

AFL HUNTER CENTRAL COAST

# ON THE MARK

## THE ELIMINATION FINALS



WRITTEN AND DESIGNED BY OLIVER CROFT



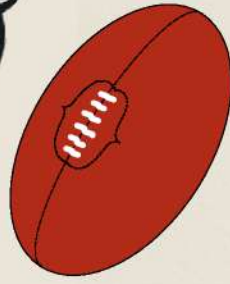
# AFL HUNTER CENTRAL COAST

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we play and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*



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# ON THE MARK BY OLIVER CROFT



"On the Mark" is a weekly AFLHCC article delivering sharp insights, who is soaring and who is sinking. For special rounds like Pride Round, ANZAC Round, Indigenous Rounds and the Finals Series; the weekly article becomes a printed Record the AFLHCC can call it's own. Free at the venues, it has a deeper analysis on the teams playing that weekend. This is the Elimination Final Edition of On The Mark, which can also be accessed on the AFLHCC Website:

<https://aflhuntercentralcoast.com.au/>

Written and analysed by Oliver Croft, also host of The Mark and The Mic Podcast, this is another edition of your weekly must-read for the Black Diamond Men's and Women's Cup coverage and action. If you like to see more of Ollie's work, head to his Instagram @oliy\_28

*Oliver Croft*



# Elimination Finals - Pumped up Panthers, Bulldogs back for the first time since 2016 and Adelaide Street with a Home Final

*By Oliver Croft*

Here we are footy fans. Elimination Final weekend. One team's season ends at the fate of the other's glory; their wins and losses finalised. Jerseys will be cleaned, folded and stacked back into a plastic crate that will sit in the equipment shed, heating up over the hot summer days and watching as the cricket wickets are dragged in and out. Their season will be over. Their last kicks and handballs; memories. The Elimination Finals arrive with a certain chill in the air; and not just from the late-season winds. It's from the brutal reality that one wrong move ends a season. There is no safety net, no second chance, no "we'll get them next week."

But for the other team, it only just begins. They go through to the Preliminary Final, to face one of the Top 2 sides of 2025.

Some of the best fixtures have been saved till last for this very weekend. History shows us that elimination finals often produce the most dramatic stories in AFL. The underdog rises, the favourite falters, and the unexpected suddenly becomes reality. All season 'On the Mark' has described how every team had a chance, that anyone could fight their way to this moment. But now we know who truly had the strength to make it all the way to the finals, and after today, who will take the next step to be at No. 1 Sportsground on Grand Final Day.

The elimination final doesn't care who finished higher on the ladder or who holds the bigger names - it only rewards those who can withstand the pressure when it matters most. On the Mark has been there all season, capturing every twist, every surge, every stumble. And it doesn't stop now. The elimination finals strip football to its rawest form, and this coverage becomes more than words - it is a printed record of who stood tall and who fell when it mattered most.

## Men's Cup

Here we are. We predicted. We guessed, and we turned to our calculators till the final round to see who could still sneak in. But our answer is now clear. The Terrigal Avoca Panthers (3rd) will be taking on the Nelson Bay Marlins (4th) in the Elimination Final.

The Marlins have had a season like no other. After weeks of absolute dominance in the reserves, the Nelson Bay Marlins officially moved up to Cup.

They didn't just win in the reserves... they dominated teams. The Marlins played 3 games in the Men's Plate, winning first by 218 points, then 146 the week after, and in Round 3 they found themselves winners again by 200 points. A total margin of 564 points had been built off the Marlin's first 3 rounds.

They knocked over Grand Finalists Cardiff, edged out 2022 Premiers Killarney Vale and comfortably beat Bateau Bay and Maitland. But they failed one task in their race to the Cup: beating a Top 4 team. So far, they have not beaten Warners Bay, Terrigal Avoca or Newcastle City...once.

So, as they come into Finals, with only these teams to play, how do the Marlins break the hoo-doo? The first rule: don't talk about the hoo-doo. History does nothing. Numbers do nothing. It's all about the day. Who stands tallest, then and there. Last time these sides met was Round 16 where Terrigal ended proceedings by a comfortable 116 points at home.

Terrigal's mascot is a panther. An animal of stealth and silence, and ready for the kill. They've been here before, these Panthers. With 7 Black Diamond Cups in the trophy room of Hylton Moore, and 7 runners-up, September is hunting time. Last year, at Adelaide Street Oval, it was the Warners Bay Bulldogs who fell under the red and black wrath of the Panthers. But they didn't hold their ground. At halftime they had the Doggies down and out with a 52-3 score-line. However, credit to the master Nathan Harkness, the Bulldogs camp rallied an only 19 point deficit.

Harrison Pitt, the leading goal kicker, will be raring for a big day in front of the sticks, whilst Billy Barton will be lining up down the other end, currently 8th in the goal count. Alec Walters also sits 2nd in the Men's goal kicking tally. There are powerhouses in both forward 50s of the ground.

So, it all comes down to this doesn't it? Marlin vs Panther. 3rd vs 4th. Red and black vs blue and yellow. The last 4 meetings the way of the Panthers. Who wins the 2025 Men's Cup Elimination Final?



# Elimination Finals - Pumped up Panthers, Bulldogs back for the first time since 2016 and Adelaide Street with a Home Final

## Women's Cup

It's a massive moment of truth. The Warners Bay Bulldogs enter their first finals series since 2016, and it comes with a heavy stat hanging over them - they'll face Killarney Vale, a team they haven't beaten in three years.

The reigning premiers, Killarney Vale, find themselves outside the top two and will need every ounce of Bomber strength to overcome the dangerous Bulldogs.

Warners Bay will be full of fire, led by captain Jasmine Wellings, determined to do everything they can to topple the Bombers. Mia Wilson lines up in front of the sticks after finishing first in the Women's goal-kicking tally, and the Bulldogs' forward line will be heavily involved in trying to shut her down. Their last meeting ended in a 71-point win to the Bombers - but in finals footy, anything can happen. The Bulldogs are ready to explode into the Elimination Final.

So here we are, footy fans. A weekend of fixtures we've predicted and waited for a long time. Elimination Final footy is here at last, and we wouldn't have it any other way: the Bombers and the Bulldogs in the Women's, and the Panthers taking on the Marlins in the Men's. Only two sides can go through, and each one will be determined to make it them.

Dive into all the action of the Men's and Women's Plate and Cup Elimination Finals, plus the Men's Qualifying Final, across pages 22-25. You'll also find an in-depth breakdown of today's clashes at Adelaide Street Oval, packed with head-to-head history and key stats.

It's On The Mark: Elimination Finals Special - exclusive to AFL Hunter Central Coast, written and designed by Oliver Croft. Finals footy is here!





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## SEASON 2024 - HOW WE LOVED IT



## ELIMINATION ANALYSIS

ELIMINATED

## ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL



## MINOR PREMIERS PULLOUT

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!





**WARNERS BAY AUSTRALIAN**

**FO**

**MINORS**

**PREMIERSHIP**








**MEN'S CUP**





# MEN'S CUP PREMIERS














YEAR	PREMIERS	RUNNERS-UP
2000	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 CARDIFF
2001	 WEST-NEWCASTLE-WALLSEND	 CARDIFF
2002	 CARDIFF	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2003	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2004	 CARDIFF	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2005	 CARDIFF	 KILLARNEY VALE
2006	 CARDIFF	 NEWCASTLE CITY
2007	 KILLARNEY VALE	 NEWCASTLE CITY
2008	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2009	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2010	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2011	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2012	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 CARDIFF
2013	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2014	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 KILLARNEY VALE
2015	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 NEWCASTLE CITY
2016	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2017	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 CARDIFF
2018	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2019	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 NEWCASTLE CITY
2020	 TERRIGAL AVOCA	 NEWCASTLE CITY
2021	NO PREMIERSHIP AWARDED	
2022	 KILLARNEY VALE	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2023	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 TERRIGAL AVOCA
2024	 NEWCASTLE CITY	 CARDIFF
2025	PREDICTIONS:_____	PREDICTIONS:_____
2026	PREDICTIONS:_____	PREDICTIONS:_____



# WOMEN'S CUP PREMIERS



YEAR	PREMIERS	RUNNERS-UP
2015	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>NELSON BAY</b>
2016	 <b>NELSON BAY</b>	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>
2017	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>NELSON BAY</b>
2018	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>WYONG LAKES</b>
2019	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>MAITLAND</b>
2020	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>KILLARNEY VALE</b>
2021	<b>NO PREMIERSHIP AWARDED</b>	
2022	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>KILLARNEY VALE</b>
2023	 <b>NEWCASTLE CITY</b>	 <b>KILLARNEY VALE</b>
2024	 <b>KILLARNEY VALE</b>	 <b>CARDIFF</b>
2025	<b>PREDICTIONS_____</b>	



The Black Diamond Australian Football league was formed in 2000 by merging the Newcastle Australian Football League; which was founded in 1886, and the Central Coast Australian Football League which was founded in 1976. Following this, a women's competition was founded in 2015 and the Black Diamond Cup was contested until 2018. Following the end of the 2018 season, the league was disbanded and a new league formed under the AFL NSW/ACT banner was formed. This was called the AFL Hunter Central Coast. Teams in the AFLHCC's Cup Sides (or first grade sides) still play for the Black Diamond Cup.



# SEASON 2024 - THE BIG ONE

*BY OLIVER CROFT*

Whilst we prepare for the end of another spectacular season on the AFL Hunter Central Coast, and gear up to name our new premiers, the history of grand finals echo through our memories. Who could forget the scenes of 2024?

The 2024 AFL Hunter Central Coast Grand Finals delivered everything a footy fan could ask for—thrilling contests, unforgettable moments, and the crowning of new champions. No.1 Sportsground was packed as the region's best battled it out for premiership glory, with each team leaving nothing in the tank.

Across the other side of the coast, at the Hangar; Adelaide Street Oval, the Panthers and the Bulldogs battled it out in a thrilling contest of end to end AFL in the Elimination Final. The result pushed the way of the Panthers, and the celebrations went well into the night, whilst the Bulldogs made the way back to the Kennel after another disappointing finals exit. Played at the neutral venue of Max McMahon Oval, the Panthers and the Hawks headed up the highway for a high stakes preliminary final, in which only one team could prevail. Playing into the twilight, Newcastle City watched restlessly as the contest ebbed and flowed. Finally, Cardiff heard the final siren with jubilation, overcoming Terrigal by 8 points. They were through to the big dance, a Qualifying Final re-match between old town rivals Newcastle City.

In the Men's Cup Grand Final, it was a high-intensity showdown, with both sides bringing relentless pressure and skill. The Cardiff Hawks, the Men's Cup Minor Premiers, looked worn out, with their first week of finals being a loss to Newcastle City by 41 points at Passage Road. Newcastle advanced straight to the grand final.

In the end, it was a game defined by precision kicking, courageous marks, and skillful football, something Cardiff couldn't reciprocate, and it saw the scoreboard read a back-to-back premiership win for Newcastle City, by 44 points.



Newcastle City sing the song as a club, after going back-to-back premierships.

The Cardiff Hawks Men's Plate team was the only team out of Cardiff's four teams that triumphed on Grand Final Day, over rivals Newcastle City.





# SEASON 2024 - HOW WE LOVED IT

The Women's Cup season was one of twists and turns, blowouts and dramatic finishes from all matter of teams, meaning any team could win in any game. The Women's Finals started with a powerhouse statement from Newcastle City. With Elimination Final tension, the occasion could not be any bigger, and it was felt all around Passage Road, a home advantage for the Batuea Bay Blues. 146 points later, with not a behind to show for themselves, Bateau Bay left the finals race, Newcastle City living to play another week. At Adelaide Street Oval, happening at the same time, the Panthers and the Singleton Roosters were in full fight for the glory of a premiership. In the end, the Roosters were graciously eliminated and went home, with the Panthers yielding a 31 point win. The Panthers didn't hold on long, with their meeting with the Cardiff Hawks in the semi final going south fast. The birds, with minor premiership confidence, didn't take to the Panthers lightly, sending them back the the forest of Hylton Moore Oval with a 50 point, gut wrenching defeat. It wasn't a weekend for the light hearted, with a dramatic clash at Don Small Oval on the Central Coast. It came right down to the wire between Newcastle City and Killarney Vale. The Bombers had unfinished work in September, and showed their true colours to the Blues, by 3 points. The stage was set. A first versus second grand final was on the cards, forecasted with determination. It was all Killarney Vale's way, until the last siren. Cardiff, deep in their offensive fifty, were showing all the signs why they were here. A kick splayed out and it was marked on an angle to the goal posts. With a 5 point deficit in hand, a kick would've seen the birds unbelievably win. However, no score prevailed and the celebrations at the hangar went well into the night, Killarney Vale, premiers!

The Plate Grand Finals were just as action-packed, with teams proving that no game is ever won on paper. Hard-fought wins, underdog triumphs, and standout individual performances made for an incredible day of footy.

From siren to siren, the 2024 Grand Finals were a celebration of skill, passion, and the incredible community that is AFLHCC. With another season in the books, attention now turns to 2025—where new teams face off, and history will be made once again.



Killarney Vale Bombers host the Women's Cup after a nail-biting game, defeating Cardiff by 5.



The Macpies bench after a famous Grand Final win over Cardiff as a joint team between Lake Macquarie and Wyong Lakes Magpies.



# ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL MEN'S CUP



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GRAND FINAL

W

W

?

?

PRELIMINARY  
FINAL

L

W

QUALIFYING  
FINAL



VS



1ST VS 2ND

ELIMINATION  
FINAL



3RD VS 4TH



# ROAD TO THE **GRAND FINAL** WOMEN'S CUP



?

?

GRAND FINAL

W

**SEMI FINAL 1**  
1ST VS WINNER F2



?

**SEMI FINAL 2**  
2ND VS WINNER F1



?

W

W

**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 1**



**3RD VS 6TH**



**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 2**



**4TH VS 5TH**





# ROAD TO THE GRAND FINAL MEN'S PLATE



?

?

GRAND FINAL

W

**SEMI FINAL 1**  
1ST VS WINNER F2



?

**SEMI FINAL 2**  
2ND VS WINNER F1



?

W

W

**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 1**



**3RD VS 6TH**



LAKE MACQUARIE  
DOCKERS

**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 2**



**4TH VS 5TH**





# ROAD TO THE **GRAND FINAL** WOMEN'S PLATE



?

?

GRAND FINAL

W

**SEMI FINAL 1**  
1ST VS WINNER F2



?

**SEMI FINAL 2**  
2ND VS WINNER F1



?

W

W

**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 1**



**3RD VS 6TH**



LAKE MACQUARIE  
DOCKERS

**ELIMINATION  
FINAL 2**



**4TH VS 5TH**





# ON THE MARK

## THE ELIMINATION FINAL



# MEN'S CUP



# ON THE MARK

## THE ELIMINATION FINAL



## WOMEN'S CUP



# MEN'S CUP ELIMINATION FINAL

 3.30 PM



# 2025 FORM

## TERRIGAL AVOCA PANTHERS



**Founded:** 1976

**Mascot:** A Black Panther

**Club Colours:**  

**Home Ground:** Hylton Moore Oval

**Last Premiership:** 2020 (Runners up 23')

**Ladder Position:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Wins:** 11

**Losses:** 4

## 2024 SEASON

**Ladder:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Percentage:** 211.22

**Wins:** 10

**Losses:** 4

**Points:** 14

## LEADERS:

**Captain:**

Jack Grimmond-Lee

**Leading Goal Kicker:**

Harrison Pitt (1<sup>st</sup>)

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Terrigal Avoca last met the Nelson Bay Marlins at Hylton Moore Oval in Round 16. The game was sheduled to be at home for the Marlins, but wet weather saw the clash moved to Gosford. Terrigal won 24.9 153 to 5.7 37. In Round 10, 2025, Terrigal beat Nelson Bay 19.14 128 to 6.7 43 at Hylton Moore Oval. Nelson Bay are yet to beat a Top 4 side in 2025.



R9, 2023

WIN BY  
FORFIET



R18, 2023

W  
85  
POINTS



R10, 2025

W  
85  
POINTS



R16, 2025

W  
116  
POINTS

1	<u>BYE</u>	
2		W
3		W
4		L
5		W
6		L
7		W
8		W
9		L
10		W
11		W
12		W
13		W
14		
15		W
16		W
17		L

WATCH IT  
ON





# MEN'S CUP ELIMINATION FINAL



3.30 PM



## NELSON BAY MARLINS



**Founded:** 1980

**Mascot:** Marlin

**Club Colours:**  

**Home Ground:** Dick Burwell Oval

**Last Premiership:** 2022, Men's Plate

**Ladder Position:** 4th

**Wins:** 6

**Losses:** 5

*\*Elevated to Men's Cup in Round 5*

## 2024 SEASON

**Ladder:** 3rd

**Percentage:** 85.71

**Wins:** 12

**Losses:** 2

**Points:** 14

## LEADERS:

**Captain:**

**Billy Barton**

**Leading Goal Kicker:**

**Billy Barton (8th)**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Terrigal Avoca last met the Nelson Bay Marlins at Hylton Moore Oval in Round 16. The game was scheduled to be at home for the Marlins, but wet weather saw the clash moved to Gosford. Terrigal won 24.9 153 to 5.7 37. In Round 10, 2025, Terrigal beat Nelson Bay 19.14 128 to 6.7 43 at Hylton Moore Oval. Nelson Bay are yet to beat a Top 4 side in 2025.



R9, 2023

**WIN BY  
FORFIET**



R18, 2023

**W  
85  
POINTS**



R10, 2025

**W  
85  
POINTS**



R16, 2025

**W  
116  
POINTS**

## 2025 FORM

1  **W**

2  **W**

3 **BYE**

4  **W**

5  **W**

6  **L**

7  **W**

8  **W**

9  **L**

10  **L**

11  **W**

12  **W**

13  **L**

14  

15  **W**

16  **L**

17  

WATCH IT  
ON





# WOMEN'S CUP ELIMINATION FINAL



1.10 PM



## 2025 FORM

## KILLARNEY VALE BOMBERS



**Founded:** 1978

**Mascot:** A grey Bomber plane

**Club Colours:**   

**Home Ground:** Adelaide Street Oval

**Last Premiership:** 2024 (Runners up 23')

**Ladder Position:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Wins:** 11

**Losses:** 4

## 2024 SEASON

**Ladder:** 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Percentage:** 656.35

**Wins:** 14

**Losses:** 3

**Points:** 15

## LEADERS:

**Captain:**

**Kristen Kessler**

**Leading Goal Kicker:**

**Mia Wilson (1<sup>st</sup>)**

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Warners Bay have a stat they're keen to break...and in an Elimination Final as well. The Bulldogs haven't beaten the Bombers in the last 3 years. Mia Wilson lines up in front of the sticks after finishing first in the Women's goal kicking tally, and the Bulldogs forward line will be heavily involved in shutting her down.



R18, 2023

**W**  
139  
POINTS



R3, 2024

**W**  
77  
POINTS



R14, 2024

**WIN BY  
FORFIET**



R11, 2025

**W**  
114  
POINTS



R15, 2025

**W**  
71  
POINTS

1		W
2		L
3		W
4		W
5		L
6		W
7		L
8		W
9		L
10	<b>BYE</b>	
11		W
12		W
13		W
14		W
15		W
16	<b>BYE</b>	
17		W

WATCH IT  
ON





# WOMEN'S CUP ELIMINATION FINAL

 1.10 PM



# 2025 FORM

## WARNERS BAY BULLDOGS



**Founded:** 1974

**Mascot:** A white Bulldog

**Club Colours:**  

**Home Ground:** Feighan Oval

**Last Premiership:** N/A

**Ladder Position:** 6th

**Wins:** 3

**Losses:** 10

## 2024 SEASON

**Ladder:** 7th

**Percentage:** 25.97

**Wins:** 4

**Losses:** 12

**Points:** 17

## LEADERS:

**Captain:**

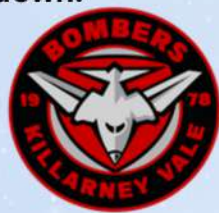
Jasmine Wellings

**Leading Goal Kicker:**

Amy Pittman 12th)

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Warners Bay have a stat they're keen to break...and in an Elimination Final as well. The Bulldogs haven't beaten the Bombers in the last 3 years. Mia Wilson lines up in front of the sticks after finishing first in the Women's goal kicking tally, and the Bulldogs forward line will be heavily involved in shutting her down.



R18, 2023

**W**  
139  
POINTS



R3, 2024

**W**  
77  
POINTS



R14, 2024

**WIN BY  
FORFIET**



R11, 2025

**W**  
114  
POINTS



R15, 2025

**W**  
71  
POINTS

1		L
2		L
3		L
4		W
5		L
6		L
7		W
8	<b>BYE</b>	
9		W
10		L
11		L
12		L
13	<b>BYE</b>	
14	 	
15		L
16		L
17		L

WATCH IT  
ON





**ON THE MARK**

**THE  
QUALIFYING  
FINAL**



**MEN'S CUP**



# THE QUALIFYING FINAL

## MEN'S CUP



Founded: 1974

Mascot: A white Bulldog

Club Colours:   

Home Ground: Feighan Oval

Last Premiership: N/A

Ladder Position: 1<sup>st</sup>

Wins: 11

Losses: 2



Founded: 1883

Mascot: N/A

Club Colours:  


Home Ground: No. 1 Sportsground

Last Premiership: 2024

Ladder Position: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wins: 13

Losses: 3

 3.30 PM

 Feighan Ovals

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS



R2, 2024

**W**  
18  
POINTS



R13, 2024

**W**  
20  
POINTS



R1, 2025

**W**  
10  
POINTS



R10, 2025

**W**  
16  
POINTS



R16, 2025

**WASHED  
OUT**

The Premiers VS the promising. How will it go? There's no way of telling. Warners Bay face City in a home Qualifying Final, and the winner goes straight to the Grand Final. It's cinema at it's absolute finest, with ledgers after the last 2 years completely EVEN, and the last 4 games being decided by a mere 64 points. Their most recent encounter was washed away, and we've waited for the rematch. Bring on the heat as the Doggies and Blues go head to head in the Men's Cup Qualifying Final.



# THE ELIMINATION FINALS

By Oliver Croft

## ELIMINATION

### Terrigal Avoca VS Bateau Bay WOMEN'S CUP



Feighan Ovals

Terrigal Avoca head into the Elimination Final after an inconsistent season, while the Blues' strong start faded with six straight losses since Round 9, scoring just 31 points in that stretch. Terrigal defeated them by 10 points in Round 16 and will take confidence into this clash. Last year, the Blues exited in the first week of finals against Newcastle City, while Terrigal bowed out in the Preliminary. With the Blues finishing 4th and Terrigal close behind, this promises to be a tight, exciting contest where the winner advances to face Newcastle City in the first Semi Final, and the loser bows out.



## ELIMINATION

### Wyong Lakes VS Lake Macquarie MEN'S PLATE



Adelaide Street Oval

It's the Pies from Wyong and the Dockers from Lake Macquarie...and the Dockers? They're keen to forget their last meeting. On the ANZAC Weekend of Round 2, the Pies hosted the Dockers for a clinic on their home soil, beating the purple and white by 114 points. They since finished 3<sup>rd</sup>, while Lake Macquarie finished 6<sup>th</sup>. A common pattern for the Dockers is their margins. They tend to win big, but lose small, and they look every bit the part for the Cup. The Winner will play Terrigal Avoca in the second Semi Final, and the loser gets sent packing for 2025.



## ELIMINATION

### Singleton VS Warners Bay MEN'S PLATE



Feighan Ovals

It was Round 4 when the Warners Bay Bulldogs met with the Singleton Roosters, and a heavyweight fight ensued. At halftime scores were all locked up 21-21, with neither side giving an inch. However the home team, Warners Bay couldn't replicate. Although valuable forward Mark Dignam kicked two for the dogs, he didn't quiet top the scorecard, with Alexander Mitchell belting three to see the Roosters storm home in the last quarter. It was a match the helps prove why they deserve to be here, and be the potential winner that will go through and play Plate Minor Premiers Newcastle City in the first Semi Final





# THE ELIMINATION FINALS

By Oliver Croft



Feighan Ovals

## ELIMINATION

**Nelson Bay vs Lake Macquarie  
WOMEN'S PLATE**

It's been a series of close clashes between the Nelson Bay Marlins and Lake Macquarie Dockers. It started at Dick Burwell Oval in Round 4. That day, Brianna Trappett had the game in the palm of her hand, kicking 4 majors to see the Docker girls home by a solid and convincing 21 points. What a game it was, with the scoreline ebbing and flowing. The purple and white won out eventually, but 13 weeks later, the Marlins triumphed by 24 points. Their ledgers are even, and a massive contest will ensue. It's all on the line to see who will play the Maitland Saints in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi Final.



Adelaide Street Oval

## ELIMINATION

**Cardiff vs Killarney Vale  
WOMEN'S PLATE**

Cardiff and Killarney Vale face off in the Elimination Final in what shapes as a close contest. Just a fortnight ago, the Bombers took the points with a 19-point victory, Brooke Turner slotting two goals to help seal the win. Cardiff will be determined to turn the tables, while Killarney Vale will look to repeat their recent form. With both teams evenly matched, expect a hard-fought battle where the winner advances to play Newcastle City and the loser's season comes to an end.





# SCORECARD

Grade e.g. Men's Cup

Teams e.g. Cardiff vs Newcastle

Team 1

Q	GOALS	BEHINDS	TOTAL
1			
2			
3			
4			

**BECOME A  
GOAL UMPIRE!**



Team 2

Q	GOALS	BEHINDS	TOTAL
1			
2			
3			
4			





# SCORECARD

Grade e.g. Men's Cup

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Q	GOALS	BEHINDS	TOTAL
1			
2			
3			
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**BECOME A  
GOAL UMPIRE!**



Team 2

Q	GOALS	BEHINDS	TOTAL
1			
2			
3			
4			





# SEE YOU

## NEXT YEAR!

Whilst only the Top 4 get to play for that little longer, it's important to recognise the efforts and excitement the other Cup teams provided throughout the 2025 season and some of their highlights.



The Bombers' season was a rollercoaster—at times brilliant, at other times frustrating. They delivered one of the highlights of the year, toppling Terrigal, but then faced the opposite end of the spectrum when Terrigal hit back by more than 100 points a week later. Still, their ability to shake up other teams' momentum shows they can compete with anyone on their day. It is a great improvement from 7<sup>th</sup> place last year. Just missing out on finals stings, but a 5<sup>th</sup>-place finish is nothing to dismiss. With greater consistency, Killarney Vale could easily crack the top four in 2026.

For Cardiff, 2025 was always going to be a challenge after last year's grand final appearance and the departure of several key players. While consistency was hard to find, the Hawks proved they could still rise to the big occasions—pushing Newcastle City to the edge and pulling off a stunning upset over Terrigal at home. They finished strongly with wins over Bateau Bay and Maitland, showing there's still steel in their feathers. With growth and stability, the Hawks could be a real force again in 2026.







No team showed more visible improvement across the year than Maitland. What started with heavy defeats soon became competitive football, with margins narrowing week by week. Their half-game upset of the reigning premiers was a remarkable highlight, proving belief and persistence can spark big moments. Adding in two solid wins over Bateau Bay, the Saints can take pride in their progress. With continued growth, Maitland may not just improve in 2026—they could start pushing the edge of the top four.

Another tough year for Bateau Bay, with just two wins coming against Maitland. While it wasn't the breakthrough season they hoped for, every rebuild has its turning point, and momentum must start somewhere. The challenge now is to turn those small steps into bigger ones, because the tide will eventually have to turn. 2026 presents a fresh opportunity, and the Bay will be desperate to prove they're no longer easy pickings.



The Roosters may have only picked up two wins this season, but both carried real meaning. Their victory over a strong Bateau Bay showed the side's fight, while the win against local rivals Warners Bay was a proud highlight for the club. While finals weren't in the frame this year, the spirit and determination remain, and with young talent developing, Singleton has the foundations to build on. 2026 offers another chance to grow stronger and surprise a few more opponents along the way.





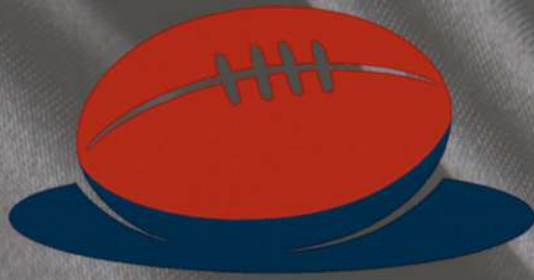
WHO WILL BE  
THE 2025  
**PREMIERS?**





# THE FINALS

## OLLIE'S



## TRIVIA

*Have you been paying attention this season?*

1. What two teams featured in the Men's Cup 2024 Elimination Final?
2. What colour are the goal umpire flags in AFLHCC?
3. Which teams face off in the Men's Plate Elimination Final 1?
4. Who were the 2024 Women's Cup Premiers?
5. Have Nelson Bay beaten a Top 4 side in Men's Cup this year?
6. For how many years has the Bulldogs failed to beat the Bombers in Women's Cup?
7. Name the leading goal kicker in the Men's Cup?
8. What club does Mia Wilson play for?
9. Which colour AFL Ball do you use after 3.00pm?
10. What is the furthest club North on the AFLHCC?

### AWNSERS

1. Terrigal Avoca and Warners Bay 2. White 3. Wyong and Lake Macquarie 4. Killarney Vale 5. No 6 3 Years 7. Harrison Pitt 8. Killarney Vale 9. Yellow 10. Muswellbrook Cat



# AFLHCC CLUBS

**All these clubs are active and field sides in Men's and/or Women's Cup and/or Plate.**



**Newcastle City Blues**  
"The Blues"



**Wyong Lakes Magpies**  
"The Pies"



**Cardiff Hawks**  
"The Hawks"



**Lake Macquarie Dockers**  
"The Dockers"

LAKE MACQUARIE  
DOCKERS



**Terrigal Avoca Panthers**  
"The Panthers"



**Nelson Bay Marlins**  
"The Marlins"



**Killarney Vale Bombers**  
"The Bombers"



**Port Stephens Power**  
"The Power"



**The Entrance Bateau Bay**  
"The Blues"



**Maitland Saints**  
"The Saints"



**Singleton Roosters**  
"The Roosters"



**Warners Bay Bulldogs**  
"The Doggies"



**Muswellbrook Cats**  
"The Cats"



2025

# ELLIOT DAVEY MEDAL NIGHT

*Presented by*



*10th September 2025  
6.00PM*

**BELMONT 16s**

SAILING



CLUB





# AUTHENTICITY ON THE MARK



Thank you for picking up *On the Mark* and taking home not just a book, but your piece of local football history. Your appreciation for the stories, stats, and love of the game are all captured within its pages. It's people like you who keep the spirit of football alive for future generations. We hope it inspires you to stay involved, cheer loud, and maybe even make your own mark on the game's next chapter.

Enjoy your record, and more importantly, enjoy the 2025 AFL Hunter Central Coast Finals Series.

*Oliver Croft*

AUTHOR OF *ON THE MARK*





# ELIMINATION

## WORD SEARCH

Y E I I O Z Z K J W Q N F D L O O U  
N S N O Z V T R I U M P H A M N J A  
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S N N R T E R R I G A L A V O C A I  
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N E I K I L L A R N E Y V A L E G A  
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A M Y P R E L I M I N A R Y V T W B  
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BATTLE  
DECIDER  
ELIMINATION  
FINAL  
GRAND FINAL  
INTENSITY

KILLARNEY VALE  
KNOCKOUT  
LOSER  
NELSON BAY  
PRELIMINARY  
PRESSURE

TERRIGAL AVOCA  
TOP FOUR  
TRIUMPH  
WARNERS BAY  
WINNER





*HOME OF THE*

**PREMIERS**

*24 FIRST GRADE FLAGS*



**PREMIERS  
2024**



# HOME OF THE PREMIERS

BY OLIVER CROFT

Established in 1883, the Newcastle City Australian Football Club is one of the oldest, largest, and most progressive AFL clubs in the Hunter region. Competing in the Hunter Central Coast AFL League, City proudly fields teams across all junior and senior grades and supports three netball teams in the Newcastle Netball Association. The club's Premier Division Men's and Women's teams battle for the Black Diamond Cup.

Newcastle City won its first Men's 1st Grade Premiership in 1884 and has since claimed 24 First Grade flags, more than any other club in the region. That history includes three undefeated premiership seasons (1964, 1973, and 2011) and a dominant run of four consecutive premierships from 2008 to 2011.

More recently, Newcastle City has surged back into powerhouse form, capturing back-to-back premierships in 2023 and 2024. The 2023 grand final was a heart-stopping classic—a gritty, pressure-filled battle against Terrigal. City's composure under fire and refusal to break saw them scrape home by just 9 points. It was a statement win that laid the foundation for the club's current golden era.

Then came 2024. The Blues delivered one of the most commanding grand final performances in recent memory, dismantling the Cardiff Hawks by 44 points. From the opening bounce, City was relentless—sharp ball movement, suffocating pressure, and a clinical forward line firing on all cylinders. It wasn't just a win—it was a celebration of unity, preparation, and hunger for success.

These back-to-back triumphs are more than just silverware. They are the embodiment of Good Old City's culture—built on hard work, loyalty, and an unbreakable bond between players, coaches, volunteers, and fans. With 24 premierships, an unmatched history, and a current squad that blends experienced leaders with emerging stars, Newcastle City's legacy is as strong as ever.

And now, in 2025, the Blues are looking strong. Could a third straight flag be on the horizon? Will yet another premiership be etched into the club's storied history and raised high on the No. 1 Sportsground pavilion?



**2025**

**FINALS SERIES**



**HUNTER CENTRAL  
COAST**





# BECOME AN UMPIRE!



SCAN FOR MORE INFO





# THE FINALS



**BELMONT 16s**

**SAILING**



**CLUB**