

2017

Tullibigeal Triumphs Again

The Northern Riverina Football and Netball bodies, after working as separate identities since netball was introduced to the League in 1981, joined together under a new constitution and the one Committee of Management known as the Northern Riverina Football and Netball League (NRFNL).

The Committee was led by President Keith Rees, Vice President Dennis Jewell, Director of Netball Melissa Ryan, Secretary/Treasurer Leanne Imrie and Director of Junior Football Malcolm Williams.

The netball retained their own executive under the control of the Director of Netball Melissa Ryan and the League's Committee of Management.

The League retained the same six clubs, Lake Cargelligo, Ungarie, Hillston, West Wyalong Girral, Tullibigeal and Condo-Milby, with four of the clubs appointing new coaches for the season.

Lake Cargelligo appointed Brendan Thorpe as their non-playing coach with Hillston signing on David Felton. Young ruckman Scott Higgins led West Wyalong Girral while the experienced Shane Russell took over at Condo-Milby. However Russell resigned his position at the end of the fourth round with Nathan Calliss the Kangaroos new coach. Ungarie's Ryan McClintock and Tullibigeal's Sonney Bartholomew remained their respective club's coaches.

Evans Medal

Tullibigeal's centreman Kieran Fair won the Northern Riverina League's Best and Fairest award, the Evans Medal. Kieran polled thirty four votes in his win which is believed to be the highest number of votes ever recorded to win the medal. Winning by twenty one votes from team mate Mitchell Stubberfield who polled thirteen votes, was also a record. West Wyalong Girral onballer Josh Avis was third with twelve votes.

Kieran enjoyed an outstanding junior career, winning the League's Under 14's in 2010, the Under 17's Best and Fairest in 2012 and was awarded the League's Rising Star award in 2013.

Sanson Trophy

Kurt Stubenrauch from West Wyalong Girral won the Sanson Trophy for the Northern Riverina League's leading goalkicker in the home and away series with 48 goals with Jeremy Lamb also from West Wyalong Girral as runner-up with 39 goals.

Presentation Night

The Northern Riverina League presentation night for both the senior football and netball best and fairest vote count was held at Lake Cargelligo. Awards on the night included the Evans Medal, the A Grade and B Grade netball best and fairest awards as well as the Sanson Trophy. The Coach of the Year award was won by Sonney Bartholomew from Tullibigeal. Kieran Fair from Tullibigeal won the Evans Medal with the Rising Star award going to Will McMartin from West Wyalong Girral. Kurt Stubenrauch also from West Wyalong Girral won the Sanson Trophy with Umpire of the Year going to NRFL Life Member Pat Daniher. The winner of the AFL NSW/ACT Northern Riverina League Volunteer of the Year went to Tullibigeal's Darren Frankel and the AFL Merit Award went to Melissa Ryan from West Wyalong Girral.

Season Summary

The Tullibigeal club proved to be the premier club in the Northern Riverina League with another premiership win, their fourth in five years, when they defeated arch rivals Lake Cargelligo by a narrow nine points in the Grand Final.

Condo-Milby defeated Ungarie by fifty three points in Round 2 to record their first win since reforming and joining the League in 2015. The Ungarie Magpies started the season slowly losing their first three games.

Reigning premiers Tullibigeal won their first six games of the season to head the competition before losing to Lake Cargelligo by twenty points in Round 7. The Tigers win shot them to the top of the ladder on percentages over Tullibigeal as they had also lost only one game for the season to that date - to Tullibigeal in Round 2 by sixteen points.

A big win by Tullibigeal over West Wyalong Girral in Round 8 saw the Grasshoppers regain top spot on the ladder - a position they held for the rest of the season. From Round 8 Tullibigeal had ten straight victories to clinch the premiership.

West Wyalong Girral's loss to Lake Cargelligo by one point in Round 10 was their third loss for the season by less than a goal - Round 3 to Tullibigeal by one point, and to Ungarie in Round 4 by five points. The Bulldogs also defeated Ungarie in Round 9 by just three points.

All Round 12 matches had a bearing on the makeup of the final four. Tullibigeal's narrow two points win over Lake Cargelligo elevated them to outright ladder leaders. Ungarie's win over Condo-Milby virtually ended the Kangaroos chance of finals and ensured Ungarie fourth place. West Wyalong Girral's win over Hillston also put an end to the Swans chance of finals.

Round 13 certainly proved how dominant the top two teams were, when second placed Lake Cargelligo defeated fourth placed Ungarie by one hundred and one points and top placed Tullibigeal defeated third placed West Wyalong Girral by one hundred and forty points. Hillston forfeited to Condo-Milby in Round 13 - their second forfeit for the season after forfeiting to Lake Cargelligo in Round 6.

Ungarie bounced back to form in the final two rounds with convincing victories over West Wyalong Girral and Hillston whereas West Wyalong Girral lost all form to end the season with three bad losses. Condo-Milby won three games for the season which gave the wooden spoon to Hillston, who finished with just two victories for the season.

Ungarie continued their good end of season form to easily defeat a disappointing West Wyalong Girral in the 1st Semi Final and were unlucky not to have beaten Lake Cargelligo in the preliminary final.

Tullibigeal finished as minor premiers with only one loss during the season and just one game clear of Lake Cargelligo. Little separated the two top clubs with the premiership very much wide open. Tullibigeal, however triumphed over Lake Cargelligo in the 2nd Semi Final and went on to win premiership honours,

For Lake Cargelligo the Grand Final loss was their fourth in a row and equalled the unenviable record when the Four Corners club lost four Grand Finals in a row from 1963 to 1966 and again from 1968 to 1971.

Lake Cargelligo's amazing finals record in the sixteen years since 2002 is in that time they have played in fourteen grand finals with six premierships and eight times runners-up.

2017 Ladder – 15 rounds

		P	W	L	Pts
1.	Tullibigeal	15	14	1	56
2.	Lake Cargelligo	15	13	2	52
3.	West Wyalong Girral	15	7	8	28
4.	Ungarie	15	6	9	24
5.	Condo-Milby	15	3	12	12
6.	Hillston	15	2	13	8

Semi Finals

1st Semi-Final at Tullibigeal

Ungarie	2-6,	8-7,	11-7,	15-9-99	defeated
West Wyalong-Girral	1-0,	4-1,	4-5,	5-6-36	by 63 points

Goals Ungarie – Mick Keatley 5, Ryan McClintock 5, Derryn Clayton 2, Chris Flack 1, Chris Daniher 1, Wayde Archibald 1.

Goals West Wyalong-Girral – Will McMartin 1, Jeremy Lamb 1, Josh Avis 1, Jim Davis 1, Simon Clarke 1.

Best Ungarie – Mick Keatley, Jed Keatley, Bryce Koop, Wayde Archibald, Grant Daly, Derryn Clayton, Connor Neyland Ryan McClintock.

Best West Wyalong-Girral – Ben O’Kane, Simon Clarke, Jim Davis, Jared Caruthers, Josh Avis, Will McMartin, Jesse Hampton, Reece Turner.

Ungarie continued their late season form to convincingly defeat West Wyalong Girral by 63 points to progress to the preliminary final. After the Bulldogs levelled up scores half way through the second quarter Ungarie then lifted a level booting five late goals to take a commanding thirty points lead at half time. The third term was all one way traffic for the Magpies as they extended their lead to forty four points at the final changeover. Ungarie’s dominance continued in the last quarter with the Bulldogs only goal since the second quarter registered on the final siren. In contrast the Magpies had booted twelve unanswered goals in the same time period.

2nd Semi-Final at West Wyalong

Tullibigeal	4-1,	9-3,	14-7,	16-9-105	defeated
Lake Cargelligo	3-4,	5-6,	6-9	9-10-64	by 41 points

Goals Tullibigeal – Codan Frankel 6, Brant Frankel 5, Dean Fair 2, Andrew Brasnett 1, Jack Flynn 1, Joel Ridley 1.

Goals Lake Cargelligo – Tom Wood 2, David Aubrey 2, Billy May 1, Col Fisher 1, Sinelle Thorpe 1, Mitchell Hart 1, Lincoln Kirby 1.

Best Tullibigeal – Codan Frankel, Kieran Fair, Alaster Jenkins, Mitchell Stuberfield, Jack Payne, Brant Frankel, Sonney Bartholomew.

Best Lake Cargelligo – Josh Smith, Brodie Morris, Mitchell Hart, Sinelle Thorpe, Phil Aubrey, Aaron Hart.

Following an even start to the game, three goals by Tullibigeal in almost as many minutes just on half time and then another two goals straight after half time blew the game wide open in what had been up to that time been a very close tussle. Brothers Codan Frankel with six goals and Brant Frankel with five goals dominated up forward for Tullibigeal.

Preliminary Final at Hillston

Lake Cargelligo	3-3,	7-8,	9-11,	12-16-88	defeated
Ungarie	5-3,	6-3,	8-5,	8-8-56	by 32 points

Goals Lake Cargelligo – Phil Aubrey 2, Sinelle Thorpe 2, Tom Wood 2, Josh Smith 1, Nathan Morris 1, Aaron Hart 1, Col Fisher 1, Wade Riley 1, Mitchell Hart 1.

Goals Ungarie – Ryan McClintock 3, Derryn Clayton 2, Grant Daly 1, Wayde Archibald 1, Connor Neyland 1.

Best Lake Cargelligo – Billy May, Aaron Hart, Mitchell Hart, Nathan Morris, Brodie Morris, Sinelle Thorpe.

Best Ungarie – Derryn Clayton, Connor Neyland, Brendan Pincott, Bryce Koop. Chris Daniher, Wayde Archibald.

Lake Cargelligo were made to earn their victory over an understrength and gallant Ungarie Magpies. With first use of a strong breeze the Magpies started the game full of running booting five first quarter goals to take a handy twelve point lead at quarter time. A four goal to one goal second quarter saw the Tigers regain the ascendancy and take an eleven points lead at half time. A knee injury to Ungarie's coach Ryan McClintock just on half time was a turning point in the game, reducing the Magpies attack up forward. The Tigers were able to hold Ungarie to just two goals in the third quarter and added two goals themselves into the breeze. A goal from the sideline by the Tigers' Wade Riley just on three quarter time was vital, resulting in the Tigers taking a two goal lead into the last quarter. Goals to Col Fisher, Aaron Hart and Josh Smith in the last quarter pushed the Tigers to a thirty two points victory but not before being fully challenged by a courageous Ungarie outfit.

Grand Final at Ungarie

Tullibigeal	1-1,	4-4,	6-7,	11-9-75	defeated
Lake Cargelligo	2-2,	3-8,	7-12,	9-12-66	by 9 points

Goals Tullibigeal – Steve Hickson 3, Jack Flynn 2, Brant Frankel 2, Andrew Brasnett 1, Nick Prince 1, Codan Frankel 1, Dan Bendall 1.

Goals Lake Cargelligo – Tony Aubrey 2, Greg McFadyen 2, Mitchell Johnson 1, Brodie Morris 1, Lincoln Kirby 1, Billy May 1, Sinelle Thorpe 1

Best Tullibigeal – Jack Flynn (Best on Ground), Jarrod Fair, Steve Hickson, Sonney Bartholomew, Nick Prince, Dean Fair, Brayden Davis.

Best Lake Cargelligo – Aaron Hart, Nathan Morris, Sinelle Thorpe, Mitchell Hart, David Aubrey, Tony Aubrey.

In a thrilling last quarter the Tullibigeal Grasshoppers were able to clinch victory and secure a narrow nine point win over Lake Cargelligo. Following an even first three quarters and with the game in the balance, the last quarter produced an exciting brand of football as both teams strived for victory. Going into the last quarter eleven points in arrears Tullibigeal, with three quick goals, quickly swung the momentum back in their favour before the Lake Tigers responded with two quick goals in as many minutes to regain a five points lead. At the twenty minute mark Tullibigeal's Andrew Brasnett landed a vital goal that put the Grasshoppers back in front by just two points. With the clock counting down a rushed behind took Tullibigeal's lead out to three points but try as they could Lake Cargelligo couldn't penetrate Tullibigeal's defence in a final bid to land a winning goal. A goal after the siren by Tullibigeal's Jack Flynn saw the Grasshoppers win their fourth premiership in the last five years. For the Lake Tigers their heart breaking loss was their fourth grand final loss in successive years and rue their missed opportunities as they hit the goal post on at least four occasions. Tullibigeal's Jack Flynn was voted "Best On Ground" to win the Jim Daniher Medal. Half forward Steve Hickson, with three second half goals was also instrumental in his team's victory as was fullback Jarrod Fair and coach Sonney Bartholomew. For Lake Cargelligo midfielders Aaron Hart, Nathan Morris and teenager Sinelle Thorpe, along with backman Mitchell Hart were the Tigers best in the narrow loss.

Local Umpires Pat Daniher, Andrew Tough and Steve Henley controlled the grand final.

Tullibigeal's 2017 selected premierships team was –

B	Jarrold Fair	Kyle Cross	Ben Carroll
HB	Dean Fair	Alaster Jenkins	James Fyfe
C	Jack Flynn	Kieran Fair	Brayden Davis
HF	Joel Ridley	Andrew Brasnett	Nick Prince
F	Steve Hickson	Brant Frankel	Codan Frankel
Ruck	Murphy Payne	Sonney Bartholomew (c)	
Rover	Mitchell Stubberfield		
Interchange	Oscar Haberecht, Jye Dillon, Neil Ireland, Dan Bendall		

Jack Payne and Ben Killen missed the grand final through injury.

Representative Football

The Northern Riverina League played the Central West League on July 1 at Ungarie in their representative game. NRL 15-10-100 defeated CWL 10-8-68. NRL goalkickers were Kurt Stubenrauch 7, Brant Frankel 3, Paddy Ward 1, Keanau Wighton 1, Josh Smith 1, Wayde Archibald 1, Ryan McClintock 1 with best players Ryan McClintock (NRL best on ground), Josh Smith, Kurt Stubenrauch, Tyrone Johnstone, Mitchell Hart, Sonney Bartholomew.

The NRL 2017 representative team was – Nathan Sanson (coach)

B	Damien Hamel (Hill)	Mitchell Hart (LC)	Kody Whiley (Ung)
HB	Sonney Bartholomew (Tulli)	Jack Payne (Tulli)	Greg McFadyen (LC)
C	Codan Frankel (Tulli)	Ryan McClintock (Ung)	Mitchell Stubberfield (Tulli)
HF	Mitchell Johnson (LC)	Kurt Stubenrauch (WWG)	Keanau Wighton (CM)
F	Josh Avis (WWG)	Brant Frankel (Tulli)	Paddy Ward (CM)
Ruck	Jason Cheatley (Hill)	Tyrone Johnstone (CM)	
Rover	Josh Smith (LC)		

Interchange – Wayde Archibald (Ung), Nathan Sanson (LC), Oscar Haberecht (Tulli).

In the Under 17's CWL 13-10-88 defeated NRL 8-4-52, the Under 14's CWL 8-9-57 to NRL 1-0-6 and the Under 12's NRL 5-3-33 defeated CWL 1-1-7

Junior Football

The three junior grades were all won by undefeated teams throughout the season. Lake Cargelligo's Under 17's defeated West Wyalong Girral 16-10-106 to 6-4-40 with West Wyalong Girral Under 14's 8-14-62 defeating Ungarie 1-3-9. In the Under 11's Ungarie 6-3-39 defeated West Wyalong Girral 2-9-21.

The junior Best and Fairest awards were - Under 17's was shared by Lake Cargelligo's Fletcher Alexander and Sinelle Thorpe with the Under 14's also shared with West Wyalong Girral's Hayden Cooper and Rowan Duncan joint winners. Ungarie's Harry Roscarel easily won the Under 11's best and fairest award.