

## JULIE WARDLE MEDAL

The Central Rivers Board were thrilled to announce earlier this year that, after extensive consultation and careful consideration, the Central Murray A Grade Best and Fairest award was to be formally named the Julie Wardle Medal.

Julie is a truly deserving recipient of this honour, with one of the most illustrious netball careers ever seen in the Central Murray.

Julie started playing netball with the Lake Boga Netball Club in 1983, with a stint at Swan Hill Netball Club in the early-mid 2000s, before playing out the remainder of her netball days at Tooleybuc Manangatang.

Julie won her first League A Grade Best and Fairest in 1988 while playing with Lake Boga and went on to win a further 8 League A Grade Best and Fairest Awards in 1990, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2009 & 2012. She was also runner up on five occasions, including her last one in 2018 at an impressive 48 years old.

At club level she has won 8 A Grade best and fairest awards with Tooleybuc Manangatang, 4 with Swan Hill and 5 at Lake Boga – along with a host of runner up awards in the years she didn't quite win the top honour.

Julie is also a premiership player and coach, having won 4 A Grade premierships as a playing coach, all with Swan Hill FNC, in 2003 and then 3 in a row 2005, 2006 and 2007. She has also been named as best on court in the grand final on 2 occasions, while playing for Tooleybuc Manangatang in 2009 and 2013.

Julie has represented the Central Murray in interleague netball on numerous occasions and was coach of the Open Women's interleague team in 2011 and 2012.

Julie has been a regular feature in the Team of the Year throughout her career and added to her list of achievements in 2020, with selection in the Central Murray A Grade Team of the Decade.

All the clubs that have been associated with Julie have said she is a terrific person to have around the club; not a year went by that she didn't volunteer her time as an umpire, coach, scorer or timekeeper and this year was no different, with Julie picking up a whistle again in 2023.

Julie spent time on the Central Murray Netball Board of Management and was also recognised as the Central Murray Identity of the Year in 2013 for her contributions to the football and netball community.

Over the years, Julie has been an incredible sportswoman on the court, as well as making some amazing connections off court within the Central Murray Community. We congratulate Julie on this amazing honour and look forward to awarding the Julie Wardle Medal for years to come.

## G.K HARRISON ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

**Nominees:** Jack Helgeland (Balranald), Xavier Sherlock (Lake Boga), Angus Donat (Cohuna Kangas), Lachlan Laursen (Koondrook Barham), Patrick Blake (Tyntynder), Elijah Miliado (Swan Hill) & Mitch Grinham (NNWU)

**Winner:** Patrick Blake (Tyntynder)

A 'home grown' product of the Tyntynder Junior Football Club, Patrick Blake has rapidly risen to become one of the districts most talented and exciting football prospects.

After progressing through the Auskick and Under 12 program at Tyntynder FNC, Patrick's talent and determination was soon recognised by winning 2 x Under 14.5 Club Best & Fairest's in 2021/22 and also claiming the Under 14.5 CMFL League Best & Fairest in 2022 whilst playing limited game time due to senior commitments.

Remarkably, Patrick was selected in the Tyntynder Senior side as a fourteen year old in 2022 and kicked 5 goals on debut and featured in the best players.

Further accolades were awarded to Patrick in 2022 being selected in the Bendigo Pioneers Under 15 V-Line Cup team and going on to be named in the best players for both games of the carnival.

In the 2022 Tyntynder Senior team Patrick soon established himself as not only a promising junior but as vital member of a senior team that played finals and, on several occasions, was named at CHF, outlining the faith from the coaching staff in his ability at only fourteen years of age!

Following on from 2022 and after a self-motivated preseason campaign, 2023 has produced further accolades and achievements for Patrick. He was selected and represented the Victoria Country Under 16 side in all 3 games at the Australian National Championships, represented the Bendigo Pioneers Under 16 Coates League team and has also recently earned selection in the Bendigo Pioneers Under 18 Coates League side as a bottom age player against players 2-3 years older in age.

Whilst representative games have restricted availability at Patrick's beloved Doggies, he has still managed to play 5 senior games (to date), named in the Centre Half Forward position, and his outstanding form has seen him feature in the best players in each game and has managed to kick a goal. Once again, his importance to the senior team belies his 15 years of age and, incredibly, he seems to get better each time he takes the field. Along with his undoubted football ability, Patrick is also a popular and respected member of the Tyntynder Football Netball Club and his leadership has been recognised upon being the Captain of several club, school & representative sides to date.

His strengths are many, Patrick can take a high-flying pack mark, lay a crunching tackle, kick the miraculous goal, burst out of a centre clearance or, as a team-orientated player, do all the 1' percenters'.

Skill, determination, courage, aerobic capacity, strength, teamwork are just a few of many attributes Patrick displays consistently at a high level and confirms he is destined for greater things in his football journey and the Tyntynder Football Netball Club couldn't be prouder.

## 19 & UNDER DISTINCTION AWARD

**Nominees:** Bree Hodgson (Balranald), Bridie Curran (NNWU), Amy Simpson (Swan Hill), Summer Blachford (Tooley Manang), Tahni Smith (Tyntynder) & Milla Holt (Lake Boga)

**Winner:** Bree Hodgson (Balranald)

Bree is very deserving of this nomination. As an extremely talented young lady she is also incredibly coachable and has an amazing attitude. Bree always gives 110% at training and on game day. Bree shows a high level of commitment towards our club and her teammates. Bree is extremely positive & encouraging towards those around her and provides direction and reassurance on the netball court. Bree displays great leadership values week in week out and is a beautiful role model for our juniors to look up to. Bree has a bubbly personality and although she has achieved things well beyond her years in her netball career, she remains very modest and continues to work hard and improve on areas where she can. Not only is Bree very reliable she is also quick to put up her hand and step in to fill a job or role when needed. Bree is well respected and appreciated by her teammates, coaches and peers at the Balranald football netball club. As a club we are extremely proud of Bree & her achievements so far.



## AFL VICTORIA VOLUNTEER AWARDS

We would like to take a moment to recognize Noel Watson for a recent achievement within the AFL ranks. As this in an AFL award we are, unfortunately, unable to present it to Noel, but it would be remiss of us not to recognize his contributions to the League and wider sporting community.

Noel was recently nominated by David Alderuccio for the AFL Victoria Volunteers State Awards under the Media category. Noel was nominated for his longstanding contribution in the media at a regional level.

Noel was successful in winning the AFL Victoria Volunteer Award which he will be presented with in October at the AFL Vic Awards Dinner.

All State Winners are then nominated for the National Awards, in which Noel was again successful in winning.

Noel will be presented with his National Award at the Annual National Awards on the Thursday night before AFL Grand Final. He will also be luck enough to take part in the AFL Grand Final Parade on the Friday and attend a pre-game function and AFL Grand Final.

This is a fantastic acknowledgement for Noel and a small appreciation for the hard work he has done in the region promoting the game. We look forward to catching a glimpse of Noel soaking up the atmosphere of the Grand Final parade next week and thank him for his contributions to our Football Community.

## UMPIRE AWARDS

**Umpire of the Year:** Steph Anderson (Lake Boga)

**Badged Umpire of the Year:** Demi Andrews (NNWU)

**Umpire Encouragement Award:** Ruby Bower (Lake Boga)

**Newly Badged Umpires:** Eva Bolton (Woorinen), Demi Andrews (NNWU), Shanai Kelly (NNWU), Kaylene Adams (Kerang)



## NETBALL COACH OF THE YEAR

**Nominees:** Anne-Marie Stewart (Lake Boga), Deb Parsons (Mallee Eagles), Felicity Robertson (Lake Boga), Tara Cordina (Kerang), Teagan Lawry (Tyntynder)

**Winner:** Felicity Robertson (Lake Boga)

Felicity, 'Flick', coached the 16 & Under team this year continuing from last year. From a club perspective Flick has continued to do a tremendous job whilst adhering to the club goals and objectives.

Flick stepped away from playing this year and has invested all her efforts into helping shape and developing our young members on and off the court.

Flick has taken the role in her stride, keen in developing her own knowledge as a coach with attending coaches' courses and seeking mentoring from other coaches.

But Flick is also devoted in working hard and making it a personal goal to foster all her players and help them excel, wanting to see them succeed as a team and individually and giving them the best opportunities possible to grow. Flick empowers all her players to strive to do their best and have a positive attitude. Flick and her team have been rewarded in their efforts with a finals position.

Always willing to assist anywhere that is needed, we are proud of Flick's efforts and can't thank her enough for her contribution to our club and our juniors.

## CLUB EXCELLENCE

Lake Boga Football Netball Club