris Darling as an on-field leader is also a highlight for the club and an opportunity to build on in the future.

It was an absolute pleasure to see David Noorda play his 300th game for the club. An absolute legend and role model for many of the younger players coming through.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the OFCFNC for the opportunity to be the Reserves Coach for the past 4 years. The support I have received from the committee, past and present has been much appreciated.

I also would like to thank Dylan Wilson for his support throughout the season, recognising the challenges the reserves were experiencing and leading the way to ensure inclusiveness.

I do urge the club to strongly consider a strategy for the reserves group moving forward whether that be retaining and encouraging senior players to get more actively involved with this group, not see playing reserves as a demotion and factoring in Reserves depth as part of the senior recruitment strategy. I would also ask for the committee to consider the following initiatives for the reserves to ensure football inclusiveness going forward. Opportunities such as an Anzac Day Medal, standing side by side as opposed to behind, Seniors being more involved on game day, budget for assistant coaches are just some easy quick wins.

Thanks again for the opportunity and best of luck for next year. Theo.





2024 UNDER 18 FOOTBALL – SCOTT TONKIN

Coming into the season the team started off slowly but showed continued progression from round to round. Being majority bottom aged and with new players coming into the team early in the season it took a while for the boys to gel as a unit. We also relied on a few of the under 16 boys to fill in from week to week and they had a significant impact on the team. Thanks to Lachie, Lenny, Aden and Tom.

The continued improvement showed with a good win against eventual runners up Woori Yallock and losing 5 games by under 9 points cost us throughout the season but showed how close we were to getting over the line.

As the team evolved throughout the season, we became more competitive, and this was evident in our last five games culminating in a strong win in the final round of the season against Upwey Tacoma. Unfortunately, we missed out on finals but with the majority of the team bottom age and the development shown I think it holds the team in a good position for next season.

Scott.



JUST SOME OF FACES THAT MADE SEASON 2024 A GOOD ONE.....





2024 SENIOR WOMEN SEASON REPORT – SIMON GILSON

After 2023's successful premiership, the girls were keen to defend their title, and we saw considerable interest from players wanting to join the group. After a serious exploration of fielding two sides, we settled into continuing with the single side but with a host of new players.

It meant that much of our development had to start over, but we were confident that we had picked up some good recruits and that we would have greater depth of players than 2023. The only major concern was going to be leaving girls out of the team when it was full.

From early in the season, though, we were depleted through injury to key players across the ground. Our midfield setup was almost entirely new and, with a young ruck learning her craft, we also had to redevelop how we wanted to win stoppages and centre bounces. We also had considerable changes in our backline, which were further exacerbated by a significant injury to Chloe Kanally in round 1. Whilst we got to Round 6 with only 1 win, we had played all the top sides (including Healesville and Pakenham twice) and thought we were playing some good footy and developing our game plan.

The period up to the bye in Round 12 saw us win 3 must-win games against the sides below us on the ladder but injury and girls travelling started to take its toll. Ironically, this was the turning point of our season. Our worst performance of the season was round 11 against Healesville and we really needed to work on our connection in the coming weeks. In horrible conditions out at Berwick Springs in round 12, the girls fought and scrapped their way through the game, eventually even winning the last quarter despite being two players down. Whilst it was a horrible day, the girls came away from the game with a newfound belief in each other. Both the coaches and players all agree this was one of the best wins the women have ever had.

This positive outlook was cemented by a win away against Upwey that would lock us into finals, again in terrible conditions. We fought out a tough loss away against Pakenham, which could have gone either way, comfortably beat Belgrave and then smashed Berwick Springs by over 12 goals in the final round. This should have been a perfect ramp into finals in a similar position to last year. But the final round was costly as we lost 5 players for the elimination final against Upwey. Missing key players and having 3 players fielding significant injuries, we couldn't match a determined Upwey outfit.

Whilst immensely disappointed to bow out in the first round of finals, I think this was more because it feels like we didn't get to give finals our best shot. We were playing our best footy by the end of the season and we would have been a headache to either Healesville or Pakenham if given the chance.

Nevertheless, I think the season has been successful.

We've had 37 girls register and play with us over the year (Grace was the only girl that didn't play a game). 19 girls that didn't play in 2023 played at least one game in 2024!

We've had two players reach 50 senior games for Olinda - foundation players Claire Hyett and Casey Seymour. Both have been instrumental to the success of the team to date and can hold their heads high knowing their hard work and dedication has paid dividends as women's football has thrived at Olinda.

We are also starting to see some of the younger girls really develop over the season, which has been really pleasing. The way we play is becoming more sophisticated as the girls learn the game more and develop their skills. Many of our recruits have shown they will be invaluable additions to the team in coming years and we still had new players coming in late in the season that we expect to play in 2025.

Cont...



2024 SENIOR WOMEN SEASON REPORT – continued:

With some of the girls also training and playing in VFLW/Ranges squads, we are also seeing some of the high-level game development filter through into our footy.

Whilst there were a few girls drop away over the course of the season, this has proven to be the norm since we started. This seems to be from the girls approaching their footy more from the social side. This is why, over time, it is critical to look to field two sides - to give girls who are not so serious about their footy a place where they can get plenty of game time and enjoy their footy without too much expectation whilst we continue to develop a side focused on improving both individually and as a team. Women's footy at Olinda will only be better for it.

Both Healesville and Pakenham will remain the teams to beat in 2025 and we look forward to the challenge!

Simon.



NETBALL SQUAD REPORT – JAKE HEDERICS

At the start of the 2024 season, I had mixed expectations as the new Netball coach at Olinda FCNFC. It quickly became clear that the club was undergoing significant changes with a new look committee, netball coach and netball coordinator. Many athletes chose not to return, leading to an influx of new players and a unique opportunity to rebrand and rebuild our Netball program.

Our primary focus was on developing a new culture and identity for Olinda Netball. With numerous athletes moving up to higher divisions and joining new teams, it has been incredibly rewarding to witness their growth and resilience in facing these challenges. While we acknowledged our club's history, we prioritised empowering our players to shape the future and to foster an environment of joy and support.

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NETBALL SQUAD REPORT – continued:

Despite facing many challenges and not achieving the level of success our club was used to, our players demonstrated remarkable grit and perseverance. The hardships we encountered only strengthened our resolve, teaching us that struggle builds resilience. I am continually inspired by our athletes' optimism and their commitment to supporting one another throughout the season.

As we look ahead, I am excited to recommit to this journey in 2025. It will be thrilling to see where this club goes moving forward, and I am optimistic about the potential that lies ahead for our Netball community.

Jake.





**NETBALL RISING STAR
2024**

RIANNE FRASER



**NETBALL
SQUAD PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

2024

SARAH KENNEDY & MERA PRINGLE



**CONGRATULATIONS
CHARLES 'POP' SWYER CLUB AWARD**

DANA MILLWOOD



**CONGRATULATIONS
GREG ZAVAN CLUB AWARD**

MERA PRINGLE





**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
DESERVED LIFE MEMBER:**

DAVID NOORDA



**MILESTONE GAMES
300 GAMES**

DAVID NOORDA



**MILESTONE GAMES
150 GAMES**

DANA MILLWOOD



**MILESTONE GAMES
100 GAMES**

**LACHLAN TAYLOR
&
PATRICK ROSIER**





2024 TEAM OF THE YEAR INDUCTEES

L>R

CHARLOTTE EDWARDS, CHELSEA WILSON,
LILY CARLIN & OLIVIA EDWARDS.

MATT SCHARENBERG



BEST CONDUCTED CLUB

WOMENS 1st DIVISION & PREMIER FOOTBALL NETBALL



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