

DONVALE

FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLUB



President - John Giles



Hi all,

Our last newsletter we had just won our first netball grandfinal and it certainly set the scene for a great week ahead.

I do want to acknowledge Ferntree Gully for hosting a final series, they were fantastic hosts and I hope they can hold it for more years to come. With The Basin over coming Upper Ferntree Gully in the prelim, we entered the Grand Final under no illusion that we had a major battle on our hands, both Upper Ferntree Gully and The Basin had incredible seasons and all 3 of us challenged each other during the year, I have no doubt they will be both playing deep into finals into 2027 and I wish them all the best, they both have their clubs in great shape.

Grandfinal day for Steve who was now heading us into our 4th straight set the boys on a the task and with a great start from Marriner we kept showing the resilience that this group renowned for, it was a tough low scoring affair, with some major injuries but we stayed strong to bring home our 4th Premiership, a great result to all involved.

There is no doubt that our Senior Men entered this season with more pressure on us than anytime within my tenure, and for most of the year we were just waiting for the finals and then the Grandfinal. Daniel represented the club and the players from the moment he started with the enthusiasm and professionalism that gave everyone confidence, we were on the right path. The pressure we were under to deliver was enormous. We entered Grand Final week in similar fashion to the last couple of years, but as each year goes by the pressure to get it right on the day grows. Our coaching & playing group, led by Daniel & James didn't let it phase them or the group and we provided an outcome that we were truly looking for, with a sounding 74 point win, there is no doubt we have earned the right to be a division 2 team.

With our Best & Fairest results announced, Billy McCormack was awarded our Senior Men B&F winner and also finishing 3rd in the EFNL B&F award, we also had many players of both netball & football be selected in the EFNL team of the yea, congratulations to you all.

Personally, after the result I felt an immediate relief, but now I have sense of pride that the total club is heading in the right direction, we have some major challenges ahead both on & off the field but believe we have the right people to continue to be a force in the EFNL.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank Georgia for all the work she has put into to create these newsletters and I will look forward to your next one in 2027 (enjoy the break).

Thank you to all that were part of our football/netball club this season. I especially would like to thank all those that contributed to financially supporting the club, either by direct sponsorship, memberships, raffles or participating in our fund raisers. We cannot do what we do without raising the revenue to allow us to operate and compete.

To the committee, life members, members, and supporters along with all our volunteers, thank you for supporting our club, I hope you enjoyed 2026 as much as I did.

We are busy working for Division 2 in 2027 season, with all the challenges that it presents, I hope you all enjoy the off season and hope to see you all next season.

Thanks - John
President

Senior Coach



Daniel Michelangeli

When we look back on the 2026 season, what I'm most proud of is how far this group has come: our commitment to one another, our dedication and our shared appetite for high standards. These qualities have driven us to succeed. From the first day of pre-season to the final siren of the Grand Final, we never wavered from the standards we set. That consistency put us in a strong position throughout the season.

This premiership is especially meaningful because of the journey we've shared—and because we now have the chance to test ourselves in a new division next year.

For now, it's time to rest and reset before we go again. Thank you to all our valued supporters and members. I hope you enjoy some much-needed rest.

Development Coach

What an outstanding 5 weeks of football for the DFC.

The commitment from the development players led by Kaide was remarkable culminating in a premiership. We used the word belief on the board for our finals campaign (Sorry Ted Lasso), the fact that we beat The Basin having lost to them both times thru the year was testament to our resolve. It was a group of players united in a common goal and backed by the support of the green army.

I would like to take the opportunity firstly to congratulate the seniors on the premiership and to thanks Daniel and the senior coaching panel for there support - we tell the players to have fun which we did as well. It would be remiss of me not to thank my assistant coaches - Trev, Andy, & Sean, appreciate your support gents. A thanks as well to the trainers, runners and injured players who assisted - appreciate your support.

Also congratulations to the U19's for their year - Jordy a job well done, enjoy having a beer next year with the old boys on the hill. And finally congratulation to the netballers on their premiership - it is great to have you as a part of the club.

Bring on 2027 and division 2 - I know as a group we are looking forward to the challenge.



Stephen Nankervis

Netball

What a Season for Donvale Netball! What an amazing season for our club. In just our second season, we have managed to win the Division 1 Grand Final in style, an incredible achievement for everyone involved. Putting five teams on court every week can sometimes be a challenge, but we were incredibly proud to have complete teams each week and see such strong commitment from our players. A huge thank you to Robyn Kent, our Netball Administrator and EFNL Liaison, who has been fantastic throughout the season. There were certainly times when I had to annoy Robyn with late changes to team lists, including one Friday night when we had six late changes! These changes certainly pushed the EFNL requirements, but Robyn was always there to help us work through them. A special thank you also goes to Olivia Atyimas, our Netball Captain. Liv's ongoing support throughout the season, along with her assistance at training and on game days, has been fantastic. Her commitment to supporting not only her own team, but all five teams, has helped create a strong sense of connection across the netball program. Friday nights have become a huge part of our club environment, and we have worked hard to have a presence at as many games as possible to support our players. There was one Friday night where I went from HE Parker to Melba, to Oakleigh, and back to HE Parker to support our players across their games! While it can make for a busy night, this is what being part of a club is all about, showing up for one another and continuing to build connections across all of our teams. Congratulations to all of our award winners! It was incredible to see that, halfway through the season, every rostered player had received B&F votes. This is a fantastic reflection of the effort and performance across the entire group and is something that should make everyone very proud. Thank you again to the Donvale community for making myself and so many of our netballers feel so welcome in our first year at the club. It has been a fantastic environment, a great community and a season filled with some amazing outcomes. Good luck to all of our netballers heading into summer competition! Mark Lane

A Special Thank You to Mark To continue on from Mark's message, I would also like to extend a huge thank you to Mark himself. Mark has put in an unwavering amount of effort throughout the season. He would often coach up to four teams in one Friday night, travelling between games and making sure our players felt supported both on and off the court. That commitment goes far beyond coaching. Mark has helped create an environment where netball and women's sport are supported, valued and celebrated, while also giving our players the opportunity to build friendships and connections across the wider Donvale community. As Mark said, Donvale was a club that embraced us with open arms, and we are incredibly grateful for the way the committee, volunteers, players and wider club community have supported us throughout the season. The success we have achieved across our five teams would not have been possible without that support. And we aren't finished yet! We are excited to have three netball teams representing Donvale in the EFNL Summer Competition. The competition runs on Friday nights from October through to February, giving our players another opportunity to represent the club, continue playing together and maintain the connections that have been built throughout this season. The commitment from our girls to continue representing Donvale through the summer season is a great reflection of the community we have created this year. So, if you're around on a Friday night, come down and support our netballers! We would love to see plenty of Donvale faces around the courts as we head into what promises to be another great season. Thank you again to everyone who has supported Donvale Netball this year. We can't wait to see what comes next! Liv Atyimas



Mark Lane



Liv Atyimas

Leadership Group



James Rausa
Senior Captain



Mihaele Zalac
Vice Captain



Billy McCormack
Vice Captain



Kaide Fittolani
Development Captain

Seniors

We did it. 🏆

There's something special about a group of people coming together with a shared belief and seeing where it can take them. Looking back on the 2026 season and finals campaign, I think what stands out most is the belief within this group. When the pressure was at its highest, everyone played their part, trusted each other and stayed connected to what we had been building all year.

There were plenty of ups and downs throughout the season, but the way this group grew, both on and off the field, is something we can all be incredibly proud of. And to finish it all with a premiership and promotion to Division 2 is something we'll remember for a very long time. There's a sense of relief, a sense of completion and, most of all, a huge sense of pride. So much hard work, energy and effort from everyone within the club went into this premiership, and to finally hold up that cup is something that even now I still can't quite put into words. But I do know one thing – we have a very hungry group, and this taste of success will only drive us into a big 2027.

I can't thank the entire playing group, coaches, staff, volunteers, families and our community enough for everything they have done to help us achieve this moment. Every person played a part, and every contribution mattered. The next challenge is making sure we don't simply celebrate what we've achieved, but carry the spirit, belief and connection of this group forward.

For now, let's enjoy this one. We've earned it. 🏆 - James, Mihaele, Billy

Development

What a season it's been for the Donvale Development side. It was certainly an up and down season, with plenty of challenges along the way, but the way the boys responded over the final six weeks was something special. The hard work, commitment and belief the whole side put in during that period really showed the results when it mattered. To finish 4th on the ladder and go on to win the flag is an incredible achievement and makes this one a little more special. A massive thankyou to Andy, Trev, Nank and Sean for all the time, effort and commitment they put into coaching the side throughout the season. Their guidance, support and belief in the group played a huge part in getting the best out of the team when it counted. Congratulations to everyone involved and 4 in a row is pretty cool! - Kaide Fittolani

EFNL TEAM OF THE YEAR

FOOTBALL

MEN'S DIVISION THREE FOOTBALL

EFNL™
EASTLAND

TEAM OF THE YEAR

FB	 HARRISON GREAVES	 TOM WEIR	 MATT STEINIGER
HB	 HARVEY MEYER	 JORDAN NUKU	 JAYSON FABRIS
C	 JAMES FISHER	 NICK HALLO	 DARCY CORRIGAN
HF	 MACKAY BATESON	 CONNOR EDWARDS	 CONNOR COCHRANE
FF	 LUKE MARRINER	 DARCY FRITSCH	 MATTHEW LOW
FOL	 BILLY McCORMACK	 MATTEO D'ALFONSO (C)	 TRAVIS STRANGE
INT	 KYLE WIGNELL	 LACHLAN KRUGER	 DANIEL HORVAT
		 JOSH BRIGINSHAW	
	COACH	 JOEL PERRY	

Congratulations to James Fisher, Luke Marriner, Billy McCormack and Kyle Wignell

EFNL TEAM OF THE YEAR

NETBALL

Premier & Division One
Netball

WD – Sophie Moore
INT – Lauren Green



EFNL PREMIER & DIVISION 1 NETBALL
RINGWOOD MAZDA

TEAM OF THE YEAR

GS	EAST SUNDERLAND	CHLOE NORTH-COOMBES	INTERCHANGE
GA	EAST BURWOOD EBFNC	NICOLE WONG	Summah Hinchcliffe
WA	CEFC	AMY PICKARD	Jaymee Tough
C	CEFC	CELINE DODD	Donvale Green
WD	DONVALE	SOPHIE MOORE	CAPTAIN
GD	Summah Hinchcliffe	ELOISE ARGOON	Nicole Wong
GK	EAST BURWOOD EBFNC	ABBEY HUBBARD	

EFNL DIVISION FOUR NETBALL
RINGWOOD MAZDA

TEAM OF THE YEAR

GS	EAST BURWOOD EBFNC	ALEXANDRA GILPIN	INTERCHANGE
GA	SHARKS	GABRIELLE HOOPER	Falcons Barr
WA	WITCHAM NETBALL CLUB	SIAN RICE	Lions Van Zuyden
C	DONVALE	SOPHIE COOKES	Eagles Montgomery
WD	EAST BURWOOD EBFNC	JADE HANCOCK	CAPTAIN
GD	Eagles	COURTNEY McPHEE	Sharks Hooper
GK	SHARKS	SOPHIE HEAZLEWOOD	

Division Four Netball

C – Sophie Cookes



EFNL TEAM OF THE YEAR

NETBALL

EFNL DIVISION FIVE NETBALL
RINGWOOD MAZDA

TEAM OF THE YEAR

GS		MADISON MARSHALL	INTERCHANGE
GA		JESSICA ZAJC	
WA		KATIE HARPER	
C		MADI FERRIS	
WD		CASSIDY REES	CAPTAIN
GD		CHLOE BROWN	
GK		ALYSSA NEWAY	MADISON MARSHALL

Division Five Netball

WD – Cassidy Rees
GD – Chloe Brown



Division Six Netball

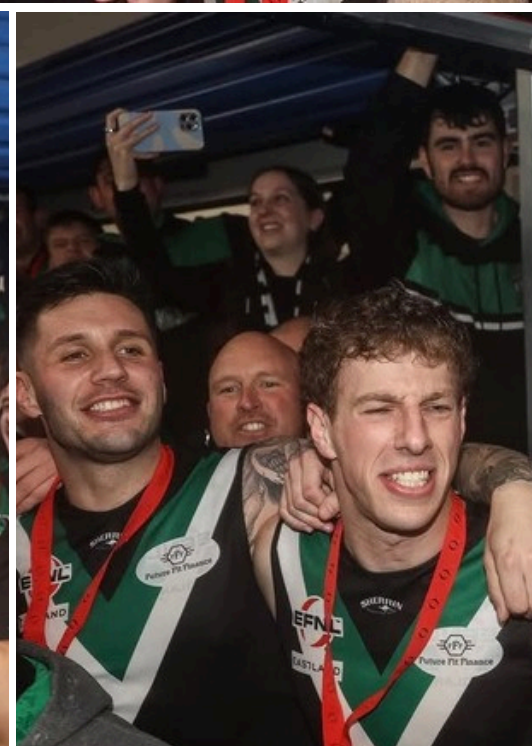
INT – Grace Mullenger



EFNL DIVISION SIX NETBALL
RINGWOOD MAZDA

TEAM OF THE YEAR

GS		REBECCA REID	INTERCHANGE
GA		REBECCA EDDY	
WA		CHARLOTTE KOSTER	
C		LAUREN HUSSEY	
WD		PAIGE SYKES	CAPTAIN
GD		ELISE MUELLER	
GK		HAILEE BOURKE	LAUREN HUSSEY







BEST & FAIREST

TOP TEN SENIORS

BILLY MCCORMACK - 90 VOTES

NICK MURPHY - 67 VOTES

JONO VATHAKOS - 57 VOTES

MATT DAY - 52 VOTES

CHRIS TOUT - 50 VOTES

JAMES RAUSA - 49 VOTES

JOSH DJORDEVIC - 49 VOTES

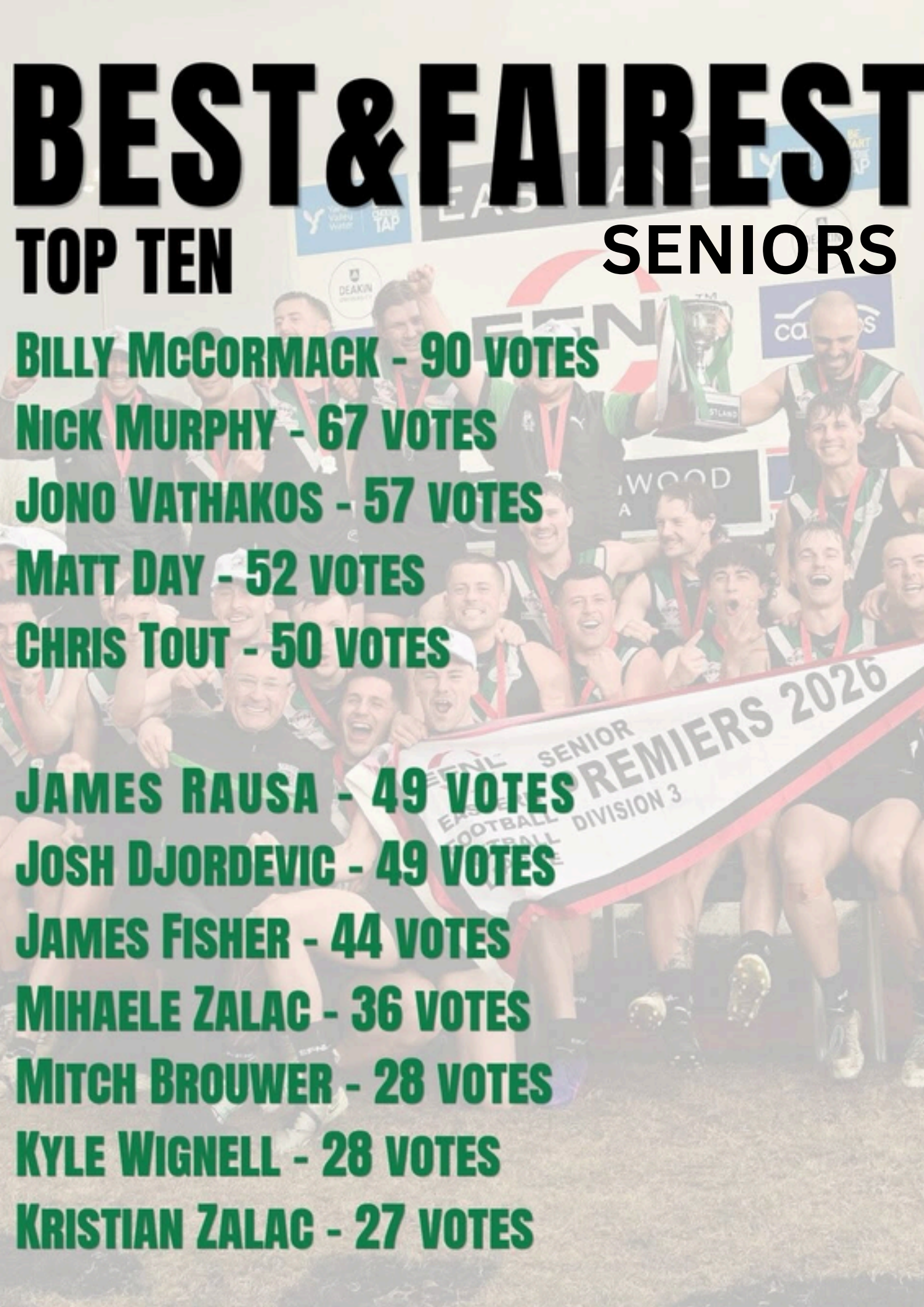
JAMES FISHER - 44 VOTES

MIHAELE ZALAC - 36 VOTES

MITCH BROUWER - 28 VOTES

KYLE WIGNELL - 28 VOTES

KRISTIAN ZALAC - 27 VOTES



BEST & FAIREST

TOP TEN

RESERVES

LUKE LOUCAS - 87 VOTES

PAT TOSCANO - 76 VOTES

KAIDE FITTOLANI - 54 VOTES

JOSH O'CONNOR - 51 VOTES

LLEYTON TRIFFETT - 47 VOTES

BEN CURRIE - 46 VOTES

AIDAN RUSH - 44 VOTES

NIC CHANCELLOR - 43 VOTES

RILEY CURRIE - 41 VOTES

KADE GRIX - 34 VOTES

RESERVE
PREMIERS 2020
EASTERN
FOOTBALL
NETBALL
LEAGUE
DIVISION 3

BEST & FAIREST

TOP TEN

U19'S

JAMES POWNEY - 161 VOTES

JAYLEN ALLEN-GARLETT - 107 VOTES

BILLY BODIN - 62 VOTES

ZACH PATTISON - 61 VOTES

HENRY FERNS - 55 VOTES

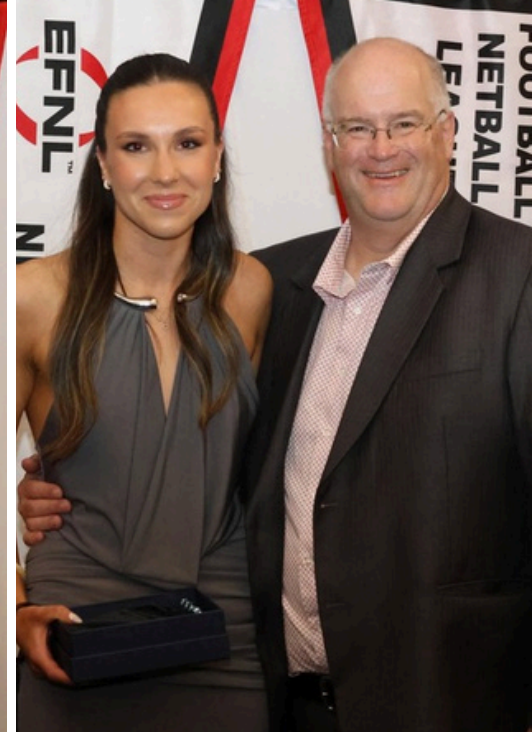
BEN JACKSON - 51 VOTES

SAM VAN WINCKEL - 38 VOTES

ANDREW DI MARZIO - 36 VOTES

GEORGE CREA - 35 VOTES

JOSH MYERS - 33 VOTES





BEST & FAIREST
MAGPIES



SOPHIE MOORE
101 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
RUNNERS UP



GENEVIEVE CARBOON
95 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
MAGPIES THIRD PLACE



LIV ATYIMAS
85 VOTES

BEST FINALS PLAYER
MAGPIES



BREE LANE & GENEVIEVE CARBOON

BEST & FAIREST
GREEN



ZANA REXHEPI
90 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
RUNNERS UP



SHAE BETHUNE
65 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
THIRD PLACE



EMMA HUNTER, GEMMA RYAN & LEAH DOLING
59 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
GREY



GRACE MULLENGER
155 VOTES

BEST & FAIREST
RUNNERS UP



JASMINE PANAGOPOULOS
79 VOTES











ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2026

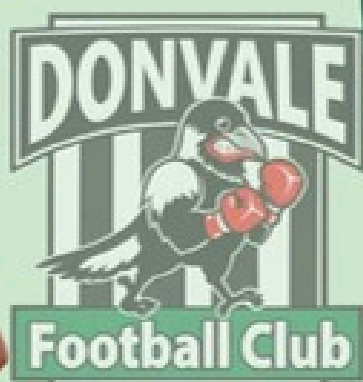
7:00PM

Donvale Clubrooms

For nominations to Executive Committee or General Committee positions,
apologies and proxy votes, please email donvale@efnl.org.au by no later
than 4pm Tuesday 13 October 2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

*Donvale
Netball*



WANT TO PLAY NETBALL WITH US?

**WE'RE LOOKING FOR PLAYERS TO JOIN
OUR TEAMS FOR THE 2027 SEASON!**

All players welcome!

**EOIS CLOSE
23 JANUARY**

**CONTACT OLIVIA
ATYIMAS
0466 254 115**



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