



Victorian Football Umpires' Association

Annual report and financial statement 2013

Office bearers



President
Andrew McCoy



Vice-president
Steven Piperno



Senior Field Rep.
Michael Curtis



Dev. Field Rep.
Adam Havelberg

Our vision:

To be a highly valued,
respected and dependable
organisation within the
football community



Sen. Bound. Rep.
Brendan Elvey



Dev. Bound. Rep.
Josh Maine



Goal Rep.
Luke White



Goal Rep.
Chris Doyle



Executive Officer
Peter Kelly



Communications Officer
Daniel Butcher



Historian-Stat.
David Flegg

President's report

Andrew McCoy



Now that season 2013 has finally come to an end I have taken some time to reflect on my second year as president of the VFUA.

From its election in November 2012 the VFUA Executive managed a challenging year well despite having suffered the tragic loss of an Executive member.

The new Executive was made up of President Andrew McCoy, Vice-president Steve Piperno, Executive Officer Peter Kelly, Historian-statistician David Flegg, Communications Officer Daniel Butcher, Track Representatives Michael Curtis, Adam Havelberg, Brendan Elvey, Josh Maine, Chris Doyle and Luke White and Projects Officer Anthony Hunter. The VFUA is heading in the right direction for many years to come which is testament to the commitment, teamwork, support and patience they have all shown during this year.

Thanks must also go to the VFL Umpiring Department. Kevin Mitchell and Angela Lindsay have been strong supporters of our

association and the VFUA is very fortunate to have such a strong and successful relationship with the department. After more than 50 years involvement in umpiring Kevin announced his retirement in November. The high regard in which VFL umpiring is held nationally is due in no small part to Kevin's outstanding commitment. We wish him all the best in his next endeavours.

The season started with a planning weekend in February at the Piperno's holiday house in Rye. The weekend was filled with a lot of positive energy and ideas about how the VFUA could become a stronger association. As a team we talked about social events and what could be possible both practically and financially. While the boat cruise was disappointing the bowls event showed promise and the end of season events were outstanding.

Communication was an area that the Executive identified as an area requiring constant improvement and innovation. The SMS system again worked well as a good way to inform the members and keep them updated with the latest VFUA news and events. Our track reps regularly emailed their squads as a quick and easy way to communicate to their squad members which worked effectively. The VFUA Facebook page was the easiest way the Executive could get the message out to members as members received status updates on a regular basis. The VFUA web site is still a good place for everyone to see the latest news and pictures from events held by the VFUA. So I encourage each member to take some time and have a look at the website.

The fees and conditions agreement was a major project for Steve Piperno and his sub-committee this year. Steve ran this project seamlessly behind the

scenes and facilitated opportunities for all members to contribute. Steve has put so much time and effort into the project that he can't be thanked enough. Discussions continue and hopefully there will be a good outcome prior to next season.

Peter Kelly took on a different role this year spending more time behind the scenes working with AFL Victoria to improve the policies and procedures surrounding Workcover claims and bullying. Peter has done a mountain of invisible work and for that we are so very grateful. Thank you for your hard work and dedication Peter.

Looking ahead to season 2014, the new Executive have some challenges approaching including completing the fees and conditions agreement, working even more closely with AFL Victoria, continuing to improve communications and organising a social calendar that is fresh, interesting, and entertaining.

On 12 April this year we lost a very dear member of the VFUA Executive in a tragic motorcycle accident. Anthony Hunter was a passionate and hard working member of the Executive. Anthony wasn't a running member this year but still wanted to be actively involved. He was someone that brought new ideas and wasn't afraid to voice his opinion. Anthony will always be remembered for the drive he brought to the Executive. Anthony you will be sadly missed but never forgotten. Rest in peace.

Thanks for taking the time to read over my report. Better head back to pre-season training and I look forward to catching you all in season 2014.

Executive Officer's report

Peter Kelly



On behalf of the VFUA Executive Committee, I am pleased to submit the annual report and financial statement for the 2012/13 financial year.

Season 2013 has been a challenging year on many fronts for the VFUA. The association has been fortunate to have members who have been willing to put their hand up and assist with many of the tasks required to keep it running. I would like to personally acknowledge and thank those who were part of the executive team in 2013. Not only did these members successfully lead the association during the year, they also featured well into the latter weeks of the finals series at all levels. Congratulations on a fantastic year!

The association also lost one of its most energetic members, Anthony Hunter, who was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident. Anthony's cheeky smile, unbridled enthusiasm and quick wit are sadly missed.

Late in 2012 the VFUA was notified of a workplace issue which required escalation to an external investigation. As a result of the investigation, a number of changes are being made by AFL Victoria to policies and procedures and new induction processes will be adopted from 2014.

The VFUA has also been negotiating fees and conditions for 2014-2016, never easy against a backdrop of tightened resources at AFL Victoria.

Some new and on-going initiatives were undertaken in 2013:

Mentoring program

Late in 2012 the VFUA introduced a new mentoring program for its leadership team. The aim of this program is to provide the president, vice-president and future leaders with a sounding

board for discussing their ideas on the strategic and operational direction of the VFUA and to provide guidance and direction where needs be. Thank you to Russell Davidson and Chris Snell, both past presidents and life members of the association, for making your time available this year.

SMS communication / Facebook

The VFUA executive has been keen to embrace technology to better engage with its members. Thank you to Daniel Butcher for taking these projects on board.

Meetings with AFL Victoria

To open up communication channels with AFL Victoria senior umpires were appointed to form part of a leadership group that met regularly with John Hook from AFL Victoria. This meant the umpiring group were kept informed on latest developments whilst ensuring John heard first hand about some of the challenges and issues facing umpires on and off the field. Thanks to those who participated in this project and a special thanks to John Hook who openly embraced this new method of communication.

Online banking

The bulk of the association's transactions were conducted online this year, removing the need for members of the Executive to handle money. This also applied to payments which were made online during the year.

Membership

In 2013, the VFUA attracted membership from 97% of running umpires. Whilst this is not 100% as we'd like it to be, it is a figure that has been consistent in recent years. It is always disappointing not to achieve 100% especially when non-members received the same entitlements enshrined in

our fees and conditions package with AFL Victoria. With this in mind, I would like to thank all our financial members for your continued support in 2013 and I hope we can continue to provide services and benefits to attract your membership into the future.

Fees and Conditions

The Association began planning for the process of negotiating fees and conditions for seasons 2014-16. A committee comprising representatives from each discipline met to discuss key issues and items for inclusion in the package. The package was presented to members at the second association meeting in July and was submitted to AFL Victoria in July 2013.

After several discussions and meetings with AFL Victoria, agreement was reached on a final agreement for 2014-16. This will be presented to members at the Annual General Meeting in December 2013.

Thank you to Steve Piperno for the professional way he approached this project and to Jason Schilling, Andrew McCoy, Andrew Talbot, Nick Laurence and Michael Craig for their work in putting together our final submission.

VFUA survey

The association also conducted a survey of its members. The survey has been conducted every two years since 1999 which allows the association to trend and compare data over a prolonged period. This coupled with the fact that 85% of members completed the survey means the results are statistically valid.

Some of the highlights from the survey include the following:

- 98% Strongly Agree or Agree they understand the

purpose and role of the VFUA

- 94% Strongly Agree or Agree that the VFUA is a relevant association that understands and caters for today's needs
- 85% Strongly Agree or Agree that the VFUA responds to umpiring issues and members' concerns in an appropriate and timely manner
- 91% Strongly Agree or Agree that the VFUA Executive communicates satisfactorily with its members
- 96% Strongly Agree or Agree that they understand the role of track representative of the VFUA Executive

Areas for improvement or worth noting include:

- 57% Strongly Agree or Agree that Association meetings are well run and worth attending
- Whilst 91% Strongly Agree or Agree that social events are an important part of the umpiring experience, only 70% Strongly Agree or Agree that the price of social events represents value for money
- 69% Strongly Agree or Agree (compared to 83% in 2011) that payments (including travel and food allowances) received for umpiring are adequate

WorkCover / Injury / Bullying

- 29% Strongly Agree or Agree that they have observed bullying type behaviour in the workplace
- Whilst 67% Strongly Agree or Agree that they are comfortable with accessing

WorkCover for any umpire related injury, 33% are uncertain or Strongly Disagree or Disagree

- 75% Strongly Agree or Agree with being comfortable reporting their injury to their coach, compared to 81% in 2011
- 35% of umpires have sought medical treatment at their own expense from practitioners outside of AFL Victoria for an umpire-related injury
- 73% Strongly Agree or Agree that after training therapy support is adequate, down from 91% in 2011

A copy of the final 26-page report was provided to John Hook, State League and Talent Manager, AFL Victoria. The results from the survey will be used in planning out the association's affairs going forward and for ongoing dialogue with AFL Victoria.

Mini-Olympics

The association, in partnership with AFL Victoria, held its major charity fundraiser for the year, the Mini-Olympics, in memory of Paul Anderson a boundary umpire who succumbed to cancer in 2001. Aply organised and managed by life member Dan Beard, the format is a series of sporting events including soccer, relay runs and push ups to name a few. Congratulations to the Development Field Umpire Squad on winning the cherished Paul Anderson Shield. The night raised \$1,363.05 for the Victorian Cancer Council. Thanks to Dan for his organisation skills and to the Anderson family, who continue to provide support by attending each year.

Social program

The association again hosted a

number of social functions during the year. A brief outline is included elsewhere in this report. I would like to thank Daniel Butcher, Steve Piperno and Michael Curtis on taking a lead role with events. Thank you to Richard Mills for developing such a moving tribute to Anthony Hunter for the grand final ball.

Quality Assurance Project

Special thanks to Michael Blair who has coordinated the VFUA's involvement with this very worthwhile project. The QAP can often be seen as a chore, but it is instrumental in ensuring that VFL clubs uphold their responsibility for match day security and facilities whilst ensuring a safe workplace for our umpires.

Special Effort

The Special Effort is our major fundraiser for the year. Without it, we would not be able to host such a great grand final function and grand final ball. I would like to thank Michael Curtis who increased the profit by 9% over last year. Thank you to Cyrus Wong who continues to support the raffle each year by selling the most tickets.

Life members' function

It is always a special night when we have our life members together for our annual function. Life membership was presented to Greg Denison for his services to the association. Thank you to Steve Piperno for organising such an enjoyable night.

Revamped annual report

Where would we be without our beloved Historian-statistician David Flegg. Never one to shy away from a task or challenge, David has been instrumental in making sure umpires records are up to date, milestones are recognised and the annual report is a living memory of a 'year just

gone' for our members. I am sure you will be impressed with our new layout and format of this year's annual report. David, thank you once again.

Congratulations to all our members who achieved personal milestones, and particularly to those who officiated in grand finals this year.

Congratulations also to Robert O'Gorman, Josh Mather and Sam Walsh who were voted most improved in their respective categories and to Pat Burns, Kieran Ferguson and Matthew Dervan on winning their squad's Best First Year Umpire awards for 2013.

Congratulations also to Matthew Dervan for being the winner of this year's Frank Leverett Shield – the best first year umpire across all categories.

I would also like to personally acknowledge Leigh Keen and Josh Mather as worthy recipients of the VFUA Courage Award.

The association would not be as successful without open dialogue and support from the AFL Victoria Umpiring Department. For this, I would like to thank Kevin Mitchell and Angela Lindsay for their contribution and support of umpiring in Victoria, and for working with the association in progressing umpiring in this state. I wish Kevin Mitchell good health, happiness and hope the fish keep biting following his retirement as State Director of Umpiring from AFL Victoria.

I would also like to thank all the observers, coaches, trainers, physios, dieticians and sponsors who provide such valued support behind the scenes. Our members appreciate your enthusiasm, guidance and support in helping them throughout a long and challenging season.

In closing, I would like to

acknowledge and thank Rob Findlay, Chris Snell, Daniel Butcher, David Flegg and Steve Piperno for their support during a busy and trying year. Thank you to each of you.

I would also like to thank all of our members and life members for their support, and I look forward to working with you again in 2014.

Obituary

Anthony Hunter

*To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die.*

*Hallowed Ground, Thomas
Campbell, 1825*

The sadness of death brings with it many life lessons that are so easily ignored until we are hit in the face with them – normally in our darkest and most desperate moments. We feel these sentiments all the more fiercely when tragedy takes a loved one from us at a young age.

Reflecting on Anthony Hunter's approach to life, know that you can live life to its fullest. Many VFUA members will remember Anthony for his spirited demeanour and humour. For the ease of his friendship. For his passion for umpiring. Through these attributes and more, Anthony threw himself into everything life had to offer – and in following his example he will forever live in our hearts.

The irony of the accident that took Anthony from us is that he was born to ride. From a young age, he could be found riding his bicycle to or from school, with his mother to work and, as he grew older, for pleasure. In his teenage years it was his mode of transportation around his home city of Bendigo.

Anthony was an outdoors person. Camping, fishing and running were all pastimes of pleasure. But riding was more than that – it was an escape

from life into a place of content. The 80 kilometre round-trip from Bendigo to Lake Eppalock was not unfamiliar to him (a short ride, he called it). The new bearings on his bike were worth showing off even to the uninterested. The very first day his parents allowed him to ride to school was the day he never walked to school again. But Anthony did not only enjoy solitude.

He was at ease with his friends and family as much as anyone. He was committed to keeping in contact with his twenty-something cousins. Umpiring took up hours of every week. He had a full-time job. His true devotion, however, was to his family. He adored his children, and they adored him back.

Anthony's journey into VFL football was not unusual. As a teenager he was invited to join the umpiring ranks by a friend. It became part of his lifestyle, umpiring up to five games of junior and senior football each weekend. To be committed to football at any level takes sacrifice, and after a year of traveling to and from Melbourne every week for VFL training and games, he decided to quit Bendigo completely and move to Melbourne. This was a sacrifice for wife Jess as well, who initially waited back in Bendigo imagining, and perhaps hoping, he hated it. But that was not Anthony's way.

He threw himself into everything. When he left his first job at IGA, three people were hired to replace him. A cabinet-maker, Anthony had declared he wanted to work for California Gully, a maker of high quality woodwork in Bendigo – he went on to be factory manager. Struggling for a full-time job in Melbourne, he convinced a recruitment company he could easily replace the consultant who was assisting him but had recently left. Ultimately,

Jess moved down to Melbourne after a few months.

Sadly, injuries curtailed Anthony's umpiring career. But he was not one to allow less than ideal circumstances dictate his path. His passion for the umpiring family meant his retirement as a running umpire led to becoming a boundary observer and remaining involved with the VFUA. Even though he and Jess separated they remained excellent friends.

Outside of football Anthony was a doting father. He used his skills as a cabinet-maker to often construct furniture for his kids. He shared his love of the outdoors with them. To some observers, his relationship with daughter Jasmine was almost one of brother and sister. But as a father, he showed patience almost unimaginable with his young children.

The consistency with which Anthony is described by his friends and family is remarkable. As a child he had impeccable manners. As an adult, he loved life, loved people, loved his two children, was a 'cheeky fella', made the most of everything he did and was incredibly likeable. He was also a very loyal friend. For many of us knowing Anthony was a blessing. For some of us not really knowing Anthony was a missed opportunity.

He will be missed but never forgotten.

Between 2003 and 2012, Anthony umpired 115 games for the VFL, including 20 senior games – 73 as a field umpire and 42 as a boundary umpire. He also umpired 3 U18 finals and at the date of his passing was a boundary observer for AFL Victoria and an active member of the VFUA Executive.

Luke White



Life member

Greg Denison

Greg Dennison was involved with the VFUA and the VFL Umpiring Department for 12 years. For 10 years he was a running umpire and member of the VFUA and then for two years he was coach of the VFL Development field umpires. During his umpiring career, Greg umpired 20 senior VFL matches, 40 VFL Reserves and 69 TAC Cup games.

Always an involved supporter of the association during his time on the list Greg served as track representative and Executive Committee member in 2005 and 2006. In that role he was responsible for fostering goodwill

for the association by proactively encouraging participation in association activities e.g. attendance at social functions and association meetings and for communicating information and decisions to squad members.

He also served on the Fees and Conditions Sub-committee which was formed to develop the 2005-2007 package; the first three-year agreement between the association and AFL Victoria. Greg, as a member of the committee, was responsible for holding a number of workshops and briefings with his squad to canvass ideas and seek input for fees and conditions covering a three-year period.

Greg retired from umpiring in 2010 and was appointed as Development Field coach with AFL Victoria in 2011 and 2012. In this role, Greg was responsible for the development of field umpires in their formative years in umpiring VFL football. A passionate umpires' man, Greg is widely respected for his honest

and candid feedback and encouragement to the younger umpire brigade.

In Greg's 10 years as an umpire at the VFL he pointed out that the most enjoyable thing about umpiring at the second highest level was running with people who have become long life mates. He said, "the mateship, camaraderie, good times, good stories is what made my career so enjoyable".

Reflecting on life membership Greg said, "I am very honoured and humbled to be considered worthy to stand by other life members of this association. After 12 years in an on and off-field capacity to be able to maintain those networks and the relationships with these guys on a regular basis is what I look forward to."



VFUA

Life

members

Darren Agnew (1995)
 Peter Allsop (1992)
 Jason Armstrong (2006)
 Peter Balding (2010)
 Dan Beard (2004)
 Gary Best (1994)
 Anthony Black (1998)
 Michael Boss (2011)
 Alan Brewer (1996)
 Graeme Brewer (1993)
 Keith Callaghan (1997)
 Peter Cameron (Found.)
 Mark Canning (2000)
 Peter Carey (1992)
 Brendan Carland (Found.)
 Barry Carmichael (Found.)
 Geoff Caulfield (1995)
 Craig Clark (1996)
 Andrew Clifton (2005)
 Andrew Coates (1994)
 Allan Cook (1993)
 Graham Danne (Found.)
 Russell Davidson (2000)
 Rod Davies (1995)
 Andrew Dempster (2001)
 Greg Denison (2012)
 Frank Dicosmo (2006)
 David Dixon (2004)
 Mikel Donsen (1993)
 Gavin Dore (1993)
 Brendan Dye (2004)
 Judi Elliott (1997)
 Stephen Evans (2006)
 Ray Fargie (1993)
 Rob Findlay (2007)

Lloyd Fisk (2003)
 David Flegg (1997)
 Rob Frampton (1999)
 Joy Gelly (2005)
 Stephen Gloag (2005)
 Darren Goldspink (1993)
 Peter Gonis (2005)
 Doug Gourlay (1994)
 Doug Gower (1993)
 Ian Green (1993)
 John Hall (1997)
 Michael Hammond (2003)
 Lindsay Hardman (2000)
 Shane Harris (1992)
 Darren Holt (2003)
 Colin Hood (1997)
 David Howlett (Found.)
 David Humphries (2001)
 Steele Irish (2007)
 Ben James (2006)
 Michael Jennings (2010)
 Leigh Keen (Found.)
 Peter Kelly (1996)
 Greg Kennedy (1998)
 Hayden Kennedy (1993)
 Colin Larter (1999)
 Matthew Leppard (2009)
 Richard Leslie (2002)
 Stephen Luckman (1992)
 Andrew Malcolm (2002)
 Wes Mann (1999)
 Shane Mason (2003)
 Dean Maxwell (1995)
 Peter McDonald (1998)
 Anton McKernan (1993)
 Scott McLaren (1999)
 Chris Mitchell (Found.)
 David Mitchell (Found.)
 Kevin Mitchell (2006)
 Geoff Morrow (Found.)*
 Geoff Mowat (1992)
 Peter Nastasi (2004)
 Ben Naughtin (2008)
 John O'Leary (1993)
 Malcolm Owen (1993)

Laurie Page (1994)
 Brian Philp (1994)*
 Mark Powell (1998)
 Mark Prince (1993)
 Doug Purss (Found.)
 Frank Raiti (1994)
 Gary Ramm (1999)
 Denis Rich (Found.)
 Michael Richardson (2006)
 Linton Roe (2000)
 Greg Russo (1999)
 John Russo (Found.)
 Paul Saville (Found.)
 Rowan Sawers (Found.)
 Graeme Scherger (1992)
 Colin Segota (1996)
 Roger Selwood (1992)
 Michael Sexton (1998)
 Bryan Sheehan (1993)
 Michael Sneddon (Found.)
 Chris Snell (2003)
 Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)
 Justin Stephenson (2001)
 Steven Stirling (1998)
 Brad Strachan (2000)
 Terry Suitryk (1993)
 Phil Sutton (Found.)
 Simon Tursi (2008)
 James Van Beek (1994)
 Jason Venkataya (2005)
 Michael Viney (1993)
 Matthew Vitoritti (2000)
 Phil Watson (1993)
 Andrew Wheeler (1998)
 Graeme Williams (Found.)
 Adam Wojcik (2007)

Found. = Foundation life member

* = deceased

Social report

Mini-Olympics

Another year, another winner. This year witnessed the Development field umpires secure the Paul Anderson Shield in a whitewash victory. What seemed to have the potential for a wet night when the skies opened up throughout the early part of the day, fortunately became a sunny afternoon and the night presented itself beautifully.

The 2012, 4 x 200m relay handicapping panel were shown the door, making for a much closer contest this year. Track representative Michael Curtis flew out of the gates for the senior fieldies setting the pace for the rest of the runners. The field quickly gained on the goal umpires and never looked like turning back, all four goal umpires reported to pull up with wind burn. Nick Finch tried his best to pull back the lead for the senior fieldies but couldn't catch James Alexander for the

Development field umpires who kicked off the night in great fashion.

Once again, the soccer was a big hit for everyone, overall producing a fairly even result with not one team winning every match.

The boundary throw-in contest proved to be another hit with the crowd. While Gareth Verberne had all the support from his fellow umpires notwithstanding an abundance of ice thrown at him, it couldn't quite get the senior fieldies over the line for this one, development fieldies taking out the event with the help of Matthew Piper's dead eye.

Two words. Bouncing and Robbo. After last year's performance Jake Robertson didn't fail to bring back the hype of his dramatic bouncing style by inciting the crowd to applaud for his bouncing show which everyone seemed to enjoy as much as him. Steve Piperno's self-proclaimed 'king of bouncing' didn't turn out the way he would have liked; a hint of crowd sledging may have got the better of him. Mitch Cole failed to gain a point for the development fieldies as the Development boundary umpires took out the prize for this one.

Both Rob Young and Peter Nastasi smashed out an incredible 88 push ups in 60 seconds to top the leader board for push-ups for the Senior field and goal umpires respectively.

As the numbers were crunched to get a winner for this year's Mini-Olympics President Andrew McCoy presented the Anderson family with flowers and thanked them for their ongoing support to the association, in particular the great night that can be shared amongst all members and the Anderson family in memory of Paul who tragically passed away in 2001 fighting cancer.

Development Field Track Representative Adam Havelberg accepted the 2013 Paul Anderson Shield on behalf of his squad.

The night was concluded with everyone enjoying the sensationally barbecued snags cooked by local chef and executive member Anthony Hunter.

A big thank you goes to Dan Beard for his efforts in helping conduct the night, and of course all members for their donations in support of the Cancer Council Victoria.

Boat cruise

In mid-April, VFUA members, partners, family and friends boarded the *Victoria Star* for the 2013 VFUA Boat Cruise.

It was a great opportunity for umpires and their guests to share a drink whilst cruising around the bay on what was a balmy night.

Timmy Carlos was again the headline DJ act, with support from Mick Curtis, providing the tunes as we cruised along. Sure enough, for the second year in a row, *Call me maybe* and *That's the thing about football*, which have become unofficial anthems of the boat cruise, upped the energy levels of the crowd, almost jeopardising our bond.

Dylan Benwell was the lucky winner of the raffle, scoring himself a couple of Etihad Stadium Medallion Club seats.

It was great to have representatives from all squads as well as coaches and AFL umpires in attendance to support the function. Unfortunately late fixture changes by AFL Victoria meant the event was not as well attended as it had been in previous years. The VFUA will be exploring alternative social functions in 2014.

Life members function

This year, around 15 life members joined the VFUA executive on Sunday 12 May for the annual Life Members Dinner. The dinner was held at the Leinster Arms in Collingwood where life members from all squads and trainers were in attendance.

The VFUA has long treated the life membership as a very important aspect and significant achievement of our association. The dinner is a way to recognise those who have working tirelessly in the past to make umpiring and the association at this level the way it is today.

The highlight of the evening was the formal induction of Greg Denison into life membership of the VFUA. Greg, who has been involved (directly and indirectly) with the VFUA and the VFL Umpiring Department for the past 12 years, 10 of which he was a running umpire and member of the VFUA and the past two years when he was coach of the VFL Development field umpires.

Lawn bowls

On Sunday 26 May 2013 VFL field, boundary and goal umpires took to the beautiful greens of Flagstaff Gardens. With weather conditions perfect, the field was set for a great afternoon of lawn bowls. Many umpires showed great skill, turning lawn bowls both left and right; bowling like champions. Some on the other hand were a little less skilled but had fun anyway.

Games saw all kinds of techniques; the fast ball, the slider, the curve ball and who could forget the old flipper. Many games saw the tables turn with goalies beating fieldies and development beating senior panels. A quiet beverage and BBQ was enjoyed by all during the

afternoon and the day was an overall success; with a good laugh, bowl and bit of fun shared by all who attended.

The VFUA would like to thank all who attended and for those that helped organise the day.

Grand final after-party

As the final siren rang at Etihad Stadium, not only did it signify that Box Hill were the 2013 VFL premiers, it was a reminder to we umpires that another season had officially come to an end. Only a short walk down the Bourke Street pier was Watermark Docklands, the picturesque setting for the VFUA grand final after-party.

The night was a terrific opportunity to celebrate the achievements of not only the grand final umpires, but the achievements of all umpires in season 2013. The event was well attended by VFUA members and their guests, trainers, VFUA life members, past umpires, coaches and AFL umpires who joined together to celebrate the end of another year.

One of the formalities of the night, the drawing of the Special Effort turned into a tense affair with Dan Lawlor, Callum Leonard, Peter Balding and Adam Wojcik all involved in the last five. The Development field umpires, who were passionately riding home their man Dan, had already committed the prize money to the bar if he was to get up. In one of the tensest finishes in the history of the \$1000 Draw Dan finished second. The winner was a colleague of Cyrus Wong.

The function went long into the night, with VFUA Life Member Judi Elliott notably one of the last to leave. The night had an excellent vibe and atmosphere and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance. Thanks

go to Daniel Butcher for organising and coordinating the function, and to other Executive members for their assistance on the night.

VFUA ball

Around 110 VFUA members and partners made the dash to Etihad Stadium after the AFL grand final to celebrate the last function on the VFUA calendar, the VFUA ball. For the second year the event was held in the Endeavour Room which fittingly overlooks the ground which hosted the VFL grand final only a week earlier.

Highlights of the night included the presentation of the grand final umpires and hearing them share their experiences from the day and the photo slideshow which showcased some terrific photos from the year. A live twitter feed - #vfuaall - added an interactive element to the night.

Also included was a tribute to Anthony Hunter, a dear friend of the VFUA family and a wonderful ambassador of the association, tragically lost earlier this year. This video presentation included funny stories and fond memories shared by fellow umpires and was a fitting way to honour Anthony.

Once the formalities were over, the lights went down, the music turned up and the drinks flowed. Everyone let their hair down to celebrate the end of the 2013 season.

A massive thank you to Daniel Butcher for putting the whole event together, Andrew Talbot for hosting the night, Richard Mills, Steve Piperno, Peter Kelly, Judi Elliott and others for their assistance in making it a successful and enjoyable night for all.

Major milestones

Dean Jones - 100 VFL matches

About 15 years ago Dean Jones was at a loss what to do with his weekends so he decided to embrace his football passion in the best practical way – he became a goal umpire.

It's been quite some journey, but this weekend, which coincides with the game celebrating 'umpiring is everyone's business', Jones officiates in his 100th VFL match.

"Initially, I got involved in a junior league, but I soon realized I wanted to do senior football so I went to the Southern Football League." Two years after Jones took up goal umpiring with the Southern Football League in 2000 he was invited to try out for a place on the VFL goal umpiring panel.

It wasn't until Round 10, 2003 that Jones officiated in his first VFL senior match at Geelong.

While he has umpired a Semi Final at Bellerive Oval in 2005 when the Tasmania Devils were part of the VFL, Jones admitted he's had to work hard to hold his place on the panel.

"I've had my ups and downs with fitness so it's good to get this far," Jones said.

Jones said he had to work hard to keep his skin fold down and also pass the cut-off point for the then four kilometre time trial.

"I struggled making the time, but now they've pulled it back to a two K (kilometre) time trial and I've been able to pass it," he said.

Jones said the message was loud and clear that unless he passed the mid-season time trial that he wouldn't be on the panel the following season.

He spent the 2009 season with the Development squad, but Jones wanted to return to where he had previously umpired – the VFL. "I just worked my butt off," Jones said.

"I thought 'I want to keep doing this' so I passed the test and stayed on." Jones officiated in the then VFL Reserves Grand Final in 2010.

With the positioning of goal umpires well and truly in focus in the AFL, Jones said it is critical to either be on the line or under the flight of the ball.

"Obviously, you don't want scoring errors, but positioning is critical. You have to read the flight of the ball and position yourself accordingly," he said.

All umpires – field, boundary and goal – are scrutinized and assessed each week. For goal umpires there are bonus points and deductions.

"Clean games are what goal umpires are after; where we've read the flight of the ball correctly and haven't made any scoring errors," Jones said.

The goal umpires with the least deductions over the course of the season get to umpire the finals.

And, like footballers, being involved deep in September is the aim of every umpire, just ask Dean Jones.

VFL Record, Round 5, 4-5 May 2013

Jamie Grindal- 100 VFL matches

While Jordan Banister and Leigh Fisher turned to umpiring when their playing careers finished, Jamie Grindal can be considered a "lifer".

Grindal, who umpired his 100th VFL match in the Round 5 North Ballarat/Frankston encounter, began umpiring when he was 10! He followed the lead of his brothers who were umpires and after initially running the boundary for five years he switched to field umpiring.

He loved it that match he would umpire junior games on a Saturday and a Sunday before his passion for it saw him progress to the next level.

Grindal spent 10 years umpiring in the Diamond Valley Football League before he received an invitation to train with the AFL Victoria squad.

After breaking into the squad, Grindal umpired the 2007 TAC Cup Grand Final between Calder Cannons and Murray Bushrangers at the MCG.

He's racked up three AFL Victoria Development League Grand Finals as well as several senior VFL Finals.

"My goal is to do a VFL Grand Final, I've just got to keep working at it," Grindal said.

"The coaching staff is fantastic. People don't understand how much coaching we get, all the vision and feed-back that's given so that we can keep improving.

"I can't wrap them enough, they've been great. You just feel comfortable talking with them.

"You have your ups and downs, you might get the occasional kick in the butt, but you take it all on board and you just keep working on it.



I've enjoyed every moment down there.

"I view it as a great achievement just to umpire in the VFL – it is such a great competition." What has impressed Grindal is the interaction umpires have with the coaches and players.

Grindal recalled how North Ballarat coach Gerard FitzGerald, captain Michael Searl and club legend Shaune Moloney greeted him before the Frankston match.

It was 'Umpiring is Everyone's Business' week as well as his 100th match and neither was overlooked by the figureheads of the North Ballarat Football Club who visited Grindal and the other umpires before the match.

"'Fitzzy' is a fantastic bloke on and off the field. He and Michael came up to me before the game. They said they had a feeling it was getting close to my 100th game.

"'Spider' (Moloney) came up to me as well and talked to me about getting to 100 games.

"I felt really proud, it was fantastic." Jamie Grindal has many reasons to look back fondly on his umpiring career.

VFL Record, Round 6, 21-22 May 2013

Matt Brown - 150 VFL matches

The first Matthew Brown knew of his impending 150th match as a VFL umpire was when he was contacted by Victorian Football Umpires Association historian David Flegg in the days before the match.

For Brown game 150, which was last weekend's Essendon/ Port Melbourne match, is just a number. He's not driven by racking up milestones or reaching

a particular statistic.

Brown umpires simply because of the enjoyment factor and the camaraderie of the umpiring fraternity.

"I've met a lot of good mates through umpiring. I got married last year and there were six to eight umpires at my wedding," Brown said.

"I've made a lot of good friends over the years and the most enjoyable part is training with those guys, having a laugh." Brown played junior football, but he decided to switch to umpiring when he was a 'bottom age' player in the Under 17s.

"I'd intended to go back and play when I was a bit older, a bit bigger. I wasn't the biggest person going around," he said. Brown's father Ian was on the VFL panel, but umpired around the country leagues. He's an umpire observer these days.

It was back in 2003 that Brown joined the VFL Development panel and he served a two year 'apprenticeship' before breaking through into the senior ranks.

Matt Brown can vaguely remember his first VFL match. It was at Skilled Stadium in 2005, but he can't remember who the VFL Cats were opposed against in the curtain raiser to an AFL match.

"Apart from that I have no real memories of it," Brown said.

Brown has tried a couple of times to progress to the AFL, but hasn't quite made it.

"It was a lack of spots or whatever, but I probably wasn't quite good enough when I had my opportunity," he said.

"I've got no real desire to get there at the moment and I'm getting on now. I'm 31." What Brown has noticed is the upsurge

in appreciation and recognition umpires now receive. "Obviously you get the odd mug that has a go at you. Ninety per cent of the people are pretty good and the clubs are pretty good in the way they look after us," he said.

"It's gone away from the 1980s and 90s when umpires were getting abused left, right and centre. It's not really an issue in the VFL." Brown is unsure if he'll get to 200 games.

"I just go out there because I enjoy it. I try to do my best every game, I'm not out there to get to any certain amount of games," he said.

"I keep doing it until I stop enjoying it and then I'll stop."

VFL Record, Round 7, May 25-26, 2013

Peter Balding - 175 VFL matches

Earlier this year goal umpire Peter Balding drew a line in the sand, so to speak. He decided to draw the curtain on his AFL ambitions to concentrate on what he described as "pure umpiring and enjoyment".

"I'm not worried about making the AFL now, I'm just enjoying umpiring," Balding said.

Balding, who with last week's Northern Blues/Collingwood match, took his officiating record to 175 games and with it VFL Life Membership, said his motivation changed.

"Literally at the start of this year it went from making the AFL to pure umpiring and enjoyment," he said.

"It was more a commitment thing with a young family at home and what's required to do AFL. It is a significantly higher commitment.

"I've umpired for 22, 23-years.

It's a long time doing something. I know I don't have a long time left so I'd rather get as much out of it as I can." While Balding, who has umpired at least one senior final for the past eight years, noted he is not about to become an overnight millionaire from his umpiring earnings, he views his association with the VFL as something that very few people can boast.

"I get paid for doing something I love, being involved in a high quality level of football," Balding said.

"The VFL is the highest quality of football in the state outside the AFL and it's the best state league in the country.

"I don't know how many people can say on the weekends they get paid to do something they love." Admission to the exclusive VFL Life Membership club is something that Balding describes as "surreal".

Balding said he was reading the VFL Record article on John Baird, who last month played his 175th game and earned VFL Life Membership.

"I thought 'wow, this guy is a legend of the VFL' and to get into it (VFL Life Membership) the same year is quite flattering," Balding said. While goal umpires were making the headlines earlier in the AFL season for all the wrong reasons, Balding describes it simply as a "storm in a tea cup".

Balding said mistakes, as much as they were regrettable, are hand in hand in companions in all walks of life, particularly football. He added players make mistakes, but umpire errors were magnified.

"It's part of the game," he said.

"I've got that old mentality that you just get on with it. We are all susceptible, we all make

mistakes. I'm the first to admit that." Balding, coming off a season where he was named as umpire of the year, believes he's taking his 'game' to new levels.

He describes himself as a "wily old competitor" who has learned from all his experience.

"Why would you give up something when you keep improving?" he asked. "When you umpire well it motivates you to get better."

VFL record, Round 9, June 8-9 2013

Peter Nastasi - 100 VFL matches

In a mid-2012 conversation with VFL Director of Umpiring Kevin Mitchell Peter Nastasi jokingly asked whether he could come back just to rack up the five matches he needed for his 100th VFL appointment. It was a prophetic conversation. Early in the 2013 pre-season the VFL was looking for some experienced replacement goal umpires and 'Nasty', who was already training with the Western Region for a comeback as a field umpire, took up the opportunity. In round six he completed the journey to 100 matches that had begun in 1996 at Port Melbourne.

"I mainly came back to help out the kids and take on a mentoring role. Despite the end of my AFL career I was still passionate about footy and umpiring. I felt I had something to offer." His experience proved a boon to the VFL goal umpires.

After a football career that included West Newport juniors, two stints with Spotswood, a pre-season with South Melbourne under-nineteens and a year with Port Melbourne under-nineteens he decided to play a season with Loch 'just for the money'. He

broke his leg in the first practice match and took a six-year break from football.

"At South I trialed with the likes of Mark Bayes, Warwick Capper and Barry Mitchell but I realised I would not make the big time."

He took up goal umpiring with the express purpose of getting to the AFL and after 18 months at Footscray District (now WRFL) under coach Rod Davies he gained a place on the VSFL list in 1995.

"That first year was real eye-opener and a reality check. I just went about picking up different things from various umpires and put together my own style".

That style coupled with hard work and determination gained him a VFL reserves grand final, three other grand final emergency roles and finally promotion to the AFL in 2002.

Recalling those days, "Every one of those emergency jobs left me gutted. To be so close; it just drove me on to be better and fitter and go harder the next year and then the next."

Family is central to Nasty and, other than the 2008 AFL Grand Final, his most vivid memory of his 158 AFL matches was the first - Essendon v. Fremantle at Docklands in 2002.

"There was so much toil and effort to get there and to have 27 members of my family, including my mum and my wife and kids, all stand up and clap me onto the ground inspired me."

Eleven years on and he was back with the VFL, wiser and more experienced.

"I really felt the pressure to be perfect early on. I had always focused on minimising deductions but I had two in my first quarter back. I was not happy with myself but I guess

that makes me human.

"I certainly notice the age gap now but many things have not changed: positioning, focus, preparation have been constants in umpiring regardless of where you umpire."

And a centurion's advice for VFL umpires looking to take the next step?

"Just remember you are only one good season away from the AFL. Remain positive, contribute to umpiring environment you are in, balance everything in your life and it will be a rewarding journey wherever it ends."

Richard Mills - 150 VFL matches

Change is a familiar concept to Richard Mills over a 150 VFL match career.

He recalled umpiring coaching in his earlier days, "It's more professional now. Twenty blokes used to pile into a little coaching room and watch the weekly coaching on a 27" TV. We got our individual coaching examples on VHS. I remember watching them at training on one of the many TV's available; and it often came with a complimentary 'spray' from a coach if they walked past when we mucked something up.

"Now a lot of our coaching is online and our feedback is on DVD. At least we can bask in the glory of our mistakes from the comfort of the lounge room at home!"

Richard's rise to VFL football was speedy. He came from the Eastern Football League in 2003 and debuted in the seniors at North Ballarat in round 1 2005. His career so far includes 12 VFL finals and the 2006 TAC Cup and 2011 VFL Reserves Grand Finals.

"I'm not perceptive enough to

give any great thoughts on how the game has changed since I started because when you are so close to it you kind of move along with it. One difference though is that nowadays it is rare to be in the end zone and have players behind you in the 50. Which is good because it's one less spot that you have to focus on!"

But more than the game changes, so do people.

"There were high aspirations earlier on to go to AFL but now that's not important. I figure that if I enjoy what I do, I'll do it well and the rest can take care of itself. Away from football I have a beautiful family who are the centre of my life. I worked pretty hard through my twenties to build my businesses. I am relaxing a bit more now, so life couldn't be any better.

"I used to over-analyze my performances and try too hard to achieve. I've learnt over the years to stay in the moment and not look too far forward and definitely don't look back. It's a waste of energy. It was hard but now I just let go of the things that I can't control."

After 11 seasons - two as president of the VFUA earning the John Russo Trophy in 2010 - what's next?

"It's a pretty easy decision to come back each year. I like to keep fit, it's a challenging environment, and friendships are also a big part of it - we have a lot of fun at training and on match day.

"I just want to keep enjoying what I do for as long as I can. If the VFL is the highest level I get to then so be it. I am pleased with where I have come from and where I am now."

And no one would want to change that.

Matt Leppard - 100 VFL matches

Matt Leppard's umpiring career has taken him from the wilds of Kyabram to the heights of elite football in the Australian Football League.

Joining the VFUA in 2001 from the Goulburn Valley Umpires' Association Matt umpired the Herald-Sun Shield final the following year.

A series of VFL Reserves and TAC Cup finals from 2003-2006 surrounded a taste of VFL football. Ten matches in three seasons followed his VFL debut in round 13, 2004 at Kardinia Park with future AFL colleagues Chris Kamolins and Chris Donlon.

The breakthrough year was 2007 which culminated in Matt's first VFL final and from that point he was rarely out of the senior competition. In 2010 he umpired each week of the finals series and ultimately the 2010 VFL Grand Final earning him a trial with the AFL, an opportunity he took. Since promotion he has umpired 45 AFL matches.

Matt's 100th VFL match came this year at Box Hill in round 16.

"Reaching the 100 game milestone was an honour that I will look back at with pride at the end of my career. Being dropped back to the VFL for the week not only gave me a chance to work on a couple of things, but also a great development opportunity to run with a couple of young up and coming umpires".

Matt was a VFUA Executive Committee member from 2005-06, vice-president in 2007 and president in 2008-09. His service was recognised with life membership in 2009.

There is little doubt that with his attitude and talent Matt has much more success ahead of him.

VFL grand final umpires

	Field			Boundary			Goal		
1993	D.Agnew	M.Nash		S.Leslie	A.Pizaro		J.Moore	L.Page	
1994	K.Nicholls	G.Caulfield		D.Perry	J.Summers		D.Humphries	P.Herrick	
1995	S.Hanley	V.Sercia	M.Sexton	P.Bradford	J.Fleming		B.Strachan	M.Russell	
1996	A.Malcolm	T.Shearer	M.Sexton	P.Bradford	A.Duncan		A.Letson	H.Stamos	
1997	M.Vozzo	W.Mann	M.James	R.Frampton	B.Crossett		F.Raiti	D.Dixon	
1998	R.Kelsey	C.Rowe	M.James	R.Leslie	B.Crossett		M.Russell	P.Gonis	
1999	K.Nicholls	K.Callaghan	S.Jeffery	S.Smith	K.McCarthy		C.Evans	D.Holt	
2000	A.Malcolm	S.Jeffery	G.Twitt	S.Smith	J.Wilson		J.Venkataya	R.Read	
2001	J.Quigley	A.Davis	S.Grun	J.Stephenson	C.Steinman	M.Payton	C.Appleton	F.Dicosmo	
2002	S.Grun	M.Nicholls	S.Ryan	G.Gibson	C.Morrison	A.Little	C.Appleton	D.Wilson	
2003	S.Grun	S.Meredith	M.Stevic	R.Haala	S.Irish	J.Bennison	L.Walker	D.Wilson	
2004	C.Donlon	C.Kamolins	D.Sully	A.Coote	M.Foster	M.Lefevre	M.Hammond	L.Fisk	
2005	J.Armstrong	M.Jennings	D.Sully	I.Burrows	G.Large	M.Lefevre	M.Hammond	B.Letson	
2006	J.Mollison	H.Ryan	S.Stewart	G.Large	M.Lefevre	C.Roberts	A.Clifton	B.Letson	
2007	M.Jennings	J.Mollison	S.Stewart	C.Hay	G.Large	N.Woods	B.Letson	A.Wojcik	
2008	R.Findlay	M.Jennings	T.Pannell	C.Gordon	S.Jones	N.Woods	P.Balding	S.Williams	
2009	M.Jennings	A.Mitchell	B.Ritchie	M.Marantelli	D.Kowalski	G.Bergroth	C.Lai	B.James	
2010	M.Brown	M.Leppard	B.Ritchie	D.Kowlaski	M.Marantelli	P.Tongue	An.Kyrkou	C.Lai	
2011	D.Harris	B.Hosking	A.Mitchell	C.Esler	M.Jenkinson	M.Tomkins	An.Kyrkou	S.Piperno	
2012	T.Burgess	S.Gleeson	D.Harris	B.Macdonald	T.Lougoon	D.Cusack	M.Craig	M.Palm	
2013	S.Gleeson	R.O'Gorman	B.Ritchie	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	J.Mather	D.Benwell	M.Craig	

2013 VFL Grand Final Box Hill v. Geelong



L-R: Michael Craig, Tim Lougoon, Damien Cusack, Brett Ritchie, Rob O'Gorman, Shaun Gleeson, Josh Mather, Dylan Benwell.

VFL Reserves grand final umpires

	Field			Boundary			Goal	
1993	M.Sexton	W.Mann		J.Stephenson	A.Wilkinson		M.Russell	C.Davenport
1994	S.Hanley	A.Malcolm		L.Crettenden	D.Walsh		A.Jensz	G.Ray
1995	N.Thornton	G.Twitt		A.Crettenden	S.Williamson		P.Sly	G.Ray
1996	J.Pascoe	A.Davis		T.McNamara	G.Muir		P.Sly	A.Insana
1997	J.Cook	B.Carter		G.Sinclair	P.Anderson		S.Caple	D.Humphries
1998	N.Ashton	S.Ryan		L.O'Sullivan	M.Kent		L.Fisk	C.Evans
1999	D.Jakymczuk	D.Paulin		J.Wilson	S.Harper		A.Insana	C.Chalmers
2000	G.Murphy	D.Sully		P.Curtis	S.Irish		P.Nastasi	M.Tippett
2001	C.Donlon	S.Meredith		C.Morrison	S.Gilbert		A.Clifton	J.Tyrrell
2002	A.Davis	S.Mason	D.Sully	R.Haala	D.Pieper		M.Berkhout	B.Manion
2003	R.Chamberlain	C.Kamolins	S.Mason	A.Coote	M.Foster		A.Clifton	A.Wojcik
2004	B.Dye	R.Findlay	C.Nash	I.Burrows	C.Roberts		B.Letson	M.Richardson
2005	D.Beard	R.Findlay	C.Nash	D.Lambourn	A.McLean	N.Woods	P.Balding	D.Jones
2006	M.Jennings	S.Mason	A.Mitchell	D.Kowalski	D.Lambourn	M.Marantelli	F.Dicosmo	B.James
2007	M.Brown	T.McCarthy	B.Ritchie	D.Card	D.Kowalski	S.Neal	P.Balding	A.Clifton
2008	C.Capell	J.Grindal	W.Hoskins	D.Cusack	S.Gloag	N.Laurence	S.Evans	M.Palm
2009	J.Krull	M.Leppard	B.Pawley	M.Jenkinson	P.Tongue	N.Woods	P.Balding	M.Richardson
2010	D.Craig	J.Grindal	A.McCoy	S.Gloag	N.Laurence	M.Tomkins	D.Jones	M.Richardson
2011	D.Anderson	R.Mills	R.O'Gorman	B.Crow	B.Macdonald	D.Pieper	P.Balding	M.Palm
2012	M.Curtis	J.Grindal	J.Waight	J.Andrews	N.Laurence	J.Robertson	P.Balding	D.Benwell
2013	J.Edwards	H.O'Connor	B.Wallace	B.Macdonald	J.Scully	N.Steel	D.Jones	S.Piperno

2013 AFL Vic. Development League Grand Final Williamstown v. Box Hill



L-R: Steve Piperno, Ban Macdonald, James Scully, Haydn O'Connor, Brent Wallace, Jack Edwards, Nick Steel, Dean Jones.

TAC Cup grand final umpires

	Field			Boundary		Goal		
1994	G.Deller	J.Kanizay		S.Jansen	C.Scott	P.Gonis	S.Murray	
1995	S.Nelis	J.Quigley		K.Colegrave	S.Rock	A.Henry	H.Stamos	
1996	B.Irvin	D.Reid		D.Crettenden	C.Morrison	P.Gonis	G.Ray	
1997	A.Davis	S.James		M.Kent	S.Nathan	A.Galea	D.Holt	
1998	S.Meredith	T.Pannell		J.Formosa	S.Smith	J.Venkataya	R.Condon	
1999	C.Donlon	D.Jakymczuk	J.Zampatti	M.Foster	P.Munro	R.Read	M.Tippett	
2000	M.Stevic	C.Blanchard	J.Armstrong	A.Little	J.Neavan	D.Wilson	M.Richardson	
2001	C.Nash	S.Ryan	D.Sully	J.Kenley	S.Neal	M.Read	L.Walker	
2002	B.Dye	C.Kamolins	M.Stevic	I.Burrows	J.Bennison	D.Page	A.Wojcik	
2003	C.Donlon	C.Nash	D.Sully	I.Burrows	N.Woods	M.Craig	B.Letson	
2004	A.Irvin	M.Jennings	H.Ryan	D.Cusack	L.Stephenson	A.Gardner	M.Lafite	
2005	M.Brown	A.Mitchell	B.Pawley	P.Ashmore	N.Liparota	M.Marantelli	E.Malpas	D.Mills
2006	T.McCarthy	R.Mills	B.Ritchie	C.Gordon	J.Robinson	P.Tongue	F.Brady	S.Piperno
2007	T.Burgess	J.Grindal	J.Krull	G.Bergroth	S.Jones	P.Tongue	C.Lai	S.Williams
2008	T.Burgess	A.Mitchell	T.Saunders	D.Kowalski	M.Marantelli	S.Neal	C.Lai	R.Thwaites
2009	T.Burgess	D.Harris	A.Talbot	D.Card	T.Morrison	S.Neal	M.O'Donnell	S.Piperno
2010	M.Curtis	B.Hosking	R.Young	G.Bergroth	A.Masterman-Smith	T.Morrison	M.O'Donnell	S.Piperno
2011	N.Brown	M.Curtis	M.Oakley	J.Andrews	A.Masterman-Smith	G.Bergroth	M.O'Donnell	M.Maclure
2012	T.Carlos	J.Edwards	H.OConnor	B.Elvey	J.Scully	N.Steel	An.Kyrkou	C.Wong
2013	M.Curtis	A.Talbot	R.Young	J.Andrews	N.Laurence	J.Robertson	P.Balding	S.Walsh

2013 TAC Cup Grand Final Eastern Ranges v. Dandenong Stingrays



L-R: Peter Balding, Nick Laurence, Andrew Talbot, Rob Young, Michael Curtis, Jordan Andrews, Jake Robertson, Sam Walsh.

VFUA awards

John Russo Trophy

*In recognition of on-field
excellence and off-field
commitment to the Association*

1997 - Russell Davidson	2003 - Daniel Wilson	2008 - Stephen Gloag
1998 - David Flegg	2004 - Rob Findlay	2009 - No award
1999 - Anthony Black	2005 - Jason Armstrong	2010 - Richard Mills
2000 - No Award	2005 - Adam Wojcik	2011 - No award
2001 - Chris Snell	2006 - David Flegg	2012 - Daniel Butcher
2002 - No award	2007 - No award	

Frank Leverett Shield

For the best first year umpire

1992 - Alan Letson	2000 - John Neavan	2007 - Graham Bergroth
1993 - Adam Skidmore	2001 - Luke Walker	2008 - Matt Maclure
1994 - Steven Hanley	2002 - Rob Haala	2009 - Brendan Hosking
1995 - Adam Bastin	2003 - Neil Woods	2010 - Luke White
1996 - Gordon Muir	2004 - Matthew Lafite	2011 - Daniel Butcher
1997 - Glenn Guzzo	2005 - Jacob Mollison	2012 - Hayden Gavine
1998 - Matthew Tippet	2006 - Chris Gordon	2013 - Matthew Dervan
1999 - Matt Stevic		

Best First Year Umpire

Field	Boundary	Goal
2012 - Hayden Gavine	Lachlan Rayner	Sam Walsh
2013 - Pat Burns	Kieran Ferguson	Matthew Dervan

Special Award

*For outstanding contribution by a
life member*

2004 - David Flegg	2008 - Peter Kelly
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Courage Award

*Recognising significant battles
during the year*

1994 - Darryl Hammond	2004 - Peter Balding	2013 - Leigh Keen
1995 - Andrew Malcolm	2005 - Bruce McCorkell	2013 - Josh Mather
1996 - Dan Beard	2011 - Bruce McCorkell	
1998 - Sam Nathan	2011 - Matt Sanders	
2001 - Paul Anderson	2012 - Damien Cusack	



VFUA awards

Most Improved Trophy

Senior squad

	Field	Boundary	Goal
1992	Brett Allen	Tim Anderson	Craig Clark
1993	Scott McLaren	Matthew Vitiritti	Graeme Billing
1994	Kieron Nicholls	Sean Williamson	David Humphries
1995	Vince Sercia	Shane Jansen	Mark Harrison
1996	Tim Shearer	Steven Davies	Michael Russell
1997	Wes Mann	Rob Frampton	Alf Galea
1998	Geoff Twitt	Sam Nathan	Clayton Evans
1999	Scott Jeffery	Matthew Vitiritti	David Dixon
2000	Adam Davis	Gerard Boland	Peter Gonis
2001	Chris Donlon	Stephen Smith	David Flegg
2002	Chris Kamolins	-	Chris Appleton
2003	Matt Stevic	-	Alf Galea
2004	Rob Findlay	-	Peter Nastasi
2005	Jason Armstrong	-	Luke Walker
	Andrew Mitchell		
2006	Troy McCarthy	-	Jason Venkataya
2007	Brett Ritchie	-	-
2008	Richard Mills	Shane Jones	Richard Thwaites
2009	Andrew Mitchell	Tim Morrison	Ben James
2010	Michael Curtis	Matthew Tomkins	Anthony Kyrkou
2011	Brendan Hosking	Jordan Andrews	Matt Maclure
2012	Tim Carlos	Tim Lougoon	Cyrus Wong
2013	Rob O'Gorman	Josh Mather	Sam Walsh

Most Improved Trophy

Development squad

	Field	Boundary	Goal
1992	Michael Sexton	Matthew Bellizia	Brad Strachan
1993	Dean Goodridge	Sam Leslie	Peter Herrick
1994	Michael Vozzo	-	-
1995	Simon Nelis	-	-
1996	Jason Pascoe	-	-
1997	Jason Cook	-	-
1998	Shaun Ryan	-	-
1999	Chris Donlon	Stephen Smith	Robert Read
2000	Damien Sully	Aaron Little	Scott Murray
2001	Damien Sully	Matthew Payton	Michael Read
2002	Jason Armstrong	Aaron Little	Adam Wojcik
			Lloyd Fisk
2003	Daniel Wilson	Justin Bennison	Brett Manion
			John Robinson
2004	Richard Mills	Chris Roberts	Peter Balding
		Gerard Large	
2005	Troy McCarthy	David Lambourn	Dean Jones
2006	Brad Buyck	Drew Kowalski	Ben James
2007	Paul Trotter	David Card	Steven Piperno
2008	Jarrold Waight	-	-
2009	Adam Pottenger	Anthony Hunter	Cyrus Wong
2010	Damien Devincentis	Jordan Mayston	Ashley Crawford
2011	Nick Brown	Tinashe Nyatsanga	Chris Doyle



2013 milestones

175 VFL matches

Peter Balding	Saturday, 1 June 2013	Northern Blues v. Collingwood (Preston)
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150 VFL matches

Matthew Brown	Saturday, 18 May 2013	Essendon v. Port Melbourne (Windy Hill)
Richard Mills	Saturday, 24 August 2013	Williamstown v. Northern Blues (Williamstown)

100 VFL matches

Dean Jones	Saturday, 4 May 2013	Coburg v. Essendon (Coburg)
Jamie Grindal	Saturday, 4 May 2013	North Ballarat v. Frankston (North Ballarat)
Peter Nastasi	Saturday, 18 May 2013	Casey v. Box Hill (Casey Fields)
Matthew Leppard	Saturday, 3 August 2013	Box Hill v. Bendigo (Box Hill)

50 VFL matches

Tim Lougoon	Saturday, 4 May 2013	North Ballarat v. Frankston (North Ballarat)
Josh Geraghty	Saturday, 1 June 2013	Sandringham v. Casey (Sandringham)
Jordan Andrews	Sunday, 16 June 2013	Collingwood v. Coburg (Victoria Park)
Michael Craig	Saturday, 29 June 2013	Bendigo v. Frankston (QEO)
James Scully	Sunday, 30 June 2013	Box Hill v. Williamstown (Box Hill)
Cyrus Wong	Saturday, 17 August 2013	Sandringham v. Collingwood (Sandringham)
Nicholas Steel	Sunday, 1 September 2013	Werribee v. Essendon (Port Melbourne)
Robert O'Gorman	Sunday, 22 September 2013	Geelong v. Box Hill (Docklands)

First VFL match

Brendan Gherashe	Sunday, 31 March 2013	Geelong v. Williamstown (Torquay)
Lachlan Rayner	Friday, 5 April 2013	Bendigo v. Essendon (QEO)
Brent Wallace	Friday, 5 April 2013	Bendigo v. Essendon (QEO)
Patrick Dineen	Saturday, 6 April 2013	Collingwood v. North Ballarat (Victoria Park)
Hayden Gavine	Saturday, 6 April 2013	Werribee v. Northern Blues (Werribee)
Alistair Kyrkou	Sunday, 7 April 2013	Box Hill v. Port Melbourne (Box Hill)
Sam Walsh	Sunday, 7 April 2013	Casey v. Frankston (Casey Fields)
Shaun Geraghty	Sunday, 7 April 2013	Coburg v. Sandringham (Coburg)
Jerome Rowcroft	Sunday, 7 April 2013	Box Hill v. Port Melbourne (Box Hill)
James Davey	Saturday, 13 April 2013	Northern Blues v. Bendigo (Princes Park)
Callum Leonard	Saturday, 13 April 2013	North Ballarat v. Casey (North Ballarat)
Chris Doyle	Sunday, 21 April 2013	Williamstown v. Werribee (Williamstown)
Rory Ashton	Saturday, 27 April 2013	North Ballarat v. Essendon (North Ballarat)
Jarryd Barry	Saturday, 4 May 2013	Geelong v. Werribee (Kardinia Park)
Tyler Hankinson	Sunday, 5 May 2013	Sandringham v. Northern Blues (Sandringham)
Daniel Butcher	Sunday, 2 June 2013	Coburg v. Bendigo (Coburg)
Matthew Richardt	Sunday, 2 June 2013	Coburg v. Bendigo (Coburg)
Nicholas Finch	Sunday, 18 August 2013	Northern Blues v. Werribee (Princes Park)
Jeffrey Miller	Sunday, 18 August 2013	North Ballarat v. Williamstown (North Ballarat)
Leigh Buwalda	Sunday, 25 August 2013	Coburg v. Port Melbourne (Coburg)

50 AFL Vic. Dev. matches

Daniel Pieper	Saturday, 13 April 2013	Northern Blues v. Box Hill (Princes Park)
Gareth Verberne	Saturday, 29 June 2013	Casey v. Northern Blues (Casey Fields)
Michael Blair	Saturday, 27 July 2013	Port Melbourne v. Box Hill (Box Hill)

50 TAC Cup matches

Gareth Verberne	Saturday, 25 May 2013	Murray v. Gippsland (Craigieburn)
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Squad reports 2013

The MIW

Field umpires

The 2013 season was another big year for the fieldies. It all started back in November 2012, when boys took to the track to put in the blood, sweat and tears of another solid preseason. Before we knew it those months had flown by and we were all back together in January slogging it out at Vic. Park. There were plenty of new faces in the development squad keen to impress along with many familiar faces back for another enjoyable year at the VFL.

The season saw many highlights and milestones, from first gamers to 50, 100 and 150 game milestones. There were preseason games that saw over 40 degrees and ones up at Ballarat that almost fell below zero. It was a season with highs, lows and the in between, but at the end of it all, another year enjoyed by everyone.

We also congratulate all umpires who umpired in grand finals. Well done on a fantastic achievement.

If season 2013 has taught us anything, it's that the VFL field umpires are a strong bunch. Not only are there great umpires, but there are a number of mates that train hard together and work well together week in week out. That's one of the best things about umpiring, you are out there doing what you love with your mates. Congratulations again to all fieldies for the 2013 season and we look forward to an even bigger and better season next year.

Boundary umpires

The long awaited end of the football season is here but the 2014 season isn't far away so the stupidity and annoyance of Adam Bell will be back soon to everyone's delight. Belly has been in the spotlight for the majority of the season. Using others in the

time trial as wind breaks, getting called a "slinger" by the ABC commentators, having four recalls throughout the season (most out of everyone) after he bragged to everyone he wouldn't. Lastly, nobody can forget the football being kicked into his face, knocking him over for the ultimate falcon, followed by being abused by Josh Hunt. Thanks for the year Belly.

Jacob Murrells never fails to entertain the group whether he is at training, game day or via social media. We all know he is the ultimate tree man and expresses his love for his job and chainsaws. After Muzza declared he had retired for the season with the VFL, he rocked up at Visy Park months later to attend AFL rookie duties. But on Mad Monday, the main man himself rocked up in his umpiring gear in the belief that everyone else was in their gear. Obviously nobody else was but it definitely gave the group a laugh and everyone else in the pub.

This year also had seen some new relationships formed between the group. The original couple, Elvey and Scully, were still an item, as the video dedicated to Hunter showed. A new relationship was formed this year between Tim Lougoon and Nick Steel. The couple had been seen together on every training night when they always ran the warm up laps and the session together. Wonder what their girlfriends will say about this developing relationship?

The question on everyone's mind is will Andrews come back with a unique hairdo to begin the year once again? Sources say yes he will. He has started to remove himself from the world of Facebook, so no more annoying statuses from him.

Jake Robertson. Number one. Impressive bouncing display once



again at the start of the year, represented the group by being chosen to run the state match in W.A., is a well known DJ, aka DJ Skittles, a basketballer, a bricklayer and works at Myer. One can only be so impressed at how much this bloke can achieve no wonder he is number one. We all know his best friend within the umpiring group is Benny Mac. Speaking of Benny, taking the TV remote from the hotel room you stayed in with your girlfriend, after the match you had umpired will generally be classified as a tool nomination if we had a 'Tool of the week' segment.

Nobody this year has come close to topping the efforts of Andrew Leggo. He had two girls going at once, but never brought one to the ball, first TV game of the year was advertised on Facebook with a meme, followed by another one several weeks later. You attended the majority of the Frankston Dolphins home games and drank alcohol with your fellow locals. Lastly, you were the number one contributor to the fines tin. Congratulations on that achievement as you join fellow winner of last year, Jacob Murrells on the honour board for most fine money contributed.

Some honourable mentions this year are:

- Jerome doing a knee injury mid-season playing basketball.
- Brendan Gherashe finally buying a pair of runners for training at the end of the season.
- Elvey and Steel taking mid-season vacations.
- Scully's new nickname is 'snorkel'
- Andrews making the record front cover.
- Brendan Gherashe rocking up two and a half hours

before the required arrival time before the game.

- Lachlan Alexander's poor form with the DVD player in the absence of Belly.
- Development Boundaries track report was the worst report in history of the MIW.
- Daniel Pieper was doing favours for Luke Dowse in the final five weeks to be observed three of those five weekends.

Congratulations to Damien Cusack, Josh Mather and Tim Lougoon on achieving the senior grand final and doing everyone proud. Congratulations to Jordan Andrews, Jake Robertson and Nick Laurence on achieving the TAC Cup grand final. Congratulations to Benny Mac, James Scully and Nick Steel on achieving the Development League grand final. Also a special congratulation must go to Tim Lougoon who won Boundary Umpire of the Year award which was well deserved.

It was a year that most of us will never forget for both the right and wrong reasons. In April this year we lost one of our own due to a motorcycle accident. Anthony Hunter was a very exciting, fun, loving character that was never shy of anything or anyone. This bloke gave everything his all no matter what it was and the group knows his dedication was second to none. Sometimes life isn't fair but we have to cherish the memories that he has left behind. We as a close group will never forget the man he was and the fun, humour and enjoyment his nature brought to the group. Hunter would not want us to live in sorrow of his passing but he would also never want us to forget his cheeky smile. Everyone in the VFL umpiring squads will

miss you mate but never forget you.

Rest in peace Anthony Hunter.

Thankyou to everyone for the year that was and hopefully some new faces will attract the attention of the MIW writer/s. Until next year.

Goal umpires

In hindsight 2013 was a bizarre year on the goal umpiring squad. There must have been something contaminating the water Vic. Park because we had a very unstable list for much of the year. We lost Michael Palm to the AFL, Michael Richardson decided to hang the boots up along with Benny James and Konrad Maggenti, while Michael O'Donnell and Matt Maclure chose not to return. We then welcomed Matt Dervan, Dylan Smith, Brandon Kenny, Jason Nicholls and Matt Lynch to the squad, however due to various indiscretions and injuries, Brandon, Jason and Matt wouldn't see the year out. Lloyd Fisk was plucked out of retirement and Pete Nastasi joined the list after a successful AFL career in order to beef up our numbers. The final list of 25 meant that we struggled to fill appointments each week, many having to double up on weekends - to the delight of only a select few.

As reigning premiers of the Mini-Olympics, we formulated a plan to give ourselves the best opportunity of doing the 'two-peat'. Wong and Edwards showed some class in the soccer tournament however Callum and Piperno, who hadn't missed an offline bounce in the first six weeks of training, couldn't handle the pressure of the bouncing competition. That, along with an unfair handicap on blokes participating in the 4 x 200m relay, meant that we came in a shocking second-last position.

I think the sausage sizzle was the highlight of the night for the goal umpires. Higher, faster, stronger for 2014 boys!

Then the footy started and the milestones came flooding in! First gamers, Sam Walsh, Callum Leonard, Alistair Kyrkou, Chris Doyle and Matt Richardt cracked it into the big time, along with Dean Jones celebrating his 100th and Pete Balding achieving 175 VFL games and subsequently achieving VFL life membership. Craigy notched up 50, just after returning from representing the group in Western Australia for the VFL vs WA state game. Honourable mentions must also go to Wes Gilmour and David Flegg as VFL goal umpire representative and goal umpire coach respectively for the AFL U16 National Championships in Sydney.

As squad numbers dwindled, stress got to the coaches, with Steve Stirling and Leigh Keen spelling out home truths to the group. It was nice to have a couple of nights away from Vic. Park, first one being the bowling night. The bowling component, which just gets in the way of the 'social' aspect, was played in good spirit with Luke Bush taking out individual honours while coach Stirling gutter balled what could have been the winning bowl. Craigy, for the second year running, took first place for enjoying himself the most, with Anth Kyrkou, also a podium finish, for having shots with the bar tender before entrees had even been served. Our second night away from training was at Bounce, a factory full of trampolines, where some very competitive, and at times hazardous, games of dodgeball went down.

Before we knew it, the year came to an end. Congratulations to Michael Craig and Dylan Benwell

for officiating in the VFL senior grand final, Sam Walsh and Peter Balding being appointed to the TAC Cup grand final, and Dean Jones and Steve Piperno umpiring the Development League grand final in a golden point thriller. Enjoy the break, stay safe and healthy and we'll see you again next year.

2013 members

Boundary

2011	Lachlan Alexander
2010	Jordan Andrews
2012	Brynton Ashton
2012	Rory Ashton
2009	Adam Bell
2011	Leigh Buwalda
2013	Brendan Canty
2012	Chris Cato
2012	Lawrence Coop
2011	John Cooper
2002	Damien Cusack
2012	Patrick Dineen
2007	Brendan Elvey (a)
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2008	Josh Geraghty (b)
2012	Shaun Geraghty
2012	Brendan Gherashe
2004	Nick Laurence
2009	Andrew Leggo
2008	Tim Lougoon (c)
2008	Ben Macdonald
2013	Damien Main
2010	Joshua Maine
2011	Joshua Mather (d)
2011	Jake McKinnon
2011	Jarrod McPhee
2012	Jeffrey Miller
2009	Jacob Murrells (d)
2009	Tinashe Nyatsanga
2013	Ryan O'Shea
2013	Nicholas Phillips
2000	Daniel Pieper (e)
2012	Lachlan Rayner
2010	Jake Robertson
2010	Jerome Rowcroft
2012	James Scholes
2010	James Scully
2013	Mitchell Smith
2009	Nicholas Steel
2011	Travis Taylor (d)
2013	Rohan Trotter
2011	Declan Veale
2012	Michael Walters
2013	Luke Wilke
2013	Adam Young

Field

2013	James Alexander
2011	Jarryd Barry
2003	Matthew Brown
2013	Patrick Burns
2011	Daniel Butcher
2009	Tim Carlos
2011	Tim Carrington (d)
2012	Thomas Chrystie
2011	Mitchell Cole
2013	Daniel Cumming
2009	Michael Curtis
2012	James Davey
2013	Cai Davies
2011	Jared Dyson
2010	Jack Edwards
2011	Nicholas Finch
2013	Vaughan Garner
2012	Hayden Gavine
2009	Shaun Gleeson (a)(f)
2004	Jamie Grindal
2012	Heath Grundy
2011	Tyler Hankinson
2013	Geoff Hasler
2012	Adam Havelberg
2013	Andrew Heffernan
2010	James Langmaid
2011	Daniel Lawlor
2005	Andrew McCoy
2013	Luke McIlroy
2003	Richard Mills
2009	Robert Monk
2013	Travis Monk
2013	Jason Moore
2006	Matthew Oakley (g)
2010	Haydn O'Connor
2007	Robert O'Gorman
2012	Jordan O'Toole
2012	Matthew Piper
2013	Luke Richardson
2003	Brett Ritchie (c)(d)
2007	Jason Schilling (a)
2012	Joshua Schultz
2012	Rick Taig
2008	Andrew Talbot
2012	Scott Vanstone
2012	Tyson Venn
2007	Gareth Verberne
2006	Jarrod Waight
2013	Brent Wallace
2012	David West

Goal

2001	Peter Balding
2011	Dylan Benwell
2008	Michael Blair
2012	Sam Booth
2012	Alex Brown
2003	Michael Craig (e)(h)
2013	Matthew Dervan
2006	Chris Doyle
2012	Matthew Edwards
2012	Wes Gilmour
2002	Dean Jones
2011	Alistair Kyrkou
2008	Anthony Kyrkou
2011	Callum Leonard
1995	Peter Nastasi (i)
2006	Steven Piperno
2011	Simon Plumridge
2011	Matthew Richardt
2013	Dylan Smith
2002	David Wallace (j)
2012	Sam Walsh
2010	Luke White
2008	Cyrus Wong

Notes:

(a) Off list 2010.

(b) Off list 2009 & 2011.

(c) Off list 2011.

(d) Off list 2012.

(e) Off list 2006-07.

(f) Interstate member 2009.

(g) Off list 2009 & 2012.

(h) Goal 2003-05 & 2011-13. Field 2008-10.

(i) Off list 2005-12.

(j) Off list 2003-11.

2013 statistics

The following tables show total matches umpired in the listed competitions during 2013. Cumulative totals are shown in parenthesis.

Boundary	VFL	AFLV Dev.	TAC Cup	Field	VFL	AFLV Dev.	TAC Cup
Lachlan Alexander	16 (30)	0 (9)	2 (11)	James Alexander	0 (0)	5 (5)	8 (8)
Jordan Andrews	21 (62)	0 (10)	1 (10)	Jason Armstrong	1 (102)	1 (34)	0 (35)
Brynton Ashton	0 (0)	6 (11)	8 (12)	Jarryd Barry	8 (8)	3 (20)	6 (21)
Rory Ashton	8 (8)	6 (8)	1 (12)	Matthew Brown	19 (163)	0 (32)	0 (29)
Adam Bell	18 (35)	1 (26)	1 (24)	Patrick Burns	0 (0)	4 (4)	11 (11)
Leigh Buwalda	1 (1)	12 (25)	2 (17)	Daniel Butcher	9 (9)	8 (20)	2 (24)
Brendan Canty	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)	Tim Carlos	21 (42)	0 (21)	0 (29)
Chris Cato	0 (0)	5 (8)	7 (9)	Tim Carrington	0 (0)	7 (12)	7 (16)
Lawrence Coop	0 (0)	4 (13)	9 (14)	Thomas Chrystie	0 (0)	5 (8)	10 (21)
John Cooper	16 (32)	1 (9)	2 (13)	Mitchell Cole	0 (0)	6 (17)	10 (29)
Damien Cusack	20 (138)	0 (46)	0 (41)	Daniel Cumming	0 (0)	4 (4)	9 (9)
Patrick Dineen	15 (15)	1 (8)	0 (8)	Michael Curtis	19 (75)	1 (12)	2 (21)
Brendan Elvey	16 (86)	2 (28)	1 (20)	James Davey	15 (15)	3 (10)	0 (11)
Kieran Ferguson	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)	Cai Davies	0 (0)	5 (5)	10 (10)
Josh Geraghty	17 (60)	1 (30)	1 (19)	Jared Dyson	0 (0)	6 (22)	7 (21)
Shaun Geraghty	15 (15)	2 (8)	0 (6)	Jack Edwards	19 (33)	2 (18)	0 (22)
Brendan Gherashe	14 (14)	1 (8)	2 (9)	Nicholas Finch	2 (2)	10 (24)	4 (19)
Nick Laurence	18 (127)	1 (39)	1 (19)	Rob Findlay	1 (112)	0 (32)	0 (30)
Andrew Leggo	18 (39)	1 (20)	0 (28)	Vaughan Garner	0 (0)	2 (2)	11 (11)
Tim Lougoon	22 (67)	0 (14)	0 (16)	Hayden Gavine	13 (13)	1 (9)	4 (14)
Ben Macdonald	17 (98)	2 (15)	2 (11)	Shaun Gleeson	20 (96)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Damien Main	0 (0)	5 (5)	6 (6)	Jamie Grindal	20 (114)	0 (42)	0 (43)
Joshua Maine	0 (0)	5 (18)	9 (36)	Heath Grundy	0 (0)	6 (12)	6 (14)
Joshua Mather	21 (35)	0 (6)	0 (9)	Tyler Hankinson	5 (5)	7 (33)	5 (27)
Jake McKinnon	0 (0)	7 (18)	5 (16)	Geoff Hasler	0 (0)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Jarrold McPhee	14 (18)	3 (12)	0 (7)	Adam Havelberg	0 (0)	6 (11)	9 (21)
Jeffrey Miller	2 (2)	13 (21)	3 (10)	Andrew Heffernan	0 (0)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Jacob Murrells	5 (21)	0 (22)	0 (22)	James Langmaid	0 (0)	8 (24)	7 (31)
Tinashe Nyatsanga	14 (35)	0 (26)	2 (20)	Daniel Lawlor	0 (0)	5 (17)	10 (29)
Ryan O'Shea	0 (0)	7 (7)	6 (6)	Matthew Leppard	6 (100)	0 (54)	0 (48)
Nicholas Phillips	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)	Andrew McCoy	17 (88)	1 (40)	0 (42)
Daniel Pieper	15 (121)	3 (52)	0 (32)	Luke McIlroy	0 (0)	5 (5)	10 (10)
Lachlan Rayner	16 (16)	1 (4)	2 (13)	Richard Mills	17 (152)	0 (34)	0 (35)
Jake Robertson	17 (48)	0 (14)	4 (12)	Robert Monk	0 (4)	4 (32)	4 (28)
Jerome Rowcroft	8 (8)	0 (17)	0 (22)	Travis Monk	0 (0)	8 (8)	7 (7)
James Scholes	0 (0)	4 (8)	6 (12)	Jason Moore	0 (0)	6 (6)	8 (8)
James Scully	19 (58)	1 (8)	0 (11)	Matthew Oakley	19 (83)	0 (21)	0 (29)
Mitchell Smith	0 (0)	4 (4)	7 (7)	Haydn O'Connor	18 (34)	2 (20)	0 (20)
Nicholas Steel	18 (51)	1 (23)	0 (15)	Robert O'Gorman	21 (50)	0 (40)	0 (37)
Travis Taylor	0 (11)	12 (15)	4 (15)	Jordan O'Toole	0 (0)	8 (12)	8 (17)
Patrick Tongue	1 (54)	0 (23)	0 (26)	Matthew Piper	0 (0)	5 (11)	10 (16)
Rohan Trotter	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)	Luke Richardson	0 (0)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Declan Veale	0 (0)	5 (12)	5 (21)	Brett Ritchie	22 (123)	0 (22)	0 (30)
Michael Walters	0 (0)	7 (14)	6 (10)	Jason Schilling	8 (26)	8 (43)	2 (33)
Luke Wilke	0 (0)	2 (2)	9 (9)	Joshua Schultz	0 (0)	2 (4)	13 (24)
Adam Young	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)	Rick Taig	0 (0)	9 (15)	7 (17)
				Andrew Talbot	20 (78)	0 (16)	1 (18)
				Scott Vanstone	0 (0)	6 (12)	8 (16)
				Tyson Venn	0 (0)	7 (11)	8 (18)
				Gareth Verberne	0 (3)	10 (54)	6 (53)
				Jarrold Waight	17 (67)	1 (43)	0 (33)
				Brent Wallace	16 (16)	4 (4)	1 (1)
				David West	0 (0)	8 (13)	6 (19)

2013 statistics

Goal	VFL	AFLV Dev.	TAC Cup
Peter Balding	21 (187)	1 (44)	1 (34)
Dylan Benwell	21 (40)	0 (8)	1 (13)
Michael Blair	0 (0)	12 (53)	11 (71)
Sam Booth	0 (0)	13 (22)	10 (18)
Alex Brown	0 (0)	13 (18)	6 (17)
Michael Craig ¹	21 (60)	1 (53)	1 (60)
Matthew Dervan	0 (0)	14 (14)	11 (11)
Chris Doyle	13 (13)	5 (92)	2 (63)
Matthew Edwards	0 (0)	13 (22)	10 (18)
Lloyd Fisk	0 (177)	8 (65)	13 (90)
Wes Gilmour	0 (0)	12 (21)	9 (18)
Dean Jones	18 (113)	4 (64)	1 (57)
Alistair Kyrkou	15 (15)	2 (19)	5 (21)
Anthony Kyrkou	19 (84)	1 (26)	2 (17)
Callum Leonard	16 (16)	2 (20)	2 (18)
Peter Nastasi	18 (113)	1 (21)	0 (33)
Steven Piperno	19 (133)	2 (20)	2 (20)
Simon Plumridge	18 (35)	1 (12)	3 (15)
Matthew Richardt	6 (6)	9 (29)	5 (23)
Dylan Smith	0 (0)	12 (12)	11 (11)
David Wallace	0 (0)	13 (32)	11 (28)
Sam Walsh	20 (20)	0 (11)	3 (10)
Luke White	16 (40)	0 (20)	4 (25)
Cyrus Wong	18 (52)	1 (47)	2 (22)

¹ Michael Craig's totals include 16 AFL Development and 26 TAC Cup matches as a field umpire between 2008 and 2010.

The following VFUA life members umpired matches in the Australian Football League in 2013: Jason Armstrong 15 (91 total AFL matches), Mark Canning 21 (302), David Dixon 21 (294), Rob Findlay 20 (95), Michael Hammond 19 (114), Matt Leppard 14 (45), Jason Venkataya 20 (180), Adam Wojcik 23 (102).

Photo credits

page 7: Hunter family

pages 8, 13, 21, 23: David Flegg

pages 13, 17-19, 25, 27: Michael Boss

Thanks also to Michael Richardson and Alan Phillips

Career statistics

100 VFL matches

	Total
Dan Beard	224
Michael Richardson	194
Shane Mason	188
Peter Balding	187
Andrew Clifton	181
Lloyd Fisk	177
Ben James	172
Matthew Brown	163
Michael Jennings	162
Michael Hammond	155
Richard Mills	152
Brendan Dye	150
Andrew Mitchell	146
Damien Cusack	138
Frank Dicosmo	137
Steven Piperno	133
Stephen Gloag	130
Damien Sully	129
Steele Irish	128
Nick Laurence	127
Cameron Nash	125
Stefan Grun	123
Brett Ritchie	122
Daniel Pieper	121
Jason Quigley	118
Glenn Gibson	116
Andrew Malcolm	116
Adam Wojcik	115
Steven Neal	115
Chris Donlon	114
Jamie Grindal	114
Neil Woods	113
Dean Jones	113
Peter Nastasi	113
Robert Findlay	112
Geoff Twitt	110
Michael Palm	107
Russell Davidson	106
Scott Murray	104
Drew Kowalski	104
Tristan Burgess	104
Chris Morrison	103
Jason Armstrong	102
Rob Frampton	101
Mark Foster	101
Matthew Leppard	100

9 VFL finals

	Finals
Peter Balding	20
Michael Jennings	19
Neil Woods	17
Brett Ritchie	15
Mark Foster	14
Shaun Gleeson	14
Drew Kowalski	14
Gerard Large	14
Brad Letson	14
Michael Marantelli	14
Steven Neal	14
Steven Piperno	14
Damien Sully	14
Matthew Brown	13
Mitch Lefevre	13
Shane Mason	13
Richard Mills	13
Andrew Mitchell	13
Damien Cusack	12
Rob Findlay	12
Michael Hammond	12
Andrew Malcolm	12
Shane Stewart	12
Graeme Bergroth	11
Andrew Clifton	11
David Harris	11
Courtney Lai	11
Michael Richardson	11
Tristan Burgess	10
Lloyd Fisk	10
Stefan Grun	10
Ben James	10
Anthony Kyrkou	10
Troy McCarthy	10
Michael Palm	10
Adam Davis	9
Stephen Gloag	9
Ramon Kelsey	9
Alan McLean	9
Peter Nastasi	9
Heath Ryan	9
Michael Sexton	9
Adam Wojcik	9

