



Victorian Football Umpires' Association

Annual report & financial
statement 2017

Office bearers



Back row L-R: Kelly Tellam, Damien Main, David Flegg, Andrew Talbot, Melissa Sambrooks, Jack Murfett, Kate Griffiths, Simon Plumridge. Front row L-R: Peter Kelly, Nick Brown, Michael Curtis, David Miles

President

Michael Curtis

Vice-president

Nick Brown

Executive officer

Peter Kelly

Track representatives

Andrew Talbot (Senior Field)

Ben Cheever (Development Field - part)

Jack Murfett (Development Field - part)

Damien Main (Senior Boundary)

Lachlan Harty (Development Boundary - part)

Melissa Sambrooks (Development Boundary - part)

Simon Plumridge (Senior Goal)

David Miles (Development Goal)

Historian-statistician

David Flegg

Communication officer

Kate Griffiths

Events manager

Kelly Tellam

President's report



Season 2017 was another big year for our association. As I reflect back over the year, I think of the many hours of hard work and effort put in by so many to achieve many great things throughout the year.

2017 Year

There were many things achieved over the 2017 year. Some of the key areas included:

- Fees and conditions (F&C): The VFUA and AFL Victoria signed a Heads of Agreement for fees and conditions for 2017-19. A lot of hard work was completed by our F&C Working Party and executive team. Thank you to all members of the F&C Working Party for your help in this area.
- New partners: We continued to expand our partners in 2017, opening more benefits to members. We also had partners attend training and our association meetings to allow better exposure to members. Thanks to the great work of our executive officer and our team for the continued hard work in this area.
- 2017 VFUA survey: We completed our VFUA biennial survey during 2017 and have identified a number of positive areas and areas for improvement. This data will be a great source for our focus for 2018 and I would like to thank all members for taking the time to complete this survey.

- Social functions: It was another successful year of social functions. From Lawn Bowls and Mini Olympics to kick start the year, to Trivia, Golf Day and Life Members' Dinner during the season and the final big events of the VFUA Ball and Grand Final After Party, we saw a great year of social activities and great attendances.

Three Pillars: Leadership, Communication and Inclusiveness

Pillar 1 - Communication: We continued to focus on the communication pillar in 2017 after building some good foundations in 2016. Key areas of communication focus included improving our engagement with members and identifying and utilising the right communication medians. With the help of our Communication Officer, Kate Griffiths, we continued to engage members in various communication channels. Throughout the 2017 season, we saw our Facebook page updated on a regular basis with news, events and achievements. The VFUA also tweeted regularly and our website was enhanced.

We also continued to use our existing communication channels such as email with the members, verbal communication via track representatives and association meetings. In my role as president, I also made the effort to speak to individual disciplines at training on a number of occasions during the season to make sure members were kept up to date on important matters. All these communication channels helped to better connect with our members and we will continue to build on this in the coming season.

Pillar 2 - Inclusiveness: Inclusiveness continues to be a really important area for young adults and our association continued to provide a strong inclusive environment. With the help of our Events Manager, Kelly Tellam, a solid Events program was planned, endorsed and conducted to benefit members and create an inclusive environment.

Our inclusiveness program finished on a real high with another great series of end of season functions - the Grand Final After Party and VFUA Ball. A special thank you to Daniel Butcher for once again putting on both outstanding events. An innovative addition was seen with the use of a videographer which was enjoyed by all at the VFUA Ball. An amazing way to end our 2017 season.

Pillar 3 - Culture and Leadership: This for me is probably the most important pillar. With a changing football landscape and a growing group of umpires at the VFL, culture and leadership need to be strong and have continued focus from our executive team. We continue to build relationships with our members, with AFL Victoria and the AFL and make sure we lead and put our best foot

forward for our members. We will continue to do so in the coming season and below I would like to expand on what is on the horizon.

On the horizon

From 2017, we have identified continued focus areas and will begin our busiest time of the year in planning over November and December. Some of the areas we will continue to focus

- Building a strong relationship with AFL Victoria: The relationship with AFL Victoria continued to grow over the 2017 season. We also began to grow the relationship with the AFL. We will continue to expand on these relationships in 2018. Thank you to John Hook, Cameron Nash and Peter Mair for a great 2017.
- Continue to build the Three Pillars: Core to my overall presidency and strategy is Leadership, Communication and Inclusiveness. There have been some great steps forward in these areas in 2017 and we will continue the momentum and look to continued improvement in 2018.
- Legacy of VFUA review and 5-year strategic plan: Our previous strategic plan finishes at the end of 2017. Over the offseason, we are planning to continue the review of our association and look to implement a 5-year strategy. This will be critical to the future of our association. Further to this will be a review of various areas in the VFUA as we will look to improve our association to best service and support our members.

Our great Executive Team

Season 2017 was another great year for our association. I have learnt so much leading this great association and I am very proud of what our VFUA executive team has achieved. Our success was due to their hard work and dedication behind the scenes.

Firstly, to Peter Kelly, one of the most reliable and hardworking executive officers for which we could wish, thank you for your continued guidance and support during 2017. We appreciate all your hard work and everything you do for the VFUA and all our VFL umpires. This year was a big milestone where we saw you achieve 25 years working with our association and its members. This is such a significant achievement and a remarkable commitment for which we are very thankful. Your passion for the VFUA has ensured the VFUA remains a respected organisation with which all our members can be proud to be involved.

Special thanks to David Flegg for his continued hard work and guidance behind the scenes. You continue to do such a terrific job preserving the history of the association and without you we would not have the fantastic members' statistics, the recording of milestones, ensuring published records are accurate

and providing timely advice and guidance to our executive group. You also achieved the very big milestone of 25 years working with our association and our members, such an amazing achievement and something we are very grateful for having your help and assistance.

A very big thank you to my vice-president Nick Brown for your support through season 2017. You were the best right hand man a president could ask for. Your leadership, commitment and like-minded attitude is something I really appreciated through 2017. Not only were you such a great leader on and off the field, you achieved the highest honour in umpiring the VFL grand final and making it back to the AFL. Thanks for everything.

Thank you to my Executive Committee for their terrific support and enthusiasm during the year. Having a good team to work with makes the role of president a lot easier and more enjoyable and I would like to thank each of you for your contribution. The track representatives – Andrew Talbot, Jack Murfett, Damien Main, Melissa Sambrooks who replaced Lachlan Harty following his promotion to the senior squad, Simon Plumridge and David Miles for the way they represented the members of their respective squads. Thanks also to Ashley Hawkes for filling in while Damien Main was on the AFL list for part of the season. Kate Griffiths, for your amazing work behind the scenes in pulling together a fantastic communication platform. Kelly Tellam, for the numerous hours and chase ups which saw a year full of fantastic social functions. Ben Cheever, for your legal support and insight in areas such as the fees and conditions.

A final thanks to Daniel Butcher for your continued invaluable advice and support in the Grand Final After Party and VFUA Ball. It just goes to show the amazing character you are in always willing to help and put others first. Thank you so much.

Final Note

Finally, as I look back over the past 12 months and season 2017, I reflect on being involved in such a great association, filled with amazing people and great members. Our culture continues to grow and most importantly, we continue to look out for each other, both on and off the field.

But at the end of the day, our association is only as strong as our members. So I ask each of you to continue your support of the VFUA. We are a great association which continues to learn, grow and support all of its members. As I look to season 2018, I wish all our members an enjoyable and successful year.

Michael Curtis
VFUA President

Executive officer's report

On behalf of the VFUA Executive Committee I am pleased to present the annual report and financial statements for the 2016-17 financial year to our members and life members.

It was another fantastic season with the VFL and TAC Cup grand finals being decided after the final siren, the AFL Development League Grand Final being played for the last time and the 2017 VFL Womens' Grand Final being played as a curtain raiser to the VFL Grand Final at Etihad Stadium.

On the VFUA front, Michael Curtis continued in the president's role for season 2017 and was joined by Nick Brown, who returned to the VFL from the AFL, as vice-president. Joining these two on the VFUA Strategy Team was David Flegg, Historian-Statistician and Kate Griffiths, Communications Officer.

Track representatives for 2017 included Andrew Talbot (senior field), Jack Murfett (development field), Damien Main (senior boundary), Lachlan Harty and Melissa Sambrooks (development boundary), Simon Plumridge (senior goal) and David Miles (development goal). Ashley Hawkes stepped into the senior boundary role while Damien Main was on the AFL list for part of the season.

Kelly Tellam took up the important role of events manager for season 2017. Daniel Butcher also returned to project manage the organisation of the two end of season functions – the VFL Grand Final After Party and the VFUA Grand Final Ball. A full report on the social season begins on page 12.

Membership

In 2017, 151 umpires joined the VFUA out of a total of 158, which represented 96% membership. The VFUA also welcomed 33 new umpires in season 2017. An induction night was held for new umpires in April and umpires who joined the VFUA were presented with a free VFUA polo shirt.

Member Survey

Every two years, the VFUA conducts a member survey and has done so since 1999. The results of the survey are used in assisting the VFUA with its planning activities whilst also being used as a valuable stocktake of how the association is fairing in comparison to other years.

In 2017, 135 surveys were completed, which represented a return rate of 84%.

Some observations from the survey results:

- 97% of our members understand the purpose and role of the VFUA whilst 90% believe the VFUA is a relevant association that understands and caters for today's needs.

- 87% believe the VFUA is progressive, constantly changing with the times to provide a highly effective service to members, an increase of 6% over 2015. However, 8% fewer believe the VFUA responds to umpiring issues and members' concerns in an appropriate and timely manner, an area the VFUA will focus on in 2018.
- Despite the signing of a new agreement in 2017, 73% of umpires agree or strongly agree that payments (including travel and food allowances) are adequate, compared to 83% who felt the same way in 2015. In addition, there was a significant drop in the number of members who felt the uniform they receive for umpiring is adequate for their needs (69% in 2017 vs 86% in 2015) and the uniform received for training (63% in 2017 vs 90% in 2015). This was largely due to the changes AFLV made in providing uniforms and shoes to members prior to the start of the 2017 season. The collapse of BLK just prior to the season also meant AFLV needed time to source new match day and training clothing at short notice, which also contributed to the above results.

On a positive note, members welcomed the new system for obtaining shoes at discounted prices which the VFUA and AFLV Umpiring Department introduced in 2017 with one of the VFUA's partners – Active Feet. Members could visit any of the Active Feet stores in Melbourne and receive a free assessment to determine which shoe was the best fit for each member, a sound occupational health and safety preventative initiative. Active Feet also discounted the shoe so that along with AFLV's contribution of \$100 meant members were able to purchase a pair of running shoes for minimal cost. The VFUA would like to thank the AFLV Umpiring Department and Active Feet for their support in administering this program for our members.

The VFUA will also provide de-identified information to AFL Victoria so that both parties can acknowledge areas that are going well, whilst working together on areas for improvement.

Fees and Conditions Agreement 2017-2019

AFLV and the VFUA signed a Heads of Agreement to cover employment conditions, pending finalisation of wording and sign-off of the formal AFLV – VFUA Fees and Conditions Agreement 2017-19. Ongoing dialogue and consultation will occur in coming months in order to finalise and sign-off on the agreement.

I would like to thank the VFUA Fees and Conditions Working Party for their efforts in

consulting with members and hours of work in finalising our proposal. I would also like to thank Ben Cheever for his legal support and Michael Curtis for the hours he devoted to finalising the Heads of Agreement in time for the 2017 season.

Partners

The VFUA welcomed a number of new partners for season 2018 which provide discounted services and benefits to members. Musashi, Nike, Goodlife Health Clubs, Winning Sports Nutrition and Virus returned in 2017 and were joined by new providers Spendless, Active Feet, SOS Hydration and Budy Smugglers.

Quality Assurance Program

The VFUA continued to administer the Quality Assurance Program in 2017. With new facilities and new grounds being used during the season, there was an increased need to monitor conditions and security at grounds during the season. The VFUA is pleased, that on the whole, there was a reduction in the number of issues raised, and these were largely, with a few exceptions, at grounds being used for a limited time. The VFUA would like to acknowledge the efforts of John Hook for coordinating action at the VFL, Jess Smith at the VWFL, David Flegg for coordinating and managing a busy flow of communication and Michael Blair for his efforts in administering the reporting process.

Annual Report

The organisation of the annual report comes quickly each year and David continues to manage this process with his usual efficiency and professionalism. Each annual report provides the VFUA with another chapter in its short history and I thank David for the effort he has put into each annual report. I would also like to thank the scribes who have contributed content to this year's report.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking your executive team for the work they did during the 2017 season. Without them, the VFUA would simply not exist. Like each member, they have their own life challenges balancing work loads, umpiring commitments, fitness requirements and personal / social lives. To add another layer to these busy workloads is testament to the type of people they are. Thank you to each and every one of you.

To our president and vice-president (Mick and Nick), I would like to thank you for the work you did in leading the association in 2017. Without

your good humour, hard work and poor jokes, we would have had so much less to show for the year. Michael is an inspiration with his many demands in corporate and family life and I thank you for your terrific contribution during the year and congratulate you on your grand final appointment. To Nick, we welcomed you back for one year from the AFL and your return, after only one season based on your on-field performance and VFL grand final this year. Well done and thank you for your contribution.

David Flegg continues to provide an excellent service to our association each year. His work includes updating match by match data for field, boundary and goal umpires; providing weekly updates for current and career totals; identifying and notifying in advance upcoming milestones for appropriate recognition; recognising achieved milestones on website and managing the QAP program on behalf of the VFUA. As noted above, David also manages the preparation of each year's annual report and is a key player on the VFUA Strategy Team. His experience over many years is a major force behind the success of the VFUA and I thank him for his continued contribution and commitment.

Thank you to Daniel Butcher for his efforts in organising the two end of year functions. Daniel does this with his usual efficiency and managed to pull off both functions whilst umpiring finals and the VFL Grand Final. Well done Daniel.

Congratulations to our award winners in 2017 and to all those members who achieved personal milestones during the year, including grand final appointments. Congratulations to Andre Gianfagna, Lachlan Harty and Paul Trotter who were voted most improved in their respective categories and to Sam Ferguson (field), Joel Davis (boundary) and Sian Atkins (goal) on winning their squad's Best First Year Umpire awards in 2017.

Congratulations to Joel Davis on being the recipient of the 2017 Frank Leverett Shield – the best first year umpire across all categories.

I would also like to thank our official partners for their willingness to support our members during the year. We look forward to your continued association in the year ahead.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members and life members for their support during the season and I look forward to working with you again in 2018.

Peter Kelly
VFUA Executive Officer

Members 2017

Field	
2016	Jack Abrehart
2016	Tom Abrehart
2015	Michael Anderson
2016	Peter Bailes
2015	Stefan Bjelosevic
2010	Nicholas Brown (a) (b)
2005	Tristan Burgess (c)
2013	Patrick Burns
2011	Daniel Butcher
2015	Ben Cheever
2012	Thomas Chrystie
2017	Joel Clamp
2009	Michael Curtis
2012	James Davey
2016	Ben Dickson
2016	Cameron Dore
2010	Jack Edwards (b)
2017	Sam Ferguson
2017	Lachlan Floyd
2016	Andre Gianfagna
2017	Jack Gordon
2004	Jamie Grindal
2013	Andrew Heffernan
2017	Jack Howard
2014	John Howorth
2017	Brayden Hunter
2016	Nicholas Jankovskis
2016	Jarryd Kingsbury
2014	Michael Knight
2016	Aaron Langdon
2017	Sam Levin
2017	Thomas Lyon
2017	Matthew Mahoney
2015	Peter McCaw
2017	Kellie McLeod
2017	Dylan McMahon
2016	Annie Mirabile
2014	Jack Murfett
2017	Alex Murray
2014	Robert Parker
2016	Daniel Patrick
2016	Michael Pell
2015	Daniel Philp
2015	Matthew Pongracic
2016	Luke Porter
2014	Matthew Pryor
2016	Paul Rebeschini
2013	Luke Richardson
2016	Jacob Rockwell
2015	Martin Rodger
2015	Leighton Rowe
2015	Jack Spencer

Field	
2008	Andrew Talbot
2017	Lucas Taylor
2016	Nathan Toner
2015	Libby Toovey
2017	Cameron Watts
2017	Ryan Webster
2017	Jonathon Williams
2017	George Wood
2015	Matthew Young
2009	Robert Young (d)
Boundary	
2016	Blake Anderson
2012	Brynton Ashton
2012	Rory Ashton
2017	Sam Beer
2009	Adam Bell
2016	Josh Blain
2015	Simon Blight
2016	Trent Bowes
2016	Cameron Brick
2011	Leigh Buwalda
2012	Lawrence Coop
2011	John Cooper
2015	Patrick Damato
2016	Jake D'Angelo
2017	Joel Davis
2014	Curtis De Witt
2016	Brenton Dickson
2012	Patrick Dineen
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2015	Kyle Fisher
2015	Joshua Furman
2015	Patrick Galea
2016	Harry Green
2017	Zac Gunn-Cameron
2015	Lachlan Harty
2014	Ashley Hawkes
2014	Thomas Horsten
2016	Patrick Jackson
2017	Riley Kane
2004	Nick Laurence
2009	Andrew Leggo
2014	Lucinda Lopes (e)
2017	Madeleine Lum
2013	Damien Main
2017	Lachlan Marsden
2015	Liam Pain
2007	David Park (f)
2017	Tim Peterson
2013	Nicholas Phillips
2014	Daniel Phyland

Boundary	
2017	Adrian Pretorius
2010	Jerome Rowcroft
2016	Melissa Sambrooks
2015	Lewis Spiker
2014	Sam Stagg
2011	Travis Taylor (g)
2016	Daniel Urbans
2016	Shaun Weise
2013	Luke Wilke
2015	Jesse Wilkie
2016	Chris Williams
Goal	
2017	Sian Atkins
2014	Peter Baldry
2008	Michael Blair
2016	Nick Bridges
2017	Shannon Colgan
2006	Chris Doyle
2017	Michael Driver
2016	Patrick Dwyer
2012	Matthew Edwards
2015	Josh Forner
2003	Adam Gardner (h)
2014	Zac Gemenis (b)
2016	Jackson Griffiths
2014	Kate Griffiths
2015	Joshua Hickman
2002	Dean Jones
2011	Callum Leonard
2017	Tayla Manning
2016	Brett McArthur
2016	Jordan McMillan
2015	David Miles
2015	Cam Milich
2017	Ken Mitchell
2016	Brendan Moloney
2016	Luke Monea
2017	Jess Neale
2017	Daniel O'Shea
2011	Simon Plumridge
2010	James Richardson (i)
2009	Nicholas Steel (b) (j)
2016	Kelly Tellam
2017	Nelson Tucker
2006	Paul Trotter (k)
2016	John Varker
2012	Sam Walsh
2016	Jarred Walson
2008	Cyrus Wong
2015	Joon-Yip Wong

Notes: (a) Off list 2012-13. (b) Off list 2015-16. (c) Off list 2013-14. (d) Off list 2012-15. (e) Field 2014-16. Boundary 2017. (f) Off list 2008-14. (g) Off list 2012. (h) Off list 2009-2016. (i) Off list 2011-15. (j) Boundary 2009-14. Goal 2017. (k) Off list 2007-14. Field 2006. Goal 2014-17.

2016 life memberships

Daniel Butcher

Daniel was a member of the VFUA for six years from 2011-2016. Season 2012 was his first year as part of the Executive Committee. He served as track representative and then communications officer in 2013, vice-president in 2014 and president in 2015. Daniel has continued to provide valued mentoring support to the president in 2016 whilst also organizing both the VFL Grand Final Day Function and the VFUA Grand Final Ball, both of which were fantastic events.

As the VFUA president, Daniel took to the role with great enthusiasm. In addition to providing leadership and direction for the association, he was instrumental in driving cultural change by providing a more targeted and enjoyable social program in 2015. This resulted in three additional events for members each of which were successful and profitable. In his year as president, he also oversaw the Grand Final Events Working Party, which provided two very successful grand final functions, all while umpiring VFL finals and the grand final itself.

Daniel also led the association through some tricky industrial issues in 2015, whilst the Executive Officer, Peter Kelly, was overseas. He led the association with maturity and passion beyond his years and did so without losing focus on his on-field pursuits.

In 2016, Daniel continued in a leadership role, being elected as one of two senior field umpires to the Senior Field Umpires' Leadership Group. In this role, he represented the interests of senior field umpires in discussions with the umpires' coach.

Daniel has been the recipient of the John Russo Trophy in both 2012 and 2015, a feat only matched by one other umpire in the history of the VFUA – David Flegg. He was also the recipient of the Frank Leverett Shield (best first year umpire across all disciplines) in 2011.

On-field Daniel has officiated in two VFL grand finals – 2015 and 2016, plus the 2014 TAC Cup Grand Final. He was also an AFL rookie umpire in 2016. All up, Daniel has umpired 68 VFL, 21 AFL Vic Development and 27 TAC Cup games during his time with the VFL.

As demonstrated above, Daniel (shown right) has had a very successful umpiring career to date. He has also made himself available to serve others, both in the association and the umpiring group, for the betterment of umpiring in general. All of which makes him an outstanding addition to the ranks of VFUA life membership

Daniel Pieper

Daniel has been a VFUA Member from the day he joined the ranks of the VFL Boundary Umpires in 2000.

During his career, Daniel has umpired 150 VFL matches including 5 finals, 60 AFLV Development and 36 TAC Cup matches (23 finals including 2002 & 2011 VFL Reserves Grand Finals). This tally would have been much higher had Daniel not taken 2006-2007 off to travel Europe.

He served on the VFUA Executive in 2002-2003 as the boundary umpire track representative, a role that encompassed facilitating communication between the Executive Committee and the squad, organising subscription payments and generally encouraging the squad to take an active role in association affairs. He continues to set an excellent example by being a regular attendee at both social functions and association meetings. Daniel was also responsible for instigating “shot glasses” instead of the usual champagne glass as a memento of the Grand Final Ball for a number of years.

In recent years, as an elder statesman within the boundary umpire panels, Daniel has taken on a leadership and mentoring role for the many new umpires who have joined the boundary lists during his time as a boundary umpire.

Daniel would never hesitate to assist umpiring colleagues and friends including building a cat ramp when now fellow life member Judi Elliot was looking after her niece's elderly cat and mowing her lawns when she was incapacitated with a bad back in 2015.

He is fine example of how to conduct yourself in life, always polite and never saying a nasty word against anyone.

It is for all these reasons that the members voted unanimously honorary life membership of the VFUA for Daniel Pieper.



Daniel Butcher

Obituary - Gary Best



The demise of the VFL Reserve Grade led to a new career path for goal umpires from district competitions straight into the VFL. Gary Best was among the first to tread this pathway and umpiring at every level was the better for the success he made of the trip. Whether he was relating stories such as being attacked by an Alsatian dog in the goal square at Mornington or by a bee at VFL Park or the latest goings on at the fire-station Besty brought a verve and spark and a smile everywhere he went.

Born Gary William Best on 5 September 1948 Besty grew up in Chelsea where he would remain for his whole life and contribute to his community through service in the Country Fire Authority as well as umpiring

Originally coming to the Southern Umpires Association (SUA) looking to earn some additional cash he stayed for 15 years and became an institution. During this time the SUA had acquired newly built rooms with a professional catering kitchen and it was Gary, whose fund-raising had made much of the building possible, began providing high quality meals - including two choices of mains, sides, crockery and serviettes - on training nights, a far cry from the pie and sauce offered by most sporting clubs at that time. He was always looking to make things better for the members. Ultimately his high quality social events and constant fundraising activities led to a change in culture of the association, fostering a more club like feel that remains today. Gary's seven years' service as social secretary earned him life membership of the SUA.

While doing all this off the field Besty built an outstanding career on the field. From 1970-84 he umpired 305 senior matches in the various competitions served by the SUA including 10 Mornington Peninsula and 3 Nepean League grand finals. With such a record there was little doubt he would make the grade when he tried out for the VFL and he was placed on the senior list in 1985.

After a year in the Under 19s and reserves Gary earned Heritage No. 207 when he officiated Geelong versus Melbourne at VFL Park in round 7, 1986. Over the next 10 seasons Gary worked hard but was only able to break into the senior finals panel once - the 1991 VFL Elimination Final. Nevertheless, there were many other highlights - the 1988 VFL Reserves Grand Final, the 1989 and 1993 Ansett Cup Grand Finals, the 1993 State of Origin Tasmania v. Queensland/Northern Territory and an Auckland exhibition match in 1991.

Besty also included the 'double goal square day' at Princes Park amongst his most memorable. The ground staff had moved the goal posts and painted a new goal square without removing the original. For the first five minutes of the reserves match Gary positioned himself between the behind and goal posts until his mistake was pointed out by a boundary umpire arriving at the behind post. He never tired of telling the story.

At the end of the 1994 season Besty retired having compiled a record of 92 AFL, 60 VFL/AFL reserves, 24 VFL U19 and 6 VFA matches. He was awarded life membership of the AFLUA that year and similarly of the newly formed Victorian Football Umpires Association. As a caterer by trade Gary brought those skills to the very successful AFLUA/VFUA balls held at the Malvern Town Hall in 1995-96 and was a key component in their success.

Following retirement from the flags Gary devoted even more time to the CFA, service for which he was awarded a 50 year certificate just before his death, his catering, for which he was renowned and to travel.

Gary passed away on 16 August 2017. His outgoing, cheery personality, big smile and bright outlook on life will be missed by all who knew him.

VFUA life members

Darren Agnew (1995)	Mikel Donsen (1993)	Greg Kennedy (1998)	Frank Raiti (1994)
Peter Allsop (1992)	Gavin Dore (1993)	Hayden Kennedy (1993)	Gary Ramm (1999)
Jason Armstrong (2006)	Brendan Dye (2004)	Colin Larter (1999)	Denis Rich (Found.)
Peter Balding (2010)	Judi Elliott (1997)	Nick Laurence (2015)	Michael Richardson (2006)
Dan Beard (2004)	Stephen Evans (2006)	Matthew Leppard (2009)	Linton Roe (2000)
Gary Best (1994)*	Ray Fargie (1993)	Richard Leslie (2002)	Greg Russo (1999)
Anthony Black (1998)	Rob Findlay (2007)	Stephen Luckman (1992)	John Russo (Found.)
Michael Blair (2013)	Lloyd Fisk (2003)	Andrew Malcolm (2002)	Paul Saville (Found.)
Michael Boss (2011)	David Flegg (1997) †	Wes Mann (1999)	Rowan Sawers (Found.)
Alan Brewer (1996)	Rob Frampton (1999)	Shane Mason (2003)	Graeme Scherger (1992)
Graeme Brewer (1993)	Joy Gelly (2005)	Dean Maxwell (1995)	Colin Segota (1996)
Tristan Burgess (2013)	Stephen Gloag (2005)	Peter McDonald (1998)	Roger Selwood (1992)
Daniel Butcher (2016)	Darren Goldspink (1993)	Anton McKernan (1993)	Michael Sexton (1998)
Keith Callaghan (1997)	Peter Gonis (2005)	Scott McLaren (1999)	Bryan Sheehan (1993)
Peter Cameron (Found.)	Doug Gourlay (1994)	Richard Mills (2013)	Michael Sneddon (Found.)
Mark Canning (2000)	Doug Gower (1993)	Chris Mitchell (Found.)	Chris Snell (2003)
Peter Carey (1992)	Ian Green (1993)	David Mitchell (Found.)	Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)
Brendan Carland (Found.)	John Hall (1997)	Kevin Mitchell (2006)	Justin Stephenson (2001)
Barry Carmichael (Found.)	Michael Hammond (2003)	Geoff Morrow (Found.)*	Steven Stirling (1998)
Geoff Caulfield (1995)	Lindsay Hardman (2000)	Geoff Mowat (1992)	Brad Strachan (2000)
Craig Clark (1996)	Shane Harris (1992)	Peter Nastasi (2004)	Terry Suitryk (1993)
Andrew Clifton (2005)	Darren Holt (2003)	Ben Naughtin (2008)	Phil Sutton (Found.)
Andrew Coates (1994)	Colin Hood (1997)	John O'Leary (1993)	Simon Tursi (2008)
Allan Cook (1993)	David Howlett (Found.)	Malcolm Owen (1993)	James Van Beek (1994)
Graham Danne (Found.)*	David Humphries (2001)	Laurie Page (1994)	Jason Venkataya (2005)
Russell Davidson (2000)	Anthony Hunter (2014)*	Brian Philp (1994)*	Michael Viney (1993)
Rod Davies (1995)	Steele Irish (2007)	Daniel Pieper (2016)	Matthew Vitiritti (2000)
Andrew Dempster (2001)	Ben James (2006)	Steven Piperno (2015)	Phil Watson (1993)
Greg Denison (2012)	Michael Jennings (2010)	Mark Powell (1998)	Andrew Wheeler (1998)
Frank Dicosmo (2006)	Leigh Keen (Found.)	Mark Prince (1993)	Graeme Williams (Found.)
David Dixon (2004)	Peter Kelly (1996) †	Doug Purss (Found.)	Adam Wojcik (2007)

Found. = Foundation life member. * = deceased. † = Special Award recipient



Eight epic weeks: recapping the inaugural AFLW season



Annie Mirabile conducts the first coin toss of AFLW

History was created this year when the first ever AFL Women's competition began in February.

Eight teams, representing eight AFL clubs from across the country came together for an incredible eight-week season. Although eight weeks may have seemed like a short time, the AFLW competition was jam packed with big marks, big tackles and big goals, and finished with an epic grand final.

For the eight VFL field umpires chosen to umpire the inaugural season, it was unlike anything we had experienced before. The excitement for AFLW was huge before the season had even started, but no one really knew what to expect, not even the umpires. We knew that it would be a step up from the VFL Women's competition and that we'd be umpiring players we knew little about. However, we didn't know how big (or small) the crowds would be, how the different rules would impact the game or who the favourites were to win the flag. It was all new territory.

But the crowds came. Nearly 25,000 people squeezed into Ikon Park to see the first ever AFLW match between traditional 'arch rivals' Carlton and Collingwood. Carlton won and Darcy Vescio became a household name overnight. I was lucky enough to umpire the first Saturday night game at Whitten Oval; Western Bulldogs' first game against Fremantle. The atmosphere was electric and the crowd of 15,000 cheered at every hit, kick, handball and goal.

This was footy in February and the people were

loving it. And so were we!

Over 50,000 spectators turned up in the first round alone. Catching glimpses of the crowds during the games, it was easy to tell that this was a different AFL crowd. There was a sea of families lining the fences of the ground, young boys and girls waiting for their new favourite player to come onto the ground and to maybe even get a picture with her after the game. It felt more like grassroots local footy than the highly glamorised AFL. But there was a hint of glamour.

Every single game was televised so as umpires we had to remember this. We had to wait for the ads to finish before we could throw the ball up after a goal. A flashing light would signal that we were 'on air' again. The field umpires were given communication vests to wear throughout the games. These were invaluable as we were able to communicate with one another on the field. We could also give each other advice and encouragement as the game went on. With these vests on, we felt like real AFL umpires.

We were certainly treated like real AFL umpires on and off the field. Each week throughout the season we had an online coaching session with our coaches Adam Davis and Heath Ryan, along with the interstate AFLW field umpires. In these sessions we went through vision from AFL or AFLW games that showed our strengths or areas in which we could improve. Our own personal feedback from Adam and Heath after each game was also very thorough and valuable to our development as umpires. Being involved in AFLW



L-R: Libby Toovey, Ben Cheever, Michael Pell

has enabled all the umpires to see the professionalism and precision that is required at AFL level. It has shown us what it takes to umpire in the AFL and what things we can expect if we reach that level. It has been an opportunity that we have all grasped with two hands and I know I feel very grateful to have umpired in the AFLW competition.

Although the AFLW season was short, it has changed the Australian sporting landscape forever. The opportunities that it has created are endless. Where once a young girl only saw men playing or umpiring at the highest level, she can now see the many women involved at the highest level of AFLW. She has role models just like her to look up to and to aspire to if she chooses. Representation plays a key role in the ability to achieve our goals. When we are able to see someone like us achieving, then we are more likely to thrive to do the same. This is what AFLW has done for thousands of young women and girls across the country.

Historically, women have been encouraged or forced into sports that are traditionally less 'aggressive' or 'rough'. They've even not continued sport at all. But AFLW has shown that women are not afraid to get their hands dirty or to put their bodies on the line for their teams. The stereotypes of what women are able to do has and will continue to change as we see more women taking to the sporting field and particularly the footy field.

But the real highlight of the AFLW competition has been the personalities that we've met along the way. I've been able to meet incredibly talented

umpires from all across Australia, striving to be the best umpires they can be.

We've also seen players like Sarah Perkins, overlooked in the draft, shine in the AFLW season and become a premiership player. We've seen the Kearney-Blackburn combo for the Doggies just like we see the Selwood-Dangerfield combo for the Cats. We've seen Erin Phillips absolutely tear the competition apart with her strength and athletic ability. And we've seen a police officer guide the Adelaide Crows to become the first ever AFLW Premiers.

It is often the people that make things great and the AFLW competition has been no different. The umpires, players, coaches, officials and the fans have helped make AFLW a success. The future of women's footy is in great hands and I can't wait to see what season 2018 and beyond holds for the game. It's only going to get bigger and better from here.

Libby Toovey



Martin Rodger (left) and Michael Pell officiate an AFLW coin toss



The following VFUA members officiated in the 2017 AFLW season:

Field - Ben Cheever*, Martin Rodger* (5), Nicholas Jankovskis, Annie Mirabile, Michael Pell, Nathan Toner (4), Patrick Burns, Libby Toovey (3), Andrew Heffernan and Jack Spencer (1).

Boundary - Lachlan Harty* (8), Jesse Wilkie*, Kyle Fisher* (7), Blake Anderson, Lewis Spiker, Chris Williams (6), Patrick Damato, Melissa Sambrooks (5).

Goal - John Varker* (5), Patrick Dwyer, Brendan Moloney, Luke Monea, Kelly Tellam (4).

* Umpired the 2017 AFLW Grand Final, Adelaide 4.11 (35) defeated Brisbane 4.5 (29)

Social report



Mini-Olympics

The Mini Olympics may not have the same prestige as the Super Bowl but there's no doubting that Mini Olympics Thursday (as it was this year) means as much to the VFUA community as Super Bowl Sunday does to the States.

A gorgeous late February evening greeted us at Vic. Park, where the surface also resembled Stawell's Central Park, and the stage was set for the traditional first event – the 4 x 200-metre relay. Despite the goalies attempting to offset their 3-second head start with Cyrus Wong going shoeless, Josh Forner's VAL pedigree and boom recruit Nick Steel, the other disciplines yet again gobbled them up with the development boundaries taking gold.

The soccer then commenced concurrently with the push-ups and sit-ups. The fieldies and boundaries strong rigs again proved the difference in the latter, with the development boundaries streeting the field to win the push-ups while Simon Blight and Lachie Harty took out the sit-ups for the senior boundaries.

On the soccer field the development boundaries looked to build on their good start by drawing inspiration from Leicester City. However, they seemed to read from the Foxes' 2017 playbook – unlike the senior fieldies, who channelled the Leicester of 2016 to take out the soccer undefeated and without conceding a goal. The senior fieldies also prevailed in the egg and spoon race, with E&S veteran Tyler Hankinson holding off a concerted challenge from Jackson 'The Package' Griffiths of the goalies.

As everyone then assembled for the evening's final events, Johnny Summers, with thumb turned up or down, determined the fate of the gladiators partaking in the boundary throw-in contest. The senior boundaries brought out the big guns for their pet event but, with Damien Main's throw-ins landing in Richmond, the development fieldies emerged from the arena the victors.

To the traditional and ever-entertaining final event of the evening, the bouncing, and it was a tightly-fought contest. Despite the senior fieldies' Aaron Langdon landing three perfect bounces, the spoils were shared by the goalies, development boundaries and the development fieldies (Team B).

However, the senior fieldies' performances in other events saw them take the Paul Anderson Shield for 2017, despite allegations of rigging by Andrew Talbot, who was making his Mini Olympics scoring debut. #FakeNews #AlternativeFacts

More importantly, however – indeed, most importantly – the VFUA community enjoys this evening in honour of Paul Anderson. As enjoyable as the Mini Olympics always are, the VFUA community should always remember that its priority is to uphold the association's ongoing financial support of Cancer Council Victoria, which works to prevent tragedies like the one that affected the Anderson family. This year's event raised \$1,330.

Finally the Mini Olympics wouldn't happen every year without the organisation and hard work behind the scenes of the VFUA executive, which was ably assisted during the event itself by AFL Victoria (venue, trainers, drinks), as well as umpires and coaches (refereeing, scoring).

Bowls Day

The VFUA ventured to the Flagstaff Gardens' Melbourne Bowls Club for its 2017 Bowls Day, a chance to kick back in the rare almost football-free space between the AFLW and VFL pre-seasons and the opening of the full-on VFL premiership matches.

About 25 members, family and friends were on hand and upon arrival were greeted by the aroma of the Nick Brown inspired BBQ which went nicely with the bowls club bar offerings.

On the rinks some serious bowls action unfolded with a number of teams actually keeping score while others were simply rolling for fun. This included VFUA President Michael Curtis's family whose fascination with shots in play caused an anxious moment or two for their parents.

Beside the rinks the talk was football, travel and more football. Barefoot bowls were eschewed in favour of a range of excellent Nike footwear.

A pleasant Sunday afternoon for all who ventured out. Thanks to Nick for cooking and MBC for the venue and hospitality.

Trivia Night

The annual Trivia Night was held on 27 May 2017 at Coopers Inn. The event was hosted by Funky Bunch Trivia, who held the group captivated for the duration of the night with audio, visual and multiple choice questions. A special event was 'sink' or 'float' which saw many teams lose valuable points as the contents of a tin of tuna did indeed sink!

Goal Umpire, Jordan McMillan took the opportunity to gain extra points for his team, by drinking a one litre jug of water and the can of tuna (no chaser), much to the admiration of his team, and surprise of all attendees (including a little dry retching), Jordan succeeded.



Unfortunately his team won by a point without his extra bonus two points!

The night also saw the implementation of the new game of *Who wants to be a Millionaire – Hot Seat* which saw prizes awarded to three lucky contestants. Initial questions were a challenge with all contestants passing or failing to answer selected questions. With persistence and 'hot seats' almost cold, prizes were eventually awarded.

The food was good and a lot of fun was had by all!

Golf Day

The annual VFUA golf day teed off on Sunday 23 April at the delightful Ivanhoe golf course. Perfect weather brought the best of abilities out in some but may have left others wondering what could have been as blue skies, not a breath of wind and freshly cut grass provided the best of conditions for a strong field of 36 keen golfing fanatics.

Two-man Ambrose was the format for the day and as you can imagine with a bunch of umpires the topic of conversation prior to the first shot was rules, rules and rules!! Nine holes, three hours of banter, looking for golf balls and great company awaited and although the ladies' markers situated 5 metres in front of the men's tee on the first hole proved to be a strong feat to carry for some. After a strong tee shot from Tom Chrystie, partner James Davey had ideas of slam dunking their second shot of the day for eagle from 76 metres and made a clear and early statement of their intentions.

And that's about where it ended for most PGA tour comparisons with more birdies on Aaron Langdon's shirt and Lachie Harty taking 10 minutes to hit every putt giving him the 'all the gear, no idea' approach. T-Rips white pants fitted the occasion and former VFUA member Tim Carlos thought he would come along and caddy for Jack Edwards.

The winners by a half a stroke were Davey and Chrystie from the group of Langdon and Howorth who couldn't handle the heat in the kitchen and missed a three-metre putt on the last for the victory. Shot of the day went to James Davey and best clubman undoubtedly to Michael Curtis. Despite their recent retirements from umpiring, decision making continued to be an issue for the duo of Hankinson and Lawlor who finished in last place.

Thank you to all who attended and supported the day. A big thank you to organisers Nick Brown, Andrew Talbot, Kate Griffiths and Kelly Tellam. Thank you to Tyler Hankinson for donating the prizes for the winners.

Life Members' Dinner

As well as the 'usual suspects' who attend every year we had the welcome return of Lindsey Hardman who was in Australia for the first time in a while and the delightful addition of Sue Sambrooks, track rep Melissa's mum. While there were a number of apologies this year Richard Mills please check your calendar more carefully in future - we missed you.

The dinner marked 20 years as life members for Judi Elliott, John Hall and David Flegg but was the first for newly inducted 2016 life member Daniel Butcher. Daniel's terms as track representative (2012), communications officer (2013), vice-president (2014) and president (2015) indicate his outstanding service to the VFUA through almost the entirety of his time with the VFL and he spoke eloquently about what life membership meant to him.

Equally worthy of the honour a last minute difficulty meant Daniel Pieper was unable to attend and will be presented with his certificate and badge at a future date.

The range of umpiring and football related activities and involvements still undertaken by VFUA life members gives further indication of how much their commitment to the association is an extension of their commitment generally. From trainers, long-serving community umpires and administrators, coaches and observers to even statisticians they continue to give passionately to what they love.

It serves as an excellent example to the current VFUA Executive Committee who were also in attendance and were able to connect with a life members and hopefully take away some of their experiences for consideration. The VFUA has always attracted the best, the brightest and those who most want to make some sort of difference to the umpiring experience and the Life Members' Dinner is a celebration of those qualities.

Thanks go to David Flegg for his (somewhat laissez-faire) organisation of the night, to Nick Brown for his 'State of the VFUA address', the association for its subsidy of the catering and to all who attended to make a great night.

Poker Night

The poker world crowned a new champion on Saturday 6 April. It was the biggest night of the year for players and fans – the VFUA Poker Night.

When the last river card was dealt, Sam Walsh held all the chips. Walsh earned a trip for two to Bali for first place and now holds the most coveted prize in poker, the Poker Deluxe VFUA Champion trophy.



Sam Walsh - poker champ

The victory put Walsh in select company in poker history, placing him alongside legend of the game, Simon Blight. After the event, 'Walshy' was the picture of humility. One of his first remarks in the post-tournament press conference was his shock win. He was then straight on to the phone to start the bidding war between close friends to see who would join him on his tropical holiday. Sam defied all the critics with this win, with his biggest critic, fellow goalie, Kate Griffiths, declaring, "I thought Sam would be one of the first out on the final table!"

When the final table of nine began, each discipline was evenly represented. Chris Doyle and Pete McCaw were the first to lose their chips when taken on by Andrew Talbot. Mel Sambrooks started with the least amount of chips, but won an important hand to keep her going. Liam Pain started a new poker term, the Painy; an automatic \$2000 bet regardless of the minimum bet. Sambrooks was the next to go, and the next elimination would be hard to come by as still one would miss out on the much fought after prizes!

Walsh had a couple of close scares of an early exit, but managed to survive as Griffiths was unable to survive till the final five. Painy took on two too many hands, matching an all-in, then going all-in, against a pair of aces on both occasions, leaving him in fifth for a set of movie tickets. Walshy and Adam Bell went toe-to-toe, leaving Walsh in a strong position. Belly, Pain's mate and Talbot went all-in, with the latter taking the hand and leaving two competitors remaining in the tournament.

The final two exchanged pleasantries, talking about their nerves and rise in heart rates. But it didn't take many hands for Walsh to wrap up the night and the trip!

Thanks to Kelly for putting on the night and to those that attended to make the night an enjoyable one for all.

VFL Grand Final Function

A magnificent comeback by Port Melbourne set the scene for the VFUA Grand Final function in the Studio room at Etihad Stadium. A dramatic ending unfolded with Richmond failing to kick a goal after the siren leaving Port Melbourne narrowly in front and the winners of their 17th flag in the club's history.

Warmly welcoming umpires and guests at the front door, Lachy Harty and Andrew 'The Lawnman' Leggo appeared to have a good system going with drink cards, raffle tickets and cash flying in all directions, whilst ensuring no spillage of their sacred beer beverages.

Umpires and guests welcomed the VFL grand final umpires who then partook in the drawing of the association's annual fundraiser – the \$1,000 Draw. 'Host with the Most' Nick Brown took to the stage and built up the suspense as one name after another was eliminated. Down to the final two, Nick used his deal making skills to see who would place most money on the bar. The winner was Matthew Butcher who kindly donated \$500 to the bar whilst pocketing another \$500 for himself. Well done and thank you.

Once formalities were over, the party kicked on with music provided by Joel Quinn. A roaming mike was soon canvassing the floor with many sorry tales being recorded for the 2017 Grand Final Ball video.

The event this year was different given it was being held whilst the TAC Cup grand final was being played. Who would have guessed that another grand final would be decided after the siren. The Geelong Falcons hung on after the Sandringham Dragons failed to capitalise on a shot for goal from 20 metres directly in front after the siren.

Well done to all our grand final umpires who participated in grand finals this year. You did us all proud. Also thank you to Daniel Butcher and Nick Brown for the work they did behind the scenes in organising this new look event. And lastly, thank you to all the ticket sellers who contributed to the success of the special effort for season 2017.



VFUA Ball

The Annual Ball was again held at the Lincoln on Toorak on Thursday, 28 September 2017. The night was again hosted by Channel 7 sports commentator, Jason Bennett – Jason hosted a likely recent record attendance with 180 members and guests in attendance, the youngest being President Michael Curtis's, three-month old son, Patrick.

The night kicked on with a captivating interview and recognition of VFUA legends Peter Kelly, David Flegg and Jamie Grindal whilst asking the tough questions was the best dressed (in his opinion) Vice-president, Nick Brown. All in attendance were given the opportunity to recognize the contribution of these gentlemen whilst also hearing a few humorous little known facts.

Breaking up the night with a few giggles was footage of the Grand Final After-Party which included 'Roaming Butch'. Much to the satisfaction of all in attendance this segment demonstrated a few stumbling and slurring umpires who had likely already forgotten who had actually won the grand final that same day.

Finally the night offered congratulations to all grand final umpires, particularly those who officiated the 2017 VFL Grand Final. The VFUA as always offered a final closure on yet another football season.

A big thank you and congratulations to all 2017 VFUA members; 2017 saw big lists, new squads and new memories!

A special thank you to Daniel Butcher and again Nick Brown who together planned and executed the night to ensure an enjoyable and engaging evening.



Squad reports

Senior field umpires

And that's a wrap! 2017 done and dusted. But what a season it was!

After a strong November and December pre-season, we started back at the BLK Centre in January.

There were a number of absentees from 2016. From the Senior Squad, Heathy Ryan made his announcement during Mad Monday after his stunning VFL comeback in 2016. Jazza Bazza announced his retirement on social media three minutes before training started. Luke McIlroy kept everyone in suspense by waiting until after the first night of training to explain his absence due to retirement.

Pre-season saw a mountain of hard work. The hard work paid off with an excellent 2km return for everyone! Those that officiated in the AFLW showed the strength of VFL umpiring with multiple appointments to the grand final held in Brisbane.

Then, list announcements! With an increased development squad in 2016, the VFL Umpiring Department decided to split the Development Field Umpires Squad into two: development squad (DS) and senior development squad (SDS). The DS umpires would mainly officiate TAC and VFLW games, while the SDS umpires would officiate AFL Victoria Development League games, as well as being integrated in with the senior squad in



Peter McCaw



James Davey

training and coaching, with the potential to umpire VFL games.

The inaugural SDS originally included 15 umpires. This meant the DS had been reduced to 26 umpires for 2017. The senior squad had a list of 22 with new inclusions being Nick Brown and Jack Edwards (back from the AFL), Ben Cheever, Cameron Dore, Annie Mirabile, Paul Rebeschini and Martin Rodger. On the back of these announcements, it was decided by 'The Hank' and Dan Lawlor to hang up their whistles.

Come season proper, 2017 was another year of building our culture of honesty and teamwork when it came to match days. It was probably the closest any Senior Squad has been for quite a long time. Each member showed they were committed to the cause of providing a service to football that was of the highest possible standard. So, it wasn't surprising that the new squad members earned their senior debut throughout the season. Nathan Toner impressed with his SDS performances to earn a call up for his VFL debut.

One notable milestone during the home and away season saw Jamie Grindal promoted to the VFL for one last farewell match after 14 years umpiring state football.

After a tough 9 months of training every Tuesday and Thursday of a solid season, it's time to relax the body and mind... until next January!



Brothers Abrehart

Development field umpires

The dawn of season 2017 brought with it some sweeping changes for the Development Field Umpires Squad.

Firstly we saw the incredible breakthrough season of AFLW, in which many of our crew were fortunate enough to be involved. Congratulations to Nathan Toner, Nick Jankovskis, Jack Spencer, Libby Toovey, Annie Mirabile, Michael Pell, and especially to Ben Cheever and Marty Rodger, who officiated in the AFLW Grand Final.

As the regular season crept ever closer, with it came the inception of a new squad, the aptly named Senior Field Umpire Development Squad, headed up by newly capped Development Coach, Brent Pawley. This squad was announced with 14 members, 12 from 2016's development squad, as well as Jamie "Dos" Grindal, and Luke Richardson, from 2016's senior squad. It was announced that this new panel would form a pathway to senior football.

This next step proved imminent for a swag of 2016's finest; with Marty Rodger, Cam Dore, Paul Rebeschini, Annie Mirabile, and Ben Cheever all being selected for the 2017 senior list; a great achievement for which they were duly congratulated.

Of course, the traditional Development Squad continued, under the reign of the fresh-faced Dave Anselmi. This squad totaled 26; 9 of whom returned from 2016; and an astounding 17 first year umpires. The combined total for the two squads was 40.

The squad was given the news that the TAC Cup had seen its last centre bounce, with the tradition making way for the "centre throw-up".

The fitness department went from strength to strength; with an online wellness quiz bringing us into the 21st century of data-collection; new strength and conditioning coach Alex Mackley coordinating a well-designed strength program; the people's coach - Kym Brockhoff returned with a backpack full of cones, and a sleeve of magic tricks which had even the sharpest eyes fooled; and Jake Stack continued in his 2016 role. A new physio team of Sam and Nick also made a profound impact; with the queue to the physio room suddenly changing from the domain of the tumbleweed, to a veritable hive of activity.

As if the footy landscape hadn't shifted enough in 2017, as the year moved towards a close, we heard that time had been called on the AFLV Development League, with 2017 being it's last season.

With that, we wish all of our squad, and all VFUA members a relaxing off-season, a successful pre-season, and a fruitful 2018; a year which will no doubt bring with it plenty more changes, challenges, and excitement for this strong and resilient group.



Dylan McMahon

Squad reports



Sam Stagg

Senior boundary umpires

2017 was another great year for the senior boundary umpires as we welcomed Kyle Fisher, Lachlan Harty, Lachlan Marsden, Nick Phillips, Lewis Spiker, Jessie Wilkie and Chris Williams to the senior list.

We had a very tight knit group all the way from the brutal pre-season 10x400m session from Scotty to the local uniform session on the final night. We saw a very competitive VFL fixture which was a pleasure to umpire each week and all of our boys performed to a high standard week in week out.

Congratulations and well done to all of the grand final and award winner for an outstanding season. A lot of hard work goes into getting to this point so you should all be very proud of your efforts. The grand finals were a fantastic way to finish off the season with both the VFL and TAC Cup games being decided by a kick after the siren.

It was a sad ending to the season as we farewelled much loved coach, Matthew Vitiritti after a long stint at the VFL as senior coach. He was very passionate about his job and loved coaching young umpires through the ranks and pushing them to achieve their goals. Next year we welcome Leigh Rowbottom as senior coach and I'm sure he will fill the shoes of Matt nicely after being the development coach for a number of years. He brings with him a wealth of knowledge and a love for white runners.

Some of the highlights of the year:

- Trav Taylor missing the start of the time trial due to being on the toilet and then sprinting the first lap to catch up only to burn out shortly after.
- Our plethora of cute relationships including Spikes and Fish, Wok and Harty, Mel and Mirrors and Weise and Kirsty.
- John Cooper slipping over and calling an out of bounds while sitting on the ground.

- Patrick Jackson rocking up to a game a day early.

It was a very enjoyable season and there were many more classic moments that happened during the year.

All in all we had a great year (even after the Mini-Olympics premiers hangover) and the quality of umpiring during the year was a pleasure to be involved in.



Kieran Ferguson

Development boundary umpires

Let's start off by congratulating Andrew Leggo for his 100th game. Although he is not a part of the dev. squad, he is definitely a role model for us all, plus we can't get enough of the #tuesdaytip, keep up the good work.

Now let's move onto Tyler Fenton, not sure how he managed a broken finger in a scratch match at training but he somehow did as he grabbed a mark. Unlucky for Tyler as he'll continue to cop this for years to come but good to hear that he is on the mend and ready to run.

We all know that everyone loves their five minutes of fame, yet it seems that Josh 'Sportsbet' Blaine gets more than that when he had up to five reviews in coaching. It may have just been his lucky day but he definitely takes the crown.

But what's more, he also umpired on the MCG along with Shaun 'Lordy' Weise and Patrick 'Onions' Damato for the Girls Herald-Sun Shield game. As you can imagine, the boys were lapping up every moment, I think we saw enough pictures of them on the ground to fill up a newsfeed. Well

done to the boys who ran that game, not as good as debuting on the MCG for an AFL game but a close second.

What's better than Sportsbet getting his five minutes of fame in vision? It's seeing Jake 'The Aeroplane' D'Angelo pull out the aeroplane in coaching. You really can't get enough of seeing the aeroplane speed up the boundary line. For those that don't know what the aeroplane is, it's when Jake called an out on the full yet didn't face into the centre, so as you can imagine, him running up the boundary line, arms straight out to his sides, it looked like an aeroplane was about to take off or had just landed. Oh well Jakey, you'll know better for next time.

Continuing on with special photos, we must bring up the cute photos that appear on our news feeds between Shaun 'Turner' Weise and Kirsty Lord, like OMG this is too cute. With the waterfall in the background and the two of them standing on a rock in front, the real question is who took the photo? We can't wait to see more in the future.

We all want to know though, Jed, what is the go with the man bun/top knot/whatever you want to call it? Yes it might be good to keep your hair out of your face yet not sure about it in a fashion sense.

A personal favourite of mine is Riley 'FIGJAM' Kane. The man needs no introduction, the knee high socks up at training and 'Weapon of the West' (Nashy's given nickname) tells us all we need to know about him. A good runner? He certainly is, leading from the front at training, but I'm not sure about this one, seems like he's trying to copy



Trent Bowes



Tim Peterson

Blake 'Mirrors' Anderson from last year.

Although you can't blame the boys, they went from running a three-out to a two just before half time at Cragieburn when Tim Peterson went down with an ankle injury, swelling up to the size of a tennis ball. Might be worth watching the game than looking over the fence at the girls to prevent an injury.

"Figjam" couldn't believe what had happened one of the recent coaching sessions. Melissa Sambrooks wanted her seat back, in which Riley was sitting. We won't say it shyly in that he got a roast for not moving chairs, the boundaries absolutely gave it to him, and he finally moved, receiving a massive cheer for such an effort. You'll know never to steal the track rep's chair again.

A good start to the year from Blake "Danger" Anderson in the scratch matches, racking up an easy 30 possessions except for the game where he got stuck in the backline. Nevertheless Joel "Sloane" Davis didn't mind stepping up racking a close behind 28 possessions, meaning the rest of the dev squad didn't need to be on the field when these two boys were on. Keep up the great work boys, the devs are relying on you.

Now, let's not shy away from the obvious, there is definitely a bromance going on between Sam Beer and Adrian Pretorius. Just like the spikes and fish of the dev squad, these boys are inseparable, whenever you see one, you'll find the other within two metres. The only time they are split up is on the weekends but I'm sure they'd keep in close contact.

Overall a great season on the dev. squad. A good finish for the three boys who ran the VFL women's grand final, Dicko, Onions and Mirrors. I'm sure everyone will have their A-game ready for next pre-season.

Squad reports

Senior goal

What a big year 2017 was for the Senior Goal Umpire Squad. We started off in January having lost 579 VFL games of combined experience with the promotions of Dylan Benwell and Matt Maclure to the AFL, and the retirements of Peter Balding and Anthony Kyrkou. Big shoes to fill, but the squad was bolstered by the promotions of Nick Bridges, Luke Monea, Paddy Dwyer, John Varker and Jordan MacMillan from the dev. squad. The senior squad and coaches were confident that these guys would be able to step up to senior VFL Footy, and if there was any doubt we could simply get a hold of the latest *Bendigo Advertiser* to have any worries allayed by the article(s) of prodigy Varker.

The year started off in the heat with some gruelling sessions conducted by new fitness coach David Dixon, keen to make an impact and raise the standards within the squad. This was consistently reinforced over the year both on the track in his running sessions, and off the track in the coaching room. Whilst most of his coaching was very inspiring, it was a little disconcerting to see so much of Steve Axon in the vision.

Speaking of the track, despite the usually tough running sessions, we goalies managed to find time to have some fun. Putting aside our dismal display at the Mini-Olympics earlier in the year, one senior goalie in particular was keen to raise the morale of the group with a little friendly competition – and so the Walsh Games were born. One Sunday evening saw team captains Chris Doyle, Callum Leonard, Matt Edwards and Simon Plumridge partake in a draft of all goal umpires, who would form teams and compete for the ultimate glory-bragging rights.

After wading through the usual banter between Doyle and Leonard, four teams were assembled. These teams competed first in soccer, and then in touch rugby, to see who would prevail as the inaugural Walsh Games winner. Despite their placing in last on the ladder after the soccer games, Team Plumridge rallied and found themselves on the top of the ladder after the touch rugby games, and were crowned Champions, receiving Walsh's Rowville Have-A-Go '97/'98 trophy as reward for their efforts. The games were not without controversy however; with Team Leonard denied a try at the final whistle due to a certain dev. squad umpire not grounding the ball over the try-line. There was a protest, but umpire Letson's decision was upheld, and Team Plumridge were crowned victors.

On-field, the squad moved from strength to strength. We celebrated several milestones throughout the year. Well done and



Cyrus Wong

congratulations to Paul Trotter and Matthew Edwards for reaching 50 VFL Games, and to Cyrus Wong and Simon Plumridge for reaching 100 VFL Games. Matt Maclure also dropped in for his 100th VFL game having been stranded on 95 before his promotion. The end of the year saw Paul Trotter awarded the Coaches Award for a terrific, consistent season, and Sam Walsh deservedly awarded the VFL Goal Umpire of the Year for his outstanding performances. Well done to Paul and Sam.

Looking forward, 2018 should be a big year. Dean Jones is poised on the brink of VFL Life Membership with 171 games, and Sam Walsh's 99th game was the 2017 VFL Grand Final. The ending of the AFL Victoria Development League has a few people interested in what this means for our squad next year – although one goal umpire is relieved with the change. Doyley had said he would retire if he got to 100 dev. league matches before 100 VFL matches, and now that he is forever stranded on 97 dev league matches, his future looks secure having avoided the milestone.



John Varker

Development goal umpires

Wowee! Season 2017 has flown by, it only seems like yesterday we were sweating it out at Victoria Park in searing heat and preparing for our fitness benchmark tests. From the 2016 squad, we congratulated the promotion of five members joining the Senior Panel for 2017, a great achievement. For the Development Goal Squad, we welcomed fourteen new umpires for 2017, joining the remaining crew from the season prior, making a panel of 26 umpires to tackle the increase in goal umpire demand due to the growth of the VFLW competition.

The season brought out the best in some of our umpires, below are some of the season's newly found 'experts':

- Ken Mitchell – Expert of everything, self-nicknamed the “Ballarat Boss”
- Jarred Walson – Expert celebrity spotter, photographed with Gary Ablett Jnr in Bunnings
- Brendan Maloney – Our own celebrity, featured on the cover of AFL Victoria record
- Daniel O’Shea – Fashion expert, wearing bright orange socks in the Squad Photo shoot
- Brett McArthur – A new Dietician for AFL Vic? Caught by a coach eating a pie and dim sims before a game
- Josh Hickman and David Miles – Travel experts, touring Europe and trekking Kokoda respectively

From day one the group gelled well by supporting and encouraging each other. A great team culture



Jackson Griffiths



Jess Neale (left), James Richardson

was evident from the Mini Olympics, right through to the Goal Umpires’ Sports Challenge, which replaced the annual football game. The Mini Olympics was again a terrific event, the Development Goal and Senior Squads joined forces in 2017, but sadly, we were again to hold up the other squads from the bottom of the ladder. At least we didn’t come last in the 4 x 200m relay this year, proving good baton changes are crucial (first to last in 2016 after a terrible baton change).

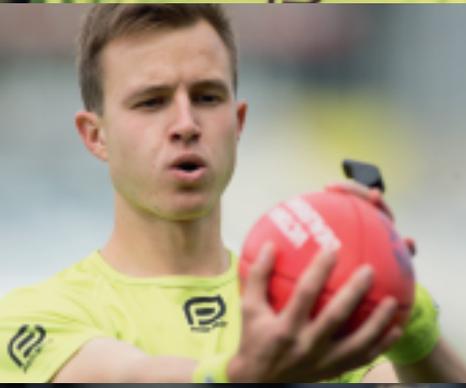
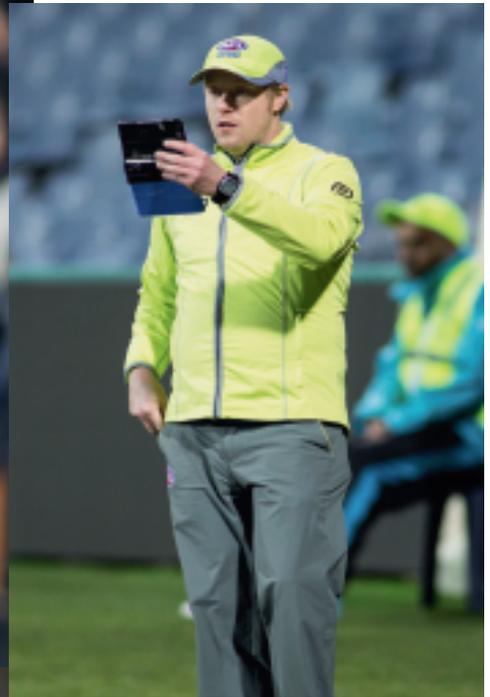
The annual goal umpire’s event, which changed format in 2017, is a huge highlight of the year for everyone. Development squad umpires in champion Team Plumridge were Shannon Colgan, Julian Ensink, Peter Baldry, Jackson Griffiths, Michael Driver and David Miles. A Herculean effort by all the winners.

A number of umpiring related highlights were also well-earned throughout the season and at finals time, congratulations to the umpires listed in the appointments below:

- AFL Women's U18's Championships @ the Gold Coast: Sian Atkins
- Senior Boys Herald-Sun Shield Grand Final: Jackson Griffiths and Mitchell Taleb
- Senior Girls Herald-Sun Shield Grand Final: Daniel O’Shea and Tayla Manning
- TAC Cup Finals: Adam Gardner and Brendan Moloney
- VFLW Finals: Mitchell Taleb, Sian Atkins, Jackson Griffiths and Tayla Manning

A terrific season was capped off by announcing Sian Atkins as best first year umpire. Sian had an outstanding season and was deservedly rewarded for her efforts.

A big thank you to Matt Lafite and the coaching panel for their guidance, patience and words of wisdom throughout the season, and to the observers who also provided their time and guidance. Lastly, a massive thanks to all the goalies for your patience, friendship and efforts in season 2017.





Most Improved - 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.Maclare
2012	T.Carlos	T.Lougoon	C.Wong
2013	R.O'Gorman	J.Mather	S.Walsh
2014	P.Burns	A.Leggo	S.Plumridge
2015	H.Gavine	L.Buwalda	C.Leonard
2016	J.Howorth	D.Main	M.Edwards
2017	A.Gianfagna	L.Harty	P.Trotter

Andre Gianfagna



Joel Davis

Frank Leverett Shield

Best first year umpire

1992	Alan Letson	2005	Jacob Mollison
1993	Adam Skidmore	2006	Chris Gordon
1994	Steven Hanley	2007	Graham Bergroth
1995	Adam Bastin	2008	Matt Maclure
1996	Gordon Muir	2009	Brendan Hosking
1997	Glenn Guzzo	2010	Luke White
1998	Matthew Tippet	2011	Daniel Butcher
1999	Matt Stevic	2012	Hayden Gavine
2000	John Neaven	2013	Matthew Dervan
2001	Luke Walker	2014	Sam Stagg
2002	Rob Haala	2015	Leighton Rowe
2003	Neil Woods	2016	Cameron Dore
2004	Matthew Lafite	2017	Joel Davis

Best first year boundary umpire

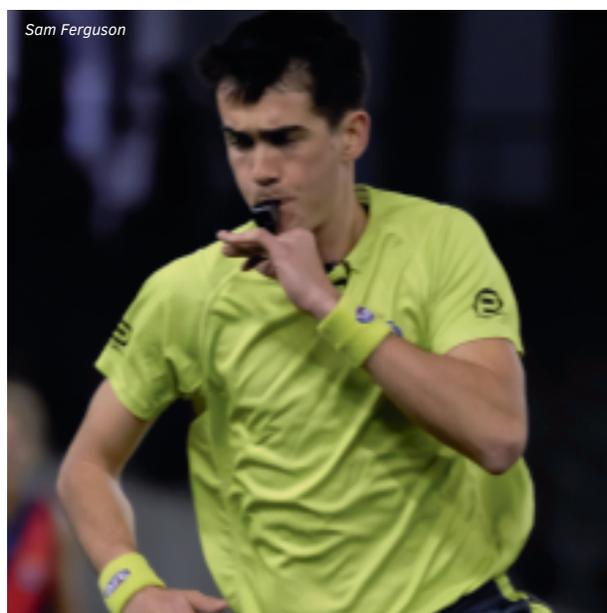
2012	Lachlan Rayner
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2014	Sam Stagg
2015	David Park
2016	Chris Williams
2017	Joel Davis

Best first year field umpire

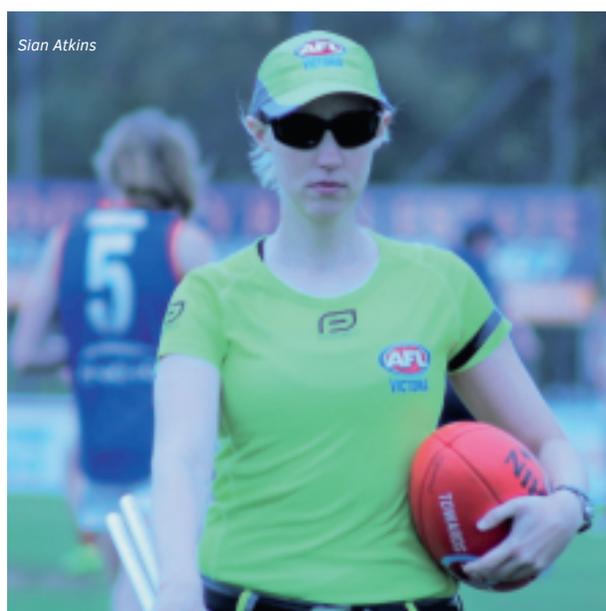
2012	Hayden Gavine
2013	Pat Burns
2014	John Howorth
2015	Leighton Rowe
2016	Cameron Dore
2017	Sam Ferguson

Best first year goal umpire

2012	Sam Walsh
2013	Matthew Dervan
2014	Kate Griffiths
2015	Cameron Milich
2015	Brad Standfield
2016	Pat Dwyer
2017	Sian Atkins



Sam Ferguson



Sian Atkins

2017 milestones

150 VFL matches

Tristan Burgess	Sunday, 16 April 2017	Werribee v. Geelong (Spring Creek)
Andrew Talbot	Sunday, 27 August 2017	Richmond v. Coburg (Punt Road)

100 VFL matches

Cyrus Wong	Sunday, 9 July 2017	Sandringham v. Footscray (Sandringham)
Andrew Leggo	Saturday, 5 August 2017	Werribee v. Collingwood (Docklands)
Simon Plumridge	Saturday, 12 August 2017	Casey v. Northern Blues (Casey Fields)

50 VFL matches

Rory Ashton	Saturday, 22 April 2017	Box Hill v. Coburg (Box Hill)
Luke Wilke	Sunday, 30 April 2017	Williamstown v. Box Hill (Williamstown)
Damien Main	Sunday, 7 May 2017	Williamstown v. Coburg (Williamstown)
Kieran Ferguson	Saturday, 13 May 2017	North Ballarat v. Williamstown (North Ballarat)
Thomas Chrystie	Saturday, 20 May 2017	Casey v. Port Melbourne (Casey Fields)
Matthew Edwards	Saturday, 10 June 2017	Casey v. Collingwood (Casey Fields)
Lawrence Coop	Saturday, 15 July 2017	Port Melbourne v. Sandringham (Port Melbourne)
Nicholas Brown	Saturday, 5 August 2017	Sandringham v. Casey (Sandringham)
Leigh Buwalda	Saturday, 26 August 2017	North Ballarat v. Sandringham (North Ballarat)
Paul Trotter	Saturday, 9 September 2017	Casey v. Richmond (Port Melbourne)

First VFL match

Luke Monea	Friday, 14 April 2017	Footscray v. Box Hill (Western Oval)
Patrick Dwyer	Saturday, 15 April 2017	Sandringham v. Essendon (Sandringham)
Jordan McMillan	Monday, 17 April 2017	Williamstown v. Casey (Williamstown)
Lachlan Marsden	Saturday, 22 April 2017	Werribee v. Footscray (Whitten Oval)
Martin Rodger	Saturday, 22 April 2017	Geelong v. Port Melbourne (Kardinia Park)
Ben Cheever	Sunday, 23 April 2017	Essendon v. Collingwood (Windy Hill)
Jesse Wilkie	Saturday, 29 April 2017	Port Melbourne v. Richmond (Port Melbourne)
John Varker	Sunday, 30 April 2017	Coburg v. Northern Blues (Coburg)
Nick Bridges	Saturday, 6 May 2017	Essendon v. Port Melbourne (Frankston)
Annie Mirabile	Sunday, 7 May 2017	Collingwood v. Northern Blues (Victoria Park)
Paul Rebeschini	Sunday, 7 May 2017	Werribee v. Casey (Hoppers Crossing)
Brenton Dickson	Sunday, 23 July 2017	Richmond v. Collingwood (Punt Road)
Trent Bowes	Saturday, 5 August 2017	North Ballarat v. Port Melbourne (North Ballarat)
Josh Blain	Sunday, 13 August 2017	Williamstown v. Werribee (Williamstown)
Nathan Toner	Saturday, 19 August 2017	Collingwood v. Geelong (Olympic Park)
Joel Davis	Sunday, 27 August 2017	Richmond v. Coburg (Punt Road)

50 TAC Cup matches

Adam Gardner	Saturday, 2 September 2017	Eastern v. Oakleigh (North Ballarat)
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Retirements

Daniel Pieper

Boundary umpire Daniel Pieper retired at the end of 2016 after an amazing umpiring career spanning three decades.

Daniel started umpiring in high school with some mates before starting local league in 1995 and then VFL in 2000. He finished number four in 2002 and umpired the VFL reserves grand final.

After taking a couple of years off in the middle of his career to live in the UK he returned to the VFL in 2008. He umpired a senior preliminary in 2013 and his 150th senior game in 2016, which are both great achievements.

Daniel would always help the younger guys coming through in any way he could, which is why he was selected to the boundary leadership group in 2016.

His on-field form shone through off-field too where he had a star performance on the end of year trip in 2016. He is also a keen triathlon man and would compete in the Gatorade series.

In 2015, Daniel married the love of his life, Lee.

He has always been popular around training and some quotes from some of his close friends show what an asset he was to the team:

Damien Cusack (current AFL umpire) – “Ultimate team man who gives everything”

James Scully (current AFL umpire) – “Cool, calm and collected”

Ben McDonald (current AFL umpire) – “In the last decade I have been around the place, not only was he one of the best blokes I have ever met but also one of the most committed and persistent to keep backing up year after year and getting through injuries”

Andrew Leggo (current VFL umpire) – “Took me under his wing early on my career and now consider him one of my best friends”.

Daniel will be sadly missed at the VFL but we congratulate him on an amazing career.



Daniel Pieper



Anthony Kyrkou

Anthony Kyrkou

Anthony Kyrkou decided it was time to hang up the flags at the end of the 2016 season following 145 VFL, 28 AFLV Development League and 23 TAC Cup matches. Kyrkou umpired at the VFL from 2008 to 2016, including the 2010 and 2011 VFL Senior Grand Finals, the 2012 and 2015 TAC Cup Grand Finals and 15 VFL senior finals.

It was not all about umpiring for Kyrkou as he also served two years on the VFUA executive from 2010-11.

Starting his career at Victoria Amateur Football Umpires in 2005, Kyrkou wanted to learn a new skill for his school Duke of Edinburgh award, so he took up goal umpiring and never looked back.

The VFUA sat down with Anthony to shed some light on his career:

How did you get into Goal Umpiring? I started in the VFAFAUA in 2005 before going to the VFL in 2008. My Dad played cricket with Chris Doyle (current VFL Goal Umpire) and he was umpiring so I went down with him. Still to this day I am really good friends with Doyley.

First umpiring memory? In one of my first matches I gave a touched signal for a behind that was actually a goal after the player told me they touched it. Later in the match current AFL field umpire Rob O’Gorman said to me “You don’t let the players tell you the score”. I learnt a lot after my first match.

Career highlight? Put aside the 2 VFL senior grand finals in 10 & 11, my 100th VFL senior match was a highlight at Punt Road with good friend Steve Piperno at the other end and my family there to support me.

Retirements *cont'd*

After Umpiring? Work has been keeping me very busy, plus I am currently completing my masters in engineering. Hoping to focus on my cricket career and potentially play first class cricket for Victoria, I have a big chance after my career high 302 a few years back.

Best Coach? Andrew Barnes (VAFA), he taught me a lot and helped me get to the VFL.

Best Umpire? Alistair Kyrkou (Brother), he had a lot more talent than me but unfortunately had to give it away due to moving interstate for career purposes.

Funniest Umpire? Adam Gardner – say no more.

How was the first offseason in 9 years? It only feels like 2016 finished last week as work and cricket have kept me busy. Overall it has been quiet, nothing full on as running 1350km during the offseason.

We wish Anthony a happy and successful career outside of umpiring. Thanks for everything you've given to the VFL and VFUA Ant!

Tyler Hankinson

After 7 seasons, and one last preseason, Tyler Hankinson made the tough call to put away the whistle. 'The Hank' has left his own mark on the VFL.

After back-to-back Division One grand finals in the Southern Football League in 2008 and 2009, and the SFLUA's Graeme Bertram Award, Tyler trialled in 2010 and was successful in securing a position on the VFL Development Squad. He spent three years there before being promoted on to the VFL senior panel. Over the course of the next four years, 'Hank' umpired 33 VFL matches that would eventually go along with his 56 VFL Development and 27 TAC Cup matches.

'Hank's' greatest impact though was off the field. He was well known for his Cale Morton smile and larrikin nature, often making jokes at the expense of his fellow teammates. He could give as good as he could take, which made many of the long training nights much more bearable!

Everyone at the VFUA congratulates and wishes Tyler the best for the next chapter of his journey.

Dan Lawlor

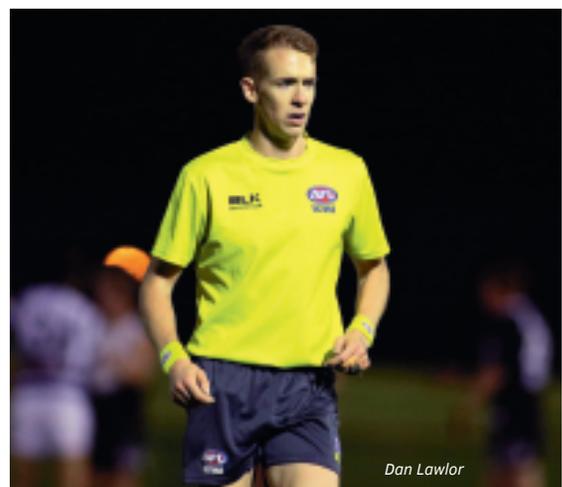
The VFUA was introduced to the Lawlor family back in 1983 with Jorg running around in the then VFL. Thirty-four years later, we say farewell to the second member of the Lawlor clan, with Daniel calling time on his six year career at the end of the 2017 preseason.



Tyler Hankinson

Daniel joined a host of fellow former VAFA umpires in the VFL when he was selected in the VFL Development Squad in 2011. He forged his craft in the VFL Development League and TAC Cup for three years, before his promotion to the VFL Senior Squad in 2014.

Daniel spent his summers between football seasons competing in athletics and often made an appearance on the final day of the Stawell Gift, running in the 800m handicap. This was a highlight of Daniel's running abilities, which aided his umpiring to eventually finish his career with 33 VFL senior, 37 VFL Development and 34 TAC Cup matches.



Dan Lawlor



Tim Carlos

In his VFL career Tim Carlos umpired 95 VFL senior matches (including 9 finals), 26 Development League matches and 29 TAC Cup matches. Tim umpired two VFL Development League grand finals, 1 TAC Cup grand final and was emergency umpire in 1 VFL senior grand final.

We sat down with TC to ask him a few questions:

How did you get into umpiring?

I used to play footy but was pretty small so got thrown around a bit! My uncle started umpiring in the local competition (Eastern Football League) so I tagged along with him to see what it was about. Thought it would be a good way to earn some pocket money. I will most likely get back to grassroots level at some stage this season and give back to the league that was able to provide me with my first opportunity and developed my love for umpiring.

In your 8 years at the VFL, what was your favourite game?

Either the 2012 TAC Cup Grand Final, it went to golden point and was just so intense! Also, the 2012 preliminary final between Werribee and Geelong in the VFL. Geelong was cruising and up by 7 goals late in the 3rd quarter and Werribee fought back to almost pinch it. The last four minutes I was in the mid-zone and had a lot of difficult contests but the way I handled it gave me the belief that I was good enough to umpire VFL footy.

... and what was the worst game?

After a really poor performance in a TV game, instead of getting put back in the reserves, I got sent to Warrnambool and it was a horrible day! We arrived three hours early because I miscalculated the time. It was bucketing down all day and four degrees. The ground was just mud, and sloshy mud too so it stank. The game was two goals to one at three-quarter time and the players were literally standing there talking about all the other places they would rather be! It was a tough day at the office, but taught me the lesson of not stuffing up on TV. I rolled home at about 11 pm and Kevin Mitchell made fun of me for leaving home so early!

Do you have a best moment or memory at the VFL?

I think the best thing for me has been being able to share so many good times with so many different people. Being involved in the VFL was the best thing that ever happened to me and has made me a much better person. The Mad Mondays were outstanding, I always seemed to surprise a few with my form on the big stage and the social events were always great as you get to mingle with different squads and have a laugh.

I had opportunities to umpire all over the country, run on AFL Grand Final day, umpire at elite venues and be involved in some of the best footy in the country – an absolute pleasure! But better still, being able to spend 2-3 days a week with my best mates and have everyone supporting you in the team was the best thing about the VFL and credit to everyone who has helped build that strong culture. I know for a fact the people involved in umpiring are incredible, resilient and selfless people who really don't get the recognition that they deserve. The VFL has developed a culture where you put individual success second to the team's success, which is incredible. Thank you to everyone who was part of my journey!

Any advice for up and coming umpires?

It's going to sound cliché, but enjoy it and try your hardest. When I started out as an 18-year old I was not committed to my training and I was not taking it as seriously as I should have. That's not saying don't have a social life or have any fun, it's saying to not take it for granted and the more you put in, the more you get out of it. It's great to see the Rookie Squad in full swing again giving young umpires an opportunity to see the training demands and mental demands, it is awesome to see some great young umpires getting opportunities at senior level and really taking each opportunity. Work your hardest, ask questions, train not only your physical side but work on the emotional side of yourself too and enjoy it! You don't get many chances to umpire state league footy, so no matter the level, go out and enjoy it!

Cyrus Wong

Interview by Josh Forner.

I was recently asked to sit down with a long-standing umpiring colleague, and one of my closest friends – Cyrus Wong – to get a feel for his time at the VFL as he notched up game 100 recently at Trevor Barker Beach Oval.

My earliest memory of Cyrus comes from umpiring in a junior interleague carnival at Bulleen Park. I remember it being not only the first time I'd ever seen an Asian goal umpire – but also the first time I'd ever met anyone named Cyrus!

His notoriety around the Diamond Valley Football League (as it was then known) was almost instantaneous – not only for the diversity of his cultural background – but also for his ability as a first-year umpire.

Cyrus only spent two seasons at the DVFL before being sent to the VFL and he has never looked back!

JF: When did you start umpiring footy, and why did you start?

CW: I started in 2006. At Diamond Valley Athletics Club, Kim Miles, who was in my training group, always tried to recruit umpires from athletics, so, loving footy but not wanting to play, I took up her offer.

JF: What is the most memorable moment in your umpiring career?

CW: Umpiring the 2012 TAC Cup Grand Final and adjudicating the golden point which Jack MacRae kicked to win it for Oakleigh. That day I was with Jack Edwards, whom I'd umpired with in the Diamond Valley, and Tim Carlos, who remains a close friend. Also, I like to see how players from that day are progressing – the likes of MacRae, Tim Membrey, Nick Graham, Jamie McMillan and Anthony McDonald-Tipungwuti. Any chance to be on Etihad Stadium or the MCG, in fact, has been memorable.

JF: What made you choose goal umpiring over the other disciplines?

CW: Kim Miles and I were both sprinters and, although she herself boundary umpired locally and recruited others to boundary umpire from the club, I felt that my sprinting background and lack of endurance would make me more suited to the goals.

JF: How have things changed since you've been at the VFL?

CW: There are way more umpires because there is

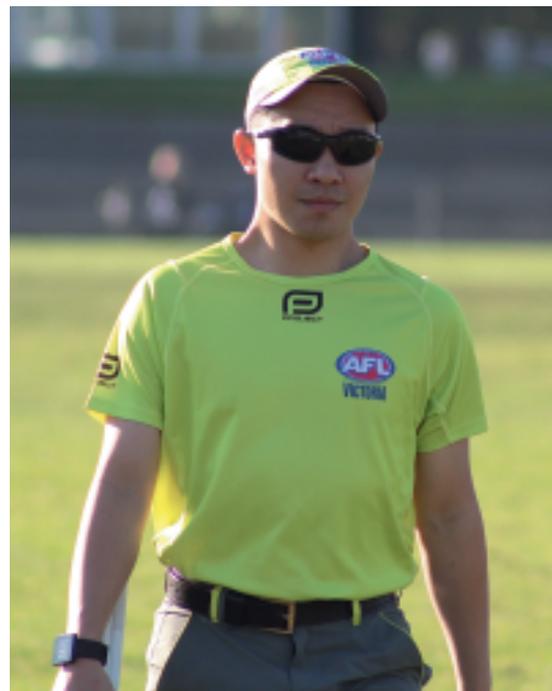
a lot more footy to officiate, such as the VFL Women's competition. Also, after the amalgamation of the AFL Reserves and the old VFL in the late 1990's, I've seen AFL clubs start their own VFL sides and I wouldn't be surprised if we came full circle before too long.

One other thing – something the young'uns will find hard to believe – is that the AFL umpires used to train with us at Victoria Park and I think that it's detrimental to both parties that this is no longer the case. As a developing umpire, I found it extremely valuable to have AFL umpires there every week from whom I could get feedback and answers to any questions I had.

JF: What is one piece of advice you would give to umpires that might be in their first season, or who are relatively new to the list?

CW: It's very hard to limit my response to just one thing, but I'll try to keep it brief!

Not just for goal umpires, I'd say be clear within yourself what you want to achieve and set your mind firmly to those goals, not letting anything get in your way. You'll get plenty of kicks up the backside, so be resilient – and patient. Things worth doing take time. At the same time, celebrate the little wins you have along the way, but never get ahead of yourself. Do whatever it takes, get the very best out of yourself and – though clichéd – enjoy what you do and appreciate the opportunity you've been given to umpire at this level. For a shortarse like me, it's not every day, for example, I get to stand next to people like Mason Cox or Jason Holmes, who are 7 feet tall!





Simon Plumridge

It was a welcome chat to have with Cyrus, whom I believe is a real testament to the hard work and focus he mentioned in the interview. As someone I have looked up to, particularly when I made the decision to take up goal umpiring, he has always provided calm and level-headed advice and been able to render my thinking into a different form when things weren't going so well.

He also touched on some personal achievements, such as maintaining his performance for long enough to make it to game 100 and also the amount his fitness has improved over time, as things he holds dear when he thinks about his umpiring journey.

For me, umpiring has always been a place that's full of mates – people you just really enjoy being around and learning from. Cyrus holds the invaluable characteristic of loyalty as a colleague and a friend, and I will certainly cherish being part of his panel for his 100th VFL game as part of my memorable umpiring moments for years to come.

Congratulations, Cyrus Wong on 100 VFL Games!

Simon Plumridge

Interview by Cyrus Wong.

I had the pleasure of sitting down recently with Simon Plumridge – milestone man and all-round top bloke – to chat to him about his career to date.

CW: How did it all start?

SP: I played footy until I was 13, but I wasn't much chop. I enjoyed going to watch my local senior team and I'd see the umpires and think that would be cool to do – a good way to be involved in the game and to earn a little pocket money. Then I saw an ad in the local paper, phoned the coach and got stuck in from there.

CW: You're one of the fitter goal umpires going around. Have you always been between the sticks?

SP: Yes, I've always been in the goals. It's the role that appealed to me most. Fair to say, I wasn't the fittest when I first started; it's something I really had to work on and apply myself at.

CW: When did you realise that you could progress your career?

SP: At the end of my second season, I umpired the Eastern Football League (EFL) Division Two Senior Grand Final. The match was tied at full time, so went into extra time. That really fuelled my desire to umpire in big games and I started thinking about and working towards coming to the VFL. The people who were most influential to me were the other goal umpires, who really encouraged me and inspired me. My first coach, Graeme Williams, was very important, too.

CW: Describe your experience of trialling at the VFL.

SP: I was very nervous and excited to get the chance to trial. The environment I stepped into was a far cry from where I'd come from – much more professional. I relished it and dove in. My first practice game was at Arden Street and I wore my local EFL top, as they didn't have any shirts for trialees. I buddied up with a couple of other first years, including current AFL umpire Dylan Benwell. We shared a lot over those first couple of years.

CW: Speaking of Dylan, Leigh Keen once described both of you as 'once in a century' umpires. Give us your thoughts on this and also your bond with Dyl.

SP: It's very humbling to be thought of in such a way by someone of Leigh's stature. An amazing umpire and person, Leigh was instrumental in my umpiring development. At the time, I was chuffed to receive such praise. Now I'm a little embarrassed by the label. Dyl and I have shared a friendship since that first year in 2011. It's been great to grow and develop as umpires together over the years. I was stoked at the end of last year when he was elevated to the AFL; he's an

extremely talented umpire and deserved his spot after his second granny. At least he's living up to his label!

CW: Who's been most influential on your career to date?

SP: Leigh was outstanding when I first got to the VFL. Steve Stirling was another big influence in the short time before he was promoted to AFL Head Coach, and also David Flegg and David Dixon – the way they think about, coach and approach the game. As for umpires, the people I've looked up to who've been very influential – Steve Piperno, Pete Balding, Michael Craig, the list goes on! I've got a lot of people to be thankful for.

CW: What are the highlights of your career so far? The lowlights?

SP: All the finals I've been involved in. The VFL Grand Final in 2015 is very special to me – a great day with a great panel. Also being involved in the 2016 state game in Adelaide was a great experience. I'm lucky that lowlights are really few and far between. Missing most of 2016 through injury was very tough, but it's an experience I'm still working through and learning from. You get to meet so many great people through umpiring – funny moments involved spending time with those people. There are too many to count, although it's fair to say that games nights at training and Mad Mondays make up most of those moments of fun.

CW: How was your milestone game?

SP: It was a good day overall. I think the most special aspect of the day was the support I got from family, friends and fellow umpires. The game was a real arm-wrestle; players on both teams battled hard all day. The wind was certainly a factor and, in the end, Casey probably played the conditions better at their home ground [than the Northern Blues].

CW: Whom did you pick to partner you in the goals for the day?

SP: Sam Walsh. I've umpired with Sam for a long time – we umpired at local level for a few years and did a Senior Grand Final together.

CW: Some quick-fire questions to finish off... Best you've umpired with?

SP: I've had the privilege of umpiring with lots of great umpires – Dylan Benwell, Steve Piperno and Michael Craig spring to mind. The most consistent umpire I think I've ever run with would be Matthew Dervan – absolutely amazing.

CW: Best coach?

SP: Four-way tie between Stirling, Keen, Flegg

and Dixon! This may seem like a bit of a cop-out but I honestly can't split them. They were obviously all amazing umpires in their own right and just the knowledge and experience they bring to coaching is phenomenal. They're all very different coaches but have all had a big impact on me and my umpiring.

CW: Best trainer:?

SP: Another tie here – Dylan Benwell and Kate Griffiths. Both work really hard on their fitness and skills – and it shows.

CW: Funniest?

SP: I think Anthony Kyrkou and Callum Leonard, often featuring Chris Doyle or Sam Walsh, have proven to be funny over the years.

CW: Strangest game day ritual you've seen: Having to show Cyrus that you've got a coin for the toss; Benwell and, more recently, Matty Edwards wearing their caps backwards before a game; Edwards again playing with a downball pre-game to warm up; and Dooley getting changed at the last possible moment.

Congratulations, Simon!

Andrew Leggo

Saturday 5 August 2017 may not stand out to many people but it was the day that well-respected boundary umpire Andrew Leggo officiated in his 100th VFL senior match. After arriving at Lulie Street in 2009, it was a great reward for Andrew to umpire the Round 16 Werribee vs Collingwood match on the fine turf of Etihad Stadium.

You only have to ask around the group and coaching staff to hear how hard Leggo has worked to achieve this milestone. "My first recollection of Andrew was this bloke will never make it. He struggled at the back of the group and I thought this bloke won't last too long. Fast forward to 2017 and he has umpired 100 VFL games. It is a testament to the hard work and commitment put in from Andrew to get to where he is today" were just some of the stories heard in the boundary coaching theatre on the eve of the game.

Andrew first got involved in umpiring at the age of 15.

"A mate from school asked me if I wanted to join in as a part time job on a Saturday and as a way to earn some cash", Andrew said.

Andrew took up his advice and started umpiring whilst playing football but it wasn't actually until

four years later that he attended his first umpiring training session. "I went on to umpire over 100 senior matches of local footy in the Mornington Peninsula region before I came down to trial at the VFL. I spent 3 years on the development squad before making the senior list".

It was an unusual way that Andrew officiated his first VFL game. "I had umpired the reserves at Coburg's Piranha Park and straight after soon found myself running the senior game after one of the senior umpires had gone down with an injury" Leggo recalls. "My first official senior game was in my third season at Box Hill where I was observed by one of the greats of boundary umpiring, John Summers".

With umpiring 100 matches comes a long list of highlights.

"My first time umpiring a senior game at Frankston was special as something I had wanted to do as a young umpire was officiate a Dolphins match in front of a big hostile crowd. Umpiring my best friend Mark Baguley (current Essendon defender) whilst playing for the Bendigo Bombers is another good memory," he said. Season 2014 was arguably one of Leggo's best where he racked up many individual accolades.

"It was certainly a memorable season, I umpired my first VFL final, umpired the Development League grand final as well as being awarded the most improved senior boundary umpire".

Umpiring VFL footy takes you to many different grounds and Leggo has umpired on quite a few.

"All the road trips and overnight accommodation to places all over Victoria including Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Shepparton, Swan Hill and Wangaratta have been good fun."

On a lighter note there is one memory that sticks with Andrew pretty well.

"In my first season we used to get given a DVD of some of our match footage and had to self assess. It's fair to say that head coach at the time, Kevin Mitchell wasn't too impressed when I handed in my assessment with a statement relating to a particularly good looking young water girl running past".

Reflecting on the milestone means a lot to Andrew.

"It certainly means a tremendous amount to umpire 100 VFL matches. I've come a long way from the guy the local umpiring group were worried to send up. It may sound like the old cliché but just doing one game was the ultimate goal and anything else was just a bonus. I'm extremely proud to reach the 100 and I've managed to remain injury free throughout my

career".

Just like in 2009 when a young Andrew Leggo came down to trial, 2018 will see new faces invited down to Victoria Park and Andrew has some simple advice for them.

"You shouldn't underestimate how important recovery is. Whether that be the extremes such as a beach recovery session in the middle of winter or something as simple as a protein shake or stretching, it all counts. The best tip I could give is that you will umpire better when you are enjoying yourself".

Off the field Andrew has enjoyed some important roles such as being captain of the senior group whilst also being in charge of the fines and Mad Monday. Andrew could be described as the "fabric" of a tight knit group and should be credited for making Victoria Park a fun environment on a cold winters Tuesday or Thursday night.

It's been a pleasure to catch up with Andrew and certainly a fantastic achievement in reaching 100 VFL matches. Whilst he hasn't reached the ultimate high of the AFL, the selfless nature of Andrew says it all.

"Making the AFL would be nice but seeing some of my best mates achieve their dream of umpiring at the top level makes it worthwhile knowing that I've had some influence along the way to help them get there."

Good luck for the rest of the season!



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
2016	H.Ryan	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen	D.Main	D.Benwell	M.Maclure
2017	N.Brown	D.Butcher	A.Gianfagna	P.Jackson	K.Ferguson	P.Dineen	D.Main	S.Walsh	S.Plumridge

2017 VFL Grand Final Port Melbourne v. Richmond



L-R: Sam Walsh, Damien Main, Pat Dineen, Nick Brown, Andre Gianfagna, Daniel Butcher, Patrick Jackson, Kieran Ferguson, 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.Leggo	C.Doyle	L.White
2015 T.Carlos	T.Chrystie	A.Havelberg	B.Elvey	J.Rowcroft	L.Wilkie	C.Leonard	M.Maclure
2016 A.Heffernan	P.Burns	R.Young	J.Furman	S.Stagg	L.Wilke	P.Balding	B.Standfield
2017 M.Curtis	L.Rowe	A.Talbot	T.Taylor	J.Furman	D.Phyland	C.Leonard	M.Edwards

T.Horsten

2017 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final

Casey v. Williamstown



L-R: Matt Edwards, Josh Furman, Daniel Phyland, Michael Curtis, Andrew Talbot, Leighton Rowe, Tom Horsten, Travis Taylor, Callum Leonard.

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	T.Morrison	A.Masterton-Smith	M.O'Donnell	S.Piperno	
2011	N.Brown	M.Curtis	M.Oakley	J.Andrews	G.Bergroth	A.Masterton-Smith	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	A.Kyrkou
2016	L.Rowe	C.Dore	J.Howorth	S.Blight	P.Jackson	K.Ferguson	A.Bell	M.Edwards	C.Doyle
2017	M.Pell	N. Jankovskis	N.Toner	S.Blight	L.Wilkie	J.Cooper	S.Stagg	P.Trotter	C.Doyle

2017 TAC Cup Grand Final Geelong v. Sandringham



L-R: Chris Doyle, Luke Wilkie, John Cooper, Michael Pell, Nathan Toner, Nick Jankovskis, Sam Stagg, Simon Blight, Paul Trotter

VWFL grand final umpires

	Field	Boundary	Goal
2015	M.Rodger J.Spencer		
2016	P.Rebeschini N.Jankovskis N.Toner		
2017	S.Ferguson J.Howard J.Clamp	P.Damato	B.Anderson B.Dickson S.Atkins J.Griffiths

2017 VWFL Grand Final Darebin v. Diamond Creek



L-R: Sian Atkins, Patrick Damato, Brenton Dickson, Joel Clamp, Sam Ferguson, Jack Howard, Blake Anderson, Jackson Griffiths.

John Russo Trophy

Recognising on-field success and off-field contribution to the association

John Russo Trophy recipients			
1997	R.Davidson	2006	D.Flegg
1998	D.Flegg	2008	S.Gloag
1999	A.Black	2010	R.Mills
2001	C.Snell	2012	D.Butcher
2003	D.Wilson	2013	M.Curtis
2004	R.Findlay	2014	S.Piperno
2005	J.Armstrong	2015	D.Butcher
2005	A.Wojcik	2015	L.Rayner

Courage Award

Recognising recovery from significant hardship or injury

Courage Award recipients			
1994	D.Hammond	2004	P.Balding
1995	A.Malcolm	2005	B.McCorkell
1996	D.Beard	2011	B.McCorkell
1998	S.Nathan	2011	M.Sanders
2001	P.Anderson	2012	D.Cusack
2013	L.Keen	2013	J.Mather
2015	B.Macdonald	2015	G.Verberne
2016	R.Young		

2017 statistics

Field umpires	VFL	AFLVDL	TAC	VWFL
Jack Abrehart	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (18)	5 (11)
Tom Abrehart	0 (0)	0 (0)	12 (20)	5 (12)
Michael Anderson	0 (0)	9 (19)	6 (27)	1 (7)
Peter Bailes	0 (0)	8 (8)	9 (19)	2 (8)
Stefan Bjelosevic	0 (0)	2 (2)	11 (35)	1 (12)
Nicholas Brown	21 (56)	0 (13)	0 (23)	0 (0)
Tristan Burgess	16 (165)	1 (29)	0 (33)	0 (0)
Patrick Burns	16 (67)	0 (8)	0 (20)	0 (0)
Daniel Butcher	20 (88)	0 (21)	0 (27)	0 (0)
Ben Cheever	6 (6)	8 (15)	0 (21)	0 (7)
Thomas Chrystie	17 (62)	1 (20)	0 (26)	0 (0)
Joel Clamp	0 (0)	1 (1)	9 (9)	7 (7)
Michael Curtis	17 (147)	2 (19)	0 (23)	0 (0)
James Davey	20 (94)	0 (12)	0 (13)	0 (0)
Ben Dickson	0 (0)	2 (2)	13 (21)	2 (11)
Cameron Dore	18 (23)	0 (6)	0 (10)	0 (0)
Jack Edwards	19 (91)	0 (18)	0 (23)	0 (0)
Sam Ferguson	0 (0)	1 (1)	11 (11)	0 (0)
Lachlan Floyd	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (9)	6 (6)
Andre Gianfagna	22 (41)	0 (15)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Jack Gordon	0 (0)	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (9)
Jamie Grindal	1 (158)	16 (70)	0 (43)	1 (1)
Andrew Heffernan	15 (71)	2 (11)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Jack Howard	0 (0)	1 (1)	13 (13)	8 (8)
John Howorth	19 (46)	0 (10)	0 (12)	0 (1)
Brayden Hunter	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (10)	5 (5)
Nicholas Jankovskis	0 (0)	10 (15)	8 (15)	0 (8)
Jarryd Kingsbury	0 (0)	0 (0)	13 (16)	2 (3)
Michael Knight	0 (0)	8 (23)	6 (33)	3 (10)
Aaron Langdon	12 (19)	6 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sam Levin	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (4)	1 (1)
Thomas Lyon	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	5 (5)
Matthew Mahoney	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (10)	8 (8)
Peter McCaw	14 (40)	3 (15)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kellie McLeod	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Dylan McMahan	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (6)	9 (9)
Annie Mirabile	11 (11)	4 (12)	2 (13)	0 (2)
Jack Murfett	0 (0)	8 (23)	8 (37)	1 (2)
Alex Murray	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	8 (8)
Robert Parker	0 (0)	14 (26)	6 (37)	0 (4)
Daniel Patrick	0 (0)	4 (5)	12 (23)	5 (8)
Michael Pell	0 (0)	13 (17)	6 (14)	0 (4)
Daniel Philp	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (27)	5 (15)
Matthew Pongracic	0 (0)	15 (26)	5 (22)	0 (6)
Luke Porter	0 (0)	8 (8)	8 (16)	2 (9)
Matthew Pryor	0 (0)	6 (21)	10 (37)	1 (5)
Paul Rebeschini	13 (13)	5 (15)	3 (13)	0 (2)
Luke Richardson	0 (27)	9 (23)	5 (19)	0 (2)
Jacob Rockwell	0 (0)	2 (2)	13 (20)	6 (15)
Martin Rodger	10 (10)	7 (19)	0 (17)	0 (5)
Leighton Rowe	17 (27)	2 (11)	0 (17)	0 (3)
Jack Spencer	0 (0)	7 (16)	10 (23)	1 (10)
Andrew Talbot	18 (151)	1 (19)	0 (19)	0 (0)
Lucas Taylor	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (8)	7 (7)
Nathan Toner	2 (2)	9 (11)	8 (17)	0 (7)
Libby Toovey	0 (0)	4 (5)	13 (30)	1 (10)
Cameron Watts	0 (0)	1 (1)	9 (9)	10 (10)
Ryan Webster	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (9)	6 (6)
Jonathon Williams	0 (0)	0 (0)	10 (10)	4 (4)

Field umpires	VFL	AFLVDL	TAC	VWFL
George Wood	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (6)	8 (8)
Matthew Young	17 (39)	2 (9)	1 (7)	0 (0)
Robert Young	15 (94)	1 (25)	0 (20)	0 (0)
Boundary umpires	VFL	AFLVDL	TAC	VWFL
Blake Anderson	3 (4)	2 (11)	8 (10)	7 (7)
Brynton Ashton	10 (34)	3 (22)	2 (24)	0 (0)
Rory Ashton	12 (60)	2 (14)	4 (17)	1 (1)
Sam Beer	0 (0)	5 (5)	9 (9)	3 (3)
Adam Bell	15 (97)	3 (31)	2 (30)	2 (2)
Josh Blain	2 (2)	4 (6)	8 (18)	4 (4)
Simon Blight	16 (44)	3 (6)	2 (9)	2 (2)
Trent Bowes	2 (2)	6 (14)	5 (10)	4 (4)
Cameron Brick	0 (0)	2 (9)	2 (8)	7 (7)
Leigh Buwalda	14 (51)	2 (37)	5 (27)	0 (0)
Lawrence Coop	9 (52)	4 (24)	2 (19)	3 (3)
John Cooper	16 (98)	2 (13)	6 (24)	1 (1)
Patrick Damato	3 (5)	2 (12)	8 (19)	6 (6)
Jake D'Angelo	0 (0)	3 (9)	9 (14)	4 (4)
Joel Davis	1 (1)	6 (6)	6 (6)	10 (10)
Curtis De Witt	12 (25)	4 (18)	3 (17)	1 (1)
Brenton Dickson	2 (2)	3 (8)	9 (14)	7 (7)
Patrick Dineen	18 (86)	2 (12)	1 (9)	1 (1)
Kieran Ferguson	18 (64)	3 (13)	1 (13)	0 (0)
Kyle Fisher	11 (13)	2 (17)	3 (13)	1 (1)
Joshua Furman	13 (28)	3 (13)	2 (6)	1 (1)
Patrick Galea	0 (0)	0 (6)	3 (24)	1 (1)
Harry Green	0 (0)	3 (9)	8 (14)	5 (5)
Zac Gunn-Cameron	0 (0)	6 (6)	7 (7)	7 (7)
Lachlan Harty	13 (15)	2 (29)	4 (21)	0 (0)
Ashley Hawkes	11 (26)	4 (20)	4 (16)	0 (0)
Thomas Horsten	15 (39)	2 (13)	2 (13)	1 (1)
Patrick Jackson	16 (29)	2 (4)	2 (5)	1 (1)
Riley Kane	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Nick Laurence	12 (194)	4 (44)	4 (25)	0 (0)
Andrew Leggo	15 (102)	1 (24)	3 (34)	0 (0)
Lucinda Lopes ¹	0 (0)	3 (3)	5 (5)	10 (10)
Madeleine Lum	0 (0)	2 (2)	5 (5)	10 (10)
Damien Main	12 (59)	1 (9)	1 (10)	0 (0)
Lachlan Marsden	11 (11)	4 (4)	3 (3)	2 (2)
Liam Pain	8 (19)	3 (9)	4 (15)	0 (0)
David Park	12 (24)	3 (15)	3 (16)	1 (1)
Tim Peterson	0 (0)	3 (3)	8 (8)	4 (4)
Nicholas Phillips	6 (8)	2 (30)	0 (28)	0 (0)
Daniel Phyland	14 (29)	6 (17)	1 (20)	0 (0)
Adrian Pretorius	0 (0)	3 (3)	7 (7)	9 (9)
Jerome Rowcroft	15 (71)	1 (22)	4 (30)	0 (0)
Melissa Sambrooks	0 (0)	4 (11)	5 (10)	5 (5)
Lewis Spiker	11 (13)	3 (13)	1 (14)	1 (1)
Sam Stagg	13 (44)	3 (8)	2 (14)	1 (1)
Travis Taylor	13 (68)	6 (24)	1 (18)	1 (1)
Daniel Urbans	0 (0)	1 (18)	2 (18)	1 (1)
Shaun Weise	0 (0)	4 (10)	8 (14)	5 (5)
Luke Wilke	16 (64)	4 (10)	2 (17)	0 (0)
Jesse Wilkie	8 (8)	1 (13)	4 (12)	1 (1)
Chris Williams	11 (12)	4 (13)	4 (7)	1 (1)

2017 statistics

Goal umpires	VFL	AFLVDL	TAC	VWFL
Sian Atkins	0 (0)	5 (5)	9 (9)	3 (3)
Peter Baldry	0 (0)	3 (32)	3 (23)	9 (9)
Michael Blair	12 (37)	2 (74)	0 (90)	0 (0)
Nick Bridges	8 (8)	3 (11)	1 (9)	0 (0)
Shannon Colgan	0 (0)	1 (1)	4 (4)	8 (8)
Chris Doyle	20 (91)	0 (97)	1 (78)	0 (0)
Michael Driver	0 (0)	6 (6)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Patrick Dwyer	14 (14)	1 (8)	2 (9)	0 (0)
Matthew Edwards	18 (60)	2 (36)	1 (29)	0 (0)
Josh Forner	11 (21)	2 (20)	1 (14)	0 (0)
Adam Gardner	0 (4)	8 (64)	5 (52)	5 (5)
Zac Gemenis	0 (25)	6 (6)	0 (16)	0 (0)
Jackson Griffiths	0 (0)	10 (17)	4 (9)	6 (6)
Kate Griffiths	13 (41)	1 (14)	0 (19)	0 (0)
Joshua Hickman	0 (0)	4 (23)	5 (18)	3 (3)
Dean Jones	14 (171)	2 (75)	1 (65)	0 (0)
Callum Leonard	18 (83)	2 (29)	1 (26)	0 (0)
Tayla Manning	0 (0)	3 (3)	5 (5)	9 (9)
Brett McArthur	0 (0)	1 (7)	5 (13)	5 (5)
Jordan McMillan	4 (4)	2 (9)	1 (6)	0 (0)
David Miles	0 (0)	3 (19)	5 (22)	6 (6)
Cam Millich	16 (31)	0 (14)	1 (13)	0 (0)
Ken Mitchell	0 (0)	2 (2)	5 (5)	8 (8)
Brendan Moloney	0 (0)	7 (13)	8 (15)	4 (4)
Luke Monea	15 (15)	1 (8)	1 (7)	0 (0)
Jess Neale	0 (0)	0 (0)	6 (6)	6 (6)
Daniel O'Shea	0 (0)	6 (6)	9 (9)	5 (5)
Simon Plumridge	20 (106)	3 (16)	0 (20)	0 (0)
James Richardson	0 (0)	4 (25)	4 (21)	9 (9)
Nicholas Steel ²	0 (0)	5 (5)	6 (6)	6 (6)
Kelly Tellam	0 (0)	4 (9)	5 (13)	3 (3)
Paul Trotter ³	19 (51)	0 (17)	1 (20)	0 (0)
Nelson Tucker	0 (0)	3 (3)	4 (4)	7 (7)
John Varker	11 (11)	1 (8)	2 (10)	0 (0)
Sam Walsh	19 (99)	0 (13)	1 (17)	0 (0)
Jarred Walson	0 (0)	7 (12)	6 (13)	5 (5)
Cyrus Wong	17 (108)	0 (59)	3 (38)	0 (0)
Joon-Yip Wong	0 (0)	5 (14)	2 (9)	9 (9)

Figures in parenthesis indicate career totals

¹ Lucinda Lopes also umpired 32 TAC Cup and 12 VWFL matches as a field umpire in 2014-16.

² Nicholas Steel also umpired 55 VFL, 36 VFL Reserves and 17 TAC Cup matches as a boundary umpire in 2009-14.

³ Paul Trotter also umpired 15 VFL Reserves and 20 TAC Cup matches as a field umpire in 2006-07.

10 VFL finals 1992-2017

Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches					
Peter Balding	21	Anthony Kyrkou	15	Damien Sully	14	Dylan Benwell	12	Andrew Clifton	11
Michael Jennings	19	Brett Ritchie	15	Matthew Brown	13	Daniel Butcher	12	Michael Curtis	11
Ben Macdonald	18	Mark Foster	14	Patrick Dineen	13	Damien Cusack	12	David Harris	11
Steven Piperno	18	Drew Kowalski	14	Mitch Lefevre	13	Rob Findlay	12	Courtney Lai	11
Shane Stewart	18	Gerard Large	14	Shane Mason	13	Michael Hammond	12	Michael Richardson	11
Shaun Gleeson	17	Brad Letson	14	Andrew Mitchell	13	Andrew Malcolm	12	Lloyd Fisk	10
Neil Woods	17	Michael Marrantelli	14	Simon Plumridge	13	Andrew Talbot	12	Stefan Grun	10
Nick Laurence	16	Richard Mills	14	Heath Ryan	13	Sam Walsh	12	Ben James	10
Tristan Burgess	15	Steven Neal	14	Jordan Andrews	12	Graeme Bergroth	11	Troy McCarthy	10
								Michael Palm	10

100 VFL matches 1992-2017

Matches	Matches		
Peter Balding	235	Cameron Nash	125
Dan Beard	224	Stefan Grun	123
Michael Richardson	194	Brett Ritchie	122
Nick Laurence*	194	Heath Ryan	121
Shane Mason	188	Jason Quigley	118
Richard Mills	182	Shaun Gleeson	117
Andrew Clifton	181	Glenn Gibson	116
Lloyd Fisk	177	Andrew Malcolm	116
Ben James	172	Adam Wojcik	115
Dean Jones*	171	Steven Neal	115
Tristan Burgess*	165	Chris Donlon	115
Matthew Brown	163	Matthew Leppard	114
Michael Jennings	162	Neil Woods	113
Steven Piperno	161	Robert Findlay	112
Jamie Grindal	157	Geoff Twitt	110
Michael Hammond	155	Michael Palm	108
Andrew Mitchell*	155	Dylan Benwell*	108
Ben Macdonald	154	Cyrus Wong*	108
Andrew Talbot*	151	Russell Davidson	106
Brendan Dye	150	Simon Plumridge*	106
Daniel Pieper	150	Jason Armstrong	105
Michael Curtis*	147	Scott Murray	104
Anthony Kyrkou	145	Drew Kowalski	104
Damien Cusack	138	Chris Morrison	103
Frank Dicosmo	137	Andrew McCoy	102
Brendan Elvey	135	Andrew Leggo*	102
Stephen Gloag	130	Rob Frampton	101
Damien Sully	129	Mark Foster	101
Peter Nastasi	129	Matthew Oakley	101
Steele Irish	128	Matt Maclure*	100
Shane Stewart	128		

* active 2017

100 VFL & AFL matches 1992-2017

Jason Armstrong (F)	Michael Hammond (G)
Chris Donlon (F)	Andrew Mitchell (F)
Rob Findlay (F)	Chris Morrison (B)
Mark Foster (B)	Peter Nastasi (G)
Glenn Gibson (B)	Heath Ryan (F)
Stefan Grun (F)	Shane Stewart (F)
	Adam Wojcik (G)

VFUA office bearers 1993-2017

Senior officers

	President	Vice-president	Executive Officer	Social secretary	Historian-statistician
1993	John Russo	Keith Callaghan	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	
1994	Keith Callaghan	Mark Prince	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	
1995	Mark Prince	Greg Kennedy	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	
1996	Greg Kennedy	Anthony Black	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	
1997	Anthony Black	Greg Russo	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	
1998	Greg Russo	Russell Davidson	Peter Kelly	Alf Galea	
1999	Russell Davidson	Anthony Black	Peter Kelly	Dean Paulin	
2000	Steven Stirling	Chris Snell	Peter Kelly	Frank Dicosmo	
2001	Chris Snell	Stephen Evans	Peter Kelly		
2002	Chris Snell	Troy Tindill	Peter Kelly	Comm. Officer	
2003	Anthony Black	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly	David Dixon	
2004	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly	David Dixon	David Flegg
2005	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly	Leigh Keen	David Flegg
2006	Rob Findlay	Jason Armstrong Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly	Matthew Lee	David Flegg
2007	Rob Findlay	Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly	Drew Kowalski	David Flegg
2008	Adam Wojcik Matt Leppard	Matt Leppard Stephen Gloag	Peter Kelly	Michael O'Donnell	David Flegg David Flegg
2009	Matt Leppard	Michael Boss	Peter Kelly	Stephen Gloag	David Flegg
2010	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Andrew Mitchell	David Flegg
2011	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Michael Palm	David Flegg
2012	Andrew McCoy	Graham Bergroth Steven Piperno	Peter Kelly	Daniel Lawlor	David Flegg
2013	Andrew McCoy	Steven Piperno	Peter Kelly	Daniel Butcher	David Flegg
2014	Steven Piperno	Daniel Butcher	Peter Kelly	Adam Havelberg	David Flegg
2015	Daniel Butcher	Adam Havelberg	Peter Kelly	Luke White	David Flegg
2016	Michael Curtis	Callum Leonard	Peter Kelly	Tim Carlos	David Flegg
2017	Michael Curtis	Nick Brown	Peter Kelly	Kate Griffiths	David Flegg

Notes:

The current role of executive officer has evolved from that of secretary (1993-1995) and administrator (1996-2002).

The role of social secretary was discontinued at the end of 2000.

The positions of communications officer and historian-statistician were added to the Executive Committee in 2004.

VFUA office bearers 1993-2017

Track representatives

Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years
Jason Armstrong	2004-05	Greg Denison	2005-06	Chris Kamolins	2002-03	Paul Pickett	1995
Peter Balding	2012	Damian Devincents	2010	Hayden Kennedy	1993-94	Daniel Pieper	2002-03
Dan Beard	2001	Rhys Doughty-Cowell	2009	Drew Kowalski	2008	Simon Plumridge	2017
Dylan Benwell	2012	Chris Doyle	2012-13	Anthony Kyrkou	2010-11	Mark Prince	1993
Graeme Bergroth	2008-10	Andrew Duncan	1994	David Lambourn	2006-07	Lachlan Rayner	2015
Anthony Black	1995	Jared Dyson	2016	Anthony Laughton	2016	Michael Robins	1999
Michael Blair	2010	Joel Elliott	2004	Nick Laurence	2010-11	Greg Russo	1996
Michael Boss	2008	Brendan Elvey	2013	Callum Leonard	2014-15	James Scully	2014
Corey Brown	2014	Stephen Evans	2000	Matt Leppard	2006-07	Melissa Sambrooks	2017
Nick Brown	2011	Jarrold Faoro	2007	Tim Lougoon	2014	Colin Segota	1993-94
Tristan Burgess	2008-09	Rob Findlay	2002	Damien Main	2017	Stephen Smith	2000-01
Daniel Butcher	2012	Mark Foster	2004-05	Josh Maine	2012-13	Chris Snell	1996
David Card	2009	Alf Galea	1994	Wes Mann	1998-99	Harry Stamos	1997
Tim Carlos	2011	Michael Gibson	2003	Andrew McCoy	2011	Steven Stirling	1998
Ben Cheever	2017	Stephen Gloag	2001-04	Luke McIlroy	2014-16	Travis Storti	2001
Jason Cook	1997-98	Kate Griffiths	2016	David Miles	2016-17	Andrew Talbot	2012,2017
Lawrence Coop	2014	Michael Hammond	2000	Joel Morrison	2011	Troy Tindill	2001
Ashley Crawford	2011-12	Lachlan Harty	2016-17	Jack Murfett	2017	Gareth Verbene	2008
Michael Curtis	2013-15	Adam Havelberg	2013	John Murnane	1993-94	Andrew Wheeler	1996
Damien Cusack	2005	Peter Herrick	1993-94	Ben Naughtin	2005-07	Luke White	2013-14
Russell Davidson	1997	Wayne Hoskins	2010	Mark O'Reilly	1995	Daniel Wilson	2002-03
Curtis De Witt	2015	David Humphries	1995-96,1999	Ryan O'Shea	2016	Adam Wojcik	2004-05
Justin Delaney	1993	Anthony Hunter	2011-12	Michael Palm	2009		
Andrew Dempster	1997-99	Dean Jones	2006-07	Brent Pawley	2011		

Social Committee members

Member	Years
David Ackland	1994-95
Dan Beard	1997
Anthony Black	1994-95
Peter Bradford	1997
Brett Carter	1996
Geoff Caulfield	1994
David Dixon	1996
Alf Galea	1994
Steven Hanley	1996-97
David Humphries	1995
Mark McKenzie	1995-96
Jason Tyrrell	1995
Ashley Wilkinson	1996-97

Event Coordinators

Coordinator	Years
Joe Hartwig	2015
Tyler Hankinson	2016
Pat Burns	2016
Kelly Tellam	2017

Financial statements

Statement of income and expenditure Year ended 30 September 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Interest Received	1,557	2,011
Subscriptions	33,013	34,080
Miscellaneous	7,908	5,730
Social Functions	19,040	22,730
Total Income	61,518	64,551
EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fees	253	250
Annual Report	1,144	957
Bank Charges	-	-
Honorariums	16,290	14,795
Photography	495	300
Postage	516	347
Printing and Stationery	1,355	821
Social Functions	26,155	27,047
Sundry Expenses	8,766	11,891
Trophies, Certificates	2,223	2,134
Total Expenditure	57,197	58,542
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	4,321	6,009
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	4,321	6,009

Merchandising sales account Year ended 30 September 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Sales - Clothing	25	148
Total Sales	25	148
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Purchases	2,462	2,218
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Profit (Loss)	(2,437)	(2,070)
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	(2,437)	(2,070)

Balance sheet Year ended 30 September 2017

		2017	2016
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank	-Cheque acc.	26,948	24,258
	-Term dep.	63,788	62,259
		90,736	86,517

Represented by:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
RESERVES		
Accumulation Account	90,736	86,517
TOTAL RESERVES	90,736	86,517

Major raffle Year ended 30 September 2017

		2017	2016
		\$	\$
INCOME	-Total Sales	3,500	2,900
	-Total Income	3,500	2,900
EXPENDITURE	-Prizes	1,165	1,165
	-Total Expenditure	1,165	1,165
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		2,335	1,735
Transf. to Accum. Acc.		2,335	1,735

Accumulation account Year ended 30 September 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Funds were derived from		
Administration Account	4,321	6,009
Major Raffle	2,335	1,735
Merchandising Account	(2,437)	(2,070)
	4,219	5,674
Add Balance brought forward	86,547	80,873
Balance carried forward @ 30.09.17	90,766	86,547

Financial statements

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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, 2017 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 2017. 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 2017, in accordance with the basis of accounting disclosed above.

Signed:



L.I. Pope FCPA
Honorary Auditor

Date: 16 November, 2017
At: Melbourne

Photo credits

Cover: Rob Geise. Page 1: Happy Medium Photography. Page 2: Peter Baldry. Page 7: VFUA. Page 8: David Flegg. Page 9: VFUA. Page 10: AFL. Page 11: Rob Geise, AFL. Page 12: David Flegg. Page 13: VFUA. Page 14: Kelly Tellam. Page 15: Happy Medium Photography. Page 16-17: Rob Geise. Page 18-19: Rob Geise, Peter Baldry, A-One Sports Photos. Page 20-22: Rob Geise, Peter Baldry. Page 23: Peter Baldry, A-One Sports Photos. Page 24: A-One Sports Photos. Page 25: Happy Medium Photography, A-One Sports Photos, Peter Baldry. Page 27: A-One Sports Photos. Page 28: Peter Baldry. Page 29-30: A-One Sports Photos. Inside rear cover: Mozzed Video and Photography. Rear cover: Peter Mair (VFLUD).



Kate Griffiths

2017 VFL Umpires of the Year



Damien Main (B), Nick Brown (F), Sam Walsh (G)

2017 Interstate match - VFL v. WAFL



L-R: Leighton Rowe (em.), Sam Walsh, Sean Moylan, Matt Adams, James Davey, Daniel Butcher, Damien Main, Simon Blight, Brodie Payne.