



Victorian Football Umpires' Association

Annual report & financial
statement 2018

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2018 VFL Umpires of the Year



Office bearers



Back: Ashley Hawkes, Jack Edwards, David Flegg, Melissa Sambrooks, Andrew Talbot. Middle: Matt Edwards, Tristan Burgess, Matthew Mahoney, Yip Wong. Front: Peter Kelly, Michael Curtis.

President

Michael Curtis

Vice-president

Tristan Burgess

Executive officer

Peter Kelly

Track representatives

Jack Edwards (Senior Field)

Matt Mahoney (Development Field)

Ashley Hawkes (Senior Boundary)

Melissa Sambrooks (Development Boundary)

Matt Edwards (Senior Goal)

Yippy Wong (Development Goal)

Historian-statistician

David Flegg

Communication officer

Andrew Talbot

President's report



Season 2018 was another big year for the VFUA and our members. When I look back over the year, it was a year full of hard work but a lot of fun. We saw:

- VFUA Review – Led by Kate Griffiths and our strategy team, we were able to engage members on developing what our association will look like going forward, updating our constitution and we started work on a plan for the association's future.
- Partners – We welcomed 2XU as a new official partner on top of the partners already in place to provide discounted services and benefits to our members. We continued the great relationships with our partners and continued the attendance at 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.
- Advocacy – We continued to support members, particularly behind the scenes with many cases being supported by our Executive.
- Social – From the great annual Mini Olympics, GF After-party and VFUA Ball we had our normal fantastic events in 2018. We also tried something new with individual squad functions which were a great hit.

- A number of new initiatives – Including association meetings at Victoria Park, new social programmes and a new induction program for our new members which led to 97% membership by our first year umpires.

On the horizon

On the horizon for 2019, the association does have some big pieces of work ahead. In coming months, we will finalise our five-year strategic plan. We will begin work on a new employment agreement for the 2020-2022 seasons which needs to provide reasonable outcomes for our members in a changing employment landscape. We also need to recruit members to leadership positions on our executive team.

The VFUA, in line with our strategic plan, will continue to build a strong relationship with AFL Victoria. This relationship continued to grow over the 2018 season. We will continue to expand on these relationships as well as those with the AFL and AFLUA in 2018. Thank you to Peter Howe, John Hook, Cameron Nash and Peter Mair for a great 2018.

Our great Executive Team

I would like to thank each and every one of my executive team for their efforts. So much goes on behind the scenes and without the help of so many great people, we wouldn't be able to have such a great Association. I am very proud of what our VFUA executive team has achieved.

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 2018. We appreciate all your hard work and everything you do for the VFUA and all our VFL umpires. To have been helping our umpires for over 26 years is an amazing achievement and goes to show how much of a true champion you are. Yours is 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 a terrific job preserving the history of the association including members' statistics, the recording of milestones, publishing accurate records whilst also ensuring you provide timely advice and input to our executive group.

You have also worked alongside our umpires and members for more than 26 years which is an amazing achievement and something we are very grateful for. Thank you for your contribution.

A very big thank you to my Vice-president, Tristan Burgess for your support through season 2018. You were a fantastic right hand man and I couldn't have done it without you this year. Your commitment and hard work is something I really appreciated throughout 2018. 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 – Jack Edwards, Matthew Mahoney, Ashley Hawkes, Melissa Sambrooks, Matthew Edwards and Yippy Wong for the way they represented the members of their respective squads. Andrew Talbot, for your amazing work behind the scenes in pulling together a fantastic communication framework. Kate Griffiths, for your lead on the VFUA Review and pulling together a great platform for this big project. To past- presidents that have given great advice during the year – thanks to Nick Brown, Daniel Butcher and Steve Piperno.

A final special thanks to Andrew Talbot and Tristian Burgess for all your support in the Grand Final After Party and VFUA Ball. Thank you so much for all the hard work in putting together two fantastic functions.

What an amazing 3 years, thank you for having me as your VFUA president.

After three years in the role, I am passing on the baton this year and stepping down as president. Looking back over the three years, it has been such a rewarding experience and I am so proud of what the team has been able to achieve. These include:

- introduction of partners and member benefits
- Fees and Conditions Agreement 2017 – 2019
- VFUA Review
- growing young umpires in leadership roles
- building stronger relationships with key stakeholders
- living our three pillars - Culture / Leadership, Communication and Inclusiveness
- a number of new initiatives

I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for getting behind me these last three years and for all your support. To all my executives over the past three years, my vice-presidents, PK and Fleggy, you are all amazing people and it has been an honour to work alongside you. A big thank you to my wife Anna, for all the hours I haven't been home and you have held the fort, especially with three very active young boys, you are such an amazing support and I love you very much.

Final Note

Finally, as I look back over the past three years and season 2018, I reflect on being involved in such a great association, filled with amazing people and great members. Because that's what it's all about. It is about umpiring with your mates and enjoying what you do. Our culture continues to grow and most importantly, we continue to look out for each other, both on and off the field.

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. And our association will only ever be as strong as our members.

I wish all our members a safe and enjoyable festive season ahead.

Michael Curtis
VFUA President



Executive officer's report



It is with mixed feelings that I present the 2017-18 annual report and financial statements to members and life members for the last time, after twenty-six years of involvement with the VFUA.

The time has come for me to finish and to pass the baton onto a new generation of umpires to shape and direct the VFUA going forward.

I have been very fortunate to work alongside some magnificent people who have helped make the VFUA what it is today. I would like to thank the many past-presidents, all 18 of them, who have led the association and have helped build it into what it is today.

I have also been fortunate to have worked amongst some great executive teams. These umpires give up their time to make umpiring a better experience for everyone involved. One of the joys of the job is watching these young individuals develop life-long skills in leadership, communication and team work, whilst also umpiring and achieving success on the field.

Ironically, it has been great to see how much success umpires who have served on the executive committee have obtained on field as well. Seven past-presidents have risen to VFL/AFL level and five have umpired VFL/AFL grand finals.

Membership

In 2018, 141 umpires joined the VFUA out of a total of 149, which represents 95% membership. The VFUA launched a new induction program in 2018 hosting a dinner with all new umpires in attendance. This paid off with 97% of new umpires joining the association.

VFUA Review

The VFUA conducted a review of its operations to inform its strategic priorities for 2018-2022. Following consultation with members and life members the following strategic priorities were established to help inform the development of the association's strategic plan:

1. Membership: ensuring our relevance and value to members
2. Pay and conditions: representing members and negotiating on their behalf
3. Umpire development: positioning the VFL umpiring pathway as the primary pathway to AFL umpiring, including through advocacy for development opportunities and feedback on coaching and management
4. Umpiring community: providing a community and support network for umpires through social events, celebrating achievements, and welfare support as required
5. Trusted partner: repositioning the VFUA as a trusted partner of AFL Victoria

The review also analysed the structure, roles and responsibilities of the VFUA and the following changes were made:

1. An external advocate (new position to be appointed)
2. Administration officer (internal, combined with advocate role, or outsourced)
3. President and VP (pathway to President) to lead VFUA strategy
4. Historian/Statistician
5. Communications manager
6. Track representatives
7. Events manager and project roles as required

A number of changes were also made to the VFUA Constitution (last amended in 2008) to:

1. Align our constitution with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012
2. Update meeting requirements (frequency and format)
3. Update membership details (types of membership)
4. Change the composition of the Executive Committee
5. Update the objectives/purpose of the VFUA
6. Update language

I would like to thank Kate Griffiths for the terrific job she did in leading and managing this project and to David Flegg for the enormous amount of work he did in reviewing the VFUA constitution. In addition, I would also like to thank members and life members for their input to the review.

Fees and Conditions 2017-2019

A strategic priority for the VFUA is to work with AFLV in enhancing the content of the current

agreement so that it better reflects current employment law and requirements. The goal is to make sure there is adequate time for both parties to work together so that this can be achieved for the next agreement 2020-2022.

Partners

The VFUA welcomed 2XU as a new partner for the next three years. 2XU joins Musashi, Nike, Goodlife Health Clubs, Winners Sports Nutrition, Active Feet, Spendless and Budgy Smugglers in our VFUA member benefit program. On behalf of members, I would like to thank each account manager for their continued support for our association during the year and we look forward to working with you again in 2019.

Annual Report

Continuing each year as he does, David Flegg has once again pulled together a professional publication for our members and life members. David's passion has provided the VFUA with another chapter in its short history.

Financials

The VFUA completed the year with a small surplus of \$148. The VFUA aims to break even each year with a view to returning programs and services to members each year.

Life Members

The VFUA welcomed Brendan Elvey and Andrew Talbot as life members in 2018 at the Life Members' Dinner at Mr and Mrs P in Brighton in May. Congratulations to Brendan and Andrew.

Past-presidents' Dinner

The association welcomed a number of past-presidents to its biennial dinner at Lamaro's in South Melbourne in August. The VFUA acknowledges the continued support a number of former presidents provide to the association.

Award Winners

Congratulations to our award winners in 2018 and to all those members who achieved personal milestones during the year. Congratulations to Paul Rebeschini, Ashley Hawkes and John Varker who were voted most improved in their respective categories and to Josh Ball (field), Matthew Crowley (boundary) and James Rizio (goal) on winning their squad's Best First Year Umpire awards in 2018.

Congratulations to James Rizio on being the recipient of the 2018 Frank Leverett Shield – the best first year umpire across all categories.

AFL Women's Competition

It was great to see Victoria well represented in the umpires appointed to the AFL Women's umpire

squad. Congratulations to all of our umpires who participated in the competition and to our grand final umpires – Josh Furman, John Howorth, Annie Mirabile, Sam Stagg and Travis Taylor.

Grand Finals

Each year, every umpire on the list aspires to improve their performance and to ultimately umpire a grand final. Congratulations to all the umpires who officiated in the VFL, TAC Cup Boys and Girls and VFLW grand finals. To our emergency umpires, thank you for the support you provide in the lead up to and on match day.

Conclusion

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking your executive team for season 2018. Without their passion and hard work, the VFUA would not exist.

To our president and vice-president (Michael and Tristan), I would like to thank you for your leadership of the association in 2018. Michael is the first president to have held the role for three years and his enthusiasm and commitment has been outstanding, especially given his role at work and busy family life. Tristan, thank you for returning to the fold and taking on the role of vice-president again after two years in the job in 2010-2011. Your contribution, especially with the grand final functions was terrific and we are indebted to you.

To our Communications Officer Andrew Talbot, a big thank you for the outstanding job you did all year, especially towards the end of the year when you partnered with Tristan to help organise our grand final functions whilst still umpiring VFL senior finals. Congratulations on your VFL grand final, a just reward for an outstanding season.

To the executive team, well done on another year. Jack, Matt, Ash, Mel, Matt and Yip you have all been fantastic and great leaders amongst your group and I hope you have enjoyed the experience as much as we have enjoyed having you on board. And congratulations to Ash on his TAC Cup grand final too.

Another grand final participant at AFL level as one of the official timekeepers, David Flegg continued to provide an outstanding level of services to the association, in addition to providing strategic input to major decisions affecting the VFUA. Thank you for all the fun times, challenges we have shared, and friendship over so many years. I am indebted to you.

A big thank you to Daniel Butcher who is always on hand to help out when asked. His infamous videos are becoming somewhat of a tradition on grand final day. To Steve Piperno, Rob Findlay, Leigh Keen, Matt Leppard, Richard Mills - a big thank you for your continued support over many years.

Peter Kelly
VFUA Executive Officer

Members 2018

Field	
2015	Michael Anderson
2018	Bronte Annand
2016	Peter Bailes
2018	Joshua Ball
2018	Harry Birch
2005	Tristan Burgess (a)
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
2018	Dylan Fulton
2018	Courtney Gibson
2018	Nathan Guy
2013	Andrew Heffernan
2018	Sean Hefter
2017	Jack Howard
2014	John Howorth
2017	Brayden Hunter
2016	Nicholas Jankovskis
2016	Jarryd Kingsbury
2018	Brett Klimisch
2014	Lucinda Lopes (c)
2017	Thomas Lyon
2017	Matthew Mahoney
2017	Kellie McLeod
2017	Dylan McMahon
2016	Annie Mirabile
2017	Alex Murray
2018	Ben O'Brien
2016	Michael Pell
2015	Matthew Pongracic
2016	Luke Porter
2014	Matthew Pryor
2016	Paul Rebeschini
2018	Joshua Robertson
2016	Jacob Rockwell
2015	Martin Rodger
2015	Leighton Rowe
2018	Nick Scott
2015	Jack Spencer
2008	Andrew Talbot
2018	Brendan Taylor
2017	Lucas Taylor
2016	Nathan Toner

Field	
2017	Cameron Watts
2017	Ryan Webster
2018	Michael Willcox
2018	Cameron Williams
2015	Matthew Young

Boundary	
2016	Blake Anderson
2012	Brynton Ashton
2017	Sam Beer
2009	Adam Bell
2016	Josh Blain
2015	Simon Blight
2016	Trent Bowes
2011	Leigh Buwalda
2012	Lawrence Coop
2011	John Cooper
2018	Matthew Crowley
2015	Patrick Damato
2016	Jake D'Angelo
2017	Joel Davis
2014	Curtis De Witt
2016	Brenton Dickson
2018	James Fenby
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2015	Kyle Fisher
2015	Joshua Furman
2016	Harry Green
2017	Zac Gunn-Cameron
2015	Lachlan Harty
2014	Ashley Hawkes
2018	Lachlan Higgs
2014	Thomas Horsten
2017	Riley Kane
2018	Jordan King
2009	Andrew Leggo
2017	Madeleine Lum
2017	Lachlan Marsden
2018	Greta Miller
2015	Liam Pain
2017	Tim Peterson
2013	Nicholas Phillips
2017	Adrian Pretorius
2018	Jack Punshon
2010	Jerome Rowcroft
2016	Melissa Sambrooks
2018	Raushan Seychell
2015	Lewis Spiker
2014	Sam Stagg
2011	Travis Taylor (d)
2016	Daniel Urbans
2018	Max Visintin

Boundary	
2016	Shaun Weise
2013	Luke Wilke
2015	Jesse Wilkie
2016	Chris Williams

Goal	
2018	Tope Adepoyibi
2017	Sian Atkins
2014	Peter Baldry
2008	Michael Blair
2016	Nick Bridges
2018	Zachary Brown-Close
2006	Chris Doyle
2017	Michael Driver
2016	Patrick Dwyer
2012	Matthew Edwards
2015	Josh Forner
2016	Jackson Griffiths
2014	Kate Griffiths
2015	Joshua Hickman
2002	Dean Jones
2011	Callum Leonard
2018	Jarrold Lovas
2017	Tayla Manning
2018	Jake Marnie
2015	Cam Milich
2017	Ken Mitchell
2016	Brendan Moloney
2016	Luke Monea
2017	Daniel O'Shea
2011	Simon Plumridge
2018	James Rizio
2018	Samuel Rogers
2018	Jack Stammers
2018	Callum Thornton
2006	Paul Trotter (e)
2018	Antonio Valente
2016	John Varker
2016	Jarred Walson
2008	Cyrus Wong
2015	Joon-Yip Wong

Notes:

- (a) Off list 2013-14.
- (b) Off list 2015-16.
- (c) Field 2014-16, 2018.
Boundary 2017.
- (d) Off list 2012.
- (e) Off list 2007-14. Field 2006.
Goal 2015-18.

2017 life memberships



Brendan Elvey

Brendan joined the VFL umpires squad in 2007 and during his career he umpired 135 VFL senior games including 9 final matches and the 2014 VFL Grand Final; 32 AFLV Development / VFL Reserve games including the 2015 AFLV Development League Grand Final and 22 TAC Cup games including the 2012 TAC Cup Grand Final.

Brendan served as the boundary umpires' track representative in 2013 and his outgoing and entertaining personality were highly valued by all umpires on the list.

Many feel Brendan was unlucky not to be promoted to the AFL after officiating in the 2014 VFL Grand Final, an indicator that the football industry can be based on luck and being in the right place at the right time.

To Brendan's credit he did not let this disappointment get him down and he continued to umpire in high spirits on and off the track and to be a terrific role model to many young umpires coming through.

Many may not be aware of Brendan's insane work commitments during the later years of his umpiring career. He would train on a Tuesday and Thursday night all whilst having to work night shift as a baker. Many would struggle to perform each week on the hours of sleep Brendan would get between training and work, then the few hours during the day once finished, but to his credit he still always trained hard and performed well on match day.

Brendan will always be a true example of one of the best things in umpiring - creating life-long friends by enjoying yourself on and off the field.

Brendan supported his running colleagues as part of the boundary umpires' leadership group in 2016. He also organised a boundary umpires' end

of season trip away in 2016 which built a huge comradery amongst the boundary umpires' group.

Andrew Talbot

Andrew Talbot has been a long standing VFUA member of over 10 years. He has umpired more than 150 games and been able to accomplish many achievements in his 10 years including both TAC Cup and VFL Reserve grand finals, 12 VFL finals, has been the emergency field umpire to a VFL Grand Final and was a listed AFL rookie for three years.

Further to his umpiring achievements, Andrew has also been a great contributor of the VFUA. He has been a member each year he has been on the VFL list. He has also contributed to the VFUA as a track representative for two years and in 2018 he put his hand up to take on the role of communications officer.

In addition to his contributions on and off the field, Andrew has also assisted with the VFL field umpire rookie program for the past three years. This involves assisting in the development of young and up and coming umpires. He assists in coaching and training fortnightly at Victoria Park as well as assists in visiting these young umpires and observing them in their local league games. This is on top of his commitments to his own umpiring and helping the VFUA.

Andrew has always displayed high qualities both on and off the field. He is a well respected umpire amongst the umpiring community.

Given all these high quality aspects Andrew has earned this life membership nomination.



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)	Brendan Elvey (2017)	Matthew Leppard (2009)	Linton Roe (2000)
Gary Best (1994)*	Stephen Evans (2006)	Richard Leslie (2002)	Greg Russo (1999)
Anthony Black (1998)	Ray Fargie (1993)	Stephen Luckman (1992)	John Russo (Found.)
Michael Blair (2013)	Rob Findlay (2007)	Andrew Malcolm (2002)	Paul Saville (Found.)
Michael Boss (2011)	Lloyd Fisk (2003)	Wes Mann (1999)	Rowan Sawers (Found.)
Alan Brewer (1996)	David Flegg (1997) †	Shane Mason (2003)	Graeme Scherger (1992)
Graeme Brewer (1993)	Rob Frampton (1999)	Dean Maxwell (1995)	Colin Segota (1996)
Tristan Burgess (2013)	Joy Gelly (2005)	Peter McDonald (1998)	Roger Selwood (1992)
Daniel Butcher (2016)	Stephen Gloag (2005)	Anton McKernan (1993)	Michael Sexton (1998)
Keith Callaghan (1997)	Darren Goldspink (1993)	Scott McLaren (1999)	Bryan Sheehan (1993)
Peter Cameron (Found.)	Peter Gonis (2005)	Richard Mills (2013)	Michael Sneddon (Found.)
Mark Canning (2000)	Doug Gourlay (1994)	Chris Mitchell (Found.)	Chris Snell (2003)
Peter Carey (1992)	Doug Gower (1993)	David Mitchell (Found.)	Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)
Brendan Carland (Found.)	Ian Green (1993)	Kevin Mitchell (2006)	Justin Stephenson (2001)
Barry Carmichael (Found.)	John Hall (1997)	Geoff Morrow (Found.)*	Steven Stirling (1998)
Geoff Caulfield (1995)	Michael Hammond (2003)	Geoff Mowat (1992)	Brad Strachan (2000)
Craig Clark (1996)	Lindsay Hardman (2000)	Peter Nastasi (2004)	Terry Suitryk (1993)
Andrew Clifton (2005)	Shane Harris (1992)	Ben Naughtin (2008)	Phil Sutton (Found.)
Andrew Coates (1994)	Darren Holt (2003)	John O'Leary (1993)	Andrew Talbot (2017)
Allan Cook (1993)	Colin Hood (1997)	Malcolm Owen (1993)	Simon Tursi (2008)
Graham Danne (Found.)*	David Howlett (Found.)	Laurie Page (1994)	James Van Beek (1994)
Russell Davidson (2000)	David Humphries (2001)	Brian Philp (1994)*	Jason Venkataya (2005)
Rod Davies (1995)	Anthony Hunter (2014)*	Daniel Pieper (2016)	Michael Viney (1993)
Andrew Dempster (2001)	Steele Irish (2007)	Steven Piperno (2015)	Matthew Vitoritti (2000)
Greg Denison (2012)	Ben James (2006)	Mark Powell (1998)	Phil Watson (1993)
Frank Dicosmo (2006)	Michael Jennings (2010)	Mark Prince (1993)	Andrew Wheeler (1998)
David Dixon (2004)	Leigh Keen (Found.)	Doug Purss (Found.)	Graeme Williams (Found.)
	Peter Kelly (1996) †		Adam Wojcik (2007)

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

John Russo Trophy



On the field Michael has had another outstanding season. Michael umpired 3 finals and was appointed to officiate in the 2017 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final. In his career Michael has officiated in 147 VFL senior games, 19 AFL Victoria Development League/Reserves games and 23 TAC Cup games as a field umpire. Michael has featured well in the business end of the season, having officiated in the 2010, 2011 and 2013 TAC Cup Grand Finals together with the 2012 AFL Victoria Development League Grand Final.

Michael has been a member of the VFUA since 2009 and served on the Executive as a track representative (senior field) for three years (2013-15) before taking on the role of president in 2016 and 2017.

In his time on the Executive Committee, Michael demonstrated outstanding leadership to his squad, during a period of constant change. He has been involved in or led a number of projects whilst also ensuring the association continues to provide valuable services to its members.

As president in 2016 and 2017, Michael led the negotiating team in finalising a Heads of Agreement for fees and conditions for the 2017-2019 seasons. Never an easy task, Michael took to the role with enthusiasm and commitment to ensure our members received the best possible outcome in trying conditions and limited AFLV budget options. In 2017, he continued his dialogue with AFLV to ensure the smooth introduction of the AFL Women's Competition, the AFLV Women's Competition, the abolishment of the AFLV Development League and the introduction of a new competition in 2018 – TAC Cup Girls.



Michael has also led two executive teams in 2016 and 2017. At planning days, he has driven the direction of the executive based on three pillars – Leadership, Inclusiveness and Communication. Michael is firmly of the view that a strong association will lead to a better environment for umpires.

Michael is a complete professional both on and off the field. He is approachable to all members, respected amongst his peers and has forged a strong working relationship with AFL Victoria. He is the first member of the association to hold the office of President for more than two seasons, having decided to continue in the role in 2018.

In addition to his umpiring commitments in 2017, Michael took on a new role as Group Manager – Project Accounting at Pro-build, responsible for the project accounting team (key business partner between commercial and finance). On top of all this, Anna and Michael welcomed their third child and moved house in early December.

Based on his on and off-field success in 2017, Michael is an outstanding addition to the ranks of John Russo Trophy recipients.

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
		2017	M.Curtis

Courage Awards

Damien Main

Damien Main made an extraordinary recovery from tragedy throughout this season. In 2017, Damien experienced the most unfortunate event, the passing of his father. At such a young age this was unexpected and a significantly tragic event for Damien and his family.

Coming halfway through the season, he showed great courage and had such a great mind set and determination on his return. He was only absent from training for two sessions.

When Damien returned, he trained and performed on-field like nothing had ever happened. Shortly after his return, Damien received news of his promotion to the AFL list. Having to move out of his comfort zone, moving away from his normal training group to go to the AFL, he continued to perform at an extremely high standard. On return to the VFL at the end of the season, he continued to excel through the finals series ultimately being appointed to the VFL grand final.

Given the family tragedy, Damien's achievements in its wake and the manner in which he achieved them he is truly worthy of the Courage Award.

Jamie Grindal

Jamie finished season 2016 with a handful of meetings with Cameron Nash and Brett Carter to discuss his movements in 2017. At the same time, his wife, Theresa, was pregnant with their second child. Jamie, Cameron and Brett had come to an arrangement where Jamie would return in 2017, and be used in an on-field coaching role with developing umpires in the AFL Victoria Development League.

On 31 October, 2016, Jamie and Theresa's life changed forever. Isabella Grindal was born, but it was no everyday birth. Isabella was born with Prader Willi Syndrome - a lifelong condition that will affect both child and parents in the immediate future, and long term.

Jamie committed to honour his umpiring agreement, despite the possibility of being unable to attend training sessions throughout the preseason and season to come. He had to juggle work, umpiring, and his young family to look after. Planned and unplanned hospital visits didn't stop, and still haven't. He often attended training already exhausted from a sleepless night attending to Isabella, going to work, and having an impromptu hospital visit. He rarely took a night off training, even though you wouldn't blame him if he did! Jamie continued to umpire at a standard that warranted selection almost every single week in the Development League, and was trusted with one final senior game to end his 14 year career.

Jamie had the option to retire from football early to focus solely on his family, but his love of umpiring kept him motivated to combine his two passions, despite all the difficulties he faced. Retiring would've been the easy option, but he took the courageous path.

Simon Plumridge

Simon Plumridge joined the VFL goal umpires in 2011 from the Eastern Football League.

In 2015, Simon had an outstanding season, reaching the culmination of VFL umpiring, the VFL grand final. His partner on the day, Matt Dervan, was promoted to the AFL, and Simon looked to be next to follow. His 2016 season started well with his appointment to the state match, but that turned out to be his last game for the year. Simon ruptured his ACL the week after and had to undergo surgery, ending his season. Despite his crippling injury and disappointment, Simon continued attending training and coached skills sessions to support his fellow goal umpires.

Simon wasn't able to run again until Christmas, and had only a few months to get his fitness and confidence back before the 2017 VFL season. But he did just that and was back umpiring senior footy from Round 3 2017. He notched up his 100th VFL match and better still his second VFL grand final, backing up his 2015 performance at the first opportunity.

Simon showed real courage and incredible optimism and commitment to his umpiring through what must have been personally a very tough time. And perhaps even more remarkably he has managed to return to his best so quickly, demonstrating the outstanding umpire he is again and again. Simon is a worthy winner of the VFUA's Courage Award.



VFL life membership - Tristan Burgess

For just the tenth time in VFA/VFL history, and third time for a field umpire, a VFUA member officiated for the 175th time and qualified for automatic VFL Life Membership. In the lead up to this significant milestone, the VFUA sat down with Tristan Burgess to talk about the journey to that point.

VFUA: You debuted in VFL Seniors in 2007, correct?

Tristan Burgess: It was Williamstown vs Geelong. I umpired with Andrew Mitchell and Brett Ritchie and it was first v second in round 12. I don't remember much of that game, but my second game was Box Hill v Port Melbourne. I paid a horrendous advantage, back when we had to call advantage, and Box Hill kicked a goal from it. The Port players, who were much taller than me (they still are) gave me nothing but abuse. Deservedly so because it was the last senior game I did that year!

V: Haha! So you've now racked up 174 games, including 15 finals, What memories stand out?

TB: When Gold Coast were playing in the VFL, they played in Ballarat. It was less than 5 degrees, raining and at half time, we had hot chocolate to keep warm. Just before the third quarter, when Gold Coast returned to the field, they had no jackets and paused at the top of race and just looked at the conditions and didn't want to come back out! That was hilarious.

The best game I've been involved in was the 2011 Semi-Final between Port Melbourne and Box Hill. It was 128 to 124. Both teams kicked 19 goals, plus we had centre bounces and field bounces back then. Physically, it was a brutal game for us, but it was pure hard finals footy.

V: What is it about umpiring that's kept you in the game this long?

TB: After experiencing the highest level of our game, I feel as though I still had more to give. I wanted to come back and help the next crop and younger generations on their way to potentially making the AFL.

V: You started a long time ago – what's changed in umpiring over your time?

TB: While I was on the Development Squad, the Senior Field still ran two-umpire system. We used to train in a little room behind the goals at Victoria Park and Kevin Mitchell would show vision using the old VHS technology.

I've worn white, orange and green uniforms. I only got to wear white prior to 2005 as a regional boundary umpire for TAC Cup games. Training used to be nothing but running. Now we have skills

and match simulation. The time trials used to be 4km and 5x1km efforts with 6 minutes recovery between each k. The time trials used to be held mid-season in the wet.

The track used for the time trials was a 1km loop that was sheltered from the coaches on one side. Troy McCarthy and Ritchie would always take off at the start. T-Mac would cut about 50m off the course and we would just follow. When we did time trials at the athletics track, T-Mac would cut in front of the steeple chase pool to get ahead of the group on the final straight where the coaches would wait at the finish line.

We also used to do the Beep Test on asphalt surfaces at Carey Grammar, and even one year, it was held under the Sherrin Stand!

V: As one of the elder statesmen in umpiring, you'd be looked up to by the younger umpires. Who did you look up to in your younger days?

TB: I looked up to Troy Pannell (when he returned from Sydney) and Rob Findlay. They were the older umpires in the group who were experienced, but they were also just good quality people. They were willing to give time and effort to help others and were respectful when giving feedback. You can see that it's paid off for them with the AFL careers they are having.

Also guys like Jacob Mollison, Ritchie and Mitchell because we were going through the system together. We all had very different personalities, but together we made a good group of people.

V: Game 175 this week. Footscray v North Melbourne under the roof at Etihad. What does this game mean to you?

TB: It means I've achieved so much. It's a privilege to do one VFL game, but to do 175 is an honour. It can't be taken for granted when people have missed out in the past. It's all due to the umpires you run with. It's not an individual sport; we need our teammates. Even though we compete against each other, we all need to have a good day on the field. If one doesn't, it affects the others. It all comes down to mateship. We'll be mates with these guys for life.

V: Who would you like to thank from throughout your journey?

TB: My mum and dad, Brendan and Leonie. Without them, I wouldn't be who I am. They've made so many sacrifices, and not just through my years umpiring, but throughout my whole life. Family are the ones who go through the ups and downs with you. They are the people to thank.

Social report



Paul Anderson Mini-Olympics

The Mini-Olympics was held again this year for the 15th year in a row with 6 teams comprising a senior and development team from each category competing for the ultimate prize - winning the coveted Paul Anderson Memorial Shield.

This year, it kicked off with two never-before-seen events held inside the training rooms: football Hacky Sack and quoits. Quoits was a huge success, with scorer Andrew Talbot (back again after accusations of cheating in 2017) confirming at the end of the event that it was in fact a tie for first! Greta Miller, after successfully landing 5 shots in a row during regulation, stepped up again for the development boundaries in the tiebreak defeating Annie Mirabile (senior field).

Now it was time for the controversial new handicap system for the 4x200 metre relay to be put to the test. The Development Boundaries were strong favourites to go back-to-back in the event after recruiting Matt Crowley over the off-season, who was rumoured to be the progeny of a 5th place 1500m finisher at the Olympic Games.

Intrigue surrounded the dropping of the baton by Lachlan Floyd (development field) who alleged Blake Anderson (development boundary) deliberately knocked it out of his flailing arms. In the end it was an extremely tight finish with senior field taking the gold after a heroic diving effort over the line from anchor Patrick Burns.

Perennial favourite soccer was next, running in conjunction with yet another new event: goal kicking. Despite losses in their first three games, a parochial crowd supporting the development field umpires erupted after Cameron Watts netted a

winner in game 4. Unfortunately for them you don't win the Mini-Olympics for having the loudest supporters, with the senior fieldies taking out the soccer competition. The goal kicking event saw Dean Jones take advantage of no shot clock, adopting the Ahmed Saad run up and leading the senior goal umpires to victory.

Tradition now saw everyone gather in a ring to observe the final two events of the night: the boundary throw-in and bounce. Fortunately for the senior field umpires, no squad was able to score maximum points in either of these events, and the Paul Anderson Shield was awarded to them for the second year running.

Following the events it was great to see everyone grab a snag (or 7 as in the case of senior boundary umpire Tom Horsten!) and come together in memory of Paul Anderson, a VFL umpire who lost his battle with cancer in 2001. The night raised over \$1,500 for the Cancer Council.

A thank you must now go out to the VFUA executive team for organising the event, as well as to AFL Victoria who have supported this event from the very beginning – happily helping out with set-up, BBQ, refereeing of events as well as allowing us to have a training night to stage the event.

The support we receive from the Anderson family who have attended EVERY year since the event was named in honour of Paul is remarkable and testimony to the effect that his life and struggle against cancer had on so many friends and family.

Life Members' Dinner

'Change' is a buzzword in today's society. The 2018 VFUA life members' dinner saw a new venue, Mr & Mrs P in Brighton, as well as a new format of stand-up nibbles rather than the traditional sit-down Chicken Parma! There were also a few select attendees 'drunk' on the success of the Melbourne AFL team who had won by 91 points that afternoon.

The night kicked off with an overview of current VFUA activities, with life members not currently involved always especially curious about the latest news. The video presentations featuring a "roaming Daniel Butcher", much like the "roaming Brian Taylor" on Channel 7, were particularly popular.

Boundary umpire Brendan Elvey and field umpire Andrew Talbot were the two umpires recognised with honorary life membership on the night. It was great to see how much this recognition meant for both umpires. Andrew's acceptance speech was particularly inspiring for all in attendance, detailing how he was still in disbelief that he was now part of a group he had looked up to his entire career.

Ageless VFL trainer Judi Elliot was recognised for her commitment to going above and beyond what is required. All umpires definitely appreciate her warm smile and sharp rhetoric at Victoria Park on those cold winter Tuesday and Thursday nights, as well as game-day.

Boundary umpire Daniel Pieper was also presented with his life member certificate from last year, while also speaking candidly about how much new inductee Brendan Elvey had contributed to the VFL umpiring group over the years.

Thanks to Tristan Burgess for his expert organisation of the event, venue Mr & Mrs P, as well as current members of the VFUA executive team who attended on the night. Finally, a big thank you to all life members who attended on the night for supporting the current VFUA team and new inductees. See you next year!



Goal squad function

On 29 July the goal umpires organised the first of the VFUA's three mid-season social functions, one for each discipline, at Holey Moley Mini Golf.

Led by the goal umpire's track reps, Matt Edwards and Yippy Wong, the goal umpires enjoyed an indoor mini golf session at the latest Holey Moley facility in the city. The event was a great success, with a large number of members getting together to have a bit of a laugh and relax during the season. A big thank you to Matt and Yippy for organising the event and thank you to those that attended. This type of mid-season event is a new idea for our association to allow inclusiveness between development and senior umpires within individual squads.

Boundary squad function

The boundary umpires decided to go bowling for their combined squad social night, on the basis that tossing footballs is somehow similar to tossing bowling balls.

The night started at ABC in Melbourne Central, where it appeared Harty had set up permanent residence. Whilst there, the social capabilities of the squad was on full display as two lovely ladies decided that they too would like to bowl with such talented young athletes.

After a couple of beverages to get into a pin-hitting mindset, the squad went across the floor to Strike Bowling. Once there, the group was split in two to get a quick game of laser tag out of the way. Unfortunately for Mirrors, years of acrobatics didn't translate to the arena, whilst Sticks did his best interpretation of Heath Ledger as he took laser 'tagging' to a whole new level.

As everyone descended onto the lanes, some facts started to become clear. Marsden may be able to chuck a footy a mile, but is just as adept at chucking gutter balls. Wok had her hands full as she tried not to win by too much, whilst Fosters was having just as much luck teaching his new female friend how to bowl as Dave had trying to stand after one drink.





Overall, Mel set up a fantastic night which resulted in fun, newly made acquaintances, and Leggo spending \$40 on battery packs for the train ride back to Frankston.

Field squad function

The inaugural field umpire discipline social function took place in the twilight hours of Sunday the 12th of August 2018. Congregating at Holey Moley Golf Club (a location idea inspired by the goal umpires – since when do fieldies copy their ideas?), the umpires proceeded to traverse 18 holes of mini-golf.

John Howorth, not impressed by the quality of the greens on offer, entertained many with his impression of an elderly lady on the 12th hole. He was however assured that despite the many obstacles strewn throughout the mini-golf course, it was still probably in better nick than the centre at North Port Oval.

Josh Robertson totally lost his composure and went “Phil Mickelson” by taking his next shot while the ball was still moving on multiple occasions. Needless to say this behaviour was appropriately punished by over-officious scorer Ryan Webster. Interestingly, despite this seemingly strict approach, he did in the end award the win to himself.

A quality afternoon was had by all – special mention also to Nick Jankovskis who eagerly left the premises in search of Schnitz for dinner to replenish dwindling glycogen stores only to find that it had a closed an hour earlier.

Given mini-golf was this hard it's incredible to think playing actual golf was a possibility – maybe one for next year!

Presidents' Dinner

On a cold and wet Sunday evening in August, the VFUA held the biennial Past President's Dinner. The venue for this year was Lamaro's in South Melbourne. The event was well attended by a number of past-presidents who quickly began sharing their stories and experiences with the current group of Executive members. What was noticeable was that times have changed and umpiring is constantly evolving but one thing that remains constant is the strong culture and values of the VFUA.

It is nights like this that exemplify what the VFUA is all about. It gives the opportunity for those who are no longer involved to feel part of our umpiring fraternity. Current President, Michael Curtis spoke about how we need to remain a strong group moving forward into times of potential uncertainty. He also mentioned the current culture of the umpiring group which is arguably at an all-time high, a true credit to the work of not only his presidency, but those who have come before him in making it what it is today. John Russo also spoke on behalf of the past-presidents, thanking the current Executive for holding nights like this and wishing the whole umpiring group all the best as they strive to reach the ultimate goal.

Many laughs (and drinks!) were had over the course of the night. The food was delicious and the atmosphere in the room was outstanding making the night an enjoyable one for all involved. A big thank you to Lamaro's for hosting us as well as PK for organising the event. Lastly, a big thank you to all past-presidents who attended and made the night what it was.

VFL Grand Final Function

What a fantastic final series by Box Hill, going through an OT elimination final to winning the VFL Grand Final against the powerhouse side of Casey Demons. A crowd of 12,884 watched a close contest with Box Hill coming up winners by 10 points.

Umpires and guests were welcomed by Peter Kelly, Nick Brown and Daniel Butcher who were selling entry tickets, drink cards and \$1000 draw tickets. The boys were struggling to keep up with the numbers arriving to attend the event which was great to see.

The crowd welcomed the 2018 VFL Grand Final umpires who then took part in the drawing of the association's annual fundraiser – the \$1,000 Draw. The 'man with many talents' Nick Brown took to the stage and conducted a highly entertaining raffle, with some saying that Nick was born with a microphone not a baby's rattler.

The Draw was down to the final two, Thomas Chrystie and Debra Talbot (Andrew's mother). The winner was Thomas Chrystie AKA T-Rip who donated \$500 to the bar whilst pocketing another \$500 for himself. Congratulations to T-Rip and many thanks for topping up the bar!

During the night a Roaming 'Butch' was amongst the crowd, his motto being 'to not let facts get in the way of a good story'. The stories seemed to get better as the night progressed and lips became looser. Well done Butch on revealing some interesting insights from our umpires and guests.

Special thanks to Andrew Talbot and Tristan Burgess on organizing a great night and to our MC Nick Brown on making it an enjoyable experience for all.

Well done to all our grand final umpires who participated in grand finals this year. You've certainly done the VFUA proud throughout the finals series and on grand final day.

VFUA Grand Final Ball

For the second consecutive year, the VFUA Ball was held on the eve of the AFL Grand Final public holiday at the Lincoln of Toorak. The ball saw a new MC for the night. With the help of a good VFUA friend, Leggo's Lawns, Nick Brown ran the night after arriving at the venue in the back of the Leggo's Lawn ute!

The format changed slightly, with the Grand Final umpires being recognised at the start of the night. Each member of the VFL Grand Final experienced a daunting minute of madness when interviewed by the charismatic 'Brownny'. Besides the grand



final umpires having their 30 seconds of fame, the best First Year Umpires were announced from each discipline – Josh Ball (field), Matt Crowley (boundary) and James Rizio (Goal).

A special presentation ensued to recognise the fantastic achievements of two newly inducted VFL Life Members – Dean Jones and Tristan Burgess. The two endured thoughtful and insightful Q&A from Simon Plumridge and Andrew Talbot respectively.

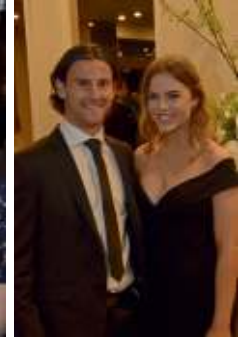
The night finished with a new addition to the schedule and the now traditional 'Roaming Butch' video. The new addition was a competition for the first table to fully pay for their ball tickets. Although many thought the winners were not deserving, Cam Watts, Joel Clamp, Sam Ferguson and the rest of their clan gave no thoughts to the haters in collecting their hamper. There was also a consequence for the table to pay last, and as embarrassing as it sounds, Daniel Butcher, Jack Edwards, Peter Bailes, and John Howorth lived up to their lively characters, performing the most in-sync Chicken Dance ever seen!

A big thank you to the 2018 members. Without the support, these events would not be as successful as they are. A special thank you to this year's organisers, Tristan Burgess and Andrew Talbot. They had big shoes to fill after Daniel Butcher's influence in previous years, but they did a fantastic job! Thanks also to Brownny for the great job keeping the night moving along.

The night was again a success, capped off with great food, lots of laughs, new memories, and of course, the compulsory rendition of 'Horses'!



VFUA Ball



Major milestones

John Cooper 100 VFL Matches

When asked to put together a bit of a summary of his career (thus far) to commemorate his 100th VFL match, my first thought was "as if it's 100 games already".

Having commenced with John back in 2011, I have had the great pleasure of witnessing hard work and dedication paying off. Long gone are the days of scraping through a time trial/skinnyes, and to see him now as a great leader on and off the track is just fantastic.

If there was ever a figure used for describing taking the piss, Johnny is a lock. We've all heard the stories of a signature Johnny moment:

- Doing a back flip on the boundary
- Making a decision whilst literally on the ground, he says it was correct (I'd say it's questionable)
- Giving players fend-offs around the interchange gates, (despite giving away kilos and metres)
- Being unable to maintain a consistent cadence without surging
- Nailing bin throw ins, (when no one is watching)
- Winning a pro-running mile race at Rye (again no witnesses)
- And many, many others.

Another testament to Johnny's character is his ability to cop decisions on the chin. Having umpired back to back preliminary finals and missing out on grand finals, Johnny could have taken it negatively and withdrawn but to his credit, he sucked it up, broke land speed records in the 200s and by the end of the session was all smiles and back chatting with everyone again.

I remember preseason 2011, running a reserves match on some back street ground with both sides at quarter strength because they apparently all had a "massive night". All preseason we had been preached about the jump from local, and to see blokes that couldn't walk let alone run straight, really did leave us questioning what the hell we had gotten ourselves into.

I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that your career to date has been a pleasure to watch, and I know personally has driven me to push and reach my own goals.

Michael Curtis – 150 VFL games

To acknowledge VFUA President, Michael Curtis's significant milestone, he was put through his paces in a one-on-one interview with fellow VFUA Strategy Team member, VFUA Vice-president, Tristan Burgess.



John Cooper

TB: So Michael where did it all start for you in umpiring and why did you pick umpiring?

MC: I love footy and sport and played footy until under 16's at Noble Park before beginning my umpiring career at Dandenong juniors and EFL for under 18's. I took up umpiring as I loved the game but was too small to play senior footy and wanted to stay involved.

TB: 150 games coming up what does this milestone mean to you?

MC: It is very humbling to be umpiring 150 games, it means a lot to me. During my time, umpiring has brought so much to me:

Great people: Firstly my team mates. There is such a great culture at the VFL and we honestly have the best group of people.

Great culture: Nashy has been great for our group and continues to improve culture every year, supported by fantastic coaches, trainers, fitness staff.

Great experiences: whether it be at training, game day, after match feed at hunky Dories or a classic mad Monday, umpiring has brought so many great experiences.

Great association: Being involved with the VFUA has been a highlight and helped develop me further off the field.

TB: As you are the busiest person in the world with three kids, VFUA president and working for Pro Build, what are the excitements you get out of life?

MC: Family, mates, umpiring, sport, working hard pretty much sums me up. I have the best wife in the world and 3 amazing boys which I am so lucky

to have. Being a Dad and watching the family continue to grow is the best excitement in life. I just really enjoy living life to the fullest and giving everything you have with no regrets.

TB: Over the 10 years you've been around the VFL are there are memories that stand out to you? (could be footy/ training/ or anything)

MC: Being carried off the track last Thursday night at training for my 150 was definitely up there. I've been pretty lucky to experience plenty of good memories over the journey. Some of the best highlights are just training or running with mates in general week in week out. And the life skills you learn at umpiring are second to none. Some of the stand outs would be the TAC and AFL development grand finals, the 2015 VFL Prelim final, my first TV game, my first VFUA Ball, the annual Mad Mondays and of course after-match feeds!

Sam Walsh - 100 VFL matches

Saturday 7 April saw Sam Walsh take to the field to umpire in his 100th VFL match, Frankston vs Essendon.

Reaching 100 for Sam hasn't been exactly run of the mill. The start of 2013 took a turn and saw Sam succumbing to glandular fever, which took him out of action for all of the pre-season.

Many on the track admire Sam's resilience, fitness and work ethic for bouncing back and achieving what he has today.

Sam has officiated in two TAC Cup grand finals (one being in his second year listed!). In 2012 Sam was awarded with the best first year goal umpire, followed by 2013 the most improved senior umpire.



Sam Walsh

It's also worth mentioning that 12 of these games have been VFL finals, which is a reflection of the kind of umpire Sam is.

So why not get into Sam's mind, and find out what really makes Sam tick...

How did everything start? What got you into footy?

I always loved footy as a young kid. My brothers and I would often kick the footy in the backyard and I often played at lunchtime with my friends throughout primary school. I played over 140 junior games, but got into umpiring at age 14. I started to notice the umpires more and more at the AFL games I attended or watched on TV and thought it was something that I would be really interested in. My passion for umpiring really grew from that point onwards and after I'd umpired my first game in 2007, I knew umpiring was where my true passion in footy was.

You started at the VFL in 2013 and were elevated to the AFL in 2018. How would you describe your time at the VFL?

My time at the VFL was amazing. You know you really enjoy something when you look forward to training each and every week. The atmosphere that we were able to create, enjoying each other's company, made the umpiring experience really special. The relationships built between the umpires were always very special. The time, energy and commitment the coaching staff spent on all of us across my six years spent at the VFL was amazing.

What's your best memory of umpiring football?

I have several on field moments that I won't forget, but my absolute favourite moment came after the final siren of last year's VFL grand final. When Simon, Callum and I were sitting in the rooms after the game, the feeling that was running through us is just about indescribable. Knowing you've just been part of a thrilling grand final that was decided after the siren, we couldn't wipe the smiles off our faces. The energy running through me was still at a high level until about 30 minutes after the game. In no other industry do you get that energy running through you like that.

You broke your finger this year. Does this still mean you have the longest signalling finger on the list? How did this come about?

Haha! I'm not sure about the longest on the list, but they'd be up there!! One week before round one (cricket season!!), I was doing some routine catching practice. I got a ball on the end of my middle finger (If only it was shorter?), and managed to break it in five places, as well as dislocate it. We had the VFUA ball that night, so I didn't exactly go to hospital straight away like I

probably should've... eventually, I got to hospital and got the news that I'd be missing the entire cricket season as it's a six month injury!! Unbelievable scenes...

You have a few pre game rituals and routines; please enlighten us....

I always bring a subway sandwich to eat beforehand, although I've been constantly reminded for the last four years or so that I have stolen this from Dylan Benwell... I can say, hand on heart, I am not guilty of this!! Other than that, I like to have an iced coffee before the game as well. I'm also normally quite talkative, but you'll notice with about five minutes to go until walk, I become very quiet!!

So....Lets learn more about what you'd prefer:

Make your girlfriend pay for an uber/or make her pay you? She pays

Agwa lemonade/Cointreau soda? Agwa

Middlesbrough / Melbourne City? Both!

Steve Smith / David Warner? Steve.

Sam Walsh / Sam Martin? Walsh.

We all congratulate you on your 100th game milestone and wish you all the best with your upcoming season.

RAISE THE BAT! S.WALSH 100*



Jack Notches Up 100 Games

Northern Football League was where it all started for Jack Edwards at age twelve where his father, Craig, was already umpiring and took Jack to training to get involved. Not because Craig thought Jack would be a great umpire like himself, but more because young Jack enjoyed eating too many cheeseburgers. To Craig's surprise, Jack exceeded expectations and developed a love for umpiring and in particular, enjoyed seeing close family friend, Darren Goldspink, umpire.

In 2010, Jack made the trek into Victoria Park from Diamond Creek where he successfully made it onto the VFL Development Squad. After two years on the dev squad, former Director of Umpiring, Kevin Mitchell, gave him the ultimatum, come back fit or your time's up.

That suggestion from Kevin was enough for Jack, who proved himself in the 2012 preseason and secured himself the number 29 on his back for the next three seasons. During this time, Jack umpired three consecutive Grand Finals in the 2012 TAC, 2013 Reserve and 2014 VFL Grand Finals respectively which gave him the chance to be invited to an AFL Umpiring trial process after just 55 VFL Senior games.

At 2014's end, the AFL changed the concept of the trial process where they introduce an intense 3-day training and mental preparation camp as a part of the players combine based at Etihad Stadium. Through several fitness tests, interviews, mental based assignments and body screening tests, at the ripe age of 23, Jack became every umpires dream, an AFL Umpire.

When Jack had experienced this result of getting elevated, he mentioned 'my body went into shock, I dropped the phone and I was numb for the next 15 minutes'. Something no one could really comment on unless of course you have received this sort of phone call before.

Although you could say he made it at an early age and went through the ranks so quickly, his determination, behaviours and attitude were to such a high standard he could only warrant the elevation. Jack soon debuted in the AFL where Hawthorn took on Melbourne on the hallowed turf of the MCG at a blockbuster time of 2.10pm on a sunny Saturday afternoon. What more could you ask?

The AFL had the biggest ticket request in the history of umpires; Jack's support crew took up most of the Great Southern Stand at the G, but he says, "It was great to have my family and friends there, even if I don't remember much of it as it went so quickly. I wish I could relive that game all over again."

After two seasons and 11 games, the most unfortunate and devastating news was received by Jack. Through his resilience, he saw the opportunity to head back to the VFL and continue to umpire a high level with the goal of getting a recall to the AFL.

Fast forward to now, the Man In White writes this story as we acknowledge and congratulate Jack who notches up 100 VFL Senior Games and gets another photo on the wall at Vic Park.

When asked about his 100 games in VFL football, he said, "It's a nice milestone (to achieve) and when I look back, I feel very lucky to have been given an opportunity to umpire with some of my closest mates."

Obviously, through the journey, Jack has had tremendous support through his high school sweetheart of nine years, Melany, his family; mother Pina, father Craig, and brother (also VFL goal umpire) Matthew. He appreciates all they have done for him to achieve this. He mentioned, "Without their support, I wouldn't have done one game let alone 100."

When asked what he loves about umpiring, he said, "The challenge, being around my mates and the opportunities we get doing something we love to do." Ultimately, you could say this is why we all umpire!

Daniel Butcher - 100 VFL matches

As Daniel Butcher walked onto North Port Oval on the weekend for the blockbuster clash between Port Melbourne and Williamstown, he held the ball aloft for the 100th time at VFL Senior level. It is a far cry from running around the Heathcote League where it all started for Daniel.

Persuaded into umpiring for some extra pocket money, he began umpiring junior district matches as a member of the Rochester-Echuca Umpires Association. He would work his way through the junior ranks and his first senior match came calling in the Heathcote Football League at the ripe age of 16.

At the end of the 2010 season, Daniel was nominated to trial at the VFL in Melbourne. The kid from Lockington would travel down to Victoria Park to chase the dream. After a well-planned trip to Singapore, much to the disdain of Kevin Mitchell in his trial period, Daniel was successful in gaining a spot on the VFL Development panel for 2011. He hit the ground running and soon found himself promoted to the Senior List at the beginning of the 2013 season.

In the world of umpiring there are a lot of key moments that can define careers on whether you

make it or you don't. Daniel's came at the end of the 2014 season in a year in which he umpired the TAC Grand Final. He missed out on a senior final and he could have gone two ways with his attitude. He chose to work hard over the Summer under the close guidance of Kym Brockhoff and come back and have a break-out season. "To miss out on the finals was disappointing but it gave me the drive to come back fitter and more determined than ever." He certainly ticked those boxes and had a stellar year, achieving the ultimate goal at VFL level of umpiring the 2015 VFL Grand Final between Williamstown and Box Hill as well as being named umpire of the year.

His success was rewarded with an AFL Rookie promotion at the end of the year where he spent the next two seasons attending training and sitting on the bench at AFL matches to improve his umpiring skills. The results of that experience speak for themselves as Daniel went onto umpire the 2016 and 2017 VFL Grand Finals- 3 in a row! A feat that has only been done once before.

Daniel shares his success so far with the people that are closest to him - his family. "They have played a huge part in where I am today and without their support I wouldn't have achieved anything like this" he says. His father, Ron, mother, Dianne and siblings Briony, Matthew and Jacelle have been there every step of the way. There is no doubt you will hear a "hey bore" from the sidelines this week as Daniel completes his warm up.

Throughout his whole umpiring successes, he has remained as humble as the day he left Lockington. He is a great role model for younger umpires and





Rob Young

is often seen watching them in his spare time to provide them with the feedback needed to progress their umpiring in the way he has. He has given his time to the VFUA serving as vice-president and president in 2014 and 2015 respectively to which he has fittingly been awarded life-membership.

On behalf of the VFUA and all the umpires that have had the privilege to umpire with you over the journey, congratulations on your 100 games; it is a great achievement and a testament to your application you have shown over the journey!

Rob Young - 100 VFL matches

A few weeks ago, our good mate Rob Young umpired his 100th VFL match. When we look back over his career to date, we see Rob as a great bloke on and off the field who has a large amount of talent.

Rob made it to the VFL in 2009. In his first year at the VFL he impressed many and after only a year, he was promoted to the Senior Field Umpire Squad. In only his second year on the list he went on to umpire the TAC Cup grand final.

Rob has also shown great resilience and strength through the numerous injury challenges thrown his way. The most significant was when Rob broke his leg in a game in 2014. It took over 18 months of physiotherapy, dedication and courage but his hard work paid off making a come back and again umpiring at the Senior VFL level. In the same year he returned, he went on to umpire the VFL Reserves Grand Final.

When we think of Rob and look back on his career to date, we think of a massively talented umpire, who has shown true resilience and courage to get back to such a great level of umpiring.

A great achievement reaching 100 games; it is a testament to this legend of a bloke being such a great umpire but an even better bloke.

James Davey - 100 VFL matches

James Davey umpired his 100th game on Saturday 26 May, Northern Blues v Essendon. James is a high achieving leader on the senior squad and has been a valued senior umpire for the past six years. James took the time during the lead up week to sit down with his life coach, best friend and confidant to discuss his excitement for this weekend.

Tom Chrystie: James, a lot of good memories, any highlights?

James Davey: – Yeah, the state game last year was certainly a highlight, I felt comfortable umpiring at that level and really enjoyed it.

TC: Last year was a good year for you then James?

JD: You always strive for that VFL grand final. I fell short last year but in umpiring you have to take the positives, and as you are well aware I am a glass half full person so hopefully there are more opportunities out there.

continued page 24



James Davey





Major milestones

TC: Any regrets?

JD: Yeah, going to New York with you for pre-season, first of all you made me blow out my skinnies and you would have to be the single worst bloke in the world to travel with.

TC: Bit rough, I wasn't the one slapping down a triple cheeseburger per day?

JD: Good point, no regrets.

TC: James congratulations on your achievement this week, are you looking forward to the game?

JD: Yeah, it has never really been a focus of mine to achieve this specific number. But certainly looking forward to going out on the weekend and carrying Ben and Michael. I guess over the last 99 games you will find me punching out 5-6 minute mid zone stints without a care in the world or an error, so I can't imagine much changing this weekend.

TC: Yeah, right, so you back yourself then?

JD: Well, honestly, I bounce darts, I am fast, the players respect me and historically I am less than one fk error a game.

TC: Well as you say to every umpire before you umpire with them James – "Don't be shit"! Good luck and thank you for joining me on the couch.

Chris Doyle - 100 VFL matches

The VFUA has the pleasure of sitting down with long serving goal umpire Chris Doyle ahead of his 100th VFL game at Victoria Park. Doyle commenced his career with the VFL in 2006 after doing his apprenticeship at the VAFA (Amateurs). Initially the interview with Doyle was going to be "60 seconds with Doyle" but this wouldn't leave anytime to talk about anything else but his careers stats. Doyle's stats speak for themselves showing his dedication, tenacity, commitment and passion for goal umpiring.

Current stats:

VFL Senior Games: 99

VFL Reserves Games: 97 (2nd most ever), including 1 Grand Final

TAC Games: 78 (3rd most ever), including 2 TAC Cup Grand Finals

As Doyle reaches 100 senior matches on Sunday he joins an elite club to have umpired 100 senior games including the likes of Balding, Piperno, James, Kyrkou and Nastasi.

So Doyle, I'm guessing you picked the top of the table clash between Collingwood and Richmond because you wanted a good match for the milestone?

Is it 1 v 2? I picked that match because I live next to Vic Park and didn't want to travel too far to get there. Guess it might be a good match.

So after 12 years at the VFL what keeps you coming back each year?

I really just enjoy football. If I wasn't umpiring, I would be just watching it so might as well get paid to watch it. Plus I've enjoyed the friendship, comradery and banter every week at training.

Who has been the biggest influence?

There have been a number of umpires that have helped me develop my goal umpiring including my coaches and umpires but current AFL goal umpires Michael Palm and Steve Piperno have been supportive of me and are good friends outside umpiring.

Who did you select to umpire your milestone with?

I keep telling everyone that I didn't choose anyone but secretly I picked Callum Leonard. Since commencing on the senior list the same year we have had a lot of banter on and off the track, with some people probably thinking it's serious. I guess the cream rises to the top and I've achieved 100 games before him, so I now have one up on him.

What next in the life of Chris Doyle?

I'm not sure how many more years I have left in the body as I'm getting close to 40 but I'll



Chris Doyle

continue to score cricket in the summer and might move into a coaching role, which I have started doing at grassroots recently. With Brad Letson's second child on the way I might just step straight into the main gig next year.

Congratulations on achieving 100 VFL senior games Doyle. Not an achievement that many umpires reach. A feather in the cap for whatever the future holds.

Callum's hundred

In a year of multiple milestones for VFUA members, another one was achieved on 11 August when senior goal umpire, Callum Leonard, brought up the ton when he officiated the Geelong v Essendon clash at Kardinia Park.

Starting with the VFL in 2011 out of the Ballarat Umpires Association, Callum worked incredibly hard to get where he is today. When Cal started down at the VFL, he had serious issues with his weight and fitness. Whilst the on-field ability was definitely prevalent, without attention being paid to these issues, Cal's career could've ended before it began. However, with a lot of effort and hard work (and little fanfare), Cal has worked extremely hard to get himself fit and to be a positive example for younger umpires.

Callum has had his share of success over the journey after doing his first senior game, North Ballarat v Casey Scorpions in 2013. He has been involved in senior finals in both 2015 and 2017, and it was in these two seasons that he was appointed to the AFL Vic Development League grand final. When pressed on the most memorable moment of his career, Cal explained that the grand finals would be. "Yeah, those grand finals would definitely have to be the top moments of my career. Especially the 2015 one as it went to golden point, and with it being my first state league grand final, it was a great experience."

Cal was also appointed as the emergency to the AFLW decider this year which was also another feather in the cap for the big chested individual from Ballarat.

Whilst a hard worker and solid example for the younger members of the squad, you won't find a better stirrer than C. Leonard. He has had many favourite targets over the years, with Cyrus Wong, Ash Crawford, and Matt Richardt being just a few targets of his constant jibes and prodding. But when asked for the person he has enjoyed annoying the most, he said it would have to be his partner on Saturday night, Chris Doyle. "I love getting stuck into Doyle, mainly because it's so bloody easy. One little comment in his direction will draw that surly little stare he does or an offensive gesture, or some idle threat which

normally makes no sense. I always get a bite from him no matter what."

When asked about being appointed for his big achievement with his regular victim, Leonard replied, "I asked Brad to appoint me with anybody else but Doyle, but alas, I'm doing the game with him. Oh well, at least I'll get to enjoy the night giving Doyle crap!"

Congratulations on getting to this milestone Callum. A great achievement and hopefully a portent of future success to come in your career!



Squad reports

Senior Field

And just like that 2018 has come and gone!! And what a year it was!!

It seems like yesterday that we started back at the Project Centre ready and full of beans for another season ahead! We all got through the time trial, ticking the box with some brilliant times! This showed how competitive the season ahead was going to be! There were some great performances in the skin folds room too with a couple of batters reaching the ton and raising the bat! We heard from everyone's favourite coach Collo at the inaugural Pre-Season Seminar speak about culture and what it meant to be involved in a successful team. Luke Porter's 'story of my life' was brilliant and had us all in tears but who could forget the president's efforts in trying to be the next Eminem? I think he took home the three votes!

List announcements came and we welcomed Nathan Toner, Michael Pell, Matthew Pongracic and Peter Bailes to our list. All four earned their debuts inside the first month to show us that they were ready for senior football. The coaching sessions were full of mixed opinions and debates with everyone soon working out that they weren't going to win an argument against Annie Mirabile!

Collo's words of wisdom shone through as the culture of the group continued to grow. Those acts where we went out of our way to support one another were recognised to symbolise how strong this group was. Whether it be from lifting someone's confidence, swapping cars to assist



Matthew Pongracic



Tom Chrystie

with injury, providing feedback during matches or driving around half of Melbourne to find lost keys and a phone, it was a great to see the way the squad came together.

The injury curse hit our squad which opened the door up for a few of the SDS boys to get a call up. Joel Clamp, Cameron Watts and Nick Jankovskis all debuted within a month showing us what they could do and giving us a look at the next generation of umpires coming through the ranks.

Season 2018 was also the year of milestones! Johnny Howorth and Matt Young both notched up game number 50. Then, it was the procession of 100 game weekends with James Davey, Rob Young, Jack Edwards and Daniel Butcher all cracking the ton! Down at Werribee, President Michael Curtis took the field for the 150th time - is there anything the man can't do??!!

Finally, it was all about Burgo and game number 175. The build-up was big, and he didn't disappoint- tearing his calf in the first quarter!! To his credit, he soldiered on and got through the game under the lid at Etihad. A few weeks later he confirmed to the group that season 2018 would be the last year of his remarkable umpiring career. A true gentleman of our list who we know won't be a stranger in the very near future!

And that is a wrap of season 2018!! Enjoy the nights off training and give the body and mind a rest! See you in January!



Nick Scott

Development and Senior Development field

From some of our umpires thinking they are Brett Rosebury wearing one wristband (Alex Murray) to others umpiring an unofficial record of 9 country games (Ryan Webster) this season had it all!

This year we saw 14 new umpires on the Development Squad, bringing the Development Squad umpire total to 22 (down from 26 last year). There were 9 promotions from Development Squad to Senior Development Squad, for a total of 14 Senior Development Squad umpires (staying the same from 14 last year). The combined total of members for the squads was 36 umpires, down by 4 on last year's total of 40 umpires.

Leaving our ranks to join the 2018 Senior Squad were Matthew Pongracic, Peter Bailes, Michael Pell and Nathan Toner. This is a big achievement and they all earned consistent VFL games during the season, a testament to the depth of umpiring talent in Victoria.

Both Brent Pawley and David Anselmi continued in their roles as coaches of the Senior Development and Development squads respectively. As always, Brent's coaching vision for mid-zone work-rate did include a video of Lance 'Buddy' Franklin's top 10 goals in which one particular emergency umpire in goal number 5 can be seen charging through the centre square in an unsuccessful attempt to keep up with Buddy.

There were more changes, with 2018 being the first year without AFLV Development League football. As a result, two umpires each week were

chosen to umpire a local game in either the Eastern Football League (EFL) or Northern Football Netball League (NFFL).

After a long history of umpiring the TAC Cup boys competition, 2018 was the first year in which our umpires officiated in the TAC Cup girls competition which ran from March to May. Congratulations to Joshua Ball, Courtney Gibson and Nathan Guy (all 1st year umpires) who were selected to umpire the grand final.

We farewellled Jake Stack and welcomed new fitness trainer Sean Corrigan in 2018. Much-loved fitness stalwart Kym Brockhoff returned, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a bunch of dubious magic tricks. Sean brought with him a new running program dubbed MAS (maximal aerobic speed) which brought many umpires crashing back to reality in pre-season after a few too many Christmas puddings.

Finally, congratulations to Joel Clamp, Cam Watts and Nick Jankovskis (emergency) who officiated in the TAC Cup boys grand final. Further, well done to Nick Scott, Luke Porter, Josh Ball and Michael Willcox (emergency) who took control of the VFLW grand final.

See you January 2019!



Lucy Lopes

Squad reports



Travis Taylor

Senior Boundary

2018 was yet another great year for the often-overlooked skill that is boundary umpiring. We saw the promotion of three of our members at the end of the 2017 season as well as a few members not returning which meant there was always going to be a big change to the list and the culture in the group. Nick Lawrence retired after a sensational career consisting of over 175 games and VFL life membership, while Dan Phylant took the year off to focus on waxing his legs full time. We welcomed two new members to our list; Blake Anderson and Patrick Domato.

Pre-season has always been tough, but the appointment of a new fitness coach took training to a whole new level. Better known for his sublime running ability than his efforts to throw a ball in over his head, David McNeil took over as the fitness coach this year and provided great results for the list as the group was the fittest it had been in years. This also saw the introduction of the #ThursdayThresh sessions, which grew to have a cult-like following.

We also saw a new appointment of head boundary coach in Leigh Rowbottom, who came in to fill the large shoes that Matthew Vitiritti had left. After doing a great job with the group in introducing Pythagoras' theorem into coaching sessions Leigh unfortunately had to pull the plug on coaching the group next year. We wish him all the best in the future and hope to see him pop in at training from time to time.

The tight knit group we had every week at training made it a very enjoyable season and contributes a lot to the success of the individuals who do get to umpire the one day in September we all aspire to. A huge congratulations to all umpires who

umpired in grand finals this year. A lot of hard work goes into getting those appointments and you should all be proud of how you performed this year.

It wouldn't be right to let this report end without talking about some of the better performances of the year:

- Lachlan Marsden asking how many laps the 4k time trial was going to be this year, less than a minute before the start.
- Lachlan Harty travelling to his favourite venue Piranha park (this isn't a joke he has mentioned it multiple times throughout the year that he thinks it's the best ground in the competition) only to be involved in an incident with some of the local wildlife resulting in a bee sting and short stint on the sidelines to recover.
- Nick Phillips challenging Adam Bell by putting his name up for worst throw in in VFL history after forgetting which way to throw the ball back in.
- Ash Hawkes taking running in straight lines a bit too seriously and colliding with a Geelong player, resulting in a photo in the Herald-Sun and being the new face of Project clothing's Instagram page.

All in all it was a great season with a great group of people who made it a pleasure to be a part of the group. Thank you to everyone involved and we wish you all a very enjoyable summer and can't wait to see you back for the start of the 2019 season.



Andrew Leggo

Development Boundary

The preseason is a time of new beginnings, and 2018 proved no different. New white shirts, new coaches, and new training sessions greeted the Development squad as they returned to Victoria Park.

The new sessions didn't deter young guns Matt Crowley and Lachlan 'Big Head' Higgs from trying to suck up to Olympian David McNeil with their impressive endurance and athletic prowess.

After having a year off, the fines system returned fresh and new, with everyone not only afraid of taking Mel's seat in coaching sessions, but also her little note book of tallies. Madi 'The Wok' Lum took it a step further, running a Gestapo like operation to sniff any loose change which could benefit the Silly Friday celebrations at the end of the season. Joel 'Sloane' Davis got so into his Star Wars character, he got a tattoo to match. Jed 'The Accountant' Upton was always able to find a loophole to avoid such fines, in case it effected his bank interest.

Not all was new in 2018 however, as Tim Peterson's reluctance to participate in warm-ups made a return. The annual trip to the U16's Nationals also returned, with the newest couple of the Dev squad emerging. Trent 'The Ballarat Bullet' Bowes and Adrian 'Pistol' Pretorius started courting one another on the Sunshine Coast, when Fig gave Pistol the opportunity to fly up there after noticing that he was in need of a tan more than himself. Once the lovebirds returned, they emphatically had Brendan 'Dicko' Dickson and Jake 'The Aeroplane' D'Angelo covered as the



cutest couple going around, with a close second of Kyle 'Fish' Fisher who despite getting a girlfriend mid-season still can't be separated from Lewis Spiker. This wasn't the only trip happening mid-season, with Jordan 'The King' King scoring an all-expenses paid trip to Hong Kong, and Sam 'Fosters' Beer leaving for America after finding out that he was a part of the 'Ram's 5'. Fortunately for him, Harry 'I'm an engineer at Ford' Green enjoyed being on camera so much, he tried to be on there every week.

Speaking of camera time, the Dev squad had a new Instagram celebrity amongst its ranks with Shaun 'The Rock' Weise showing that it's OK to post 20 Insta stories at once. Unfortunately for Shaun, Zac 'Machine Gun' Gunn-Cameron had him covered for gains all year long. On the subject of gains, Max 'Rafa' Visintin was desperate to learn how to grow his social media followers, so that he could have some more incidents with his 'vacuum'. Still, love bites are much more preferable to spider bites, which James Fenby incurred and was forced to miss numerous weeks because of it. But Josh 'Mr Roulette' Blain showing them all how it's done by batting above average with his girl and not being afraid of posting it all over social media.

On the other end of the scale we had few guys moving up in the ranks to umpire some senior games, but one in particular by Daniel Urbans will be remembered forever with a stack in his debut game after putting 100% effect into his first throw in.

Other highlights from the first-year umpires included Jack Punshon copping 20 plus throws in his first game of the season, Raushan Seychell bringing glasses back into fashion, and Greta Miller turning up a day early to her game, then turning up late on the correct day.

As the season came to the end it was great to see all attending the end of season festivities and all

Squad reports

those who unfortunately missed them like Chris 'diesel' Williams, was able to make up for it by attending his local leagues presentation night

All in all, it has been a fantastic season around the development boundary crew. This year wouldn't have been as great if it wasn't for Dave, Cam and Doug's coaching and support, so we all thank you!!!

Senior and Development Goal umpires

Season 2018 was a big year in goal umpiring.

We had some great new talent come onto the Senior Squad at the start of the year in Josh Hickman and Jackson Griffiths. It wasn't too long before they both debuted (congrats guys!), and both have established themselves as senior umpires.

We also had another VFL debutant later in the year – James Rizio, who made quite an impression on his first year in the Development Squad, and earned a senior call-up. He was joined by another development umpire, Adam Gardner, who had done a handful of VFL games in previous years before heading up to Sydney. Since returning to Vic and the VFL, Gards kept knocking on the door until it was impossible to refuse him a spot in the VFL, and he was duly rewarded.

In other Senior Squad news, Cameron Milich suffered a (couple of!) terrible Achilles injury, which unfortunately robbed him of most of the year of umpiring. Doyley got a new job which has made him change his routine and has seen him have to catch a cab on occasion to get to training on time! Trotts has moved to the eastern suburbs from Geelong, but perhaps forgot to tell Brad - he seemed to get sent to The Cattery a lot. And in probably the biggest achievement of the season, Deano brought up his 175th VFL match, earning him VFL life membership. Special congrats Deano!

In the biggest shake up since discontinuing match-day sweatbands, the Development Squad saw one of the largest turnovers in umpires with 2 promotions, 11 saying bon voyage and 9 rookies jumping on board. The cohort of new talent was well represented at this year's national champs: Mitchell Taleb NAB Under 16 Championships and James Rizio, NAB AFLW Under 18 Championships. Senior umpire Simon Plumridge was appointed to the NAB Under 18 Championships.

On the lighter side of things in a VFLW practice game, a certain red haired fella signalled a goal, then ran to the left goal post, only to realise that the goal flags have ALWAYS been kept on the right post. The pre-game deep-fried dimmies he had probably didn't help either



Simon Plumridge

#BreakfastOfChampions. It was also proven by a self-proclaimed eligible bachelor that Wednesday nights at Vic Park was the best location for Tinder Talent in 2018 #SwipeRight. On the international front, Yippy Wong was spotted on social media back-bending in various locations around Europe while on an in-season business trip, it was fair to say that the other tourists were well confounded by the public acts of showmanship. And Mitchell Taleb was regularly barred from coaching sessions due to his abhorrent choice of footwear (& socks combination).

On the social front, the goalies went to Holey Moley in the city for its mid-year function and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The skills on show clearly validated why we all became goal umpires, despite not all members making it to the final hole and some trading in their putts for raging flamboyant cocktails
#NotThatTheresAnythingWrongWithIt.

Well done to everyone for a terrific season, looking forward to 2019.



Tayla Manning, Jarred Watson, Mitchell Taleb

VFL life membership - Dean Jones

There are two things that are plain to see when umpiring with this particular person. The first thing is that he is one of the hardest workers on the Senior Goal Squad. The second thing is that this bloke is the embodiment of what it means to be a 'quiet achiever'.

He turns up every Wednesday afternoon at training, and quietly heads to the same locker. He might exchange a nod or smile with another umpire or two as he walks in, but that's the extent of it. In his usual spot, he gets changed, and waits for 6pm to roll around, perhaps chatting quietly with a fellow umpire or two. When the time eventually arrives, he heads out on the track with the rest of the squad, prepared as ever, and proceeds to strut his stuff as he has, year on year, since he came to the VFL in 2002.

He is not the quickest bloke, nor does he wear the flashiest runners or the tank top. You would not expect to hear his voice ringing out around Vic Park. He just goes about his business in a steadfastly professional manner. He gets on with the job, and he gets the job done well. His determined attitude and perseverance have kept him in good stead for many years, and will hopefully serve him for a few more to come. Through his years at the VFL, he has turned his hard work, resilience and determination into success - consistent VFL umpiring.

This quiet achiever's name is Dean Jones.

In 2018, Dean Jones (or Jonesy) became one of only five goal umpires to be awarded with VFL Life Membership. He achieved this by umpiring his

175th game of VFL football. Jonesy's longevity in umpiring top-level VFL footy is reflected in statistics, but is also a testament to the characteristics he possesses.

It started back in 2005, when he was awarded the VFUA's Most Improved Development Goal Umpire. He then went on to umpire in Senior VFL Finals, and was a Grand Final Umpire on three occasions in the 2005, 2010 and 2013 Development League Grand Finals. Over the course of his career, he has done 65 TAC Cup games, and is sitting on 190 VFL Senior Games.

The statistics reflect the commitment and resilience it takes to make it at the top state-league level for so long. Jonesy's journey highlights the importance of being adaptable, professional and persistent. But most of all, Jonesy's journey has been marked by a quiet determination to push himself, and achieve the absolute best out of himself that he can. Jonesy sets the example of hard work on the track and in seeking to improve himself- and it shows in his umpiring.

All the goal umpires know him as the most experienced bloke on the list - he doesn't speak up much, but when he does, everyone listens. Jonesy brings a steadfast, quiet confidence, mixed with an epic work ethic.

Jonesy, from all the Goal Umpires, congratulations on achieving 175 VFL Senior games, and earning VFL Life Membership. We are incredibly proud of you, and we thank you for being the quietly achieving leader that you are.



Most Improved Senior Squads

	Field	Boundary	Goal
1992	B.Allen	T.Anderson	C.Clark
1993	S.McLaren	M.Vitiritti	G.Billing
1994	K.Nicholls	S.Williamson	D.Humphries
1995	V.Sercia	S.Jansen	M.Harrison
1996	T.Shearer	S.Davies	M.Russell
1997	W.Mann	R.Frampton	A.Galea
1998	G.Twitt	S.Nathan	C.Evans
1999	S.Jeffery	M.Vitiritti	D.Dixon
2000	A.Davis	G.Boland	P.Gonis
2001	C.Donlon	S.Smith	D.Flegg
2002	C.Kamolins	-	C.Appleton
2003	M.Stevic	-	A.Galea
2004	R.Findlay	-	P.Nastasi
2005	J.Armstrong	-	L.Walker
	A.Mitchell		
2006	T.McCarthy	-	J.Venkataya
2007	B.Ritchie	-	-
2008	R.Mills	S.Jones	R.Thwaites
2009	A.Mitchell	T.Morrison	B.James
2010	M.Curtis	M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou
2011	B.Hosking	J.Andrews	M.Maclure
2012	T.Carlos	T.Lougoon	C.Wong
2013	R.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
2018	P.Rebeschini	A.Hawkes	J.Varker



Ash Hawkes



James Rizio

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
		2018	James Rizio



James Rizio

Matthew Crowley

Josh Ball

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
2018	James Rizio

Best first year boundary umpire

2012	Lachlan Rayner
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2014	Sam Stagg
2015	David Park
2016	Chris Williams
2017	Joel Davis
2018	Matthew Crowley

Best first year field umpire

2012	Hayden Gavine
2013	Pat Burns
2014	John Howorth
2015	Leighton Rowe
2016	Cameron Dore
2017	Sam Ferguson
2018	Josh Ball

2018 milestones

175 VFL matches

Dean Jones	Saturday, 28 April 2018	Casey v. Geelong (Casey Fields)
Tristan Burgess	Saturday, 23 June 2018	Footscray v. North Melbourne (Docklands)

150 VFL matches

Michael Curtis	Sunday, 22 April 2018	Werribee v. Williamstown (Werribee)
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100 VFL matches

John Cooper	Saturday, 14 April 2018	Frankston v. Box Hill (Frankston)
Adam Bell	Saturday, 21 April 2018	Geelong v. Footscray (Kardinia Park)
James Davey	Saturday, 26 May 2018	Northern Blues v. Essendon (Princes Park)
Chris Doyle	Sunday, 3 June 2018	Collingwood v. Richmond (Victoria Park)
Jack Edwards	Sunday, 10 June 2018	Essendon v. Coburg (Windy Hill)
Daniel Butcher	Saturday, 7 July 2018	Port Melbourne v. Williamstown (Port Melbourne)
Callum Leonard	Saturday, 11 August 2018	Geelong v. Essendon (Kardinia Park)

50 VFL matches

John Howorth	Saturday, 5 May 2018	Essendon v. North Melbourne (Windy Hill)
Simon Blight	Saturday, 19 May 2018	Box Hill v. Northern Blues (Box Hill)
Sam Stagg	Saturday, 19 May 2018	Essendon v. Geelong (Windy Hill)
Thomas Horsten	Saturday, 23 June 2018	Footscray v. North Melbourne (Docklands)
Kate Griffiths	Sunday, 24 June 2018	Frankston v. Werribee (Frankston)
Matthew Young	Saturday, 30 June 2018	Port Melbourne v. Sandringham (Port Melbourne)
Michael Blair	Sunday, 22 July 2018	Werribee v. Northern Blues (Werribee)
Brynton Ashton	Sunday, 19 August 2018	Collingwood v. Frankston (Victoria Park)

First VFL match

Matthew Pongracic	Saturday, 7 April 2018	Frankston v. Essendon (Frankston)
Michael Pell	Sunday, 8 April 2018	Williamstown v. Box Hill (Williamstown)
Peter Bailes	Sunday, 22 April 2018	Richmond v. Casey (Punt Road)
Joshua Hickman	Saturday, 5 May 2018	Box Hill v. Sandringham (Box Hill)
Jackson Griffiths	Sunday, 13 May 2018	Casey v. Box Hill (Casey Fields)
Riley Kane	Sunday, 13 May 2018	Casey v. Box Hill (Casey Fields)
Joel Clamp	Saturday, 19 May 2018	Box Hill v. Northern Blues (Box Hill)
Cameron Watts	Saturday, 26 May 2018	Richmond v. Coburg (Punt Road)
Nicholas Jankovskis	Sunday, 3 June 2018	Frankston v. Port Melbourne (Frankston)
Adrian Pretorius	Saturday, 9 June 2018	Werribee v. Port Melbourne (Werribee)
Daniel Urbans	Saturday, 21 July 2018	Essendon v. Collingwood (Windy Hill)
James Rizio	Sunday, 22 July 2018	Frankston v. North Melbourne (Frankston)

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
1996	A.Malcolm	T.Shearer	M.Sexton	P.Bradford	A.Duncan	A.Letson
1997	M.Vozzo	W.Mann	M.James	R.Frampton	B.Crossett	F.Raiti
1998	R.Kelsey	C.Rowe	M.James	R.Leslie	B.Crossett	M.Russell
1999	K.Nicholls	K.Callaghan	S.Jeffery	S.Smith	K.McCarthy	C.Evans
2000	A.Malcolm	S.Jeffery	G.Twitt	S.Smith	J.Wilson	J.Venkataya
2001	J.Quigley	A.Davis	S.Grun	M.Payton	C.Steinman	J.Stephenson
2002	S.Grun	M.Nicholls	S.Ryan	G.Gibson	C.Morrison	A.Little
2003	S.Grun	S.Meredith	M.Stevic	R.Haala	S.Irish	J.Bennison
2004	C.Donlon	C.Kamolins	D.Sully	A.Coote	M.Foster	M.Lefevre
2005	J.Armstrong	M.Jennings	D.Sully	I.Burrows	G.Large	M.Lefevre
2006	J.Mollison	H.Ryan	S.Stewart	G.Large	M.Lefevre	C.Roberts
2007	M.Jennings	J.Mollison	S.Stewart	C.Hay	G.Large	N.Woods
2008	R.Findlay	M.Jennings	T.Pannell	C.Gordon	S.Jones	N.Woods
2009	M.Jennings	A.Mitchell	B.Ritchie	G.Bergroth	D.Kowalski	M.Marantelli
2010	M.Brown	M.Leppard	B.Ritchie	D.Kowlaski	M.Marantelli	P.Tongue
2011	D.Harris	B.Hosking	A.Mitchell	C.Esler	M.Jenkinson	M.Tomkins
2012	T.Burgess	S.Gleeson	D.Harris	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	B.Macdonald
2013	S.Gleeson	R.O'Gorman	B.Ritchie	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	J.Mather
2014	N.Brown	J.Edwards	B.Wallace	J.Andrews	B.Elvey	J.Robertson
2015	T.Burgess	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen
2016	H.Ryan	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen
2017	N.Brown	D.Butcher	A.Gianfagna	P.Jackson	K.Ferguson	P.Dineen
2018	J.Howorth	P.Rebeschini	A.Talbot	S.Blight	J.Cooper	J.Furman

2018 VFL Grand Final

Casey v. Box Hill



L-R: Callum Leonard, Sam Stagg, Josh Furman, Paul Rebeschini, Andrew Talbot, John Howorth, John Cooper, Simon Blight, 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		

T.Horsten

2018 TAC Cup (Girls) Grand Final

Geelong Falcons v. Northern Knights



L-R: Tope Adepayibi, Adrian Pretorius, Joshua Ball, Courtney Gibson, Nathan Guy, Greta Miller, Zachary Brown-Close.

TAC Cup (Boys) 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
2018	P.Bailes	J.Clamp	C.Watts	K.Ferguson	A.Hawkes	T.Horsten	L.Wilkie	J.Varker	P.Dwyer

2018 TAC Cup (Boys) Grand Final

Dandenong Southern Stingrays v. Oakleigh Chargers



L-R: Pat Dwyer, Kieran Ferguson, Luke Wilke, Cameron Watts, Joel Clamp, Peter Bailes, Tom Horsten, Ashley Hawkes, John Varker.

VWFL/VFLW 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
2018	J.Ball	L.Porter	N.Scott	R.Kane	A.Pretorius	B.Dickson	T.Manning	J.Stammers

2018 VFLW Grand Final Hawthorn v. Geelong



L-R: Tayla Manning, Riley Kane, Nick Scott, Luke Porter, Josh Ball, Adrian Pretorius, Brenton Dickson, Jack Stammers.

Courage Award

Recognising recovery from significant hardship or injury

Courage Award recipients					
1994	D.Hammond	2005	B.McCorkell	2015	B.Macdonald
1995	A.Malcolm	2011	B.McCorkell	2015	G.Verberne
1996	D.Beard	2011	M.Sanders	2016	R.Young
1998	S.Nathan	2012	D.Cusack	2017	J.Grindal
2001	P.Anderson	2013	L.Keen	2017	D.Main
2004	P.Balding	2013	J.Mather	2017	S.Plumridge



Damien Main

2018 statistics

Field umpire	VFL	TAC (B)	VFLW	TAC (G)
Michael Anderson	0 (0)	12 (39)	4 (11)	0 (0)
Bronte Annand	0 (0)	2 (3)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Peter Bailes	14 (14)	3 (22)	0 (8)	0 (0)
Joshua Ball	0 (0)	7 (7)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Harry Birch	0 (0)	10 (10)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Tristan Burgess	17 (182)	0 (33)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Patrick Burns	19 (86)	0 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Daniel Butcher	20 (108)	0 (27)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ben Cheever	8 (14)	7 (28)	0 (7)	0 (0)
Thomas Chrystie	17 (79)	1 (27)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joel Clamp	4 (4)	12 (21)	0 (7)	0 (0)
Michael Curtis	21 (168)	0 (23)	0 (0)	0 (0)
James Davey	18 (112)	1 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ben Dickson	0 (0)	9 (30)	7 (18)	0 (0)
Cameron Dore	22 (45)	0 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jack Edwards	20 (111)	0 (23)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sam Ferguson	0 (0)	13 (24)	1 (8)	0 (0)
Lachlan Floyd	0 (0)	11 (20)	6 (12)	2 (2)
Dylan Fulton	0 (0)	10 (10)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Courtney Gibson	0 (0)	7 (7)	8 (8)	2 (2)
Nathan Guy	0 (0)	4 (4)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Andrew Heffernan	19 (90)	0 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sean Hefter	0 (0)	4 (4)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Jack Howard	0 (0)	11 (24)	4 (12)	1 (1)
John Howorth	22 (68)	0 (12)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Brayden Hunter	0 (0)	9 (19)	6 (11)	1 (1)
Nicholas Jankovskis	3 (3)	7 (22)	4 (12)	0 (0)
Jarryd Kingsbury	0 (0)	9 (25)	7 (10)	2 (2)
Brett Klimisch	0 (0)	6 (6)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Lucinda Lopes ¹	0 (0)	5 (37)	9 (21)	4 (4)
Thomas Lyon	0 (0)	10 (18)	6 (11)	3 (3)
Matthew Mahoney	0 (0)	7 (17)	8 (16)	1 (1)
Kellie McLeod	0 (0)	1 (2)	2 (2)	3 (3)
Dylan McMahon	0 (0)	9 (15)	4 (13)	1 (1)
Annie Mirabile	14 (25)	5 (18)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Alex Murray	0 (0)	8 (16)	6 (14)	0 (0)
Ben O'Brien	0 (0)	5 (5)	5 (5)	3 (3)
Michael Pell	14 (14)	5 (19)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Matthew Pongracic	14 (14)	4 (26)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Luke Porter	0 (0)	9 (25)	6 (15)	0 (0)
Matthew Pryor	0 (0)	9 (46)	7 (12)	0 (0)
Paul Rebeschini	23 (36)	0 (13)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Joshua Robertson	0 (0)	7 (7)	7 (7)	2 (2)
Jacob Rockwell	0 (0)	8 (28)	4 (19)	2 (2)
Martin Rodger	15 (25)	5 (22)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Leighton Rowe	11 (38)	0 (17)	0 (3)	0 (0)
Nick Scott	0 (0)	9 (9)	8 (8)	4 (4)
Jack Spencer	0 (0)	11 (34)	6 (16)	0 (0)
Andrew Talbot	23 (174)	0 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Brendan Taylor	0 (0)	7 (7)	5 (5)	3 (3)
Lucas Taylor	0 (0)	6 (14)	8 (15)	4 (4)
Nathan Toner	18 (20)	1 (18)	0 (7)	0 (0)
Cameron Watts	4 (4)	12 (21)	1 (11)	1 (1)
Ryan Webster	0 (0)	8 (17)	9 (15)	2 (2)
Michael Willcox	0 (0)	8 (8)	10 (10)	4 (4)
Cameron Williams	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Matthew Young	20 (59)	1 (8)	0 (0)	0 (0)

Boundary umpire	VFL	TAC (B)	VFLW	TAC (G)
Blake Anderson	16 (20)	1 (11)	0 (7)	1 (1)
Brynton Ashton	17 (51)	2 (26)	2 (2)	0 (0)
Sam Beer	0 (0)	4 (13)	7 (10)	1 (1)
Adam Bell	19 (116)	2 (32)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Josh Blain	0 (2)	8 (26)	4 (8)	5 (5)
Simon Blight	21 (65)	0 (9)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Trent Bowes	2 (4)	6 (16)	5 (9)	0 (0)
Leigh Buwalda	18 (69)	2 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lawrence Coop	13 (65)	0 (19)	1 (4)	0 (0)
John Cooper	22 (120)	1 (25)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Matthew Crowley	0 (0)	7 (7)	8 (8)	4 (4)
Patrick Damato	18 (23)	1 (20)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Joel Davis	0 (1)	12 (18)	3 (13)	3 (3)
Curtis De Witt	17 (42)	0 (17)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Brenton Dickson	2 (4)	12 (26)	4 (11)	3 (3)
Jake D'Angelo	0 (0)	8 (22)	4 (8)	3 (3)
James Fenby	0 (0)	3 (3)	10 (10)	4 (4)
Kieran Ferguson	19 (83)	1 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kyle Fisher	2 (15)	9 (22)	5 (6)	1 (1)
Joshua Furman	20 (48)	0 (6)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Harry Green	0 (0)	7 (21)	5 (10)	3 (3)
Zac Gunn-Cameron	0 (0)	5 (12)	9 (16)	2 (2)
Lachlan Harty	15 (30)	1 (22)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Ashley Hawkes	19 (45)	1 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lachlan Higgs	0 (0)	7 (7)	9 (9)	4 (4)
Thomas Horsten	21 (60)	1 (14)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Riley Kane	2 (2)	5 (11)	5 (10)	3 (3)
Jordan King	0 (0)	8 (8)	5 (5)	2 (2)
Andrew Leggo	15 (117)	2 (36)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Madeleine Lum	0 (0)	9 (14)	8 (18)	2 (2)
Lachlan Marsden	18 (29)	0 (3)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Greta Miller	0 (0)	7 (8)	5 (5)	4 (4)
Liam Pain	21 (40)	1 (16)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tim Peterson	0 (0)	12 (20)	7 (11)	0 (0)
Nicholas Phillips	19 (27)	0 (28)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Adrian Pretorius	2 (2)	11 (18)	5 (14)	2 (2)
Jack Punshon	0 (0)	6 (6)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Jerome Rowcroft	12 (83)	1 (31)	2 (2)	0 (0)
Melissa Sambrooks	0 (0)	3 (13)	8 (13)	2 (2)
Raushan Seychell	0 (0)	6 (6)	8 (8)	3 (3)
Lewis Spiker	1 (14)	0 (14)	4 (5)	0 (0)
Sam Stagg	22 (66)	0 (14)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Travis Taylor	12 (80)	0 (18)	2 (3)	0 (0)
Daniel Urbans	2 (2)	8 (26)	3 (4)	6 (6)
Max Visintin	0 (0)	4 (4)	7 (7)	2 (2)
Shaun Weise	0 (0)	6 (20)	7 (12)	2 (2)
Luke Wilke	19 (83)	2 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jesse Wilkie	16 (24)	0 (12)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Chris Williams	0 (12)	8 (15)	7 (8)	1 (1)

¹ Lucinda Lopes also umpired 3 AFLVDL, 5 TAC Cup and 10 VWFL matches as a boundary umpire in 2017.

2018 statistics

Goal umpire	VFL	TAC (B)	VWFL	TAC (G)
Tope Adepoiyibi	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	2 (2)
Sian Atkins	0 (0)	4 (13)	8 (11)	4 (4)
Peter Baldry	0 (0)	6 (29)	7 (16)	2 (2)
Michael Blair	15 (52)	2 (92)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Nick Bridges	12 (20)	0 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Zachary Brown-Close	0 (0)	8 (8)	8 (8)	3 (3)
Chris Doyle	18 (109)	0 (78)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Michael Driver	0 (0)	5 (11)	7 (12)	4 (4)
Patrick Dwyer	19 (33)	1 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Matthew Edwards	18 (78)	0 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Josh Forner	17 (38)	0 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jackson Griffiths	15 (15)	4 (13)	1 (7)	0 (0)
Kate Griffiths	14 (55)	0 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joshua Hickman	11 (11)	3 (21)	0 (3)	1 (1)
Dean Jones	19 (190)	0 (65)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Callum Leonard	22 (105)	0 (26)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jarrold Lovas	0 (0)	5 (5)	8 (8)	1 (1)
Tayla Manning	0 (0)	8 (13)	9 (18)	5 (5)
Jake Marnie	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Cam Milich	7 (38)	1 (14)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Ken Mitchell	0 (0)	7 (12)	8 (16)	5 (5)
Brendan Moloney	0 (0)	6 (21)	8 (12)	4 (4)
Luke Monea	15 (30)	2 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Daniel O'Shea	0 (0)	3 (12)	10 (15)	6 (6)
Simon Plumridge	22 (128)	0 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
James Rizio	5 (5)	6 (6)	5 (5)	3 (3)
Samuel Rogers	0 (0)	5 (5)	5 (5)	4 (4)
Jack Stammers	0 (0)	8 (8)	10 (10)	2 (2)
Callum Thornton	0 (0)	6 (6)	11 (11)	2 (2)
Paul Trotter ²	17 (68)	2 (22)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Antonio Valente	0 (0)	5 (9)	10 (15)	2 (2)
John Varker	20 (31)	1 (11)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jarred Walson	0 (0)	4 (17)	7 (12)	3 (3)
Cyrus Wong	14 (122)	0 (38)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Joon-Yip Wong	0 (0)	5 (14)	7 (16)	4 (4)

² Paul Trotter also umpired 15 VFL Reserves and 20 TAC Cup matches as a field umpire in 2006-07.

100 VFL matches
1992-2018

	Matches		Matches
Peter Balding	235	Cyrus Wong*	122
Dan Beard	224	Heath Ryan	121
Michael Richardson	194	John Cooper*	120
Nick Laurence	194	Jason Quigley	118
Dean Jones*	190	Shaun Gleeson	117
Shane Mason	188	Andrew Leggo*	117
Richard Mills	182	Glenn Gibson	116
Andrew Clifton	181	Andrew Malcolm	116
Tristan Burgess*	182	Adam Bell*	116
Lloyd Fisk	177	Adam Wojcik	115
Andrew Talbot*	174	Steven Neal	115
Ben James	172	Chris Donlon	115
Michael Curtis*	168	Matthew Leppard	114
Matthew Brown	163	Neil Woods	113
Michael Jennings	162	Robert Findlay	112
Steven Piperno	161	James Davey*	112
Andrew Mitchell*	161	Jack Edwards*	111
Jamie Grindal	157	Geoff Twitt	110
Michael Hammond	155	Chris Doyle*	109
Ben Macdonald	154	Rob Young*	108
Brendan Dye	150	Michael Palm	108
Daniel Pieper	150	Dylan Benwell	108
Anthony Kyrkou	145	Russell Davidson	106
Damien Cusack	138	Jason Armstrong	105
Frank Dicosmo	137	Callum Leonard*	105
Brendan Elvey	135	Scott Murray	104
Stephen Gloag	130	Drew Kowalski	104
Damien Sully	129	Chris Morrison	103
Peter Nastasi	129	Andrew McCoy	102
Steele Irish	128	Rob Frampton	101
Shane Stewart	128	Mark Foster	101
Simon Plumridge*	128	Matthew Oakley	101
Cameron Nash	125	Sam Walsh*	101
Stefan Grun	123	Matt Maclure*	101
Brett Ritchie	122		* active 2018

AFLW 2018

Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches
Sian Atkins (G) 3 (3)	Brenton Dickson (B) 4 (4)	Kate Griffiths (G) 3 (3)	Cam Milich (G) 4 (4)	Sam Stagg (B) 6 (6)*
Trent Bowes (B) 5 (5)	Cameron Dore (F) 5 (5)	Andrew Heffernan (F) 3 (4)	Annie Mirabile (F) 4 (8)*	Travis Taylor (B) 6 (6)*
Patrick Burns (F) 3 (6)	Joshua Furman (B) 6 (6)*	John Howorth (F) 5 (5)*	Luke Monea (G) 4 (8)	Matthew Young (F) 5 (5)
Leigh Buwalda (B) 5 (5)	Courtney Gibson (F) 4 (4)	Callum Leonard (G) 4 (4)	Leighton Rowe (F) 5 (5)	
Michael Curtis (F) 4 (4)	Jackson Griffiths (G) 1 (1)	Madeleine Lum (B) 4 (4)	Melissa Sambrooks (B) 3 (8)	* 2018 AFLW Grand Final

11 VFL finals 1992-2018

Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches	Matches
Peter Balding (G) 21	Andrew Talbot (F) 16	Brad Letson (G) 14	Andrew Mitchell (F) 13	Sam Walsh (G) 12
Michael Jennings (F) 19	Tristan Burgess (F) 15	Michael Marantelli (B) 14	Heath Ryan (F) 13	Graeme Bergroth (B) 11
Ben Macdonald (B) 18	Anthony Kyrkou (G) 15	Richard Mills (F) 14	Jordan Andrews (B) 12	Andrew Clifton (G) 11
Steven Piperno (G) 18	Brett Ritchie (F) 15	Steven Neal (B) 14	Dylan Benwell (G) 12	David Harris (F) 11
Shane Stewart (F) 18	Daniel Butcher (F) 14	Damien Sully (F) 14	John Cooper (B) 12	Courtney Lai (G) 11
Shaun Gleeson (F) 17	Michael Curtis (F) 14	Matthew Brown (F) 13	Damien Cusack (B) 12	Michael Richardson (G) 11
Simon Plumridge (G) 17	Mark Foster (B) 14	Patrick Dineen (B) 13	Rob Findlay (F) 12	
Neil Woods (B) 17	Drew Kowalski (B) 14	Mitch Le Fevre (B) 13	Michael Hammond (G) 12	
Nick Laurence (B) 16	Gerard Large (B) 14	Shane Mason (F) 13	Andrew Malcolm (F) 12	

VFUA office bearers 1993-2018

Senior officers

	President	Vice-president	Executive Officer	Social secretary	
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	Historian-statistician
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
2018	Michael Curtis	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Andrew Talbot	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 1993-2018

Track representatives

Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years
Jason Armstrong	2004-05	Rhys Doughty-Cowell	2009	Chris Kamolins	2002-03	Paul Pickett	1995
Peter Balding	2012	Chris Doyle	2012-13	Hayden Kennedy	1993-94	Daniel Pieper	2002-03
Dan Beard	2001	Andrew Duncan	1994	Drew Kowalski	2008	Simon Plumridge	2017
Dylan Benwell	2012	Jared Dyson	2016	Anthony Kyrkou	2010-11	Mark Prince	1993
Graeme Bergroth	2008-10	Jack Edwards	2018	David Lambourn	2006-07	Lachlan Rayner	2015
Anthony Black	1995	Matt Edwards	2018	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	2017-18
Nick Brown	2011	Jarrold Faoro	2007	Tim Lougoon	2014	Colin Segota	1993-94
Tristan Burgess	2008-09	Rob Findlay	2002	Matt Mahoney	2018	Stephen Smith	2000-01
Daniel Butcher	2012	Mark Foster	2004-05	Damien Main	2017	Chris Snell	1996
David Card	2009	Alf Galea	1994	Josh Maine	2012-13	Harry Stamos	1997
Tim Carlos	2011	Michael Gibson	2003	Wes Mann	1998-99	Steven Stirling	1998
Ben Cheever	2017	Stephen Gloag	2001-04	Andrew McCoy	2011	Travis Storti	2001
Jason Cook	1997-98	Kate Griffiths	2016	Luke McIlroy	2014-16	Andrew Talbot	2012,2017
Lawrence Coop	2014	Michael Hammond	2000	David Miles	2016-17	Troy Tindill	2001
Ashley Crawford	2011-12	Lachlan Harty	2016-17	Joel Morrison	2011	Gareth Verbenne	2008
Michael Curtis	2013-15	Adam Havelberg	2013	Jack Murfett	2017	Andrew Wheeler	1996
Damien Cusack	2005	Ashley Hawkes	2018	John Murnane	1993-94	Luke White	2013-14
Russell Davidson	1997	Peter Herrick	1993-94	Ben Naughtin	2005-07	Daniel Wilson	2002-03
Curtis De Witt	2015	Wayne Hoskins	2010	Mark O'Reilly	1995	Adam Wojcik	2004-05
Justin Delaney	1993	David Humphries	1995-96,1999	Ryan O'Shea	2016	Yippy Wong	2018
Andrew Dempster	1997-99	Anthony Hunter	2011-12	Michael Palm	2009		
Greg Denison	2005-06	Dean Jones	2006-07	Brent Pawley	2011		
Damian Devincentis	2010						

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 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Interest Received	1,943	1,557
Subscriptions	31,130	33,013
Miscellaneous	10,344	7,908
Social Functions	17,940	19,040
Total Income	61,357	61,518
EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fees	264	253
Annual Report	726	1,144
Honorariums	18,570	16,290
Photography	750	495
Postage	-	516
Printing and Stationery	158	1,355
Social Functions	24,184	26,155
Sundry Expenses	15,867	8,766
Trophies, Certificates	1,865	2,223
Total Expenditure	62,384	57,197
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(1,027)	4,321
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	(1,027)	4,321

Merchandising sales account Year ended 30 September 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Sales - Clothing	88	25
Total Sales	88	25
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Purchases	803	2,462
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Profit (Loss)	(715)	(2,437)
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	(715)	(2,437)

Balance sheet Year ended 30 September 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	25,183	26,948
-Cheque acc.		
-Term dep.	65,701	63,788
	90,884	90,736
Represented by:		
RESERVES		
Accumulation Account	90,884	90,736
TOTAL RESERVES	90,884	86,517

Major raffle Year ended 30 September 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
INCOME		
-Total Sales	3,055	3,500
-Total Income	3,055	3,500
EXPENDITURE		
-Prizes	1,165	1,165
-Total Expenditure	1,165	1,165
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	1,890	2,335
Transf. to Accum. Acc.	1,890	2,335

Accumulation account Year ended 30 September 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Funds were derived from		
Administration Account	(1,027)	4,321
Major Raffle	1,890	2,335
Merchandising Account	(715)	(2,437)
	148	4,219
Add Balance brought forward	90,766	86,547
Balance carried forward @ 30.09.18	90,914	90,766

Financial statements

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

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, 2018 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 2018. 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 2018, in accordance with the basis of accounting disclosed above.

Signed:



L.I. Pope FCPA
Honorary Auditor

Date: 9 November 2018
At: Melbourne

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