



Victorian Football Umpires' Association

Annual report & financial
statement 2019

Contents

	Page
Office bearers 2019	1
President's report	2
Administrator's report	4
Members 2019	6
2018 life memberships	7
VFUA life members	9
John Russo Trophy	10
Obituary and Honours	11
VFL life membership - Andrew Talbot	12
Social report	13
Squad reports	20
VFL life membership - Michael Curtis	27
Most Improved - Senior squads	31
Frank Leverett Shield and Best First Year Umpires	32
2019 Milestones	33
VFL grand final umpires	34
VWFL/VFLW and NAB Girls grand final umpires	35
TAC Cup and NAB Boys grand final umpires	36
VFL Reserves / AFL Victoria Dev. grand final umpires	37
Courage Award recipients	37
Statistics	38
VFUA office bearers 1993-2019	40
Financial report	42
Photo credits	Inside back

2019 VFL Umpires of the Year



L-R: Sam Stagg (G)
Martin Rodger (F)
Callum Leonard (G)

Office bearers



L-R: Matthew Mahoney, Callum Thornton, Yippy Wong, Peter Bailes, Liam Pain, Melissa Sambrooks, David Flegg, Andrew Talbot.
Absent: Peter Kelly, Matthew Edwards, Dylan Fulton, Matthew Young.

President

Andrew Talbot

Vice-president

Matthew Mahoney

Administrator

Peter Kelly

Track representatives

Peter Bailes (Senior Field)

Dylan Fulton (Development Field)

Liam Pain (Senior Boundary)

Melissa Sambrooks (Development Boundary)

Matt Edwards (Senior Goal)

Jack Stammers (Development Goal - part)

Callum Thornton (Development Goal - part)

Historian-statistician

David Flegg AM

Communication officer

Joon-Yip Wong

Events Manager

Matthew Young

President's report



Season 2019 was a year of change for both the VFUA and AFL Victoria. It has been a very important year for us which will potentially affect the operation of the VFUA in the years to come. In saying that, the changes seen this year will be nothing but beneficial for all our members moving forward.

We have to go back to December last year. The new Executive was voted in and immediately had to contend with the information that AFL Victoria would be moving to AFL House to be part of the AFL organisation. With all the work Michael Curtis had been doing with his Executive and the old AFL Victoria administration, the VFUA had to put it all on hold to see how the AFL transition would unfold.

This move led directly to the VFUA working with Michael Jennings, an AFL Field Umpire Coach. From day one, Michael showed he wanted to open clear lines of communication with the VFUA. This allowed us to develop a strong working relationship where we could communicate openly and consistently around any issues, regardless of how large or small they appeared to be.

Through developing this relationship with Michael and the AFL, we were able to action some items that had been on our 'To do' for a prolonged period of time:

- Through consultation, the Heads of Agreement was agreed to and signed off,
- The VFUA was engaged in the development of a renewed Performance Management Policy following 2018 post-season issues, and
- The VFUA's legal review was submitted to the AFL and a collaborative process was used to establish a mutual understanding that will see some umpires receive supplementary payments relating to the 2014 to 2019 seasons.

Moving forward, the Fees & Conditions process is underway. After constructing a Fees & Conditions Committee and collating feedback from each discipline, the VFUA has compiled a list of items to address for the next lot of negotiations. Discussions have begun and will hopefully, by continuing the collaboration and open communication, be finalised over the summer.

Even though there is plenty of work still to do, thanks needs to go out to the AFL Umpiring Department consisting of Michael Jennings, Cameron Nash and Peter Mair. They have all clearly showed an intent to work together to ensure that Victorian State League umpires have access to the best facilities, best resources and best coaches, while still maintaining the best conditions for umpires. Challenges faced by the VFUA have been less daunting in 2019 due to the three guys being open and approachable about all arising circumstances.

VFUA Members

In 2019, our members again showed why Victoria is the strongest State League umpiring group. Three field umpires were promoted to the AFL after 2018 – John Howorth, Cameron Dore and Andrew Heffernan. Josh Furman was promoted onto the AFL Boundary Umpire list. That made 4 out of the 6 promotions across the country from amongst our ranks.

To further consolidate the notion of Victorian umpires' being amongst the best in the country, several VFUA members were called upon to umpire during the 2019 AFLW season. Those umpires were coached, observed and assessed by AFL coaches/personnel, which eventuated in 6 out of 9 AFLW Grand Final appointments being awarded to Victorian umpires.

The annual Paul Anderson Mini-Olympics had a special significance in 2019 after the late Paul Anderson was awarded honorary Life Membership at the 2018 AGM. Denise and Sally (Paul's mother and sister respectively) once again were in attendance on the night to witness the characteristics that underpin the night – competition, determination and courage. The entire Anderson family attended the Life Members Dinner where they emotionally, yet proudly, accepted the award on behalf of Paul.

The other Life Member inductees included former VFUA President and now VFL Life Member, Michael Curtis; goal umpire, Cyrus Wong, and VFL Head Trainer, Sam Mounajed. 'Curto' served the VFUA in almost every role possible, finishing his tenure after 3 years at the helm as the President. He steered the ship during some very tough periods for the VFUA and its members. Cyrus has been a

stalwart for the VFUA since he joined the VFL. He has often assisted the VFUA behind the scenes and is commonly known for selling the most Special Effort tickets ever. Sam has been a trainer for VFL umpires since 2008. Over the years, he has often spoken of his pride in seeing umpires promoted and his sense of assistance in that umpires' success. Come match day, 'Sammy' has gone above and beyond his duty to ensure us 'umps' are looked after and have the best possible chance at performing to our best abilities each week.

Season 2019 also saw the end of a couple of careers. Boundary umpire, Jerome Rowecroft, retired towards the end of the season. Jerome was a vocal VFUA member with the intentions of improving anything and everything about umpiring. Shortly after joining the illustrious 200 club, Dean Jones put away the flags. 'Deano' was always described as softly spoken and humble. Despite those two traits, he also needed to be dedicated, determined, and a learner right until the end of his career. The VFUA community wishes both umpires the very best for their post-umpiring journeys.

The 'Exec'

During my short tenure as President, I had the privilege of working with some amazing people and umpires. Being part of the Executive previously in other roles, I believed I had some sort of an understanding of what is involved in the President's role. It didn't take long to realise how important the entire team is to ensure the successful operation of the VFUA for the members.

Starting from the Track representatives – Peter Bailes, Dylan Fulton, Liam Pain, Melissa Sambrooks, Matthew Edwards, Callum Thornton and Jack Stammers. These guys are the foot soldiers of the Executive. They are asked to be the face and communicators with everyone, especially at times that could be considered most annoying. Without this group, the events, the messages and smaller tasks required simply wouldn't get done.

Our re-instated Events Manager in Matthew Young was important to the success of the Grand Final functions. With the VFUA facing potential historical challenges and changes, it was extremely honourable for 'Youngy' to take on this role in 2019.

Yip Wong has started to totally invigorate the communication strategy and processes as the Communications Officer. His expertise and knowledge base have brought fresh ideas to the VFUA that has helped with providing the members with the best ways to access information.

It happens every year, but every year it is more and more deserved, but a huge and special thanks has to go to David Flegg AM, VFUA Historian and Statistician, and Peter Kelly, VFUA Administrator. These two individuals are the sweat, blood and tears of the VFUA. They have been involved in the association for so long because they are so passionate about the conditions that VFL umpires are exposed to and they want nothing but the absolute best for every umpire. 'Fleggy' ensures that the history of the VFUA can always be referred back to for future groups to track just how much umpiring conditions have advanced over the years. That in itself is a clear example of the benefit of supporting the VFUA, to ensure that umpiring continues to progress in Victoria at State League level. 'PK' has the Executive operating like clockwork – identifying tasks, providing advice, monitoring issues, keeping us all to deadlines (even though this particular piece is overdue), and many more tasks that keep the VFUA heart beating.

It was particularly pleasing to see David's contribution to umpiring recognised with an Australian Medal on the Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to both the AFLUA and VFUA. Congratulations David on your well deserved recognition.

Finally, I need to thank my right-hand man for most of 2019. Vice-President Matt Mahoney has been a great asset to the association. He, like 'Fleggy' and 'PK', is extremely passionate about umpiring in Victoria and wants the best for us all. He hasn't been afraid to roll up his sleeves and he takes on more jobs than he should, but everything he does is thorough, accurate and above any expectations.

Season 2019 was nothing but a learning curve for me. I got to see a side of umpiring that helped me develop personally and professionally. I've had to build new relationships, learn new skills, and tackle new challenges. It's a role that many shy away from, but one that has been extremely rewarding. It was disappointing to leave the Executive before the end of the season, but I am grateful for the challenges and achievements I was able to witness during my short time. Thank you to the Executive for supporting me and taking on the roles and tasks that were set to you this year. Thank you to all the members for backing me to fill this role. I hope I served you all well.

I hope everyone has a safe and festive silly season, and a great summer, so they can come back to the best state league in the country feeling relaxed, refreshed and fit.

Andrew Talbot

VFUA President (Dec. 2018 – Aug. 2019)

Administrator's report



On behalf of the VFUA Executive Committee, I submit my report for the 2018/19 financial year:

Membership

In 2019, 132 umpires joined the VFUA out of a total of 140 which represents 94% membership. In April, the VFUA held an induction program for new umpires. All 32 new umpires joined the association in season 2019.

VFUA Review

In 2018, the VFUA undertook a review of its structure and operations. One of the outcomes was to recruit an advocate to assist on a part-time basis with industrial and workplace issues. Despite seeking expressions of interest and approaching some personnel, the position remained unfilled during the year.

Financials

The VFUA completed the year with a surplus of \$5,003. The VFUA aims to break even each year with a view to ensuring annual programs and services are funded each year. The non-filling of the advocacy role resulted in the surplus being higher than planned.

VFUA Survey

The VFUA again conducted its biennial survey and the results were communicated to members at the third Association meeting in August. The VFUA will use these results in planning for the future.

Partners

The VFUA continued to provide members with access to a number of partners in 2019 – Nike, Musashi, Winners, 2XU, Edge Electrolytes, Budgy Smuggler, Running Warehouse and Spendless. The VFUA also partnered with Active Feet who provided discounted footwear and other sporting accessories for our members. On behalf of the VFUA, I would like to thank each partner for their assistance and support during the year.

Life Members

The VFUA welcomed four new life members – Michael Curtis, Sam Mounajed, Cyrus Wong and posthumously Paul Anderson to the Anderson family - in 2019 at the Life Members' Dinner at Mr and Mrs P in Brighton in May.

Award Winners

Congratulations to our award winners in 2019 and to all those members who achieved personal milestones during the year. Congratulations to Luke Porter (field), Matt Crowley (boundary) and James Rizio (goal) who were voted most improved in their respective categories and to Shamus Dundon (field), Corey Malcolm (boundary) and Thomas Gath (goal) on winning their squad's Best First Year Umpire awards in 2019.

Congratulations to Corey Malcolm on being the recipient of the 2019 Frank Leverett Shield – the best first year umpire across all disciplines.

AFLW Competition

VFL umpires again featured prominently in the AFLW competition in 2019. With the competition continuing to grow in stature and size in coming years, it is a fantastic opportunity for our umpires to showcase their skills in front of big crowds and TV audiences. Congratulations to our umpires who officiated in the AFLW grand final in Adelaide.

Grand Finals

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

Annual Report

David Flegg has once again pulled together a professional publication for members and life members which provides a great snap shot of the year just gone, but also is a great way of contributing to our history each year. Thank you, David for your continued excellent work.

Conclusion

I would like to take the opportunity of thanking your executive team who worked tirelessly for the benefit of members. Without their passion and hard work, the VFUA would not exist.

Andrew Talbot stepped into the presidency role after serving as communications officer in 2018. A natural step up, Andrew brought with him many of the skills he'd gained as a school teacher and longstanding field umpire. Andrew is a passionate umpires' man and his enthusiasm was infectious as he took on the lead role. Halfway through the year, Andrew was appointed to a role with the AFL Umpiring Department – Growth and Development Coordinator. We wish Andrew every success in his new role with the AFL.

Matt Mahoney stepped up into the vice-president's role and quickly assumed the responsibilities afforded that position. Early in the year, Andrew and Matt worked alongside the AFL in reshaping the performance management policy and procedures for umpires, so that the process was clear and consistent across the board. With Andrew's departure, Matt has assumed the role of acting president and has done a terrific job!

To our communications officer, Yip, a big thank you for the outstanding job you did, especially with the professional marketing fliers, powerpoint presentations and newsletters. Yip also played a major role in moving the VFUA to utilizing technology with membership forms and the online survey. Well done!

To our executive team, well done on a great year. Peter, Dylan, Liam, Mel, Matt and Callum you have all been fantastic and great leaders amongst your respective groups and I hope you enjoyed your experience as much as we have enjoyed having you on board. A special mention to Liam who managed to raise over \$500 through raffles at association meetings, thank you!

Our events coordinator Matt Young, thank you for the fantastic job you did in organizing our grand final functions. Matt had his arm twisted and had to head overseas at the last minute to assist with a tennis tournament in Europe so missed both functions, however be rest assured they both were well attended and ran very smoothly. Thank you to those who assisted on the night at both functions.

As usual, David Flegg continued to support the association in his capacity as Historian/Statistician as well as his position on the strategy team. Thank you again for another stella year! And congratulations on your achievement in being awarded an Australian Medal as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours for your years of volunteer service to both the AFLUA and VFUA.

I would like to thank AFLUA CEO Peter Howe for his continued support and wise counsel during the year. Peter has always made himself available to listen and guide our young executive team which has been very much appreciated. Peter is retiring in December and the VFUA wishes him all the best with whatever comes his way. Thank you also to Julia Gauci for her support with our partners program this year. Nothing is too much trouble for Julia and her willingness to help out is very much appreciated.

In closing, I would like to thank Michael Curtis, Leigh Keen, Chris Snell and Rob Findlay for their continued support and advice during the year.

And finally, thanks to our members and life members who continue to support the association. I wish you all a happy festive season and a terrific new year!

Peter Kelly
VFUA Administrator

Members 2019

Field	
2018	Bronte Annand
2016	Peter Bailes
2018	Joshua Ball
2018	Harry Birch
2013	Patrick Burns
2019	Jack Cannon
2015	Ben Cheever
2012	Thomas Chrystie
2017	Joel Clamp
2019	Adam Coles
2019	Oliver Colman
2009	Michael Curtis
2019	Sebastian Dalglish
2019	Shamus Dundon
2010	Jack Edwards (a)
2017	Sam Ferguson
2017	Lachlan Floyd
2018	Dylan Fulton
2019	Jackson Gillespie
2018	Nathan Guy
2018	Sean Hefter
2019	Ian Herman
2017	Jack Howard
2017	Brayden Hunter
2016	Nicholas Jankovskis
2019	Elias Kafritsas
2016	Jarryd Kingsbury
2019	Kaleb Laker
2014	Lucinda Lopes (b)
2017	Thomas Lyon
2017	Matthew Mahoney
2019	Hamish McCartney
2019	Hugo Morgan
2017	Alex Murray
2018	Ben O'Brien
2019	Jordan Pearson
2015	Matthew Pongracic
2019	Jacob Port
2016	Luke Porter
2016	Paul Rebeschini
2016	Jacob Rockwell
2015	Martin Rodger
2015	Leighton Rowe
2018	Nick Scott
2019	Jacob Stuckey
2008	Andrew Talbot
2017	Lucas Taylor
2016	Nathan Toner
2019	Darcy Trewarn
2017	Cameron Watts
2017	Ryan Webster

Field	
2018	Michael Willcox
2018	Cameron Williams
2015	Matthew Young
Boundary	
2016	Blake Anderson
2012	Brynton Ashton
2019	Tim Attard
2019	Kaitlin Barr
2017	Sam Beer
2009	Adam Bell
2016	Josh Blain
2015	Simon Blight
2016	Trent Bowes
2019	James Brayshaw
2011	Leigh Buwalda
2012	Chris Cato (c)
2011	John Cooper
2018	Matthew Crowley
2015	Patrick Damato
2016	Jake D'Angelo
2017	Joel Davis
2016	Brenton Dickson
2013	Kieran Ferguson
2015	Kyle Fisher
2019	Connor Hagan
2014	Ashley Hawkes
2018	Lachlan Higgs
2017	Riley Kane
2018	Jordan King
2019	Corey Malcolm
2019	Lachlan Menara
2018	Greta Miller
2019	Zachary Mousaco
2019	Luke Myatt
2015	Liam Pain
2017	Tim Peterson
2013	Nicholas Phillips
2017	Adrian Pretorius
2018	Jack Punshon
2019	Benjamin Rofe
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
2013	Luke Wilke
2015	Jesse Wilkie
2016	Chris Williams

Goal	
2018	Tope Adeyoyibi
2019	Patrick Aurish
2012	Corey Brown (e)
2018	Zachary Brown-Close
2019	Joe Dorrat-Thorpe
2006	Chris Doyle
2012	Matthew Edwards
2003	Adam Gardner (f)
2019	Thomas Gath
2019	Lochlin Hamer
2015	Joshua Hickman
2002	Dean Jones
2019	Bradley Kellett
2011	Callum Leonard
2017	Tayla Manning
2018	Jake Marnie
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
2019	Adam Steger
2018	Callum Thornton
2017	Nelson Tucker (g)
2016	John Varker
2008	Cyrus Wong
2015	Joon-Yip Wong

Notes

- (a) Off list 2015-16.
- (b) Field 2014-16, 2018-19.
Boundary 2017.
- (c) Off list 2015-18.
- (d) Off list 2012.
- (e) Off list 2013, 2015-18.
Boundary 2012, 2014.
Goal 2019.
- (f) Off list 2009-2016, 2018.
- (g) Off list 2018.

2018 life memberships

Paul Anderson

Paul Anderson was a VFL Boundary umpire and VFUA member who lost a battle to cancer in 2001. In Paul's short career, he umpired 41 VFL games, 38 VFL Reserve games and 27 TAC Cup games, which also included the 1997 VFL Reserves Grand Final.

In 2001, the VFUA held a mini-olympics, an event that involved multiple activities where each squad competed against one another for the Paul Anderson memorial shield. The idea behind the event was to raise money for the Victorian Cancer Council through each umpire making a small donation to participate on the night.

The event brought together each discipline to compete in a manner to honour Paul's spirit. It was a serious night of intense competition filled with plenty of laughter and banter. It was a night to commemorate a comrade as an entire umpire fraternity.

Fast forward 18 years and the tradition continues. Each year all disciplines come together to compete against one another to honour Paul. Competition is still fierce, the banter is still high, but the Anderson family get to witness all the fun and laughter Paul still brings to the VFUA year after year.

In my time at the VFL, there hasn't been any person who has had such a lasting influence on such a large group of people for as long as he has, even after his passing. For these reasons, I wish to nominate Paul Anderson as an Honorary Life Member of the VFUA.

Michael Curtis

Michael Curtis has been a VFL umpire since 2009. After just one season, he was promoted from the Development Squad to the Senior Squad of which he is still a member after nine seasons. In that time, Michael has umpired 168 VFL games, 19 Development games and 23 TAC Cup games, including the 2010 and 2011 TAC Cup Grand Finals and the 2012 and 2017 Development League Grand Finals. As an umpire, he is a universally loved character who supports, assists, cares for and entertains his comrades.

Michael has played a significant role in the progression of the VFUA. He has been a member every year as an umpire, but for the last six years, he has had a role as a track representative from 2013-2015 before stepping up as VFUA president from 2016 to 2018. Being involved in the VFUA behind the scenes for six consecutive years is, in itself, a testament to his dedication to ensure the VFUA is as strong as possible. Michael's dedication is further evident through the many

difficult challenges during his tenure as President.

As the face of the VFUA, he has worked tirelessly to build a collaborative relationship between the VFUA and AFL Victoria. Whilst this has been one of his achievements as president, he has still operated with the members being his most important priority. He has developed a relationship where he has been able to take on AFL Victoria initiatives and negotiate the implementation of strategies to benefit VFUA members.

Michael also commissioned a review of the VFUA after realising that there was a need to refocus the direction of the VFUA. A number of changes are being implemented to ensure the association continues to meet the changing needs of its members.

All these achievements signify Michael is more than deserving of VFUA Life Membership.

Sam Mounajed

Sam has been involved with the VFL Umpires as head trainer for nine years from 2010 until present. He began his reign of head trainer in the era of great umpires coming through the VFL like Richard Mills, Tristan Burgess, Nick Lawrence, Daniel Pieper, Dean Jones and Anthony Kyrkou.

Throughout his journey, he hasn't just been the head trainer, but you could say he also plays role of doctor, trainer, teacher, coach, observer, mentor and a father figure not only for the junior trainers coming through the program, but also all the umpires.

When you think about all the work this man does, not only giving plenty of hammy and calf rubs, but the clean-up and set-up each year to ensure that us umpires get the best opportunity to be at our best. When our season is all over, you will still see Sammy at Vic Park cleaning those tables, ice baths, and rooms and preparing them for the next season.

Not only does he have to take himself to games on a Saturday or Sunday, he now has the pleasure of taking his son Amen to games as trainer to follow in his father's footsteps.

When we get Sammy as trainer on game day, not only do we have the best trainer in the business, but we also have the best caterer. Through cakes, biscuits, Lebanese breads and of course his stash of lollies, Sam goes above and beyond what's required of him for the betterment of umpires.

He is a fantastic contributor to the culture that we are trying to build at the VFL and there is no question to his commitment of this. Sam has not

2018 life memberships

only made himself available in the umpiring group, but also ensures to encourage his group of trainers to attend all VFUA Social events with him.

I have no hesitation in nominating Sam for honorary life membership of the VFUA.

Cyrus Wong

You would be hard-pressed to come across a more determined and dedicated umpire than Cyrus Wong. His commitment and his passion for his craft run deep, but these are by no-means self-serving.

Cyrus is always the first person to go out of his way to offer tips, tricks and "industry secrets" to a developing umpire, or new umpire on the list and doesn't need to be prompted to do so. He is someone who is constantly invested in the well-being and betterment of his colleagues, and is certainly always one of the first people to ask me "How did you go today?" after a game.

But it is not only the craft of umpiring that brings forward this life membership nomination today. For it is Cyrus' tireless efforts -year after year - to support the VFUA's major fundraising initiative,

the \$1,000 draw, by almost inevitably selling the most amount of ticket books each year with daylight to the second-most. It is this kind of attitude towards the VFUA which encompasses his thought to us all as a community.

Umpiring is clearly a very unique environment, where we all come together, both as colleagues and invested competitors, wishing well always for our peers whilst also battling to get the best out of ourselves. I can think of nobody better on the VFL list that I know that fully embodies what this means.

Cyrus is outwardly supportive of his peers, whilst quietly going about his business with his own umpiring. He seeks no glory, just the best for himself and the game that he loves, which has been evident over his now 100+ game career.

One of the most impressive things was when he faced some fitness demons, Cyrus formulated a plan to remedy this. Dedication, resilience, longevity, persistence, camaraderie and a commitment to the betterment of the Association he has been a part of for so many years, are the key reasons I put forward Cyrus Wong as a life member of the VFUA.



L-R: Ray and Denise Anderson, Michael Curtis, Sam Mounajed, Cyrus Wong.

VFUA life members

Darren Agnew (1995)	David Dixon (2004)	Greg Kennedy (1998)	Frank Raiti (1994)
Peter Allsop (1992)	Mikel Donsen (1993)	Hayden Kennedy (1993)	Gary Ramm (1999)
Paul Anderson (2018)*	Gavin Dore (1993)	Colin Larter (1999)	Denis Rich (Found.)
Jason Armstrong (2006)	Brendan Dye (2004)	Nick Laurence (2015)	Michael Richardson (2006)
Peter Balding (2010)	Judi Elliott (1997)	Matthew Leppard (2009)	Linton Roe (2000)
Dan Beard (2004)	Brendan Elvey (2017)	Richard Leslie (2002)	Greg Russo (1999)
Gary Best (1994)*	Stephen Evans (2006)	Stephen Luckman (1992)	John Russo (Found.)
Anthony Black (1998)	Ray Fargie (1993)	Andrew Malcolm (2002)	Paul Saville (Found.)
Michael Blair (2013)	Rob Findlay (2007)	Wes Mann (1999)	Rowan Sawers (Found.)
Michael Boss (2011)	Lloyd Fisk (2003)	Shane Mason (2003)	Graeme Scherger (1992)
Alan Brewer (1996)	David Flegg AM (1997) †	Dean Maxwell (1995)	Colin Segota (1996)
Graeme Brewer (1993)	Rob Frampton (1999)	Peter McDonald (1998)	Roger Selwood (1992)
Tristan Burgess (2013)	Joy Gelly (2005)	Anton McKernan (1993)	Michael Sexton (1998)
Daniel Butcher (2016)	Stephen Gloag (2005)	Scott McLaren (1999)	Bryan Sheehan (1993)
Keith Callaghan (1997)	Darren Goldspink (1993)	Richard Mills (2013)	Michael Sneddon (Found.)
Peter Cameron (Found.)	Peter Gonis (2005)	Chris Mitchell (Found.)	Chris Snell (2003)
Mark Canning (2000)	Doug Gourlay (1994)	David Mitchell (Found.)	Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)
Peter Carey (1992)	Doug Gower (1993)	Kevin Mitchell (2006)	Justin Stephenson (2001)
Brendan Carland (Found.)	Ian Green (1993)	Geoff Morrow (Found.)*	Steven Stirling (1998)
Barry Carmichael (Found.)	John Hall (1997)	Sam Mounajed (2018)	Brad Strachan (2000)
Geoff Caulfield (1995)	Michael Hammond (2003)	Geoff Mowat (1992)	Terry Suitryk (1993)
Craig Clark (1996)	Lindsay Hardman (2000)	Peter Nastasi (2004)	Phil Sutton (Found.)
Andrew Clifton (2005)	Shane Harris (1992)	Ben Naughtin (2008)	Andrew Talbot (2017)
Andrew Coates (1994)	Darren Holt (2003)	John O'Leary (1993)	Simon Tursi (2008)
Allan Cook (1993)	Colin Hood (1997)	Malcolm Owen (1993)	James Van Beek (1994)
Michael Curtis (2018)	David Howlett (Found.)	Laurie Page (1994)	Jason Venkataya (2005)
Graham Danne (Found.)*	David Humphries (2001)	Brian Philp (1994)*	Michael Viney (1993)
Russell Davidson (2000)	Anthony Hunter (2014)*	Daniel Pieper (2016)	Matthew Vitiritti (2000)
Rod Davies (1995)	Steele Irish (2007)	Steven Piperno (2015)	Phil Watson (1993)
Andrew Dempster (2001)	Ben James (2006)	Mark Powell (1998)	Andrew Wheeler (1998)
Greg Denison (2012)	Michael Jennings (2010)	Mark Prince (1993)	Graeme Williams (Found.)
Frank Dicosmo (2006)	Leigh Keen (Found.)	Doug Purss (Found.)*	Adam Wojcik (2007)
	Peter Kelly (1996) †		Cyrus Wong (2018)

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

John Russo Trophy



Andrew Talbot has been a member of the VFUA since 2008. He has umpired 174 VFL, 19 AFL Development League and 19 TAC Cup games including the 2018 VFL grand final, the 2009 and 2013 TAC Cup grand finals and the 2017 AFL Development League grand final. Andrew was also a listed AFL Rookie umpire for three years from 2013 to 2015. Andrew has also served on the VFUA Executive Committee for three years, two as track representative for the senior field squad and one year as communications officer.

In 2018, Andrew officiated in 23 VFL senior games including 4 finals and his first VFL grand final in addition to being awarded VFL Field Umpire of the Year. In addition to his on-field success, Andrew was also a member of the VFUA Executive team in the role of Communications Officer. In this role, Andrew was responsible for managing communication to members via emails, Facebook content and monthly newsletters whilst also contributing to the strategic direction of the association.

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

Andrew is well respected amongst the umpiring group and displays high personal qualities both on and off the field. He is a deserving nominee for the 2018 John Russo Trophy.



John Russo Trophy recipients

1997	R.Davidson	2008	S.Gloag
1998	D.Flegg	2010	R.Mills
1999	A.Black	2012	D.Butcher
2001	C.Snell	2013	M.Curtis
2003	D.Wilson	2014	S.Piperno
2004	R.Findlay	2015	D.Butcher
2005	J.Armstrong	2015	L.Rayner
2005	A.Wojcik	2017	M.Curtis
2006	D.Flegg	2018	A.Talbot

Obituary

Doug Purss

There would be few who enjoyed their umpiring more than Doug Purss. He loved match day and being a part of footy on the field, he loved the social aspect and having a drink or two with his umpiring mates.

He began umpiring with the VFL Reserve Grade in 1969 as a boundary umpire and changed to the field in 1973. In 1977 he was promoted to the senior list running around the country in 17 matches. He returned to the Reserve Grade in 1978 when he took up the flags. Following the demise of the Reserve Grade he was promoted to the VFL goal umpires list and debuted in Round 21 1984, Melbourne v. St. Kilda at VFL Park.

In days when the rotation policies for a big list of goal umpires meant going regularly from senior to reserves to U19s there wasn't much opportunity to build big numbers. In 1986 Doug's first final was his 17th match and the 1987 Grand Final was his 28th. His second Grand Final was the classic 1989 Geelong v. Hawthorn match and was his 57th.

Doug retired at the end of the 1992 season after his 105th match. After which he took on roles with Southern Umpires Association and the VFL.

As a goal umpire Doug was someone who nothing phased. He was always in control, he seemed to never rush but was always where he needed to be to make a decision. His signals were so smooth and he understood the theatre of VFL football. He was a foundation life member of the VFUA.

Doug passed away on 23 July 2019 after a long and courageous battle with motor neurone disease.



Honour

David Flegg AM



Former VFL/AFL goal umpire, AFLUA Historian and VFUA Historian-Statistician David Flegg was presented with an Order of Australia (AM) for his services to umpiring by the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria at Government House on Friday 20 September 2019.

David's contribution to the Australian Football League Umpires' Association (AFLUA), Victorian Football Umpires' Association (VFUA) and umpiring for 37 years has been profound. Most of his work off-field has been done in an honorary or voluntary capacity – he has donated years of his life to both associations. He has done this whilst maintaining full-time employment as a research librarian with a number of government organisations.

But it is not the accumulation of records and researching and recording the history of umpiring that makes David a special person. It is his passion and genuine care and interest in the tradition and history of umpiring as well as in umpiring and umpires. He is a mentor to young umpires, a genuine role model to current umpires and respected amongst the umpiring fraternity as one of the all-time contributors to umpiring in Australia.

As can be seen from the umpires' association positions held and his achievements, David's contribution to the AFLUA and VFUA and indeed AFL and VFL umpiring in general, has been truly outstanding. A summary of David's VFUA roles:

- Since 1993 Historian / Statistician
- Since 1993 Executive Committee – member
- Since 1993 Annual Report – project manager
- Since 1997 Website – project manager and author
- Since 2000 QAP – project manager
- Since 2015 Exec. Comm. Strategy Team – member

VFL life membership - Andrew Talbot

The human turtle, the PWS power ranger, the PE teacher, the 2019 VFUA president. These are just some of the many identities by which Andrew Talbot goes.

Coming from the Diamond Valley Football League, Andrew joined the VFL in 2008, but not without his challenges. In 2006, Andrew was kicked off the track after the first training session of the year! After re-trialing in 2007, Andrew broke his foot in the pre-season and was forced onto the supplementary list. And then finally in 2008, Andrew trialed again, and as they say, third time lucky! Fair to say, Andrew never looked back, gained a spot on the development list and was then promoted to the senior list in 2009.

Entering his 11th season as a VFL senior umpire, Andrew has accomplished many things in umpiring. From his first senior game, Box Hill v Northern, to the infamous successful 'head count' when Frankston had 19 on the ground and their score wiped. That was almost as good as having his fifth senior match delayed due to a helicopter landing on the field during the reserves. But when speaking to Andrew about what he thinks of his own career highlights, he said, "One of my highlights involves sending an under 11 kid off for flashing his opponent at a set shot."

"I also got the chance to umpire an AFL match as a rookie after coming on 5 minutes into the second quarter. Round 3, 2014, North Melbourne v Port Adelaide. I couldn't hear my match com the crowd was that loud, it was surreal."

"Along with the 2018 VFL Grand Final, the 2009 TAC Cup and 2017 AFLV Development League Grand Finals are obviously some of my most cherished moments."

It's the 27 March, 2018. It's list announcement night, and Andrew has unsuspectingly been chosen to don the number 1 guernsey for the 2018 season. With the previous season's number 1 having umpired the grand final and collected umpire of the year, the responsibility and expectations that came with wearing the number might have overwhelmed some. For others it might be a challenge, a motivator if you will.

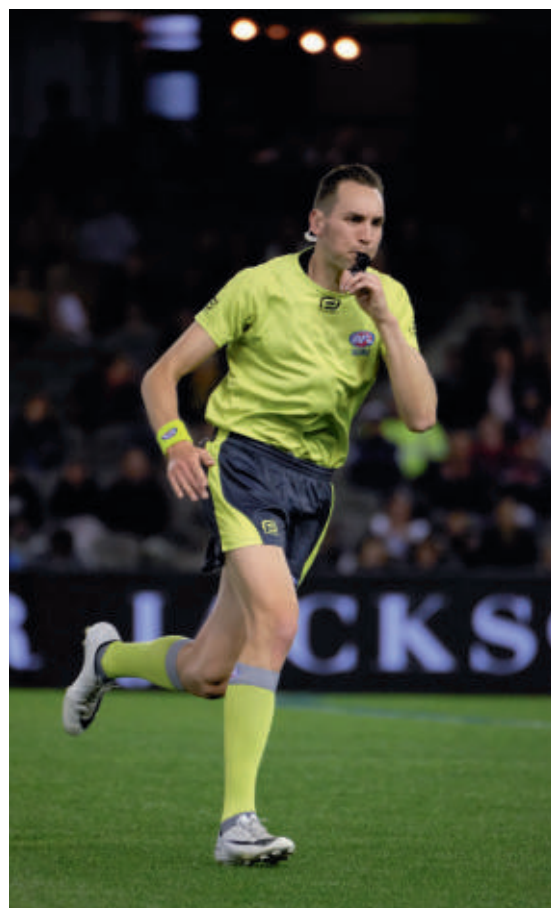
It seemed that throughout 2018, Andrew had decided to choose the latter. In what seemed to be a flawless display of umpiring consistency throughout the 2018 season, Andrew had embraced all challenges and had his best season to date.

Hardly putting a foot wrong all year Andrew was rightfully chosen to umpire his first VFL senior grand final, collecting the umpire of the year award along the way too. Some have even said that his 2018 campaign as the number 1 was the

best they had seen in recent times. They say a week is a long time in football, and what must have felt like an eternity to Andrew was the grand final week, from being named umpire of the year and being appointed to his first VFL grand final. Andrew was brought back down to earth having started the grand final with a recalled bounce, not your finest moment, Mr. Talbot.

Apart from umpiring, you may see Andrew post about a PWS power ranger, which is his alter ego. Andrew's work as the PWS power ranger is about raising awareness for Prader-Willi syndrome with which his good friend Jamie Grindal's daughter was diagnosed. Whether it be attending a PWS fund raiser in Sale, or running a full marathon in his orange morph suit, there's not too many people out there with the kindness and generosity to give up their time for others like Andrew.

What separates Andrew from a lot of others is his willingness to give up his time for the greater good of umpiring. Andrew is heavily involved with the rookie squad when they train at the VFL, along with always being a leading voice around the group and assisting his fellow umpires with questions they may have. Nothing is ever too much for Talbot, which makes him one of the most deserving blokes to receive VFL life membership.



Social report



2019 Paul Anderson Mini-Olympics

As per tradition, the annual Paul Anderson Mini-Olympics took place once again in 2019. An event that has been running for more than 15 years, the event took place on what would usually be a gruelling pre-season Thursday, normally filled with strenuous running reps, but instead 21 February was filled with compassion. On the flip side, the night was not without competition. Six squads clashed head to head as development and senior boundary, goal and field umpires fought it out for the overall victory.

Participants in the first few events were thrown straight into the fire. Quoits inside the fieldies locker room. Two team members from different groups took to the carpet, surrounded by umpires from all disciplines. Greta Miller looked to defend her title as most outstanding quoits player in 2018 and did so by defeating stalwart Tom 'T-rip' Chrystie in a sudden death battle. Tunnel ball followed and was a bit more forgiving for those involved as participants were able to work in teams. A high standard of tunnel balling was displayed by all teams that weren't called development field, who finished woefully in last place.

The lush green surface of Victoria Park opened up to us at 6.30 and it wasn't long until members of the 4x200m team were trampling it. Another year of controversy clouded the event as the handicapping system was once again off the mark. However, this did not stop Brenton Dickson from bringing home the win for development boundary – although we still aren't sure if he has located the correct finish line. Senior boundary was up in arms as they fiercely debated the integrity of the event, but there were no complaints from the development goalies who forgot how many athletes are required in the 4x200m race.

Soccer, also known as the participation sport, was up next. Masses of players took to the pitches and hacked away at a foreign circular object. All umpiring prowess went out the window as legs were chopped, bodies bumped and rules bent. Lachlan Higgs secured the win for development boundary in their first game. Not with a goal, but with an unsportsmanlike boot that sent the ball sailing out of bounds, taking any remaining time with it. A matchup between development and senior field ended in controversy, with Matt Young's senior team coming out on top. However, allegations of extra players on the field clouded the victory.

The pressure once again mounted as teams gathered to show off their 'bouncing' and 'throw-in' abilities, a nervous occasion for those who perform such acts on a day to day basis. For the others, it was an opportunity to show the pros up, and show them up they did. Senior boundary umpire Travis Taylor snatched the win away from the fieldies with an excellent bounce that achieved him maximum points. Unfortunately for goal umpire Jackson Griffiths, his bouncing ability did not match up to his ability to don some impressive glasses.

The goal-kicking competition was more relaxed this year, expect for invite for trial Darcy Trewarn who talked himself up big time before his attempts at the big sticks. Although he was not victorious, rumours of the overall victor were spreading, with development boundary looking like the runaway favourites. The result was confirmed and development boundary secured the win for the 2019 Paul Anderson Mini-Olympics.

Following the events, it was great to see everyone grab a snag and come together in memory of Paul Anderson, a VFL umpire who lost his battle with cancer in 2001. The night raised \$1,665 for the Cancer Council.

A thank you must 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 and allowing us to have a training night to stage the event. A special thank you to the Anderson family who continue to support and attend the event each year. See you all next year!

Life Members' Dinner

The annual VFUA Life Members' Dinner returned to Mr and Mrs P in Brighton for the 2nd year running on Sunday 26 May 2019. As always, it was great to see VFUA members of all different generations coming together to share their stories as well as a beer or two!

VFUA life membership was presented on the night to Paul Anderson (posthumously), Michael Curtis, Sam Mounajed and Cyrus Wong.

It was particularly touching to see the Anderson family collect Paul's life membership on his behalf. Paul Anderson was a former VFL umpire who tragically lost his life to cancer in 2001. Each year the VFUA hold a mini-olympics in his honour, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Cancer Council throughout the years.

Michael Curtis was recognised for his tremendous work as president during tumultuous times from 2016-2018, as well as senior field track rep from 2013-2015. Sam Mounajed was rewarded for his excellent contribution as a trainer over a number of years, always going above and beyond by providing umpires with treats from his family restaurant on game day. Finally, Cyrus Wong was acknowledged for achievements including his longevity in umpiring, repeated success selling the most tickets for the \$1,000 raffle and unique goal of running all public transport routes in Melbourne!

VFUA President Andrew Talbot kicked off the night in style with an update on all things VFL umpiring. He must have done a good job with former president Matt Leppard heard to be making remarks that the address contained 'lots of good meaty stuff'. Very articulate as usual from Matt.

To sum up, thanks must go 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.

Goal umpire social

On Sunday 28 July, VFUA members gathered at Archie Brothers Cirque Electriq, located within the illustrious Docklands district. Led by Matt Edwards (our fearless leader), the goalies gathered together for a night of fun and games.

For one hour, each member had unlimited access to arcade games and bespoke activities. It was a great opportunity to compete against fellow flag wavers away from the track and simply enjoy each other's company.

So, what went down? Well, it was safe to say that Ken Mitchell was in his natural 'Ballarat habitat' whilst on the bumper cars – drink driving, yelling expletives and doing burnouts. Christopher Doyle got wet whilst shooting ducks. Brad Kellett demonstrated some elite skills on the bowling alley, whilst Jake Marnie performed one of the most clutch bowling efforts known to man. The night concluded with Brendon Moloney having a primary school reunion and James Rizio displaying his goal signals within the confines of a shopping trolley.

Thanks to all who organised the night, especially Matt Edwards and Callum Thornton. It was certainly a great night enjoyed by all.

Field umpire social

The field umpire social function took place in the late afternoon on Sunday the 28 July 2019. Congregating at Hardrock Climbing, the umpires traversed the many scalable walls of varying heights and difficulties.

There were strong performances from the two senior squad climbers, Peter Bailes and Andrew Talbot. This is especially true considering Talbot ran a half-marathon and 10k at Run Melbourne in the morning and Peter Bailes was rebounding off a fairly large Saturday night (his diet for the day consisted of a bag of chips and Diet Coke).





There was some extremely questionable belaying on display across the development squads. Matt Mahoney's technique appeared to be an attempt to remove any competition before finals squad announcements. Seb Dagleish took this further, actually dropping Adam Coles. Great teamwork lads.

Special mentions to Seb for making the trip down from Ballarat, only to be outdone by Bronte Annand who came directly off a flight from Adelaide (and then had her boyfriend wait at the venue for 2 hours). She also put in a strong performance in a race with Kaleb Laker, who left more of an impression in the wall than with spectators after a failed attempt at a diving start.

Rock climbing does build up one hell of an appetite, and a select crew of umpires made their way back to Melbourne Central station in a desperate search for a chicken parm. Unfortunately a pub was nowhere to be seen, so we had to settle for chicken parmas sourced from "Schnitz", with the plastic cutlery and small parma size a grim sight for those accustomed to the Thursday night pub grub at Skinny Dog Hotel.

Despite the chicken parma episode a good time was had by all, we look forward to next year's function (BYO cutlery).

Boundary umpire social

Following the success of last years' event, there would be an encore of 2018's social function with the boundary umpires going bowling, and many were set on redemption following their efforts in 2018.

After a few beers at various starting points, the

group descended on Strike Bowling at Melbourne Central in the belief that some liquid courage would bring about outstanding results in the bowling alley. It became very clear, however, that while many on the squad are quite adept at tossing footballs over their head, it may not always equate to success in the lanes.

Though Sam Beer and Riley Kane were hitting strikes for fun, many were left wondering whether Raushaan Seychell knew that scoring gutter balls is not the objective of bowling. Perhaps next time he should take some advice from Mel Sambrooks and use the ball ramp for some more success.

As the night drew to a close, many decided to continue the night at Crown, where it became very clear how Max Visintin earns enough money to buy Balenciaga, Off-White and Gucci every other week.

Overall, it was a night enjoyed all, with a particular shout-out to our track reps Painy and Mel for organising the event!





Grand final after-party

With the 2019 VFL Grand Final moved to IKON Park after 11 straight deciders in Docklands, the VFUA Grand Final After Party also saw a refresh by moving to a new venue, Il Gambero in Carlton.

After a thrilling grand final that came down to the wire, with Richmond taking the chocolates by three points against a gallant Williamstown, the umpires made their way to Carlton in search of food and beverages.

The first formality was the drawing of the winner of a Crown Hotels accommodation package for VFUA members who had attended all of the association meetings (thanks to Matt Edwards and his 'contacts'). Much to the dismay of some, senior boundary track rep Liam Pain took out the prize (worth a mention is Tom "T-Rip" Chrystie almost taking it out after winning the \$1,000 draw last year). On reflection, the group decided Liam's win was probably for the best given Painy's workrate with the missus needs to remain at 'above required standard'. #batting

All attendees were elated to see the return of a coach (who will remain unnamed) to the afterparty festivities who without doubt took out BOG for the second year running. The tune Eagle Rock was also a favourite on the night, with plenty of the lads including Jack Cannon and Matt Mahoney dancing to the tune with the obligatory pants around the ankles.

Thanks to Matt Young for organising the event, despite the fact he was a late out on the day due to a work call up to go to Geneva and assist with the Laver Cup tennis (read: "junket"). It was also great to see well over 110 VFUA members and other guests attending on the night, a strong showing in support of the VFUA and we hope to see you all again next year!

Grand final ball

For the third straight year the VFUA Ball was held on the eve of the AFL Grand Final public holiday at the Lincoln of Toorak. The ball has changed MC's

more than Australia has changed prime ministers with this year featuring a new MC in Brett Phillips (who should be familiar with those fans of the Australian Open tennis). The night kicked off with the president Matthew Mahoney giving a report on some of the key VFUA matters.

From here it was time for the awards and recognising the umpires of the four grand finals for the year. Con (the DJ) made his mark on the night with tunes like 'Thunderstruck' greeting the umpires when they were announced. The umpires were then put through their paces with MC Brett asking the hard-hitting questions with the viral trend #goharry addressed.

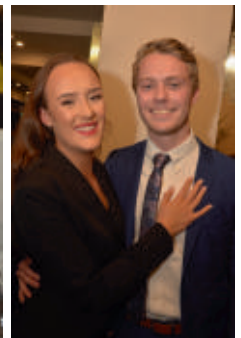
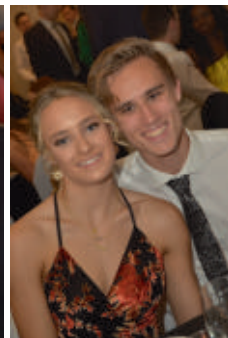
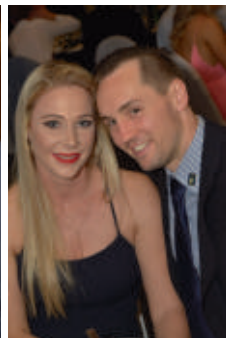
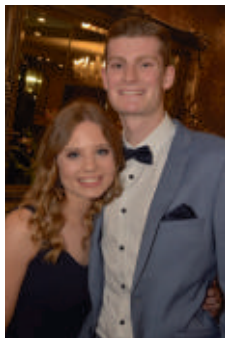
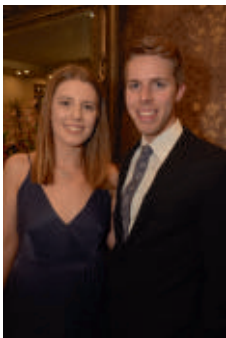
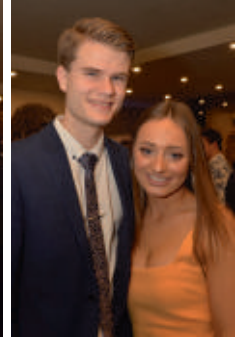
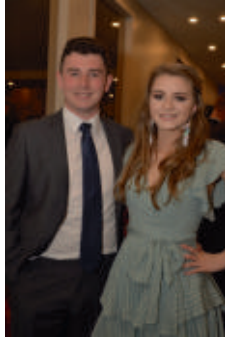
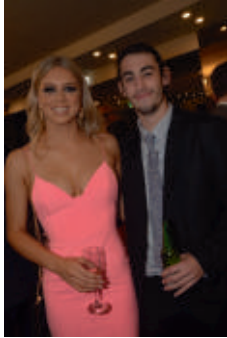
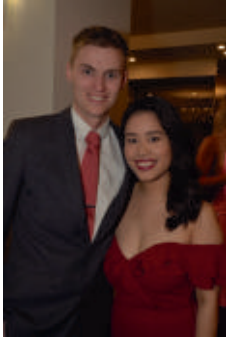
After this the newest edition of 'roaming' made its way around the room. Roaming Marty started the party however, roaming Burns failed to fire. Lucas Taylor as Seth Rogen, there being no benefits to dating a goal umpire (who would have thought) and some of the boundaries not enjoying social functions were some of the features of the segment.

Once these segments were done it was time for the party to begin with DJ Con turning the volume and the lights on people's phones on to really get the vibe going. Cameron Watts was 'untouchable' and Andrew Talbot went down an 'Old Town Road' and everyone enjoying classic songs such as 'Up There Cazaly' and 'Holy Grail'.

A big thank you to the members. Without their support, these events would not be as successful as they are. A special thank you to this year's organiser, Matt Young. He had big shoes to fill after the previous balls, but the night was a success with all attendees (well apart from some boundary umpires) having a great night. Thanks also to Brett Phillips for MC'ing the night, with his knowledge of football and interest in umpiring creating some interesting discussions.

The night was very successful, with delicious food, drinks, plenty of laughs and great company creating an atmosphere that only umpires can. The end of the night marked the final siren of the 2019 season with many memories and achievements made along the way.

VFUA Ball



Squad reports

Senior field

As 2019 draws to a close, it's important to remember where we started. When we all arrived back at the Project centre for the first night of pre-season, it was evident that a few of the VFL's finest from previous years were no longer returning. As well as AFLW overlapping with practice matches, it provided a few of the 2018 senior-dev guys the chance to umpire senior practice matches in the hope of getting listed. Congratulations to Nathan Toner for umpiring the AFLW grand final, an awesome achievement.

With a number of key departures throughout the off season, the list was looking thin. However, as quoted by Cameron Nash, this was a year with plenty of 'opportunities'. He meant what he said, as we welcomed eight new additions onto the senior squad. Josh Ball, Luke Porter, Nick Scott, Sam Ferguson, Tom Lyon, Joel Clamp, Cameron Watts and Nick Jankovskis were all deservedly rewarded with being promoted after strong years previously as well as dedicated pre-seasons. These new additions fitted in seamlessly as they all debuted within the first month, a testament to their development.

As well as the newly listed senior umpires, former VFL senior field umpire Tim Carlos, observer turned coach Roger Le Grand and bouncing coach Gary Fila were all welcomed as assistant coaches to help develop the list in what looked to be a year that had plenty of promise.

The day after list announcements, news broke that our very own Andrew Heffernan was to be promoted to the AFL, seeing another experienced campaigner depart, which tallied well over 500 senior games experience leaving us before round one. This would allow for even more opportunities throughout the year, which saw senior development squad umpires Brayden Hunter and Jack Howard debut in 2019.

Paul Rebeschini



Marty Rodger and Michael Curtis were selected as the leadership group for 2019 and did a fantastic job leading the developing group throughout the year.

Thursday night training was revolutionised in 2019, as we spent more time off the track much to Jack Edwards' delight and more time in the coaching room, watching vision and having at-length discussions surrounding all things umpiring, something the group thoroughly benefited from and enjoyed.

Milestones were a plenty in 2019. Andrew Talbot reached the illustrious 175 game mark in round one, as did Michael Curtis who reached the 175 game milestone in round seven. Pat Burns also chalked up 100 of the best as he reached his milestone in round 16, which he ran with close mates Rob Young and T-Rip Chrystie who unfortunately was struck by the injury curse. As the two most senior figures on the list Michael Curtis and Andrew Talbot both reached the incredible 175 VFL game mark, they were both deservedly awarded VFL life membership at the Liston trophy awards night in September.

Six umpires made their debut in week one of finals, a reflection of the incredible years they had. Congratulations to Paul Rebeschini who umpired his second consecutive grand final and to Marty Rodger and Michael Pell who umpired their first. Also hats off to Luke Porter who, in his first year of senior footy, sat the bench for the big dance, and gee he did a good job at 'sitting' on the bench.

Reflecting on where we started, to where we finished up, the 2019 senior umpiring panel should be proud of their efforts. Enjoy the off season and freshen up, see you all in 2020.

Development and Senior Development field

Oh what a season. 2019 had a lot of movement this year with some swift progression and stellar performances throughout the season. There were plenty of new faces among the ranks, some struggled early but whether it was the "cannon" footwear or methodical pace of Sean Hefter most managed to keep their feet. Well except for maybe a few instances; I mean when someone goes down night one you know you are in for a ripper.

But don't worry Lucas, you weren't the only one. When it came to the mini-Olympics it is safe to say this year was less than desirable. Even with the elite speed of Kaleb Laker it was no match for Anton's course design that carried poor Laker off course on the final stretch. Even a new recruit Ian Herman was no match against the hurricane force winds that are clearly the only explanation for what I must describe as a centre bounce but was far from one.

continued page 20

Squad reports



Many relished in the spotlight this year with repeat offenders Bronte and Floyd blowing up social media. But what better way to celebrate making the list than to have your mum not only bake a cake for you, but to hijack your old man's birthday party for making the development squad; I hope you enjoyed the cake Elias. With 15 total new recruits in 2019, 6 elevations to senior development and an amazing 8 elevations to the senior squad the success stories far surpassed our expectations. With Josh Ball and Nick Scott having only commenced their VFL journey last year they moved swiftly in to senior footy. Our spiritual leader in Matthew Mahoney put in a monster effort in the off-season to come back a man on a mission and was rewarded with an elevation to the SDS. But our eyes were certainly on the new recruits.

Anselmi moved onwards and upwards to the coach of the SDS paving the way for Tristan Burgess to take control of the rowdy development squad. Fitness coach Sean Corrigan stepped away as well with the highly energetic Anton working alongside a much-loved MD and fresh faces in Michael and Xavier to assist in growing our fitness. But what better way to be introduced in to VFL football than to go through not one, not two but three different rules matrixes and with threats of suspension on the table. Yet, with a few inspirational speeches from Shamus Dundon, the re-incarnation of Martin Luther King Jr, we were able to get over the line.

Overall this year was a great laugh but more importantly the determination of this group to put their best foot forward week in week out separates this competition from any other. The commitment to this craft and the betterment of our own skills means we are not only creating an environment cultivating success, but we are having fun doing it. The passion and desire to get to the top is evident in each and every one of you. There is nothing that hard work can't achieve and whether it's on the field or off the field the umpires of the 2019 SDS and DS should hold their heads up high.

Lastly Congratulations go to all those who officiated in finals and grand finals this year and let's show them all that umpires do in fact have 2020 vision.

Senior boundary

The boundaries this year started off with a new look. Leigh Rowbottom's one year reign as coach concluded as well as the illustrious careers of some beloved umpires coming to an end. David Park (24 senior matches), Lachlan Harty (30), Curtis De Witt (42), Tom Horsten (60), Lawrence Coop (65) and crowd favourite Andrew Leggo (117) hung up the boots whilst Josh "last rep hero" Furman was lucky enough to get the call up to the big time, having a fantastic first year in the AFL.

The leadership roles also had a shake up with Stagg and Wilke taking up the captaincy role, Painy showing Hawksy how to be a decent track rep, Buwalda jumping in as a running development coach and Cameron Black stepping into Rowbottom's shoes as senior squad coach. We also welcomed seven new faces onto the list including Riley "Ri Ri" Kane, Lachlan Higgs, Matt Crowley, Greta "Greg" Miller, Trent Bowes, Jake D'Angelo and Brenton Dickson.

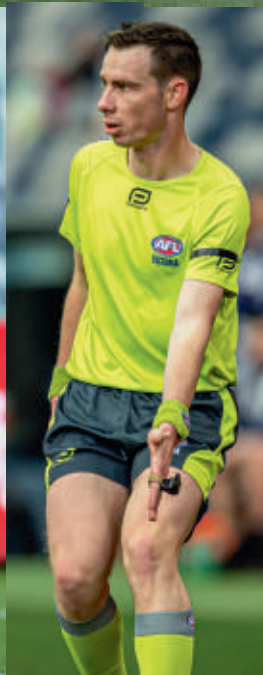
McNeil took the responsibility for another year of turning the boundaries into running machines continuing his legacy of the #ThursdayThresh and making sure umpires weren't too festive during December and January.

With the mini-Olympics being the first notable event on the umpiring calendar each year, the senior boundaries won the all important tunnel ball due to some intelligent (not too often you'll hear that word when describing boundaries) strategy, however let the development guys have the win this year. Newly appointed head coach Cameron Black vowed that next year will be the year of the senior boundary.

As most of us were getting excited for the season to start, a select few were lucky enough to officiate the AFLW with Sticks, Ferg, and Staggy running in the big one and Greta sitting on the pine, given the coaching job for the day. But before we knew it the season was upon us and







Blacky employed a unique technique straight out of the classroom of Epping Views Primary School to “quiz” the boundaries using technology. However, Sticks and Ferg somehow always seemed to answer the same and there was always at least four umpires named “Adam Bell”, surely enough this technique was scrapped.

Through the forthcoming months many notable moments happened including;

- Johnny Cooper having a recall for his first throw of the season.
- The departure of the well respected, long serving, heavy breathing and always-high quality umpire Jerome Rowcroft, finishing a fantastic career devastatingly short of his century on 91 senior games in round 17.
- Adam Bell purchasing North Melbourne merchandise while wearing his officiating gear minutes before his game.
- Lewis Spiker making a long awaited return to senior footy after close to a season and a half out with injury.
- Greta asking members of the squad “have you been to that Chinese restaurant in Box Hill?”
- Leigh Buwalda tying the knot with his beautiful wife Amy and making half the squad unavailable for the weekend so they could indulge in a beautiful feast of 3 slices of tomato each.
- Painy and Belly nearly recreating the Barry Hall v Scott Thompson at half time.
- Summers still ending umpires seasons left right and centre.

After a long season, the cream of the crop rose to the top seeing the squad that umpired the women’s grand final was echoed in our last game in September with the Harty look-a-like Johnny Cooper joining the other boys to represent the squad with Sam Stagg taking the honours as top dog.

Congratulations to all on a fantastic season, special mention to Dave McNeil, Lachlan Marsden and Jerome Rowcroft who will be pursuing other avenues of their lives next year, good luck to all.

#ThursdayThresh

Development boundary

Another January saw another pre-season commence. It was good to see the familiar faces again and try to replace those with whom we parted ways the previous season. We started the season on a strong note taking out the win and the Paul Anderson Mini Olympics.



As the weeks flew by the white shirts were dwindled down until 10 made the list, comprising 9 first year's and the returning Chris 'Detective' Cato. Detective found a way out of at least 90% of his fines on technicality due to his amazing detective work. He also handed a few people into the fines committee during the process.

As quickly as the season started, Luke 'Chef' Myatt showed his true colours and started cutting (or chopping) off people during the warm up and warm downs. Although the catch phrase 'Chef goes chop' was used in select social scenarios, it was mainly reserved for the track.

For a short period, Connor 'Cow Bell' Hagan was easy to find on the track, as he often had his personal belongings in the pocket of his shorts, jingling away at his every step. Tim 'DJ' Attard became renowned for his pre-match pump-up procedure of blasting his classics playlist (which was comprised the likes of ABBA, Queen, AC/DC and Guns'n'Roses) through his speaker.

Training was never dull with Corey 'McAvaney' Malcolm and Max 'Catflap' Visintin keeping us guessing. Corey would keep us up to date with all sorts of international sport and often had a schedule of when sports were on TV. I believe his question after training at one stage was: 'do I watch darts, canoeing or ping pong at 2 am?'. While Max seemed to come to training straight from a different shoe shop before each session. Although, no one has actually seen Max wear any of his purchases, his runners with designer tags intended not to be removed did cause a stir one coaching session.

Zachary 'Dennis' Mousaco often menaced is with his choice of some 'rude' training gear combinations and selective advice. Zach and Connor formed a small bromance in the midst of the season. Often running similar sessions to each



Tim Peterson

other away from Vic Park and donning the long sleeve skins-running singlet combo together at training wasn't unheard of. Zach also founded the #MousacoMonday session on Strava. This quickly became second rate with the emergence of the #Horse10 (which is alllllways good!).

Not so good, was Benjamin 'Roof' Rofo when he needed his training wheels. His line changed from 'Look, no hands!' to 'Look out! No hands... or feet!' during a 400. Ben proceeded to over commit to an inside running line, for a sharp, muddy, corner and almost took out half of the senior squad when he slipped over on the deck.

It was alleged that Kaitlin 'Loose Change' Barr ran three banks out of stock when she went to pay her fines. Totalling \$86, Kaitlin's fines were paid entirely in five cent pieces. The total coin count was a fraction over 1700 coins. Mel is just finishing up counting the coins as you read this article...

Despite 9 months together, nobody has successfully remembered Lachlan 'Carmenara' Menara's name. Often called 'Carbmenara', 'Meniscus' or 'Carmonara', Lachie now answers to anything that remotely sounds like his last name.

Senior Development boundary

2019 marked the introduction of the Senior Dev. Squad, and with it new opportunities to impress and develop good habits for the season ahead. Jed Upton impressed before training even began, arriving at every session impeccably dressed, contrasting Josh Blain's trademark singlet and thongs look (even in July...). Warm ups consisted of trying to predict when Tim Petersen or Joel Davis would abandon the track via the "trap door", or comments about how good Raushaan

Seychell's calves were looking. The sessions themselves saw a divide in tactics between "first lap hero" Chris Williams and "last lap hero" Sam Beer, with most opting for something sensible in between. As winter progressed, training nights soon became wet and cold: too much so for Jordan King, who headed off to the UK for some sun, but apparently not cold enough for Harry Green, who decided to chase some snow in Canada.

As everyone knows, grand finals are a culmination of hard work, dedication, passion and are opportunities that don't necessarily come around often. We would like to acknowledge all who ran finals and everyone who had a great season accomplished personal achievements in season 2019!

We hope everyone goes around again and look forward to more great memories in 2020!!

Senior goal

Season 2019 was a year full of opportunities for the group. We had a real cluster of both experienced heads as well as many newly promoted senior umpires such as Tayla Manning, Jack Stammers, James Rizio, Mitchell Taleb, Adam Gardner and Zach Brown-Close.

Looking at the more experienced members of the group we saw some amazing milestones which was headlined by Dean Jones (200 VFL senior games before retiring after game 208). Deano's no fuss umpiring combined with his ability to snag goals from any angle at Vic Park will be missed and the group wishes him all the best in the future. (A potential observer perhaps?) We also saw Simon Plumridge notch up his 150th VFL senior game which is a superb effort coming back from injuries and showed excellent persistence to reach his 4th VFL Senior Grand Final, incredible effort!

Moreover, on milestones, Luke Monea, John Varker and Pat (Paul) Dwyer brought up 50 VFL Senior Games and continued to show the progression they have made season by season and really stamped themselves as experienced VFL senior goal umpires. On the topic of Luke Monea, we are trying to work out how many laps he ran as part of his pre-game routine, just a few is an understatement!

Callum Leonard had a very successful (and long) season between the sticks with an AFLW Grand Final back in March in front of over 50,000 supporters at Adelaide Oval. Mr. Aldi also earned back-to-back VFL Senior Grand Finals as well as taking part in the NAB Under 18 Championships.

We saw many flamboyant efforts throughout the



L: Tayla Manning
R: Josh Hickman

year with some cheeky front benders and many falcons (4 in the first 4 rounds!). Over the many sessions at training we talked about the previous weekend and going through footage before we went onto the track, which was a new initiative, as well as the AFL coaches and AFL goal umpires popping their heads in to help bridge the gap between the VFL and AFL.

On the social side of things, we embarked on a mid-year function in Docklands at Archie Brothers where we enjoyed catching up away from umpiring and instead participating in arcades, ten pin bowling and a drink or two. A big thank you to Matt Edwards for organising this event. Also many members of the group helped out the local pubs throughout the year making the short stroll to the Yarra or to the Retreat, making an effort to continue to gel the group over a parma or twelve! (If I got a dollar every time Doyle mentioned a goal umpiring story from however long ago I would be comfortably retired!)

Season 2019 was a big year of opportunity for the Development goal umpires.

Development goal

We had some very good talent join and leave us at the same time. It was quite impressive to see that we had six goal umpires promoted to the senior squad: James Rizio, Jack Stammers, Tayla Manning, Mitchell Taleb, Adam Gardner and Zac Brown-Close. The development squad also welcomed seven new umpires.

In other news, it was unfortunate that Lochlin Hamer went down with a broken leg which saw him miss most of the year, however that did not dim his spirits as he was at most of the VFL functions and came to support his fellow umpires. We were well represented this year at the AFL championships in Queensland, with umpires Brendan Moloney and Lochlin Hamer being chosen to represent us, however it was unfortunate that Lochlin's injury would hamper him from going.

Looking on at some more achievements, we saw Jake Marnie and Brendan Moloney be appointed to officiate their first VFLW grand final and they both represented our squad very well on the day (well done guys and congrats). We also saw that first year umpire Thomas Gath would be appointed to the game as emergency and take out best first year umpire, he left quite an impression in his first year.

We saw some mayo moments of umpiring with some very cheeky back benders and front benders. On another note we all knew where the goal flags were this year, no one went to the left. It was also good to see that the AFL umpires and coaches were constantly down at our training and bobbing their heads in to give us some coaching and pointers for the season, it was really helpful of them to give up their time to help the VFL umpires improve their game.

On the social side of things, we embarked to Archie brothers for our midyear function at Docklands, where we enjoyed some away time from umpiring and could just relax and have some fun. A massive thank you to Matt Edwards for organizing this year's function. Also on most Wednesday nights the goals umpires would make their way to the retreat or the yarra hotel to enjoy a Parma or few (but only with vegies and chips as apparently salad is a waste of time). It was good to see that the goal umpires could use that time to unwind and become close-knit group of mates.

Well done to everyone on a fantastic 2019, enjoy the offseason and see everyone back for preseason in 2020.



Callum Thornton

VFL life membership - Michael Curtis

Michael Curtis, the only thing higher than his VFL senior games tally is the amount of kids he has.

Coming in from Noble Park, Michael started umpiring in the Dandenong juniors and Eastern Football League as a way to stay involved post-football career. In 2009 Michael made his way to the VFL, where he spent a year on the development list before being promoted to the senior squad for the 2010 season.

Entering his 11th season at the Project Centre, I had the chance to chat with Michael about the high and lows of his career so far.

“For me the career high and lows have come from similar experiences. Out of my 11 years, I’ve been time trial champion 9 times, that’s one of my

proudest achievements. Of course, time trials aren’t that fun when you lose, which I have on two occasions, so that’s probably the career low for me.”

Michael has done it all over the journey. Richmond v. Box Hill was his 175th VFL senior game, including a tally of 11 senior finals having umpired in the 2014, 2015 and 2018 VFL Preliminary Finals. Along with the 175, Curto has umpired 19 VFL Reserves matches including 2 grand finals, 23 TAC cup games which includes 3 grand finals and 4 AFLW matches, a sensational record for a very respected man. In 2010, Michael was awarded the most improved senior field umpire. He then went on to be awarded the 2013 VFL Umpire of the Year, and was an AFL rookie in 2015, a fairly impressive resume for any umpire.

Not only do we love Curto for his on field success and all-round good bloke charisma, the responsibilities he has taken on off the field stacks up very nicely against his on field work. From 2016 through to 2018, Curto did an outstanding job as the VFUA president, sacrificing many countless hours in order to get the best outcomes for his fellow umpires, a true team player. He was to be rewarded for his service, which included two John Russo Trophies, by being inducted as a life member of the VFUA in 2018 and will go on to receive VFL life membership.

“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 umpiring any of the grand finals, my first TV game, the annual mad Monday and of course, the after match feeds!”

“I do remember one day when umpiring juniors at Upper Beaconsfield, snow started to tumble during the game. I think I can still feel the cold to this day!”

At the end of it all, Curto will not only be remembered for all he has done on and off the field for the VFL and VFUA, but he will be remembered by his peers and coaches as one of the nicest blokes going around. It has been a pleasure to umpire with Curto on a few occasions, as everybody has found it.

From everybody at the VFUA, we wish the fastest man in the VFL all the very best. A deserving milestone that truly reflects everything you have done for the game.



Major milestones

Dean Jones - 200 VFL matches

200 games participation in any sporting or official endeavour is a feat not to be sneezed at, let alone umpiring 200 games of VFL senior football. So, the fact that Dean Jones becomes only the third umpire to reach this milestone is a feat to be congratulated and feted. It is somewhat ironic that, Dean is one of the more quietly spoken and unassuming people you'll meet in umpiring. Deano, who took to the goals in the Port Melbourne v Essendon match at the Adcon Stadium definitely puts the 'quiet' in quiet achiever, but one can be assured that what Deano lacks in amount of words spoken, definitely makes up for in determination and application. It was a pleasure to catch up with him to discuss the impending milestone:

Chris Doyle: Deano, this is not the 1st time you have reached the double ton. Who could forget your epic 210 against India at Madras in 1986-87...whoops wrong Dean Jones. What I meant to ask you is you obviously have had a range of experiences in your 200 games. What game would you say sticks out as your favourite game?

Dean Jones: I'd have to say my favourite game was a final I did in 2005, Tasmania vs the Northern Bullants, which I umpired with my current coach Brad Letson. It was at Bellerive Oval, and there were 11,000 locals in attendance. They were extremely loud, until they started to get belted (Northern won by 73 points) and they all went off home.

CD: What would be your favourite thing about umpiring VFL football Deano?

DJ: My favourite thing about umpiring VFL football is simply going to training each week with all the guys. We have a great group of umpires in the senior squad, and the constant banter and back and forth between certain members of our group makes the whole experience really enjoyable

CD: And what would be your least favourite?

A thing I'm not overly fond of is having to get to games 90 minutes before. It can feel like forever if there is no curtain raiser on beforehand, and you run out of things to talk about with the bloke you're umpiring with pretty quickly.

CD: You've been on the list since 2002 and you would've seen a heap of changes in your time at the Project Clothing centre. What would you say has been the biggest change?

DJ: The biggest change would definitely be the increased scrutiny from observers. When I started doing senior footy there would only be 3 or 4 senior games getting observed each week. However now all our games are getting observed



Dean Jones

either at the ground or on the video each week. There's definitely nowhere to hide.

CD: And finally, who would you say have been your favourite blokes to umpire with?

DJ: Yeah, in no particular order I would have to say I've enjoyed umpiring with current umpires such as Simon Plumridge (Deano's partner in his 200th) and Chris Doyle, and some blasts from the past such as Lloyd Fisk, Michael Richardson and Jeremy Grey.

Deano, the magnitude of this achievement is one not to be underestimated, and we all know how hard you have worked to get there. It is incredibly well deserved.

Kieran Ferguson - 100 VFL matches

Some may know him as Kieran, others by Ferg and a select few call him Goat (and they know why) but all we know is that he is a beautiful athlete, or so Johnny Summers says.

I've had the pleasure of being around since day one with Goat since he started at the VFL, back then he was a very quiet character that just went about his business. Over the years he has become a very vocal and respected leader among the boundary group. He's had to deal with a lot of stuff over the years from putting up with me to Dineen telling him to shut up when he spoke, but as the great man he is, he copped it on the chin and got on with business.

Over the years Goat has flown under the radar never seeming to find himself in a stupid situation. Over the many years he has had some great accomplishments:

- He's umpired 3 grand finals at state league level, 1 reserves, 1 TAC cup and 1 senior grand final, then the start of 2019 the AFLW grand final.
- Then taking the boys to some good restaurants for dinner, as well as some questionable ones like "The Sandwich place", since this dreadful selection he isn't allowed to pick dinners spots.
- He got his face in the local paper and a radio interview back at his home town.

But all of these things come down to two things, the first one as many of you know is that there is one place that Goat can be found and that is his love for being on the table, every training session and game day you can find him getting a rub. The other is something more interesting and that is the fact that since day one at the VFL he has had the same pair of shoes, he loves his Nimbuses.

I just want to personally thank him for all the hard work he has put in over the years working with myself and others. I can speak for everyone when I say that he is a pleasure to be around and even more of a pleasure to watch on game day.

Luke Wilke - 100 VFL matches

Arghh Wilke where do I start with you, from your massive nights out, to getting lost on the wing at Werribee, you've got a lot of stories that could be told but lots that shouldn't.

Wilke and I started together but didn't really get to know each other 'til last year, but damn over the last two years we have had loads of good times. Through these good times we have learnt a lot about you, first off that you are the most expensive light bulb changer, \$600 a light, really mate? No wonder you shout us dinner.

Even though you are always out, you have a really good relationship with your family. Some of you will know this but Wilke's mum is a local boundary umpire coach, so it's no surprise that she comes



Luke Wilke



Kieran Ferguson

to some of his games but she actually comes to them all and she packs his bag for every game. Wilke you are 24 pack your own damn bag. Then there is the time you forgot your bag to a game and of course who came to your rescue of course your wonderful mother and sister.

There has become a bit of a saying between the boys, that it's time to do Wilke basically this is just someone not doing the full session, Wilke spends half of training on the toilet and the other half on the table, so if you ever need to speak to him you'll probably find him there.

Among all the interesting behaviours of Wilke, he is one of the best blokes at training, always up for a laugh whether it's at his expense or someone else's, he's just as good on the track as he is off the track. He's umpired four grand finals in a row completing two development grand finals and two TAC cup grand finals, this is a testament to his abilities on and off the field, then to being appointed as co-captain with Staggy, whether that was a good decision or not is up for debate.

Regardless, all the boundary group are lucky to have you.

Patrick Burns - 100 VFL matches

The Patrick Boourns we have all come to know and love reached a significant milestone in 2019 – 100 VFL senior games is nothing to be sneezed at, and Patrick joined the elite club of 100 gamers.

Raised in a small town in the north of Melbourne known as Oak Park, Pat's illustrious career started at the Essendon District Football League, where he umpired the 2011 B-grade, and then backed it up with the 2012 A-grade grand final between Strathmore and Greenvale. After that, in 2013, he got an opportunity on the development list at the VFL, umpiring in 20 TAC cup games before a quick rise up the ranks saw him promoted to the senior list in 2014.

Pat's career highlights include:

- 4 senior finals.
- 1 development league grand final.
- 2 TAC cup grand finals.
- AFL rookie (2017 to current).
- AFLW umpire 2018, 2019.
- Having part of Footy Classified's 'Say That Again' dedicated to him burping over match com during a TV game.

Although a long list of awards throughout his tenure, Pat recalls his two best moments of his career so far. One of which was umpiring the 2011 EDFL B grade grand final with his brother, while his other was being told that he was still in nappies by a Geelong supporter in his first year on the senior list. We'd probably think the latter is the lesser of the two achievements. With the ups of umpiring, Pat has also recognised a few of the lesser moments in his career. When I spoke to him, he said "one of the worst moments was finding out we have to be clean shaven every week, because I reckon I would look pretty good with a moustache", something we don't doubt Pat.

Pat's talents stretch far beyond the umpiring capers. He is currently an apprentice carpenter, often seen setting up frames and hammering nails into wood. He also has a gentle side, which he shows through the appreciation of his doggo Roxy. There is a lot more to write about Pat, but I would be here all day.

What separates Pat from a lot of others is the endless energy and positivity he beams. From the humour and joy he delivers us around the track and on game day, to the calm and composed actions he takes after paying a mark from a handball.



Pat Burns

Simon Plumridge - 150 matches

Simon joined the VFL in 2011 from the Eastern Football League. From the outset, Simon was a very promising umpiring and this was reiterated by winning the Leigh Keen coaches award in his first year. After one year on the development list Simon quickly progressed to the senior list and has had an incredible career since.

Simon's stats whilst at the VFL:

150 VFL Games (20 Finals), 16 VFL reserves, 20 TAC Boys
 2015, 2017 & 2018 VFL Grand Finals
 2014 TAC Grand Final
 2014 Most improved senior goal umpire
 2015 & 2018 Umpire of the year
 2016 State Game
 2018 National U18 Championship umpire

Simon is described by his colleagues as determined, humble, hard working, quiet achiever, no fuss and committed umpire. It has not been all highs and smooth sailing for Simon. 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 the end of 2016, and had only a few months to get his fitness and confidence back before the 2017 season. But he did just that and was back umpiring senior footy in Round 3.

Simon notched up his 150th VFL game in style umpiring the preliminary final between Richmond and Port Melbourne. When it comes to finals, Simon is one of the most experienced finals umpires. His game on the week was his 20th VFL final putting him 2nd overall for most finals by an umpire within the VFL. The good news continued for Simon this week being appointed to his 4th VFL grand final on Sunday between Richmond and Williamstown. After this weekend Simon will join Peter Balding on top of the leader board with 21 VFL finals.

Congratulation Simon on the massive achievement!

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	-	J.Venkataya
2006	T.McCarthy	-	-
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.Loughon	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.Mair	M.Edwards
2017	A.Gianfagna	L.Harty	P.Trotter
2018	P.Rebeschini	A.Hawkes	J.Varker
2019	L.Porter	M.Crowley	J.Rizio

James Rizio

Frank Leverett Shield

Best first year umpire

- 1992 Alan Letson
- 1993 Adam Skidmore
- 1994 Steven Hanley
- 1995 Adam Bastin
- 1996 Gordon Muir
- 1997 Glenn Guzzo
- 1998 Matthew Tippet
- 1999 Matt Stevic
- 2000 John Neaven
- 2001 Luke Walker
- 2002 Rob Haala
- 2003 Neil Woods
- 2004 Matthew Lafite
- 2005 Jacob Mollison
- 2006 Chris Gordon
- 2007 Graham Bergroth
- 2008 Matt Maclure
- 2009 Brendan Hosking
- 2010 Luke White
- 2011 Daniel Butcher
- 2012 Hayden Gavine
- 2013 Matthew Dervan
- 2014 Sam Stagg
- 2015 Leighton Rowe
- 2016 Cameron Dore
- 2017 Joel Davis
- 2018 James Rizio
- 2019 Corey Malcolm

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
- 2019 Corey Malcolm

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
- 2019 Shamus Dundon

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
- 2019 Thomas Gath

Corey Malcolm

2019 milestones

200 VFL matches

Dean Jones	Sunday, 23 June 2019	Port Melbourne v. Essendon (Port Melbourne)
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175 VFL matches

Michael Curtis	Sunday, 19 May 2019	Richmond v. Box Hill (Punt Road)
Andrew Talbot	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Williamstown v. Port Melbourne (Williamstown)

150 VFL matches

Simon Plumridge	Saturday, 14 September 2019	Richmond v. Port Melbourne (Port Melbourne)
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100 VFL matches

Luke Wilke	Saturday, 31 August 2019	Footscray v. Williamstown (Whitten Oval)
Kieran Ferguson	Sunday, 18 August 2019	Williamstown v. Geelong (Werribee)
Patrick Burns	Sunday, 21 July 2019	Coburg v. North Melbourne (Coburg)

50 VFL matches

John Varker	Saturday, 31 August 2019	Geelong v. Port Melbourne (Port Melbourne)
Luke Monea	Sunday, 25 August 2019	Northern Blues v. Sandringham (Preston)
Patrick Dwyer	Saturday, 3 August 2019	Essendon v. Sandringham (Windy Hill)
Paul Rebeschini	Sunday, 14 July 2019	Footscray v. Casey (Docklands)
Liam Pain	Saturday, 15 June 2019	Northern Blues v. Footscray (Princes Park)
Ashley Hawkes	Sunday, 12 May 2019	Collingwood v. Sandringham (Victoria Park)

First VFL match

Sam Beer	Sunday, 4 August 2019	Frankston v. Footscray (Frankston)
Jack Howard	Saturday, 6 July 2019	Box Hill v. Geelong (Box Hill)
Brayden Hunter	Sunday, 23 June 2019	Coburg v. Casey (Coburg)
Jordan King	Sunday, 2 June 2019	Footscray v. Geelong (Whitten Oval)
Jack Stammers	Sunday, 12 May 2019	North Melbourne v. Geelong (Werribee)
Sam Ferguson	Sunday, 5 May 2019	Northern Blues v. North Melbourne (Princes Park)
Lachlan Higgs	Saturday, 20 April 2019	North Melbourne v. Essendon (Werribee)
Tayla Manning	Sunday, 7 April 2019	Box Hill v. Casey (Box Hill)
Mitchell Taleb	Sunday, 7 April 2019	Frankston v. Essendon (Frankston)
Joshua Ball	Sunday, 7 April 2019	Frankston v. Essendon (Frankston)
Jake D'Angelo	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Coburg v. Collingwood (Coburg)
Zachary Brown-Close	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Coburg v. Collingwood (Coburg)
Nick Scott	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Coburg v. Collingwood (Coburg)
Luke Porter	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Werribee v. North Melbourne (Werribee)
Greta Miller	Saturday, 6 April 2019	Werribee v. North Melbourne (Werribee)
Matthew Crowley	Friday, 5 April 2019	Geelong v. Richmond (Kardinia Park)
Thomas Lyon	Friday, 5 April 2019	Footscray v. Sandringham (Whitten Oval)

VFL grand final umpires

	Field			Boundary			Goal		
1993	D.Agnew	M.Nash		S.Leslie	A.Pizaro		J.Moore	L.Page	
1994	K.Nicholls	G.Caulfield		D.Perry	J.Summers		D.Humphries	P.Herrick	
1995	S.Hanley	V.Sercia	M.Sexton	P.Bradford	J.Fleming		B.Strachan	M.Russell	
1996	A.Malcolm	T.Shearer	M.Sexton	P.Bradford	A.Duncan		A.Letson	H.Stamos	
1997	M.Vozzo	W.Mann	M.James	R.Frampton	B.Crossett		F.Raiti	D.Dixon	
1998	R.Kelsey	C.Rowe	M.James	R.Leslie	B.Crossett		M.Russell	P.Gonis	
1999	K.Nicholls	K.Callaghan	S.Jeffery	S.Smith	K.McCarthy		C.Evans	D.Holt	
2000	A.Malcolm	S.Jeffery	G.Twitt	S.Smith	J.Wilson		J.Venkataya	R.Read	
2001	J.Quigley	A.Davis	S.Grun	M.Payton	C.Steinman	J.Stephenson	C.Appleton	F.Dicosmo	
2002	S.Grun	M.Nicholls	S.Ryan	G.Gibson	C.Morrison	A.Little	C.Appleton	D.Wilson	
2003	S.Grun	S.Meredith	M.Stevic	R.Haala	S.Irish	J.Bennison	L.Walker	D.Wilson	
2004	C.Donlon	C.Kamolins	D.Sully	A.Coote	M.Foster	M.Lefevre	M.Hammond	L.Fisk	
2005	J.Armstrong	M.Jennings	D.Sully	I.Burrows	G.Large	M.Lefevre	M.Hammond	B.Letson	
2006	J.Mollison	H.Ryan	S.Stewart	G.Large	M.Lefevre	C.Roberts	A.Clifton	B.Letson	
2007	M.Jennings	J.Mollison	S.Stewart	C.Hay	G.Large	N.Woods	B.Letson	A.Wojcik	
2008	R.Findlay	M.Jennings	T.Pannell	C.Gordon	S.Jones	N.Woods	P.Balding	S.Williams	
2009	M.Jennings	A.Mitchell	B.Ritchie	G.Bergroth	D.Kowalski	M.Marantelli	C.Lai	B.James	
2010	M.Brown	M.Leppard	B.Ritchie	D.Kowlaski	M.Marantelli	P.Tongue	A.Kyrkou	C.Lai	
2011	D.Harris	B.Hosking	A.Mitchell	C.Esler	M.Jenkinson	M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou	S.Piperno	
2012	T.Burgess	S.Gleeson	D.Harris	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	B.Macdonald	M.Craig	M.Palm	
2013	S.Gleeson	R.O'Gorman	B.Ritchie	D.Cusack	T.Lougoon	J.Mather	D.Benwell	M.Craig	
2014	N.Brown	J.Edwards	B.Wallace	J.Andrews	B.Elvey	J.Robertson	J.Scully	M.Dervan	S.Piperno
2015	T.Burgess	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen	L.Rayner	M.Dervan	S.Plumridge
2016	H.Ryan	D.Butcher	H.Gavine	N.Laurence	B.Macdonald	P.Dineen	D.Main	D.Benwell	M.Maclure
2017	N.Brown	D.Butcher	A.Gianfagna	P.Jackson	K.Ferguson	P.Dineen	D.Main	S.Walsh	S.Plumridge
2018	J.Howorth	P.Rebeschini	A.Talbot	S.Blight	J.Cooper	J.Furman	S.Stagg	C.Leonard	S.Plumridge
2019	M.Pell	P.Rebeschini	M.Rodger	J.Cooper	K.Ferguson	N.Phillips	S.Stagg	C.Leonard	S.Plumridge

2019 VFL Grand Final

Richmond v. Williamstown



L-R: Callum Leonard, Kieran Ferguson, Sam Stagg, Paul Rebeschini, Martin Rodger, Michael Pell, Nick Phillips, John Cooper, Simon Plumridge.

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
2019	H.Birch	C.Gibson	B.Hunter	S.Beer	K.Fisher	C.Malcolm	J.Marnie	B.Moloney

2019 VFLW Grand Final Western Bulldogs v. Collingwood



L-R: Jake Marnie, Kyle Fisher, Harry Birch, Courtney Gibson, Brayden Hunter, Sam Beer, Corey Malcolm, Brendan Moloney.

2019 NAB Girls Grand Final Northern Knights v. Calder Cannons



L-R: Corey Brown, Kaitlin Barr, Cameron Williams, Lucy Lopes, Kaleb Laker, Corey Malcom, Thomas Gath.

TAC Cup / NAB 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
2019	S.Ferguson	N. Jankovskis	N.Scott	J.Blain	T.Bowes	M.Crowley	R.Kane	L.Monea	J.Rizio

2019 NAB Boys Grand Final

Eastern Ranges v. Oakleigh Chargers



L-R: James Rizio, Matt Crowley, Trent Bowes, Nick Jankovskis, Sam Ferguson, Nick Scott, Josh Blain, Riley Kane, Luke Monea.

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		

TAC Cup / NAB Girls grand final umpires

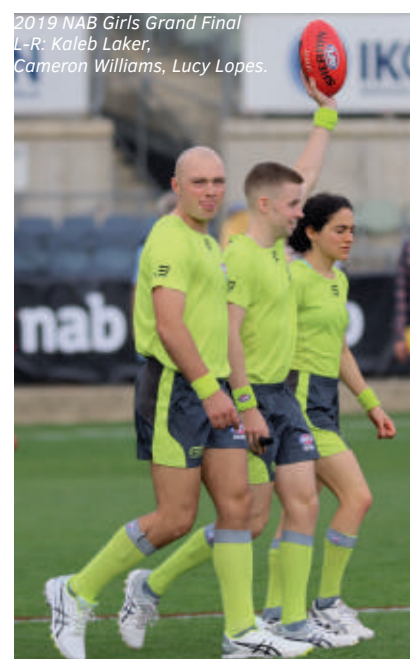
2018 J.Ball	C.Gibson	N.Guy	G.Miller	A.Pretorius	T.Adepayibi	Z.Brown-Close
2019 K.Laker	L.Lopes	C.Williams	K.Barr	C.Malcolm	C.Brown	T.Gath

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



2019 statistics

Field umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VWFL	NAB Girls
Bronte Annand	0 (0)	6 (9)	7 (14)	1 (5)
Peter Bailes	19 (33)	0 (22)	0 (8)	0 (0)
Joshua Ball	8 (8)	6 (13)	0 (7)	0 (3)
Harry Birch	0 (0)	13 (23)	3 (6)	1 (4)
Patrick Burns	20 (106)	0 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jack Cannon	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Ben Cheever	11 (25)	5 (33)	1 (8)	0 (0)
Thomas Chrystie	13 (92)	2 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Joel Clamp	11 (15)	5 (26)	0 (7)	0 (0)
Adam Coles	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Oliver Colman	0 (0)	5 (5)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Michael Curtis	20 (188)	0 (23)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sebastian Dalgleish	0 (0)	7 (7)	4 (4)	3 (3)
Shamus Dundon	0 (0)	10 (10)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Jack Edwards	22 (133)	0 (23)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Sam Ferguson	15 (15)	5 (29)	0 (8)	0 (0)
Lachlan Floyd	0 (0)	11 (31)	2 (14)	0 (2)
Dylan Fulton	0 (0)	4 (14)	12 (15)	3 (6)
Jackson Gillespie	0 (0)	6 (6)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Nathan Guy	0 (0)	12 (16)	8 (15)	2 (6)
Sean Hefter	0 (0)	6 (10)	8 (11)	2 (5)
Ian Herman	0 (0)	3 (3)	9 (9)	5 (5)
Jack Howard	2 (2)	13 (37)	1 (13)	0 (1)
Brayden Hunter	4 (4)	12 (31)	2 (13)	0 (1)
Nicholas Jankovskis	18 (21)	5 (27)	0 (12)	0 (0)
Elias Kafritsas	0 (0)	2 (2)	10 (10)	6 (6)
Jarryd Kingsbury	0 (0)	13 (38)	3 (13)	0 (2)
Kaleb Laker	0 (0)	6 (6)	6 (6)	4 (4)
Lucinda Lopes ¹	0 (0)	4 (41)	8 (29)	4 (8)
Thomas Lyon	7 (7)	6 (24)	0 (11)	0 (3)
Matthew Mahoney	0 (0)	9 (26)	6 (22)	0 (1)
Hamish McCartney	0 (0)	3 (3)	10 (10)	2 (2)
Hugo Morgan	0 (0)	7 (7)	6 (6)	3 (3)
Alex Murray	0 (0)	13 (29)	4 (18)	1 (1)
Ben O'Brien	0 (0)	7 (12)	8 (13)	3 (6)
Jordan Pearson	0 (0)	2 (2)	3 (3)	3 (3)
Michael Pell	23 (37)	0 (19)	0 (4)	0 (0)
Matthew Pongracic	11 (25)	7 (33)	1 (7)	0 (0)
Jacob Port	0 (0)	6 (6)	7 (7)	4 (4)
Luke Porter	21 (21)	0 (25)	0 (15)	0 (0)
Paul Rebeschini	23 (59)	0 (13)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Jacob Rockwell	0 (0)	9 (37)	4 (23)	0 (2)
Martin Rodger	23 (48)	0 (22)	0 (5)	0 (0)
Leighton Rowe	3 (41)	1 (18)	1 (4)	0 (0)
Nick Scott	11 (11)	7 (16)	0 (8)	0 (4)
Jacob Stuckey	0 (0)	2 (2)	9 (9)	3 (3)
Andrew Talbot	20 (194)	0 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lucas Taylor	0 (0)	7 (21)	7 (22)	3 (7)
Nathan Toner	21 (41)	0 (18)	0 (7)	0 (0)
Darcy Trewarn	0 (0)	7 (7)	7 (7)	3 (3)
Cameron Watts	8 (12)	9 (30)	0 (11)	0 (1)
Ryan Webster	0 (0)	12 (29)	4 (19)	1 (3)
Michael Willcox	0 (0)	3 (11)	5 (15)	0 (4)
Cameron Williams	0 (0)	12 (17)	6 (13)	4 (8)
Matthew Young	15 (74)	1 (9)	1 (1)	0 (0)

Boundary umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VWFL	NAB Girls
Blake Anderson	18 (38)	1 (12)	0 (7)	0 (1)
Brynton Ashton	11 (62)	1 (27)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Tim Attard	0 (0)	5 (5)	8 (8)	5 (5)
Kaitlin Barr	0 (0)	1 (1)	9 (9)	8 (8)
Sam Beer	2 (2)	11 (24)	7 (17)	1 (2)
Adam Bell	17 (133)	2 (34)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Josh Blain	2 (4)	11 (37)	7 (15)	1 (6)
Simon Blight	21 (86)	0 (9)	0 (2)	0 (0)
Trent Bowes	15 (19)	4 (20)	0 (9)	0 (0)
James Brayshaw	0 (0)	5 (5)	9 (9)	5 (5)
Leigh Buwalda	19 (88)	0 (29)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Chris Cato	0 (14)	6 (16)	6 (6)	4 (4)
John Cooper	23 (143)	0 (25)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Matthew Crowley	17 (17)	4 (11)	0 (8)	0 (4)
Jake D'Angelo	17 (17)	2 (24)	0 (8)	0 (3)
Patrick Damato	16 (39)	1 (21)	0 (6)	0 (0)
Joel Davis	0 (1)	7 (25)	9 (22)	4 (7)
Brenton Dickson	16 (20)	5 (31)	0 (11)	0 (3)
Kieran Ferguson	22 (105)	0 (14)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Kyle Fisher	4 (19)	10 (32)	5 (11)	0 (1)
Connor Hagan	0 (0)	4 (4)	12 (12)	4 (4)
Ashley Hawkes	18 (63)	2 (19)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Lachlan Higgs	15 (15)	6 (13)	0 (9)	0 (4)
Riley Kane	18 (20)	3 (14)	0 (10)	1 (4)
Jordan King	4 (4)	11 (19)	4 (9)	3 (5)
Corey Malcolm	0 (0)	4 (4)	10 (10)	4 (4)
Lachlan Menara	0 (0)	6 (6)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Greta Miller	11 (11)	5 (13)	1 (6)	1 (5)
Zachary Mousaco	0 (0)	4 (4)	9 (9)	5 (5)
Luke Myatt	0 (0)	4 (4)	8 (8)	6 (6)
Liam Pain	19 (59)	1 (17)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tim Peterson	0 (0)	9 (29)	6 (17)	0 (0)
Nicholas Phillips	22 (49)	0 (28)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Adrian Pretorius	18 (20)	2 (20)	0 (14)	0 (2)
Jack Punshon	0 (0)	4 (10)	8 (11)	3 (6)
Benjamin Rofe	0 (0)	4 (4)	4 (4)	8 (8)
Jerome Rowcroft	9 (92)	1 (32)	3 (5)	0 (0)
Melissa Sambrooks	0 (0)	5 (18)	9 (22)	1 (3)
Raushan Seychell	0 (0)	6 (12)	6 (14)	1 (4)
Lewis Spiker	7 (21)	7 (21)	2 (7)	3 (3)
Sam Stagg	20 (86)	0 (14)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Travis Taylor	0 (80)	3 (21)	10 (13)	0 (0)
Daniel Urbans	0 (2)	11 (37)	5 (9)	2 (8)
Max Visintin	0 (0)	4 (8)	9 (16)	2 (4)
Luke Wilke	19 (102)	1 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Jesse Wilkie	15 (39)	2 (14)	0 (1)	0 (0)
Chris Williams	3 (15)	9 (24)	6 (14)	2 (3)

2019 statistics

Goal umpire	VFL	NAB Boys	VWFL	NAB Girls
Tope Adepoiyibi	0 (0)	5 (10)	9 (16)	2 (4)
Patrick Aurish	0 (0)	5 (5)	14 (14)	2 (2)
Corey Brown ²	0 (0)	7 (7)	11 (11)	6 (6)
Zachary Brown-Close	14 (14)	1 (9)	2 (10)	1 (4)
Joe Dorrat-Thorpe	0 (0)	7 (7)	11 (11)	3 (3)
Chris Doyle	20 (129)	1 (79)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Matthew Edwards	20 (98)	2 (31)	1 (1)	0 (0)
Adam Gardner	18 (26)	2 (62)	0 (12)	0 (2)
Thomas Gath	0 (0)	8 (8)	10 (10)	5 (5)
Lochlin Hamer	0 (0)	5 (5)	5 (5)	1 (1)
Joshua Hickman	15 (26)	1 (22)	3 (6)	0 (1)
Dean Jones	17 (207)	0 (65)	2 (2)	0 (0)
Bradley Kellett	0 (0)	6 (12)	13 (20)	5 (8)
Callum Leonard	23 (128)	0 (26)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Tayla Manning	12 (12)	3 (16)	2 (20)	0 (5)
Jake Marnie	0 (0)	7 (12)	12 (19)	5 (8)
Ken Mitchell	0 (0)	6 (18)	12 (28)	5 (10)
Brendan Moloney	0 (0)	9 (30)	10 (22)	5 (9)
Luke Monea	23 (53)	1 (10)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Daniel O'Shea	0 (0)	9 (21)	9 (24)	10 (16)
Simon Plumridge	23 (151)	0 (20)	0 (0)	0 (0)
James Rizio	21 (26)	1 (7)	0 (5)	0 (3)
Samuel Rogers	0 (0)	7 (12)	6 (11)	6 (10)
Jack Stammers	14 (14)	4 (12)	1 (11)	2 (4)
.Adam Steger	0 (0)	9 (9)	12 (12)	2 (2)
Callum Thornton	0 (0)	11 (17)	11 (22)	5 (7)
Nelson Tucker	0 (0)	8 (12)	13 (20)	3 (3)
John Varker	19 (50)	1 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Cyrus Wong	13 (135)	3 (41)	1 (2)	0 (0)
Joon-Yip Wong	0 (0)	9 (23)	12 (28)	5 (9)

¹ Lucinda Lopes umpired 5 NAB Boys and 10 VFLW matches as a boundary umpire. Career totals NAB Boys 46 and VFLW 39 matches.

² Corey Brown umpired 28 NAB Boys matches as a boundary umpire. Career total 35 matches.

100 VFL matches 1992-2019

	Matches		Matches
Peter Balding	235	Rob Young*	128
Dan Beard	224	Callum Leonard*	128
Dean Jones*	207	Cameron Nash	125
Michael Richardson	194	Stefan Grun †	123
Nick Laurence	194	Brett Ritchie	122
Andrew Talbot*	194	Heath Ryan †	121
Shane Mason	188	Jason Quigley	118
Michael Curtis*	188	Shaun Gleeson	117
Richard Mills	182	Andrew Leggo	117
Tristan Burgess	182	Glenn Gibson †	116
Andrew Clifton	181	Andrew Malcolm	116
Lloyd Fisk	177	Adam Wojcik †	115
Ben James	172	Steven Neal	115
Andrew Mitchell* †	167	Chris Donlon †	115
Matthew Brown	163	Matthew Leppard	114
Michael Jennings	162	Neil Woods	113
Steven Piperno	161	Robert Findlay †	112
Jamie Grindal	157	James Davey	112
Michael Hammond †	155	Geoff Twitt	110
Ben Macdonald	154	Michael Palm †	108
Simon Plumridge*	151	Dylan Benwell	108
Brendan Dye	150	Russell Davidson	106
Daniel Pieper	150	Patrick Burns*	106
Anthony Kyrkou	145	Jason Armstrong †	105
John Cooper*	143	Kieran Ferguson*	105
Damien Cusack	138	Scott Murray	104
Frank Dicosmo	137	Drew Kowalski	104
Brendan Elvey	135	Chris Morrison †	103
Cyrus Wong*	135	Andrew Heffernan*	103
Adam Bell*	133	Andrew McCoy	102
Jack Edwards*	133	Luke Wilkie*	102
Stephen Gloag	130	Rob Frampton	101
Damien Sully	129	Mark Foster †	101
Peter Nastasi †	129	Matthew Oakley	101
Chris Doyle*	129	Sam Walsh	101
Steele Irish	128	Matt Maclure	101
Shane Stewart †	128		

* active 2019

† 100 AFL matches

AFLW 2019

Matches		Matches		Matches		Matches		Matches	
Tope Adepoiyibi (G)	4 (4)	Leigh Buwalda (B)	4 (9)	Ashley Hawkes (B)	5 (5)	Simon Plumridge (G)	5 (5)	John Varker (G)	5 (10)
Blake Anderson (B)	5 (9)	John Cooper (B)	6 (6)	Callum Leonard (G)*	6 (10)	Paul Rebeschini (F)	7 (7)	Luke Wilke (B)	6 (6)
Bronte Annand (F)	3 (3)	Patrick Damato (B)	5 (10)	Tayla Manning (G)	4 (4)	James Rizio (G)	1 (1)	Matthew Young (F)	1 (6)
Peter Bailes (F)	5 (5)	Jack Edwards (F)	7 (7)	Greta Miller (B)	6 (6)	Sam Stagg (B)*	6 (12)		
Simon Blight (B)	6 (6)	Kieran Ferguson (B)*	6 (6)	Nicholas Phillips (B)*	7 (7)	Nathan Toner (F)	5 (9)		
Patrick Burns (F)	7 (13)								

* 2019 AFLW Grand Final

11 VFL finals 1992-2019

Matches		Matches		Matches		Matches		Matches	
Peter Balding (G)	21	John Cooper (B)	16	Gerard Large (B)	14	Sam Stagg (B)	13	Andrew Malcolm (F)	12
Simon Plumridge (G)	20	Nick Laurence (B)	16	Michael Marantelli (B)	14	Matthew Brown (F)	13	Dylan Benwell (G)	12
Michael Jennings (F)	19	Tristan Burgess (F)	15	Steven Neal (B)	14	Shane Mason (F)	13	Michael Hammond (G)	12
Ben Macdonald (B)	18	Michael Curtis (F)	15	Daniel Butcher (F)	14	Andrew Mitchell (F)	13	Sam Walsh (G)	12
Shane Stewart (F)	18	Brett Ritchie (F)	15	Richard Mills (F)	14	Heath Ryan (F)	13	Graeme Bergroth (B)	11
Steven Piperno (G)	18	Anthony Kyrkou (G)	15	Damien Sully (F)	14	Jordan Andrews (B)	12	David Harris (F)	11
Neil Woods (B)	17	Kieran Ferguson (B)	14	Brad Letson (G)	14	Simon Blight (B)	12	Andrew Clifton (G)	11
Shaun Gleeson (F)	17	Mark Foster (B)	14	Patrick Dineen (B)	13	Damien Cusack (B)	12	Courtney Lai (G)	11
Andrew Talbot (F)	17	Drew Kowalski (B)	14	Mitch Lefevre (B)	13	Rob Findlay (F)	12	Michael Richardson (G)	11

VFUA office bearers 1993-2019

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 AM
2005	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly	Leigh Keen	David Flegg AM
2006	Rob Findlay	Jason Armstrong Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly	Matthew Lee	David Flegg AM
2007	Rob Findlay	Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly	Drew Kowalski	David Flegg AM
2008	Adam Wojcik Matt Leppard	Matt Leppard Stephen Gloag	Peter Kelly	Michael O'Donnell	David Flegg AM David Flegg AM
2009	Matt Leppard	Michael Boss	Peter Kelly	Stephen Gloag	David Flegg AM
2010	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Andrew Mitchell	David Flegg AM
2011	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Michael Palm	David Flegg AM
2012	Andrew McCoy	Graham Bergroth Steven Piperno	Peter Kelly	Daniel Lawlor	David Flegg AM
2013	Andrew McCoy	Steven Piperno	Peter Kelly	Daniel Butcher	David Flegg AM
2014	Steven Piperno	Daniel Butcher	Peter Kelly	Adam Havelberg	David Flegg AM
2015	Daniel Butcher	Adam Havelberg	Peter Kelly	Luke White	David Flegg AM
2016	Michael Curtis	Callum Leonard	Peter Kelly	Tim Carlos	David Flegg AM
2017	Michael Curtis	Nick Brown	Peter Kelly	Kate Griffiths	David Flegg AM
2018	Michael Curtis	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly	Andrew Talbot	David Flegg AM
			Administrator		
2019	Andrew Talbot	Matthew Mahoney	Peter Kelly	Joon-Yip Wong	David Flegg AM

Notes:

The current role of administrator was created with the passing of the current rules in 2018.

The role of executive officer 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 1993-2019

Track representatives

Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years
Jason Armstrong	2004-05	Damian Devinentis	2010	Dean Jones	2006-07	Brent Pawley	2011
Peter Bailes	2019	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	2018-19	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	2017-19
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	Dylan Fulton	2019	Josh Maine	2012-13	Jack Stammers	2019
Tim Carlos	2011	Alf Galea	1994	Wes Mann	1998-99	Harry Stamos	1997
Ben Cheever	2017	Michael Gibson	2003	Andrew McCoy	2011	Steven Stirling	1998
Jason Cook	1997-98	Stephen Gloag	2001-04	Luke McIlroy	2014-16	Travis Storti	2001
Lawrence Coop	2014	Kate Griffiths	2016	David Miles	2016-17	Andrew Talbot	2012,2017
Ashley Crawford	2011-12	Michael Hammond	2000	Joel Morrison	2011	Callum Thornton	2019
Michael Curtis	2013-15	Lachlan Harty	2016-17	Jack Murfett	2017	Troy Tindill	2001
Damien Cusack	2005	Adam Havelberg	2013	John Murnane	1993-94	Gareth Verbene	2008
Russell Davidson	1997	Ashley Hawkes	2018	Ben Naughtin	2005-07	Andrew Wheeler	1996
Curtis De Witt	2015	Peter Herrick	1993-94	Mark O'Reilly	1995	Luke White	2013-14
Justin Delaney	1993	Wayne Hoskins	2010	Ryan O'Shea	2016	Daniel Wilson	2002-03
Andrew Dempster	1997-99	David Humphries	1995-96,1999	Liam Pain	2019	Adam Wojcik	2004-05
Greg Denison	2005-06	Anthony Hunter	2011-12	Michael Palm	2009	Yippy Wong	2018

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
Matthew Young	2019

Financial statements

Statement of income and expenditure Year ended 30 September 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Interest Received	1,523	1,943
Subscriptions	29,040	31,130
Miscellaneous	10,582	10,314
Social Functions	22,566	17,940
Total Income	63,711	61,327
EXPENDITURE		
Audit Fees	264	264
Annual Report	760	726
Honorariums	13,725	18,570
Photography	-	750
Postage	10	-
Printing and Stationery	146	158
Social Functions	24,619	24,184
Sundry Expenses	17,272	15,867
Trophies, Certificates	336	1,865
Total Expenditure	57,132	62,384
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	6,579	(1,057)
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	6,579	(1,057)

Merchandising sales account Year ended 30 September 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Sales - Clothing	-	88
Total Sales	-	88
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Purchases	-	803
Stock 30.09.17	-	-
Profit (Loss)	-	(715)
Transferred to Accum. Acc.	-	(715)

Balance sheet Year ended 30 September 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at bank	30,178	25,183
-Cheque acc.	-	-
-Term dep.	67,245	65,701
Total	97,423	90,884

Represented by:

RESERVES		
Accumulation Account	97,423	90,884
TOTAL RESERVES	97,423	90,884

Major raffle Year ended 30 September 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
INCOME		
-Total Sales	-	3,055
-Total Income	-	3,055
EXPENDITURE		
-Prizes	-	1,165
-Total Expenditure	-	1,165
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	1,890
Transf. to Accum. Acc.	-	1,890

Accumulation account Year ended 30 September 2019

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Funds were derived from		
Administration Account	6,579	(1,057)
Major Raffle	-	1,890
Merchandising Account	-	(715)
Total	6,579	118
Add Balance brought forward	90,844	90,766
Balance carried forward @ 30.09.19	97,423	90,884

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. The 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 30 September 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. The *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)* s. 307 categorises the Victorian Football Umpires' Association Inc. as a 'Tier 1' entity as revenue is less than \$250,000. Therefore, neither an audit nor a review is required to be conducted by ASIC.

Officeholders' declaration

In the absence of an audit or review, in accordance with a resolution of the officeholders of Victorian Football Umpires Association Inc., the officeholders declare that the financial statements and notes presented herein:

1. Present a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity; and
2. Are free from fraud.



Peter Kelly
VFUA Administrator



Matthew Mahoney
VFUA Acting President

In line with the VFUA's aim of being a transparent organisation, the VFUA welcomes any enquiries about the financial statements from members. Please direct your enquiry to vfuaexecutive@gmail.com.

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