



## **OGFNC Culture and Wellbeing Team Report 2025**

The Culture and Wellbeing Team established in 2024, continued in 2025 with the majority of its original members and was fortunate to have Kellie Piec start in an administrative role, Dan Mahoney was also interested in being part of the team yet due to work opportunities this did not eventuate yet provided a consultive role and Georgia Berry join the team mid-year.

In February, we saw the resignation of Director Pip Jankowski. Pip was a wonderful leader of the team and although she remained part of the club community, it was unfortunate to lose someone with her knowledge, leadership and passion to ensure an inclusive club culture. On behalf of the team, we thank Pip for her work and ongoing support.

Several attempts were made during the year to recruit another Director, yet this role remains vacant. Team members shared the responsibility of attending General committee meetings during the year, providing updates and support to club members when called upon.

### **Achievements**

The Culture and Wellbeing Team achieved several key milestones that have positively impacted the Club in 2025;

**Inclusion of new people and skills to the Culture and Wellbeing Team** - The team was able to recruit new members from different parts of the club, including Georgia Berry – senior A grade netballer who provided a voice for players. Kellie Piec also joined the team in an administrative role and brought with her administrative skills yet also was a voice of the history of the club having grown up in Ocean Grove. The team is dedicated to expanding its reach in 2026 and will seek new members.

**Building Awareness of the Club's Values** – the team continued to be involved in conversations throughout the club and at general committee level on Club values and how to best respond to and expand the Clubs awareness of implementing the club values.

**Support from the Club Community** - The Club community on many levels continued to show support for our initiatives, with good engagement across various initiatives. We thank those within the club community who reached out, engaged with the team and showed up to initiatives.

**Programs and Education** – A focus for both the junior and senior club was to provide players and club officials with access to Mental health programs and education. The Senior footballer and netballers both attended "Tackle Your Feelings" workshops whilst the U/16 footballers and u/15 netballers attended "Read the Play" workshops in big numbers. Read the Play round was also supported by the club. The U/14 boys' footballers also attended the AFL program "Ahead of the Game" mental health resilience workshops.

The team thanks the club officials involved in co-ordinating all of these workshops, who showed their commitment and passion to support important messaging around looking after mental health and wellbeing.

Some of the team also attended a professional development workshop run by the Geelong Cats Wellbeing team. The workshop highlighted the importance of clubs providing support to their

*Respectful, Inclusive, Proud, Professional & Enjoyment*

members and how decisions that have mental health and wellbeing as a focus can impact clubs in a positive way.

**Gender Equity Action Plan** - Our Club remains committed to fostering a safe, inclusive and respectful sporting environment with zero tolerance for violence. One of the club initiatives that was developed this year was the inclusion of the u/11 netballers as “Future Stars”. The young netballers joined the A Grade netballers at each home game as mascots- a fabulous initiative that was loved by not just the mascots but the senior netballers too! Thanks to Ebony Knights for her hard work in developing this initiative. Another positive for the club was the appointment of a female to MC the Club Senior Presentation night- thank you to Monique for volunteering to do this important role.

**Child Safety** - This year, we were pleased to work with Monique Sendeckjy who was appointed as Director of Child Safety. Monique is a positive role model around the club, and our teams often worked in collaboration to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our young people and children at the club. We also thank Monique for delivering important workshops to all club officials at the beginning of the year to ensure the club is across Child Safe policies and reporting responsibilities.

**Further Impact Opportunities-**

- The club was successful in their funding application from Australia Post to increase the visibility of mental health and wellbeing resources available to club members.
- The mental health resources on the club website were updated with greater visibility and accessibility.
- AFL Barwon nominated rounds that were celebrated including mental health round, Indigenous round, inclusion round, and International Women’s Day.
- Increase awareness of mental health initiatives through club social media channels of RU OK Day and World mental health day.
- Collaboration with Child safety and the general committee to updated club policies including Code of Conduct and a Concussion policy.
- Mark was involved in filming by GMHBA of local clubs Wellbeing Officers.
- The Respect Starts Here promotional video produced by the SAFV Centre that included Mia Smith was launched.
- Female footballers and netballers supported the wearing of red armbands to protest proposed cuts to government funding for gender equity in sport.
- A club sponsor Inside Running purchased a table at the Read the Play fundraising breakfast and invited 10 people from the club community to attend.

**Opportunities for 2026**

The team will reconvene following the AGM to determine the structure for 2026 and finalise the team strategy going forward. We will be looking at recruiting new people to the team as both Georgia & I step away from our roles. This is an opportunity for others in our club community who are passionate about delivering a positive club culture and raising awareness on all things wellbeing.

Thank you to Mark Stone, Cath Warren, Kellie Pic and Georgia Berry for all your work in what was a difficult year at times. The dedication, willingness and passion shown by everyone is appreciated by the whole of the club.

**Chrissy Gibbon**  
**on behalf of the Culture and Wellbeing Team**