



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**VICTORIAN FOOTBALL  
UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION**



# 2020 OFFICE BEARERS

## **President**

Matthew Mahoney

## **Vice-Presidents**

Liam Pain (Member Engagement)

Joon-Yip Wong (Marketing & Communications)

## **Administrator**

Peter Kelly

## **Track Representatives**

Peter Bailes (Senior Field)

Dylan Fulton (Development Field)

Greta Miller (Senior Boundary)

Melissa Sambrooks (Development Boundary)

Tayla Manning (Senior Goal)

Kenneth Mitchell (Development Goal)

## **Historian-statistician**

David Flegg AM

## **Events manager**

Matthew Young

# CONTENTS

- |        |                            |        |                               |
|--------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| - 04 - | Chronology 2019-2020       | - 24 - | 100+ VFL Matches              |
| - 06 - | Presidents' Report         | - 25 - | 11+ VFL Finals Matches        |
| - 08 - | Administrator's Report     | - 26 - | Most Improved                 |
| - 10 - | 2020 Members               | - 27 - | John Russo Trophy             |
| - 11 - | 2019 VFUA Life Members     | - 28 - | Courage Award                 |
| - 14 - | VFUA Life Members          | - 29 - | Frank Leverett Shield         |
| - 15 - | 2020 Virtual Mini Olympics | - 30 - | VFUA Office Bearers 1993-2020 |
| - 18 - | VFUA Team of the Decade    | - 32 - | VFUA Track Reps 1993-2020     |
| - 19 - | Squad Reports              | - 33 - | Financials                    |
| - 22 - | 2020 Statistics            | - 35 - | Photo Credits                 |
| - 23 - | 2020 AFLW Statistics       |        |                               |



# CHRONOLOGY 2019-2020

## 2019

VFUA completes long-term investigation into umpiring payments and employment status over last five years and raises a number of issues with the the AFL.

### 10 October

VFUA Executive prepares to employ an advocate for upcoming F&C negotiations. Ultimately none appointed and President, Matthew Mahoney handles much of the negotiation with AFL.

### 16 October

AFL responds to umpiring payment issues raised by VFUA and agrees to voluntarily make a supplementary payment to identified umpires.

### 17 October

VFUA forwards proposal to outsource some administration to AFLUA. AFLUA unable to undertake services for VFUA at that point in time.

### 8 November

Paul Rebeschini (F), Sam Stagg (B) and Simon Plumridge (G) promoted to AFL lists.

### 13 November

Active umpires receive supplementary payment from the AFL in relation to umpire payment issues identified by the VFUA. Non-active umpires receive payment on 4 December.

### 13 December

AFL forwards initial F&C proposal to VFUA. For the first time an agreement includes payment for training proposal and a statement that AFL had investigated and determined umpires were part-time and not casual employees.

### 15 December

VFUA AGM postponed as the result of no quorum.

### 31 December

The first public message on the pandemic from Wuhan Health Commission.

## 2020

### 14 January

VFUA responds to AFL F&C proposal with questions and suggested revisions as part of the ongoing negotiation process.

### 14-22 January

VFL umpire training resumes.

### 25 January

First COVID19 case reported in Australia.

### 29 January

VFUA holds postponed AGM. F&C proposal presented to members. Generally positive response from members. Various member queries answered or forwarded to AFL.

### 12 February

President meets with AFL to discuss F&C proposal.

### 1 March

First reported COVID19 death in Australia.

### 2 March

AFL forwards draft contract to VFUA for comment.

### 16 March

Victorian government declares a state of emergency until 13 April. The State of emergency which was subsequently extended. Restrictions on particular activities and self-isolation begins.

### 17 March

President finalises negotiations accepting AFL offer and signs MOU for 2020 season to be distributed to umpires. Start of VFL, VFLW, NAB League Boys & Girls competitions postponed.

### 22 March

AFL suspends season to 31 May. AFLW season cancelled.

### 26 March

VFL umpires stood down indefinitely. Training payments to that stage forwarded to umpires per F&C agreement.

# CHRONOLOGY 2019-2020

## **30 March**

Australian government announces its largest economic support package in response to the crisis, "JobKeeper" wage subsidy program.

## **2 April**

AFL confirms that, as part-time employees, VFL umpires will be eligible for JobKeeper payments.

## **17 April**

Following a request from the AFL, VFUA splits funding for services of Greg Buck as psychologist for remainder of season with AFL.

## **4 May**

VFUA begins six-week Virtual Mini-Olympics for Paul Anderson Memorial Shield.

## **20 May**

VFUA agrees to change in fees for any competition matches officiated in 2020; noting without prejudice for 2021.

## **24 May**

VFUA halves membership fee for 2020 season. Almost 100% of potential members join.

## **11 June**

AFL season resumes with Round 2.

## **14 June**

SDS/Development Boundary Umpires claim victory in Virtual Mini-Olympics.

## **7 July**

Victorian government announces that metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire would re-enter lockdown for a minimum of six weeks from 12 a.m.

## **9 July**

AFL clubs leave Victoria for interstate hubs to complete the season outside Victoria.

## **19 July**

Victorian government announces that "face coverings" were to be made mandatory in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire when residents leave their home.

## **21 July**

Proposal that NAB competitions would begin in regional Victoria shortly.

## **2 August**

A state of disaster was declared in Victoria from 6pm. Restrictions tightened including a curfew across Melbourne from 8pm to 5am starting immediately. Melbourne moved to stage 4 and regional Victoria to stage 3 restrictions.

## **4 August**

AFL confirms VFL, VFLW, NAB League Boys & Girls competitions cancelled for 2020.

## **19 August**

AFL announces merger of VFL-NEAFL competitions for 2021 with AFL teams to field their own team, align with an existing team or spread players over various existing teams. Stand-alone VFL clubs to decide own future in new competition.

## **1 September**

VFUA launches Team of the Decade polling via dedicated Facebook page.

## **3 September**

VFUA hosts first virtual Zoom Q&A mental health and wellbeing session with VFL psychologist Greg Buck with continued and recurring sessions agreed to be held in the future.

## **31 October**

JobKeeper payments for AFL umpires cease at end of contract period.



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Matthew Mahoney**

Well... season 2020 was interesting. I would like to start off with a personal message for all our members. There are some of you who may feel like you have found other interests in 2020 that you enjoy outside of umpiring and are considering packing away the boots for 2021. Admittedly, I have a similar feeling and they are not alone. I urge you to reflect on all the good times they have had umpiring and the benefits it has brought to your life before making any rash decisions. There is no harm in returning for at least a couple of weeks of training to make sure that you have made the right decision. Now - let's go back in time to December 2019. It was at this time, through working closely with the AFL, the VFUA received the first draft of the 2020 fees and conditions agreement for Victorian state league umpires.

This was a landmark achievement for the VFUA as it included the following conditions:

- Payment for official on-site training sessions for umpires (i.e. at Victoria Park)
- A determination that umpires were part-time employees of the AFL (and the associated entitlements and employment rights that come with this determination)

Unfortunately it wasn't all good news for the VFUA in December 2019. We were planning to hold our AGM on the 15 December, however due to poor member attendance we were unable to achieve a quorum and therefore our AGM was postponed to 30 January 2020. The postponed AGM was successfully held at the Yarra Hotel (just up the road from Victoria Park) on a Thursday night after field and boundary umpire training.

There was a strong attendance from our members on this night. The VFUA will learn from this and look to hold future AGMs at convenient times and locations for our umpires, such as after training. With this being said, at the time of writing this report we are currently exploring COVID-safe alternatives for holding our AGM which include virtual options. After receiving member feedback at the AGM, the VFUA continued to work together with the AFL to finalise the fees and conditions agreement for 2020. I would like to thank Michael Jennings (AFL Field Umpire Coach), Amy Adams (AFL People Business Partner) and Grant Williams (AFL Head of Umpiring) for their assistance in this process as well as our ongoing communication throughout the year.

## COVID-19

In late March we had the NAB League Girls season in progress and other competitions poised to begin in the upcoming weeks. There was excitement brewing within the umpiring fraternity regarding list announcements and what 2020 had in store. A few days later and everything changed with the VFL/VFLW/ NAB League competitions all postponed as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis. It was disappointing to see many of my umpiring friends have their hard work over the pre-season squandered. The postponement occurred prior to umpiring squads being announced, and as such, many umpires who had positioned themselves to be promoted to the senior squad were unable to realise this achievement. Additionally, invite-for-trial umpires who had trained ferociously all pre-season never found out whether they had "made the list". I encourage these umpires to put this frustration behind them and approach 2021 with renewed hunger and a fresh perspective. The virus forced the VFUA to move quickly, and the first hoop to jump through was navigating the federal government's JobKeeper payment and how this would apply to our umpires. The key feature of the 2020 fees and conditions agreement was that for the first time in history state league Victorian umpires were officially recognised as part-time employees of the AFL. Therefore, as part-time employees, our umpires were eligible to receive the JobKeeper payment. This was a terrific result and helped alleviate the financial pressures felt by many of our members who saw their employment outside of umpiring significantly affected. I would like to commend the AFL for their clear and swift action administering the JobKeeper payment.

Throughout the March to July period, there was a lot of uncertainty

regarding whether the VFL/VFLW/NAB League seasons would resume. To fill this void and continue a tradition that begun in 2001, whilst we were not able to physically hold a Mini-Olympics at umpire training, the VFUA held a “virtual” Mini-Olympics. Running over six weeks this event was a success in keeping umpires engaged and raised over \$2,000 for the Cancer Council. Refer to the Mini-Olympics section of this report for further information. As we know, ultimately in early August the VFL/VFLW/NAB League seasons were officially cancelled for 2020. This was saddening, however at least it gave our umpires certainty for the rest of the year after many months of hoping and waiting. The AFL restructure brought on by COVID-19 has seen the departure of Victorian State League Umpiring Head Coach Cameron Nash and also Operations Manager Peter Mair. Both of these men have made a significant contribution to Victorian umpiring and we wish them all the best for the future.

### **VFUA Members**

I would like to congratulate 2019 VFUA members Paul Rebeschini (field), Sam Stagg (boundary) and Simon Plumridge (goal) who were promoted to the AFL list for the 2020 season. A fantastic achievement that confirms Victoria’s status as the strongest state league umpiring group in Australia. Once again Victorian umpires featured prominently in the 2020 AFLW season. There were 12 field umpires, 12 boundary umpires and 11 goal umpires from Victoria on the AFLW umpiring squad. Well done to all involved. The VFUA executive made a decision to cut our membership fees from \$220 to \$100 this year due to COVID-19. It was humbling to see that 99% of umpires joined the VFUA – thank you for your support. This year the VFUA stepped up its partnership with VFL psychologist Greg Buck as COVID-19 related issues reared their head. Greg has provided a tremendous amount of mental wellbeing support for our umpires over the years and this year was no exception. Greg is always contactable for any of our umpires who wished to seek individual support. The VFUA hosted two Q&A sessions via online video conferencing with Greg and our members which explored mindfulness and coping with the loss of motivation in our lives brought on by COVID-19. Thanks for your support Greg and the VFUA looks forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

### **The VFUA Executive Team**

This year it has been fantastic to work with everyone involved on the

VFUA Executive. My first year as president has been a unique ride, and I would not have got through it without their support. I have received a lot of credit this year for work that was not even done by me! My email and Facebook updates are the results of discussions and ideas from everyone in the Executive team. The track representatives: Peter Bailes, Dylan Fulton, Greta Miller, Melissa Sambrooks, Tayla Manning and Ken Mitchell. You would all be sick of my group messages! I commend you all for the work you have done communicating with your individual squads and being the “people in the trenches” from which we are able to gauge umpire feedback. A special thanks goes to Melissa Sambrooks who has completed four years of service as a track rep and played a crucial role in the virtual Mini-Olympics, and to Peter Bailes for his love of telephone calls and checking in with umpires.

My vice-presidents Liam Pain and Yip Wong. Liam has done a superb job establishing our relationship with VFL psychologist Greg Buck and organising brand new VFUA polo tops. Yip – you have totally transformed the online presence of the VFUA and always go above and beyond in your work. David Flegg AM for his work as the VFUA historian and statistician (including the preparation of this annual report). This year’s annual report is looking better than ever – I would also like to thank senior goal umpire James Rizio for his assistance in redesigning and modernising the report. Last but not least I would like to thank VFUA Administrator Peter Kelly (PK) for all the work that he does behind the scenes with partners, surveys, awards, life members and advice.

On a personal level, PK has been an invaluable mentor and sounding board for me when I am dealing with not only umpiring but other general life issues. Peter has decided to retire from his role with the VFUA. He has been involved with the association since its inception in 1992 and guided it through 28 seasons of relationships with various administrations. Peter, your experience on a day to day basis will be sorely missed but as a life member, Special Award recipient and friend to so many over generations of umpires you will always be a part of the VFUA.

Whilst 2020 has been very challenging, I hope that everybody has been able to find the positives out of the ever-changing situation. I hope to see everyone back next year!

**Matt Mahoney VFUA President**

# ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



Peter Kelly

After 28 years being involved with the VFUA, it is now time for me to move on and focus on my role at the AFLUA whilst letting others shape the association going forward. Whilst I was wanting to finish up a couple of years ago, I was determined to stay until we finalised some employment issues with the AFL. This included recognition that umpires are employees and deserve rights and entitlements that come with it. In March this year, the VFUA agreed to the AFL's proposal that umpires be employed as part-time employees of the AFL.

Little did we know the drama that would soon unfold with the arrival of Covid-19 and the associated disruptions this caused to our football competitions. However, as employees our members accessed entitlements they'd never had before and were paid for attendance at pre-season training and were eligible for the federal government's JobKeeper program.

I, along with David 'Fleggy' Flegg AM, have been part of the VFUA since its inception in 1992. We have worked alongside some magnificent people who have built the association up to what it is today. The association has supported umpires in so many ways and it has been great to see so many umpires achieve success at both VFL and AFL level over so many years.

That's not to say we haven't experienced some difficult challenges along the way however I am now confident that with the umpiring department now part of the AFL structure, our umpires are in good hands and will benefit from this alignment into the future.

I have served many executive committees with their different leaders and participants in different structures with everchanging priorities.

I have seen some great leaders and executive members, all of whom have shared a common purpose of helping make the umpiring experience a more positive and professional experience for all. I have also been part of many planning weekends that have led to some pretty harsh hangover induced planning sessions with lots of wild stories and exploits from the night before.

Our 2020 executive team signed on, not knowing what lay ahead. As a team, they have worked tirelessly to keep members engaged and communication timely and informative, during unprecedented times. Our recent survey of members was glowing in the assessment of the work done by our executive team – 96% of members were very satisfied or satisfied with new employment classification outcome; 87% were very satisfied or satisfied that the VFUA attempted to keep members engaged during the year; 95% were very satisfied or satisfied with the level of communication provided by the VFUA during the year.

Matt Mahoney, as president, has done an outstanding job leading the association. Being president sometimes requires difficult conversations with the AFL, but I know from my interactions with the AFL, Matt is respected for the role he plays and for the advocacy he does on behalf of the association. Matt has been ably supported by his strategy team – Laim who takes to any task with enthusiasm and a cold beverage; Yip whose social media has raised the profile and professionalism of the association to a new level and Fleggy who didn't have many stats to prepare in 2020, but was always there for



his wise counsel. Each of you should be proud of your efforts this year.

Our broader executive team was across everything and played an important role in our member engagement activities – Mini Olympics and Team of the Decade etc. Thank you to each of you and for the many things you do behind the scenes. I am sure many positive comments in the survey were directed at your contributions during the year.

Even with no football, we attracted 99% membership, an outstanding outcome. There are many people I would like to thank for their support, friendship and leadership over so many years. It is hard not to become close to the serving presidents and I have worked alongside some magnificent people who gave their heart and soul to the association, sometimes at great risk to their umpiring careers, given the time and commitment required. To each of you, I would like to thank you for your valued contribution and friendship.

To the many executive team members, we have shared a lot. Our executive teams have shaped this association over many years, and they are to be commended with what we have today. A professional association with a proud history and a great footprint in the umpiring world.

Our life members are the backbone of the association and there are many who have continued to support us over many years. I would like to thank you and I look forward to being part of the group on a more social basis in the future.

I would like to thank Peter Howe who has provided valuable assistance and advice over many years whilst CEO of the AFLUA. Peter is a true umpires' man, with a wealth of experience in coaching, mentoring and advice.

I have had some wonderful memories over many years and have met some truly remarkable people along the way, some of whom have become and remain close friends. I have also had the opportunity of helping grow this association, along with many others, into what it is today.

To David Flegg, I would like to thank you for your unwavering friendship, support and for sharing such a great passion and journey over so many years.

There are many others – Rob Findlay, Michael Curtis, Daniel Butcher, Matt Leppard, Andrew Talbot, Tristan Burgess, Leigh Keen, Steven Stirling, Adam Wojcik, Anthony Black, Nick Brown, Steve Piperno, Chris Snell, Stephen Gloag, Dan Beard, Richard Mills and Daniel Pieper who have all been great supporters and friends over many years. Statements like 'Let's get another drink!' 'You idiot!' 'You can't say that, it's not in the minutes' and 'feed em, drink em, vote em, cough cough' all trigger fantastic memories, as do planning weekend memories over many years at Sorrento and Portsea during which the Conti played a big part. In closing, it has been a pleasure to serve and be part of this great association and I look forward to watching the VFUA grow and prosper in years to come.

**Peter Kelly VFUA Administrator**

# 2020 MEMBERS

## Field

2016 Peter Bailes  
 2018 Joshua Ball  
 2018 Harry Birch  
 2019 Jack Cannon  
 2012 Thomas Chrystie  
 2017 Joel Clamp  
 2019 Adam Coles  
 2019 Sebastian Dalgleish  
 2019 Shamus Dundon  
 2010 Jack Edwards (a)  
 2017 Sam Ferguson  
 2017 Lachlan Floyd  
 2018 Dylan Fulton  
 2019 Jackson Gillespie  
 2018 Nathan Guy  
 2019 Ian Herman  
 2017 Jack Howard  
 2017 Brayden Hunter  
 2016 Nicholas Jankovskis  
 2019 Elias Kafritsas  
 2019 Kaleb Laker  
 2014 Lucinda Lopes (b)  
 2017 Thomas Lyon  
 2017 Matthew Mahoney  
 2004 Andrew Mitchell (c)  
 2019 Hugo Morgan  
 2017 Alex Murray  
 2018 Ben O'Brien  
 2019 Jordyn Pearson  
 2016 Michael Pell  
 2015 Matthew Pongracic  
 2019 Jacob Port  
 2016 Luke Porter  
 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 Ryan Webster  
 2018 Michael Willcox  
 2018 Cameron Williams  
 2015 Matthew Young

## Boundary

2016 Blake Anderson  
 2019 Tim Attard  
 2019 Kaitlin Barr  
 2017 Sam Beer  
 2009 Adam Bell  
 2016 Josh Blain  
 2016 Trent Bowes  
 2019 James Brayshaw  
 2011 Leigh Buwalda  
 2012 Chris Cato (d)  
 2011 John Cooper  
 2018 Matthew Crowley  
 2015 Patrick Damato  
 2016 Jake D'Angelo  
 2017 Joel Davis  
 2016 Brenton Dickson  
 2018 James Fenby (e)  
 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  
 2019 Benjamin Rofe  
 2016 Melissa Sambrooks  
 2018 Raushan Seychell  
 2015 Lewis Spiker  
 2011 Travis Taylor (f)  
 2016 Daniel Urbans  
 2018 Max Visintin  
 2013 Luke Wilke  
 2015 Jesse Wilkie  
 2016 Chris Williams

## Goal

2018 Tope Adepoyibi  
 2019 Patrick Aurish  
 2012 Corey Brown (g)  
 2018 Zachary Brown-Close  
 2019 Joe Dorrat-Thorpe  
 2006 Chris Doyle  
 2012 Matthew Edwards  
 2003 Adam Gardner (h)  
 2019 Thomas Gath  
 2016 Jackson Griffiths (e)  
 2019 Lochlin Hamer

2015 Joshua Hickman  
 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  
 2018 James Rizio  
 2018 Jack Stammers  
 2019 Adam Steger  
 2018 Callum Thornton  
 2017 Nelson Tucker (i)  
 2016 John Varker  
 2008 Cyrus Wong  
 2015 Joon-Yip Wong

### Notes:

- (a) Off list 2015-16.
- (b) Field 2014-16, 2018-20.
- Boundary 2017.
- (c) Off list 2012-19.
- (d) Off list 2015-18.
- (e) Off list 2019.
- (f) Off list 2012.
- (g) Off list 2013, 2015-18.
- Boundary 2012, 2014. Goal 2019-20.
- (h) Off list 2009-2016, 2018.
- (i) Off list 2018.



# 2019 LIFE MEMBERS

## Nick Brown

Nick has been a long standing VFUA member and has continued to support the VFUA even after being promoted to the AFL.

He has umpired over 50 games for both the VFL and AFL and has accomplished many achievements in his career – the 2011 TAC Cup Grand Final and 2014 and 2017 VFL Grand Finals. Nick has also shown amazing resilience; having been on the AFL list in 2015-2016 he was sent back to the VFL at the end of 2016, and worked extremely hard in 2017 to again umpire his second VFL grand final and was promoted back to the AFL where he has remained since 2018.

Further to his umpiring achievements, Nick has also been a great contributor to the VFUA. He has been a member each year he has been on the VFL list as well as most notably taking on the role of Vice President in 2017.

He has also contributed to the VFUA as track representative in 2011 and assisted in delivering a number of great initiatives. After being promoted to AFL, Nick has continued to help the VFUA by assisting with the VFUA Ball in 2018 as well as continuing to assist with the banking from 2017 to 2020.

Nick has always displayed high qualities both on and off the field. He is well respected amongst the umpiring community and continues to be a great mentor to many VFL umpires.

## Simon Plumridge

If there were an award for the VFL Umpire of the Decade just gone, your judgement would come into serious question to not confer the honour to Simon Plumridge.

Since arriving from the Eastern Football League in 2011, Simon, from a pure numbers perspective, has umpired 151 VFL games (21st on the all-time list and 9th for goal umpires), a record 22 VFL Finals and 4 VFL Grand Finals - also a record - with 5 state-level Grand Finals in the last 6 seasons.



In doing so, Simon has achieved everything there is to achieve at state level, umpiring both a state game (2016) and the National Under 18 Championships (2018) and being awarded Goal Umpire of the Year in both 2015 and 2018.

However, this only paints half the picture of Simon's decade-long record of excellence, as everything that counts cannot necessarily be counted - that is, his qualities of leadership, helpfulness, humility, determination and resilience.

Universally respected among the goal umpiring squad, Simon has been a leader in an official capacity, both as a track rep and also as voted on each year by his peers.

Unofficially, Simon sets a fine example on the track - working hard away from Vic Park and, on Wednesdays, being light-hearted but still 100% focussed on the session, always running the warm-up laps on the outside of the group and not hesitating to take a less experienced goalie aside during skills to impart some of his wisdom and experience.

It is this quiet example with which Simon commands - not demands - the respect of his peers, usually letting his actions do the talking for himself. Therefore, when 'Simon says' something, you know it's something of value.

I believe that the one year in the last six that Simon hasn't umpired a Grand Final, however, actually best sums him up - that is, 2016. That year Simon encountered serious injury - rupturing his ACL. Despite his personal disappointment, this didn't stop him from attending training on crutches, taking part in what he could and generally being his usual supportive self.

When Simon did return, astonishingly, he resumed out-running everyone on the track before too long - and, of course, he's gone on to umpire the last three VFL grand final since then as well.

To finish, if an up and coming goal umpire were to ask how to go about things the right way, Simon Plumridge would be the person I'd hold up as the example for them.

A person of Simon's calibre in our presence over the course of the decade - and, for his long service to both umpiring and the association, make him an outstanding candidate for life membership.

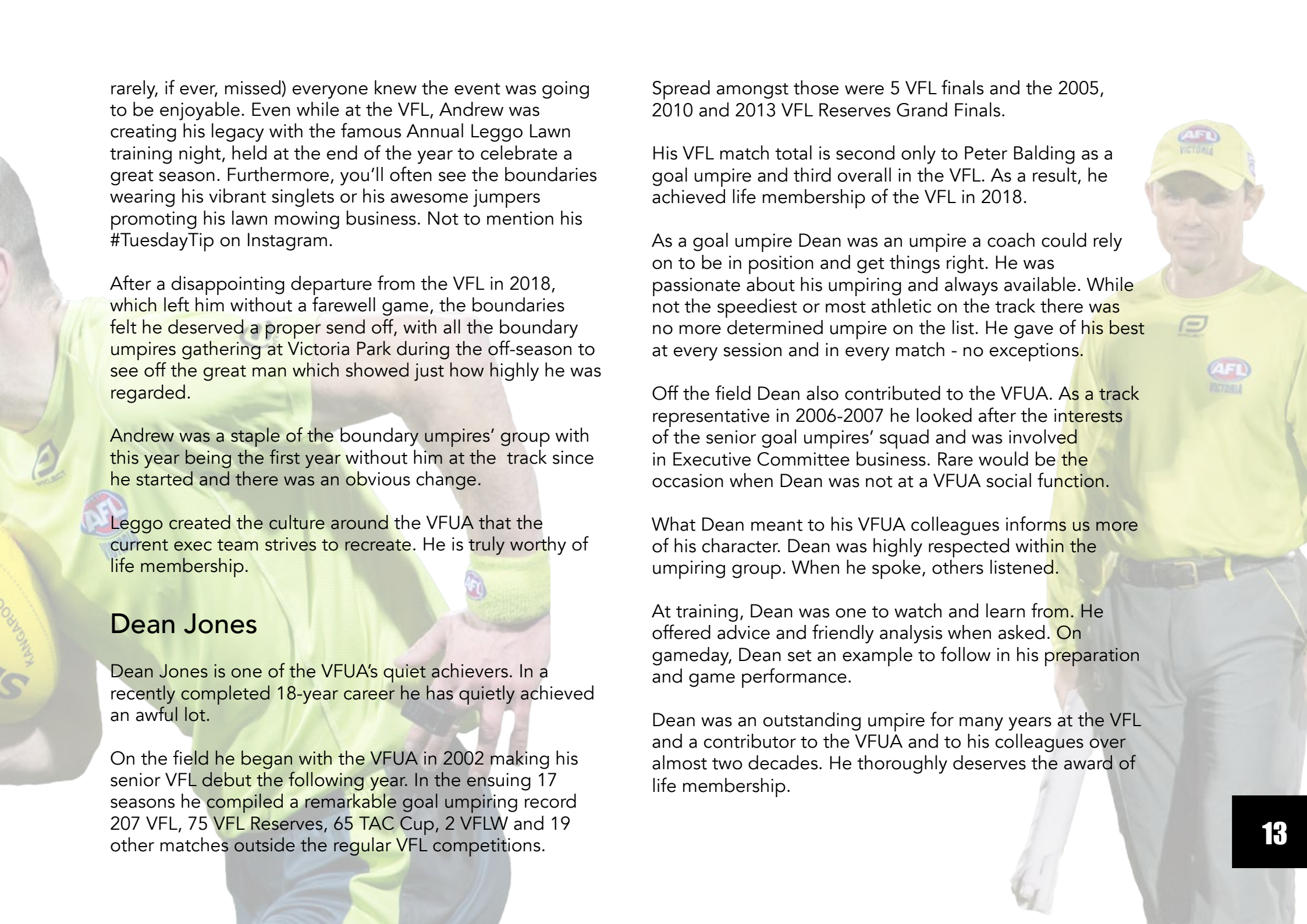
## Andrew Leggo

Andrew Leggo joined the VFL in 2009 and quickly became part of the furniture around Vic Park. Although knowing nobody and being the slowest bloke on the track when he arrived, he turned that around quickly, becoming most umpire's favourite bloke to run with on the weekend.

Throughout his 117 senior game career, including two VFL finals, five TAC cup finals, five VFL reserve finals and the 2014 VFL Reserves Grand Final, Andrew created and contributed to a culture of camaraderie, teamwork and enjoyment around the boundary squad, which is the reason he was given the role of skipper for a number of years.

Andrew prided himself on getting to know the new umpires on the list and was often seen as one of the most approachable umpires to go to whether for advice or just a general chat about life.

When Andrew was attending a VFUA event (which he



rarely, if ever, missed) everyone knew the event was going to be enjoyable. Even while at the VFL, Andrew was creating his legacy with the famous Annual Leggo Lawn training night, held at the end of the year to celebrate a great season. Furthermore, you'll often see the boundaries wearing his vibrant singlets or his awesome jumpers promoting his lawn mowing business. Not to mention his #TuesdayTip on Instagram.

After a disappointing departure from the VFL in 2018, which left him without a farewell game, the boundaries felt he deserved a proper send off, with all the boundary umpires gathering at Victoria Park during the off-season to see off the great man which showed just how highly he was regarded.

Andrew was a staple of the boundary umpires' group with this year being the first year without him at the track since he started and there was an obvious change.

Leggo created the culture around the VFUA that the current exec team strives to recreate. He is truly worthy of life membership.

## Dean Jones

Dean Jones is one of the VFUA's quiet achievers. In a recently completed 18-year career he has quietly achieved an awful lot.

On the field he began with the VFUA in 2002 making his senior VFL debut the following year. In the ensuing 17 seasons he compiled a remarkable goal umpiring record 207 VFL, 75 VFL Reserves, 65 TAC Cup, 2 VFLW and 19 other matches outside the regular VFL competitions.

Spread amongst those were 5 VFL finals and the 2005, 2010 and 2013 VFL Reserves Grand Finals.

His VFL match total is second only to Peter Balding as a goal umpire and third overall in the VFL. As a result, he achieved life membership of the VFL in 2018.

As a goal umpire Dean was an umpire a coach could rely on to be in position and get things right. He was passionate about his umpiring and always available. While not the speediest or most athletic on the track there was no more determined umpire on the list. He gave of his best at every session and in every match - no exceptions.

Off the field Dean also contributed to the VFUA. As a track representative in 2006-2007 he looked after the interests of the senior goal umpires' squad and was involved in Executive Committee business. Rare would be the occasion when Dean was not at a VFUA social function.

What Dean meant to his VFUA colleagues informs us more of his character. Dean was highly respected within the umpiring group. When he spoke, others listened.

At training, Dean was one to watch and learn from. He offered advice and friendly analysis when asked. On gameday, Dean set an example to follow in his preparation and game performance.

Dean was an outstanding umpire for many years at the VFL and a contributor to the VFUA and to his colleagues over almost two decades. He thoroughly deserves the award of life membership.

# LIFE MEMBERS

Darren Agnew (1995)  
 Peter Allsop (1992)  
 Paul Anderson (2018)\*  
 Jason Armstrong (2006)  
 Peter Balding (2010)  
 Dan Beard (2004)  
 Gary Best (1994)\*  
 Anthony Black (1998)  
 Michael Blair (2013)  
 Michael Boss (2011)  
 Alan Brewer (1996)  
 Graeme Brewer (1993)  
 Nick Brown (2019)  
 Tristan Burgess (2013)  
 Daniel Butcher (2016)  
 Mark Canning (2000)  
 Peter Carey (1992)  
 Brendan Carland (Found.)  
 Barry Carmichael (Found.)  
 Geoff Caulfield (1995)  
 Craig Clark (1996)  
 Andrew Clifton (2005)  
 Andrew Coates (1994)  
 Allan Cook (1993)  
 Michael Curtis (2018)  
 Graham Danne (Found.)\*  
 Russell Davidson (2000)  
 Rod Davies (1995)  
 Andrew Dempster (2001)

Greg Denison (2012)  
 Frank Dicosmo (2006)  
 David Dixon (2004)  
 Mikel Donsen (1993)  
 Gavin Dore (1993)  
 Brendan Dye (2004)  
 Judi Elliott (1997)  
 Brendan Elvey (2018)  
 Stephen Evans (2006)  
 Ray Fergie (1993)  
 Rob Findlay (2007)  
 Lloyd Fisk (2003)  
 David Flegg (1997) #  
 Rob Frampton (1999)  
 Joy Gelly (2005)  
 Stephen Gloag (2005)  
 Darren Goldspink (1993)  
 Peter Gonis (2005)  
 Doug Gourlay (1994)  
 Doug Gower (1993)  
 Ian Green (1993)  
 John Hall (1997)  
 Michael Hammond (2003)  
 Lindsay Hardman (2000)  
 Shane Harris (1992)  
 Darren Holt (2003)  
 Colin Hood (1997)  
 David Howlett (Found.)  
 David Humphries (2001)

Anthony Hunter (2014)\*  
 Steele Irish (2007)  
 Ben James (2006)  
 Michael Jennings (2010)  
 Dean Jones (2019)  
 Leigh Keen (Found.)  
 Peter Kelly (1996)#  
 Greg Kennedy (1998)  
 Hayden Kennedy (1993)  
 Colin Larter (1999)  
 Nick Laurence (2015)  
 Andrew Leggo (2019)  
 Matthew Leppard (2009)  
 Richard Leslie (2002)  
 Stephen Luckman (1992)  
 Andrew Malcolm (2002)  
 Wes Mann (1999)  
 Shane Mason (2003)  
 Dean Maxwell (1995)  
 Peter McDonald (1998)  
 Anton McKernan (1993)  
 Scott McLaren (1999)  
 Chris Mitchell (Found.)  
 David Mitchell (Found.)  
 Kevin Mitchell (2006)  
 Geoff Morrow (Found.)\*  
 Sam Mounajed (2018)  
 Geoff Mowat (1992)  
 Peter Nastasi (2004)

Ben Naughtin (2008)  
 John O'Leary (1993)  
 Malcolm Owen (1993)  
 Laurie Page (1994)  
 Daniel Pieper (2016)  
 Brian Philp (1994)\*  
 Steven Piperno (2015)  
 Simon Plumridge (2019)  
 Mark Powell (1998)  
 Mark Prince (1993)  
 Doug Purss (Found.)\*  
 Frank Raiti (1994)  
 Gary Ramm (1999)  
 Denis Rich (Found.)  
 Michael Richardson (2006)  
 Linton Roe (2000)  
 Greg Russo (1999)  
 John Russo (Found.)  
 Paul Saville (Found.)  
 Rowan Sawers (Found.)  
 Graeme Scherger (1992)  
 Colin Segota (1996)  
 Roger Selwood (1992)  
 Michael Sexton (1998)  
 Bryan Sheehan (1993)  
 Michael Sneddon (Found.)  
 Chris Snell (2003)  
 Harry Stamatopoulos (2003)  
 Justin Stephenson (2001)

Steven Stirling (1998)  
 Brad Strachan (2000)  
 Terry Suitryk (1993)  
 Phil Sutton (Found.)  
 Andrew Talbot (2018)  
 Simon Tursi (2008)  
 James Van Beek (1994)  
 Jason Venkataya (2005)  
 Michael Viney (1993)  
 Matthew Vitiritti (2000)  
 Phil Watson (1993)  
 Andrew Wheeler (1998)  
 Graeme Williams (Found.)  
 Adam Wojcik (2007)  
 Cyrus Wong (2018)

Notes:  
 Found. = Founding Life Member  
 \* = Deceased  
 # = Special Award Recipient





# 2020 VIRTUAL MINI OLYMPICS

The circumstances summoned by 2020 didn't dampen the hot contest for the Paul Anderson Memorial Shield in the VFUA's Mini-Olympics.

This year's edition of the Mini-Olympics was unique to say the least. Instead of the traditional night at Victoria Park raising funds for The cancer council in memory of Paul Anderson, the Mini-Olympics held remotely.

The format for this year was a five-week series of challenges, with the best efforts being awarded points towards their squad's tally.

Week one was the push-up challenge, to the rhythm of "Bring Sally up". Safe to say Blake Anderson smashed this out of the park, completing the song not ONCE, but TWICE! Doubling the effort of second placed Tim Attard.

The second week saw the running distance challenge. The top five cumulative individual distances for the week were added and points awarded to the squads with the largest total distances. Shout out to the 12 umpires who raised the bat that week and anyone who pushed themselves to new limits.

The double-under challenge followed in week three. The ability to 'double-under' was often a way to show one's skipping superiority in the playground at recess by skipping the rope around one's body twice per jump. Andrew Talbot showed everyone how it was done, notching up a lazy 132 'double-unders'.

The fourth week was the trick shot challenge. It was as simple as that, catch a trick shot on video. There were some impressive attempts made. Ashley Hawkes showed us his cleaning skills with his trick shot, by bouncing a ping pong ball off some freshly cleaned pots and pans, Kaitlin Barr worded up her cat, Vlad, to pull off an unlikely shot down the stairs, while Zac Brown-Close took home the chocolates for the senior goal squad making a triple rebound shot into his cup at the end.

The penultimate challenge was to use a footy as a hacky sack and keep the ball off the ground using as many taps of the legs as possible, with the top two individual tallies being eligible for points. In a close contest for the honours, the senior goal pairing of Cyrus Wong and James Rizio managed 39 taps between them.

Finally, an 'Ultimate Umpire Quiz' was held on the Sunday of the sixth week via Facebook Live and Kahoot. A big thanks to Peter Bailes for being the quiz master. A shout out also goes to everyone who had a 'fast' internet connection and shouted out the answers on each squad's conference call before everyone else's web page loaded!

While 2020 has been a trying time for many, it was amazing to see the camaraderie and mateship exhibited in this year's edition of the Mini Olympics. A special thanks to anyone who donated to the Cancer Council. The Senior Development/Development Boundary squad wish to thank everyone for their participation and look forward to attempting a back-to-back-to-back retention of the Paul Anderson Shield in 2021.

LADDER				
WEEK 6 - GRAND FINAL				
2020 VIRTUAL MINI OLYMPICS				
VFUA				
	RANK	SQUAD	RESULTS	TOTAL
	1	SDS/DEV BOUNDARY	+6	40
	2	SENIOR GOAL	+4	35
	2	SENIOR BOUNDARY	+1	32
	4	SDS/DEV FIELD	+3	27
	5	SENIOR FIELD	+2	22
	6	DEV GOAL	+5	13

### VFUA Team of the Decade 2010-2019

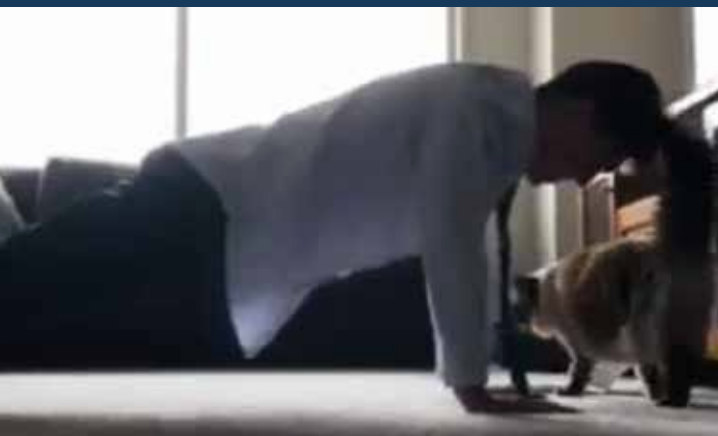
Each week during the abandoned 2020 VFL Finals Series we showcased the best VFL umpires of the past decade, culminating in a #TeamOfTheDecade for the VFUA. #IsolationSeason

- Nominations for each discipline were released each week of the "virtual finals series"
- Individual Umpires were nominated by the VFUA based on their career statistics and achievements

- The umpiring community was called upon to vote for their nominations for each discipline using Facebook polling
- Everyone was encouraged to share their stories and facts about the Nominees on the page

To see what the full campaign and results visit the Facebook event page below:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/vfuatteamofthedecade>



"Thank you and congratulations to the VFUA that you were able to go ahead with the virtual Mini Olympics in such unprecedented times. Our family was pleased to hear the results from Peter Kelly, we are very grateful that you still think of us. Please all stay safe and well and look forward to seeing you all in 2021."

~ The Anderson Family







# TEAM OF THE DECADE 2010-2019

VIRTUAL 2020 FINALS SERIES  
#ISOLATIONSEASON



## FIELD UMPIRES

DAN  
BUTCHER

ANDREW  
TALBOT

SHAUN  
GLEESON

TRISTAN  
BURGESS

## BOUNDARY UMPIRES

BEN  
MACDONALD

JOHN  
COOPER

SAM  
STAGG

PAT  
DINEEN

## GOAL UMPIRES

SIMON  
PLUMRIDGE

STEVE  
PIPERNO

PETER  
BALDING





# SQUAD REPORTS

## Senior Field

As we returned to training in late January, we found out that a few of the Hard Yakka / Totally Workwear VFL 'Love the Game' favourite umpires have called time on their wonderful careers.

- The most loveable bloke in the world, Michael Curtis.
- The funniest, wonderfulest, wackiest bloke, Patrick Burns.
- The tough as nails, nice, laid back Rob Young.
- The hard working, kind-hearted Ben Cheever.

And with the promotion of Paul Rebeschini to the AFL, this had one word on everyone's mind. Opportunity.

The squad hit the ground running during pre-season, with those pressing their case for senior squad call ups flexing their big pre-seasons as they lit up the track. With what was going to be some big list turnover throughout the last two seasons, the experienced veterans of Jack Edwards, Thomas Chrystie and Turtle Talbot was more valuable than ever as they provided much needed wise heads to a young and eager group.

Throughout the pre-season, in which Adam Veli had us firing on all cylinders, the squad looked like a roast on Christmas day, absolutely primed and ready to launch. After a positive start to the year which saw us achieve club visits, practice games and a group bonding day, highlighted by the team building activities, 2020 threw challenges at us like never before.

For those fortunate enough to umpire the AFLW, as well earning AFL rookie contracts for 2020, Leighton Rowe, Marty Rodger, Michael Pell, Nick Jankovskis, Luke Porter, Nathan Toner and Courtney Gibson, congratulations on your success and achievements.

I hope everyone has spent what would have been the 2020 season enjoying time with loved ones and friends when possible. I look forward to seeing everybody return in 2021 as we get back to doing what we love for the first time in a long time!

As always, I am available for a chat. Look after yourselves, catch you all soon.

## Senior Development and Development Field

2020 has certainly had its fair share of challenges throughout the year and in what is an unprecedented time it really was up in the air whether footy was going to persist. Yet despite the absence of the game we love and the opportunity to turn up on a Tuesday and Thursday night there were plenty of highlights that certainly kept us moving through the year.

What began as a normal year with regular training and footy right around the corner, when COVID-19 struck it was hard to know the far-reaching effects it would have. Yet despite the challenges the dev squad and senior dev squad managed to find the little things that made all the difference.

Whether it was participating in the first ever virtual Mini-Olympics, with a few stand out performances and podium finishes in the events to the virtual trivia night or general zoom get togethers. The group remained relatively intact with many (Covid permitting of course) doing their best to hold each other accountable and train together. Or at the very least keep each other sane with a bit of socialising.

With footy on our mind it was difficult to say the least to sit back and wait for the news as to whether we would be umpiring. Yet despite it all it is because of this year that I feel more inspired than ever to return and I am sure I am not alone.

All in all, it has been one hell of a year and I look forward to seeing many of you again in 2020.

## Senior Boundary

This year has been like no other, no one can argue that. We commenced pre-season at Victoria Park and welcomed some new members to the team.

Charlotte Wilson put the boundaries through their paces in the heat. She has brought her expertise as Australian steeplechaser and cross country runner to the role of fitness coach. Christina Bell and Ben McLaren also commenced their joint roles of strength and conditioning/assistant coaches.

We congratulated Sam Stagg on the massive achievement of umpiring his first AFL game on the 22 March, North Melbourne versus St Kilda. Staggy has been a back to back VFL senior men's grand final umpire before his promotion.

Some squad members were lucky enough officiate in the AFLW season and are listed in the stats section. Unfortunately this was as much umpiring some of us would do for the 2020 season.

During the season, the decision was made for no crowds allowed at games due to COVID 19 which was a strange atmosphere. AFLW finals were also affected and eventually the decision was made to cancel the AFLW finals campaign which was disappointing for all.

Before the VFL season commenced, Coburg FC came to train with the umpiring team to simulate a match in preparation for round one. Some of the senior boundaries watched from the grand stand to enable the rookies to get involved. It was a great way to show off how we would perform in a game leading up to the anticipated season.

The cancellation of the VFL season was disappointing news for everyone as we had all worked so hard during pre-season. Trying to keep morale high, we hosted the annual Mini-Olympics for the Paul Anderson Memorial Shield virtually. This was done online over six weeks. As this was the highlight of everyone's season, here's some commentary:

- Week 1: Blake Push ups and "Mirrors" Anderson was unstoppable.
- Week 2: the "average kilometers" for the week on Strava. We took out second place, clocking up 673 kilometers behind the goalies who

had their average kilometers tripled for the final score. (sneaky win for them).

- Week 3: Double unders, special mention to Jakey D who was very impressive.
- Week 4: "trick shots around the house" The MVP's for this week were Jesse Wilkie and Hawksey with their golf club and kitchen sink antics.
- Week 5: "footy hacky sack" Painy and Hawksey being our best entries.
- Week 6: "grand final kahoot quiz" which involved us catching up on Zoom to discuss answers. This landed us in sixth place and third overall.

With no 2020 season, it was nice to have some lighthearted fun with the Mini-Olympics and regular Zoom catch ups to keep in touch with the team and up to date with news around the AFL/VFL. Hopefully the 2021 season can proceed as normal. I'm sure we are all looking forward to getting back into training as soon as possible and ready for a bigger and better year in 2021.

## Senior Development and Development Boundary

With all the drama of 2020, you'd be forgiven to think we never set foot on Victoria Park this year! Despite it feeling like an eternity ago, the pre-COVID world afforded us eight fleeting weeks of training, including a time trial on a rather luscious track, a club visit, and a handful of practice matches.

The energy was building and everyone was wondering what the list numbers were going to be this year, who would be making it up to the senior list and which rookies were going to be selected to stay. On the cusp of the beginning of the NAB League season however, the unfortunate news had broken that the season was to be called off.

It wasn't all grim though, the VFUA hosted the annual Mini- Olympics 2020 making it a virtual event spread out over six weeks. This didn't mean we back down, it all became very competitive, coming down to the final round, Week six the Grand Final Kahoot quiz the SD & D Boundary squad to overtake the rest and win the Paul Anderson Memorial shield for a second year in a row!



Apart from a few brief weeks of freedom in June, our Melbourne umpires became intimately familiar with the monotony that lockdown, curfews and 5km radius provided. While our mates in Regional Victoria may have a little bit more freedom, those Melbournians on the list were not that far behind, and we can all be back together for a bigger, better and likely socially-distanced Season 2021!

Stay safe and healthy everyone.

## Senior Goal

2020 wow what a disappointment!

The summer saw some positives with some development umpires getting a sniff of senior footy practice games in February which was good to see (I think even Tom Gath had a smile on his face!)

We saw the likes of Edwards, Gardner, Manning, Monea, Rizio, Stammers and Varker in action on the AFLW stage until Covid 19 brought things to a halt.

I think its fair to say a fair chunk of the senior group were looking to have a big year in 2020 whether it was to gain a finals birth, get some redemption from 2019, reach game milestones or just keep getting VFL matches under the belt.

Unfortunately, our hopes of a revised start to the season in late July-August got thrown in the bin due to the second spike of cases and I reckon it hit a lot of us pretty hard compared to the initial break back at March-April.

There has been plenty of external noise about how the VFL will look in 2021 such as the east coast merge of leagues and its definitely exciting however we aren't quite out of this Covid ridden state yet but we have our fingers crossed we will be tapping our chests and waving the flags next season in 2021.

A huge thank you to the VFUA office bearers for your input during this unique and difficult season, especially with liasing with the AFL as well as the work done for organising the Virtual Mini-Olympics as well as making us eligible for the rolled out JobKeeper Federal Government Program.

Bring on 2021 and let's pretend 2020 never happened!

## Development Goal

The development goal squad started the year off with Adam Stegar, Tope Adeyoyibi and Thomas Gath taking part in the AFLW program. This is something that they worked hard for and they should be super proud of themselves for being a part of this program.

Preseason kicked off to a positive start with 11 new umpires trialing at the VFL as well as other umpires that returned from season 2019. It was good to see all umpires getting back on the track and also taking part in practice games and the NAB League Girls season.

Unfortunately, before we could really kick off season 2020 a little virus called Covid-19 got in the way of what was meant to be a big year for all of the dev squad.

The Development Squad represented themselves well with the 2020 Mini-Olympics unfortunately due Covid 19 the Mini-Olympics couldn't be ran at Vic park but the VFUA didn't let that stop it from running and it was awesome to see everyone put in and see it run virtually.

Hopefully season 2021 is a better year and we can get back to a full year of umpiring and most importantly we can have our mad Monday and make up for this year.

See you all next season!

# 2020 STATISTICS

## Field Umpire NAB Girls (Totals)

Adam Coles	2 (6)
Sebastian Dalgleish	1 (4)
Dylan Fulton	3 (9)
Jackson Gillespie	2 (5)
Nathan Guy	2 (8)
Ian Herman	3 (8)
Elias Kafritsas	2 (8)
Kaleb Laker	1 (5)
Hugo Morgan	1 (4)
Ben O'Brien	3 (9)
Jacob Port	2 (6)
Jacob Stuckey	1 (4)
Lucas Taylor	2 (9)
Michael Willcox	1 (5)

## Boundary Umpire NAB Girls (Totals)

Tim Attard	1 (6)
Kaitlin Barr	3 (11)
Chris Cato	2 (6)
Connor Hagan	3 (7)
Luke Myatt	3 (9)
Benjamin Rofe	2 (10)
Melissa Sambrooks	1 (4)

## Goal Umpire NAB Girls (Totals)

Tope Adepoyibi	1 (5)
Patrick Aurish	1 (3)
Joe Dorrat-Thorpe	2 (5)
Bradley Kellett	2 (10)
Ken Mitchell	4 (14)
Daniel O'Shea	3 (19)
James Rizio	1 (4)
Callum Thornton	3 (10)



NAB League Girls Dandenong Stringrays v Eastern Ranges (Umpires: Dylan Fulton, Nathan Guy, Tim Attard, Connor Hagan)

# 2020 AFLW STATISTICS

Field Umpire	2020 Matches (Total)	Boundary Umpire	2020 Matches (Total)	Goal Umpire	2020 Matches (Total)
Bronte Annand	2 (5)	Blake Anderson	7 (16)	Tope Adepoyibi	3 (7)
Peter Bailes	7 (12)	Trent Bowes	6 (11)	Matthew Edwards	5 (5)
Lucinda Lopes	5 (5)	Leigh Buwalda	5 (14)	Adam Gardner	4 (4)
Andrew Mitchell	4 (4)	Gerard Carter	5 (5)	Thomas Gath	1 (1)
Luke Porter	4 (4)	John Cooper	7 (13)	Tayla Manning	5 (9)
Martin Rodger	7 (12)	Matthew Crowley	7 (7)	Luke Monea	4 (12)
Nathan Toner	7 (17)	Kieran Ferguson	7 (14)	James Rizio	5 (6)
		Ashley Hawkes	6 (11)	Jack Stammers	3 (8)
		Riley Kane	6 (6)	Adam Stegar	1 (1)
		Greta Miller	7 (13)	John Varker	4 (14)
		Nicholas Phillips	8 (16)		
		Adrian Pretorius	6 (6)		
		Luke Wilke	7 (13)		
		Jesse Wilkie	6 (13)		



AFLW Round One Richmond v Carlton Ikon Park. L-R: Courtney Gibson, Ray Chamberlain (AFL), Nathan Toner



# 100+ VFL MATCHES

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

Notes:

^ 100 AFL matches

Statistics as end of the 2019 VFL Season

# 11+ VFL FINALS MATCHES

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

Notes:  
Statistics as end of the 2019 VFL Season



VFL Finals Record Holder, Peter Balding

# MOST IMPROVED

Year	Field Umpire	Boundary Umpire	Goal Umpire
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/A.Mitchell	-	L.Walker
2006	T.McCarthy	-	J.Venkataya
2007	B.Ritchie	-	-
2008	R.Mills	S.Jones	R.Thwaites
2009	A.Mitchell	T.Morrison	B.James
2010	M.Curtis	M.Tomkins	A.Kyrkou
2011	B.Hosking	J.Andrews	M.Maclure
2012	T.Carlos	T.Lougoon	C.Wong
2013	R.O'Gorman	J.Mather	S.Walsh
2014	P.Burns	A.Leggo	S.Plumridge
2015	H.Gavine	L.Buwalda	C.Leonard



Year	Field Umpire
------	--------------

2016	J.Howorth
2017	A.Gianfagna
2018	P. Rebeschini
2019	L. Porter
2020	(Not awarded)

Boundary Umpire
-----------------

D.Main
L.Harty
A. Hawkes
M.Crowley
(Not awarded)

Goal Umpire
-------------

M.Edwards
P.Trotter
J. Varker
J. Rizio
(Not Awarded)

# JOHN RUSSO TROPHY

In recognition of on-field excellence and  
off-field commitment

Year	Recipient
------	-----------

1997	R.Davidson
1998	D.Flegg
1999	A.Black
2001	C.Snell
2003	D.Wilson
2004	R.Findlay
2005	J.Armstrong
2005	A.Wojcik
2006	D.Flegg

Year	Recipient
------	-----------

2008	S.Gloag
2010	R.Mills
2012	D.Butcher
2013	M.Curtis
2014	S.Piperno
2015	D.Butcher
2015	L.Rayner
2017	M.Curtis
2018	A.Talbot

# COURAGE AWARD

Recognising recovery from significant injury or hardship

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



2017 Recipient, Damien Main

# FRANK LEVERETT SHIELD

Awarded to Best First Year Umpire

Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
1992	Alan Letson	2007	Graham Bergroth
1993	Adam Skidmore	2008	Matt Maclure
1994	Steven Hanley	2009	Brendan Hosking
1995	Adam Bastin	2010	Luke White
1996	Gordon Muir	2011	Daniel Butcher
1997	Glenn Guzzo	2012	Hayden Gavine
1998	Matthew Tippet	2013	Matthew Dervan
1999	Matt Stevic	2014	Sam Stagg
2000	John Neaven	2015	Leighton Rowe
2001	Luke Walker	2016	Cameron Dore
2002	Rob Haala	2017	Joel Davis
2003	Neil Woods	2018	James Rizio
2004	Matthew Lafite	2019	Corey Malcolm
2005	Jacob Mollison	2020	(Not awarded)
2006	Chris Gordon		



2019 Recipient Corey Malcolm



# VFUA OFFICE BEARERS (1993-2020)

Year	President	Vice-President	Executive Officer	Social Secretary	Comm. Officer	Historian-Statistician
1993	John Russo	Keith Callaghan	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	David Dixon	David Flegg AM
1994	Keith Callaghan	Mark Prince	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	David Dixon	David Flegg AM
1995	Mark Prince	Greg Kennedy	Peter Bunworth	Peter Kelly	Leigh Keen	David Flegg AM
1996	Greg Kennedy	Anthony Black	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	Matthew Lee	David Flegg AM
1997	Anthony Black	Greg Russo	Peter Kelly	Steven Stirling	Drew Kowalski	David Flegg AM
1998	Greg Russo	Russell Davidson	Peter Kelly	Alf Galea	Michael O'Donnell	David Flegg AM
1999	Russell Davidson	Anthony Black	Peter Kelly	Dean Paulin	Stephen Gloag	David Flegg AM
2000	Steven Stirling	Chris Snell	Peter Kelly	Frank Dicosmo	Andrew Mitchell	David Flegg AM
2001	Chris Snell	Stephen Evans	Peter Kelly		Michael Palm	David Flegg AM
2002	Chris Snell	Troy Tindill	Peter Kelly		Daniel Lawlor	David Flegg AM
2003	Anthony Black	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly		Daniel Butcher	David Flegg AM
2004	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly		Adam Havelberg	David Flegg AM
2005	Stephen Evans	Rob Findlay	Peter Kelly		Luke White	David Flegg AM
2006	Rob Findlay	Jason Armstrong/Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly		Tim Carlos	David Flegg AM
2007	Rob Findlay	Adam Wojcik	Peter Kelly		Kate Griffiths	David Flegg AM
2008	Adam Wojcik/Matt Leppard	Matt Leppard/Stephen Gloag	Peter Kelly		Andrew Talbot	David Flegg AM
2009	Matt Leppard	Michael Boss	Peter Kelly			
2010	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly			
2011	Richard Mills	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly			
2012	Andrew McCoy	Steven Piperno/Graham Bergroth	Peter Kelly			
2013	Andrew McCoy	Steven Piperno	Peter Kelly			
2014	Steven Piperno	Daniel Butcher	Peter Kelly			
2015	Daniel Butcher	Adam Havelberg	Peter Kelly			
2016	Michael Curtis	Callum Leonard	Peter Kelly			
2017	Michael Curtis	Nick Brown	Peter Kelly			
2018	Michael Curtis	Tristan Burgess	Peter Kelly			
			<b>Administrator</b>			
2019	Andrew Talbot	Matthew Mahoney	Peter Kelly	Joon-Yip Wong		David Flegg AM
2020	Matthew Mahoney	Liam Pain/Joon-Yip Wong	Peter Kelly	-		David Flegg AM

# VFUA OFFICE BEARERS (1993-2020)

## Social Committee

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 Coordinator

Coordinator	Years
Joe Hartwig	2015
Tyler Hankinson	2016
Pat Burns	2016
Kelly Tellam	2017
Matthew Young	2019-20



2020 Event Coordinator, Matthew Young

# VFUA TRACK REPS 1993-2020

Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years	Track Rep.	Years
Jason Armstrong	2004-05	Chris Doyle	2012-13	Anthony Kyrkou	2010-11	Simon Plumridge	2017
Peter Bailes	2019-20	Andrew Duncan	1994	David Lambourn	2006-07	Mark Prince	1993
Peter Balding	2012	Jared Dyson	2016	Anthony Laughton	2016	Lachlan Rayner	2015
Dan Beard	2001	Jack Edwards	2018	Nick Laurence	2010-11	Michael Robins	1999
Dylan Benwell	2012	Matt Edwards	2018-19	Callum Leonard	2014-15	Greg Russo	1996
Graeme Bergroth	2008-10	Joel Elliott	2004	Matt Leppard	2006-07	James Scully	2014
Anthony Black	1995	Brendan Elvey	2013	Tim Lougoon	2014	Melissa Sambrooks	2017-20
Michael Blair	2010	Stephen Evans	2000	Matt Mahoney	2018	Colin Segota	1993-94
Michael Boss	2008	Jarrold Faoro	2007	Damien Main	2017	Stephen Smith	2000-01
Corey Brown	2014	Rob Findlay	2002	Josh Maine	2012-13	Chris Snell	1996
Nick Brown	2011	Mark Foster	2004-05	Wes Mann	1998-99	Jack Stammers	2019
Tristan Burgess	2008-09	Dylan Fulton	2019-20	Tayla Manning	2020	Harry Stamos	1997
Daniel Butcher	2012	Alf Galea	1994	Andrew McCoy	2011	Steven Stirling	1998
David Card	2009	Michael Gibson	2003	Luke McIlroy	2014-16	Travis Storti	2001
Tim Carlos	2011	Stephen Gloag	2001-04	Greta Miller	2020	Andrew Talbot	2012,17
Ben Cheever	2017	Kate Griffiths	2016	David Miles	2016-17	Callum Thornton	2019
Jason Cook	1997-98	Michael Hammond	2000	Ken Mitchell	2020	Troy Tindill	2001
Lawrence Coop	2014	Lachlan Harty	2016-17	Joel Morrison	2011	Gareth Verbene	2008
Ashley Crawford	2011-12	Adam Havelberg	2013	Jack Murfett	2017	Andrew Wheeler	1996
Michael Curtis	2013-15	Ashley Hawkes	2018	John Murnane	1993-94	Luke White	2013-14
Damien Cusack	2005	Peter Herrick	1993-94	Ben Naughtin	2005-07	Daniel Wilson	2002-03
Russell Davidson	1997	Wayne Hoskins	2010	Mark O'Reilly	1995	Adam Wojcik	2004-05
Curtis De Witt	2015	David Humphries	1995-96, 99	Ryan O'Shea	2016	Joon-Yip Wong	2018
Justin Delaney	1993	Anthony Hunter	2011-12	Liam Pain	2019		
Andrew Dempster	1997-99	Dean Jones	2006-07	Michael Palm	2009		
Greg Denison	2005-06	Chris Kamolins	2002-03	Brent Pawley	2011		
Damian Devincentis	2010	Hayden Kennedy	1993-94	Paul Pickett	1995		
Rhys Doughty-Cowell	2009	Drew Kowalski	2008	Daniel Pieper	2002-03		



# FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30 2020

<b>Income</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Interest Recieved	1,572	1,523
Subscriptions	11,790	29,040
Miscellaneous	0	10,582
Social Functions	119	22,566
Uniform Orders Received	1,160	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,641</b>	<b>63,711</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting Software Expense	75	0
Audit Fees	0	264
Annual Report	770	760
Honorariums	10,310	13,725
Legal Expenses	1,980	2,475
Photography	750	0
Postage, Printing and Stationery	60	156
Social Functions	1,014	24,619
Sundry Expenses	1,180	14,797
Trophies/Certificates	1,717	336
Uniform Expenses	1,222	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>19,079</b>	<b>57,132</b>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(4,428)	6,579

# FINANCIALS

## BALANCE SHEET - YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30 2020

	30/9/2020	30/9/2019
<b>Accounts</b>		
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Westpac Cheque Account	23,840	30,178
Westpac Term Deposit	68,792	67,246
Deposits	354	0
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>97,424</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>97,424</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>97,424</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
Accumulation Account	97,424	90,845
Current Year Earnings	(4,438)	6,579
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>92,986</b>	<b>97,424</b>

The accompanying notes form part of this financial report. This financial report is unaudited.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

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 30th 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) Section 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.

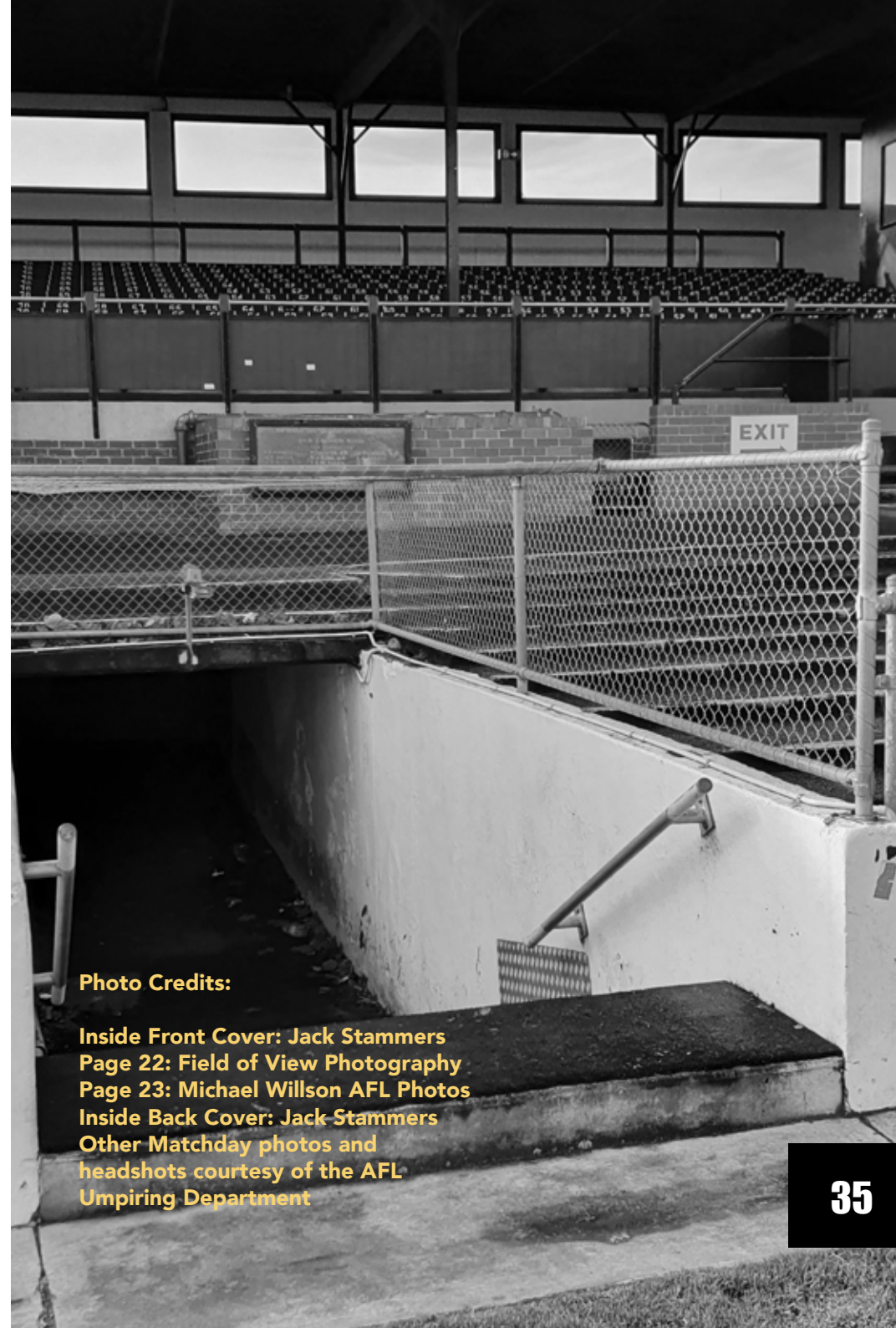


Peter Kelly VFUA Administrator



Matthew Mahoney VFUA 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](mailto:vfuaexecutive@gmail.com)



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