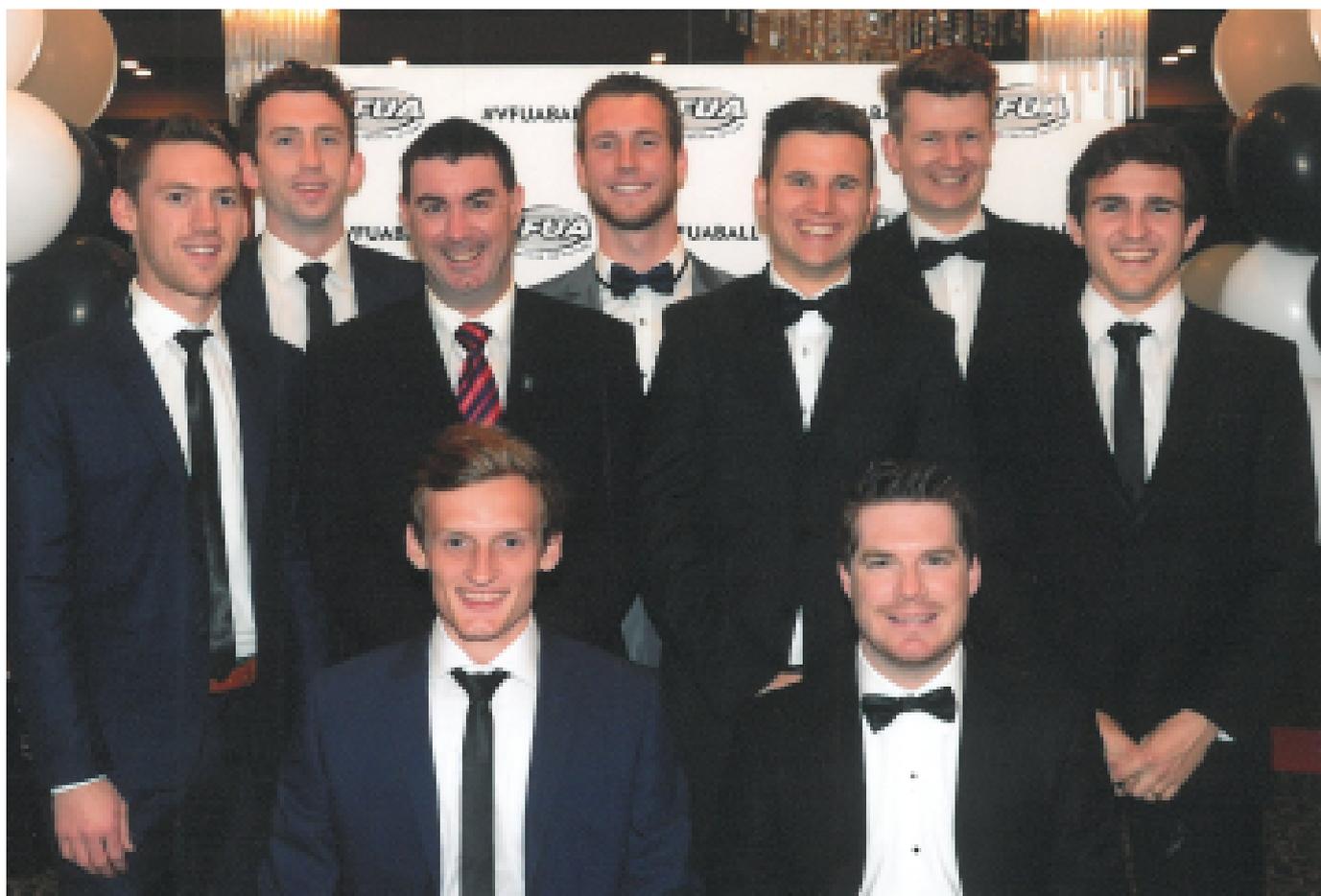




# Victorian Football Umpires' Association

Annual report and financial statement 2015



Back: L-R Daniel Butcher, Adam Havelberg, David Flegg, Luke McIlroy, Callum Leonard, Tyler Hankinson, Michael Curtis.  
Front: L-R Lachlan Rayner, Luke White. Absent: Peter Kelly, Curtis De Witt.

**President**

Daniel Butcher

**Vice-president**

Adam Havelberg

**Executive officer**

Peter Kelly

**Track representatives**

Michael Curtis (Senior Field)

Luke McIlroy (Development Field)

Lachlan Rayner (Senior Boundary)

Curtis De Witt (Development Boundary)

Callum Leonard (Goal)

**Historian-statistician**

David Flegg

**Communication officer**

Luke White

**Special projects officer**

Tyler Hankinson

**Social co-ordinator**

Joe Hartwig

## President's report

*A key outcome from the planning weekend was that we needed to put greater energy and resources into providing an improved social program.*

Season 2015 was another massive year for the VFUA in what was my first year as president of a body that represents a terrific group of people. Having served three years on the Executive, I decided I would accept the presidency following Steve Piperno's promotion to the AFL.

The role of president is certainly a challenging one. However it is fulfilling and teaches you many skills along the way.

Following a successful planning weekend, the Executive Committee worked hard to ensure that the agreed outcomes were actioned and achieved over the course of the season. I was impressed with how well the Executive worked as a team, especially given the number of new members on the committee.

One of the key outcomes from the planning weekend was that the VFUA needed to put greater energy and resources into providing an improved social program for members. Tyler Hankinson and Joe Hartwig were charged with providing a social program that would appeal to members from all disciplines. They developed three new events this year which, due to their planning and execution, were all very successful. I would like to thank both of them for their hard work, commitment and support during the course of the year. Additionally, I would like to thank my Grand Final Ball working party Tyler, Tim Carlos, Jared Dyson, Jacob Carroll, Dylan Benwell and Matt Dervan for their hard work in making that night such a success. I hope that this year's social program has provided a good base for future executives to work from so that members can socialise on a more frequent basis.

The year provided its challenges. Peter Kelly took a leave of absence and travelled overseas which meant correspondence during his time away was subject to differing time zones.

In our second year of the current employment agreement, the VFUA was able to secure some further benefits for umpires including a four boundary umpire system in the TAC Cup grand final and a new finals payment structure for the Victorian Women's Football League.

The year also saw a spike in industrial issues

centred around the fees and conditions package and included one formal dispute which, after lengthy meetings and discussions, was resolved to the satisfaction of members concerned and included 20 Sherrin footballs for umpires to use during the 2016 pre-season, which will be a fantastic development tool. Richard Mills and Shane Stewart were of great service to the Executive during the dispute and deserve many thanks.

The association also launched a new look website at the start of 2015. The new look and layout of the website gave the VFUA a professional new face with added features. Special thanks to Luke White and David Flegg for putting it together and keeping material up to date during the course of the year.

Throughout the year we struggled to find a suitable venue for our association meetings. We required a suitable meal at reasonable costs for 80 people in close proximity to Victoria Park. Our first two meetings were held at Mesa Greek Restaurant whilst the third was held at the refurbished Skinny Elephant in Clifton Hill. We were able to attract a quality key speaker for each meeting - Steve Piperno, AFLUA President Chris Kamolins and, on the eve of the VFL finals series, Steve McBurney who gave his insights into preparing for finals footy. The VFUA also published three editions of the *Man in White* newsletter. My special thanks to Luke White for coordinating their publishing and printing and to the various track scribes that supported him.

The presentation of a posthumous life membership to Anthony Hunter was an important event during 2015. Anthony was a passionate umpires' man who served in a variety of roles on the Executive Committee. The life membership award was accepted by Anthony's family who attended the Life Members' Function. I would like to thank Adam Havelberg for the job he did managing the life members' program during the year.

I would like to thank several people who have been very supportive of me in my role as president. Firstly, thanks must go to Steve Piperno who provided invaluable advice and support, initially whilst serving as his vice-president last year and again during the course of this year.

Thank you to my Executive Committee for their terrific support and enthusiasm during the year. Having a good team to work with is a pleasure and I would especially like to thank each of the track representatives - Michael Curtis, Luke McIlroy, Lachlan Rayner, Curtis De Witt and Callum Leonard - for the way they represented the members of their respective squads.

I would also like to thank David Flegg and Peter Kelly for their continued service to the VFUA which now covers a span in excess of 23 years. Their passion for the VFUA has ensured the VFUA remains a respected and progressive association, whilst ensuring the historical aspects are preserved. Special thanks to David for the terrific job he does maintaining members' statistics, keeping track of milestones and ensuring published records are accurate and timely.

To Chris Snell, who fulfilled part of Peter's role in his absence, thank you for stepping in and making your time available. Chris, a life member and former president of the VFUA, is well respected amongst his umpiring peers and I welcomed his valued input and support.

On behalf of the Executive and its members, I would like to thank Cameron Nash and Angela Lindsay for the terrific job they do for umpires in the VFL competitions. Their passion for umpiring cannot be questioned and the structure they provide ensures all umpires are given their best shot at umpiring at the elite Victorian level. The department should also be proud of how it brought the umpiring family together at a time of difficulty for training supervisor Kym Brockhoff. Kym, who has been involved with umpires for more than 20 years suffered a heart attack and later a stroke. The department organised a benefit night and other activities which raised \$13,681 mainly from umpires. The direct VFUA contribution was \$200 and its members were primary contributors to the

cause. Kym was most emotional on the night and in good news continues to recover. To the support staff who back us up each week both on and off the field - thank you also.

To my vice-president and good mate Adam Havelberg well done on a terrific season both on and off the field. Your support during the year was really appreciated and I look forward to watching and being a part of your success in future years.

Finally, my last thank you is the most important one. To you, the members, of the greatest state league association, I sincerely thank you. Your support during the year has been overwhelming and your enthusiastic support of the VFUA has made my job all the more enjoyable.

I ask each of you to continue your support of next year's Executive and to support future social programs so that we enjoy some off field moments socially. I would encourage members to be involved, be it on working parties or on the Executive Committee. It is a most rewarding experience and certainly provides opportunities for developing different types of skills. I am certainly a better person for having served for four years on the Executive. It truly is a benefit to be able to assist in making our motto "Umpires for the Future" real and alive.

I hope you all are enjoying the off-season and come back striving for success in 2016.

Daniel Butcher  
VFUA President



## Executive officer's report

*The dispute illustrated how vital it is for AFL Victoria and other parties to actively involve the VFUA in changes and programs that impact upon umpiring*



On behalf of the VFUA Executive Committee, I am pleased to submit the annual report and financial statement for the 2014-15 financial year to our members and life members.

This year was quite different in that I had the opportunity to travel overseas for nearly six months and the executive team, despite the possible inconvenience to them, were keen for me to pursue this. It was sometimes tricky communicating, especially with different time zones, but with forward planning and technology we made it work.

Our new executive team was bolstered this year with the addition of extra resources devoted to developing and administering a comprehensive social program for our members. A full report of the social season begins on page 10.

We welcomed new comers Lachlan Rayner who replaced Lawrence Coop as senior boundary track representative in an early season election and Curtis De Witt who replaced Anthony Laughton as development boundary track representative following his work appointment to Brisbane.

Michael Curtis and Luke McIlory returned to their respective roles as track representatives for the Senior and Development Field Umpires' Squads, despite Luke's promotion to the VFL Senior Field Squad. Callum Leonard also returned as the track representative for the Senior and Development Goal Umpires' Squads.

Daniel Butcher stepped into the role of president, ably assisted by his vice-president Adam Havelberg. David Flegg continued in his role of historian-statistician for the VFUA. Luke White, who announced his retirement from umpiring in September, undertook the important role of communications officer.

### Leadership

The Executive Committee comprises an Operations Group consisting of the president, vice-president and executive officer. To strengthen the ongoing leadership and strategic positioning of the VFUA the position of historian-statistician was added to the Operations Group. The broader Executive Committee includes the Operations Group, the communications officer and track representatives. Social and special project officers also attended Executive meetings.

As part of its planning activities, the Executive Committee developed an Objectives Plan for 2015 and undertook a two day planning weekend in February 2015. This allowed the committee to induct new members, assign responsibilities and explain expectations for season 2015. The committee also met frequently during the year to monitor progress against the plan and to work on upcoming activities.

### Membership

In 2015, 131 umpires joined the VFUA out of a total of 137, which represented 95 percent membership. This percentage is consistent with recent years and represents a challenge for future executive committees in ensuring the VFUA proactively markets and promotes the services it provides to ensure umpires see the value-add of becoming a VFUA member. This is particularly difficult for the VFUA given the high turnover of umpires and the association's limited resources.

The VFUA also welcomed 43 new umpires in season 2015. An induction night was held for new umpires in April and umpires who chose to join the VFUA were presented with a free VFUA polo shirt.

### Representation

There was a significant rise in the number of issues requiring VFUA involvement during the season. Some of these were simply due to changes in the football environment which required discussion and deliberation and possible changes to the VFUA – AFL Victoria Employment Agreement 2014-2016. The VFUA was pleased to see the introduction of a fourth boundary umpire for the 2015 TAC Cup Grand Final. In accordance with the wishes of the VFL Umpiring Department, the VFUA agreed to a more formal structure being introduced for umpires who would officiate in the Victorian Women's Football League for season

2015. The VFUA also negotiated final payments for the VWFL, which commenced this year.

The VFUA also represented a number of umpires in issues they had raised with us. Issues ranged from answering industrial type questions to full representation of umpires in a more formal way. The importance of being a VFUA member was illustrated early in the year when the association had to formally turn down representing an umpire who had chosen not to become a member in 2014.

The VFUA was also involved in a formal dispute with AFL Victoria over a breach of our employment agreement. The dispute centred on how the AFL Umpiring Department and the VFL Umpiring Department were administering the AFL Umpires' Pathway program and the average number of AFL umpires appointed to VFL matches each week. The VFL senior field umpires voted to commence industrial action if changes were not made. A compromise was agreed upon and industrial action was avoided.

This dispute illustrates how important it is for AFL Victoria and other parties to actively consult with and involve the VFUA in changes and programs that impact upon umpiring. The VFUA will be meeting with AFL Victoria, the AFL Umpiring Department and the AFL Umpires' Association during the off-season to work through some outstanding issues.

The VFUA also worked closely with the AFL Umpires' Association and met with its Chief Executive Officer Peter Howe and President Chris Kamolins during the season. The VFUA also welcomed Chris as guest speaker at its second Association meeting in June. Special thanks to Peter Howe for his advice and ongoing support throughout the year.

### **Relationship – AFL Victoria**

The VFUA continued to work with the VFL Umpiring Department, both in day to day operations and in the application of the current employment agreement.

The association also maintained dialogue with AFL Victoria Head Office, attended VFL Umpiring Department functions and continued dialogue with other state based Associations. This included a visit from WANFLUA President Jacob Mohen. Adam Havelberg and Steve Piperno hosted him to dinner to share umpiring association information and discuss umpiring and football in general. The visit included a tour of the Buffalo Centre.

The VFUA has a healthy working relationship with the AFL Victoria Umpiring Department. David Flegg maintains statistics and milestones which are provided to the department on a weekly basis.

I would like to commend Cameron Nash for the role he has undertaken this year. Cameron is an umpires' man, and his support and passion for umpiring cannot be understated. I would like to thank him for his support this year and for dealing with some sensitive issues in a professional and timely manner. Angela, a terrific support to our umpiring team, continues to demonstrate why she has been in the role so long. Thanks Angela for your efforts in 2015. 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.

### **Communication**

The VFUA continued to focus on improved communication with members and life members. Life Members' Liaison Officer Adam Havelberg provided regular emails and updates to life members during the year.

Regular emails, SMS messages, association meetings, verbal briefings and website updates were provided to keep members informed during the course of the year.

Communications Officer Luke White oversaw three quality productions of the *Man in White* magazine while also designing and launching a new association website featuring improved branding and functionality.

### **VFUA Survey 2015**

The VFUA once again conducted its biennial survey of members in April. The survey has been conducted since 1999 and results are used by the executive committee to measure improvements achieved since the last survey and to identify areas requiring improvement and focus going forward.

The survey in 2015 was completed by 126 umpires, which represents approximately 91% of umpires. The survey results are therefore statistically valid, a rich source of information and reflect the views of the current membership base. The number of umpires completing the survey has increased due to increases in list sizes. Eighty-five surveys were completed in 2003, 110 in 2013.

The executive committee focused on the results from 2013 when planning for 2015 and made a decision to focus on improved communication with members, a revamped social program with more enjoyable and affordable events together with improved awareness and understanding of the quality assurance program. The executive committee also reviewed the results of the 2015

survey in May and made adjustments to the 2015 planning document where there was a requirement to do so. More information on the survey results are contained in the e-version of this report on the VFUA web site.

Pleasingly, the results reinforced a number of items of importance to the leadership group, namely that the VFUA understand and caters for today's needs (95% agree or strongly agree) and the VFUA responds to umpiring issues and members' concerns in an appropriate and timely manner (86% agree or strongly agree). In addition, 81% surveyed believed that the VFUA is progressive, constantly changing with the times to provide a highly effective service to its members, which was a 6% improvement on the results from 2013.

Feedback from the survey will be discussed with AFL Victoria and will be used to inform planning for 2016.

### Quality Assurance Program

There was an increased focus on reporting and feedback for the QAP in 2015. Security at certain grounds remained of concern, however improvements due to constant follow up and reporting seemed to have the problem under control by season's end. The program was also used for the first time at grounds in the Victorian Women's Football League. Special thanks to David Flegg for coordinating and managing a busy flow of communications and to Michael Blair for his contribution in coordinating the VFUA's QAP for season 2015.

### Annual Report

The VFUA has again had David Flegg working diligently on reviewing and enhancing the association's annual report so that it is a living memory of the 'year just gone' for our members. He has been instrumental in organising photos during the season and during the grand finals. Thank you to David for again coordinating such an enormous task and to the many scribes who contributed to the content of the report.

I would like to congratulate all umpires who achieved personal milestones this year and to our grand final umpires who represented us all so well. Congratulations to Hayden Gavine (field), Leigh Buwalda (boundary) and Callum Leonard (goal) who were voted most improved in their respective categories and to Leighton Rowe (field), David Park (boundary) and Cameron Milich and Brad Standfield (goal) on winning their squad's 2015 Best First Year Umpire Awards.

Congratulations to Leighton Rowe for being the recipient of this year's Frank Leverett Shield – the best first year umpire across all categories.

Thank you to the Executive Committee for your hard work, enthusiasm and humour during the year and for working with me via email so well. It has been a pleasure to work with such a united and hard working group and it was especially pleasing to see how many of you featured in the finals this year. Michael, I don't know how you do it, raising a young family, working for one of the big accounting firms whilst balancing umpiring etc. Lachlan, it is always pleasing to see someone who is willing to volunteer his time for the Executive. Congratulations on your Umpire of the Year award and VFL grand final appointment.

Thanks to Daniel Butcher for the terrific job he has done as president during the year. Each president brings a unique approach to the job and Daniel, after serving as vice-president in 2014, was ready for the step-up. Daniel, with his low key style, played a pivotal role in working with the VFL Senior Field Squad in resolving the AFL umpire appointment issue. He has also put his stamp on social functions continuing on from his role in 2014. He has also proven that umpires who get involved with the VFUA can also be successful on field. Well done on your VFL grand final and Umpire of the Year award.

To Adam, I am looking forward to working with you as president in 2016. It only seems weeks ago, we had that conversation at the 2014 Grand Final Ball about you joining the Executive Committee. You have certainly been a great support as vice-president and your work with the Life Members' Program has been terrific.

Fleggy, I am running out of good things to say about you. Always there, always supportive, always gets the work done. A tower of strength as part of the Operations Group, David you have once again excelled in your role. Thank you again for the terrific support you provided during the year.

To Chris, thank you for volunteering to step in for me. I know you enjoyed getting your hands dirty again with umpiring affairs and re-establishing contacts in the football world. I couldn't have enjoyed my trip as much as I did, without being comforted by the fact you were holding things together for me.

To my good friends Chris Snell, Rob Findlay, Leigh Keen, David Flegg and Steve Piperno – thank you for your continued support, friendship and wise counsel during the year.

I would also like to thank all our members and life members and wish everyone good health and safe travelling this festive season.

Peter Kelly  
**VFUA Executive Officer**

# Members 2015

Field	
2015	Michael Anderson
2011	Jarryd Barry
2015	Stefan Bjelosevic
2005	Tristan Burgess (a)
2013	Patrick Burns
2014	Sam Burns
2011	Daniel Butcher
2009	Tim Carlos
2011	Tim Carrington (b)
2014	Jacob Carroll
2015	Ben Cheever
2012	Thomas Chrystie
2011	Mitchell Cole
2013	Daniel Cumming
2009	Michael Curtis
2012	James Davey
2011	Jared Dyson
2011	Nicholas Finch
2012	Hayden Gavine
2015	Eleni Glouftsis
2004	Jamie Grindal
2011	Tyler Hankinson
2014	Joe Hartwig
2015	Kit Harvey
2012	Adam Havelberg
2013	Andrew Heffernan
2014	John Howorth
2014	Michael Knight
2011	Daniel Lawlor
2001	Matthew Leppard (c)
2014	Lucinda Lopes
2015	Peter McCaw
2013	Luke McIlroy
2003	Richard Mills
2015	Billy Mitchell
2014	Jack Murfett
2014	Ben Nicholson
2015	Kayne Nund
2010	Haydn O'Connor
2014	Robert Parker
2015	Daniel Philp
2015	Matthew Pongracic
2014	Matthew Pryor
2015	Nathan Quattrucci
2013	Luke Richardson
2015	Ryan Robertson
2015	Martin Rodger

Field	
2015	Leighton Rowe
2015	Jack Spencer
2005	Shane Stewart (d)
2008	Andrew Talbot
2015	Libby Toovey
2015	Alex Turner
2007	Gareth Verberne
2015	Matthew Young
Boundary	
2015	Shannessy Adams
2011	Leslie Aldrich (e)
2012	Brynton Ashton
2012	Rory Ashton
2009	Adam Bell
2014	Charles Blanch
2015	Simon Blight
2011	Leigh Buwalda
2015	Hayden Clark
2012	Lawrence Coop
2011	John Cooper
2015	Patrick Damato
2014	Curtis De Witt
2012	Patrick Dineen
2007	Brendan Elvey (f)
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2015	Kyle Fisher
2015	Joshua Furman
2015	Patrick Galea
2012	Brendan Gherashe
2015	Jaymee Guy
2015	Lachlan Harty
2014	Ashley Hawkes
2014	Thomas Horsten
2015	Stuart Huddle
2015	Mitchel Jones
2004	Nick Laurence
2009	Andrew Leggo
2008	Ben Macdonald
2013	Damien Main
2010	Joshua Maine
2015	Shane Mallia
2012	Jeffrey Miller
2013	Ryan O'Shea
2015	Liam Pain
2007	David Park (g)
2013	Nicholas Phillips

Boundary	
2014	Daniel Phyland
2000	Daniel Pieper (h)
2012	Lachlan Rayner
2010	Jake Robertson
2010	Jerome Rowcroft
2013	Mitchell Smith
2015	Lewis Spiker
2014	Sam Stagg
2011	Travis Taylor (b)
2013	Luke Wilke
2015	Jesse Wilkie
2013	Adam Young

Goal	
2001	Peter Balding
2014	Peter Baldry
2011	Dylan Benwell
2008	Michael Blair
2013	Matthew Dervan
2006	Chris Doyle
2012	Matthew Edwards
2015	Julian Ensink
2015	Josh Forner
2014	Kate Griffiths
2015	Joshua Hickman
2002	Dean Jones
2008	Anthony Kyrkou
2011	Callum Leonard
2015	Kirsty Lord
2008	Matthew Maclure (i)
2015	David Miles
2015	Cameron Milich
2011	Simon Plumridge
2015	Josh Prince
2013	Dylan Smith
2015	Brad Standfield
2006	Paul Trotter (j)
2012	Sam Walsh
2010	Luke White
2008	Cyrus Wong
2015	Joon-Yip Wong

Notes	
(a) Off list 2013-14.	(f) Off list 2010
(b) Off list 2012.	(g) Off list 2008-14
(c) Off list 2011-14.	(h) Off list 2006-07.
(d) Off list 2006-14.	(i) Off list 2013-14.
(e) Off list 2013	(j) Off list 2007-14.
	Field 2006-07.
	Goal 2014-15.

## 2014 Life membership - Anthony Hunter



Anthony Hunter was a VFL umpire between 2003 and 2012 and umpired 115 games, 73 as a field umpire and 42 as a boundary umpire, including 20 senior matches and 3 TAC Cup finals. He was a VFUA member throughout the duration of his time as an umpire and served on the Executive in 2012 as boundary umpire track representative and in 2013 as special projects officer. He also accepted a role as boundary umpire observer for AFL Victoria in 2013.

Anthony was an extremely valuable member of the VFUA Executive regardless of the various roles he held. He had a wonderful understanding of the association, an unrivalled passion for the welfare

of umpires with the enthusiasm, motivation and work ethic to do something about it. Anthony was heavily involved in organising events, coordinating merchandise, promoting association matters and countless other tasks. He was also a very good strategist, contributing to industrial and other significant VFUA matters in a way that was always in the best interest of umpires. He was held in such high esteem that he became a member of the Operations Group, participating in discussions and decision making usually reserved for the president, vice-president and executive officer. A role of special projects was also created for him in 2013 due to his passion and desire to stay involved as a non-running umpire.

Aside from the tireless hours of contribution to the VFUA, Anthony was a respected and loved person and umpire. He was known for his big smile, his cheeky and infectious personality, but also for his commitment and dedication to getting the best out of his own umpiring. He was so well respected amongst the group that not only peers looked up to him as a mentor, but even coaches sought his advice.

On the night of Friday 12 April 2013, Anthony was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident, sending shockwaves through the umpiring group. At the time of his passing, he was an employee of AFL Victoria, a member of the VFUA Executive and a dear and loved friend of so many, his absence still leaves a gaping hole in the umpiring community. Anthony's service and contribution to the VFUA make honorary life membership an extremely fitting and well deserved tribute.



## VFUA life members

Darren Agnew (1995)	Mikel Donsen (1993)	Peter Kelly (1996) §	Gary Ramm (1999)
Peter Allsop (1992)	Gavin Dore (1993)	Greg Kennedy (1998)	Denis Rich (Found.)
Jason Armstrong (2006)	Brendan Dye (2004)	Hayden Kennedy (1993)	Michael Richardson (2006)
Peter Balding (2010)	Judi Elliott (1997)	Colin Larter (1999)	Linton Roe (2000)
Dan Beard (2004)	Stephen Evans (2006)	Matthew Leppard (2009)	Greg Russo (1999)
Gary Best (1994)	Ray Fargie (1993)	Richard Leslie (2002)	John Russo (Found.)
Anthony Black (1998)	Rob Findlay (2007)	Stephen Luckman (1992)	Paul Saville (Found.)
Michael Blair (2013)	Lloyd Fisk (2003)	Andrew Malcolm (2002)	Rowan Sawers (Found.)
Michael Boss (2011)	David Flegg (1997) §	Wes Mann (1999)	Graeme Scherger (1992)
Alan Brewer (1996)	Rob Frampton (1999)	Shane Mason (2003)	Colin Segota (1996)
Graeme Brewer (1993)	Joy Gelly (2005)	Dean Maxwell (1995)	Roger Selwood (1992)
Tristan Burgess (2013)	Stephen Gloag (2005)	Peter McDonald (1998)	Michael Sexton (1998)
Keith Callaghan (1997)	Darren Goldspink (1993)	Anton McKernan (1993)	Bryan Sheehan (1993)
Peter Cameron (Found.)	Peter Gonis (2005)	Scott McLaren (1999)	Michael Sneddon (Found.)
Mark Canning (2000)	Doug Gourlay (1994)	Richard Mills (2013)	Chris Snell (2003)
Peter Carey (1992)	Doug Gower (1993)	Chris Mitchell (Found.)	Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)
Brendan Carland (Found.)	Ian Green (1993)	David Mitchell (Found.)	Justin Stephenson (2001)
Barry Carmichael (Found.)	John Hall (1997)	Kevin Mitchell (2006)	Steven Stirling (1998)
Geoff Caulfield (1995)	Michael Hammond (2003)	Geoff Morrow (Found.)*	Brad Strachan (2000)
Craig Clark (1996)	Lindsay Hardman (2000)	Geoff Mowat (1992)	Terry Suitryk (1993)
Andrew Clifton (2005)	Shane Harris (1992)	Peter Nastasi (2004)	Phil Sutton (Found.)
Andrew Coates (1994)	Darren Holt (2003)	Ben Naughtin (2008)	Simon Tursi (2008)
Allan Cook (1993)	Colin Hood (1997)	John O'Leary (1993)	James Van Beek (1994)
Graham Danne (Found.)*	David Howlett (Found.)	Malcolm Owen (1993)	Jason Venkataya (2005)
Russell Davidson (2000)	David Humphries (2001)	Laurie Page (1994)	Michael Viney (1993)
Rod Davies (1995)	Anthony Hunter (2014)*	Brian Philp (1994)*	Matthew Vitiritti (2000)
Andrew Dempster (2001)	Steele Irish (2007)	Mark Powell (1998)	Phil Watson (1993)
Greg Denison (2012)	Ben James (2006)	Mark Prince (1993)	Andrew Wheeler (1998)
Frank Dicosmo (2006)	Michael Jennings (2010)	Doug Purss (Found.)	Graeme Williams (Found.)
David Dixon (2004)	Leigh Keen (Found.)	Frank Raiti (1994)	Adam Wojcik (2007)

Found. = Foundation life member. \* = deceased. § = Special Award recipient

## Social report



### Mini Olympics

On Tuesday 3 March the VFUA held its annual Mini-Olympics and this year witnessed the Development Boundary Umpire Squad secure the Paul Anderson Shield.

The weather played its role with the sun out and the night presenting itself beautifully.

The traditional opening event – the 4x200m relay – started the Olympics with great contest and spirit from all squads. The race nearly saw a triple dead heat for first with Development Field, Senior Boundary and Development Boundary all jostling together with 50 metres remaining. But it was Development Boundary who snuck home to win a thriller.

Once again the soccer was a big hit for everyone, overall producing some fairly even matches with the senior field umpires taking out the event.

The senior boundaries tried to set themselves up for an Olympics win by taking both the push-up and sit-up events but, even after claiming maximum points, their younger counterparts held sway. Both competitions saw only minor margins between all squads with the finish shaping us a close thing.

The throw-in contest got the crowd excited, especially with the coaching panel having a go. Nashy stamped his authority on the event showing up boundary coach Vitiritti in the process by nailing two of his three throws. With both boundary squads failing to hit the target, the goal and field umpires produced some sharp throw-ins to show them how it's done. Development fieldies

took out the event.

The bouncing once again featured the hype of Jake Robertson's dramatic bouncing style. The crowd was enticed to applaud his approaches and everyone seemed to enjoy it as much as him. However, yet again, Robbo failed to hit the target with his offline attempts.

As the numbers were crunched to get a winner, VFUA President Daniel Butcher presented the Anderson family with flowers and thanked them for their ongoing support of the night. The VFUA is continually privileged to join with them each year to honour Paul's spirit.

Senior Boundary Track Representative Lachlan Rayner accepted the 2015 Paul Anderson Shield on behalf of the squad in Anthony Laughton's absence.

The VFUA would also like to acknowledge Cameron and Angela for their support of this event, Kym Brockhoff for running the night, the trainers for cooking the BBQ, the umpires for their generosity and great spirit, the coaches for their assistance in judging and scoring and not least the Anderson family, whose commitment to attend each year makes the event perpetually worthwhile.

### Lawn bowls day

On Sunday 1 March at the lush (but slow) greens of Brunswick Bowls Club, the VFUA held its first social function of the year.

About 20 people showed up under sunny skies to enjoy some hotly contested bowling as well as some snags and drinks.

Burgo was the early star of the rink as he curled his bowls to perfection, leaving Tyler Hankinson quite flummoxed, addicted to the tactic of “driving” and convinced Michael Curtis was “the worst” bowler in attendance. Tyler might like to try bowling with a child in his arms first.

Life members Michael Richardson and Michael Blair combined to hand a bowling lesson to the duo of Luke McIlroy and Jacob Carroll. The backup arrived in the form of late inclusions Mitch Cole, Luke Richardson and Daniel Philp, but Richardson spent more time with his bowls in the gutter than Philp spent cleaning chocolate ice cream off his clothes.

Speaking of food, the BBQ really hit the spot and gave some much needed nourishment to the participants.

Following the BBQ, attention turned back to the green where President Daniel Butcher introduced lawn bowls goalkicking – bowling your bowl between two jacks which decreased in width at the end of each knockout round. There were some embarrassing misses – there’s nothing like watching your bowl head sideways onto someone else’s rink – and some that just sneaked in, but the oddity was Daniel’s insistence that if your bowl hit the jack (the post), it was still a goal. Goal umpires do not take note. Funnily enough, he held his nerve over five rounds to win, prompting some grumbles about his grassroots experience working at the Echuca-Moama bowls club as a young lad.

Unsurprisingly, while all the commotion was occurring over just how close the jacks were to each other, the boundary contingent of Daniel Pieper and Andrew Leggo were a couple of rinks away playing their own game. Bless ‘em.



Attendance was certainly not limited to umpires. We had non-running life members Michael Richardson, Judi Elliott and David Flegg, trialee Kirsty Lord’s father, and Michael Curtis’ one year-old son Noah, who spent much of his time either tripping over the bowls or attempting to crush people’s toes with them.

The VFUA would like to thank Michael Curtis, Shane Stewart and Daniel Butcher for helping out on the BBQ, as well as everyone who attended to kick the year off.

## Golf day

Royal Ivanhoe Golf Course was the venue for the reintroduction of the Golf Day to the VFUA’s social calendar on Sunday 31 May. With a number of Sunday games restricting the list of possible attendees, an impressive field of 30 braved nasty weather and even nastier dress sense to contest in pairs for the coveted ‘Squad Trophy’.

The senior field umpire pairing of Shane Stewart and James Davey took first place, winning both the overall and the handicapped competition with a score of 36. They were closely followed by goal umpires Dean Jones and Luke White on 39.

Specials thanks must go to John Howorth – who organised and ran the day, as well as Golf Pit Stop and the Lower Plenty Hotel who kindly donated prizes for the event.

## Life members' dinner

The annual VFUA Life Member’s dinner was held on Sunday 17 May at the Mail Exchange Hotel on Bourke Street.

The evening began with a casual feel as old mates bantered, some who probably hadn’t seen each other since last year’s dinner. It was great to see so many familiar faces, as well as a few new ones, and it is really quite astonishing how so many of these ladies and gentlemen still have such a huge influence on the VFL/AFL or local competitions.

The night’s most important formality was the induction of Anthony Hunter as a life member. Luke White read out the inspirational nomination, which was followed by a 10 minute video presentation by some of Anthony’s friends and colleagues from the boundary squad, a touching tribute to his life and time with the VFUA.

Anthony’s brothers, Max and Ben, accepted the award on behalf of Anthony and his family, who we thank for their attendance. A fitting toast followed in recognition of Anthony’s achievement.

It was fantastic to see so many life members in attendance. It was an energetic event enjoyed by all and, from all accounts, looked forward to each year.

## Trivia Night

The VFUA hosted its inaugural Trivia Night on Saturday 4 July at the Richmond Union Bowls Club. It proved to be a most enjoyable night for all who attended.

Tony Hales from the VAFA hosted the night and provided a nice touch with one round of questions specifically devoted to VFL football and umpiring among the usual rounds of general knowledge, sport, music etc. Tony did a great job and the association extends its thanks for his efforts.

Highlights from the night included:

- Jarryd Barry spruiking an 'Aero' Bar in just a towel
- Mitchell Cole performing what we think was a John Farnham song
- Nicholas Finch trying to serenade random members of the crowd
- The Development Field Umpires performing a choreographed dance routine to a popular *One Direction* song

Congratulations to winners "The Blanches" (senior boundary umpire table), runners up "Too Tall" (senior field) and third-placed "Black Magic" (senior goal).

## Poker Night

The Coopers Inn hosted the VFUA's first ever poker night on Friday 7 August.

More than 50 members and guests vied for the title of 2015 poker champion. Up for grabs was a bounty of great prizes, foremost among which was a trip for two to Bali.

David Flegg was an early favourite, due to his proven prowess with numbers. Unfortunately his statistical abilities did not translate to the tables, and he was one of the first eliminated. Although a



strong starter, vice-president Adam Havelberg's play declined in direct correlation to his consumption of alcohol – and the finalists probably have Carlton & United Breweries to thank for his elimination on the cusp of the final table. Another player who peaked too early was boundary umpire Adam Bell. He had one of the largest stacks of chips in the room at the half time break only to transform into the 'Bank of Bell' when play resumed, spitting out chips with reckless abandon before his elimination.

The remaining eight players convened on the final table, and although Leigh Keen had the support of the large crowd, the sizeable chip stacks amassed by Simon Blight and Josh Sanders rendered the final a two horse race. After a series of back-and-forth 'all ins', boundary umpire Simon Blight was victorious and will be Bali Bound in the near future.

### Standings

- 5th - Leigh Keen
- 4th - Nick Brown
- 3rd - Ritchie Smale (guest)
- 2nd - Josh Sanders (guest)
- 1st - Simon Blight

In addition to a sizeable prize pool, the night served to raise over \$1,225 for the association. The VFUA would like to thank all members who attended, especially those who brought guests. In addition, the VFUA would like to thank the team at Poker Deluxe, who facilitated a fantastic evening.

## VFUA Grand Final After-party

The annual VFUA Grand Final After-party was once again held at Watermark in Docklands at the conclusion of the VFL grand final. There was an unsurprisingly large attendance consisting of many currently running umpires, their partners, coaches, friends and family. A final tally wasn't recorded, but judging by the inability to fit everyone into the room, it was certainly one of the largest turnouts to date. This night has few formalities, but the main event is the presentation of the VFL grand final umpires to the group including Sally Tran who was appointed as the grand final trainer.

Immediately following this the \$1,000 Special Effort raffle was drawn. Geoff Campbell (one of Cyrus Wong's work colleagues) pocketed the cash.

That was it for the formalities, but it was great to see so many people stay back and have a laugh and a drink with their mates. It's not often that everyone in the umpiring fraternity gets the chance to meet together socially, and this event continues to show year after year how tight knit the group is.

## VFUA Ball

The annual ball was held on Thursday 1 October at the Lincoln of Toorak. The idea of the night is to bring partners, family and friends to celebrate the year that was and to recognise the grand final umpires and Best First Year Umpire Award winners.

Retiree Richard Mills was MC for the night and first appeared on stage wearing stilts in an attempt to impersonate Nick "Too Tall" Finch.

Millsy had obviously been practising for many weeks in the lead up as his movement on the stilts was phenomenal. He couldn't, however, stand still for the fear of falling over. He welcomed everyone and their guests to the ball, threw in a few gags, and distracted Daniel Butcher during his president's speech with his inability to stand still.

Daniel reiterated the welcomes and provided a brief summary of the season following which entrée was served. Following this, the grand final umpires were presented to the group, each receiving a trophy.

The VFL grand final umpires were given the opportunity to speak and each thanked and attributed their hard earned successes to their families, friends, support staff and umpiring colleagues.

The last of the formalities involved awarding the best first year umpires from each discipline.

Leighton Rowe was awarded the best first year field umpire. He umpired the TAC Cup qualifying, semi and preliminary finals and was named the emergency umpire for the TAC Cup grand final.

David Park was awarded the best first year boundary umpire. He was selected to umpire in the NAB AFL Under 16 Championships at the Gold Coast this year. David also umpired his first VFL match and officiated a TAC Cup final.

Cameron Milich and Brad Standfield were named the best first year goal umpires. Cam was appointed to the NAB Under 16 National Championships at the Gold Coast this year. Brad was also given this opportunity however had to decline due to work commitments. Both were appointed to the Herald Sun Shield grand final in August, umpired a TAC Cup final, and officiated in the Young Guns game. As a result of nearly identical pathways, they both received the award.

The formalities concluded, dinner and dessert was served, and the party began at 9.30.

From all reports this year's ball was one of the most enjoyable to date, and with a new 'black tie' venue and inclusion of free spirits, what's not to love?



## Squad reports

### Field umpires

2015 had it all for the field umpires!

The pre-season began identically to last year: Victoria Park littered with cones and Kym revving up the troops in the rooms pre-training. Luckily for us, we're now used to the complicated running drills Kym dishes out and came into January prepared for what he had in store.

The Mini-Olympics was once again a great success, with the development boundary umpires taking the cake narrowly over the development fieldies. A further \$1,140 was raised for the Cancer Council, taking our total tally up to over \$16,000 since its inception.

After a tough and extremely competitive pre-season, the VFUA welcomed the following additions to the development field umpiring panel: Kit Harvey, Daniel Philp, Eleni Glouftsis, Nathan Quattrucci, Marty Rodger, Matthew Pongracic, Michael Anderson, Jack Spencer, Billy Mitchell, Andre Gianfagna, Ben Cheever, Alex Turner, Ryan Robertson, Libby Toovey, Leighton Rowe and Stefan Bjelosevic. With the addition of the rookie squads in 2014, this year had the most prepared and most competitive bunch of invite for trial umpires, and it is a huge credit to everyone who made the list.

Returning umpires to the development panel included: Jacob Carroll, Sam Burns, Jack Murfett, Robert Parker, Tim Carrington, Michael Knight, Lucy Lopes, Ben Nicholson, Joe Hartwig, Jared Dyson, Daniel Cumming, Matthew Pryor, Mitchell Cole and Heath Grundy.

Luke McIlroy, Luke Richardson, John Howorth, Kayne Nund, Matthew Young and Peter McCaw

were successful in gaining elevation to the senior field panel, and they were accompanied by the regular faces of: Jarryd Barry, Nick Finch, Andrew Heffernan, Tim Carlos, Daniel Butcher, Tyler Hankinson, Thomas Chrystie, Dan Lawlor, Adam Havelberg, Michael Curtis, Hayden Gavine, Patrick Burns, James Davey, Tristan Burgess, Shane Stewart, Richard Mills, Matthew Leppard, Gareth Verberne, Andrew Talbot and Jamie Grindal.

The 2015 season offered plenty of development and grand final opportunities for the fieldies.

Jacob Carroll and Libby Toovey soaked up the sun in Western Australia for the VWFL Championships, in which Jacob Carroll umpired the 2015 Division 1 Grand Final.

Jack Murfett, John Howorth and Matthew Pryor jetted off to the Gold Coast to officiate in the AFL Under16 Championships, in which all three ran one of the final round Division 1 games of the championships.

Daniel Butcher spent the week in Geelong while he participated in the Under18 National Championships. He loved the AFL tracksuit so much he had no choice but to show it off at the Buffalo Centre after the carnival.

Pat Burns flew south to New Zealand to officiate a game involving the Australian Institute of Sport boys, in which rugby-like manoeuvres were reportedly more common than the traditional tackle. He is quoted as once calling "play on... I think?"

Hayden Gavine, Luke Richardson and Luke McIlroy all travelled north to participate in the NEAFL exchange. The temperatures up there were warmer than in Melbourne; around 20°C, but





closer to 25°C if you ask Gav.

Leighton Rowe and Jack Spencer ran onto the MCG for the Dreamtime at the 'G' curtain raiser match between Sansbury and Davey before the Round 9 Richmond v. Essendon clash.

Eleni Glouftsis and Libby Toovey had the privilege of umpiring the AFL women's match between Melbourne and the Western Bulldogs, while Michael Anderson and Daniel Philp officiated the women's state game between Victoria and New South Wales.

Before we get to the Grand Final appointments, I just want to give an example of why the umpiring fraternity is recognised as a tight knit group. Mid-way through the year, Kym Brockhoff suffered a heart attack and subsequent stroke which sidelined him from training and work for the rest of the season. On August 25, past umpires and current umpires both retired and currently running in the VFL, AFL or grassroots level, along with Kym's friends and family gathered at the Buffalo Centre to fundraise money for Kym's family to ease their financial situation. As a collective group we contributed over \$13,000 to Kym and his family which is absolutely phenomenal and simply goes to show that we stick together and

help a brother out when times are tough.

Into the Grand Finals:

Marty Rodger and Matthew Pongracic officiated the 2015 AFL Victoria Herald-Sun Senior Boys Shield Grand Final, while Marty doubled up and ran the 2015 VWFL Grand Final with Jack Spencer.

The thoroughly deserved 2015 TAC Cup Grand Final field umpires were Patrick Burns, Jarryd Barry and Matthew Young, with Leighton Rowe as the emergency.

Adam Havelberg, Tim Carlos, Thomas Chrystie and Jamie Grindal (emg) took control of the 2015 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final in which Williamstown defeated Box Hill Hawks with the golden point.

Daniel Butcher, Tristan Burgess, Hayden Gavine and Andrew Heffernan (emg) took charge of the main event: the 2015 VFL Grand Final between Box Hill and Williamstown. The boys had a flawless performance and represented the Field umpire group in style. The Channel 7 commentary team were heard saying that the AFL boys should take a leaf out of our book.

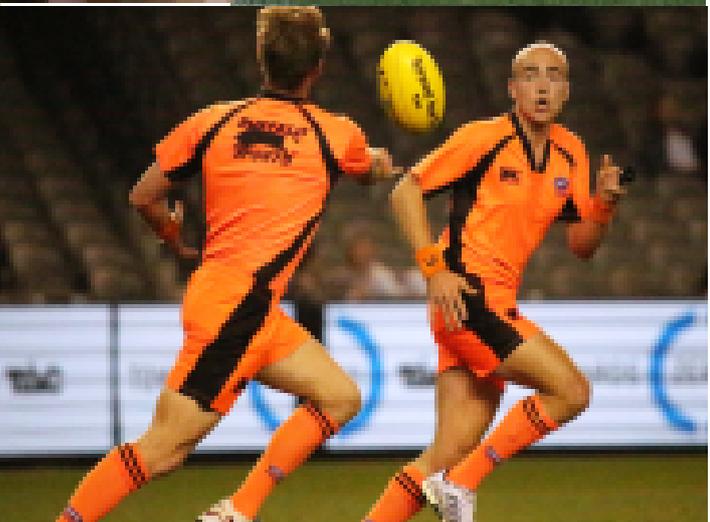
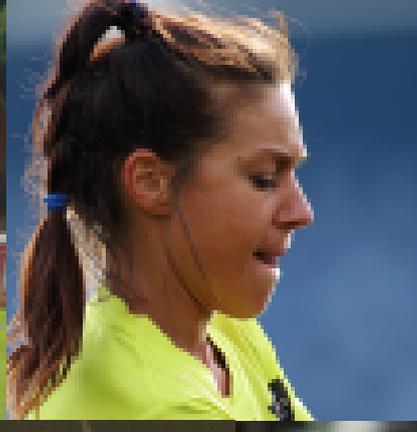
Daniel Butcher was the deserved recipient of the field umpire of the year, while Leighton Rowe was recognised as the best first year field umpire and Hayden Gavine received a clear Most Improved Field Umpire Award.

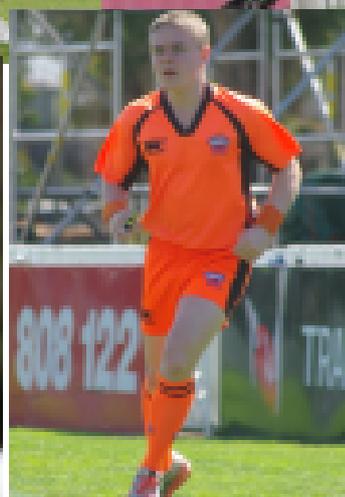
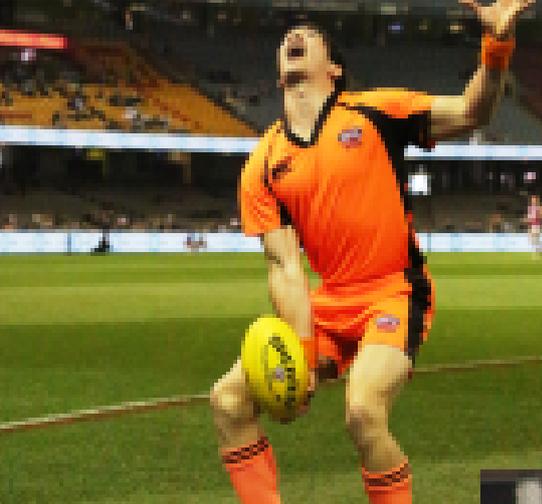
It is with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to three of our mates. Richard 'Just About' Mills, Matthew 'What does a normal person do on the weekends' Leppard, and Nick 'Too Tall' Finch have all decided to pull the pin at the end of the 2015 season. Richard and Matt have had long and successful careers in umpiring and we wish them all the best for the future. The dismissal of Finchy, who was fed up with the petrol costs from Traralgon to Vic Park, is certainly going to bring the average height of the group down, but will consequently bring the average bouncing score up (just kidding mate - we love ya).

Lastly, a massive congratulations to Daniel Butcher and Shane Stewart, who were invited to train at the AFL Combine. Unfortunately neither filled the single available AFL position for 2016.

It has been said time and time again amongst the group that the team of blokes and ladies we had on the field umpire's lists this year has been the best and most enjoyable crew in quite some time. Train hard over the pre-season and let's do it all again in 2016!

Luke McIlroy  
**Field Track Representative**







## Boundary umpires

Season 2015 began on Tuesday 13 January, with previous members eagerly awaiting the usual 400m session that Andrew Scott ('Scotty') gets us to do on the first night back. It's a great session because everyone knows straight away what the new recruits are going to be like, depending on how hard they take that first work out!

The Mini-Olympics marked the first event on the calendar with the boundaries looking to taste some success in the event. The Development Boundary Squad ended up winning the event, just edging out the development fieldies. The Mini-Olympics is a great fundraising event for the Cancer Council, and in season 2015 we raised another \$1,500 towards a very worthy cause.

This season we added five umpires to the senior list: Thomas Horsten, Adam Young, Simon Blight, Samuel Stagg and Brynton Ashton. We also had a further six debuting in their first senior game throughout the year: Shannessy Adams, Curtis De Witt, Joshua Furman, Ashley Hawkes, David Park and Nicholas Phillips.

We also saw Jordan Andrews and James Scully being promoted to the AFL lists after an extremely successful 2014 season for them both. James had his first game in Round 1, umpiring St Kilda vs GWS Giants and Jordan ran out for the first time in Round 13 for the St Kilda vs Western Bulldogs match. At the conclusion of the 2015 season, James ran 13 matches and Jordan finished on 10. It is great to see so many ex-VFL Umpires doing well in the AFL and we hope to see many more promoted in the years to come.

We saw a good increase in boundary umpires attendance at this year's VFUA social events. After the success at the Mini-Olympics, our focus turned to the first ever Poker Night. With another great turnout from the boundaries, the night finished with our very own Simon Blight taking out the win, and scoring himself two tickets with accommodation to Bali. We later found out fellow umpire Adam Bell scored the guest invite, but we are not too sure why. The VFUA Ball was our final function for the season and saw record numbers from the boundary panel (and their plus ones). It was great to see a 60-strong contingent at the Lincoln on Toorak.

Into the Grand Finals:

Both Jerome Rowcroft and Luke Wilke officiated their first grand finals at this level, when they umpired the 2015 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final at Port Melbourne. They were also joined by the experienced Brendan Elvey.

The 2015 TAC Cup Grand Final marked the first time this match would have four boundary umpires. A very big congratulations must go to Adam Bell, Leigh Buwalda, Lawrence Coop and Jakes Robertson who officiated the match between Eastern Ranges and Oakleigh Chargers.

The 2015 VFL Grand Final saw three first-timers in Lachlan Rayner, Patrick Dineen and Nick Laurence. Ben Macdonald took to the ground for his second VFL grand final. A solid crowd turned out to watch Williamstown defeat the Box Hill Hawks.

Lachlan Rayner had a successful 2015 season after running the 2014 TAC Grand Final. He finished as the Boundary Umpire of the Year.





Patrick Dineen stepped up from the AFL Vic. Development grand final last year to this year's VFL grand final. He also celebrated his 50th VFL match on the 'last Sunday in September'.

After 164 games on the boundary, Nick Laurence walked out onto Etihad for the first time in the VFL grand final. An amazing show of determination.

Ben Macdonald had experienced the VFL Grand Final three years previously, but was determined to soak it all up this season, as he knows how difficult it is to achieve.

That concludes the VFL season for another year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the boundary umpires for this year. It has been a great experience being your track representative and I can only hope that I've represented the group to a standard that you would have wanted me to. I would also like to thank Curtis De Witt for taking on the role of the Development Squad track representative after Anthony Laughton moved interstate. I very much enjoyed working alongside you.

I hope that you all enjoy your time away and look forward to seeing everyone back at the Buffalo Centre on Tuesday 12 January 2016.

Lachlan Rayner  
Senior Boundary Track Representative

## Goal umpires

What a year 2015 has been for the goal umpires. It feels like only yesterday the squad was running onto Victoria Park for their first training session back on 14 January. The goal umpires had strong numbers on the track for the first time in many years. This year we welcomed nine new umpires: Josh Forner, Josh Prince, Brad Standfield, Kirsty Lord, David Miles, Cameron Milich, Julian Ensink and Joshua Hickman. Mid-way through 2015 Joon-Yip Wong joined the VFL squad from the SANFL. Matt Maclure rejoined the squad after two years off due to injury. In addition to the new squad numbers, each month a group of rookie umpires from local leagues trained with the VFL squad as a pathway to state league umpiring. This great initiative should only boost numbers in the future.

Season 2015 had a number of milestones for the goal umpires. Four umpires made their senior debuts: Dylan Smith, Kate Griffiths, Michael Blair and Paul Trotter. Sam Walsh racked up 50 VFL senior games and Peter Balding officiated in his 50th AFL Victoria Development League match. 2014 VFL Grand Final umpire and ex-VFUA President Steve Piperno was promoted to the AFL list in 2015. Well done to all umpires on their milestones in 2015.

The goal umpires said goodbye to Chris Roberts, Matthew Richardt, Wes Gilmour, Darren Mills, Peter Nastasi and Dave Wallace who all left to pursue personal interests outside umpiring.





The VFL goal umpires were well represented this year with Matt Dervan being selected for the AFL Under 18 Championships held in Melbourne. Cameron Milich and Zac Geminis travelled to sunny Queensland to umpire the AFL Under 16 Championships. From all reports each performed well.

VFUA Executive Committee member Luke White has waved the flags for the last time after six years in the VFL. Luke started in 2010, umpiring 75 senior, 25 development and 29 TAC cup matches. He had highlights on and off the field including umpiring the 2014 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final, serving as a VFUA Executive Committee member for three years and being part of the leadership squad in 2015. As everyone knows Luke is one of the nicest blokes around and all the umpires have enjoyed umpiring with him the past six years. He will be sadly missed.

This year we saw a change in the coaching structure with Steve Stirling being appointed as the national AFL goal umpires coach. Former AFL/VFL umpire Brad Letson was appointed as senior coach for 2015. Brad did a fantastic job alongside long-time Development Coach Leigh Keen. Brad also brought in some new faces including Matthew Lafite, who unfortunately had to leave mid-year due to work commitments.

Thank you to David Flegg who once again took up the fitness coach role this year and did a fantastic job training the goal umpires throughout the year, even joining in at times and keeping up with some of the umpires.

Congratulations to the six grand final umpires in season 2015. Senior grand final umpires Simon Plumridge and Matt Dervan, TAC Cup grand final umpires Anthony Kyrkou and Dylan Benwell and AFL Victoria Development League grand final umpires Callum Leonard and Matt Maclure.

Simon Plumridge also took out the prestigious VFL Goal Umpire of the Year. Cameron Milich and Brad Standfield were joint winners of the Best First Year Umpire in 2015.

Thank you again to the coaching staff panel Brad Letson, Leigh Keen, David Flegg and Matthew Lafite for their tireless work throughout the season, pushing each umpire to achieve and reach their goals. A thank you must also be extended to all the goal umpires observers who helped out the coaching panel throughout the season.

Last but not least thanks to all the umpires for their work and efforts in the 2015 season and we look forward to seeing you all again in season 2016.

Callum Leonard  
**Goal Track Representative**





## Most improved umpire - Senior squad

	Field	Boundary	Goal
1992	B.Allen	T.Anderson	C.Clark
1993	S.McLaren	M.Vitiritti	G.Billing
1994	K.Nicholls	S.Williamson	D.Humphries
1995	V.Sercia	S.Jansen	M.Harrison
1996	T.Shearer	S.Davies	M.Russell
1997	W.Mann	R.Frampton	A.Galea
1998	G.Twitt	S.Nathan	C.Evans
1999	S.Jeffery	M.Vitiritti	D.Dixon
2000	A.Davis	G.Boland	P.Gonis
2001	C.Donlon	S.Smith	D.Flegg
2002	C.Kamolins	-	C.Appleton
2003	M.Stevic	-	A.Galea
2004	R.Findlay	-	P.Nastasi
2005	J.Armstrong	-	L.Walker
	A.Mitchell	-	-
2006	T.McCarthy	-	J.Venkataya
2007	B.Ritchie	-	-
2008	R.Mills	S.Jones	R.Thwaites
2009	A.Mitchell	T.Morrison	B.James
2010	M.Curtis	M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou
2011	B.Hosking	J.Andrews	M.Maclure
2012	T.Carlos	T.Lougoon	C.Wong
2013	R.OGorman	J.Mather	S.Walsh
2014	P.Burns	A.Leggio	S.Plumridge
2015	H.Gavine	L.Buwalda	C.Leonard

Leigh Buwalda

## Frank Leverett Shield

### *Best first year umpire*

- 1992 Alan Letson
- 1993 Adam Skidmore
- 1994 Steven Hanley
- 1995 Adam Bastin
- 1996 Gordon Muir
- 1997 Glenn Guzzo
- 1998 Matthew Tippet
- 1999 Matt Stevic
- 2000 John Neaven
- 2001 Luke Walker
- 2002 Rob Haala
- 2003 Neil Woods
- 2004 Matthew Lafite
- 2005 Jacob Mollison
- 2006 Chris Gordon
- 2007 Graham Bergroth

- 2008 Matt Maclure
- 2009 Brendan Hosking
- 2010 Luke White
- 2011 Daniel Butcher
- 2012 Hayden Gavine
- 2013 Matthew Dervan
- 2014 Sam Stagg
- 2015 Leighton Rowe

### **Best first year field umpire**

- 2012 Hayden Gavine
- 2013 Pat Burns
- 2014 John Howorth
- 2015 Leighton Rowe



*Brad Standfield*

*Cameron Millich*

## Best first year goal umpire

2012	Sam Walsh
2013	Matthew Dervan
2014	Kate Griffiths
2015	Cameron Millich
2015	Brad Standfield

## Best first year boundary umpire

2012	Lachlan Rayner
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2014	Sam Stagg
2015	David Park



*David Park*

## John Russo Trophy

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



Steve Piperno was awarded the 2014 John Russo Trophy.

On the field Steve had an outstanding season. He umpired 4 VFL finals and was appointed to officiate in the 2014 VFL Grand Final. In his career Steve has officiated in 156 VFL senior games, 20 AFLV Development/VFL Reserve Games and 21 TAC Cup games as a goal umpire. He has featured heavily in the business end of the season and has umpired in 18 VFL finals including 6 grand finals – 2 VFL, 1 Reserves and 3 TAC Cup. In 2014, Steven officiated his 150th VFL match – Collingwood v. Essendon.

Steve has been a member of the association for 9 years from 2006-14. He joined the Executive in 2012 and served as vice-president for two years and as president in 2014.

In his time on the Executive Committee Steve has demonstrated outstanding leadership and project management skills during a period of constant change. He has been involved in or led a number of projects whilst also ensuring the association continues to provide valued services to its members.

As president this year, Steve has been instrumental in leading a new VFUA executive team. At the planning day Steve outlined his objectives for the incoming Executive, one of them being his desire to actively engage or re-engage with the membership base, including life members.

During the year, Steve focused on forging a good working relationship with Cameron Nash in his new role as umpires' coach and enhancing closer relationships with senior personnel at AFL Victoria. Steve also oversaw the introduction of the new fees and conditions package and was involved in negotiating new arrangements for the introduction of women's football as part of AFL Victoria.

He was also responsible for the launching of the VFUA's strategic plan, *Striving for September 2014-2017*, for the delivery of the planning objectives for 2014 and for ensuring the executive team completed their assigned projects during the year. Steve also hosted a life members' dinner, a past-presidents' dinner and played an active role in the successful running of the grand final ball. He also managed merchandise sales, new technology innovations and revamped the induction presentation to make it more relevant to new umpires.

An outstanding year rewarded with the VFUA's highest honour after life membership.

### John Russo Trophy recipients

1997 R.Davidson	2001 C.Snell	2005 J.Armstrong	2008 S.Gloag	2013 M.Curtis
1998 D.Flegg	2003 D.Wilson	2005 A.Wojcik	2010 R.Mills	2014 S.Piperno
1999 A.Black	2004 R.Findlay	2006 D.Flegg	2012 D.Butcher	

## Courage Award

*Recognising recovery from significant hardship or injury*

### Courage Award recipients

1994 D.Hammond	1998 S.Nathan	2005 B.McCorkell	2012 D.Cusack
1995 A.Malcolm	2001 P.Anderson	2011 B.McCorkell	2013 L.Keen
1996 D.Beard	2004 P.Balding	2011 M.Sanders	2013 J.Mather

## 2015 milestones

### 175 VFL matches

Richard Mills	Saturday, 23 May 2015	Northern Blues v. Essendon (Preston)
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### 150 VFL matches

Nick Laurence	Saturday, 9 May 2015	Geelong v. Collingwood (Kardinia Park)
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### 100 VFL matches

Michael Curtis	Saturday, 16 May 2015	Northern Blues v. North Ballarat (Docklands)
Shane Stewart	Saturday, 25 July 2015	Port Melbourne v. Williamstown (Port Melbourne)

### 50 VFL matches

John Cooper	Sunday, 26 April 2015	Box Hill v. Coburg (Box Hill)
Sam Walsh	Saturday, 6 June 2015	North Ballarat v. Sandringham (North Ballarat)
James Davey	Saturday, 15 August 2015	Footscray v. Port Melbourne (Whitten Oval)
Lachlan Rayner	Sunday, 13 September 2015	Sandringham v. Collingwood (Port Melbourne)
Pat Dineen	Sunday, 27 September 2015	Box Hill v. Williamstown (Docklands)

### First VFL match

Paul Trotter	Saturday, 18 April 2015	Coburg v. Richmond (Coburg)
John Howorth	Saturday, 18 April 2015	Northern Blues v. Williamstown (Princes Park)
Peter McCaw	Sunday, 19 April 2015	North Ballarat v. Collingwood (North Ballarat)
Luke Richardson	Sunday, 19 April 2015	Sandringham v. Essendon (Sandringham)
Kate Griffiths	Sunday, 19 April 2015	Casey v. Frankston (Casey Fields)
Brynton Ashton	Saturday, 25 April 2015	Port Melbourne v. Northern Blues (Port Melbourne)
Simon Blight	Sunday, 26 April 2015	Williamstown v. Sandringham (Williamstown)
Michael Blair	Saturday, 2 May 2015	North Ballarat v. Williamstown (North Ballarat)
Dylan Smith	Saturday, 9 May 2015	Richmond v. North Ballarat (Punt Road)
Thomas Horsten	Saturday, 23 May 2015	Northern Blues v. Essendon (Preston)
Eleni Glouftsis	Saturday, 6 June 2015	Werribee v. Richmond (Werribee)
Nicholas Phillips	Saturday, 4 July 2015	Box Hill v. Frankston (Box Hill)
Shannessy Adams	Saturday, 4 July 2015	Collingwood v. Sandringham (Victoria Park)
David Park	Saturday, 18 July 2015	Essendon v. North Ballarat (Windy Hill)
Joshua Furman	Saturday, 18 July 2015	Northern Blues v. Casey (Princes Park)
Curtis De Witt	Saturday, 1 August 2015	Box Hill v. Richmond (Box Hill)
Ashley Hawkes	Sunday, 2 August 2015	Williamstown v. Collingwood (Williamstown)

### 50 AFL Vic. Development League matches

Peter Balding	Saturday, 4 July 2015	Sandringham v. Casey (Sandringham)
Tyler Hankinson	Saturday, 5 September 2015	Casey v. Coburg (Port Melbourne)

## 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	M.Payton	C.Steinman	J.Stephenson		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	G.Bergroth	D.Kowalski	M.Marantelli		C.Lai	B.James
2010	M.Brown	M.Leppard	B.Ritchie	D.Kowlaski	M.Marantelli	P.Tongue		A.Kyrkou	C.Lai
2011	D.Harris	B.Hosking	A.Mitchell	C.Esler	M.Jenkinson	M.Tomkins		A.Kyrkou	S.Piperno
2012	T.Burgess	S.Gleeson	D.Harris	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	B.Macdonald		M.Craig	M.Palm
2013	S.Gleeson	R.O'Gorman	B.Ritchie	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	J.Mather		D.Benwell	M.Craig
2014	N.Brown	J.Edwards	B.Wallace	J.Andrews	B.Elvey	J.Robertson	J.Scully	M.Dervan	S.Piperno
2015	T.Burgess	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen	L.Rayner	M.Dervan	S.Plumridge

## 2015 VFL Grand Final

### Box Hill Hawks v. Williamstown



L-R: Matt Dervan, Ben Macdonald, Lachlan Rayner, Daniel Butcher, Tristan Burgess, Hayden Gavine, Pat Dineen, Nick Laurence, Simon Plumridge.

## VFL Reserves / AFL Victoria Dev. grand final umpires

	Field		Boundary			Goal		
1993	M.Sexton	W.Mann	J.Stephenson	A.Wilkinson	C.Davenport	M.Russell		
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	D.Humphries	S.Caple		
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
2014	T.Carlos	J.Davey	H.O'Connor	P.Dineen	K.Ferguson	A.Leggio	C.Doyle	L.White
2015	T.Carlos	T.Chrystie	A.Havelberg	B.Elvey	J.Rowcroft	L.Wilkie	C.Leonard	M.Maclure

## 2015 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final

### Box Hill Hawks v. Williamstown



L-R: Callum Leonard, Jerome Rowcroft, Brendan Elvey, Tom Chrystie, Adam Havelberg, Tim Carlos, Luke Wilkie, Matt Maclure.

## 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		M.Richardson	D.Wilson	
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	S.Williams	C.Lai	
2008	T.Burgess	A.Mitchell	T.Saunders	D.Kowalski	M.Marantelli	S.Neal	R.Thwaites	C.Lai	
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.Mast'n-Smith	T.Morrison	M.O'Donnell	S.Piperno	
2011	N.Brown	M.Curtis	M.Oakley	J.Andrews	A.Mast'n-Smith	G.Bergroth	M.O'Donnell	M.Maclure	
2012	T.Carlos	J.Edwards	H.O'Connor	B.Elvey	J.Scully	N.Steel	A.Kyrkou	C.Wong	
2013	M.Curtis	A.Talbot	R.Young	J.Andrews	N.Laurence	J.Robertson	P.Balding	S.Walsh	
2014	P.Burns	D.Butcher	T.Chrystie	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	L.Rayner	S.Plumridge	S.Walsh	
2015	P.Burns	J.Barry	M.Young	L.Buwalda	L.Coop	J.Robertson	A.Bell	D.Benwell	

## 2015 TAC Cup Grand Final Eastern Ranges v. Oakleigh Chargers



L-R: Anthony Kyrkou, Jake Robertson, Lawrence Coop, Jarryd Barry, Pat Burns, Matt Young, Leigh Buwalda, Adam Bell, Dylan Benwell.

# 2015 Statistics

The following tables show total matches umpired in the listed competitions by VFUA members during 2015. Cumulative totals are shown in parenthesis.

Field	VFL	AFLVD	TAC	VWFL
Michael Anderson	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (13)	2 (2)
Jason Armstrong	3 (105)	0 (34)	0 (35)	0 (0)
Jarryd Barry	16 (42)	3 (24)	2 (23)	0 (0)
Stefan Bjelosevic	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	8 (8)
Tristan Burgess	21 (129)	1 (28)	0 (33)	0 (0)
Patrick Burns	15 (33)	1 (6)	3 (20)	0 (0)
Sam Burns	0 (0)	6 (6)	12 (21)	1 (1)
Daniel Butcher	21 (48)	0 (21)	0 (27)	0 (0)
Tim Carlos	19 (77)	2 (25)	0 (29)	0 (0)
Tim Carrington	0 (0)	2 (20)	9 (34)	3 (4)
Jacob Carroll	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (20)	1 (3)
Ben Cheever	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (9)	6 (6)
Thomas Chrystie	16 (30)	2 (16)	1 (25)	0 (0)
Mitchell Cole	0 (0)	10 (37)	6 (45)	0 (0)
Daniel Cumming	0 (0)	1 (5)	10 (23)	3 (3)
Michael Curtis	20 (115)	0 (12)	0 (21)	0 (0)
James Davey	18 (53)	0 (12)	1 (12)	0 (0)
Jared Dyson	0 (0)	4 (39)	9 (31)	1 (1)
Nicholas Finch	10 (29)	7 (34)	1 (21)	0 (0)
Hayden Gavine	18 (48)	4 (15)	0 (15)	0 (0)
Eleni Glouftsis	10 (10)	4 (4)	3 (3)	0 (0)
Jamie Grindal	14 (147)	5 (47)	0 (43)	0 (0)
Tyler Hankinson	10 (23)	8 (50)	0 (27)	0 (0)
Joe Hartwig	0 (0)	12 (18)	1 (9)	2 (3)
Kit Harvey	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)
Adam Havelberg	15 (33)	2 (16)	1 (24)	0 (0)
Andrew Heffernan	21 (38)	0 (7)	0 (6)	0 (0)
John Howorth	7 (7)	4 (9)	2 (11)	0 (0)
Michael Knight	0 (0)	3 (3)	11 (22)	4 (5)
Daniel Lawlor	13 (19)	5 (33)	1 (33)	0 (0)
Matthew Leppard	10 (114)	6 (60)	0 (48)	0 (0)
Lucinda Lopes	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (20)	2 (7)
Peter McCaw	10 (10)	9 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Luke McIlroy	8 (10)	8 (20)	1 (17)	0 (0)
Richard Mills	12 (182)	2 (37)	0 (35)	0 (0)
Billy Mitchell	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)
Jack Murfett	0 (0)	8 (8)	10 (21)	1 (1)
Ben Nicholson	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (18)	6 (6)
Kayne Nund	13 (14)	5 (5)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Haydn O'Connor	0 (51)	5 (31)	0 (20)	0 (0)
Robert Parker	0 (0)	4 (6)	11 (21)	3 (3)
Daniel Philp	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	4 (4)
Matthew Pongracic	0 (0)	1 (1)	11 (11)	4 (4)
Matthew Pryor	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (21)	0 (0)
Nathan Quattrucci	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)
Luke Richardson	12 (12)	5 (12)	3 (14)	0 (0)
Ryan Robertson	0 (0)	2 (2)	5 (5)	1 (1)
Martin Rodger	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (12)	4 (4)
Leighton Rowe	0 (0)	4 (4)	13 (13)	3 (3)
Jack Spencer	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	7 (7)
Shane Stewart	14 (108)	5 (5)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Andrew Talbot	18 (118)	0 (16)	0 (18)	0 (0)
Libby Toovey	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (6)	4 (4)
Alex Turner	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (6)	4 (4)
Gareth Verberne	8 (11)	11 (67)	0 (55)	0 (0)
Matthew Young	15 (15)	2 (2)	3 (3)	0 (0)

Boundary	VFL	AFLVD	TAC
Shannessy Adams	2 (2)	3 (3)	5 (5)
Leslie Aldrich	14 (29)	2 (23)	1 (11)
Brynton Ashton	10 (10)	2 (18)	1 (22)
Rory Ashton	13 (34)	2 (11)	0 (12)
Adam Bell	17 (67)	0 (27)	2 (26)
Charles Blanch	0 (0)	4 (10)	2 (12)
Simon Blight	11 (11)	1 (2)	2 (6)
Leigh Buwalda	16 (26)	1 (34)	2 (20)
Hayden Clark	0 (0)	3 (3)	7 (7)
Lawrence Coop	16 (26)	3 (19)	1 (16)
John Cooper	17 (65)	0 (11)	1 (17)
Patrick Damato	0 (0)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Curtis De Witt	2 (2)	4 (11)	6 (14)
Patrick Dineen	18 (50)	0 (10)	0 (8)
Brendan Elvey	12 (121)	3 (31)	1 (21)
Kieran Ferguson	15 (30)	2 (9)	3 (11)
Kyle Fisher	0 (0)	8 (8)	6 (6)
Joshua Furman	2 (2)	8 (8)	3 (3)
Patrick Galea	0 (0)	2 (2)	11 (11)
Brendan Gherashe	12 (37)	1 (13)	3 (12)
Jaymee Guy	0 (0)	4 (4)	7 (7)
Lachlan Harty	0 (0)	9 (22)	4 (12)
Ashley Hawkes	2 (2)	8 (13)	4 (11)
Thomas Horsten	11 (11)	5 (9)	1 (9)
Stuart Huddle	0 (0)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Mitchel Jones	0 (0)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Nick Laurence	19 (165)	0 (39)	0 (21)
Andrew Leggo	15 (72)	2 (23)	1 (30)
Ben Macdonald	17 (136)	1 (16)	0 (12)
Damien Main	13 (29)	3 (8)	2 (8)
Joshua Maine	0 (7)	4 (28)	6 (49)
Shane Mallia	0 (0)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Jeffrey Miller	10 (26)	2 (26)	3 (15)
Ryan O'Shea	16 (32)	1 (10)	2 (8)
Liam Pain	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)
David Park	2 (2)	5 (11)	5 (13)
Nicholas Phillips	2 (2)	8 (19)	8 (23)
Daniel Phyland	0 (0)	5 (11)	8 (17)
Daniel Pieper	7 (140)	5 (59)	2 (36)
Lachlan Rayner	18 (52)	0 (5)	0 (14)
Jake Robertson	16 (84)	0 (14)	3 (15)
Jerome Rowcroft	16 (42)	3 (20)	0 (24)
Mitchell Smith	14 (30)	0 (4)	1 (9)
Lewis Spiker	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)
Sam Stagg	14 (17)	0 (3)	3 (12)
Travis Taylor	14 (43)	1 (16)	1 (17)
Luke Wilke	17 (33)	2 (5)	2 (12)
Jesse Wilkie	0 (0)	6 (6)	4 (4)
Adam Young	14 (21)	2 (11)	1 (16)

## 2015 Statistics

Goal	VFL	AFLVD	TAC
Peter Balding	16 (217)	2 (50)	0 (36)
Peter Baldry	0 (0)	11 (24)	6 (15)
Dylan Benwell	22 (83)	1 (10)	1 (16)
Michael Blair	12 (12)	5 (68)	7 (90)
Matthew Dervan	22 (44)	1 (18)	2 (13)
Chris Doyle	18 (49)	2 (97)	7 (75)
Matthew Edwards	15 (22)	4 (33)	4 (27)
Julian Ensink	0 (0)	9 (9)	8 (8)
Josh Forner	0 (0)	13 (13)	11 (11)
Kate Griffiths	11 (11)	1 (11)	7 (19)
Joshua Hickman	0 (0)	12 (12)	6 (6)
Dean Jones	13 (141)	4 (72)	2 (63)
Anthony Kyrkou	22 (126)	0 (28)	2 (21)
Callum Leonard	20 (47)	1 (26)	2 (23)
Kirsty Lord	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (9)
Matthew Maclure	16 (73)	4 (34)	4 (25)
David Miles	0 (0)	10 (10)	9 (9)
Cam Milich	0 (0)	11 (11)	9 (9)
Simon Plumridge	22 (79)	0 (13)	1 (20)
Josh Prince	0 (0)	12 (12)	10 (10)
Dylan Smith	6 (6)	6 (33)	4 (24)
Brad Standfield	0 (0)	11 (11)	10 (10)
Paul Trotter <sup>1</sup>	14 (14)	3 (31)	4 (38)
Sam Walsh	19 (61)	2 (13)	1 (14)
Luke White	18 (75)	2 (25)	0 (29)
Cyrus Wong	13 (80)	4 (54)	6 (32)
Joon-Yip Wong	0 (0)	3 (3)	3 (3)

<sup>1</sup> Paul Trotter umpired 15 VFL Reserves and 20 TAC Cup matches as a field umpire in 2006-07.

The following VFUA life members officiated in the Australian Football League during 2015: Jason Armstrong 15 matches (total 127), Damien Cusack 22 (42), David Dixon 22 (335), Rob Findlay 23 (141), Michael Hammond 12 (144), Jason Venkataya 13 (211) and Adam Wojcik 22 (148).

## 100 VFL matches 1992-2015

Matches		Matches		Matches		Matches	
Dan Beard	224	Andrew Mitchell	149	Stefan Grun	123	Robert Findlay	112
Peter Balding	217	Jamie Grindal	147	Brett Ritchie	122	Geoff Twitt	110
Michael Richardson	194	Dean Jones	141	Brendan Elvey	121	Michael Palm	108
Shane Mason	188	Daniel Pieper	140	Jason Quigley	118	Shane Stewart	108
Richard Mills	182	Damien Cusack	138	Andrew Talbot	118	Russell Davidson	106
Andrew Clifton	181	Frank Dicosmo	137	Shaun Gleeson	117	Jason Armstrong	105
Lloyd Fisk	177	Ben Macdonald	136	Glenn Gibson	116	Scott Murray	104
Ben James	172	Stephen Gloag	130	Andrew Malcolm	116	Drew Kowalski	104
Nick Laurence	165	Damien Sully	129	Adam Wojcik	115	Chris Morrison	103
Matthew Brown	163	Peter Nastasi	129	Steven Neal	115	Andrew McCoy	102
Michael Jennings	162	Tristan Burgess	129	Chris Donlon	115	Rob Frampton	101
Steven Piperno	161	Steele Irish	128	Michael Curtis	115	Mark Foster	101
Michael Hammond	155	Anthony Kyrkou	126	Matthew Leppard	114	Matthew Oakley	101
Brendan Dye	150	Cameron Nash	125	Neil Woods	113	Heath Ryan	101

## 9 VFL finals 1992-2015

Finals		Finals	
Peter Balding	20	Nick Laurence	12
Michael Jennings	19	Andrew Malcolm	12
Steven Piperno	18	Graeme Bergroth	11
Shaun Gleeson	17	Andrew Clifton	11
Neil Woods	17	David Harris	11
Brett Ritchie	15	Courtney Lai	11
Shane Stewart	15	Michael Richardson	11
Tristan Burgess	14	Michael Curtis	10
Mark Foster	14	Lloyd Fisk	10
Drew Kowalski	14	Stefan Grun	10
Anthony Kyrkou	14	Ben James	10
Gerard Large	14	Troy McCarthy	10
Brad Letson	14	Michael Palm	10
Ben Macdonald	14	Andrew Talbot	10
Michael Marrantelli	14	Dylan Benwell	9
Richard Mills	14	Adam Davis	9
Steven Neal	14	Brendan Elvey	9
Damien Sully	14	Stephen Gloag	9
Matthew Brown	13	Ramon Kelsey	9
Mitch Lefevre	13	Alan McLean	9
Shane Mason	13	Peter Nastasi	9
Andrew Mitchell	13	Simon Plumridge	9
Jordan Andrews	12	Heath Ryan	9
Damien Cusack	12	James Scully	9
Rob Findlay	12	Michael Sexton	9
Michael Hammond	12	Adam Wojcik	9

## 2015 VWFL grand final umpires



## 100 VFL matches 1992-2015

# Financial statements

## Statement of income and expenditure

Year ended 30 September 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Interest Received	33	1,985
Subscriptions	29,330	26,040
Miscellaneous	5,301	5,449
Social Functions	18,228	14,369
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52,892</b>	<b>47,843</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Audit Fees	250	250
Annual Report	1,063	1,334
Bank Charges	11	12
Honorariums	14,778	11,596
Photography	150	200
Postage	549	520
Printing and Stationery	727	227
Social Functions	23,447	20,399
Sundry Expenses	6,108	10,046
Trophies, Certificates	1,744	1,563
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,827</b>	<b>46,197</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>4,065</b>	<b>1,646</b>
Transferred to accumulation account	4,065	1,646

## Merchandising sales account

Year ended 30 September 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Sales - Clothing	460	705
<b>Total Sales</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>705</b>
Stock 30.09.15	-	-
Purchases	2,017	1,316
Stock 30.09.14	-	-
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>(1,557)</b>	<b>(611)</b>
Transferred to accumulation account	(1,557)	(611)

## Balance sheet

Year ended 30 September 2015

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at bank	-Cheque acc.	20,562	14,121
	-Term dep.	60,270	60,270
	-Maxi acc.	-	922
	-Bpay	-	-
		80,832	75,313
Stock on hand		-	-
Office Equipment at WDV		-	-
		<b>80,832</b>	<b>75,313</b>

Represented by:

### RESERVES

Accumulation Account	80,832	75,313
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>80,832</b>	<b>75,313</b>

## Major raffle

Year ended 30 September 2015

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>			
	-Total Sales	4,195	1,730
	<b>-Total Income</b>	<b>4,195</b>	<b>1,730</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	-Prizes	1,143	1,143
	<b>-Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,143</b>	<b>1,143</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>		<b>3,052</b>	<b>587</b>
Transf. to accumulation account		3,052	587

## Accumulation account

Year ended 30 September 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Funds were derived from		
Accumulation account	4,065	1,646
Major raffle	3,052	587
Merchandising account	(1,557)	(611)
	<b>5,560</b>	<b>1,622</b>
Add Balance brought forward	75,313	73,691
<b>Balance carried forward @ 30.09.15</b>	<b>80,873</b>	<b>75,313</b>

# Financial statements

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

1. This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members to satisfy the accountability requirements under the entity's constitution. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report are consistent with previous years and are described below.

(a) The financial report has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the ongoing concern assumption.

(b) The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards promulgated by the accounting profession do not have mandatory applicability to the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. in relation to the year ended 30th September, 2015 because the entity is not a "reporting entity" as defined therein.

The requirements of Statements of Accounting Concepts promulgated by the accounting profession also apply only to "reporting entities". These requirements have been complied with only to the extent that they coincide with the basis of accounting described in this Note.

2. It was agreed that for ease of financial recording and timing issues that the financial year now ends on the 30th September.

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members

Victorian Football Umpires' Association, Inc.

I have audited the attached special purpose financial report of the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. for the year ended 30th September 2015. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members.

The special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the Members.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as set out in Note 1 of the financial report. Statements of Accounting Concepts and Australian Accounting Standards have not been adopted in its preparation and presentation, other than as indicated in Note 1.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. present fairly the Accounts for the year ended 30th September 2015, in accordance with the basis of accounting disclosed above.

Signed:



L.I. Pope FCPA  
**Honorary Auditor**

Date: 10 November, 2015  
At: Melbourne

## VFUA office bearers 1992-2015

Offices: SC - Social Committee, Exec - Executive Committee, VP - Vice-president, Pres. - President, SS - Social secretary, CO - Communications Officer, Hist.-Stat. - Historian-statistician, T-SS - Treasurer-Social secretary.

David Ackland	SC 1994-95	Chris Kamolins	Exec. 2002-03
Jason Armstrong	Exec. 2004-05, VP 2006	Leigh Keen	CO 2005
Peter Balding	Exec. 2012	Peter Kelly	SS 1993, T-SS 1994-95, EO 1996-2015
Dan Beard	SC 1997, Exec. 2001	Hayden Kennedy	Exec. 1993-94
Dylan Benwell	Exec. 2012	Greg Kennedy	VP 1995, Pres. 1996
Graham Bergroth	Exec. 2008-10, VP 2012.	Drew Kowalski	CO 2007, Exec. 2008
Anthony Black	SC 1994-95, Exec. 1995, VP 1996, 1999, Pres. 1997, 2003	Anthony Kyrkou	Exec. 2010-11
Michael Blair	Exec. 2010	David Lambourn	Exec. 2006-07
Michael Boss	Exec. 2008, VP 2009	Nick Laurence	Exec. 2010-11
Peter Bradford	SC 1997	Daniel Lawlor	CO 2012
Corey Brown	Exec. 2014	Matthew Lee	CO 2006
Nick Brown	Exec. 2011	Callum Leonard	Exec. 2014-15
Peter Bunworth	Secretary 1993-95	Matt Leppard	Exec. 2006-07, VP 2008, Pres. 2008-09
Tristan Burgess	Exec. 2008-09, VP 2010-11	Tim Lougoon	Exec. 2014
Daniel Butcher	Exec. 2012, CO 2013, VP 2014, Pres. 2015	Josh Maine	Exec. 2012-13
Keith Callaghan	VP 1993, Pres. 1994	Wes Mann	Exec. 1998-99
David Card	Exec. 2009	Andrew McCoy	Exec. 2011, Pres. 2012-13
Tim Carlos	Exec. 2011	Luke McIlroy	Exec. 2014-15
Brett Carter	SC 1996	Mark McKenzie	SC 1995-96
Geoff Caulfield	SC 1994	Richard Mills	Pres. 2010-11
Jason Cook	Exec. 1997-98	Andrew Mitchell	CO 2011
Lawrence Coop	Exec. 2014	Joel Morrison	Exec. 2011
Ashley Crawford	Exec. 2011-12	John Murnane	Exec. 1993-94
Michael Curtis	Exec. 2013-15	Ben Naughtin	Exec. 2005-07
Damien Cusack	Exec. 2005	Michael O'Donnell	CO 2008
Russell Davidson	Exec. 1997, VP 1998, Pres. 1999	Mark O'Reilly	Exec. 1995
Curtis De Witt	Exec. 2015	Michael Palm	Exec. 2009, CO 2011
Justin Delaney	Exec. 1993	Dean Paulin	SS 1999
Andrew Dempster	Exec. 1997-99	Brent Pawley	Exec. 2011
Greg Denison	Exec. 2005-06	Paul Pickett	Exec. 1995
Damian Devinentis	Exec. 2010	Daniel Pieper	Exec. 2002-03
Frank Dicosmo	SS 2000	Steven Piperno	VP 2012-13, Pres. 2014
David Dixon	SC 1996, CO 2003-04	Mark Prince	Exec. 1993, VP 1994, Pres. 1995
Rhys Doughty-Cowell	Exec. 2009	Lachlan Rayner	Exec. 2015
Chris Doyle	Exec. 2012-13	Michael Robins	Exec. 1999
Andrew Duncan	Exec. 1994	John Russo	Pres. 1993
Joel Elliott	Exec. 2004	Greg Russo	Exec. 1996, VP 1997, Pres. 1998
Brendan Elvey	Exec. 2013	James Scully	Exec. 2014
Stephen Evans	Exec. 2000, VP 2001, Pres. 2004-05	Colin Segota	Exec. 1993-94
Jarrold Faoro	Exec. 2007	Stephen Smith	Exec. 2000-01
Rob Findlay	Exec. 2002, VP 2003-05, Pres. 2006-07	Chris Snell	Exec. 1996, VP 2000, Pres. 2001-02
David Flegg	Hist.-Stat. 2004-15	Harry Stamatopoulos	Exec. 1997
Mark Foster	Exec. 2004-05	Steven Stirling	SS 1996-97, Exec. 1998, Pres. 2000
Alf Galea	Exec. 1994, SC 1994, SS 1998	Travis Storti	Exec. 2001
Michael Gibson	Exec. 2003	Andrew Talbot	Exec. 2012
Stephen Gloag	Exec. 2001-04, VP 2008. CO 2009	Troy Tindill	Exec. 2001, VP 2002
Michael Hammond	Exec. 2000	Jason Tyrrell	SC 1995
Steven Hanley	SC 1996-97	Gareth Verbene	Exec. 2008
Adam Havelberg	Exec. 2013, CO 2014, VP 2015	Andrew Wheeler	Exec. 1996
Peter Herrick	Exec. 1993-94	Luke White	Exec. 2013-14, CO 2015
Wayne Hoskins	Exec. 2010	Ashley Wilkinson	SC 1996-97
David Humphries	Exec. 1995-96, 1999, SC 1995	Daniel Wilson	Exec. 2002-03
Anthony Hunter	Exec. 2011-12	Adam Wojcik	Exec. 2004-05, VP 2006-07, Pres. 2008
Dean Jones	Exec. 2006-07		

## 2015 VFUA survey

The VFUA once again conducted its biennial survey of members in April.

The survey has been conducted since 1999 and results are used by the Executive Committee to measure improvements achieved since the last survey and to identify areas requiring improvement and focus going forward.

The survey in 2015 was completed by 126 umpires, which represents approximately 91% of umpires. The survey results are therefore statistically valid, a rich source of information and reflect the views of the current membership base. The number of umpires completing the survey has increased due to increases in list sizes. Eighty-five surveys were completed in 2003, 110 in 2013.

The Executive Committee focused on the results from 2013 when planning for 2015 and made a decision to focus on improved communication with members, a revamped social program with more enjoyable and affordable events together with improved awareness and understanding of the Quality Assurance Program. The Executive also reviewed the results of the 2015 survey in May and made adjustments to any 2015 planning document where there was a requirement to do so.

Pleasingly, the results reinforced a number of items of importance to the leadership group, namely that the 'VFUA understand and caters for today's needs (95% agree or strongly agree) and the VFUA responds to umpiring issues and members' concerns in an appropriate and timely manner (86% agree or strongly agree). It is important to note that the VFUA sometimes responds to issues confidentially and, in some cases, without members being notified.

The survey found the following changes (>5%) since the last survey in 2013:

**Leadership** - Providing strong leadership that promotes an ethos of communication and teamwork

- The VFUA is progressive, constantly changing with the times to provide a highly effective service to its members - 2015 (81%) vs 2013 (75%). The senior squads rated 88% vs the development squads at 74%

**Operations** - Planning and managing the operations of the association to ensure the services provided meet the differing needs of our members

- Association meetings are important forums for information exchange between the executive and members - 2015 (85%) vs 2013 (77%)
- Association meetings are well run and worth

attending - 2015 (72%) vs 2013 (57%). Both senior and development squads rated this evenly

- The *Man in White* publication is enjoyable to read and worth continuing - 2015 (85%) vs 2013 (91%)

**People** - Ensuring that the people that form our membership are supported and valued in their past and present roles

- The payments (including travel and food allowances) I receive for umpiring are adequate - 2015 (83%) vs 2013 (69%)
- I find it beneficial for my development as an umpire to officiate alongside AFL umpires in the VFL competition - 2015 (92%) vs 2013 (82%)
- The VFUA's social program is well advertised - 2015 (76%) vs 2013 (84%)
- The VFUA should host a VFL Grand Final function - 2015 (86%) vs 2013 (80%)

The following activities / responsibilities are reasonably expected of me as a member of the VFUA:

- Attend all Association meetings - 2015 (81%) vs 2013 (66%).
- Attending Association Awards Night and AGM - 2015 (80%) vs 2013 (71%)

**Safety** - Ensuring that all procedures and provisions are in place to preserve the right and safety for members in their roles as Umpires

- I am aware of my responsibilities and expected behaviors as detailed in AFL Victoria's Bullying and Harassment policies - 2015 (91%) vs 2013 (85%)
- AFL Victoria adequately identifies and addresses bullying type behavior in the workplace - 2015 (67%) vs 2013 (56%)
- I would feel comfortable seeking the support of the VFUA if I observed or was subjected to bullying type behavior in the workplace - 2015 (90%) vs 2013 (83%)
- I am aware of AFL Victoria's Workcover policies if I were to sustain an umpire related injury - 2015 (86%) vs 2013 (76%). The senior squad - 89% led the development squad - 82%
- I am comfortable with accessing Workcover for any umpire related injury - 2015 (73%) vs 2013 (67%)
- I am comfortable reporting my injury to my Coach - 2015 (84%) vs 2013 (75%)

**Uniform/Training Gear**

- The uniform I receive for umpiring is adequate

for my needs - 2015 (86%) vs 2013 (99%), a significant drop. The senior squad rated 81% vs the development squad 92%. The percentage of disagree / strongly disagree increased from 0% to 10%

- The uniform I receive for training - 2015 (90%) vs 2013 (96%)
- The footwear I receive for umpiring is adequate for my needs - 2015 (82%) vs 2013 (96%), again a significant drop. Senior squad and development squad were 81% and 80% respectively.

The VFUA also uses result from the survey to provide feedback to AFL Victoria. The VFUA will also use the 2015 results to inform the fees and conditions working party, which will be established to put together our next employment agreement, given the current one expires at the end of 2016.



## **2015 VFL Umpires of the Year**

Simon Plumridge (goal), Daniel Butcher (field), Lachlan Rayner (boundary)