

## 'Umpiring is Everyone's Business'

**Issue 4  
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### Special points of interest:

- Many umpiring groups actively participated in Pink Footy Netball Day last weekend.

As well as being a very fitting link into supporting this worthy cause it provided for some positive coverage of female umpiring within a number of groups.

- WorkSafe Country Championships—Saturday 28th May.

A reminder to all groups that appointments for the championships will be made shortly after the current round of umpire academy training sessions and all groups informed of these during early next week, prior to umpires being notified of the appointment.

## 'Thanks Ump' - Update

With just a few days until the official 'Thanks Ump' round occurring across this weekend it is an opportune time to highlight some of the activities planned or have already happened.

All leagues across the WorkSafe VCFL were provided with details on why the round was occurring and the particular impact which poor match day environment has on the ability of umpiring groups to retain members.

As a result some great initiatives have already taken place.

The Colac UA last weekend invited the Colac DFNL President Peter Lucas to umpire a match in support of 'Thanks Ump'.

Part of the media coverage around this included featuring a range of league executive who are currently involved in umpiring across country Victoria, these include Ballarat FNL Chairman Mick Toner and Stephen Butler President of the East Gippsland FNL.

Media focus on umpiring around the Goulburn Valley will include WIN TV sport reporter Wes Cusworth goal umpiring in a match in the GVFL.

Wes is a former VFL umpire and has some ideas around even miking up senior umpires during a game for part of the story.

Other media representatives have been spoken to about becoming involved as umpires and this may occur over the next few weeks.

The Coodabeen Champions radio show on ABC local radio on Saturday morning includes a segment 'In the Sticks' which focuses on a country football story each week.

This Saturday will feature umpiring in particular Peter Tunbridge a former VCFL State team representative who in the past two years has taken up umpiring in Ballarat and on Saturday was appointed to his first senior match in the Maryborough Castlemaine DFNL.

Across a wide range of areas there have been good responses to clubs inviting umpires out to training sessions.

The Wimmera FUA

has taken the initiative of including boundary umpiring as part of their visits to Horsham DFL clubs.

They identified that clubs need to be supplying their own boundary umpires for a range of grades within the HDL and that the club boundary umpires would benefit from a session with a member of the association.

There are also positive signs that some of these activities will be continuing over the next few weeks. All of which is sure to assist in building stronger relationships around umpiring.

**Below:** The Wimmera FUA 'Pink Ladies' dressed in support of Pink Footy Netball Day held last weekend.



## AFL National Under 16 Appointments

Over the past two seasons four umpires from across the WorkSafe VCFL have enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the AFL National Under 16 Championships held in Blacktown Western Sydney.

This experience has assisted in preparing them to trial for VFL squads.

Again WorkSafe VCFL umpires

have been provided with the opportunity to join with State league umpires at these championships.

Congratulations to Jesse Verdicchizzi (Geelong FUL), Brendan Gerashe (Warrnambool DFUA) and Mitch Gray (GFUL) on being appointed to the 2011 championships.

The live in umpiring experi-

ence is to be held from 9th—16th July.

In addition to these appointments there have been a number of boundary and goal umpire appointments made available to WorkSafe VCFL umpires in the NAB AFL U18 Championships during June.

The first of these will occur at Visy Park on Saturday 11th June.