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Saturday April 11th

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UPCOMING FIXTURE

MEN'S & NETBALL

03 APRIL 2026 — STANDARD TIMES



GOOD FRIDAY
TONY CLARKE RESERVE

03 APRIL 2026 —



GOOD FRIDAY

11 APRIL 2026 — STANDARD TIMES



ROUND 1
ROMSEY PARK

11 APRIL 2026 —



TWILIGHT
STANDARD TIMES
ROUND 1
KYNETON RECREATION GROUNDS
MELTON RECREATION RESERVE

11 APRIL 2026 — STANDARD TIMES



ROUND 1
GREEN HILL RESERVE

WOMEN'S

18 APRIL 2026 — 5:00PM



ROUND 1
LANCEFIELD PARK

18 APRIL 2026 —



5:00PM
ROUND 1
RIDDELLS CREEK
RECREATION RESERVE

Community Bank · Gisborne





ACROSS MY DESK

by General Manager Operations Grace Bibby

Welcome to the 2026 RDFNL Football & Netball Season! The 2026 RDFNL (Riddell District Football Netball League) Football and Netball season is officially upon us, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome players, coaches, volunteers, supporters, and everyone in the RDFNL community for another thrilling year of competition! Whether you're a long-time fan or a first-time attendee, this season promises to deliver intense matches, incredible sportsmanship, and unforgettable moments on and off the field and court. Every season brings new challenges, fresh faces, and exciting opportunities for growth and achievement. Clubs across the RDFNL are gearing up to showcase their talent, determination, and passion for the game. For both football and netball, this year's competition is set to be one of the most competitive yet, with each team eager to make their mark and strive for glory. Will we see a never been done four-peat in the A Grade netball and can Riddell go back to back to back after a big offseason of changes. Macedon will be looking to continue their dominance in a smaller womens competition. Our umpires will be led by Joel Page.

The RDFNL is proud of its strong community spirit, where clubs and their supporters unite with a shared goal of fostering a positive, fun, and competitive environment. We encourage all participants to continue to show respect for one another, whether in victory or defeat, and to uphold the values that make our league truly special. With rivalries, upsets, and thrilling finishes, there's no shortage of excitement. Whether you're cheering from the stands, supporting your local team from the sidelines, or enjoying the action from the comfort of home via Local Footy Hub, we're confident this season will be one to remember!

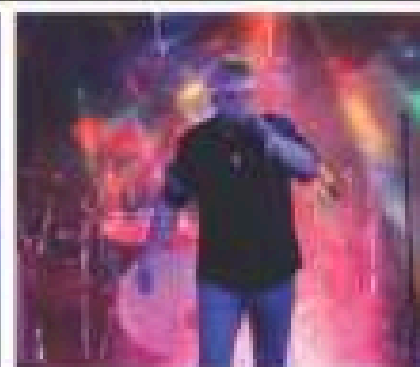
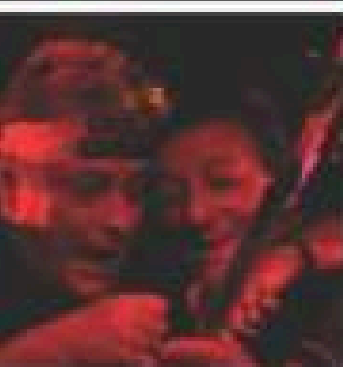
Celebrating Community and Volunteers The RDFNL thrives not only because of the athletes but also because of the hard work and dedication of countless volunteers who give their time, energy, and expertise to ensure everything runs smoothly. From coaches and trainers to club officials, team managers, and ground staff, and sponsors your efforts are the backbone of our league, and we thank you for your ongoing commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for everyone. We also want to extend our gratitude to the families and supporters who come out week after week, rain or shine, to cheer on their teams. Your unwavering support is what keeps the RDFNL strong and united. We hope you continue to be a part of the action and make this season unforgettable. Our small team at the RDFNL who are supported by our Board can't wait to see the next 22 weeks unfold. As we embark on another busy year it is a timely reminder that this is just community sport and we are all human. Let's make it one filled with excitement, unity, and sportsmanship. Every season is a chance to build new memories and celebrate the rich history of the RDFNL. So, lace up those boots, grab your netball shoes, and get ready for the 2025 season—we can't wait to see you out there! Special shout out to Gisborne Community Bank who have been by our side this offseason and will continue to be our biggest supporters. They are the sole naming rights partners in season 2026 and their contribution to the league and ensuring its sustainability cannot go unnoticed. Bring on the first ball up and centre pass and best of luck to all involved.

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RDFNL FOOTBALL TEAM LISTS

Click the division for match details and team lists.



VS



VS



VS



VS



VS



RDFNL FOOTBALL TEAM LISTS

Click the division for match details and team lists.



VS



SENIOR MENS

RESERVES

UNDER 19.5



VS



SENIOR MENS

RESERVES

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VS



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RDFNL Senior Mens Football Tipping

Each week throughout the 2026 season, a panel of RDFNL staff, executive, sponsors and media will submit their tips for the weekend's senior football matches, which will be featured in the footy record. See how your tips stack up against the RDFNL experts each week!

Football Tipping					
NAME	Macedon vs Gisborne Giants	Kyneton vs Woodend Hesket	Melton South vs Diggers Rest	Lancefield vs Romsey	Wallan vs Melton Centrals
Brenton Knott	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Courtney Alexander	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Terry Kernan	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Brian McNabb	Macedon	Kyneton	Melton South	Romsey	Wallan
Jordan Doyle	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Richard Thwaites	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Grant McMillan	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Tara Murray	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Ben Higgins	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Grace Bibby	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan
Cameron Pope	Macedon	Kyneton	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallan



RDFNL Senior Mens Previews

By Seth Corni



It has been a long time coming but round one is finally here!

Macedon kicks off its season with an exciting clash against the Gisborne Giants, with both sides eager to make an early statement. Both clubs after strong recruiting in the offseason will be keen to test themselves and see where they are at for the start of the season.

Macedon has added some serious talent highlighted by the signing of former Kyneton senior captain Harry Huntley who will slot nicely into their defence with his wealth of experience and leadership. Joshua Govan also joins the club, linking up with his brother Hamish as they look to drive this relentless Macedon outfit back towards another grand finale. Up forward, Both Cooke brothers are set to fire again with Jason aiming for an injury-free season after still kicking 51 goals in 13 games last year.

Gisborne entering their second season in the RDFNL will be looking to aim higher up the ladder and build on their foundation year. They've also strengthened their list, adding former Caroline Springs vice-captain Mitch Bongiovanni who has established himself as a premier-level footballer within the WRFL. And Alex Grigg has joined from Laverton after his 2025 senior best and fairest campaign. Matt Quigley again will be one to watch after an outstanding 2025 season averaging 37.9 disposals per game.

Prediction- Macedon to make a big statement in round one!

Last year's preliminary finalists go head-to-head with a side hungry to climb the ladder in 2026, setting the stage for a cracking second Good Friday clash between Kyneton and Woodend. Both teams will be eager to make a statement and show the rest of the competition what they can do.

Kyneton have done some serious recruiting in the offseason to push themselves back into finals contention. The addition of current Western Bulldogs VFL player Chan Hargreaves is a huge boost after he slotted 64 goals for the Port Melbourne Colts last year proving as a major threat inside 50. Alongside him Harry Ryan and Angus Nolte are set to form one of the most dangerous forward lines in the competition. Through the middle, Caleb Fisher continues to be a standout, and after averaging 29 disposals and a goal a game in 2025, he'll once again be a key driver for the Tigers.

Woodend after finishing 8th last season will be determined to push back into finals contention, and they certainly have the talent to do it. Daniel Toman remains one of the competitions elite, coming off another incredible season where he averaged 40 disposals a game. The Hawks also showcased their future last year, featuring a number of talented under 17s from their junior program at senior level highlighting the club's strong youth which will be exciting for years to come!

Prediction- Kyneton by five goals

RDFNL Senior Mens Previews

By Seth Cornish



After managing just two wins in 2025, Lancefield will be eager to start their 2026 campaign on the right foot as they travel to take on Romsey. With new co-coach Andrew Mctrusty bringing experience from both AFL and NRL assistant roles there's renewed optimism around the Tigers. Lancefield will hope key recruit John Anstee along with their star players from last year Reuben Schembri and Riley O'Meara can make an immediate impact and lift their competitiveness early in the season.

Romsey on the other hand, will be out to bounce back after a disappointing year by their standards, missing finals on percentage. With Nathan Blair entering his second year as coach we should expect a more connected Romsey outfit in 2026. While there performances haven't shown they have the star power to compete, Jack Jedwab will be a key focal point to Romsey's success after he kicked 46 goals from 16 games last season for the red and black.

Prediction- Romsey to win a close one to kick-off their 2026 campaign.



Starting their season on a road trip up to Greenhill Reserve Melton Centrals will hope to kick off their season with a win showcasing their new and improved squad. Centrals have made some serious moves to improve, with experienced coach Ben Chapman now leading the way. Big-name recruits include former VFL player William Krithararis and Nathan Carroll who kicked 100 goals for Sunshine in 2024. Star midfielder Fabian Brancatisano who averaged 37 disposals last season, will again be central to their chances.

Wallan who finished third had a strong regular season campaign last year before being upset in finals by Kyneton. Wallan have been strong on the recruiting front as coach Daniel Nolan looks for a fairytale finish in his 11th and final season.

Recruiting players such as Lachlan Smart who's had stints in the VFL and Hayden Gill returning from Deer Park should help them go further in 2026 and get the win over a newly formed Melton Centrals side.

Prediction- Wallan in a close hard-fought contest



Melton South's first year in the RDFNL was a successful one finishing fourth in a strong finals position. After their first taste of finals last year they will want to achieve it again in 2026, and it starts against the 2025 minor premiers' Diggers Rest. Led again by Travis Hodgson the recruitment of Blake Souter will be massive with his in and under game style suiting the RDFNL perfectly, Trent Angwin is another key recruit which bolster's Melton South's defence being a premiership player and BFL team of the year defender. Still supported by the likes of Sam Darley who averaged a whopping 46 disposals last season and Alec Goodson who kicked 70 goals in 17 games. Diggers Rest still led by Shaun Campbell are looking to respond after two straight seasons with straight set exits. Diggers Rest have recruited well bringing in the likes of Callum Moore who won the EDFL premier division best and fairest and goalkicking in 2025 and Dylan Stone who has a wealth of VFL experience and comes over as a proven member of the Wangaratta rovers. Returning players such as Marcus Calvaresi and Brandon Lester after strong seasons in 2025 will prove to be vital in ensuring diggers have a strong 2026. While Melton south have recruited very well diggers rest will be too strong and will win their first game of the season.

Prediction- Diggers Rest by four goals in an exciting game

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TACKLE YOUR FEELINGS

'Be a Champ'

- Tackle Your Feelings ambassador Nathan Buckley and social media larrikins the Shepmates have teamed up to create a humorous video celebrating local football club culture and encouraging players and coaches to help support the mental health of their footy mates
- Watch the video
- As part of the campaign, Tackle Your Feelings is looking to celebrate and recognise those local 'champs' who go above and beyond when it comes to investing in mental health
- Being referred to as a 'champ' is not always cast in a positive way, so Tackle Your Feelings is looking to reclaim the phrase and spin it around to celebrate these people who often don't get the recognition they deserve with the role they play at their clubs
- We want players, coaches, committee members, support staff and umpires to be a champ and book their club in for a Tackle Your Feelings workshop
- Clubs can register for a workshop at **tyfo.tackleyourfeelings.org.au/login/**.

Adam Baldwin, Program Manager said:
"Clubs are beginning to understand their responsibility to create an environment which supports the mental health of their players. We want clubs to prioritise mental health in the same way they currently do physical health. Tackle Your Feelings is a free program that can help clubs kick-start the development of their own mental health game plan."

Book a @tyf_au workshop today.



What is Tackle Your Feelings?

- Tackle Your Feelings is a FREE mental health program for community football/netball clubs
- The program was formed by the AFL Coaches Association, AFL Players' Association and Zurich Insurance in 2018 following the death of Adelaide coach Phil Walsh
- The program is delivered by a local psychologist and aims to help participants gain the tools to Understand, Recognise and Respond to signs of mental ill-health.
- The program is based on the education delivered to the AFL industry and is led by high-profile player and coach ambassadors
- Since 2019, the TYF program has been delivered to more than 10,000 participants in every Australian state and territory and it's available to your club in 2024
- Quote from TYF ambassador Nathan Buckley: "It's an awesome program. It's so succinct and gives you really good strategies... it's a really good conversation starter."

To book a session in for your club contact **Grant McMillan via grant@rdfnl.com.au**



DIGGERS REST

Club Notes



The Diggers Rest Football Netball Club is excited to welcome back our members, sponsors and players for an exciting 2026 season. We have had a busy off season with new players and sponsors joining us for 2026. We welcome you all to the Diggers Rest Football Netball Club. I urge all our supporters and players to use our valued sponsors as without them we could not operate and they all are the reason we have such a great club.

The coaches and players have worked hard over the off season and are looking forward to getting the season under way. We wish all our football and netball players the best of luck in Round 1. It is a great club to be part of, which has been proven year after year.

Personally, I would like to thank our committee members and volunteers, you are all so valuable to our club and what a great team to be part of.

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GISBORNE GIANTS *Club Notes*



Gisborne Giants are excited to be back for our 2nd senior season. Both footballers and netballers have had a long pre-season, and we are looking forward to getting into the weekly rhythm of matches. We welcome the challenge on Good Friday against Macedon as we continue to build our rivalry across all grades.

On the football side, Andrew Hall continues to lead the way as head coach, while AJ Craske leads our netball program. Highlights during pre-season included having a couple of presentations to both playing groups, firstly by dietician Lucy Gauci, and then Sport Psychologist Darren Godwin.

Our first function is Saturday 18th April when we host Romsey where we will have an Ipod shuffle night!

Don't forget to sign up as a Club Orange member which includes entry into all home games, President lunch access and some merch! Go Giants!

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KYNETON

Club Notes

There's strong momentum at Kyneton heading into 2026, with the Tigers building on a standout 2025 season that delivered premierships success for our FIDA side and U13B footballers, alongside a long-awaited senior finals win and a return to finals that saw the seniors reach the Preliminary Final. With close to 300 players representing the club each weekend, KFNC continues to play a vital role in the Kyneton community, driven by a thriving junior program that remains the heartbeat of the club.

Our junior ranks continue to grow across both football and netball, with strong participation, development pathways and a clear focus on creating a positive, inclusive environment. The strength of our junior program was evident last year, highlighted by our U13B football premiership, an Under 11B runners-up finish, and preliminary final appearances from both our Youth Girls football and Under 11 netball teams. With many juniors continuing to progress into senior ranks, this success reflects the depth of talent coming through and the long-term sustainability of our programs.

NETBALL

Kyneton's netball program continues to go from strength to strength under head coach David O'Hare, with depth across all grades and exciting new additions in 2026.

Former Australian Diamond Kristiana Manu'a headlines the recruits, bringing elite experience and leadership to the defensive end. To have a player of Kris's calibre at Kyneton is a massive boost to our netball program, and we can't wait to see her wearing the yellow and black dress.

Milestones will also be celebrated, with Kristy Torney (250 games) and Katie Fish (150 games) set to feature during the season.

FOOTBALL

Senior coach Ethan Foreman returns to lead the Tigers after last year's thrilling finals campaign, with the group eager to take the next step in 2026. The squad has welcomed several exciting new recruits, adding depth, experience, and fresh energy across the board.

Pre-season has been strong, with fitness, skills, and team cohesion all on the rise, and the group is looking sharper than ever. Supported by Brandon Spurr (Reserves) and Adam Cook (U19.5), the senior squad is well-positioned to challenge at the top of the ladder once again.

With a mix of seasoned campaigners and emerging talent, the Tigers are set for a season full of intensity, resilience, and plenty of big moments on the field. Key milestones, including Ethan Foreman (250 games) and Hayden Smith (200 games), add extra excitement as the season unfolds.

The club's reigning premier FIDA side will again be a major focus in 2026 as they set their sights on back-to-back success. After last year's memorable premiership, the group has carried that momentum straight into the new season, already hitting the ground running with an opening round win.

The team continues to be a source of pride for the club, embodying the spirit, inclusivity and connection that KFNC is built on. With confidence high and another exciting season ahead, there's plenty of anticipation around what this group can achieve in 2026.

A huge thank you to our major sponsors, Kilcoy Global, Prendergast Earthmoving, and Kyneton Bowling Club for their ongoing support in helping the Tigers thrive both on and off the field.

With talent, passion, and community spirit driving every team, 2026 promises to be another unforgettable year for the Tigers



Event STAGE HIRE



**As seen at all RDFNL Grand
Finals in 2025!**



LANCEFIELD

Club Notes



Season 2026 has hit us quickly after what has been a massive off season for the Tigers. New senior men's coaches Andrew McTrusty and Chris Collins take over the ship this year, while Ciara Stewart (Netball) and Cash Ferguson (Women's Football) remain at the helm of their respective groups.

Off field we've got some big events coming up. Our first home game is April 18 when we host Macedon. On April 25 our ANZAC Day game is at home this year and will be another massive occasion with this years games being twilight matches. Standby for a BIG announcement around our May 16 game against Woodend. This one should be a lot of fun. Keep an eye on the socials.

We're proud to officially announce our Captains and Leadership Groups for the upcoming season at Lancefield Netball & Football Club.

These players represent the heart, drive and commitment of our club – leaders on and off the field who will set the standard in 2026.

Senior Men's Football

Captain: Riley O'Meara

Vice Captains:

Leroy Ristevski

John Morgan

Tom Sayers

Reuben Schembri and

John Anstee

Reserves Football

Captain: Dan Reynolds

Vice Captains: Neil Johnston and Andrew

Richardt

Under 19's Football

Captain: Flynn O'Meara

Vice Captains: Zane Steel & Noah Weber

Deputy VC: Andreas Boukouras and Billy Stewart

Women's Football

Captain: Emily OBrien

Vice Captain: Lilly Bromley

Molly Libardi

Esme Byrne-Keen

Alice Bromley

Bec Agar

19's Netball

Captains: Grace O'Meara & Eliza Janky

Vice Captain: Sarah Huggins

D Grade Netball

Captain: Eloise Maxwell

Vice Captain: Alison Heseltine

C Grade Netball

Captain: Jess Ditloff

Vice Captain: Baylee Baltrame

B Grade Netball

Captain: Darcee Ellard

A Grade Netball

Captain: Shanae Brundell

Vice Captain: Bella Collodetti

We can't wait to see this group lead the way and drive our club forward. Bring on an exciting 2026 season and let's get around them!



MACEDON

Club Notes



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MELTON CENTRALS

Club Notes



The Melton Centrals Football and Netball Club officially kicked off the 2026 season with a memorable and inspiring season launch at Melton Entertainment Park. It was a night that brought together players, coaches, supporters, and the wider club community, all united by a shared excitement for what lies ahead.

From the moment doors opened, there was a genuine buzz in the room. Familiar faces reconnected, new members were warmly welcomed, and the sense of belonging that defines our club was on full display. The season launch wasn't just about marking the beginning of another year—it was about reinforcing the culture, values, and passion that make the Mighty Blues so special.

Our football program was given a strong and motivating start with an address from senior coach Ben Chapman. His message resonated deeply, focusing on commitment, growth, and the importance of playing for one another. He spoke about setting high standards, embracing challenges, and building a team-first mindset that will carry us through the highs and lows of the season.

Club president Paul Sinclair followed with wise and thoughtful words, reflecting on the strength of the club both on and off the field. He acknowledged the hard work of volunteers, the dedication of players, and the unwavering support of families and sponsors. His message was clear—success is built not just on talent, but on community, resilience, and shared purpose.

On the netball front, Randy Pereira delivered a heartfelt and inspiring speech that highlighted the unity and determination within the netball program. His words captured the spirit of teamwork and the importance of supporting one another, reminding everyone that every contribution—big or small—helps shape the club's success.

A true highlight of the evening was the special guest appearance from Western Bulldogs captain Marcus Bontempelli. Interviewed by Jeremy Newman, who did a fantastic job guiding the conversation, Marcus provided incredible insight into what it takes to perform at the highest level. He shared practical advice, spoke about leadership, preparation, and mindset, and offered valuable tips for players heading into the 2026 season.

What stood out most, however, was Marcus himself—approachable, humble, and genuinely invested in connecting with everyone in the room. His willingness to share his experiences and spend time with club members left a lasting impression, and we are incredibly grateful for his presence on such an important night.

As the evening came to a close, there was a strong sense that something special is building at the Mighty Blues. The season launch wasn't just an event—it was a statement of intent. It reminded us of who we are, what we stand for, and what we can achieve together.

The Melton Centrals Football and Netball Club heads into the 2026 season with excitement, belief, and a deep sense of pride. We can't wait to see what unfolds in the months ahead and to share the journey with our incredible community.

We wish all clubs across the league the very best for the upcoming season and look forward to a year of great competition, sportsmanship, and unforgettable moments. Go the Mighty Blues!





MELTON SOUTH

Club Notes





2025



MOUNT ALEXANDER *Club Notes*





2025



RIDDELL

Club Notes



Riddell District Football Netball League



COME PLAY AT 'THE MEADOWS' THIS SEASON

– THE RDFNLs HOME TRACK –



The Melbourne Greyhound Racing Association and our venue 'The Meadows' are a long-time sponsor of the RDFNL. It's a partnership we're very proud of and continues in 2025.

We invite all RDFNL Clubs to take advantage of our hospitality by hosting a function or event at our state-of-the-art **Conference and Events Centre** this season. You're also welcome to join us on a race night for a unique night out. Entry to our track on both Wednesday and Saturday race nights is FREE. On Saturday evenings our **City View Bistro** is open for Race Night Dining. It's elevated dining room location offers stunning Melbourne city skyline and track views and serves inspired bistro classics starting from just \$22, making it the perfect option for a great night out with teammates, friends or the family.

We look forward to seeing many of you at your leagues home race track this season. For bistro bookings and function enquiries please visit melbournegreyhounds.org.au or call us on (03) 9355 5222

MELBOURNE GREYHOUNDS

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Riddell District Football Netball League





ROMSEY

Club Notes





WALLAN Club Notes

After months of preparation, we can't wait to kick off the 2026 season. It has been a very busy off-season for Wallan FNC, particularly for our netball and football coaches, Netball Coordinator and Football Manager. Good luck to everyone competing in the RDFNL this season. Thank you to the RDFNL for all you do to support clubs, players, coaches, officials and supporters.

We welcomed a number of new netballers and footballers, playing their first game for the club and wish them the best of luck. We also wish all our Under 19.5s moving up to Seniors and Reserves the best of luck and the former Wallan Juniors now playing their first Under 19.5s games.

Our netballers are looking forward to the 2026 season with the return of our Head Coach and A Grade Coach, Lucas Bennett-Hullin. A big welcome back to B Grade Coach Kirrily Gilchrist—it's fantastic to have her back in the coaching team. C Grade has a new coaching duo in Sam Traynor and Genevieve Carboon, while D Grade will have a fresh look with Cassandra Leech and Katelyn Shephard. And of course, we're thrilled to have our U19s premierships coach, Sharon Ashworth, back again.

Meanwhile our footballers are also looking forward to the 2026 football season with the return of our Senior Coach Daniel Nolan joined by Co Head Coach Pat Christofi with Assistant Coaches Scott Gilchrist, Matty Huy & Damian Bonner, Reserves Head Coach Daneil Perkins with Assistant Coaches Matt Traynor, Ben Schraven & Shaun Harrison, Under 19.5 Head Coach Tim Yendall with Assistant Coaches Spencer Mathieson, Matt Bell & Archie Moore and Club 18s Head Coach Matt O'Connor.

A huge thank you to our sponsors who continue to support the club, as well as those who have recently come on board—your support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to all our volunteers who help in both on-field and off-field roles. Without your support, the games simply wouldn't go ahead.

Go Wallan





WOODEND HESKET

Club Notes

The wait is over - Round 1 is here! What better way to kick off the 2026 season than under lights in Kyneton for a twilight clash against the Tigers.

Our Hawks are ready. Preseason is done. Practice matches have sharpened the skills. And now it's time for the real deal. From our U19.5s through to Seniors in footy, and across all five netball grades, the brown and gold will be on full display.

Round 1 is about setting the tone. It's about energy, belief, and showing the league what Woodend Hesket is all about in 2026. The nerves will be there, but so will the excitement. Our teams are primed and ready to rip in.

Let's pack Kyneton and show them what Hawks spirit looks like on the road!

THANK YOU TO OUR ROUND 1 SPONSOR – ORGANS COACHES

A huge thank you to Organs Coaches for sponsoring Round 1! Your support helps keep our club strong and growing, and we're proud to have you backing the Hawks. Whether it's school transport, tours, or special events, Organs Coaches delivers quality service across the Macedon Ranges and beyond. Support those who support us!

COMING UP

Round 2 – Woodend vs Wallan at Gilbert Gordon. Join us in the clubrooms after the final game for live music - everyone welcome!

Go Hawks!



Organ's Coaches

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RDFNL TRIBUNAL RESULTS

Mark Freeth – Diggers Rest: Striking - Three Weeks

Ryley White – Diggers Rest: Striking - Two Weeks

Cameron Thomson – Wallan: Charging/ Striking - Four Weeks

Brendan Butler – Woodend-Hesket: Striking - One Week

Seamus Menner - Romsey. Striking - One Week



TEAM STAFFING

We are always looking for new staff to work in our football gate and bar and catering teams across the State.

If you've got a customer service focus and an ability to work well with a team, please feel free to email us your resume and we will be in touch before we start our next round of recruitment.

We service Horse Racing Clubs throughout Country Victoria with the provision of a variety of casual bar, catering and general raceday staff roles and also service over 20 Football Leagues over the State with the provision of gate staff for finals.

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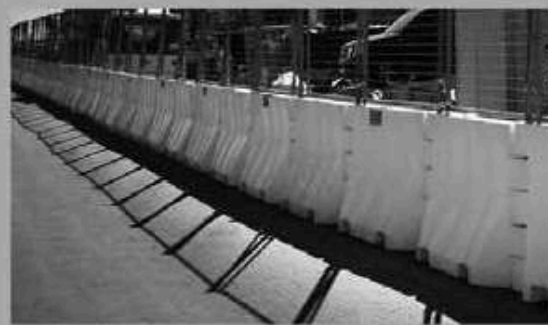
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NETBALL MANAERS REPORT

by General Manager Operations Grace Bibby

It has been a very busy off season for all at the RDFNL. I am sure I am not on my own when I say I can't wait for the season to start. There has been plenty of excitement with new teams coming into our competition, new players coming into our competition, new concepts coming into our competition and maybe the most pleasing thing of all is the steady growth of participation across both our senior and junior competition.

There are some massive names joining our competition this season either fresh from Suncorp Super Netball, New Zealand Power houses and even from VNL Championship teams. We are excited to see the young talent of state players such as Tilly Allen and Ilsa Munro show off their talent as they continue their senior development.

This season started with two huge days of junior netball grading and it looks likely we will have a 13 grades of junior netball this season. It was two massive days with just over 250 games played by more than 120 teams. Thank you to all the coordinators for their support and cooperation on both days. In the off season we have also appointed our three junior Interleague team coaches. We are very lucky to have high quality coaches across all age groups and the inroads they have already made is exciting to see. We can't wait to see how they go against at Association Championships in May and June and we are excited to watch their development at domestic level each Sunday. We wish Sarah Carrol the best of luck with the 13s, Teghan Butler and Naomi Klaasen the best of luck with 15s and the one and only Katie Clarke and Darcee Ellard the best of luck with the 17s.

These names may be familiar to most and they certainly are amongst the program as they each completed the same roles last season. To have continuity amongst our junior rep program is fantastic.

The RDFNL continues with its zero tolerance of poor behaviour. Umpires are still extremely hard to find and we hope the more we support our umpires the more comfortable they are umpiring within the league.

We are still looking for senior panel umpires so if you or someone you know is looking to umpire, please email grace@rdfnl.com.au.

This year we have also had a huge number of coordinators step down which makes way for new people. Thank you to those who I have worked with over the last few years and thanks to those putting their hand up to fill their shoes. Sometimes being a coordinator is a thankless job. You are making a difference in a lot of lives in your community.

We have a great workplace with an incredible boss and I am excited to be gearing up for another season with my trusty sidekick Krissy Clement and Lauren Nolan as our netball directors

The RDFNL Board also welcomed a second netball director in Lauren Nolan over the summer months and already she is showing great expertise and knowledge and providing great support to myself.

I wish everyone the best of luck this season and hope you have an enjoyable time and better yourself both on and off court.

RDFNL FOOTBALL TEAM LISTS

Click the division for match details and team lists.



VS



A Grade

B Grade

19 & Under

C Grade

D Grade



VS



A Grade

B Grade

19 & Under

C Grade

D Grade



VS



A Grade

B Grade

19 & Under

C Grade

D Grade



VS



A Grade

B Grade

19 & Under

C Grade

D Grade



VS



A Grade

B Grade

C Grade

19 & Under

D Grade



RDFNL Netball Tipping

Each week throughout the 2026 season, a panel of RDFNL staff, executive, sponsors and media will submit their tips for the weekend's senior netball matches, which will be featured in the footy record. See how your tips stack up against the RDFNL experts each week!

Netball Tipping					
NAME	Macedon vs Gisborne Giants	Kyneton vs Woodend- Hesket	Melton South vs Diggers Rest	Lancefield vs Romsey	Wallaan vs Melton Centrals
Brenton Knott	Macedon	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallaan
Krissy Clement	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Lancefield	Wallaan
Ben Higgins	Macedon	Woodend- Hesket	Melton South	Romsey	Melton Centrals
Tara Murray	Macedon	Woodend- Hesket	Melton South	Lancefield	Wallaan
Jordan Doyle	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Lancefield	Wallaan
Grace Bibby	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Lancefield	Wallaan
Grant McMillan	Macedon	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Romsey	Wallaan
Courtney Alexander	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Lancefield	Wallaan
Richard Thwaites	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Melton South	Romsey	Wallaan
Lauren Nolan	Macedon	Woodend- Hesket	Diggers Rest	Lancefield	Wallaan
Cameron Pope	Gisborne Giants	Woodend- Hesket	Melton South	Lancefield	Wallaan





RDFNL Netball Previews

By Grace Bibby



Macedon and Gisborne Giants will do battle for the second time on Good Friday after a successful first meeting last season.

The Cats were there when the whips were cracking last season but a slow start and taking time to gel as a team might have been their undoing. This season they welcome back Claire Oakley in a permanent role and the rising superstar Moilly McGrath has also returned.

Janelle Tate will once again lead the Macedon line up after a year settling back into netball after giving birth.

Chloe Williams is also back in A Grade after a stint in B Grade and will bring a wealth of experience and netball smarts to the court.

For Gisborne Giants they were held back by their points strain last year but by retaining most of their list they will be hard to beat in season 2026.

AJ Craske is back at the helm with some key players at his disposal.

Malia Seumantufa never really got going moving between two clubs but she will also be permanently in the RDFNL in season 2026.

Lauren Clymo came in as part of the points squeeze and was named the Giants best alongside Emma Vitalone.

Emma Winfield is another dynamic player but situated down the other end of the court. Keep an eye on Zoe Kucic in her second season of A Grade,

Prediction- Gisborne Giants to start the year with a bang!

If the off-season recruiting is anything to go by, this is going to be a heavyweight battle not to be missed.

Unfortunately for both teams, they will play without the support of their footballers, with the Kyneton Showgrounds facilities not ready for competition netball. The game has been moved to Gilbert Gordon and will be played at the adjusted time of 11:30am.

Kyneton will have some headaches managing their points in 2026 after recruiting Kristiana Manu'a straight from Sunshine Coast Lightning. Manu'a is a tenacious defender who can cover wing defence and swing into both circle positions, providing a valuable inclusion for Kyneton. They will need that depth in defence to cover the loss of two-time Ryan Medallist Tilly Shephard. Making their defence even more critical is the fact that Woodend Hesket lost Bec Hicks and replaced her with Kaylia Stanton.

We haven't even touched on the superstars already known to the league. Ty Coppinger continues her dominance alongside VNL player Georgia Bowkett. Natalie McDonald had a fantastic season last year with the Hawks and will only get better with another season of experience. The Hawks are a huge chance of going four-peat, and everyone in the league will be chasing them.

Prediction – Woodend Hesket's new recruits to get the job done over Kyneton's new recruits.

RDFNL Senior Mens Previews

By Grace Bibby



After managing just two wins in 2025, Lancefield will be eager to start their 2026 campaign on the right foot as they travel to take on Romsey. With new co-coach Andrew Mctrusty bringing experience from both AFL and NRL assistant roles there's renewed optimism around the Tigers. Lancefield will hope key recruit John Anstee along with their star players from last year Reuben Schembri and Riley O'Meara can make an immediate impact and lift their competitiveness early in the season.

Romsey on the other hand, will be out to bounce back after a disappointing year by their standards, missing finals on percentage. With Nathan Blair entering his second year as coach we should expect a more connected Romsey outfit in 2026. While there performances haven't shown they have the star power to compete, Jack Jedwab will be a key focal point to Romsey's success after he kicked 46 goals from 16 games last season for the red and black.

Prediction- Lancefield to be too strong for Romsey.



Wallan just have a way of making things interesting in finals and after a slow start in 2025 that was exactly what they did. Lucas Bennett Hullin will continue in his head coaching position and the group will be led by Gen Carboon who is dynamic in the midcourt. They have bought in some youth and VNL experience which will give them good depth. I think anyone that has been watching RDFNL will be exciting to see the return of Dakoto Lister who was out with a knee injury for a lot of last season. .

As for Melton Centrals their much loved "tree" in defence has made the move to Bacchus Marsh and will be missed for height and athleticism. They welcome back Helen Amaua who was a strong presence in the 2024 season and a big reason why the Blues pushed for Finals.

With some certainly in their goal circle the Centrals girls will be looking to push into finals contention again.

Prediction- Wallan to win in a close one.



It has been no secret that while everyone else has been recruiting the two lower placed teams of last season have been up against it.

The Panthers have been the most quiet out of everyone but we hope a second lap in the RDFNL will help them find some competitiveness and see the A Grade margins decrease.

They have some fantastic young players but they need some senior bodies and some VNL experience to build around.

For Diggers Rest they will get a strong leader back to the club in Maggie Payne.

They will also have their VNL representative in Leona Hristovska.

Anica Schere has reluctantly taking on the coaching for another year but will the interrupted off season have any affect on their on court performance?

We really have high hopes for both teams that they find a way to break through this season.

Prediction- Diggers Rest in a nail biter similar to last season where it goes down to the wire.



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