



Football Victoria Ltd

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FOOTBALL VICTORIA
2002 Annual Review





MISSION STATEMENT – FOOTBALL VICTORIA

Football Victoria exists to create and maintain a quality environment that provides easy access, and encourages participation, in Australian football at all levels throughout Victoria.

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Football Victoria Review 2002

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125 years on

DURING the past 125 years, Victoria has formed and maintained a rich football heritage that is underlined by the fact that Victorian football spawned the national AFL competition.

Maintaining Victoria's status as the premier football state is a role that Football Victoria takes very seriously.

From humble beginnings, Football Victoria ensures that this state remains an important contributor in promoting and developing our great game, a role it has been fulfilling since its formation (as the Victorian Football Association) in 1877.

Victoria is responsible for grooming future AFL stars, providing coaching courses and conducting football clinics for more than 129,000 children.

The goal now for Football Victoria – the umbrella organisation representing a unified Victorian football community – is to ensure that this state's contribution to the development of the game remains significant during the next 125 years.

DEFINING MOMENT: Charlie Gardiner celebrates after kicking the goal that sealed Geelong's first premiership in the TXU Victorian Football League.
Photo: Mark Dadswell/Getty Images.



FRONT COVER: In 2002 Football Victoria celebrated 125 years of football.

Strategic plan



IN 2002, Football Victoria took a major step towards securing the future of football in this state when it released its Strategic Plan for the next five years.

Designed with the key purpose of ensuring that Victoria continues to set the pace in the growth and development of the game, the plan protects the independence of local football leagues while defining a shared vision and common approach for football in this state.

The document defines the direction of Football Victoria for the next five years, but will be regularly reviewed and updated to make certain the changing needs of football are addressed.

Under the objectives of the plan, Football Victoria aims to:

- Maintain Victoria as the acknowledged heartland and leader in Australian Football.
- Maintain Australian Football as the No. 1 winter sport in Victoria in terms of participation.
- Achieve ongoing collaboration with stakeholders to build and maintain an effective football structure in Victoria.
- Build an attractive, viable and credible VFL Premier State League competition.
- Contribute appropriately to the development and prosperity of the game nationally.
- Establish and develop initiatives to enhance Victorian football.
- Facilitate the development of innovative healthy football environment practices.

MATESHIP: Tyrendarra players display their team spirit before the South West District Football Netball League Grand Final. They lost to Heathmere.
Photo: Kate Hill/Portland Observer



Into the future



THE true strength of any sport lies in its foundations. In the case of Australian Football, that means the schoolyard, AFL Auskick and local club football.

With this philosophy in mind, Football Victoria continues to maintain its standing as the foremost Victorian football body, setting measures in place to secure the future of the game at all levels.

Over the past decade, the number of children under the age of 12 playing football in Victoria has almost doubled, record numbers of females are playing the game, and overall, there has been a 26 percent increase in participation.

At the elite level, Victoria supplies more players to AFL clubs than any other state – a direct result of the pathway created by Football Victoria.

Football Victoria Development, with assistance from AFL Game Development, nurtures this surge in popularity through promotions and programs, which now encompass educational courses on such important aspects of the game as coaching and umpiring.

Football Victoria remains dedicated to supplying a comprehensive football program to deliver the best results for players, clubs and leagues at all levels of the game.



FOOTBALL NURSEY: Almost twice as many children are playing football in Victoria now than a decade ago. Photo: Robert Cianflone/Getty Images.

State football



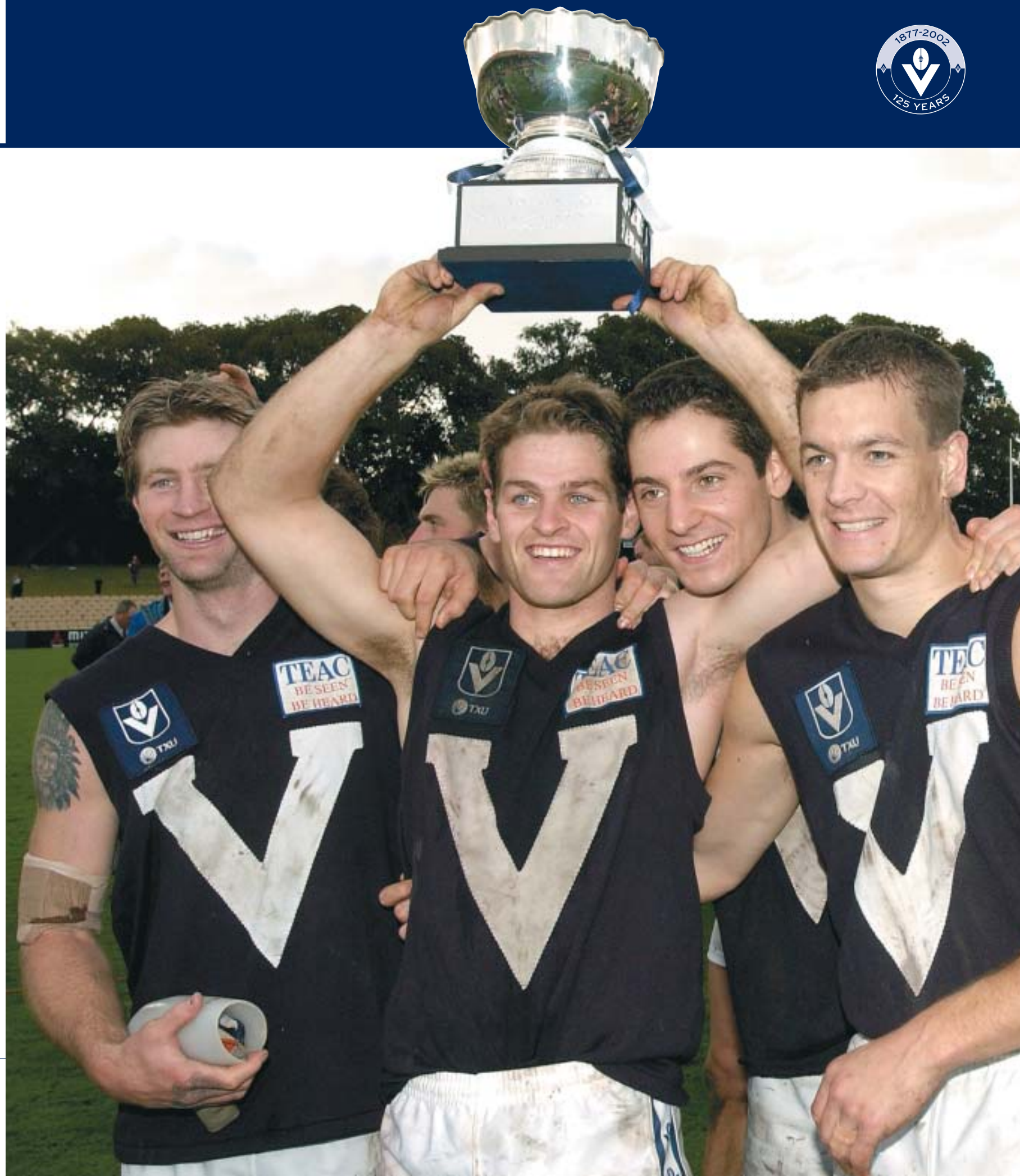
If there was ever a year that confirmed Victoria's status as the premier football state in Australia, it was 2002.

Victoria achieved resounding success at both junior and State League levels to illustrate its significant influence on the game on a national scale.

The TXU Victorian Football League representative team epitomised the Big V spirit when it crushed the South Australian National Football League by 56 points at the Adelaide Oval.

Adopting the tried and true 'pride in the jumper' credo, the Vics performed some heroic deeds, and no-one exemplified this more than ruckman Paul Dooley, who was best-on-ground for Victoria despite seriously injuring his knee in the second term.

The same self-sacrificial attitude distinguished Victorian teams at the National AFL U18 and U16 Championships. Victoria Country and Victoria Metro played off in the U18 final for the third year in succession, with Victoria Metro making it 11 titles in the last 14 years for Victoria. Victoria Metro also won the National AFL U16 Championships to cap off another ultra-successful season.



INSPIRING: The TXU Victorian Football League representative side typified the VIC spirit with an historic winover the SANFL in Adelaide. Photo: Getty Images.

Chairman's review



Neil Busse
Chairman,
Football Victoria

"...Football Victoria speaks with one credible, common voice..."

PROFESSOR Geoffrey Blainey's speech to members of Football Victoria's inaugural members' dinner in the MCG's Long Room brought home to everyone their obligation to ensure that the history and tradition of our great Australian game is protected.

Further, the game should be left in a state at least as healthy as it was when it was handed over to Victoria's current football administrators. This is an obligation that Football Victoria takes seriously.

Professor Blainey, eminent historian and academic, emphasised that Australian Football is our own game, a game that reflects our culture and our Australian character, a game that we should be proud to call our own. Football Victoria, its members and Victorians need to guard that history and tradition from worldwide, imported sports such as soccer and rugby by promoting, developing and growing the game.

Today, after three years of hard work and negotiations focused on gaining a consensus view from all involved in football in Victoria, and while maintaining the operational independence of football bodies, Football Victoria speaks with one credible, common voice.

While football in Victoria is in a relatively healthy position, particularly in the younger age groups, we need to build on our human, intellectual and financial resources to ensure the continued success of football, not only in this State but in this nation.

Our strategic plan, released this year, is based on a unified Victorian football structure. It focuses on building and supporting a financially viable football

infrastructure, developing all facets of Australian Football through local communities and schools, particularly in our youth segment, and building a credible, viable and attractive State League competition.

Football Victoria needs this united position to face the many challenges and issues ahead as seen this year by the public liability insurance situation.

Also, while Football Victoria actively supports the AFL's activity in the northern States to develop our game, it is vital that Victoria, the heartland of football in this country, receives its fair share of resource support from the AFL to continually promote and grow our game in an extremely competitive sporting environment.

Special thanks to the three directors who ended their tenure during 2002 – Glenn Robertson, a director since 1999 resigned from the Board at the start of 2002 for business reasons; Greg Miller, appointed in 2002, resigned in October to join Richmond Football Club; and Geoff Polites, a director since the Board's establishment in 1999, resigned at the end of the season. Geoff was a member of the AFL sub-committee that developed the Carter Report into game development.

I trust that after perusing this annual review you will have a better appreciation of both the challenges football in this State faces as well as the successes we have had in developing our game over the past 12 months.

NEIL BUSSE,
Chairman Football Victoria.

HEADLINE ACT: Tony Lockett made a star appearance for Port Melbourne in 2002.
Photo: Getty Images.





CEO's — Year in review



Ken Gannon
CEO,
Football Victoria

...As an organisation, we are more mature than ever before...

IN 1877, 125 years ago, there were 130 Australian Football clubs involved in 'ad hoc' matches throughout Victoria. The formation of the Victorian Football Association (now known as Football Victoria) that year marked the birth of organised football in this State.

Since then, football has thrived in Victoria and the State's contribution to the development of the game, especially the AFL, has been significant. Indeed, the AFL is dominated by Victorian clubs.

Fast forward to 2002 and Football Victoria is going strong. Given such a rich heritage, our ongoing challenge is to maintain Victoria's status as the premier football state in the country. Victoria has a reputation for initiating progressive ideas that have improved the game over the past 125 years and has always led the way on the field.

We congratulate the South Australian National Football League on also celebrating its 125th year and congratulate it on its achievements over that time. Victoria's win over the SANFL in the State game was an added bonus to the dual celebrations.

In 2002, Football Victoria's goal was to capitalise on its history by developing, discussing and releasing a strategic plan for the future. Making the plan public marked the end of a long process led by Football Victoria Director David Doherty, who is also chairman of our Development Board. The strategic plan has been designed to ensure Victoria continues to set the pace in the growth and development of the game. While the

document defines our direction for the next five years, it will be continually reviewed and updated.

The development of the strategic plan involved all stakeholders in Victorian football and it provides a standard by which Football Victoria's performance can be measured. It has been well received.

During the development of the plan, the Board was conscious of protecting the independence of local football clubs and leagues while defining a shared vision for the direction and management of the game.

Football Victoria does not have the manpower or local knowledge to deal with micro issues. We want to deal with leagues on macro issues to ensure a uniform standard of behaviour for players and officials, coaching accreditation and umpire development.

In 2002, Football Victoria members were entitled to vote in the first election under the new articles of association. This gave members the chance to have their say in the make-up of the Board. We now have a member to fill the fourth vacancy on the Board. Mr Geoff Almond joins Directors John Jordan, David Burnes and David Doherty, who were re-elected.

Football Victoria thanks the people who ended their tenure as directors in 2002. Geoff Polites made a significant contribution as part of the AFL sub-committee that developed the Carter Report into game development. Glenn Robertson »

HANG TIME: Murray Kangaroos pair David Bourke and Daniel Motlop compete with each other for this mark against Williamstown.
Photo: Tony Feder/Getty Images.



CEO — Year in review *(continued)*

resigned from the Board due to business reasons. Both had been on the board since it was first established in 2000.

The current Board has been through a cycle that has seen it develop a strong strategic plan and earn credibility through an election process. As an organisation, we are more mature than ever before.

In the past year, the TXU Victorian Football League and the game in Victoria have continued to develop – points underlined by Victoria's dominance of the 2002 National AFL Draft. Victoria provided 68 percent of the 2002 National AFL Draft selections – a result that indicates that it remains the benchmark State for developing young football talent.

Despite this great result, Football Victoria continued to be frustrated by some sectors of the football fraternity calling for the VFL reserves to be abandoned. However, Football Victoria is committed to the reserves competition because it helps provide a clear player pathway to the AFL for junior and senior players.

The Board is eternally frustrated by leagues complaining about their players being taken by Football Victoria to higher levels of the game. This clearly indicates that the changes in the State League and the pathway process are not fully understood.

The number of registered State level players in Victoria has been reduced from 910 in 1990 to 630 in 2002 while statewide participation has increased from 129,250 to 193,862. This highlights the fact that local football has been the major beneficiary of the restructure in Victorian and Australian football.

In 2002, Football Victoria also allocated \$11 million to local football from AFL transfer fees. When players are transferred to higher levels, the transfer fee is shared equally between the

league and the club that produced the player. This may not be widely known because some clubs do not make this information public. Without knowledge, our shared vision cannot be achieved.

Football Victoria distributes almost twice as much money to local football than other states. We must ensure that clubs and leagues use their allocations properly. Improper use of these funds could result in the funds being reassigned.

Frustrations aside, 2002 was a consolidating year for Football Victoria. The 2002 TXU Victorian Football League Grand Final attracted 11,500 spectators compared to just 3000 in 1998. Television audiences of the game also continued to grow via ABC television.

On the field, Geelong won the TXU Victorian Football League premiership in a year in which VFL clubs were finally recognised as an integral part of Australian Football. The VFL makes an important contribution to AFL clubs. It is no longer a competition that simply attracts retired AFL players; it is responsible for producing new talent. Several senior VFL players were elevated to AFL rookie lists in 2002, affirming that the competition provides a pathway to the AFL.

Congratulations to our Victoria Metro teams for winning both the Under-16 and Under-18 AFL National Championships in 2002 – an exceptional result for Victorian football.

Football Victoria also thanks the AFL and major sponsors TAC, TXU and VicHealth for their ongoing support.



KEN GANNON,
CEO, Football Victoria.



Female fan.



Adrian Fletcher, Williamstown.



Goal umpire, TXU Victorian Football League.



ECSTATIC: Victoria Metro celebrates defeating Victoria Country in the final of the 2002 National AFL U18 Championships. Photo: Hamish Blair/Getty Images.

Board of directors

David Burnes

David Burnes is a consultant to the textile and clothing industry. David has a distinguished Amateur football background as a past Member of the VAFA Executive and a past VAFA President.



Greg Miller

Greg Miller joined the Kangaroos in 1984 as Football/Recruiting Manager and was appointed Chief Executive in 1994. In late 2002, he was appointed Football Director at Richmond and retired as a Football Victoria Board member. Greg also played 53 games with South Melbourne.



John Jordan SC

John Jordan is a Senior Barrister. He was a 300 game player in Amateur and Country football, a former senior coach at VAFA "A" Grade (1980) and has extensive experience as a local football club administrator.



Bernie Morgan

Bernie Morgan is self employed as a Financial Planner. He was Football Director and coach of St Joseph's Football Club, coach of the Geelong Football League's inter-League side and VCFL representative side between 1989-1997. He also played 250 country games.



Geoffrey Polites

Geoffrey Polites is the President of Ford Australia. As well as his administration involvement at AFL/VFL level, he has had extensive umpiring experience across all levels of football.



John Hyett

Copy in here!!!!!! Copy in here!!!!!! Copy in here!!!!!!



Robert Tregear

Robert Tregear is a Leisure Management Consultant and a Director of Thompson Tregear Pty Ltd. He was a former Director of the VMFL and VFA and was a player, coach, Committee Member and Director/ President of the Eastern District Football League.



David Doherty

David Doherty is a consulting professional and past National Chairman of the Logistics Association of Australia. David, a past president of the Victorian Metropolitan Football League, is the chairman of Football Victoria Development. He is also Chairman of the Transport, Distribution and Logistics Industry Round Table and President of the Canada-Australia Institute.



Neil Busse (Chairman)

Neil Busse, the Chairman of Football Victoria's Board of Directors is a past Chairman of the AFL Tribunal and currently holds the position of Chairman of Harness Racing Victoria.



Ken Gannon (CEO)

Ken Gannon is one of Australia's most respected football administrators. He was Chief Executive Officer of the Geelong Football Club for six years before joining the AFL in 1991 and then Football Victoria.



Peter Stedwell

Peter Stedwell is a Director of Alliance Energy Ltd. He was a Director of the former VFA Board, a former player, coach and Club President.



Objective One

Establish in and amongst all Victorian football bodies a shared vision for a unified football structure throughout Victoria with complementary objectives and strategies.

Strategies

- 1.1 Create effective partnerships with all stakeholders (member leagues and associations, VFL clubs, AFL).
- 1.2 Implement collaborative planning, promotion and communication, technology development and procurement.
- 1.3 Complete options analysis to determine most effective structure for Victorian football.
- 1.4 Review current resources utilised across Victoria, and determine needs/structure to achieve best-cost effective outcomes.
- 1.5 Develop agreed protocols for Football Victoria to effectively represent stakeholders with all levels of government and other relevant bodies.

Deliverables

- 1.1 a. Membership Agreements signed off.
b. Agreement objectives functioning effectively.
c. Agreement with AFL that meets FV needs.
- 1.2 a. Stakeholder acceptance of Football Victoria Strategic Plan.
b. To extent practicable ensure FV Members have a relevant strategic plan in place that complements FV Strategic Plan.
c. Communication strategy embracing FV and stakeholder needs.
d. Annual Victorian football review conducted involving FV Members.
e. Minimum of three Community Football Forums conducted annually.
f. Where appropriate implement collaborative marketing and promotion strategies.
g. Electronic communication and league/club website instigated.
h. Complete assessment of collaborative purchasing opportunities.
- 1.3 a. Options evaluation completed and agreed.
b. Six-month review of options completed.
- 1.4 a. Implement annual operations plan, including human, physical and financial resources.
- 1.5 a. Effective outcomes in best interest of Victorian football.
b. Acknowledgment of Football Victoria's role from government and the community.

Objective Two

Continuously develop and improve all facets of Australian Football across Victoria.

Strategies

- 2.1 Via the Board of Football Victoria Development execute a Development Plan with the aim to recruit, retain and progress participants through the various age groups to their level of satisfaction.
- 2.2 Effectively manage and develop the TAC Cup Program and talented player pathways as a link from community football to higher levels.
- 2.3 Implement Quality Standards (benchmarks) Program.
- 2.4 Support a network of effective community football leagues.
- 2.5 Productively contribute to the development of the game nationally and collaborate with the AFL and other State bodies.
- 2.6 Assess and pursue relevant issues from the Carter Report.

Deliverables

- 2.1 a. Participation trends analysed and opportunities identified.
b. Realistic participation retention targets established.
c. System established to track participation progression through the various football pathways.
- 2.2 a. Develop players, coaches, umpires, trainers and administrators to progress to the VFL and AFL.
b. Establish a system to monitor ongoing participation of unsuccessful invitees to TAC Cup squads.
c. Evaluate retention of players progressing from the TAC Cup to other areas of Victorian football.
- 2.3 a. Quality Standards Program initiated.
b. Acknowledgment of acceptance of Quality Standards Program.
c. Achievement of healthy and safe football environments.
- 2.4 a. Develop and offer resources to leagues to enhance community football, eg. training programs.
b. Number of leagues accepting the offer of resource support.
c. Appropriate recruiting, retaining and training programs for participants devised and implemented.
d. Develop opportunities for poor represented population groups to participate in football.
- 2.5 a. Pro-actively contribute to national forums.
b. Initiate game improvement strategies and solutions.
- 2.6 a. Review of Carter Report completed.

Objective Three

Build a sustainable financial model to underpin the ongoing viability of Australian Football throughout Victoria.

Strategies

- 3.1 Optimise and sustain AFL financial support at a level that reflects the contribution of Victoria to the success of football.
- 3.2 Build sustainable income streams independent of the AFL.
- 3.3 Effectively manage and allocate funding (including transfer fees) to invest in supporting stakeholders in the pursuit of common objectives.
- 3.4 Instigate effective governance and risk management processes, including insurance and liability issues.
- 3.5 Put in practice effective human resource policies incorporating personal development opportunities.

Deliverables

- 3.1 a. Positive financial management. Minimum CPI growth on AFL funding.
- 3.2 a. Percentage increase of non-AFL revenue.
b. Evaluation of stakeholder funding achievements.
- 3.3 a. Zero-based analysis of funding directed by Football Victoria.
- 3.4 a. Risk assessment completed.
b. Risk management plan formalised.
c. Community football insurance cover negotiated with Football Victoria.
- 3.5 a. Adoption of agreed HR policy.
b. Training and professional development of people.
c. Evidence of training being undertaken.

Objective Four

Build a credible, viable and attractive VFL competition that will be the benchmark for other State-based sporting competitions and be the premier State-based football competition. The VFL will be the development link for community football.

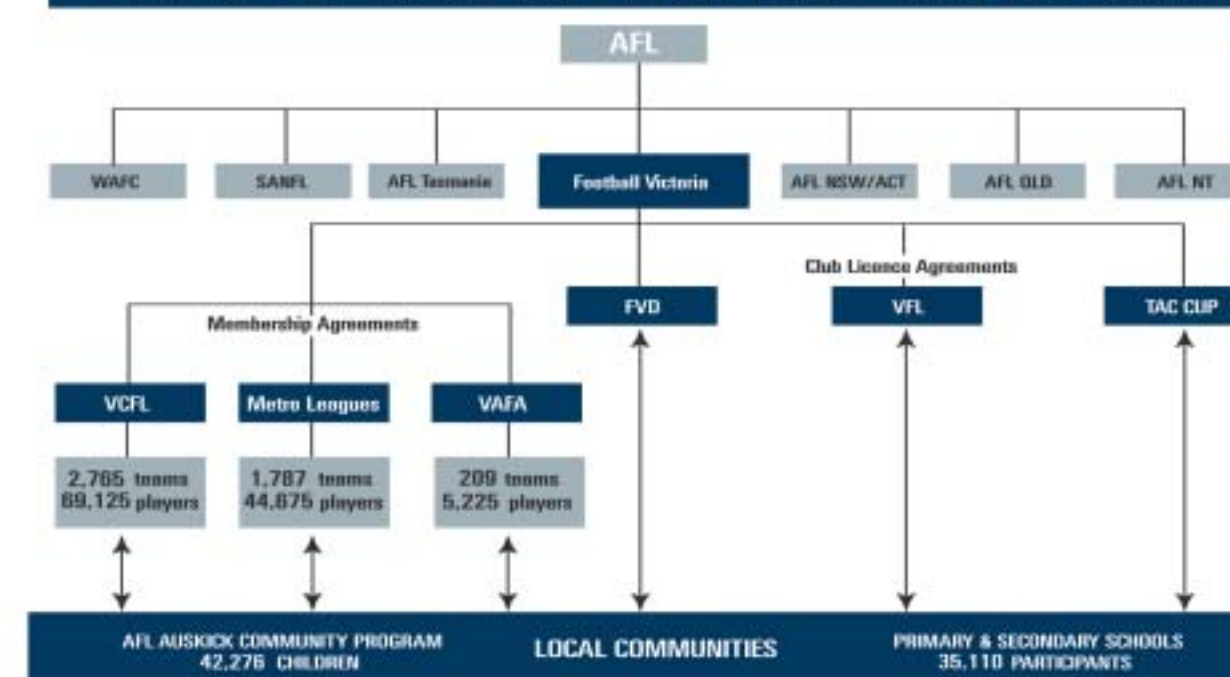
Strategies

- 4.1 Determine the best ongoing structure for the VFL.
- 4.2 Effectively manage the competition, assisting clubs appropriately to develop sustainable and successful performance on and off field.
- 4.3 Build/promote the VFL brand.
- 4.4 Develop linkages between VFL clubs and other levels of football.

Deliverables

- 4.1 a. Review competition structure and improvement recommendations accepted.
- 4.2 a. Meeting the established club criteria for financial performance.
b. Increase public awareness levels as measured by electronic and print media.
- 4.3 a. Football community recognition.
b. Recognition of VFL players participating in the AFL.
- 4.4 a. Number of exiting TAC Cup players registered by VFL clubs.
b. Ex-VFL players productively participating in other levels of football, eg. coaching.

THE STRUCTURE OF FOOTBALL IN VICTORIA



TXU Victorian Football League



Martin Stillman
General Manager,
TXU Victorian
Football League

...It was the first VFA/VFL triumph over the South Australians in nine attempts over the previous 51 years...

THE 2002 TXU Victorian Football League season was a significant and ground-breaking one on many fronts. The competition celebrated its 125th birthday; the TXU Victorian Football League defeated the SANFL for the first time in more than 50 years; and a handful of the AFL's biggest stars made highly-publicised appearances in TXU Victorian Football League matches.

The 125-year milestone marked the anniversary of organised football in not only Victoria, but also Australia – indeed, the VFA/VFL is one of the oldest football competitions in the world. All AFL clubs, except for both Western Australian and South Australian teams, have their origins from the old VFA.

The milestone was commemorated with weekly articles in the TXU Victorian Football League Record on the history of the VFA/VFL, and celebratory logos were attached to player guernseys in the reserves and senior grand finals.

More than 11,500 people watched the TXU Victorian Football League grand final between Port Melbourne and Geelong at Optus Oval, which resulted in the Cats' first premiership at any level for 20 years. Congratulations are extended to the administration and players of the Geelong Football Club on winning the 2002 TXU Victorian Football League premiership.

Grand final-type crowds went to watch Tony Lockett, the most prolific goalkicker in AFL history, play at Port Melbourne; Richmond star Matthew

Richardson and former captain Matthew Knights both played for the Coburg Tigers; and Essendon dual premiership player Mark Mercuri pulled on the boots for the Bombers in the TXU Victorian Football League.

The Box Hill Hawks hosted perhaps their biggest crowd ever when they played Essendon the week after their AFL sides played in the split round.

The TXU Victorian Football League representative team made its own history on June 15 when it defeated the SANFL by 56 points at the Adelaide Oval after kicking 8.6 to two points in the third quarter to establish a match-winning lead. It was the first VFA / VFL triumph over the South Australians in nine attempts over the previous 51 years.

The TXU Victorian Football League representative side was piloted to the historic win by the outstanding coaching of Gerard FitzGerald and his support staff, the on-field leadership of Josh Mahoney and the courageous efforts of ruckman Paul Dooley, who won the Frank Johnson Medal as the best Victorian player after tearing a cartilage in his knee in the second quarter.

The victory proved that the TXU Victorian Football League is the best football competition in Australia outside the AFL and that it is unnecessary for players to go interstate to get drafted. TXU Victorian Football League players play with and against AFL-listed players on a weekly basis – a situation that can only benefit aspiring AFL players.



TRIUMPHANT: The Geelong side rejoices after winning the TXU VFL premiership.
Photo: Mark Dadswell/Getty Images.



TXU Victorian Football League *(continued)*

The perfect example of a player who has used the TXU Victorian Football League to launch a promising AFL career is Box Hill Hawk Sam Mitchell. A dual best and fairest winner with the Eastern Ranges in the TAC Cup, Mitchell was overlooked in the National AFL Draft. He went to Box Hill in 2001, started in the reserves, played in a senior premiership and was drafted by Hawthorn.

In season 2002, at just 19 years of age, Mitchell became the youngest winner of the Liston Trophy. In a phenomenal performance, the tough on-baller polled votes in each of the 11 games he played, including 10 best-on-ground efforts. He also managed nine AFL matches with Hawthorn and won a vote in the Brownlow Medal.

In other milestones, Frankston spearhead Nick Sautner won the Jim 'Frosty' Miller Medal as the competition's leading goalkicker with a career-best, 93 goals – four more than his previous best at Sandringham in 1999. He joined Dandenong's Miller and Port Melbourne's George Taylor as the only players to win the VFL's goalkicking award four times in succession.

Shayne Smith became Springvale's all-time leading goalkicker, surpassing Keith Robinson's record, while teammate Jason Caples became the Scorpions' games record holder when he played his 204th match.

Donald McDonald became only the fifth man to coach 200 games; Travis Polkinghorne became North Ballarat's games record holder when he played his 264th match; McDonald, Caples and Damian Carroll were awarded life membership; and Frankston's Adrian Little was named in the TXU Victorian Football League Team of the Year for a record sixth time.

Further restructuring of the TXU Victorian Football League will see the competition reduced from 16 teams to 13 in season 2003. Carlton has aligned with the Northern Bullants; Essendon has aligned with Bendigo and will be known as the Bendigo Bombers; Sydney has withdrawn its association with Port Melbourne, which is now aligned with the Kangaroos.

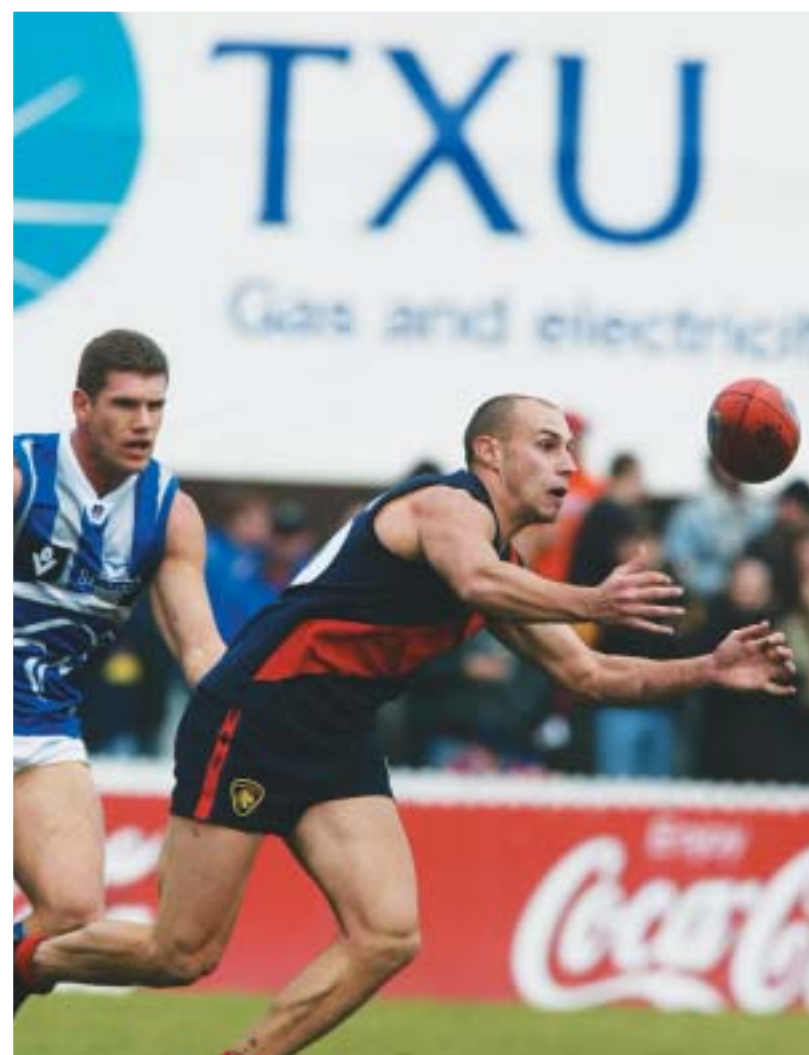
The TXU Victorian Football League acknowledges the contribution the ABC makes to the competition and recognises the contribution made by all club administrators and their volunteer support networks. ■



Josh Mahoney, Essendon.



Mark Williams, Northern Bullants coach.



Ezra Poyas, Coburg Tigers.

FOOTY TOWN: TXU VFL matches are often played within view of the Melbourne city skyline. Photo: Getty Images.





TAC Cup



David Code

Operations Manager,
Football Victoria

...the TAC Cup continues to be a nursery for AFL players...

THE 2002 TAC Cup season received a fitting, and quite thrilling, finale when Eastern Ranges, undefeated throughout the home-and-away season, exacted revenge on the Calder Cannons after they were upset in an earlier final – Eastern winning their first premiership by a point.

However, Football Victoria was disappointed that it was forced to program an earlier-than-normal start to the Grand Final and that it wasn't televised live and free-to-air on Channel 10. While the game was televised on Fox Footy and we were happy with the telecast, we will work with the AFL to find a resolution for 2003.

The TAC Cup supplied 42, or 68 percent, of 'new' draftees selected at the National AFL Draft. It was the second successive year, and the fourth time in six years, that Victoria has supplied the No.1 pick at the draft, with St Kilda selecting Brendon Goddard from Gippsland Power.

The TAC Cup has also supplied an increasing percentage of players to the VFL. In 1997, 26 percent of TAC Cup graduates joined VFL clubs; last year that figure was up to 37 percent.

Other successes were the performances of the Victoria Metro and Country teams in the National AFL U18 Championships. While Vic Metro triumphed in the U18s, it was the third successive year in which both Victorian teams have faced each other in the final – in fact, no other state has beaten either team in that time. Victoria has won 11 of the last 14 national titles – a

phenomenal achievement and further confirmation that the TAC Cup is by far the most fertile breeding ground in Australia for AFL players. Victoria Metro also won the National AFL U16 Championships.

An issue that received media attention was player workloads – ie. combining training sessions and matches at school, local clubs, TAC Cup, AIS/AFL Academy and National AFL U18 Championships. Our research found that the youngsters were playing far fewer matches than what was reported. Football Victoria has also introduced rules that prevent the playing of two games on a weekend and enforce rest periods after national championships.

The TAC Cup Club Innovation Awards, in which all clubs ran programs in their respective communities to support the TAC's 120 hours driver training program, proved a great success. We gratefully acknowledge the continued support of the Transport Accident Commission (TAC).

We also recognise the contribution of Keith Burns, who retired as coach of the Northern Knights at the end of the 2002 season. Keith coached the Knights since the establishment of the competition in 1992 and guided them to four premierships along the way. In total, he coached 750-odd games, including many as coach of the Collingwood under 19s. Current stars that played under Keith include Anthony Rocca, Lance Whitnall, Brent Harvey and Nick Stevens. In all, a fantastic coaching career and one that typifies the spirit of the TAC Cup. ■



2002 TAC CUP GRAND FINAL



VICTORS: Eastern Ranges defeated the Calder Cannons in a thrilling TAC Cup Grand Final.
Photo: Leader Newspapers



Football Victoria Development



Mick Daniher

Manager Development and Planning, Football Victoria

...This year, 1,907 AFL player appearances were conducted compared with 1,646 in 2001...

FOOTBALL Victoria Development works closely with football controlling bodies, local leagues and clubs, schools, Sport and Recreation Victoria and other government agencies to deliver development programs across the State.

Through financial support provided by our core partners, AFL Game Development and VicHealth, we are able to implement programs to nurture grassroots football. Melbourne Cricket Club also provides FVD with financial assistance for development of junior and school football.

The impact of FVD programs over the past decade is best illustrated by the 26% growth in community football teams - very encouraging considering the decline in the 1980's. Whilst recruiting strategies established at the younger age levels are very successful, attention is needed to keep these players in the game as they progress from junior to senior football. Planning has been initiated in local government areas to identify participation trends and retention impediments.

A record 2,000 people attended Level One coaching courses this year and new coaching accreditation courses were introduced for tertiary students. These programs complemented the popular courses also held for primary and secondary school teachers.

Participation in secondary school competitions increased, with significant growth in female competitions. The Sport Education Australian Football Program was also trialed in secondary schools in conjunction with the AFL and will be expanded in 2003.

AFL Auskick registrations increased by seven percent to 42,276 – 26% of all football participation in Victoria – across 573 centres. With the backing of Simpson, more AFL Auskick Roadshows took AFL stars to regional areas.

Much attention was given to improving umpire development under FVD. Two umpire development managers were appointed to work with metropolitan and country umpiring groups and schools. FVD also had significant input into the AFL Umpire Review Report presently being assessed by the AFL Commission.

AFL clubs and their players continued to support FVD promotions at schools, clubs and Auskick centres. This year, 1,907 AFL player appearances were conducted compared with 1,646 in 2001.

As part of the AFL/Telstra network, we established phase one of the league and club website system and will implement phase two, a competition management system, in time for the 2003 season.

A club development manager was appointed as part of a pilot program in the Western Region Football League and six club administrator training modules – planning for clubs, risk management, financial management, community partnerships, junior development and volunteer management – were also tested.

FVD is also developing a Racial and Religious Tolerance Training Program in conjunction with SRV and the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs to be implemented for all leagues in 2003. ■

ON THE RISE: AFL Auskick registrations increased by seven percent in 2002.
Photo: Getty Images



2002 Football Participation Rates

Country areas more prevalent

FOOTBALL Victoria uses statistical analysis to assist in planning development activities across the State.

The graphs below and on the facing page illustrate junior (5-12 years) and senior (19-39 years) participation percentages in 2002 when compared to male population in Local Government Areas (LGAs). The LGAs are broken up into clusters of metropolitan (inner and outer) and country (regional,

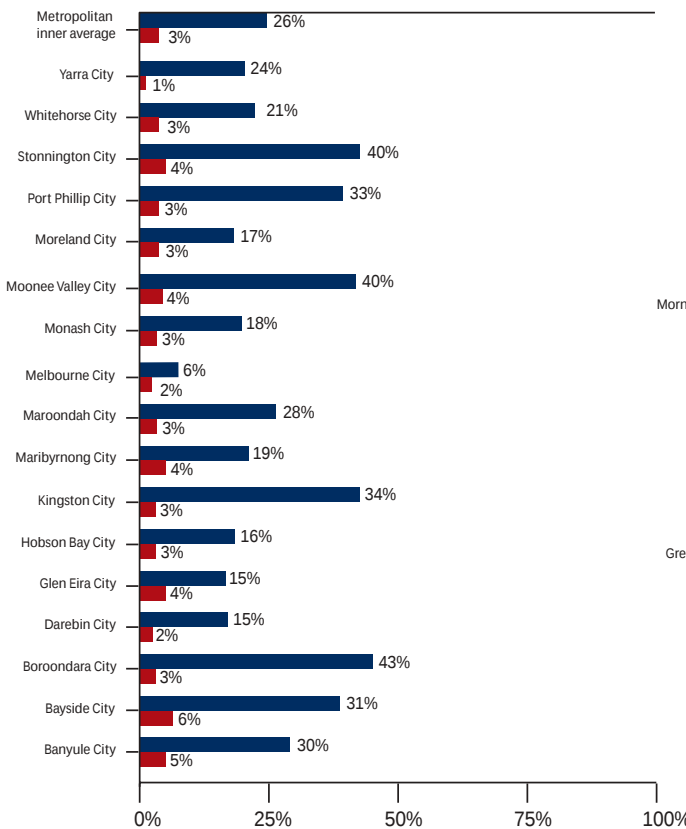
large and small). An overall summary comparison of metropolitan and country is also included.

This analysis clearly shows that males at both junior and senior level are more likely to play football if they live in country Victoria. Country clubs attract 13 percent more players at junior level than their metropolitan counterparts — when compared to the population of their respective LGAs — and nine percent more at senior level.

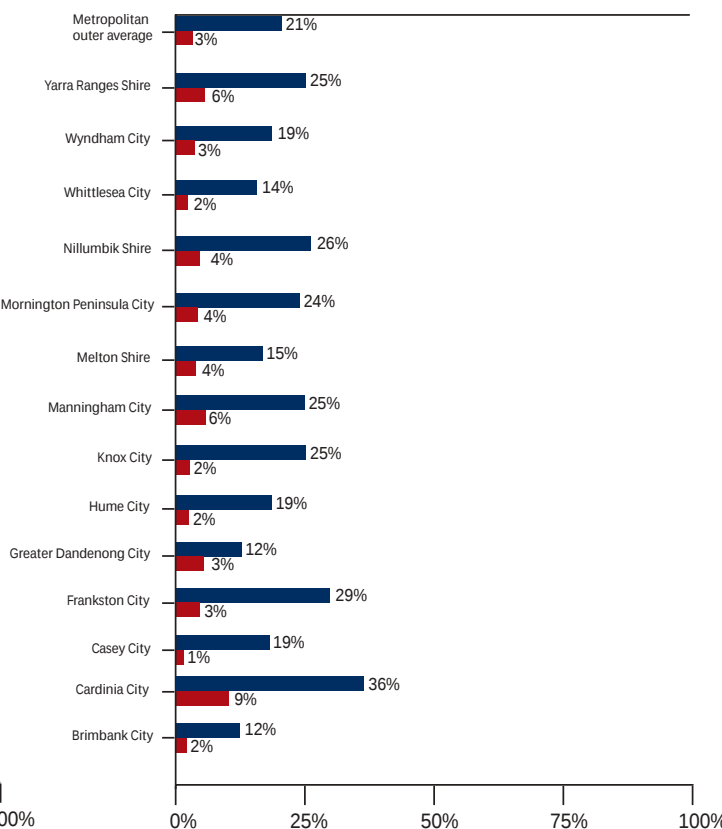
Key

■ Juniors
■ Seniors

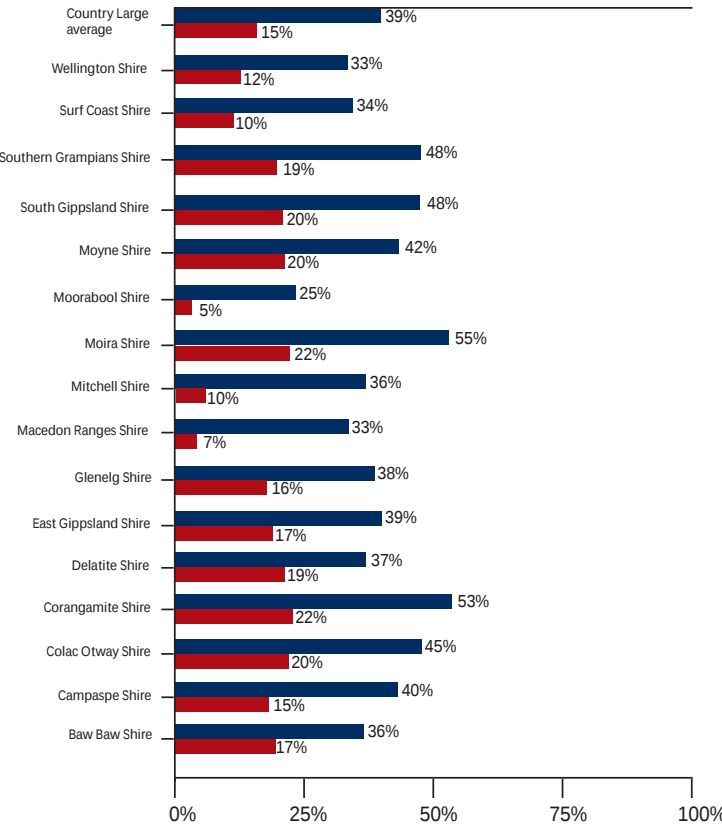
Metropolitan Inner



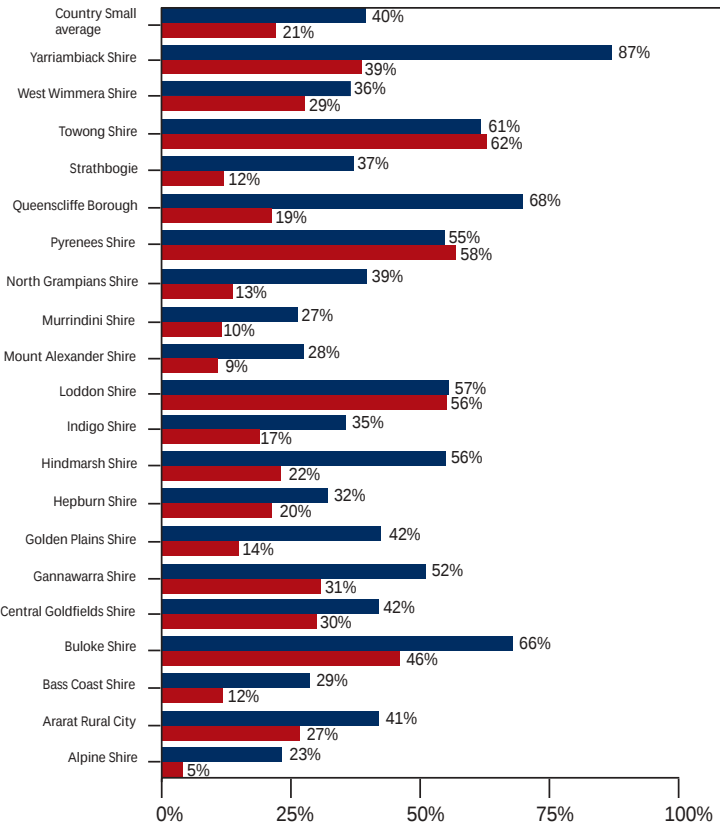
Metropolitan Outer



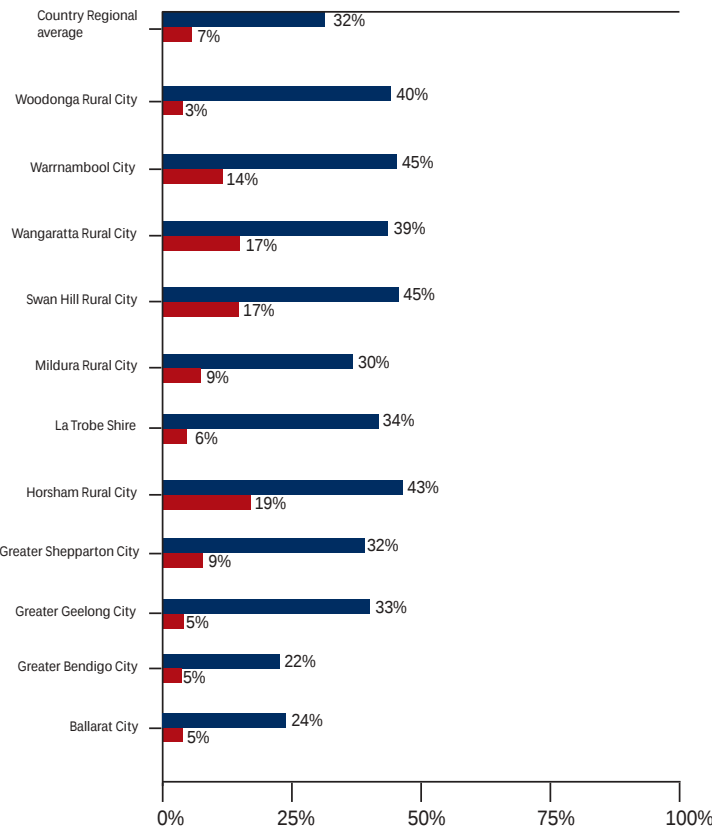
Country Large



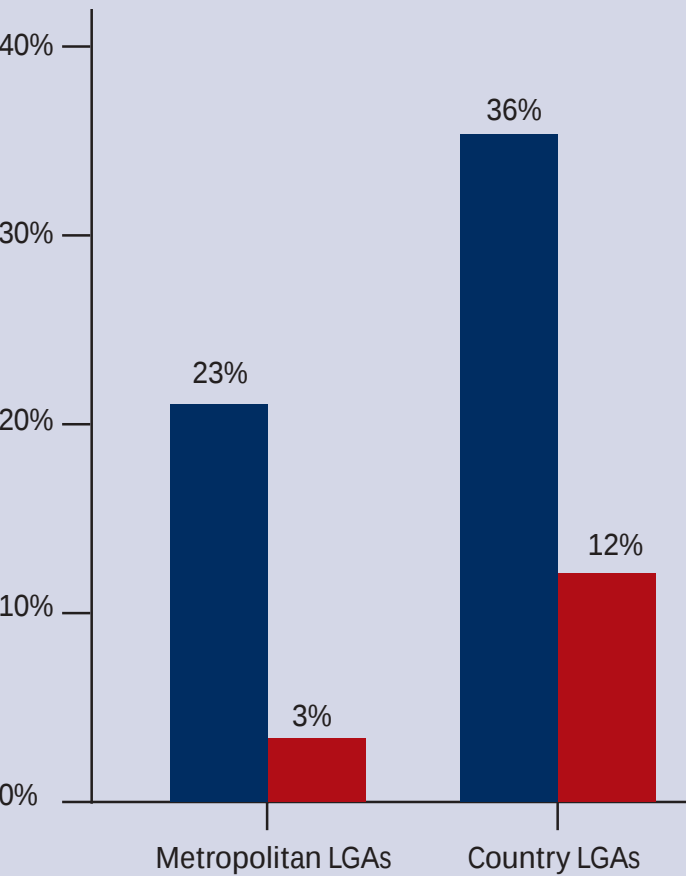
Country Small



Country Regional



Participation Summary



Metropolitan Leagues



Paul Milo

Projects Manager,
Football Victoria

...Without them (volunteers), the game would immediately cease to be possible...

A STRATEGY five years in the planning came to fruition in 2002 when the Victorian Metropolitan Football League (VMFL) officially wound up as an organisation. The restructure, officially finalised on February 26, brought all levels of football under the one umbrella of Football Victoria for the first time.

The restructure has enabled a greater focus on direct assistance to individual leagues, creating a more efficient and viable use of funding. Funding reports indicate this has been extremely beneficial in areas such as development programs and accreditation subsidies and has enabled individual strategies to be implemented that will secure the future of metropolitan football.

Participation rates have continued to rise, with junior age groups reaching record levels and senior competitions boosted by several extra teams.

Under-nine to under-12 competitions have increased from 499 teams (12,500 players) in 1990 to 778 teams (19,500) in 2002, while under-13 to under-17 competitions have grown from 480 (12,000 players) to 614 (15,300) in the same period. Despite financial constraints and competition from other sports, children are still coming to the sport in high numbers and this is a credit to the hard work from thousands of volunteers at community level.

The success of the Victoria Metro teams in winning both the 2002 National AFL U16 and U18 Championships was a huge highlight. Through the TAC Cup, metropolitan football now accounts for a quarter of AFL player lists.

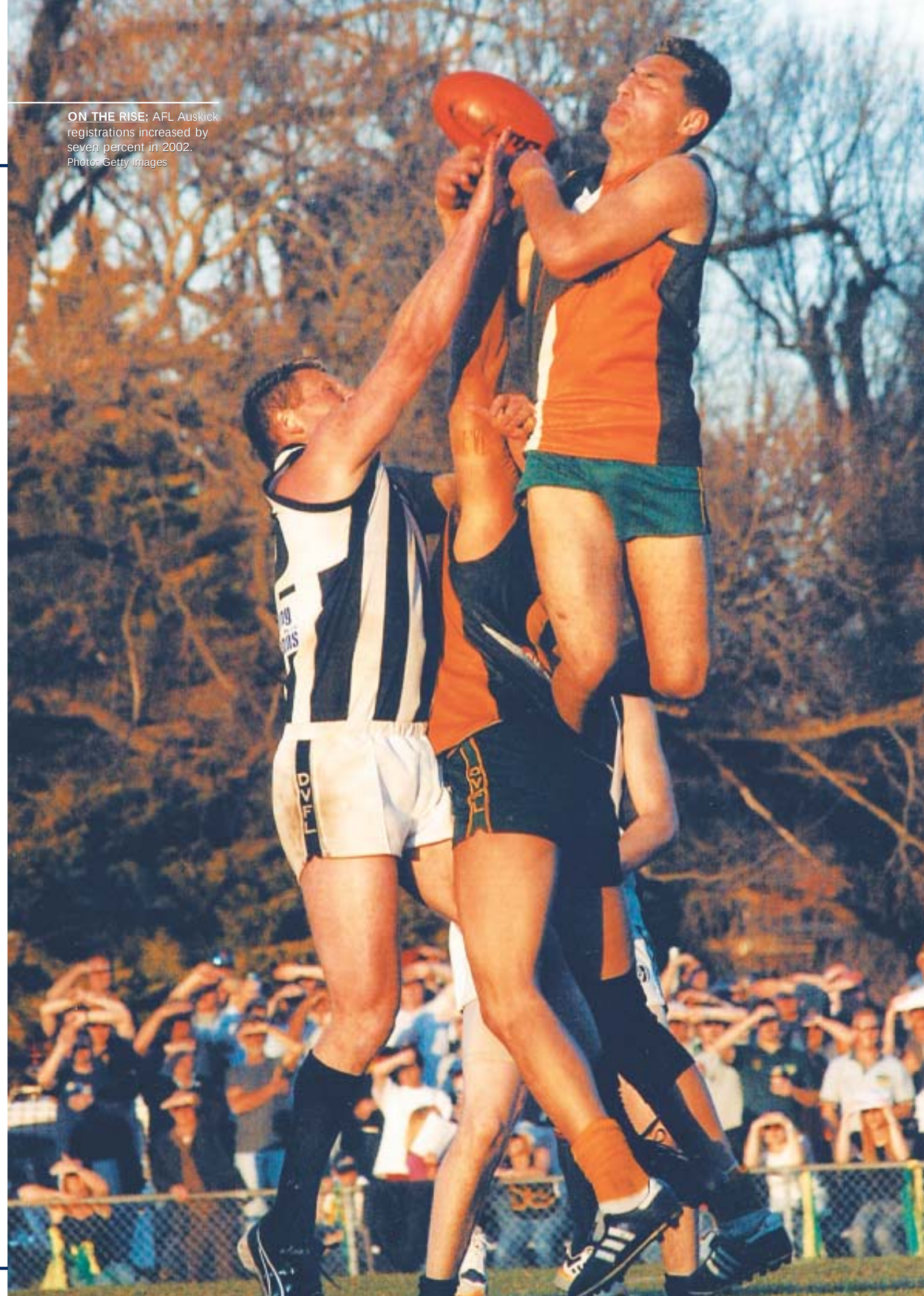
With the VMFL restructure, the previous role of General Manager was re-vamped into a Football Victoria Projects Manager's position, which requires providing a contact point for metropolitan football.

Among the projects in 2002 were:

- Working with the AFL on a national insurance scheme to be launched in 2004 that should assist all clubs and leagues around Australia.
- Establishing a risk management policy, liaising with the AFL on its risk management strategies and assisting with policies for individual leagues.
- Developing a code of conduct that will ensure there is a benchmark of acceptable behaviour for all clubs.
- Improving the image of the game. There were a few highly publicised instances of the ugly parent syndrome during the year and further attention needs to be given to this matter. To help clean up the game and address the duty of care to all players, a deregistration policy for people who have transgressed the rules on a number of occasions will be in place before the 2003 season.
- Regulations which provide for uniform clearance rules across the board have been developed, making life easier for local club secretaries in dealing with player transfers.

Insurance arrangements, the image of the game and continued improvements in the use of funding will be priorities as the 2003 season moves closer. ■

ON THE RISE: AFL Auskick registrations increased by seven percent in 2002.
Photo: Getty Images





Glenn Scott
General Manager,
WorkSafe VCFL

"...The foundations are in place that will allow us to meet the ongoing challenges in country football..."

FEARS the new AFL television rights deal would adversely affect country football were dispelled with some terrific crowds throughout the season. Supporters illustrated their passion for country football by producing record attendances at grand finals in 22 of the 48 major leagues.

Perhaps the smorgasbord of AFL football on television actually enhanced crowd figures, with people spending Saturday afternoons supporting their local clubs.

Player numbers remained solid, although the western part of the State faces significant challenges. Demographics, population movement and declining infrastructure mean we have to be proactive to ensure the long-term future of these competitions.

In 2002, the Victorian Country Football League (VCFL) announced its first naming rights sponsor, WorkSafe Victoria, which proved an outstanding fit. Workplace safety is a serious issue, particularly in rural areas. SmokeFree and Interfuse, support sponsors Best Western, Andrews Airport Parking, Ten Victoria, Victor Sports and Four 'N' Twenty also helped drive our programs, which included the:

- Development of a player registration program for introduction in 2003 where the onus is on players to pay fees to play. This will save clubs an average of \$3000-\$4000 a year.
- Initiation of an information technology program with Interfuse, providing websites for the WorkSafe VCFL.
- Fine-tuning of a new public liability program. The WorkSafe VCFL has been at the forefront of risk management in recent years.

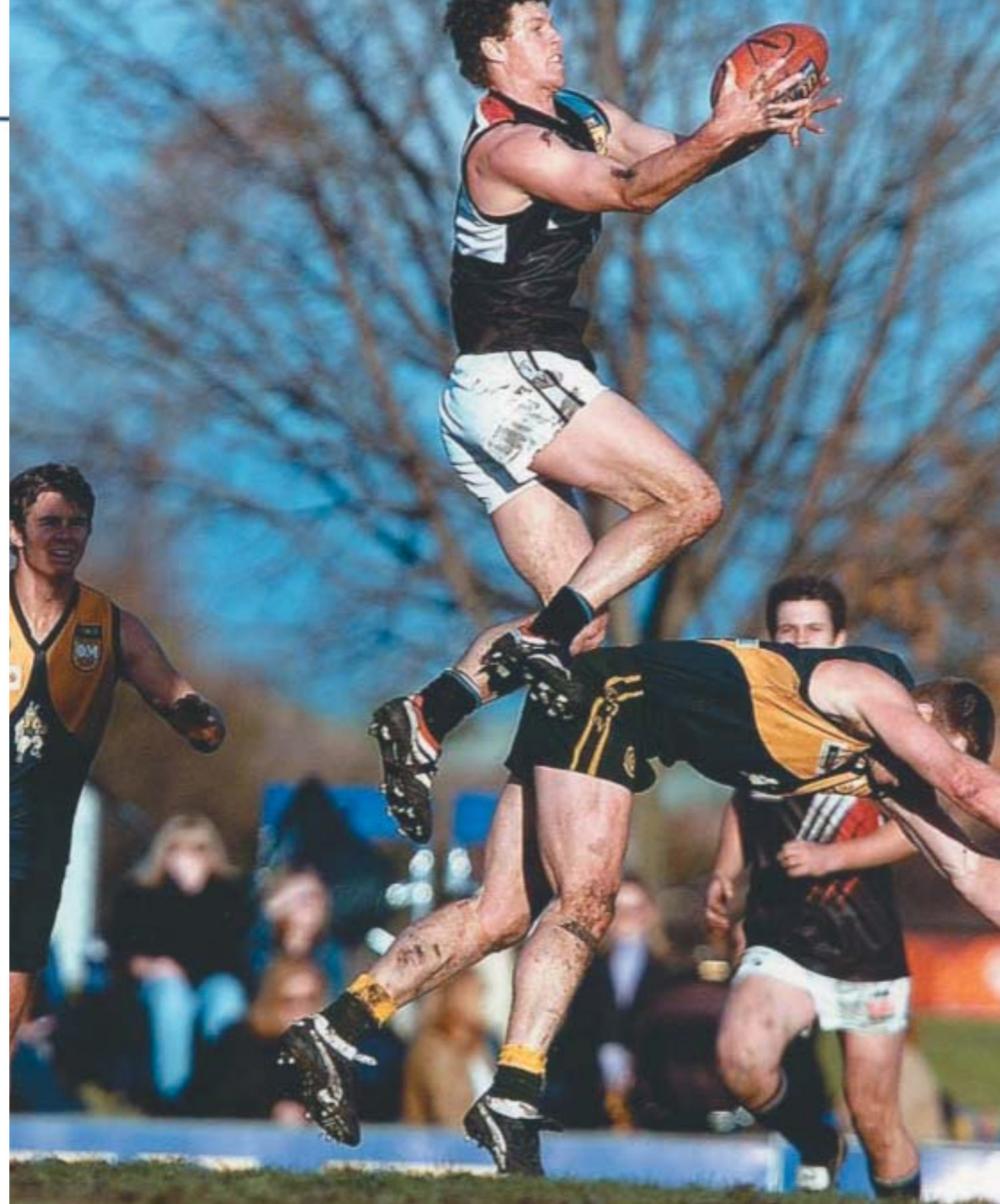
- Appointment of three new area managers to complement the existing regional manager network who, working cooperatively with Victorian Regional Development staff, have the responsibility for improving the communication channels with clubs.

- The continued participation of netball – 46 leagues are now involved – which improves the environment of clubs.

The year ended with the second annual Premiers' Dinner at Flemington Racecourse, with the premier senior football and netball clubs receiving special recognition. Along with media awards, three inaugural WorkSafe awards were also presented to the Volunteer of the Year, the Umpire of the Year and the Club of the Year.

An issue the WorkSafe VCFL is conscious of for the coming year is the effect of drought, which will require a lot of commitment and understanding. One thing for sure that has and always will come to the forefront, and particularly when we've got such challenges, is the need for everyone not only in country football but Victorian football generally to work together – much more than ever before.

The WorkSafe VCFL is unique in where it's heading with its information technology, risk management and player registration programs. We believe that the foundations are in place that will allow us to meet the ongoing challenges in country football. ■



SKYSCRAPER: Zeb Tonkin takes a screamer for Lavington against North Albion in the Ovens and Murray league. Photo: Simon Dallinger /The Border Mail.

Victorian Amateur Football Association



Phil Stevens
CEO, VAFA

...The VAFA is justifiably regarded by many as a leader in grassroots football...

THE Victorian Amateur Football Association enjoyed another successful season both on and off the field in 2002.

Congratulations to all premiership sides, especially A Section premiers St Bernards, who enjoyed long-awaited success after Old Xaverians' era of dominance.

While the VAFA continues to grow in stature, running an association the size and nature of the VAFA is not easy, and it is a tribute to the clubs, the executive, the staff (both full-time and part-time) and the many volunteers who assist us, that it functions so efficiently.

With 2002 being the first year of the new AFL television agreement, the VAFA was nervous about its potential impact on attendances. But it would appear, from this year's example, that the impact will be minimal. Crowds have not decreased; in fact, crowds to our finals series increased significantly.

In 2001, the VAFA, along with other Football Victoria members, was part of a consultative group, formed by the AFL, to look at game development and funding. This resulted in the Carter Report, which made recommendations regarding the level of investment required from the AFL to grow the game. The implementation of the recommendations pertinent to this State, have been delayed, which is a disappointing result considering Victoria is the heartland of Australian Football.

Umpire numbers are a major problem, which, if not addressed, will threaten the future of our game. Although the VAFA

continues to expand, particularly at under-19 level, umpire numbers have not increased accordingly.

In the last four weeks of the season, some 30 matches were controlled by only one umpire – a situation that is totally unsatisfactory because it has the potential to lead to an increase in on-field incidents that could bring the game into disrepute. It is unfair to both the competing clubs and the sole umpire.

To rectify the problem, the VAFA has appointed a part-time recruiting manager, who will run 'Introduction to Umpiring' courses at eight interested schools, with the aim of recruiting young umpires.

A highlight of the year was hosting matches for the AFL's International Cup. Not only did many Amateurs' supporters get to see some great football but the print media and television coverage gave positive exposure for the VAFA.

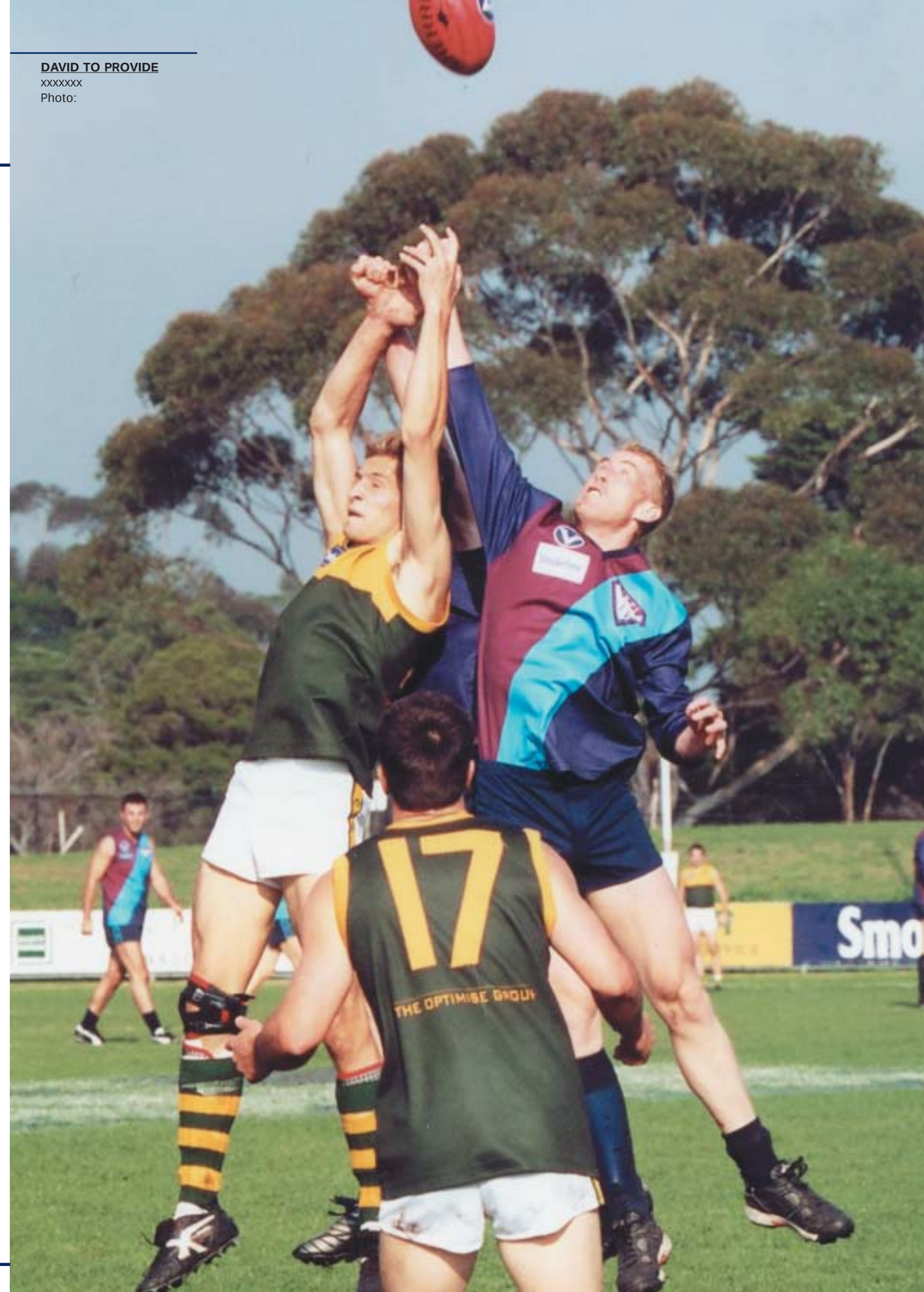
We are determined to keep the word 'Amateur' as a keyword in our title. We are adamant that the perception of our competition will not be that we are a quasi-professional competition. We will never condone players receiving any form of gain for playing in the VAFA.

The VAFA also welcomes the re-introduction of a three-way interstate competition with the SA and WA amateur leagues. Each state will play one another twice over a three-year period – one game at home and one away – after which the Australian Amateur Football Championship State will be declared. ■

DAVID TO PROVIDE

XXXXXX

Photo:



Umpires



Kevin Mitchell

State Director
of Umpiring,
Football Victoria

...The major challenge is to continually improve in order to build respect for the umpire's role...

IN 2002, umpiring was restructured and placed under the banner of Football Victoria Development. The move enabled FVD to work more closely with community umpiring groups and football leagues to address the perennial problems of umpire recruitment, retention and training.

FVD worked with Football Victoria to appoint Neville Nash and Rod Threlfell as metropolitan and country umpire development managers respectively. Their role is to run development programs with umpire groups and schools.

Football Victoria compiled a report as part of the umpiring review initiated by the AFL. We continue to work closely with the AFL to develop strategies aimed at promoting a change in the attitude and behaviour of players, supporters and the general public towards umpires.

The TXU Victorian Football League Community Umpire Recognition Program, with the slogan, "We're excited by umpiring even if you're not," was introduced in 2002 to acknowledge umpires at grassroots level. The aim of the program was to encourage young umpires to continue umpiring and to strive for excellence.

Young umpires had opportunities to take the next step in 2002 following an exodus of experienced umpires retiring, relocating or being elevated to the AFL squad.

The standard of umpiring in the TXU Victorian Football League and the TAC Cup – throughout the 2002 finals series in particular – was outstanding, enhancing the department's thorough coaching process.

Another exciting initiative in 2002 was the establishment of an elite career development path for aspiring field umpires in Tasmania following the demise of the Tasmanian state league competition. In a joint funding venture by Football Victoria and Football Tasmania, coaching was provided via video and umpires officiated in both Tasmania and Victoria.

Tasmanian field umpires now have an elite career path available to them, a course that appeared to have been denied them before the start of the season. Coaching was also supplied to NSW.

A video explaining the umpiring philosophies for the year was sent to all VFL and TAC Cup coaches at the start of the season. This helped foster better relations between all parties, with football coaches and players becoming more supportive and understanding of the role of umpires.

Umpiring academies at Caroline Springs and Oakleigh also continued to provide a vital link in the career path of talented youngsters.

Discipline in all areas of the TXU Victorian Football League and TAC Cup competitions has improved dramatically. Youngsters need to be able to play football confident they will be protected and their games well umpired. We believe this is being delivered.

The major challenge is to continually improve in order to build respect for the umpire's role. Umpiring is difficult, physically and mentally demanding, and our young umpires are to be commended for their application to the task for 10-and-a-half months of the year. ■

IN CHARGE: The standard of umpiring is on the rise.
Photo: Tony Feder/Getty Images.





Peter Harley

Marketing Manager,
Football Victoria

Sponsors

Football Victoria would like to thank the following sponsors:

TAC (Major TAC Cup sponsor)
TXU (Major VFL sponsor)
VicHealth (Major FVD sponsor)
Australia Post
Beiersdorf
Cadbury
Club Warehouse
Coca-Cola
Cougar Bourbon
CUB
Football Specialists Aust.
Ford Motor Company Aust.
Heatly Sportswear
Herald Sun
IEA Brokers
Leader Newspapers
MBF
MCC
New Balance
Patties Bakery
Ross Faulkner
Spalding Australia
Sportsconnect
Victoria Police



...(Australian Football is) the best of the best in terms of skill level and excitement...

LIKE all those who attended Football Victoria's inaugural members' dinner in the MCG's Long Room, I was reminded that Australian Football is just that – a game invented and developed by Australians.

While it is not a 'world game', I would suggest that it more than compensates by being the best of the best in terms of skill level and excitement.

As stated in the Chairman's review, we need to jealously guard and protect the history and tradition of our great Australian game from worldwide, but imported sports, such as soccer and rugby. The best form of defence is to promote and grow the game. This is not an easy task in today's environment in which we are working longer hours and where there are many more leisure time sporting alternatives.

We need support from all areas of the media to promote all levels of Australian Football, not simply the national league, the AFL. While it is understandable why the media focuses on the national league, more support needs to be given – from AFL Auskick through the hundreds of junior and senior grassroots football leagues and clubs, to the State League, the TXU Victorian Football League.

Over the years, Australian Football has provided excellent opportunities for the media and the media, like the administrators of Australian Football, have an obligation to promote the growth of the game at all levels. The future of our great game is the health of football at the grassroots level.

The securing of funding for Australian Football leagues and clubs is becoming more difficult. Many more sports are vying for the scarce funds available for sponsorship and organisations are looking harder at the commercial return on their sporting sponsorship.

Everyone involved in Australian Football should support football's sponsor partners, who play an integral role in ensuring the ongoing viability of the game. Supporting league and club sponsor partners will not only help to ensure the continuation of the relationship, but, importantly, will provide other potential sponsor partners with evidence of the benefits of being associated with Australian Football at club or league level.

In the case of Football Victoria, there are a number of support partners, including the TAC, which supports the highly successful under-18 competition, the TAC Cup; TXU Gas and Electricity, which is the naming rights partner for the State League, the TXU Victorian Football League; VicHealth, which provides vital funding for Football Victoria Development through its QUIT-SmokeFree agency; and the MCC, which provides significant support to promote and develop Australian Football through Victorian secondary schools.

By supporting these partners and the other organisations that support our game at all levels, we will go a long way to securing their ongoing support and encourage others to become involved. This is critical to the ongoing viability of our game. ■

UNITED: TXU Gas and Electricity has been synonymous with the TXU VFL since 2000 and provided the backdrop for some great action.
Photo: Herald Sun





Results 2002

TXU Victorian Football League

Geelong 15.15 (105) d. Port Melbourne 12.11 (83)

2002 Norm Goss Medal (Best Player in Grand Final): James Rahilly, Geelong



2002 J.J. Liston Trophy Winner: Sam Mitchell, Box Hill Hawks

2002 Fothergill-Round Medallist: Michael Firrito, Box Hill Hawks

2002 Leading Goal Kicker: Nicholas Sautner, Frankston (93)

Reserves Grand Final

Williamstown 11.15 (81) d. Werribee 10.14 (74)

2002 Fred Hill Memorial Medal (Best Player in Reserve Grand Final): Leigh Sheehan, Williamstown

2002 A. Todd Medallist Reserve Grade: Tim Scott-Branagan, Sandringham

2002 Seniors Final Ladder

Club	P	W	L	D	Pts For	Pts Agst	%	Points
Geelong	20	17	3	0	2171	1377	157.66	68
Werribee	20	16	4	0	2233	1450	154.00	64
Coburg Tigers	20	16	4	0	2019	1466	137.72	64
Port Melbourne	20	14	6	0	2097	1780	117.81	56
Box Hill Hawks	20	12	7	1	2235	1758	127.13	50
Williamstown	20	11	9	0	1997	1821	109.67	44
Murray Kangaroos	20	10	9	1	2018	1949	103.54	42
Sandringham	20	10	10	0	1831	1768	103.56	40
Carlton	20	10	10	0	1785	1807	98.78	40
Essendon	20	10	10	0	2091	2144	97.53	40
Springvale	20	9	11	0	1654	1748	94.62	36
Tasmania	20	8	11	1	1730	1942	89.08	34
Northern Bullants	20	6	14	0	1824	2121	86.00	24
North Ballarat	20	5	15	0	1485	2024	73.37	20
Frankston	20	4	16	0	1530	2258	67.76	16
Bendigo Diggers	20	0	19	1	1266	2553	49.59	2

2002 TXU Victorian Football League Team of the Year

B: Kristian De Pasquale (Coburg Tigers), Donato DeAngelis (Williamstown), Brett Zorzi (Northern Bullants)
HB: Travis Robertson (Werribee), Dean Talbot (Coburg Tigers), Chad Liddell (Sandringham)
C: Josh Mahoney (Essendon), Adrian Fletcher (Williamstown), Steve Harrison (Springvale)
HF: Ben Beams (Tasmania), Mark Passador (Box Hill Hawks), Brad Lloyd (Williamstown)
F: David Mitchell (Werribee), Nick Sautner (Frankston), Ben Atkin (Tasmania)
FOLL: Mark Bradley (Bendigo Diggers), Scott Faulkner (Werribee), Jeremy Clayton (North Ballarat)
INTER: Paul Dooley (Williamstown), Damian Carroll (Springvale), Adrian Little (Frankston), Nick Carter (Bendigo Diggers)
COACH: Alan Richardson (Coburg Tigers)
CAPTAIN: Josh Mahoney (Essendon)

2002 TXU Victorian Football League Grand Final Teams

Port Melbourne

B: Rix
HB: Evans
C: Buchanan
HF: Deluca
F: Filandia
R: Brockman
INTER: McInerney
O'Keefe

Rose
Robertson
Stevens
Bennett
S. Anstey
Aloi
McMahon
McPherson

Gill
Sundqvist
Phibbs
O'Loughlin
Obst
L. Ablett

Geelong

B: Hunt
HB: Slade
C: Rahilly
HF: Grgic
F: Playfair
R: Street
INTER: Chambers
Gardiner

Woolnough
McGrath
Kelly
Mensch
S. Johnson
P. Chapman
O'Brien
Merriman

Foster
White
Chatfield
McCarthy
Ablett
Bartel
D. Johnson

TAC Cup

2002 TAC Cup Grand Final: Eastern Ranges 10.5 (65) d. Calder Cannons 9.10 (64)

2002 TAC Medallist (Best on Ground in Grand Final): Stephen Dinnell, Eastern Ranges



2002 Morrish Medallist: Luke Shackleton, Tassie Mariners

2002 TAC Coaches Award: Blake Grima, Eastern Ranges

2002 Leading Goalkicker: Aaron Edwards, Dandenong Stingrays (59 goals)

2002 TAC Cup Final Ladder

Club	P	W	L	D	Pts For	Pts Agst	%	Points
Eastern Ranges	18	18	0	0	1746	1024	170.51	72
Murray Bushrangers	18	13	5	0	1757	1364	128.81	52
Oakleigh Chargers	18	13	5	0	1593	1333	119.50	52
Calder Cannons	18	12	5	1	1877	1279	146.76	50
North Ballarat Rebels	18	11	7	0	1507	1401	107.57	44
Dandenong Stingrays	18	10	7	1	1742	1545	112.75	42
Northern Knights	18	7	9	2	1436	1466	97.95	32
Tassie Mariners	18	8	10	0	1304	1580	82.53	32
Gippsland Power	18	7	11	0	1464	1585	92.37	28
Bendigo Pioneers	18	6	11	1	1421	1523	93.30	26
Geelong Falcons	18	5	13	0	1542	1803	85.52	20
NSW/ACT RAMS	18	5	13	0	1260	1708	73.77	20
Sandringham Dragons	18	4	14	0	1005	1412	71.18	16
Western Jets	18	4	14	0	1107	1800	61.50	16

2002 TAC Cup Team of the Year

B: Aaron CONNAUGHTON (Bendigo Pioneers), Stephen GILHAM (Oakleigh Chargers), Daniel SIPTHORP (Calder Cannons)
HB: Troy SELWOOD (Bendigo Pioneers), Brent STAKER (NSW/ACT RAMS), Josh RUDD (Geelong Falcons)
C: Jason WINDERLICH (Gippsland Power), Blake GRIMA (Eastern Ranges), Kade SIMPSON (Eastern Ranges)
HF: Corey BROWN (Murray Bushrangers), Hamish McINTOSH (Murray Bushrangers), Steven SALOPEK (Dandenong Stingrays)
F: Stephen DINNELL (Eastern Ranges), Aaron EDWARDS (Dandenong Stingrays), Brad FISHER (Eastern Ranges)
FOLL: Paul JOHNSON (Dandenong Stingrays), Adam FISHER (Nth Ballarat Rebels), Jay CHEEP (Calder Cannons)
INTER: James ALLAN (Geelong Falcons), Leigh TREEBY (Eastern Ranges), Abe WILLIAMS (Northern Knights), Luke SHACKLETON (Tassie Mariners)
COACH: Barry PRENDERGAST (Eastern Ranges)

National AFL U18 Championships

Victoria Country	14.14 (98)	d.	Western Australia	5.12 (42)
Victoria Metro	13.8 (86)	d.	South Australia	9.7 (61)
Victoria Country	12.14 (86)	d.	South Australia	10.4 (64)
Victoria Metro	17.12 (114)	d.	Western Australia	8.5 (53)
Victoria Metro	8.10 (58)	d.	Victoria Country	8.6 (54)

Champions — Victoria Metro

Larke Medallist (Div. 1) – Byron SCHAMMER (South Australia)

H.C. Harrison Medallist (Div. 2) – Anthony CORRIE (Northern Territory)





Results 2002

AIS/AFL Academy Members

Troy Chaplin	Nth Ballarat Rebels	Luke Peel	Sandringham Dragons
Ben Davies	Western Jets	Ben Sharp	Oakleigh Chargers
Stefan Garrubba	Dandenong Stingrays	Brent Stanton	Northern Knights
Daniel McConnell	Eastern Ranges	Chris Stewart	Northern Knights
Brock McLean	Calder Cannons	Andrew Walker	Bendigo Pioneer
Andrew McQualter	Gippsland Power	Andrew McQualter	Gippsland Power

National AFL U16 Championships

Victoria Metro	12.8 (80)	d.	Western Australia	6.6 (42)
South Australia	14.13 (97)	d.	Victoria Country	8.13 (61)
Victoria Metro	9.14 (68)	d.	South Australia	7.5 (47)
Western Australia	9.15 (69)	d.	Victoria Country	9.6 (60)
Victoria Country	11.9 (75)	d.	Victoria Metro	6.10 (46)



Champions — Victoria Metro

Sheehan Medallist (Div. 1) – Tim SCHMIDT (South Australia)
McLean Medallist (Div. 2) – Richard TAMBLING (Northern Territory)

National AFL U18 All-Australian Players

James Allan	Geelong Falcons	Paul Johnson	Dandenong Stingrays
Ryley Dunn	Murray Bushrangers	Steven Salopek	Dandenong Stingrays
Matthew Ferguson	Gippsland Power	Troy Selwood	Bendigo Pioneers
Adam Fisher	Nth Ballarat Rebels	Kade Simpson	Eastern Ranges
Stephen Gilham	Oakleigh Chargers	Callum Urch	Western Jets
Brendon Goddard	Gippsland Power		

WorkSafe Victorian Country Football League

Victorian Country Football League: 2002 Grand Finals

Alberton FL	Fish Creek FC	18.12 (120)	d.	Inverloch-Kongwak FC	13.13 (91)
Ballarat FL	Redan FC	16.14 (110)	d.	Sunbury FC	6.15 (51)
Bellarine FL	Ocean Grove FC	12.23 (95)	d.	Drysdale FC	6.7 (43)
Benalla & District FNL	Bonnie Doon FC	12.18 (90)	d.	Longwood FC	13.8 (86)
Bendigo FL	Gisborne FC	16.14 (110)	d.	Golden Square	12.11 (83)
Central Goulburn FL	Rumbalara FC	17.9 (111)	d.	Yea FC	16.9 (105)
Central Highlands	Buninyong FC	15.13 (103)	d.	Beaufort FC	7.12 (54)
Central Murray FL	Woorinen FC	17.13 (115)	d.	Swan Hill FC	15.13 (103)
Colac & District FNL	South Colac FC	14.8 (92)	d.	Lorne FC	12.11 (83)
East Gippsland FL	Bairnsdale FC	7.16 (58)	d.	Wy Yung FC	6.10 (46)
Ellinbank & District FL	Buln Buln FC	11.14 (80)	d.	Lang Lang FC	7.4 (46)
Geelong & District FL	North Geelong FC	12.18 (90)	d.	Corio FC	13.11 (89)
Geelong FL	Lara FC	17.14 (116)	d.	St Josephs FC	13.14 (92)
Golden Rivers FL	Ultima FC	16.14 (110)	d.	Macorma FC	7.11 (53)
Goulburn Valley FL	Echuca FC	11.14 (80)	d.	Rochester FC	7.14 (56)
Hampden FNL	Warrnambool FC	13.19 (97)	d.	Terang/Mortlake FC	11.7 (73)
Heathcote DFL	Colbinabbin FC	15.10 (100)	d.	Lockington Bamawm FC	11.9 (75)

Victorian Country Football League: 2002 Grand Finals continued . . .

Heytesbury-Mt Noorat FNL	Heytesbury FNC	14.19 (103)	d.	Otway Districts FNC	6.10 (46)
Horsham District DFL	Harrow/Balmoral FC	14.8 (92)	d.	Rupanyup FC	13.7 (85)
Kowree Naracoorte Tatiara FL	Mundulla FC	19.11 (125)	d.	Penola FC	13.14 (92)
Kyabram DFL	Ardmona FC	21.12 (138)	d.	Lancaster FC	12.20 (92)
Lexton Plains FL	Rokewood - Corindhap FC	12.9 (81)	d.	Carngham - Linton FC	11.7 (73)
Loddon Valley FL	YCW FC	9.13 (67)	d.	Calivil United FC	4.5 (29)
Mallee FL	Manangatang FC	19.17 (131)	d.	Ouyen United FC	7.17 (59)
Maryborough - Castlemaine DFL	Harcourt FC	19.16 (130)	d.	Talbot FC	12.13 (85)
Mid Gippsland FL	Newborough FC	11.13 (79)	d.	Trafalgar FC	11.8 (74)
Millewa FL	Bambill FC	24.11 (155)	d.	Euston FC	5.10 (40)
Mininera & District FL	Wickliffe - Lake Bolac FC	14.6 (90)	d.	Woorndoo - Mortlake FC	9.6 (60)
MPNFL - Premier League	Edithvale-Aspendale FC	21.14 (140)	d.	Pines FC	17.6 (108)
MPNFL - Peninsula Division	Pakenham FC	22.14 (146)	d.	Narre Warren FC	9.8 (62)
MPNFL - Nepean Division	Langwarrin FC	17.11 (113)	d.	Pearcedale FC	5.9 (39)
Murray FL	Deniliquin FC	19.13 (127)	d.	Mulwala FC	12.10 (82)
North Central FL	Donald FC	15.22 (112)	d.	Birchip-Watchem FC	11.5 (71)
North Gippsland FNL	Churchill FNC	15.9 (99)	d.	Traralgon Tyers United FNC	5.3 (33)
Omeo DFL	Swifts Creek FC	16.12 (108)	d.	Omeo FC	11.16 (82)
Ovens & Murray FL	North Albury FC	21.11 (137)	d.	Wangaratta Rovers FC	13.11 (89)
Ovens & King FL	Moyhu FC	20.20 (130)	d.	Beechworth FC	15.11 (101)
Picola & District FNL	Waaia FC	13.7 (85)	d.	Strathmerton FC	5.7 (37)
Riviera FL	Stratford FC	12.18 (90)	d.	Lindenow South FC	8.13 (61)
South West District FNL	Heathmere FC	20.10 (130)	d.	Tyrendarra FC	14.11 (95)
Sunraysia FL	Merbein FC	11.19 (85)	d.	Wentworth FC	11.15 (81)
Tallangatta & District FNL	Barnawartha FC	21.17 (143)	d.	Tallangatta FC	9.9 (63)
Upper Murray FL	Corryong FC	19.14 (128)	d.	Border Walwa FC	4.7 (31)
Warrnambool & District FNL	Panmure FC	11.8 (74)	d.	Merrivlae FC	6.8 (44)
West Gippsland Latrobe FL					
- Premier Division	Maffra FC	13.20 (98)	d.	Wonthaggi FC	13.5 (83)
West Gippsland Latrobe FL					
- Western Division	R.O.C FC	15.12 (102)	d.	Warragul FC	7.7 (49)
Western Border FL	South Gambier FC	15.16 (106)	d.	Hamilton Imperials	9.7 (61)
Wimmera FL	Warrack Eagles FC	15.13 (103)	d.	Ararat FC	13.10 (88)
YVM DFL - Division I	Wandin FC	10.15 (75)	d.	Woori Yallock FC	10.6 (66)
YVM DFL - Division II	Silvan FC	8.13 (61)	d.	Emerald FC	6.8 (44)

2002 SmokeFree Championships

Division One	MPNFL	14.19 (103)	d.	Hampden	9.11 (59)
Division Two	Bendigo	11.9 (75)	d.	Central Murray	9.8 (62)

2002 David Code Medallist

Division One	Brett Cook (Darley FC)
Division Two	Tim Inkster (Beulah FC)

Results 2002

Metropolitan Leagues

Victorian Metropolitan Leagues: 2002 Grand Finals

Diamond Valley FL

Div 1	Northcote Park	13.9 (87)	d.	Montmorency	12.8 (80)
Div 2	Montmorency	11.13 (79)	d.	Heidelberg	9.15 (69)

Eastern FL

Div 1	East Ringwood	13.12 (90)	d.	East Burwood	9.11 (65)
Div 2	Blackburn	13.10 (88)	d.	Knox	9.10 (64)
Div 3	Wantirna Sth	12.8 (80)	d.	Doncaster East	10.17 (77)
Div 4	Nunawading	25.17 (167)	d.	Heathmont	11.8 (74)

Essendon District FL

Div 1	Oak Park	17.20 (122)	d.	Aberfeldie	11.7 (73)
Div 2	Greenvale	16.10 (106)	d.	Tullamarine	11.9 (75)

Riddell District FL

Div 1	Woodend/Hesket	10.9 (69)	d.	Lancefield	4.12 (36)
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Southern FL

Div 1	St Kilda City	13.18 (96)	d.	Balwyn	10.8 (68)
Div 2	East Brighton	17.18 (120)	d.	Murrumbeena	8.7 (55)

Western Region FL

Div1	Hoppers Crossing	18.11 (119)	d.	Parkside	18.5 (113)
Div 2	Hammerheads	11.12 (78)	d.	Nth Footscray	7.11 (53)

Victorian Amateur Football Association

Victorian Amateur Football Association: 2002 Grand Finals

A SECTION	ST. BERNARDS	20.15 (135)	d.	OLD XAVERIANS	15.14 (104)
B SECTION	OLD MELBURNIANS	14.9 (93)	d.	OLD HAILEYBURY	12.9 (81)
C SECTION	WHITEFRIARS	20.14 (134)	d.	ST BEDES MENTONE TIGERS	13.15 (93)
D1 SECTION	ST LEOS EMMAUS WP	17.6 (108)	d.	MENTONE AMATEURS	13.13 (91)
D2 SECTION	YARRA VALLEY	28.19 (187)	d.	SALESIAN	7.6 (48)
D3 SECTION	WEST BRUNSWICK	12.19 (91)	d.	HAWTHORN AMATEURS	4.11 (35)
D4 SECTION	RUPERTSWOOD	13.9 (87)	d.	WERRIBEE	8.12 (60)
U19 SECTION 1	OLD BRIGHTON	19.14 (128)	d.	ST KEVINS	8.11 (59)
U19 SECTION 2	OLD ESSENDON	19.19 (133)	d.	ORMOND	6.7 (43)
U19 SECTION 3	OLD CAMBERWELL	12.12 (84)	d.	OLD PARADIANS	13.7 (85)
U19 (2) BLUE	MONASH BLUES	21.14 (140)	d.	AJAX	6.11 (47)
U19 (2) RED	ST BERNARDS	18.13 (121)	d.	AQUINAS	4.11 (35)

CLUB XVIII (1)	OLD XAVERIANS	9.16 (70)	d.	DE LA SALLE	2.6 (18)
CLUB XVIII NTH	MARCELLIN	8.10 (58)	d.	OLD IVANHOE	8.6 (54)
CLUB XVIII STH	COLLEGIANS	10.9 (69)	d.	MONASH BLUES	8.7 (55)

A RESERVE	OLD XAVERIANS	23.13 (151)	d.	MARCELLIN	8.5 (53)
B RESERVE	OLD PARADIANS	10.6 (66)	d.	OLD MELBURNIANS	7.11 (53)
C RESERVE	CAULFIELD GRAMMARIANS	9.11 (65)	d.	OLD CAMBERWELL	5.9 (39)
D1 RESERVE	MONASH BLUES	7.9 (51)	d.	AJAX	7.8 (50)
D2 RESERVE	YARRA VALLEY	12.6 (78)	d.	PENINSULA OB	11.9 (75)
D3 RESERVE	ST JOHNS	15.6 (96)	d.	SOUTH MELBOURNE DISTRICTS	7.17 (59)
D4 RESERVE	ALBERT PARK	13.17 (95)	d.	WERRIBEE	8.10 (58)



PUMPED:
Paul Flanagan celebrates a Newbridge win in the Loddon Valley league.
Photo: Yuri Kouzmin/The Weekly Times

AFL Drafts 2002 - *The Victorians*

2002 National AFL Draft

No.	Player	Previous Clubs	Draft to (AFL club)
1	BRENDON GODDARD	Gippsland Power/Traralgon	St Kilda
4	TIMOTHY WALSH	Northern Knights/Ivanhoe Grammar	Western Bulldogs
6	STEVEN SALOPEK	Dandenong Stingrays/Narre Warren	Port Adelaide
8	LUKE BRENNAN	North Ballarat Rebels/Horsham	Hawthorn
9	HAMISH McINTOSH	Murray Bushrangers/Lavington	Kangaroos
11	JASON WINDERLICH	Gippsland Power/Thorpdale	Essendon
16	STEPHEN GILHAM	Oakleigh Chargers/East Doncaster	Port Adelaide
18	KRIS SHORE	Eastern Ranges/Seville	Kangaroos
19	TROY SELWOOD	Bendigo Pioneers/Sandhurst	Brisbane Lions
21	BOWMAN NIXON	Calder Cannons/Yarrawonga	Collingwood
22	MATTHEW FERGUSON	Gippsland Power/Heyfield	St Kilda
23	TOM LONERGAN	Calder Cannons/Yarrawonga	Geelong
24	PAUL JOHNSON	Dandenong Stingrays/Frankston YCW	West Coast
25	CALLUM URCH	Western Jets/Spotswood	Kangaroos
27	DARREN WALSH	Sandringham Dragons/Dingley	Essendon
28	TRISTAN CARTLEDGE	North Ballarat Rebels/North Ballarat	Essendon
31	JOEL PERRY	Eastern Ranges/Upper Ferntree Gully	Kangaroos
33	BRAD MURPHY	Calder Cannons/Rupertswood	Western Bulldogs
34	SEAN DEMPSTER	Gippsland Power/Snowy Rovers	Sydney
36	TIM CALLAN	Geelong Falcons/St Josephs	Geelong
38	BLAKE GRIMA	Eastern Ranges/East Burwood	Kangaroos
40	JOBE WATSON	Sandringham Dragons/Xavier	Essendon
41	TIM FLEMING	Carlton VFL	Richmond
43	CAMERON CLOKE	Eastern Ranges/Park Orchards	Collingwood
45	KADE SIMPSON	Eastern Ranges/Emerald	Carlton
46	LEIGH FISHER	Sandringham Dragons/Mentone Grammar	St Kilda
48	GREG EDGCUMBE	Eastern Ranges/Wantirna South	Fremantle
49	CAMERON WIGHT	Calder Cannons/Sunbury	Western Bulldogs
50	JOSH THEWLIS	Bendigo Pioneers/Donald	Sydney
51	TIM BOYLE	Geelong Falcons/Leopold	Hawthorn
53	ADAM SELWOOD	Bendigo Pioneers/Sandhurst	West Coast
54	CAMERON HUNTER	Calder Cannons/Aberfeldie	Melbourne
55	RYAN CROWLEY	Calder Cannons/Gisborne	Fremantle
60	CAMERON CROAD	Oakleigh Chargers/Vermont	Carlton
62	DANIEL SIPTHORP	Calder Cannons/Woodend	Richmond
64	NICK MALCESKI	Eastern Ranges/North Ringwood	Sydney
65	LOCHLAN VEALE	Geelong Falcons/Colac	Hawthorn
66	RYAN FERGUSON	Belgrave/Frankston (VFL)	Melbourne
72	BRADLEY FISHER	Eastern Ranges/East Burwood	Carlton
79	KARL NORMAN	Wangaratta Rovers	Carlton

2002 National AFL Pre-Season Draft selections

Player	Previous Clubs	Drafted to (AFL club)
4 BRENT MOLONEY	Geelong Falcons	Geelong
7 LUKE MULLINS	Murray Bushrangers	Collingwood

2002 Rookie Upgrades during season

Player	Previous Clubs	Drafted to (AFL club)
ANDREW SIEGERT	Geelong Falcons/Colac	Geelong
JARAD ROOKE	Casterton	Geelong
JOHN BAIRD	Eastern Ranges/Box Hill Hawks	Kangaroos
BRET THORNTON	Oakleigh Chargers/Mt Waverley Blues	Carlton

STAR PUPIL:
Brendon Goddard was the No. 1 pick at last year's National AFL Draft.
Photo: Mark Dadswell/Getty Images



Financial Summary



Stephen Smith

Financial Controller,
Football Victoria

Sources of Funds

VICTORIA'S access to funding is relatively fixed, with its annual increases challenged by the size of the total budget. New ideas for fundraising always seem balanced between AFL operations and local football.

The Sources of Funds chart below reflects how the AFL contributes significantly to the funding needs of Victorian Football. Transfer fees and other AFL contributions total \$8.9 million out of the total of \$13.7 million.

While Victorian football does well from the national transfer fee market, this year's result was an all-time high but annual fluctuation makes budgeting difficult. We are always in competition with other States, who use transfer fees in a more centralised way.

The AFL has indicated that these funds are limited in their capacity to grow and, therefore, the other sources of funds, particularly the areas of sponsorship and self-funding income, must grow. This growth must occur for the continued development of the game in Victoria.

Football Victoria will seek on-going contributions from the AFL, but the major challenges are to become both innovative in increasing our funding sources, and well-managed in the diversity and effectiveness of programs to which funds are allocated.

Application of Funds

Football Victoria's funding applications tend to revolve around Victoria's two premier competitions: the TXU Victorian Football League, the best senior football league outside the AFL, and the TAC Cup, Australia's major under-age development program.

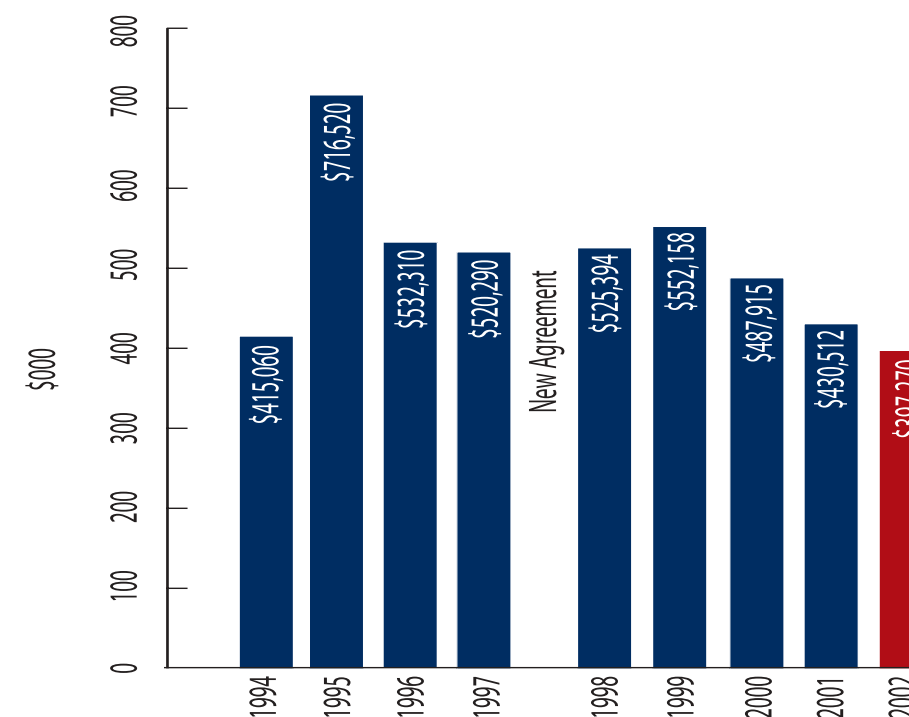
The TXU Victorian Football League's funding is raised within the competition itself either through sponsorship or gate-takings. VFL clubs last year received \$20,000 in transfer fees out of the \$2.6 million transfer fee income for all of Victoria. Both competitions are essential to maintaining the flow of funds to all levels of the game in Victoria.

Administration funds are applied over all areas of our business in regard to staff time costs and other overheads.

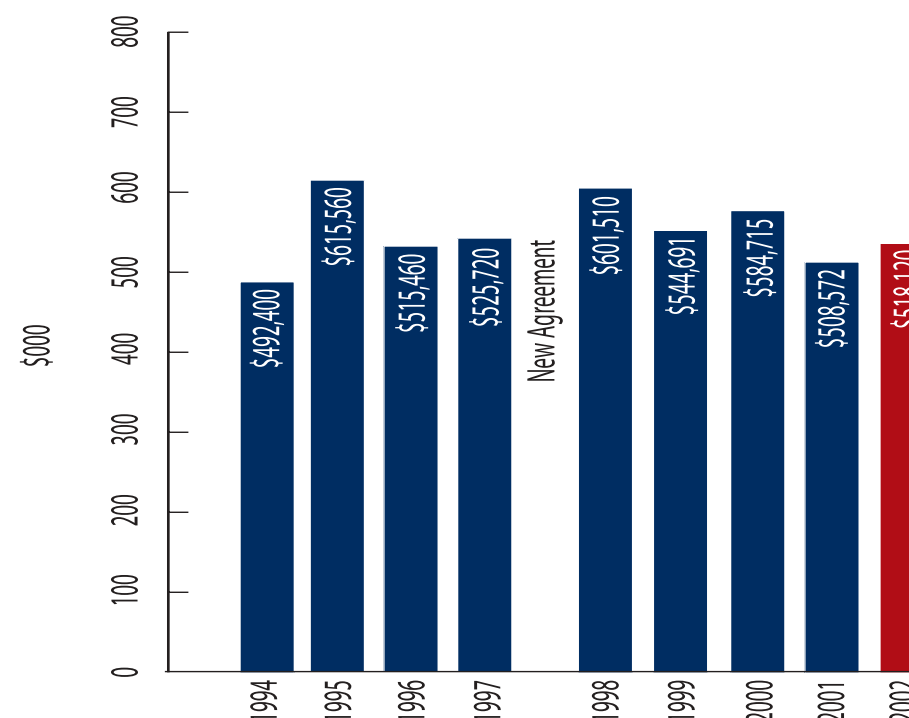
In addition to direct grants and transfer fees funding for metropolitan and country football is through Football Victoria Development. This area employs regional staff to deliver programs such as AFL Auskick, coach education, school football and other infrastructure needed for the coordination of the game across the State. While Football Victoria entrusts local leagues and clubs to operate local football, the development activity of Football Victoria is one of its critical roles. ■

Transfer Fees Received

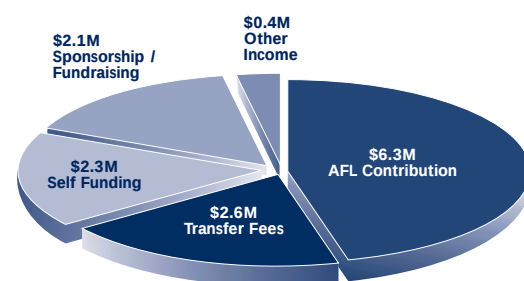
Metropolitan Leagues



WorkSafe Victorian Country Football League

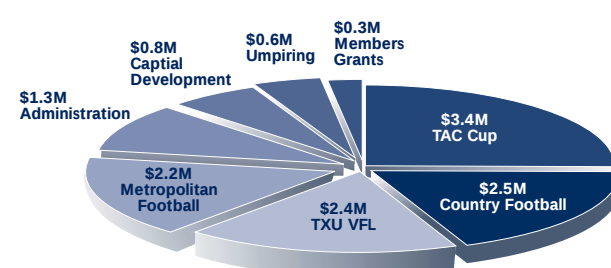


Sources of Funds



TOTAL \$13.7M

Application of Funds



TOTAL \$13.5M



Football Victoria

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Mr. G. Miller (retired Dec. 2002)
Mr. B. Morgan
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Mr. R. Tregear

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Mr. R. Peak	Eastern FL
Mr. I. Price	Essendon District FL
Mr. A. Matthews	Riddell District FL
Mr. A. Troon	Southern FL
Mr. I. Hamm	Western Region FL
Mr. M. Madeley	Dandenong & Districts Junior FL
Mr. D. Andrews	Moorabbin Saints Junior FL
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Mr. L. Coutie	Waverley Junior Football Association
Mr. B. Rennsion	Yarra Junior FL

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Mr. Ray Allsopp

Victorian State Director of Umpiring -

Football Victoria: Mr. Kevin Mitchell

Assistant: Ms. Angela Lindsay

Umpires Coach: Mr. Peter Howe

TAC Cup Regional Managers

Bendigo Pioneers	Ray Byrne
Calder Cannons	Ross Monaghan
Dandenong Stingrays	Darren Flanigan
Eastern Ranges	Ian Flack
Geelong Falcons	Michael Turner
Gippsland Power	Peter Francis
Murray Bushrangers	John Byrne
North Ballarat Rebels	Tony Frawley
Northern Knights	Peter Kennedy
NSW/ACT Rams	Keith Miller
Oakleigh Chargers	Robert Oliver
Sandringham Dragons	Wayne Oswald
Tassie Mariners	Wayne Povey
Western Jets	Shane Sexton

Football Victoria Development Managers

Country Region:

Ballarat	Anthony Rock
Wimmera	Geoff Burdett
Western	Jock Whiting
Bendigo	Rod Macpherson
Central Murray & Nth Central	Daryl Powell
Hampden	Alan Thompson
Sunraysia & Mallee	Greg Liddell
West Coast	John Edsall / John Paslawski

Latrobe Valley
East Gippsland
Goulburn Murray
North East Border

Darren Bewick
Roger Geron
Stephen Garner
Xavier Tanner

Metropolitan Region:

North West	Chris Gleeson
Dandenong	Andrew Carson
Eastern	Andrew Johnston
Northern	Simon Dalrymple
Oakleigh	Rick Irwin
Sandringham	Ian Kyte
Western	John Batty

VFL Tribunal

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Mr. S. Cusumano
Mr. A. Hargreaves
Mr. B. Josephs
Mr. M. Kelleher
Mr. J. Larkins
Mr. K. Madden
Mr. G. Meese
Mr. S. Perna
Mr. E. Power
Mr. D. Wood

VFL Appeal Board:

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Mr. B. Chaplin
Mr. E. Power
Mr. T. Hargreaves
Mr. N. Ross
Mr. P. Weightman

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VFL Investigation/Reporting Officer:

Mr. P. Aarons

Auditor: KPMG

Honorary Solicitors:

Messrs. Mahoney, Galvin & Rylah

New VFL Life Members:

Donal McDonald	Box Hill Hawks FC
Jason Caples	Springvale FC
Damian Carroll	Springvale FC

VALE

Mr. S. Winter

Chief Patron: Premier Steve Bracks

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VFA/VFL timeline: 1877-2002



1877 – Victoria Football Association founded. Inaugural clubs Albert Park, Carlton, East Melbourne, Essendon, Geelong, Hotham, Melbourne, St Kilda, West Melbourne.

1884 – Fitzroy and Williamstown joined.

1885 – Richmond and University joined.

1886 – Footscray, Port Melbourne, Prahran, South Williamstown joined. St Kilda rejoined after withdrawing in 1883.

1892 – Collingwood joined.

1896 – Collingwood and South Melbourne both finished season with 14 wins and same tally of goals, both for and against, necessitating a play-off to decide the premiership. It was, if you like, the first finals series. At the end of the season Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, Melbourne, South Melbourne and St Kilda broke away from the VFA to form the VFL. Those who remained in the VFA were Footscray, North Melbourne, Port Melbourne, Richmond and Williamstown.

1897 – New scoring system introduced: six points for a goal, one point for a behind. Premiership was awarded top team. Brunswick joined.

1903 – Preston admitted. First season of VFA finals: two semi-finals; 1st v 3rd; 2nd v 4th. Winners meet to decide premiership.

1907 – Players numbers on guernseys.

1908 – Richmond joined the VFL and West Melbourne dropped out. Brighton and Northcote joined. VFA reduced the number of players in a team from 18 to 17. 44,000 saw Footscray defeat Brunswick in the Grand Final at the MCG.

1913 – Number of players in a team reduced from 17 to 16. VFA and VFL struck an agreement to recognise clearances.

1914 – Hawthorn joined.

1916 – VFA suspended due to World War I.

1918 – The VFA resumed with six teams: Brunswick, Footscray, Northcote, Prahran and North Melbourne. Players in a team increased from 16 to 18.

1919 – Agreement between VFA and VFL cancelled. Brighton, Hawthorn, Essendon Association and Williamstown resumed.

1922 – Essendon Association amalgamated with North Melbourne. Geelong A joined.

1923 – The Recorder Cup introduced for the best player in the competition.

1924 – VFA premier Footscray played VFL premier Essendon. Footscray won.

1925 – Coburg joined. Footscray, Hawthorn and North Melbourne joined the VFL.

1926 – Camberwell admitted to VFA. Preston readmitted.

1929 – VFA expanded to 12 teams with the inclusions of Oakleigh and Sandringham. New rule: substitute player to replace an injured player.

1933 – Page system of finals – two semi-finals, preliminary final and Grand Final – introduced.

1939 – Record crowd of 48,238 watched Williamstown defeat Brunswick by nine points in the Grand Final at the MCG.

1942 – VFA suspended during World War II.

1945 – VFA resumed. JJ Liston Trophy replaced Recorder Cup as the award for the best player in the competition.

1951 – Box Hill and Moorabbin joined.

1957 – Night matches played for premiership points.

1958 – Dandenong and Mordialloc joined. Williamstown and Mordialloc played out first draw in VFA history. Williamstown won the replay.

1961 – Two divisions introduced. Div. 1 comprised Oakleigh, Sandringham, Williamstown, Yarraville, Coburg, Moorabbin, Mordialloc, Port Melbourne, Brunswick and Box Hill. Div. 2 comprised Prahran, Sunshine, Preston, Camberwell, Northcote, Brighton and Dandenong.

1963 – Geelong West joined.

1965 – Werribee joined.

1977 – Centenary season. Port Melbourne won Div. 1 flag; Mordialloc won Div. 2. Interchange rule adopted.

1979 – VFA withstood threat of VFL to exclusivity of Sunday games.

1982 – Springvale and Kilsyth admitted. Two umpires used for first time.

1985 – Div. 1 reduced to 10 teams with Div. 2 consisting of 12 teams.

1986 – Football Organisation Review Team (FORT) established to analyse VFA future.

1987 – Moorabbin suspended mid-season. Caulfield and Northcote went into recess.

1988 – Waverley, Mordialloc and Geelong West withdrew from competition. Grand Final played at Windy Hill. Decision made to streamline competition into one division.

1989 – Single-division competition. Fothergill-Round Medal struck to honour Les Fothergill and Barry Round, the only two players to have won the Brownlow Medal and Liston Trophy.

1990 – Standard player contracts and salary cap introduced. Four players – Joe Garbuio (Oakleigh), Matt Burrows (Preston), Steve Harkins (Port Melbourne) and Sturt Nichol – shared the Liston Trophy.

1991 – Competition reverted from 16 to 18-man teams. Brunswick withdrew early.

1993 – VFA clubs vote for a commission style board. An agreement signed with Victorian State Football League.

1994 – VSFL board oversaw VFA competition. Dandenong, Oakleigh and Prahran withdrew from competition.

1996 – North Ballarat and Traralgon joined.

1997 – Traralgon withdrew.

1998 – Bendigo joined.

2000 – Revamped VFL competition with mix of stand-alone VFL clubs Coburg, Frankston, North Ballarat, Northern Bullants, Springvale; aligned clubs Box Hill (Hawthorn), Sandringham (Melbourne), Werribee (Western Bulldogs), Williamstown (Western Bulldogs) and stand-alone AFL clubs Carlton, Collingwood, Essendon and Geelong, with the Kangaroos linked with the Ovens and Murray League. Sandringham defeated North Ballarat in Grand Final.

2001 – Tasmania joined. Coburg and Richmond entered an alliance known as Coburg Tigers; Springvale and St Kilda entered alliance as did Werribee/Western Bulldogs and Williamstown/Collingwood.

Football Victoria takes care to ensure the confidentiality of all information provided to it and handles such information in accordance with the 10 National Privacy Principles set out in the Privacy Act.