

2015

Barellan and Cobar out of Competition and Condo-Milby back in

Barellan withdrew from the competition and returned to play in the Farrer League. The club had originally joined the Northern Riverina League in 1993 and from 1994 to 1998 won a record five premierships in a row before then losing three in a row in the following years from 1999 to 2001. Successive losses in 2005 and 2006 preceded their final premiership victory in the League in 2011 and were again runners-up in 2013. Barellan's withdrawal was offset when Condo-Milby reformed and re-entered the League. The Kangaroos had last competed in the Northern Riverina League in 2003 when the club folded.

Nearing the start of the competition Cobar's future was in a crisis due to the lack of player numbers and after forfeiting Round 1 to Tullibigeal, Cobar officially failed to form a team. Cobar had entered the Northern Riverina League in 1995 and had met with limited success. Their highest spot achieved on the ladder was in 2002 when they finished in third place but they lost both of their finals. Cobar's only finals victory was in 2012 when they defeated Hillston in the Elimination Final.

It was originally decided by the League, after releasing a draw of seven teams which included Cobar, to continue with two games per round and two byes per round. However after Round 2 the League decided to release a new draw thus eliminating teams being without football and netball for two to three weeks at a time. The Cobar netball teams were excluded from the Northern Riverina League competition.

The season then consisted of 15 rounds with the six clubs, Lake Cargelligo, Ungarie, Hillston, West Wyalong Girral, Tullibigeal and Condo-Milby playing 13 games and receiving two byes.

Condo-Milby appointed Selwyn Brown as their non-playing coach with their entry into the League. Ryan McClintock took over as Ungarie's new leader with Chris McFadyen and Aaron Hart sharing the leadership at Lake Cargelligo. Simon Clarke from West Wyalong Girral, James Nancarrow from Hillston and Nathan Sanson at Tullibigeal retained their positions at their respective clubs.

At the annual general meeting it was passed, in an attempt to discourage forfeits, that a win was awarded four points, a loss one point and in the event of a forfeit no points given to the forfeiting team. The new points system gave a new look to the ladder.

The League's executive remained the same with all three re-elected at the annual general meeting with Peter McFadyen as President, Ian Aubrey as Secretary and Keith Rees as Treasurer.

Tullibigeal's Louise Loftus received an AFL Community Legend award for her many years of hard work not only for the Tullibigeal club but also the Northern Riverina League.

Evans Memorial Trophy

The winner of the seniors football Best and Fairest award, the Evans Memorial Trophy, went to Lake Cargelligo's Aaron Hart. Possessed with tremendous speed and an excellent kick of the football Hart's consistency over the last few seasons was finally rewarded when he polled thirty three votes, after being equal runner-up for the award in 2011 and equal third in 2012. Tullibigeal players Dean Fair with twenty votes was runner-up and Dan Bendall third on sixteen votes.

Sanson Trophy

The Sanson Trophy for the leading goal kicker in the home and away season was won by Ungarie's Jayden Erwin with forty six goals. Although small in stature Erwin's strong marking and accurate kicking saw him convert his opportunities, also booting eleven goals in the finals to finish the season on fifty seven goals. Hillston's Nathan Cahill was runner-up with thirty eight goals whilst Ungarie's Kyle Archibald, who finished third in the goal kicking with thirty four goals, booted a further twenty goals in the finals series, including a haul of eight in the preliminary final for a final tally of fifty four goals for the season. Hillston's Josh Smith booted ten goals in Round 11 against Condo-Milby.

Presentation Night

The Hillston Club hosted the 2015 Northern Riverina League presentation night. The football awards were highlighted with the seniors Best and Fairest awards presented to Aaron Hart from Lake Cargelligo. The Tigers' Lincoln Kirby took out the Under 17s Best and Fairest award. The Rising Star winner, which is selected from senior players aged 19 and under, was Josh Hanlon from Tullibigeal. The coach of the year was awarded to Lake Cargelligo's joint coaches Aaron Hart and Chris McFadyen. The Northern Riverina League Volunteer of the Year went to Ungarie's Michelle Potter with West Wyalong Girral's Jim Davis and Malcolm Forrest from Ungarie receiving AFL NSW/ACT Merit Awards for their long service in the League. Ungarie's Jayden Erwin collected the Sanson Trophy as the Northern Riverina League's leading goalkicker. Tullibigeal's Leanne Imrie was awarded life membership of the Northern Riverina League for her work as League secretary for ten years from 2001 to 2010 and her continuing commitment to the Tullibigeal Football and Netball Club.

Season Summary

Ungarie won their first premiership since 2001, breaking a fourteen year drought. A massive recruitment drive in the off-season saw the Magpies with a completely new look team. Several ex-juniors returned to the club who included Kyle, Michael, Wayde and Kris Archibald, Grant Daly and David Barron plus the recruitment of Derryn Clayton, Ben Way, Cameron Goode, Jordon Wood and Sterling Ross which considerably strengthened the Magpies.

Ungarie held second spot behind Lake Cargelligo for the majority of the season and came into the finals in top form and although they lost the second semi-final the Magpies were able to rebound to take the premiership.

The season commenced in a very interrupted manner with Cobar officially withdrawing from the competition after Round 1 and the League back to six clubs to contest the 2015 season. An executive decision to release a new draw meant the first three rounds contained several byes to clubs.

In the Round 2 game West Wyalong Girral defeated Tullibigeal, which was the Grasshoppers first loss since the Preliminary final in 2012. In between Tullibigeal had won twenty eight consecutive games in the 2013 and 2014 seasons which included two undefeated premierships.

The Round 3 match between West Wyalong Girral and Condo-Milby was played under lights at West Wyalong on Anzac Day and was the only match contested in the round due to byes being worked into the new draw.

Tullibigeal lost their second successive game when they were beaten by Hillston in Round 4 by three points. Tullibigeal's losing score of 19-10-124 in the match created a new record of the highest ever losing score in a match in the Northern Riverina League, passing the total of one hundred and twenty three points by Four Corners in 1989 and West Wyalong Girral in 2010.

Lake Cargelligo's loss to West Wyalong Girral by nineteen points in Round 6 was their first loss for the season.

The season proved to be a very even and exciting competition. Lake Cargelligo sat on top of the ladder all season and were considered premiers favourites throughout. In their first year back in the competition Condo-Milby, although they didn't win a game, were very competitive in most of their encounters. The remaining four clubs - Ungarie, West Wyalong Girral, Tullibigeal and Hillston were in a keen tussle for positions on the ladder.

By Round 12 only one win separated second from fifth but losses in Round 13 to West Wyalong Girral by Tullibigeal and Hillston's loss by Lake Cargelligo dropped the Bulldogs and Swans back to fourth and fifth spots respectively and a lost opportunity for the desired third spot.

Ungarie who finished the season in great form blew the season wide open when they defeated Lake Cargelligo by forty nine points in Round 14, which was the Tigers second only loss for the season. Tullibigeal cemented third place ahead of West Wyalong Girral and Hillston with a thirty three point victory over Condo-Milby in Round 14.

Lake Cargelligo, as minor premiers, went into the finals as favourites and after victory in the second semi final the Tigers lost out to Ungarie in the grand final.

The combined scores in the 1st Semi final between Tullibigeal and West Wyalong Girral of two hundred and sixty six points is believed to be the highest aggregate total in a final's match in the history of the Northern Riverina League. Tullibigeal's score of 19-14-128 is the highest ever losing score in any match recorded in the Northern Riverina League, ironically passing the score Tullibigeal kicked in Round 4 at Hillston.

2015 Ladder – 15 rounds

		R	P	W	L	B	Pts	Perc
1.	Lake Cargelligo	15	13	11	2	2	46	
2.	Ungarie	15	13	9	4	2	40	
3.	Tullibigeal	15	13	7	6	2	34	
4.	West Wyalong Girral	15	13	6	7	2	31	98%
5.	Hillston	15	13	6	7	2	31	91%
6.	Condo-Milby	15	13	0	13	2	13	

4 points win, 1 point loss, 0 points forfeit

Semi Finals

Elimination Final at Lake Cargelligo

West Wyalong Girral	5-7	12-8,	17-8,	22-12-144	defeated
Hillston	0-2,	4-5,	6-8,	7-11-54	by 91 points

Goals West Wyalong Girral – Brendon Kirkup 6, Pat Chaffer 3, Geoff Walker 3, Luke Vearing 2, Dylan Turner 2, Simon Clarke 1, James Turner 1, Jesse Hampton 1, Peter Turner 1, Todd Pereira 1, Ash Curran 1.

Goals Hillston – James Nancarrow 2, Nic Gooden 2, Josh Smith 1, Tyrone Johnstone 1, Jarrod Cahill 1.

Best West Wyalong Girral – Luke Vearing, Ash Curran, Josh Cattle, Brendon Kirkup, Ben Fitzgerald, Todd Pereira, Pat Chaffer.

Best Hillston – Josh Smith, Neil Macfarlane, Nic Gooden, Clint Blight, Shane Rock, Mark Huntly.

West Wyalong Girral scored an emphatic ninety one point win over Hillston to advance to the Preliminary final. The Bulldogs never gave the Swans a chance setting up the win with a five goal to nil first quarter. Sparking the side into action was midfielder Luke Vearing and with another seven goals in the second quarter, the Bulldogs surged to a 51 point half time lead, which

effectively ended the game. Bulldog full forward Brendon Kirkup led the way with six goals with Geoff Walker and midfielder Pat Chaffer booting three goals each.

Qualifying Final at Lake Csrgelligo

Ungarie	7-5,	11-7,	16-12,	20-16-136	defeated
Tullibigeal	2-3,	4-6,	7-10,	9-13-67	by 69 points

Goals Ungarie – Kris Archibald 5, Wayde Archibald 5, Jayden Erwin 3, Ryan McClintock 2, Mark Bryant 2, Jordon Wood 1, Kyle Archibald 1, Grant Daly 1.

Goals Tullibigeal – Brenton Browne 3, Jared Caruthers 2, Broden Imrie 1, Mitchell Stubberfield 1, Brant Frankel 1, Andrew Brasnett 1.

Best Ungarie – Wayde Archibald, Josh Ward, Jed Keatley, Kody Whiley. Michael Archibald, Kyle Archibald, Grant Daly, Ryan McClintock.

Best Tullibigeal – Jack Payne, Shane Davis, Dan Bendall, Josh Hanlon, Alaster Jenkins, Sonney Bartholomew.

Ungarie continued their outstanding last season form to run over Tullibigeal by sixty nine points in the Qualifying final. The Magpies booted seven first quarter goals and had the game wrapped up by half time. Ungarie's Wayde Archibald, with five goals, put in a best on ground performance with his ball winning effort around the ground. Across half back Josh Ward and Jed Keatley were also very good.

1st Semi-Final at Hillston

West Wyalong Girral	7-0,	10-5,	16-8,	21-12-138	defeated
Tullibigeal	6-3,	13-6,	17-12,	19-14-128	by 10 points

Goals West Wyalong Girral – Geoff Walker 7, Pat Chaffer 4, Jeremy Venosta 2, Jesse Hampton 2, Peter Turner 1, Luke Vearing 1, Simon Clarke 1, Jim Davis 1, Beau Widdison 1, James Turner 1.

Goals Tullibigeal – Brant Frankel 5, Sonney Bartholomew 3, Brenton Browne 3, Codan Frankel 3, Gerard Haase 2, Shane Davie 1, Jared Caruthers 1, Broden Imrie 1.

Best West Wyalong Girral – Luke Vearing, Geoff Walker, Beau Widdison, Pat Chaffer, Jesse Hampton, Simon Clarke, Jeremy Venosta.

Best Tullibigeal – Sonny Bartholomew, Brant Frankel, Josh Hanlon, Alaster Jenkins, Jack Payne, Nathan Sanson.

The 1st Semi final produced one of the best games seen for some time when West Wyalong Girral won a see sawing game over Tullibigeal by ten points. In a game where the lead changed on several occasions both teams played an exciting brand of attacking football. Tullibigeal held substantial leads on several occasions but a last quarter onslaught by the Bulldogs saw them take the game away from the Grasshoppers for an impressive victory. In a first quarter where thirteen goals were kicked Tullibigeal started the best and added three goals before the Bulldogs added their first. Another two goals to the Grasshoppers shot them out to over a four goal lead before the Bulldogs responded with six straight goals to take a three point quarter time lead. Tullibigeal again got out to a big lead during the second quarter thanks to the domination through the centre by Sonney Bartholomew and Shane Davis when they booted five goals in succession before two late Bulldog goals bridged the half time gap to nineteen points. The third quarter again produced much of the same with Tullibigeal adding four straight goals which had them sitting in the box seat and their biggest lead of the game before the Bulldogs responded with six unanswered goals. Led by full forward Geoff Walker with three goals for the quarter, West Wyalong Girral were able to reduce the Grasshoppers lead to ten points at three quarter time. With the game in the balance it was the Bulldogs who kicked the first five goals of the last quarter to take the game away from the Grasshoppers, who although they booted the last two goals of the match, couldn't bridge the gap and the Bulldogs hung on to win a thrilling encounter.

2nd Semi-Final at Hillston

Lake Cargelligo	5-4,	9-12,	15-15,	20-19-139	defeated
Ungarie	1-4,	4-5,	8-9,	11-12-78	by 61 points

Goals Lake Cargelligo – Trevor Quarrell 5, Luke Robertson 4, Wade Riley 3, Mitch Johnson 2, Josh Smith 1, David Aubrey 1, Col Fisher 1, Mitch Hart 1, Dean Hague 1, Nathan Morris 1.

Goals Ungarie – Ryan McClintock 3, Ben Way 3, Kyle Archibald 2, Jayden Erwin 2, Mark Bryant 1, Sterling Ross 1.

Best Lake Cargelligo – Dean Hague, Tom Wood, Greg McFadyen, John Nolan, Russell Thorpe, Aaron Hart.

Best Ungarie – Derryn Clayton, Michael Archibald, Ryan McClintock, Kyle Archibald, Wayde Archibald, Josh Ward.

Lake Cargelligo booked their place in the grand final with a dominant display against a disappointing Ungarie with an impressive sixty one points win. Ungarie were put on the back foot early as the Tigers raced to a twenty four point quarter time lead after a five goal blitz. A steady performance throughout the next three quarters saw the Tigers gradually build a big lead to give them a commanding victory at the final siren with their running game a factor over their bigger opponents.

Preliminary Final at Tullibigeal

Ungarie	6-4,	13-5,	18-10,	22-12-144	defeated
West Wyalong Girral	3-2,	8-4,	10-6,	13-9-87	by 57 points

Goals Ungarie – Kyle Archibald 8, Jayden Erwin 5, Kris Archibald 3, Ryan McClintock 3, Mark Bryant 2, Cam Goode 1.

Goals West Wyalong Girral – Patty Chaffer 6, Luke Vearing 2, Peter Turner 2, Geoff Walker 1, Bailey Anderson-Lynch 1, Jeremy Venosta 1.

Best Ungarie – Wayde Archibald, Kyle Archibald, Josh Ward, Grant Daly, Jed Keatley, Sterling Ross.

Best West Wyalong Girral – Patty Chaffer, Luke Vearing, Roland Finch, Dylan Turner, Jeremy Venosta, Beau Widdison.

Ungarie bounced back to form with a resounding win over West Wyalong Girral in the Preliminary final by fifty seven points. The Magpies were dominant around the ground and clinical in their delivery to team mates while the Bulldogs let themselves down failing to hit targets on many occasions. Ungarie had first use of the breeze and after both sides booted two goals each, the Magpies landed four goals straight to take the initiative away from the Bulldogs. Three successive goals to the Bulldogs in the second quarter reduced Ungarie's lead to twelve points, however it was the closest the Bulldogs got as the Magpies piled on five goals in the later stages of the second quarter to take a match winning lead of thirty one points at half time. A dominant third quarter saw the Magpies completely take control and record a very comfortable win.

Grand Final at West Wyalong

Ungarie	2-3,	6-3,	11-17,	14-8-92	defeated
Lake Cargelligo	4-1,	7-8,	9-8,	12-13-85	by 7 points

Goals Ungarie – Kyle Archibald 5, Ben Way 3, Jayden Erwin 2, Wayde Archibald 2, Ryan McClintock 1, Michael Archibald 1.

Goals Lake Cargelligo – Trevor Quarrell 4, Luke Robertson 1, Chris McFadyen 1, Mitchell Johnson 1, Phil Aubrey 1, David Aubrey 1, Col Fisher 1, Dean Hague 1, Rhys Ward 1.

Best Ungarie – Jed Keatley (Best on ground), Wayde Archibald, Kyle Archibald, Sterling Ross, Josh Ward, Derryn Clayton.

Best Lake Cargelligo – Josh Smith, Tony Aubrey Trevor Quarrell, Mitchell Hart, Aaron Hart, Russell Thorpe.

Ungarie defeated favourites Lake Cargelligo to take the 2015 premiership by seven points. A spirited Magpie outfit, after trailing in the first half, came from behind to clinch a narrow victory. Ungarie kicked with the aid of a strong breeze in the first quarter, however the quarter belonged to Lake Cargelligo and with Aaron Hart dominating were able to boot four goals into the wind and held Ungarie to just two goals to take a ten point lead to quarter time. The Tigers wasted several opportunities to take control of the match when they added three goals seven behinds for the quarter, but with four straight goals by the Magpies kept the Tigers lead to eleven points at halftime. With Wayde Archibald firing for Ungarie out of the centre and Kyle Archibald pulling down several big marks at centre half forward, the Magpies piled on five goals four behinds to give themselves an eleven point lead at three quarter time. With the wind at Lake's back the game was evenly poised going into the final quarter. The Tigers had plenty of opportunities in the last quarter but again couldn't take their chances in front of goal managing just three goals five behinds while the Magpies registered three majors from four attempts. Two goals to Wayde Archibald and a long range set shot from Kyle Archibald during the last quarter set the Magpies on the road to victory. As good as Ungarie's attack was all credit to their win was given to their backline with Jed Keatley, Josh Ward and Derryn Clayton all playing outstanding games in defence. Jed Keatley across half back was voted 'Best on ground'. For Lake Cargelligo, injuries to key players during the game cost their attack with their better players being backmen Tony Aubrey, Mitchell Hart and Russell Thorpe and onballers Josh Smith and Aaron Hart.

Umpires for the grand final were Rod Fyfe, Mark Daniher and Andrew Tough.

Ungarie's 2015 selected premiership team was –

B	Jed Keatley	Derryn Clayton	Michael Archibald
HB	Reece Archibald	Josh Ward	Campbell Ross
C	Kody Whiley	Grant Daly	Sterling Ross
HF	Mark Bryant	Kyle Archibald	Kris Archibald
F	Jayden Erwin	Ryan McClintock (c)	Ben Way
Ruck	Jordon Wood	Wayde Archibald	
Rover	David Barron		
Interchange	Charlie West, Jack Bell, Cameron Goode, Terry McCartney		

Representative Football

The Northern Riverina League played the Central West League on May 23 at Hillston in their representative game. CWL 24-18-162 defeated NRL 15-18-108. NRL goalkickers were Billy Hutton 3, Coedie Sloane 3, Dan Bendall 2, Aaron Hart 2, James Nancarrow 1, Wade Riley 1, Josh Smith 1, John Nolan 1, Jeremy Venosta 1 with best players Dan Bendall (NRL best player), James Nancarrow, Nathan Calliss, Aaron Hart, Josh Smith, Billy Hutton.

The NRL 2015 representative team was – Shane Russell (coach)

B	Tony Aubrey (LC)	Darryn Clayton (Ung)	Gerard Haase (Tulli)
HB	Jarrold Fair (Tulli)	Nathan Calliss (CM)	Neil Macfarlane (Hill)
C	Keanau Wighton(CM)	Dan Bendall (Tulli)	Grant Daly (Ung)
HF	Josh Smith (Hill)	Coedie Sloane (CM)	Jarrold Cahill (Hill)
F	Billy Hutton (LC)	Jeremy Venosta (WWG)	Cameron Brown (CM)
Ruck	John Nolan(LC)	James Nancarrow (Hill)	
Rover	Aaron Hart (LC)		

Interchange – Tyrone Johnstone (Hill), Jordon Wood (Ung), Matt Robertson (LC), Wade Riley(LC).

In the Under 18's CWL 11-8-74 defeated NRL 10-11-71, the Under 14's CWL 21-20-146 defeated NRL 1-3-9 and the Under 12's CWL 12-13-85 defeated NRL 1-3-9.

Junior Football

West Wyalong Girral 18-10-118 defeated Lake Cargelligo 6-5-41 in the Under 17's grand final with West Wyalong Girral also winning the Under 14's premiership 7-11-53 over Ungarie 2-4-16. Hillston 3-8-26 defeated West Wyalong Girral 3-4-22 in the Under 11's grand final.

The juniors best and fairest awards were won by Lincoln Kirby from Lake Cargelligo in the Under 17's, Kai Davies from West Wyalong Girral in the Under 14's and Jack Crofts from Ungarie in the Under 11's.