

# **NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB**

**December 2021 Edition**

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## **2021 SEASON SUMMARY**

In the end it was a case of “what could have been” for us in the 2021 BFNL Season. With community contact sport suspended following Round 17 due to the imposition of Covid Restrictions the inevitable decision was made to abandon the remainder of the 2021 season including the finals series.

The no finals outcome was a hugely disappointing finish to the season for our club with 2 out of 3 football sides and 5 out of 5 netball sides finishing in their respective top 5's, a successful season by any measure. It has been over 10 years since our senior football side qualified for finals and to have all grades of netball in the finals is an outstanding achievement by our netball Division. All involved were optimistic about our chances playing in the finals and were very keen to see how far our teams could go this year. The foundations have been laid for much better things to come.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September was to be the Club's B&F vote count and presentation night at the All Seasons Hotel. Unfortunately, due to the Covid Restrictions, the gala event could not proceed and the vote count was live streamed via Facebook. Despite this being a fallback option, the format proved successful with over 500 people going online to watch the event live. Football Operations Manager Gary Bath along with Netball Operations Manager Gill Davey conducted the counts and interviewed Senior coaches Nathan Horbury and Jannelle Hobbs on the respective performances of all the individual B&F winners this season.

First year player Cooper Leon was the Clubs Senior Football Champion despite missing 3 games of the shortened 13 Round Season. A performance that bears testament to the impact he has had since arriving at our club. Young gun netballer Chloe Langley went “back to back” in winning her second Bloods A Grade Netball B&F award despite likewise missing 2 games due to Covid lockdowns during the shortened season. Both young athletes epitomise the club values of character first and being the best you can be.



The Club extends our sincere thanks to our all of our hardworking coaches, in particular Senior Football Co-Captain Zac Hare who stepped up at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to fill the vacant Under 18's position on top of his other commitments within the club. We would also especially like to acknowledge the ongoing great job our Senior Coaches Nathan Horbury and Jannelle Hobbs are doing, their work is underpinning our continuously improving competitive performances ably assisted by their respective assistant coaches and team managers,



**Nathan Horbury**



**Jannelle Hobbs**



**Zac Hare**

For an a more complete overview of the Netball and Football Departments activities in 2021 see Football Operations Manager Gary Bath and Netball Operations Manager Gill Davey's reports further on in this document. While on this subject I would again like to acknowledge the great amount of "behind the scenes" work done by both individuals which extends well beyond training nights and game days. Their contribution to the club is enormous.

Our Junior Divisions remain crucial to the future of our club and continuing this important work in 2021 were our Junior Presidents; Shaun Langdon in Junior Football and Nicole Georgeson in Junior Netball. The amount of unseen, behind the scenes communication required and work needed in these roles is immense. A difficult job of critical importance to the future and sustainability of our club which again has been so well done by both of you.

The current state of our Junior Divisions provides strong platforms to create a sustainable pathway for our young players to represent South Bendigo at a senior level on both football field and netball court in the years to come. The club extends its sincere thanks to all our dedicated coaches and hardworking officials who ensure the efficient running of our junior ranks.

For an overview of both Junior Divisions activities in 2020 see their respective Presidents reports further on in this report.

Contractors for the City of Greater Bendigo commenced work on our new pavilion at Kennington Recreation Reserve (Harry Trott Oval) with temporary infrastructure arriving on the site in May 2021 and works are progressing on schedule for a completion date in July 2022. This project has been allocated significant funding by both the City of Bendigo and by the Victorian State Government and the Club is most grateful for the support provided to community sport which is being delivered through the South Bendigo Football Netball Club.

Productive and cooperative planning is currently taking place between our club representatives, Bendigo United Cricket Club and Council Officers on the buildings finer design issues and layout. A "Principles of Shared Seasonal Use" MOU has been agreed to

between both Clubs and has been forwarded to the Council for approval and sign off. To date relationship building and the development of a common understanding between BUCC's and ourselves has been very positive and progressing well over the past 12 months.

With the expected completion date of the pavilion building project being in July next year the club has requested all our Season 2022 home games be played at the QEO for one more year. This will provide certainty in fixturing and club event planning in the event the completion date is extended beyond that date for any reason.



Turning to club financial matters, we have managed another noteworthy financial outcome at the end of a second year without crowds at home games and minimal activity in our Social Rooms, including protracted periods where we were unable to operate BINGO sessions. Despite these significant shortfalls in our normal business plan cash flows we were still able to cover all expenses and return a significant profit in Club operations in 2021 and for the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

The ongoing amazing support from our sponsors and a concerted effort to apply for every support grant available to us made the difference in what has been another difficult year.

The South Bendigo Football Netball Club is extremely appreciative of the following sponsors for their continued and generous support of the Bloods in 2021.

**2021 MAJOR SPONSORS:**

- BLR Provincial Construction
- On Site Laboratory Services
- Erindale Farm Butchery
- The Old Boundary Hotel
- Grill'd
- Kennington Tavern
- MGR Accountants
- All Seasons Hotel

We truly value the relationships we have built with our sponsors and their willingness to partner with our club and I would again like to acknowledge the invaluable work done in this area by Vice President Rick Townsend.

Across 2021 we have been able to continue obtaining income through successful grant applications. The following dot points highlight the most significant sources with full details itemised in the financial report.

- **Dept Jobs, Precincts and Regions** - Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund
- **Sports Victoria** – Community Sport COVID-19 Survival Package
- **AFL** – Strategic Community Investment Fund
- **TAC** – Club Rewards Program

The Club would like to recognise and pass on our thanks and appreciation to Nicole Georgeson for her outstanding work in this area again this year.

Finally, while on financial matters, I would like to recognise the work of our “reluctant” Club Treasurer Julie Drake and Rick Townsend for their ongoing stewardship of our Club’s finances. At times a thankless task but one critical to the smooth operation of all sectors of the Club and one that extends across the entire year, not just the winter season. Thank you both for your valuable contribution.

The big issue continuing to confront the club and fundamental to future success and sustainability is the need for an increase in numbers and a generational change in our off-field team. The Club has made a concerted effort in respect to recruitment this year. A “working party” of past players was formed and their ideas were sought on not only other suitable past players but people with no connection to the club who could be potential candidates to approach. After many phone calls and numerous meetings over coffee, the results will see some new faces on the committee in 2022. All embody the Club value of “character first” and all have their own special skill sets which can only strengthen the club. We are excited by the talent we are bringing on board next year and we warmly welcome them all to the Bloods family.

I am aware that you always risk missing someone when singling out people to thank but there are a number of people whose contribution across the season, if not the entire year, warrants special mention and while I have referred to some of these people earlier in this report the ongoing work of the club’s Executive Committee has been fantastic again throughout 2021. So, to Vice President Rick Townsend, Secretary Rob Robertson, Treasurer Julie Drake, Sports Operations Managers Gill Davey and Gary Bath and Junior Presidents Nicole Georgeson and Shaun Langdon thank you for your valued contributions to the South Bendigo Football Netball Club in 2021.

To the Club’s hard workers whose input is immeasurable; Marie and Ron Hiatt who manage the canteen, Gary Westcott and Kerry Cranage who operate our Bingo sessions and one of the hardest workers of all Wally Walker who does everything and anything we ask him to, thanks for efforts over the year.

A special thanks to Committee member Jenny Arnold who in addition to organizing the club’s training teas, an average 78 meals a night over the 11 weeks this year, is also the club’s representative on the committee of the Bendigo FIDA Suns. Inclusion is a key component of the club’s value of “be nice to people” and Jenny’s ongoing work with the Suns is acknowledged and appreciated both by them and by us.

Overall, at the end of the 2021 season the club is in a sound position. Looking at the objectives of our 2019 -23 Strategic Plan we have either met or are progressing positively towards achieving all of the key result areas. Our financial position is solid, our on-field continuous improvement has seen both A Grade Netball and Senior Football make top 5 this year and there is now a firm timeline in place for our relocation to our new home in Southeast Bendigo at Harry Trott Oval.

This AGM ends my third and final year as President of the club. The cricket writer Gideon Haigh once said his cricket career was based more around his availability than his cricket ability and I suspect my tenure in this position similarly has had as much to do with that as anything else. Nevertheless, it has been a great privilege to hold such a position in a club that I have supported since I was a young boy and in line with our club value, I have tried to be the best I can be in the role.

My sincere thanks to everyone involved at South Bendigo for your support and friendship, not only over this past year but throughout my term as President. I, like all of you, look forward with great optimism and anticipation of the success which no doubt the future holds for this great Club.



**Alan Ellis  
President.  
SBFNC.**



**Character First  
Be the Best You Can Be  
Be Nice to People**

## VALE #8 PETER HUTCHESON

The club was saddened by the passing of one of its' great players in Peter Hutcheson earlier this month. "Hutchy" was a dual Bloods Premiership player, being a member of Colin Rice's 1969 side and Bernie McCarthy's team in 1974. A club leading goal kicker on several occasions Peter also won the BFL's Leading Goal Kicker Award in 1972.

The following piece was written by Peter's brother-in-law Jack Coyne and makes a fitting tribute to one of the greats from the successful 1960's and 70's chapters in our club's history.



After a lengthy battle with illness former South Bendigo footballer Peter Hutcheson (Hutch) has passed away. The tall red headed, left foot centre half forward played in two of South Bendigo's greatest premierships.

A local Grassy Flat lad, Hutch's footy career benefited from playing under possibly three of Bendigo's all-time legendary coaches.

At Bendigo High School, Hutch was fortunate to be coached by his teacher and former Footscray Premiership player and Golden Square and South Bendigo coach Alan Martin. Hutch admired Martin greatly and gained much from his early football mentoring.

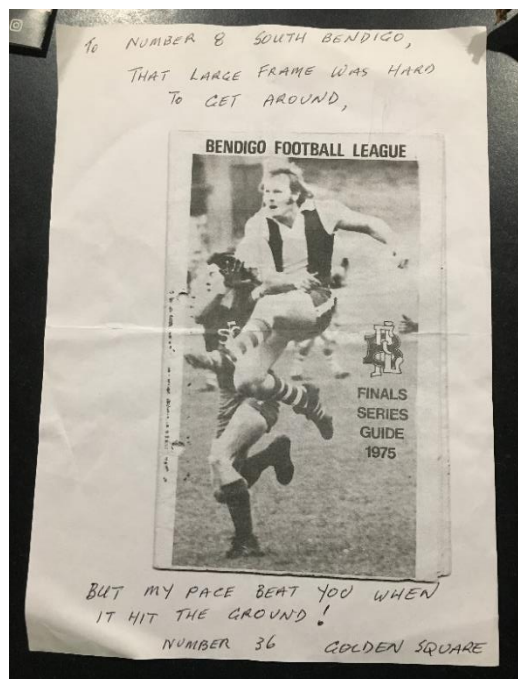
Joining South was always Hutch's intention and he played his first game in South thirds at the age of 13. He was promoted to the seniors for his first game in August 1968 against Eaglehawk. Here he was again fortunate to be coached in the early senior career by Geelong premiership player and champion Colin Rice.

Nicknamed the Camel by teammates and standing at 6 feet, one inch with a prodigious left foot kick at goal, Hutch soon cemented his place at Centre Half Forward and the following

year (1969) kicked two goals in South's first premierships in 56 years. Offered to train with Geelong in 1970 Hutch turned down the offer and stayed living and working in Bendigo. Seasons 1970 and 1971 were plagued by injuries with torn ligaments to his knee, as it was described then. After months in plaster in both seasons he returned to football in 1972 playing at full forward where a little less mobility was required. He quickly mastered the new position and was not only South's leading goal kicker but shared the honour of the Bendigo League's Leading goal kicker with Keith Raynor of Golden Square with 69 goals. That year South were runners up to Golden Square where Hutch continued his great tussle with one of his most difficult career opponents, tall, lean Golden Square full back and champion Shane Rodda. They remained close friends through life. Hutch would also be recognised as a great clubman and hard worker for the club and along with great mate and inspirational rover Ginger (John) Hayes, became player representatives on the Club Committee through a very successful period for South.

With Colin Rice's retirement, South's new coach in 1973 was former North Melbourne great Bernie McCarthy. In 1974, Hutch took a difficult decision to travel overseas to Europe with his wife Jenny during the European northern summer. Gone for three months of the season he returned and was rushed back for the Preliminary Final against Castlemaine and then into the Grand Final to play great rivals and QEO co-tenants, Sandhurst. Bernie McCarthy rallied South in one of the greatest grand finals seen in the Bendigo League with victory over the Hurst 17.13 (115) to 14.9 (93). Hutch would kick five goals for the Bloods, with lifelong friend and goal sneak Ted Aldridge kicking six. Hutch was a Melbourne Demons fan all his life and held on tenaciously through serious illness this year to see his beloved Demons win their first flag in 57 years.

Vale Peter Hutcheson



A nice message from Golden Square Full Back Shane Rodda to Peter in 1975 when "Hutchy" appeared on the cover of the Finals Guide of that year. Not only a favourite at South Bendigo, Peter was well respected by opposition sides across the league as well



## NEWS FROM THE 2021 AGM

The 2021 AGM saw a transitional change in four of the Club's senior off field positions. Rick Townsend returns to the President's role for an interim period as part of a premeditated succession plan. An outstanding President in his previous term, Rick will mentor and assist some exciting new appointments to the Committee who represent a generational change to the Club's administration.

Dujon Fuzzard has been elected to the Vice Presidents position. A long term player with the Bloods, Dujon's return to Bendigo has seen him re-engage with the club and we are very pleased to see him look to take up a bigger off field role at the South Bendigo.

After seven highly efficient and committed years as Club Secretary Rob Robertson has handed over the role to former Junior Netball President Michelle Forrester. Michelle's work in our Junior Netball Division set the framework for the current success in our junior netball and we are excited to have someone with her capabilities take over the Secretary's position.

After stepping into the breach in 2021 to help out the Club for the second time our "reluctant Treasurer" Julie Drake was pleased to see the recruitment of Dylan Robertson into the Club's Treasurer position. A quality young man Dylan, who recently graduated and works as an accountant, will prove an excellent asset on the Club's executive team.



**Some old and new faces on the Club's 2022 Executive Committee. Michelle Forrester Secretary, Rick Townsend Club President and Dylan Robertson Club Treasurer following the 2021 AGM**



## THE VIN FITZGERALD AWARD

The Vin Fitzgerald Best Club Person Award, named after Life Member, long time Committee member and former Vice President of South Bendigo FNC Vin Fitzgerald, is a perpetual trophy awarded each year to a person who has provided exceptional service and/or made a great contribution to the club over the year.

The winner in 2021 was our Junior Netball President Nicole Georgeson. Nicole's input and contribution to our Club extends far beyond her role as our Junior Netball Club President and epitomises everything that is good about the "One Club" approach we have adopted at South Bendigo.

Always a regular and constructive contributor on the Club's Executive Committee Nic has also been a most valuable asset in our strategy to maximise our revenue raising through grant applications. Her work has essentially underpinned our success in this area over the past 2 years.

With the Club's annual B&F Vote Count and Awards Night presentation function not able to be held due to Covid Restrictions, the presentation of the Award was made to Nic at the AGM

Nicole Georgeson, a most worthy winner of the Vin Fitzgerald Award and whose name is now on the perpetual trophy along with those of other great contributors to the Bloods over the years



**The 2021 Vin Fitzgerald Best Club Person Award being presented to Nicole Georgeson by Club President Alan Ellis**

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIPS**

The Club has changed the procedure for announcing Life Memberships. Previously Life Members were announced and presented at the B&F vote count and presentation night. While this announcement always came as a wonderful revelation it was not always the best arrangement for the recipient. Due to the surprise element acceptance speeches often did not say all they would have liked to have said had they time to think about it, often friends and family they would have liked present to see the award presented were not and in 2019 even the recipient himself was not in attendance.

Future recipients will now be advised of their Life Membership at the time the decision is made and consulted on the best time for a formal presentation, be it either at an AGM or the annual Presentation Night.

### **JOHN CLYNE AWARDED BLOODS LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

In 2019 the South Bendigo FNC elected to make the popular head of our sports medicine team John Clyne a Life member of the Club. Due to a range of circumstances, it had not been possible to make the announcement or a presentation to John until the 2021 AGM when the overdue and much deserved recognition was given.

An untiring and committed volunteer at the Bloods, John has rarely missed a training night or club match and his sports medicine knowledge is most appreciated and well trusted by all in the playing groups. The club “employs” a few physiotherapy students to assist with our sports training needs and the level of practical guidance and experience that John generously gives to them is evident through the high regard they have for him. A teacher both by profession and by nature.

John Clyne truly reflects the values of our club, particularly those of “character” and “being nice to people” and is a most worthy recipient of Life Membership. It was lovely to see John’s wife Julie present to witness the presentation as such achievements do not come without the support of family and we are most appreciative of the amount of John’s time Julie shares with us.



**John Clyne receiving his Life Membership badge & certificate at the 2021 AGM**

## NETBALL

Season 2021 can certainly be summed up as the year 'that promised so much and only delivered half!'. Of course, this was due to all circumstances out of our control – a worldwide pandemic, Covid-19 (Corona virus) for the second season in a row.

Our season started very quickly after season 2020 finished, with Jannelle Hobbs our Director of Netball locking in all 2021 coaches. The club was looking very strong off the court and promising on the court with 99% of players returning.

Our coaches for 2021 were:

A grade Coach – Jannelle Hobbs  
A grade Assistant Coach – Liz Taylor  
A-res Coach – Liz Taylor  
A-res Assistant Coach – Kirralee Kinder  
B- grade Coach – Vanessa Saunders  
B-grade Assistant Coach – Zoe Sheean  
B-res Coach Melanie Oldfield  
B-res Assistant Coach – Steph Goode  
17Under – Liz Taylor and Keiarah Brooks

In October, we conducted very successful try outs at our Harry Trott courts and the squads were locked in. November saw us conduct an 'Induction Night' where club expectations were outlined, paperwork signed and uniforms tried on. We then started pre-season which was run 'boot camp' style and the players were looking extremely fit and pumped to start the season. Practise matches were held including teams entered in the annual Rochester tournament, with our B squad making the finals.

Pre-season camp 2021 included an amazing guest speaker – Jacquie Cooper Australian Olympian and World Champ aerial skier. Jacquie motivated the players with her stories of comebacks after serious injuries. The girls were treated to a cheerleading class and yummy lunch.

Our season started in April, under the guidance of government imposed rules for the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic. These included social distancing of 1.5m, no sharing of bibs, cleaning balls in between matches and wiping down goal post padding.

We played our home games at the QEO whilst our rebuild at Harry Trott began and had some strong wins in all grades. Unfortunately, season 2021 was disrupted by Covid again and we were only able to complete 10 A grade games, with the following ladder standings:

A Grade	4th
A Reserve	4th
B Grade	4th
B Reserve	5th
17U	4th

This was enough to host an online presentation broadcast and award the following best and fairest players:

A Grade – Chloe Langley with Keiarah Brooks runner up  
A Reserve – Amy Morrissey with Amanda Walters runner up  
B Grade – Paige Campbell with Tegan Maddern runner up  
B Reserve – Matilda Osborne with Annie Hockey runner up  
17U – Ella Flavell with Jeanette Ross runner up

**A Grade Netball Best and Fairest**

**Chloe Langley**  
36 votes



**A Reserve Netball Best and Fairest**

**Amy Morrissey**  
39 votes



**B Grade Netball Best and Fairest**

**Paige Campbell**  
55 votes



**B Reserve Netball Best and Fairest**

**Matilda Osborne**  
48 votes



**17/U Netball Best and Fairest**

**Ella Flavell**  
62 votes



I finish off this report with heartfelt thanks to both my off-court teams, in particular the coaching staff and the following five players who held leadership positions: Amy Morrissey (Fundraising), Amanda Walters (Social Media), Emily Cossar (Equipment), Shai Brooks (Umpires), Emily Bakes and Steph Goode (Secretaries). These senior players rode the rollercoaster that season 2021 was, with much organisation, positivity and flexibility.

Bring on 2022, where hopefully the rebuild will be complete, recruitment will be strong and the players can complete a full season.



**Gill Davey**  
**Netball Operations Manager**

## BFNL NETBALL: South Bendigo adds to impressive recruiting haul

KIERAN ILES, Bendigo Advertiser 1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2021



**South Bendigo recruits and returning players (from left) Jamie-Lee Clohesy, Hollie Horbury, Olivia Mason, Claudia Griffiths and Alicia McGlashan are eager for the 2022 to roll around. Picture: KIERAN ILES**

AFTER consecutive top-five finishes in BFNL A-grade netball, South Bendigo is leaving no stone unturned in its quest to challenge for a top-three spot next season. Fresh from signing multiple BFNL premiership defender Alicia McGlashan and VNL experienced midcourter Chloe Gray, the Bloods have added another two skilful recruits they hope can help propel them up the ladder. The Bloods have lured reigning North Central association best and fairest Claudia Griffiths, from Donald, and convinced Shepparton Swans goal shooter Olivia Mason her future lies in the BFNL.

Together with Gray, McGlashan and premiership-winning goal attack Jamie-Lee Clohesy, who is returning to action after a season off in 2021, Griffiths and Mason add to an exciting existing player list, headed by back-to-back best and fairest Chloe Langley and captain Keiarah Brooks. That will be further bolstered by the addition of former Ballarat league midcourter Hollie Horbury. Horbury, the wife of the club's senior football coach Nathan, was set to line up with the Bloods during the cancelled 2020 season, but had a year off in 2021 and is now itching to return to the court.

Griffiths, who claimed the North Central medal in her first full A-grade season at age 17, is excited to be having a crack at the BFNL. "I had a few ex-Donald girls Keiarah Brooks and Amber Hollis convince me to further my netball and come to a bigger league," she said. "That's really inspired me to develop my skills and follow my passion for netball. There's no doubt it will be more competitive here (in the BFNL). South has been a very welcoming club and very encouraging and positive." Griffiths, who played handful of A-grade games for Donald as a 15-year-old in 2019 before the cancelled 2020 season, brings plenty of

versatility to the Bloods. Predominantly a centre, she is equally adept at goal attack. Griffiths is hopeful a switch in leagues will coincide with a period of increased success at Harry Trott Oval. She will remain based in Donald during 2022, where she will be completing her year 12 at Donald High School.

Equally excited to have landed at South Bendigo, Mason makes the move after six seasons with the Goulburn Valley league's Swans. The 23-year-old has been based in Bendigo, where she is a qualified electrician, for a few years, but had been travelling back to Shepparton to play her netball. "Swans was my home club and I knew a lot of people there having played there since under-17s, so I was pretty committed to going back to train," she said. "But I am just a little bit too busy now, so I am well and truly committed here in Bendigo and have bought a house here." Mason revealed she had been contacted by Bloods coach Janelle Hobbs as far back as 2017, but she had remained committed to the Swans. "It's interesting how it works out, I contacted one of my friends who plays here and managed to get on to Janelle and Gill (operations manager Gill Davey) and they were wonderful," she said. "I actually missed the registration for trials, but they still let me come on down to trial, but then I actually managed to get a tear in my hamstring and couldn't trial. "But I stuck it out for the last trial - I was a bit rusty, but luckily they saw something they liked. "I'm really looking forward to the challenge." Mason brings with her plenty of finals experience having played in them in each of her A-grade seasons at the Swans. Her lone GVFNL premiership was achieved at 17-and-under level in 2015 when she was adjudged best on court.

Chloe Gray, who has joined South Bendigo from Riddell District league club Wallan and will also line-up with VNL club Southern Saints next season, is excited to be joining one of Victoria's strongest netball competitions. "I was looking online for info on the BFNL and I saw quite a few familiar big names from my VNL involvement, it was quite exciting," she said. "It's really promising seeing just how strong this league is.



**Chloe Gray has made the move to South Bendigo from Riddell District league club Wallan.  
Picture: KIERAN ILES**

"I'm really looking forward to developing my netball, it's a crucial year after having a year off last year and an interrupted one this year. "Getting all these opportunities, like VNL, I want to keep on developing my midcourt game." A Victorian state mixed team representative, Gray made the transition from goaler to midcourter in 2021. It's a move, she believes, that has made her a smarter and more rounded player. "It's a good contrast, the boys have that amazing aerial jump whereas girls don't really have that," she said. "Playing mixed, you assess the game differently and you become smarter and more controlled. "It's a lot different ball game, but it does make you think more."

## JUNIOR NETBALL

In 2021 we had 163 players in 18 teams registered playing across all divisions except Grade 6 of the Bendigo Strathdale Netball Association (BSNA) winter competition. Due to the Bendigo South East courts not being available this season, in a first for the Club, the three netball courts at Harry Trott were utilised for games each Saturday throughout the season.

The Junior Netball Club along with the Junior Football, Senior Football and Senior Netball Clubs participated in another very successful and popular Family Day held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Faith Leech Aquatic Centre. A warm sunny day ensured everyone in attendance, estimated at approximately 190 players and their families had a great day. Head space once again came along and for the first time Integrated Smiles came along and offered discounts on custom fitted mouthguards. Andy and Maryanne Barrett were also in attendance raising money for the Club through the sale of their thermal cups.

Our Open teams (13/Under – Section 1) started training as part of our grading process in late January whilst our primary grade netballers Grade 3 – Grade 5 started mid to late March. The first games of the season began on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April where we played six rounds of netball before the competition was put on hold for a week. We returned to the courts for a further four more games before another week of lockdown and then our Friday night teams managed three more games and our Saturday teams two more games before the season was called off on the 20<sup>th</sup> August, two weeks before finals.

With no finals being played the BSNA decided to award minor premierships to those teams on the top of the ladder in each division. Our Section 3A team, South Bendigo Tomlins and our 13/Under A team, South Bendigo Leech were awarded minor premiers medals whilst Section 1A, South Bendigo Forrester and Section 3C Reserve, South Bendigo McMurray were awarded runners up. Congratulations to all these teams, their families and coaches.

We also congratulate Kaitlyn Felini, Mia Milsom, Kate Snowden, Jordyn Aldred, Jorja Reed, Elizabeth Roberts and Samantha Johnston who all played their 50<sup>th</sup> junior game with the Club during the year. A great achievement particularly considering the disrupted seasons we have had.

The Club awarded Best and Fairest and Coaches trophies to all competition teams (13/Under through to Section 1) whilst all our primary team players received participation medals. The following is a list of our award winners for 2021. Congratulations!

<b>Section</b>	<b>Team Name</b>	<b>Coaches Award</b>	<b>Best and Fairest</b>
1A	South Bendigo Forrester	Abbey Seaward	William Whiteacre
2A	South Bendigo Connaughton	Ella Russell	Morgan O'Meara
2B	South Bendigo Bruhn	Stella Harrop	Samantha Johnston
3A	South Bendigo Tomlins	Kasey Lindsay	Georgie Butler
3B	South Bendigo Dillon	Mabel Dingle	Jorja Brown
3B	South Bendigo Baker	Evelyn Farr	Meg O'Callaghan
3C	South Bendigo Arnold	Annalise Leed	Larnie Taylor
3C Reserve	South Bendigo Barrett	Melissa Moulden	Matilda DiMarco
3C Reserve	South Bendigo Walker	Tyra Brauer	Maddie Dillon
3C Reserve	South Bendigo McMurray	Abbey Watson	Maddison Bray
13/U A	South Bendigo Leech	Kendall Andrews	Maeve Cass
13/U A	South Bendigo Wastell	Eva Mullane	Annabelle Edwards
13/U B	South Bendigo Brown	Charlie Worthington	Bella Cini

## Teams

As in previous years we again decided to acknowledge the significant women of South Bendigo as namesakes for each of our 18 teams.

A very big thank you to all our coaches, all of whom volunteer many hours of their time in training our teams and then coaching them on game day each week. Our team name sakes and coach/es for each team are as follows:

Section	Team Namesakes	Coaches
Section 1	Michelle Forrester	Alison Leech
Section 2	Justine Connaughton Marg Bruhn	Sharee Whiteacre Stacey Russell
Section 3	Emma Tomlins Mel Dillon Raelene Baker Jenny Arnold Marianne Barrett Ruby Walker Irene McMurray	Felicia Eldridge Tracey Turner Anna Feiss Kate Buckner and Tanya O’Gorman Felicia Eldridge Teresa Biddell Michelle Grindal
13/Under	Pam Leech Christy, Kate and Jody Wastell Fran Brown	Janene Cass and Fiona Morrish Emily Murphy Nicole Georgeson
Grade 6	No teams in 2021	
Grade 5	Maureen Symons Marie Hiatt	Rachel Voege Jemma Sharman
Grade 4	Jane Bakes Maree Chapman	Haley Aldred Rebecca Worley
Grade 3	Sarah Nash	Ruben and Ash Morales

## Committee

Thanks to Aaron Milsom and Jo Doolan who both stepped off the Committee at the start of the year. Aaron very ably undertook the Treasurer duties whilst on the Committee.

Fortunately, Tracey Turner, Shannon Vaughan and Stacey Wilkinson all put up their hand to be involved in the Committee this year and along with the existing members enthusiastically undertook the many roles it takes to run the Club. A huge thank you to all these wonderful ladies. A special shout-out to Tony and Macca who were roped into helping us shift homes at the beginning of the Harry Trott development.

Nicole Georgeson	Operations Manager
Haley Aldred	Events and Fundraising / NetSetGo Coordinator
Jenny Daly	General Committee
Skye Trahair	Junior Netball Uniform Coordinator
Anna Feiss	General Committee
Dorinda Wallace-Felini	General Committee / Minute Secretary / Team Manager Support
Tracey Turner	General Committee
Shannon Vaughan	General Committee
Stacey Wilkinson	General Committee

At the end of the season, we farewelled Stacey Wilkinson who has decided she won't return in 2022. Thanks for all your hard work during the year.



## **Finance**

The Club decided not to charge a Club fee for players who had registered in 2020 given that season did not eventuate.

Due to the financial impact of COVID19 on small businesses sponsorship was again not pursued for the 2021 season.

Our only fundraiser for the year, was the Elmore pie drive held in May. Thank you to all those families who generously supported this fundraiser.

## **Net Set Go**

Unfortunately, due to COVID19 we were unable to run the very popular Net Set Go program. We look forward to being able to offer the program again in 2022.

## **Acknowledgements**

A huge thank you to the wider South Bendigo Club for their support during the year. Thank you to Shaun and the Junior Football Club, the Senior Executive group and in particular, Club President – Alan Ellis, the Senior Netball Operations Manager – Gill Davey and the Director of Coaching, Janelle Hobbs who have all provided very valuable support and assistance to the Junior Netball Division – we are very grateful.

Finally, a very big thank you to all the players and their families for choosing South Bendigo to play their junior netball. We hope you had an enjoyable year and look forward to seeing everyone back in 2022 in what we hope will be an uninterrupted season.



**Junior Netball Club President  
Nicole Georgeson**



## SPONSOR OF THE MONTH



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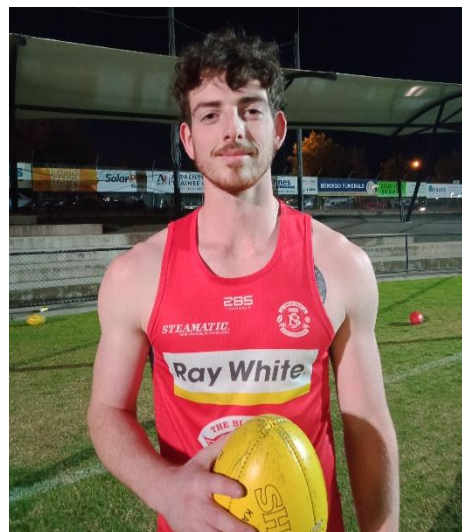
## FOOTBALL

The 2021 season began with great enthusiasm from players and coaches with the thoughts of putting the previous season behind us after only played a few practice matches. The Club once again focussed on a pre-season fitness regime which had been very successful during the previous year where players and coaching staff could monitor the improvements to everyone's specific requirements.

Practice matches began with a very early game in late February and three more games closer to the start of the season. The addition of Cooper Leon, Oli Simpson, Oscar White and Sunny Brasier from the Amateurs in Melbourne along with Michael Herlihey from Shepperton was a great boost to the side coupled and the return of Jake Miller was a great boost to the side. Daniel Nalder, Co-Captain Zac Hare and Will Keck were almost like new recruits, each returning from long term injuries from the previous season.

Our first game at the QEO against Eaglehawk ended in a narrow victory and really set the tone for what the side was capable of. Other games featured solid wins against Castlemaine, Gisborne and a hard fought win at Kyneton in a night game down there followed with a disappointing loss against Sandhurst which the lads fought well to bring the game back in our favour in the last quarter only to lose. The game against the benchmark of the league in Strath was disappointing and it was at this stage of the year with us sitting well in the top three that we had our first lockdown. The following game against Golden Square was played without our Melbourne based players and we had also succumbed to injuries to a few of our key position players as well so although the lads began the game well it resulted in a loss. Highlight of the game was the addition of Myles Livingstone who was playing his first senior game for the club as an under 18s listed player.

For the rest of the year, it was a week to week proposition as the State went into further lockdowns and restrictions meaning that we didn't finish the Home and Away fixture of games and ultimately resulted in no further football being played including a proposed re-jigged finals series. What had been shown however was that the improvements by individuals in our list and improved fitness levels meant that the game style that Nathan was pushing was reaping benefits. Younger players like Will McCaig playing his first senior year, were putting pressure on more established players for a spot in the side and many of our 30 - 50 game players were becoming more consistent and being asked to take on a bigger game day role.



**Young players such as Will McCaig & Alex Smith Ralph are developing into consistent players and taking on bigger roles on game day**

Our Reserves side mirrored the efforts of the senior side starting the year well with solid results, but a disjointed fixture was making it hard to have constant numbers to choose from. Thirds football was a battle on the back of not having a competition the year before many sides were struggling to field a side. Zac Hare came on board as coach and the lads responded well with numbers growing every week, many lads getting an opportunity to play for the first time. Special thanks to Nick Walsh who helped out through the year both on and off the ground.

Congratulations to all the Best and Fairest winners and runners up. In particular Cooper Leon who had a huge impact in his first year of senior football in the red & white.



**Cooper Leon had a major impact winning the Club's Senior Football B&F in his first season**

I would especially wish to thank Neale Torpey, Mark Keck, Rick Townsend Ian Connaughton and Rob Robertson for their work through the year, the Committee under President Alan Ellis and last but by no means least, Nathan Horbury continues to inspire the lads and show them that there is no limit to Improvement once you commit to the process.  
Yours In Sport



**Gary Bath  
Football Operations Manager**



## JUNIOR FOOTBALL



2021 was yet another year of interruptions, lockdowns and uncertainty. However, it was an extremely positive year for the Junior Football Division on and off the field. Our year started off with the appointment of our Coaches, our annual South Bendigo Family Day and pre-season training.

Another year of great registration numbers enabled us to yet again field 2 Under 9 teams, 2 Under 12 teams, 2 Under 14 teams, an Under 14 Girls team and an Under 16 Reserves team. All of our teams made it into the 2021 BJFL Final Series. Unfortunately, the final series was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Note – Under 9's is a non-competitive age group.

Our success continued off field with 2 of our teams being awarded the 2021 BJFL Most Disciplined Club Award. The Bendigo Junior Football League Most Disciplined Club Award is voted by the BJFL Umpires for the overall behaviour of players, club officials and supporters at each round. Congratulations to our Under 12B Team and our Under 16 Reserves Team on being recipients of this award. Well done to all players, officials and supporters in both the above teams in not only your exceptional behaviour but in the way you represent your club.

Another off-field award was awarded to our Under 14 Reserves Coach Nic Dyer. Nic was awarded the 2021 AFL Central Victoria Youth Coach of the Year. A fantastic achievement and well deserved. Nic is new to the club and a first-year coach. We thank Nic for his passion and dedication to the South Bendigo Junior Football Club.

Our Presentation Night this year was obviously a little different to previous years with a livestream presentation of awards and season summaries. Best and Fairest, Runner Up, Coaches Award, Most Determined and Most Improved were all awarded to each team. Two of our more notable awards were also presented on the night –

2020 Best Club Person – Natasha Rowe & Nev Clark

2021 Best Club Person – Shaun Leech

2021 Graeme Wright Award – Lincoln Hocking

2020 Graeme Wright Award – Austin Long

A big thank you and congratulations must go to our Junior Football Committee who continue to work endlessly behind the scenes ensuring the efficient running of our club. It has been an extremely busy year for our committee with the redevelopment of Harry Trott, COVID compliance and restrictions to adhere to whilst ensuring we are providing and delivering a safe, friendly and supportive environment for our young footballers and their families.

The committee has already started in the planning and preparation for the 2022 season. All Coaches for the 2022 season have been appointed and I thank our Director of Coaching Nev Clark for his work in the recruitment and development of our coaches.

Now is also an opportunity to thank all of our Coaches, Team Managers, Game Day Volunteers and Supporters for all of your work this year. I am sure 2022 will be another successful year for the South Bendigo Junior Football Club.



**Shaun Langdon**  
**Junior Football President**

## **FOOTBALL INTEGRATION DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (FIDA)**



**Bendigo FIDA Suns**

Firstly, the Bendigo Suns would like to thank the South Bendigo Football Netball Club for their ongoing support of our team. Season 2021 was another year of interruptions due to COVID.

For those that do not know, The Suns are now in the central conference. 2021 was the central conferences first year with two new teams joining the competition.

The Suns were fortunate to be able to travel to and play a few games throughout this tricky season. We played two rounds here in Bendigo. The first round held at Strathfieldsaye Oval due to ground availability and the second was held at Harry Trott Oval where the two Bendigo sides played each other. It was a fantastic day with many from the community coming to watch. A BBQ was enjoyed after the game with the players and their families and some of the wider community.

We travelled to Kyneton, Rupertswood and Ballarat. At the end of the season, we had made it to the grand final. Unfortunately, due to lockdowns and restrictions the grand final was cancelled after the 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt. To say the players were disappointed is an understatement.

On a positive note, our numbers grew this year to 38 registered players. This was a vast jump on previous year's numbers. We look forward to seeing how our numbers look for the 2022 season.

We applied for 3 grants this year and were very fortunate to receive all 3.

- Fosterville Gold Mine Grant \$2,500.00 – which will be spent purchasing new jumpers for next season
- City of Greater Bendigo Council Grant \$3,000.00 – Spent on buses to ferry the players to our away games.
- Sporting Clubs Grant Program \$1,000.00 – Purchased new footballs along with bags to keep them in.

The Suns are grateful to our ongoing major sponsors that have been supporting us since we started in 2018.

### **CVGT Australia, mdh constructions & TCA electrical contractors**

This year we had some new sponsors jump on board, *Connecting Futures, Adventureabilities and Reliability.*

Rachel Andrews Cleaning, Mitre 10 Hume & Iser and AFL Central Vic were also very kind making donations for our raffle prizes. Whilst HIP Pocket also donated several vests for our players that don't like to be tackled. As we are all aware, no club can function without the generosity of these people.

On behalf of the Bendigo Suns subcommittee, once again we thank you for supporting us and we look forward to season 2022 where the players can do what they love, playing football.

### **Tammy Manton Bendigo Suns FIDA Subcommittee Member**



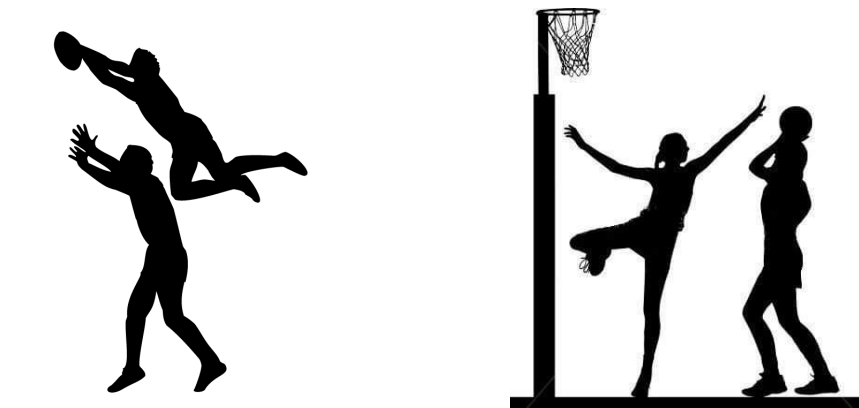
**Bendigo FIDA Suns team-mates Eamon Gleeson, Cooper Manton and Will Dohnt celebrate a goal.  
Picture: DARREN HOWE Bendigo Advertiser**

## SEASONS GREETINGS

One of the joys of the festive season is that it provides the opportunity to say thank you to all our players, coaches, members and supporters for your contribution and support of the club throughout what has been a challenging year. We would also like to wish you the very best for the New Year and hope that you get back on board and recommit your valued support to the Bloods in 2022.

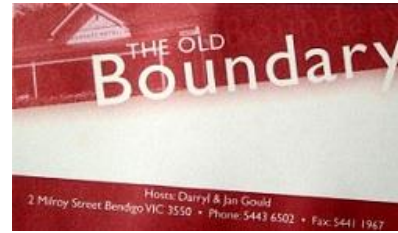
Next year we are confident we can pick up where we left off in our steady progress of continuous improvement and being the best we can be as we work towards success both on field and on court. We would love to see you join us in this journey by getting more involved next year either as a supporter at our games, by becoming a member or actively participating in a club role.

Thank you for being a part of the South Bendigo FNC family. Have a happy and safe time over Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back in the red and white in the new year.





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