

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH BENDIGO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

October 2021 Edition

DISAPPOINTING FINISH TO 2021 SEASON

In the end it was a case of “so near and yet so far” for the 2021 BFNL Season. With community contact sport suspended following Round 17 due to the imposition of state wide Covid Restrictions, and remaining in place still to this day, the inevitable decision was made to abandon the remainder of the 2021 season including the finals series.

The full announcement from the League regarding the finals series cancellation has been reproduced on the following page. Of interest, the opening line in the press release which reads “The Bendigo FNL Board of Management in consultation with affiliated clubs...” has caused some consternation amongst the Club’s. This was a unilateral decision made by the Board of Management without any consultation with clubs. While ultimately most would agree it was the correct decision a large number believe as members of the League it would have been appropriate for consultation to have occurred before such a significant albeit inevitable decision was made.

The other decision made by the Board without consultation contained within the media release was not to present any individual awards for the 2021 season such as League B&F’s, Leading Goal Kicker or Rising Star awards. This was a strange decision and has not been supported by all clubs, South Bendigo FNC included. Following the first shut down of community sport early in the season a decision was made to reach a primary objective of each club playing every other club at least once. There was a significant shuffle of the draw and the elimination of the Bye Round to achieve this objective. The rationale being this would give a relatively fair and equitable base to work from should further shutdowns occur and compromise the season later in the year. Given that this is how circumstances have now unfolded our club is at a loss to understand why we would not go back to the first 9 Rounds as a basis to identify individual achievement in Season 2021. It seems the Bendigo FNL is one of the few Leagues who have elected not to do this and for them to make the decision without any input from the Clubs is very disheartening.

A disappointing finish to the season for all but with 2 of our 3 football sides and all 5 of our netball sides qualifying for finals in 2021 we look forward with optimism to continuing our resurgence in 2022.



MEDIA RELEASE



Bendigo FNL Season 2021 – FINAL SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

For immediate distribution

The Bendigo FNL Board of Management in consultation with affiliated clubs regrettably wish to announce that the finals series has been cancelled for season 2021.

Recent announcements regarding the easing of current regional Victorian lockdown restrictions, including outlining an immediate return to community sport for minimum training purposes only, prevents all regional leagues and associations from scheduling any competitive finals matches until after the current restriction settings are proposed to ease again at 11.59pm on the 23rd of September 2021.

Despite the current finals roadmap which was implemented several weeks ago, these latest Government updates offer further uncertainty regarding an actual timeframe for a return to competitive community sport.

A key consideration in finalising the decision to end the 2021 season included concerns for the welfare of all players and a duty of care to ensure that any return to competition plan was allowed adequate preparation time for participating players, teams, clubs, and volunteers. BFNL teams have now played a maximum of one match (zero in some cases) since July 10th, 2021. This is compounded by the recent inability for players to train in a competitive group capacity since August 20th, 2021, and the continued different restrictions on our Metropolitan members.

As a result of the cancellation of a significantly compromised home and away 2021 season, the BFNL Board wish to advise that premierships (including minor premierships) will not be recognised or awarded for season 2021. The BFNL will also not award any individual awards such as league best and fairest winners, as several competitions have become far too compromised.

This is certainly not the desired outcome the BFNL were striving for, with ongoing decisions made to afford the league the best possible chance of a return to competition this season. The BFNL understand the continued uncertainty has become one of the most challenging facets of season 2021, and whilst disappointing, trust this decision will provide appropriate certainty and closure.

The BFNL sincerely thank all players, volunteers, committees, officials, members, umpires, and other key stakeholders associated with or interested in the BFNL for their continued understanding, patience, and cooperation during this very challenging time. Although frustrating at times, we are extremely grateful that competitive community sport returned in some form during season 2021, bringing joy and relief to so many.

The BFNL look forward with genuine positivity that the 2022 season will proceed on time with a return to some level of normality. Community sport provides significant physical and mental benefits to those associated with local sporting clubs, however, relies on community presence at our matches which we hope returns from round 1 2022.

The BFNL thank our many corporate partners for their ongoing support – including the Bendigo Bank, Bendigo Mazda, Workforce XS, the Bendigo Club, Harmac Homes, Sportspower Bendigo, Bart 'n' Print, High St X-Ray, Red Onion Creative, Sherrin, Bendigo Party Hire, Bendigo Advertiser, Fresh FM, Bendigo Times, Cleanaway, Coffee Storm, Gold Central Victoria, and Great Ideas Awards and Gifts.

Please stay safe, and trust that the BFNL will return stronger and hopefully uninterrupted for season 2022.

- Ends -

Please contact Cameron Tomlins, BFNL Manager
AFL Central Victoria Region on 5434 2402 further details.
Email: cameron.tomlins@aflcentralvic.com.au

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2021 BEST & FAIREST AWARDS

Thursday 23rd 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.

For a full report on our B&F results see the respective Football and Netball reports further on in this newsletter



Above: Football Operations Manager Gary Bath counts the votes during the livestream on Facebook of our 2021 Best and Fairest Awards.

Below: 2021 Club Champions Chloe Langley A Grade Netball and Cooper Leon Senior Football

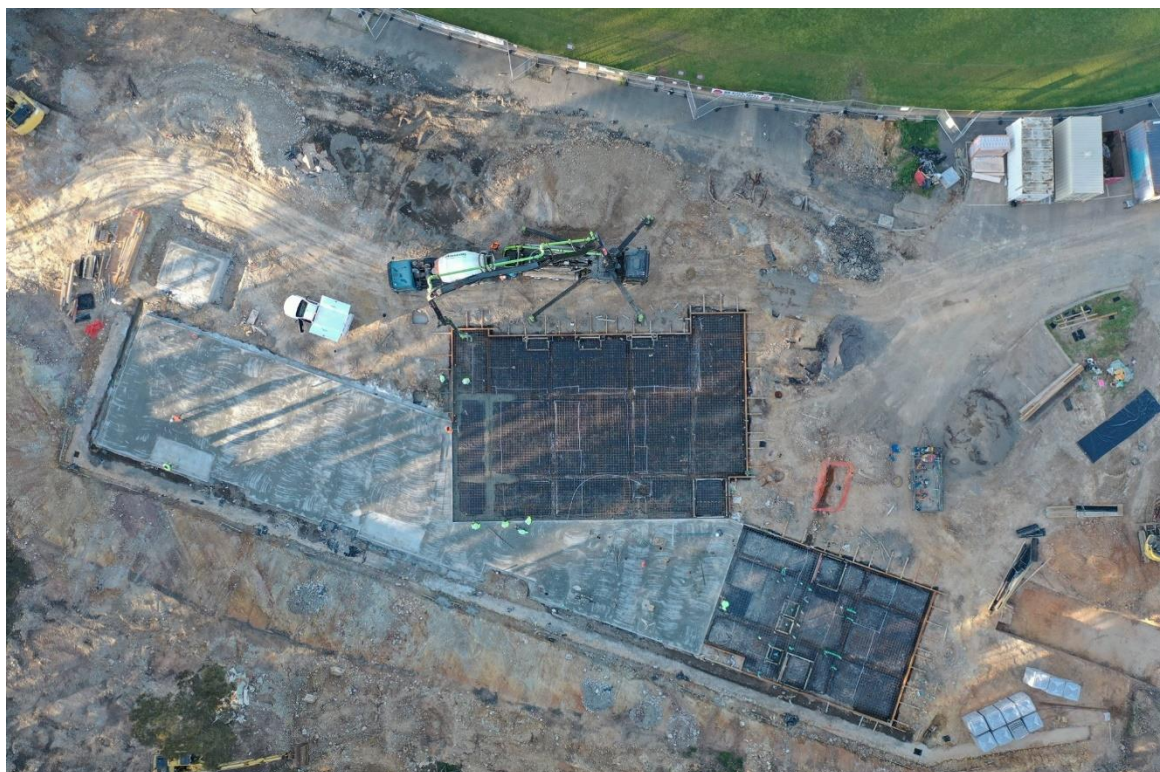


HARRY TROTT PAVILLION PROGRESS

Source: City of Greater Bendigo Facebook page September 22

Here's a birds eye view of the concrete pour for the new Kennington Pavilion at Harry Trott Kennington Recreation Reserve.

Work is going well and scheduled to be completed in mid 2022.



NETBALL

Firstly, congratulations to our 2021, B Reserve Assistant Coach and well-known South Netballer, Zoe Sheean and her partner Jayden Sheean, Reserves Football Coach on the safe arrival of Piper Kathryn Sheean on 26th September! Another netballer of the future!



On the court news, our netballers continued to remain united and worked hard right up until the year came to an end. Although the season may not have ended how we would have hoped, everyone should be proud of themselves, teams, coaches, and volunteers for the show of on-going resilience week in and week out!

We celebrated our Best and Fairest Vote Count on 23rd September, remote due to the current restrictions. Hopefully soon, we can all celebrate with a full presentation night in person! Congratulations to our winners -



17's & Under

Ella Flavell	62 Votes
Jeanette Ross	37 Votes
Maggie Burke	36 Votes
Georgia Warne	20 Votes
Milla McKimmie	19 Votes





B Reserve

Matilda Osborne	48 Votes
Annie Hockey	37 Votes
Tiana Arentz	28 Votes
Ariana Ralph	28 Votes
Brooke Nowell	18 Votes



B Grade

Paige Campbell	55 Votes
Tegan Maddern	37 Votes
Taylor Mann	27 Votes
Kasey Button	24 Votes
Georgia Gooding	21 Votes



A Reserve

Amy Morrissey	39 Votes
Amanda Walters	37 Votes
Stephanie Greene	34 Votes
Imogen Kinder	24 Votes
Carissa Brook	21 Votes





A Grade

Chloe Langley	36 Votes
Keiarah Brooks	34 Votes
Sarah Nash	28 Votes
Emily Cossar	26 Votes
Danielle O'Toole	25 Votes
Steph Goode	16 Votes



Netball 2022

Planning is well underway for 2022, as our coaching structure has been finalised. This very experienced group of netball coaches, ably led by Director of Coaching Jannelle Hobbs, are united, committed and determined to get on with unfinished business.

All senior coaches have re-committed for 2022, besides from Kiralee (Kez) Kinder, A Reserve Assistant and Zoe Sheean, B Reserve Assistant. Kez and Zoe are both stepping down due to family commitments. Kez is expecting baby number two in 2022 and Zoe has recently welcomed her newborn daughter, Piper.

We thank you both for your commitment to South Bendigo Netball for the past several years both as players and coaches and hope to see you back soon and around the court in 2022!

We are also very excited to welcome back Hollie Horbury to the netball court, after taking a few seasons off after the arrival of her and Nathan's son, Bowe. Hollie will join our coaching structure as an A Grade Assistant, Mid-Court Specialist Coach!



2022 PLAYER TRYOUTS

Player try outs will be undertaken on 4th, 9th and 11th of November (COVID permitting) at Harry Trott.

- 17/U at 4pm and Seniors at 6pm
- Must wear a white top - no club colours
- Leggings need to be above the knee, so numbers can be written
- You must attend two of the three dates
- This link will be open for three weeks only, until 24th Oct

Please submit your interest through this link-

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R7PMYKL>

Hobbs staying the course with South Bendigo

Source : KIERAN ILES Bendigo Advertiser Sport SEPTEMBER 23 2021



Jannelle Hobbs will enter her fifth year as South Bendigo's A-grade netball coach in 2022. Picture: NONI HYETT

AFTER laying the foundations to a successful new era over the last four years at South Bendigo, coach Jannelle Hobbs says she is eager to finish what she has started. The two-time BFNL premiership coach has re-signed for the 2022 season and has set her sights firmly on lifting the Bloods into the competition's top three.

Disregarding a fully cancelled season in 2020, a third-straight year of improvement for the Bloods under Hobbs in 2021 ended with a fourth-place finish and a 6-4 win-loss record. Echoing the sentiments expressed on the weekend by the Bloods' reappointed senior football coach Nathan Horbury, Hobbs said there was 'unfinished business' for her at South Bendigo.

She said that was particularly the case after no play was possible in 2020 due to COVID-19 and the 2021 season ended unsatisfactorily in the absence of a finals series. "It's been really disappointing not getting full seasons in, so I'm going around again and am already looking forward to it," she said.

"I've been here four years now and two of those have been COVID years. In some ways it feels like I haven't really had a good go at it. "We made finals the second year (2019) for the first time in 19 years and this year we got a little bit of development into the players, which was a real positive, but to not have finals was really disappointing. "Hopefully we can get that full year in next year. With people getting vaccinated, we should be better placed."

While we will never know how the finals series might have panned out for South Bendigo, Hobbs was at least confident of the Bloods making their way past the elimination final after being beaten in the corresponding match in 2019. "We were playing quite well towards the end of the season, so who knows what might have happened," she said. "The only thing is

we wouldn't have had (goal shooter) Chloe Langley, who is in Melbourne, so that would have been a big loss.

"We'll keep on building with the team we've got and we have a few recruits on the go, which we'll reveal in time. "There's a couple of areas that we've pinpointed for improvement and I'm confident we can achieve that improvement."

The biggest challenge for Hobbs and her side remains making some inroads into the dominance of 2017, '18 and '19 season premiers Sandhurst and fellow powerhouses Kangaroo Flat, which topped the ladder this season, and Gisborne. South Bendigo has failed to register a win against all three teams in Hobbs' time at Harry Trott Oval. Ironically, the Bloods' last win against any of those teams came in round nine of the 2017 season against Kangaroo Flat, when Hobbs was still coach of the Roos.

"Top-three is definitely our aim - we were sitting in fourth, but again those three sides above us were hard to break," she said. "That's where we will be looking for some experience to bring into the club to match it with those sides. "It's a tough gig at the moment, the BFNL. There are some very tough teams. We're on the cusp, but we have to keep developing."

The undoubted positive for the Bloods and Hobbs in 2021 was the opportunities given to the club's emerging young talent. "We're a very young team, so to get some development in this year was a real plus. The improvement in some of our players over the course of the year was fantastic," she said. "Young Abbey Grindal and Morgan McClellan really came on. We had Mia Peters step up to A-grade and Ella Flavell up from the under-17s play an A-grade game. "It was great getting some game time into the younger girls. That will put us in good stead for the years to come." The advancement of youth is set to continue next season with promising juniors Flavell, Jeanette Ross, Georgia Warne and Georgia Kinder all set to step up into senior ranks.

In other South Bendigo coaching appointments, A-grade assistant Liz Taylor will coach A-reserve, Hobbs and Vanessa Saunders will share the B-grade duties, Mel Oldfield and Saunders will take charge of B-reserve, and Saunders and A-grade captain Keiarah Brooks will take the reins of the 17-and-under team.

The Bloods will hold their first tryouts on Thursday, November 4.

Amanda Walters
Netball Reporter



JUNIOR NETBALL

Well unfortunately our fears were realised with the end of the season called mid-September. Whilst I am sure you will agree it was a disappointing end to the season, I am thankful that we did manage quite a few games throughout the season. Well done to everyone on persevering through the stop-start season.



Congratulations to **South Bendigo Tomlins - Section 3A** and **South Bendigo Leech – 13/Under A** who were awarded minor premiers! A fantastic effort!

Also congratulations to **South Bendigo Forrester - Section 1A** and **South Bendigo McMurray - Section 3C Reserve** who were awarded runners up.

End of Season presentation

Whilst we had hoped that restrictions would ease enough to allow us an end of year catch up unfortunately it seems as though this will still be some weeks away. As such, the Committee has decided to hold an online presentation in the next couple of weeks. Keep an eye on the Facebook page and team app for details.

Twilight Netball

Netball Victoria has advised that at this stage community netball will resume early November so both Golden City and BSNA have indicated they will still run twilight seasons, albeit shorter seasons than originally planned.

2022 Registration



We will be sending out emails to all members by the end of October with the 2022 registration link.

Only current players and siblings who register for 2022 will be guaranteed a position in a team next year. Any new player that registers will be placed on a waitlist and they will only be offered a position in a team if the team requires players. If past players re-register for 2022 they will be waitlisted and the Committee will decide whether they will be accepted once registration closes, and team numbers are known.

Up to two new teams of Grade 3 players and 1 team of Grade 4 players will be accepted as per our usual selection policy if we have a coach for each team.

Club Fees 2022

Given we were unable to play in 2020 the Club “rolled over” Club fees paid by existing players to the 2021 season. Whilst there will be no increase in Club fees for the 2022 season a \$55 Club fee will be payable by all players.

Committee

Unfortunately we have only had one person respond to our call out for the Committee.

As previously advised the Club requires your support to continue. Please do not sit back and wait for the announcement that the junior netball club is going to fold before you put your hand up to help.



If anyone is interested in joining the Committee for 2022, can they please send an email to jnrnboperations@southbendiqofnc.com.au or reach out to one of our existing Committee members.



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FOOTBALL

Due to Covid restrictions the 2021 Club B&F was streamed live on Facebook on Thursday 23rd September. Congratulations to our 3 winners, each of whom had outstanding seasons at their respective levels and were worthy winners.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to appropriately acknowledge these fine individual achievements yet. Hopefully soon we'll have the opportunity properly recognize all outstanding football performances across the season.

The leading B&F vote winners in season 2021 were

UNDER 18's	RESERVES
D. McMahon 69 votes	L. Furness 41 votes
W. Crane 39 votes	J. Sheehan 23 votes
M. Livingston 38 votes	R. Harvey 21 votes
M. Quinn 9 votes	P. Andrews 14 votes
E. Boboya 9 votes	J. Murphy 12 votes
A. Brassler 8 votes	M. Long 10 votes
Z. Walsh 7 votes	M. Winter-Irving 10 votes
D. Mill 4 votes	
SENIORS	
C. Leon 98 votes	
K. Antonowicz 83 votes	
B. Haddow 75 votes	
N. Horbury 63 votes	
T. Brereton 53 votes	
W. Keck 36 votes	
Z. Hare 34 votes	
M. Herlihy 21 votes	
O. Simpson 20 votes	
O. White 18 votes	
B. Torpey 16 votes	
S. Maher 15 votes	



Cooper Leon 2021 Senior Club B&F Winner

Unfinished business for Bloods' coach Horbury

Source: Adam Bourke Bendigo Advertiser Sport SEPTEMBER 19 2021



IN CHARGE: South Bendigo coach Nathan Horbury instructs his players at a quarter-time huddle.

Picture: ADAM BOURKE

Nathan Horbury's hunger to lead South Bendigo back to the BFNL finals was the catalyst for him re-signing with the Bloods for a fourth year as playing coach. The Bloods made a big step forward in 2021 and were likely to play finals for the first time in nine years had the second half of the season not been ruined by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Horbury, who became a father for the first time during the season, contemplated giving up the coaching role, but that feeling of unfinished business saw him re-sign for another year. "Motivation has been hard for everyone with what we've gone through over the past two seasons, but I felt it would be silly not to coach again," Horbury said. "We had a good start to the season this year and we're pretty excited about where we're heading. "It wasn't an easy decision considering how much time coaching takes up these days, and I have my family and work to think about, but I'm lucky that I have good support around me at the club with (assistant coach) Torps (Neale Torpey) and the committee."

Horbury's commitment to the Bloods has been matched by the playing group, with the majority of the senior list already re-signed for 2022. "We caught up with the boys over Zoom through lockdown and we caught up with a few of them last weekend when restrictions were eased...and the feeling amongst the group is that they want to finish what we started," Horbury said. "We were on track to play finals for the first time since 2012 and that's a huge carrot for the boys. "If our young players can take another step and we add a couple of players to the mix then anything could happen next year."

Crucially for the Bloods, their Melbourne-based recruits - Cooper Leon, Oscar White, Ollie Simpson and Sunny Brazier - look set to stay with the club in 2022. "The Melbourne boys have verbally said they're ready to go again next year," Horbury said. "They've been sent their contracts and we just need those signatures now."

"Sunny (Brazier) just wants to have his exit meeting with Northern Bullants before he makes a decision. "He was playing some good VFL footy before the season was stopped and he's keen to align himself with us again."The way he played in the VFL this year we probably won't see him for many games next year."

Horbury has already been on the recruiting trail and, like so many country clubs, he'd love to attract some key position players for next season. A big forward to take the pressure off the brilliant Kaiden Antonowicz and a number one ruckman are high on Horbury's agenda. "When Sunny was playing VFL we went back to being a bit too Kaiden (Antonowicz) conscious" Horbury said. "It's understandable because Kaiden is such a quality player, but we do need that extra key player.

"We need a ruckman as well. We had young Riley Walsh and Will Allen play in the ruck this year and they competed really hard for us, but to be fair to them they were undersized every week and they can be really valuable for us as key position backs and forwards."

Horbury said he was hopeful the Bloods' improvement on the field this year would make the club a more attractive proposition to recruits. "When you talk to players the first thing they want is to be part of a successful side," Horbury said. "We made a really good start to this year and we're building something here and, hopefully, players will see that and want to be a part of it."

Gary Bath
Football Operations Manager



JUNIOR FOOTBALL

2021 BJFL Most Disciplined Club Awards

The Bendigo Junior Football League Most Disciplined Club Awards are voted by the BJFL Umpires for the overall behaviour of players, club officials and supporters at each round.

Congratulations to the following South Bendigo Junior Football Teams:

Under 12B – Coach Jason Mitchell & Team Manager Sean McCann Under 16 Reserves – Coach Shaun Leech (Leechy) & Team Manager Sharon Hocking

Well done to all players, officials and supporters of both the above teams in the not only your exceptional behaviour but in the way your represent your club.



The graphic features a background image of a football field with players. In the top left corner is the logo for 'THE BENDIGO CLUB'. A blue banner at the top left contains the text 'UNDER 12 B DIVISION'. The main text reads: 'THE BENDIGO CLUB' MOST DISCIPLINED CLUB AWARD, followed by '\$1,000 - South Bendigo - U12B'. In the bottom right corner is the BJFL logo with the tagline 'CREATING STARS OF THE FUTURE'. A share icon is in the top right corner.



The graphic features a background image of football players in action. In the top left corner is the logo for 'THE BENDIGO CLUB'. A blue banner at the top left contains the text 'UNDER 16 RESERVES'. The main text reads: 'THE BENDIGO CLUB' MOST DISCIPLINED CLUB AWARD, followed by '\$500 - South Bendigo - U16R' and '\$500 - Strathfieldsaye - U16R'. In the bottom right corner is the BJFL logo with the tagline 'CREATING STARS OF THE FUTURE'. A share icon is in the top right corner.

2021 JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB AWARDS

2020 BEST CLUB PERSON

Nev Clark & Natasha Rowe



2021 BEST CLUB PERSON

Shaun Leech



2021 GRAEME WRIGHT AWARD

Lincon Hocking



2020 GRAEME WRIGHT AWARD

Austin Long



U12 RESERVES

Best & Fairest **HARVEY LONG**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **BLAINE ANDERSON**
Most Determined **CONNOR IREDELL**
Most Improved **CHARLIE ROBERTSON**
Coaches Award **MILLER SLATTERY**



U12 SENIORS

Best & Fairest **HENRY TURNBULL**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **HARRY WARNE**
Most Determined **RHILEY GRINHAM-REID**
Most Improved **REUBEN TURNBULL**
Coaches Award **LUCA TRESIZE**



U14 GIRLS

Best & Fairest **MAYA LANGDON**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **MICHELLE VANZUYDEN**
Most Determined **NYKHITA COOK**
Most Improved **TAHLIA BOYD-BUCK**
Coaches Award **KEELY MILNE**



U14 RESERVES

Best & Fairest **JACKSON BUTCHER**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **SPENCER LAVERY**
Most Determined **NICK MASULLO**
Most Improved **SAM POWER**
Coaches Award **OLIVER ELMES**



U14 SENIORS

Best & Fairest **JETT GRUNDY**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **LUKE FEUERHERDT**
Most Determined **ETHAN MCMAHON**
Most Improved **COOPER RUSSELL**
Coaches Award **ALFIE TAYLOR**

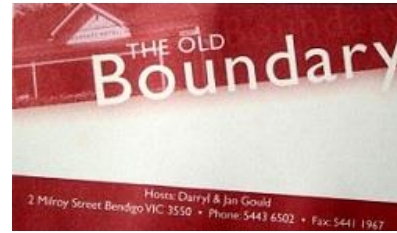


U16

Best & Fairest **ZAYDEN LOCKWOOD**
Best & Fairest Runners Up **LINCON HOCKING**
Most Determined **JACOB TOMAN**
Most Improved **FRASER MCKINSTRY**
Coaches Award **TADGH MCBURNEY**



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