



# 12th Women's National Championships Record

June 7-11  
2011

Special SAWFL  
20th anniversary  
edition

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### Welcome to the 12th AFL Women's National Championships.

Each season the number of girls and women playing our great game increases and in welcoming Tasmania to their first Championships, it is tremendous that AFL has progressed to herald the first truly 'National' Women's Championship.

These championships provide an excellent opportunity to launch the AFL's Women's Week, instigated to recognise the contribution women make to football. To this end, the National Championships highlights the passion women have for playing the game that compliments the support they have for the game in general.

Congratulations to all players, coaches and officials who have been selected to represent their state. As participation grows, so too does the competition for places to represent your state. You should feel proud to have secured a place in these championships and I wish you all the best throughout the week.

**Andrew Demetriou, CEO: Australian Football League**

## Happy birthday to you! SAWFL turns 20



It is a remarkable achievement that the South Australian Women's Football League (SAWFL) is 20 years old when you consider that female football development is still in it's infancy. Born from a desire to play rather than merely spectate the game, Gina Dutschke was instrumental in founding the SAWFL.

Like other Women's Leagues around the country the SAWFL has a rich history. Women's Football began in earnest in South Australia during 1990. With passionate women who grew up watching football and wanting to get themselves fit and be a part of a game that looked exciting, Gina Dutschke, together with Jenny Williams and a host of helpers including the State's leading sporting bodies (SANFL, SASSI and SAPSASA) organised four weekends of women's football. This included a Level 0 Coaches Course, skills clinic, lightning carnival and an exhibition State game between the South Australian All Stars, captained by Jenny Williams and featuring many well known sportswomen from various sporting competitions and a team from the Victorian Women's Football League. South Australia won convincingly.

In 1991, the first official season of the SAWFL began with six affiliated Clubs (Hectorville Hawks, Brighton Bombers, Edwardstown Eagles, Southern CD Cougars, Para Hills Panthers and the Thunderbirds) competing in a thirteen week season.

The SAWFL has been slow in developing over the succeeding years with very little sponsorship and support and teams leaving the competition. For some years it ran as a four team competition. Since 2006, SAWFL has been working closely with the SANFL to further develop female participation in Australian Rules at grass roots level, supporting programs such as nab AFL Auskick and Rec Footy.

2008 marked a new era with the introduction of Youth Girls Football for under 12s, 14s and 16s giving an actual

pathway from nab AFL Auskick through to Senior Women's Football. As the League still only had four teams, it was envisaged that the work being carried out in the Youth Girls age group, would increase demand for further teams at the Senior Level. This has taken up strongly in Adelaide's Northern Suburbs.

In 2009 SAWFL located with office facilities at AAMI Stadium, in partnership with the SANFL. With the introduction of a new Inclusive Programs Manager within the SANFL has seen female football development grow enormously in the last few years.

Due to the growth of U13s and U16s and the enthusiasm for the game, SAWFL was able to field a fifth team in 2010. The League was also able to field a team in the Inaugural Youth Girls National Championships and proved the surprise packet of the carnival stunning everyone with their adept overhead marking and pace.

In it's 20th year 2011 sees SAWFL commencing its season with a 6th team with the prospect of growing even further with interests from players from our Southern Suburbs.

"It's a very exciting future for the SAWFL," founder Dutschke commented when told of the new developments. "I'm delighted to be back involved and see the new generation of players coming through the clubs."

It is therefore fitting that the host Women's League for the 12th AFL Women's National Championships should be the SAWFL. Being the most significant event on the National female football calendar Cheryl Cates, President of the SAWFL, together with her band of dedicated volunteers, have partnered with the South Australian National Football League to make this carnival a memorable one for all involved.

Heightened awareness raised by promotion of the National Championships should result in further growth for the SAWFL as girls realise what is available to them. If this translates to more participants in the SAWFL then hosting the Champs will have been another positive step in the history of the women's game in South Australia.



# South Australia experiencing phenomenal growth in female football

In South Australia, Australian football participation is growing annually and in no other area is this more evident than female football.

Since 2006, our state has experienced record numbers of girls and women taking up the game, with a 34 per cent increase in participation in 2010 compared to the previous year. We now have 4300 females playing the game in South Australia.

This growth has been underpinned by the establishment of an Advisory Group that has forged a strategic pathway for female football participation. Through the work of this Advisory Group, led by SANFL Inclusive Programs Manager Peter Cates and the SA Women's Football League president Cheryl Cates, there have been increases in participation across all age groups.

Recently, we have overseen the introduction of the Youth Girls competitions in the northern suburbs for U13 and U16 age groups. A Female Football Academy has been established to provide girls aged 14 to 18 years with an opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge of the game. Last September, South Australia's inaugural U18 State Youth Girls squad competed in the AFL National U18s Girls Championships in Melbourne with some success. A new U16 State Schoolgirls' Squad is currently in training for the inaugural U16s Schoolgirls' Championships, to be held in Canberra next month.

Work in this field has led a number of other achievements – a growth in female coaches gaining accreditation and a steep increase in young females taking up umpiring roles. In a recent first for South Australia, an SANFL U18s match held at Adelaide Oval was officiated by three female field umpires.



The SA Women's Football League fluctuated from six teams in its heyday during the early nineties to a four team competition until two years ago. The Academy and Youth Girls programs have breathed new life into the League and under the strong leadership of Cheryl Cates, the SAWFL has introduced two new teams – Central District Bulldogs in 2010 and Modbury Hawks in 2011. We look forward to further growth in coming years.

On behalf of the SANFL, I wish to congratulate the SAWFL on its 20th anniversary and its significant achievements over this period of time.

I share the SAWFL's excitement in hosting this significant event and the opportunity it provides to promote opportunities for females who are passionate about the game. I trust the community will get behind our State Team and I encourage all to attend a game to witness the skill and enthusiasm of these players.

I would like to thank those who have worked hard to get the Championships up and running, particularly Cheryl Cates and Dara Braithwaite who have volunteered their time to assist Peter Cates and Emma Gibson from the SANFL and Jan Cooper from the AFL.

I wish every team a successful Championships. Congratulations to all and I hope you enjoy your South Australian football experience.

**Leigh Whicker**  
SANFL Chief Executive Officer





# Tasmania brings a new piece of history

For the first time the Championships will be contested by all states and territories with the inclusion of the women from the Apple Isle. The Tasmanian Women's Football League was only born 4 years ago with a few matches played between teams from Hobart and Launceston. Since those humble days the League has rapidly increased to 6 teams.

Wayne Povey, AFL Tasmania's Female Football Coordinator, said, "we are very excited about participating in the Women's Nationals. Being a traditional football state it has been easy to generate interest amongst the women to play the game. We are confident that this first step in the talent pathway will allow our players to gauge where they're at developmentally and what we have to aspire to."

Sixty four players turned up to the first training session under Head Coach Trent Bartlett's watchful eyes. "I couldn't

believe the interest," said coach Bartlett. "I was hoping for over 30 so it would be competitive for positions but never expected to have over 60 players come." Bartlett, a former Brisbane Lions and Western Bulldogs player, is a local hero and sure to help the players adjust to their new football challenge. "We want to put a competitive side on the park but obviously we're not entirely sure what to expect in our first Championships."

Tassie will be competing against other Division 2 teams Northern Territory, New South Wales and 2009 division 1 relegators, ACT. But it will not be an easy first campaign.

Determined to get off the bottom, '09 cellar dwellers, NT Thunder, have embarked on a new talent academy under the management of the AFLNT talent team. This should be one of their most competitive Nationals ever with their previously highest finish of 3rd in 2003.

## Sisters of AFL stars hoping to lift NT

Northern Territory Thunder will field two players with a rich football family heritage. Hayley Davey, sister of Melbourne star Aaron Davey, and Essendon-listed Alwyn, has the pedigree to dazzle her opponents.

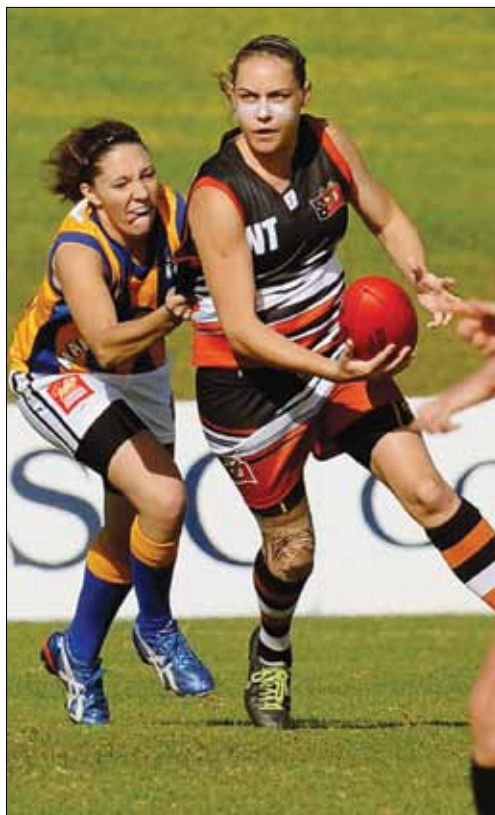
Another who is a sister to a currently listed AFL player is Lauren Motlop. If she has anything like the freakish skills of Port Adelaide's Daniel Motlop, then spectators will be in for a treat.

Captain of the NT Thunder, and All-Australian Kristy Irvine (pictured right) has been showing great leadership and form, and will be hoping to inspire her teammates on the National stage.

## ACT keen to get back into top division

Despite boasting the strongest women's league per head of population, ACT were unable to make a mark against the divi 1 teams in '09 on the large ovals played on in Perth.

The Adelaide ovals will not prove any easier for them so despite a highest finish of 2nd in 2002 ACT could struggle to match that performance and get back into Division 1.



# Can NSW give others the Blues?

The NSW Blues head to Adelaide for this year's Women's AFL National Championships confident they can do one better than their 2009 national's appearance.

NSW Head Coach Tracey Kick believes the 2011 team has the depth and talent required to take out the Division Two Grand Final and earn promotion into the top division.

The newly appointed Kick is enthused about the challenge ahead and points to better organisation and support at a local level as two key factors that will assist the NSW Blues in this year's campaign.

"Thanks to the foresight of Sydney Women's AFL development manager Lisa Roper, who established New South Wales' inaugural Talented Player Program in 2010, and unprecedented support from AFL NSW/ACT, the Blues bring to the National Championships a new blend of experience, youth and talent.

"With more preparation time and a squad of 45 talented players to choose from, the NSW team will be more competitive than ever and will strive for a finals win to gain promotion into Division 1."

Veteran NSW Blues representative, Jemma Still, backs Kick's sentiments and believes the commitment and enthusiasm of the 2011 squad will help deliver the NSW Blues a piece of the silverware.

"The Grand Final loss in 2009 against South Australia was heartbreaking, yet gave us an opportunity to come away and work on some of the elements required to push for the



next level. This playing group is ready and willing, and will give the competition a good shake. I just can't wait to get to Adelaide and show the other states how far we've come"

The 2011 Championships are set to be a fantastic competition and the NSW Blues are looking forward to it!

# South Australia the surprise packet?

Out to prove a point host state SA are looking forward to competing against the Vics in particular having been elevated as the 2009 Division 2 winners. Historically they have been the only state to defeat the Victorians during an Invitational game back in 1990.

Newly elevated to division 1, can South Australia worry the top 3 from 2009? According to changeroom talk around the states their list lacks youth and appears reliant on experience. Is this just a ploy by South Australia to get the opposition to believe that with their old legs they may not be able to keep up with the more agile runners of Q, WA and Vic? If this is the case it just might be the old story of the hare and the tortoise. Built around a few seasoned campaigners SA has gathered together a group of new senior players and added some of the best of its U18 Squad to take on the divi 1 teams.

Coach Steve Baxter is quietly confident that there are a couple of upsets in the pipeline.



# Team WA – Contenders or pretenders?

The last 3 Champs have seen Victoria retain their unbeaten record defeating WA by ever diminishing amounts. Despite getting closer Team WA have not been able to match the Vic's accurate passing by foot nor some of the physical match ups.

Head coach, Nicole Graves is desperate to lead a team that can finally bump off the Vics but she is up against it. In 2009 Team WA were unlucky to lose their 3 talls to injury in All Australians Jodie White and Loren Fricker and then Chelsea Randall broke a leg. Their forward line lacked power and they were unable to score a goal against the Vics during the round robin game.

Their midfield rose to the occasion during the grand final and some

astute coaching moves allowed the black ducks to outscore the Vics in the first half before going down by 6 goals. It's hard to see how their forward line can be a threat in 2011 against the bigger bodied Vics with a plethora of shorter quicker players being the norm.

WA will rely on senior players Nikki Harwood, Shelley Matcham and Jodie White in particular to encourage the younger players to step up at this carnival. Sarah Noga is only young but already quite experienced at being a reliable pair of hands in the forward line. But she might find it too tough being a lone tall.

The black ducks will be giving their all to ensure they are not the 'bridesmaids' again.



## It'Searley days: Can new coach keep Vics unbeaten?

Victoria is undefeated in all AFL Women's National Championships. South Australia are the only state to ever beat Victoria and that was in an invitational between the 2 states back in 1990. Records are made to be broken as the Victorian Women's Football League know having just seen the astonishing 9 year winning streak winning run of the Darebin Falcons come to an end. The Falcons who were previously coached by current Victorian coach Peta Searle from 2005 to 2010 were finally beaten in Round 4 after last losing one game in 2006. But what does this all mean for Victoria? It does mean that these amazing winning runs do eventually come to an end.

All Division 1 teams in the 2011 National championships will be fighting hard to take home the cup. WA has been the challengers of recent years and under coach Nicole Graves will be desperate to knock the Big V off. Queensland too have been closing the gap and will no doubt be a very competitive unit in 2011. The Sunfire have been closer to Victoria than anyone else in recent years. And SA hosting the championships at home will have a point to prove after being elevated back into Div 1.

The spot light has never shone so brightly on women's football as it does in 2011 and everyone wants to knock off the Vics.

Victorian coach Peta Searle is newly appointed to the role but is no stranger to the game. Astonishingly Peta is a 5 time VWFL Premier Division premiership coach having taken the Darebin Falcons to the flag every year since

2006. Peta has also won premierships as a player, has represented the Big V and was the inaugural Victorian U19 coach back in 2005.

She is very well credentialed. Peta left her role at the Falcons at the end of 2010 to take on an assistant coaching role with the Western Jets in the u16 competition. She is working with some of the most talented boys in the country and is developing her knowledge and skills.

Peta spoke about her team saying "I would expect Victoria to play football that is characterised by a relentless will to work for each other at all times."

The Victorian team will be a blend of youth and experience. Can Peta get the squad to jell together as a team? Can they maintain the unbeaten record? These questions will soon be answered.



# Queensland Sunfire well prepared

Queensland loom as the biggest threat to the Vics. Under new coach Richie Lyons, they may prove too dogged and will have no trouble going one to one with the bigger bodied Victorians.

The Sunfire are hoping to be at their best after a hard fought State Championships in the last weekend of April.

The State Championships has developed into a key weekend for would-be Sunfire players with teams from SEQ South, SEQ North & Cairns all vying for the title and possibility to represent their state.

Sunfire Assistant Coach , Deion Menzies, was very pleased with the performance of his SEQ North side with Captain Jenna Van Dyk and on-baller Yolanda Jones being the stand out performers.

"The girls have trained hard over the past two months and it has paid off with some exceptional performances" said Menzies.

Sunfire Coach, Richie Lyons, who has overseen the joint trainings of SEQ South & SEQ North as well as a visit to Cairns to observe their summer season final series, is very happy with the morale in the squad as well as the intensity and commitment shown at training. "I'm impressed with the players who have been selected in our final squad. I'm expecting to be very competitive and look forward to giving the girls the opportunity to play at the highest level possible"

In 2009, Sunfire kept Victoria to its lowest total of the Championships after a sluggish start against Western

Australia. In 2011, the team is looking to really push Victoria and WA again with Victorian recruit Laura Stamp and Western Australian recruit Asta Naden sure to strengthen the Sunfire.

Missing from the 2009 team are All-Australian players Aasta O'Connor (moved to Victoria), Monica O'Brien & Nat Thomas (both injured) and Belinda Blay (retired).



After four years of representative Under 18 Youth Girls football in Queensland, the Sunfire is reflective of the surge of quality youth girl footballers with Gold Coast players Ebony Zuber and Indy Sleeth, Kellie Hopkins, Mikayla Stephen as well as Magnetic Island resident Breanna Koenen all included in the Open age squad.

"It is always a challenge coaching the Queensland Sunfire due to the geographical difficulties of having players from all over the state. That said, it also shows how Australian Football is growing here in Queensland and is seen as a viable option for girls of all ages," coach Lyons said.

## Finishing positions from 1998–2009

STATE	BEST FINISH	2009	2007	2006
<b>ACT</b>	2nd 2002	D1 4th	4	6
<b>NSW</b>	7th 2004	D2 2nd	8	8
<b>NT</b>	3rd 2003	D2 4th	8	8
<b>QLD</b>	2nd 2001, 2003	D1 3rd	3	3
<b>SA</b>	6th 2004	D2 1st	7	7
<b>TAS</b>		DNC	DNC	DNC
<b>VIC</b>	1st 1998 – 2009 except 2005	1	1	1
<b>WA</b>	2nd 1999 – 2000, '04, '06, '07, '09	D1 2nd	2	2

The Championships were played every year but since 2007 it has been played biennially. It was proving an expensive exercise to continually put a state team in place and often at the detriment of the Women's League growing and developing. In 2009 the Championships were split into 2 divisions and full time games of 4 x 20 minute quarters were played instead of playing a round robin competition of 2 x 20 minute halves.



# What's in store for the Superstars?

In previous carnivals the best players selected by the All Australian panel received a medallion at the conclusion of the Champs to mark the occasion. In 2009 there was a complete overhaul of both the selection process (going from a panel of 3 with minimal guidelines to one of 7 with comprehensive criteria) and the recognition; receiving a medal to that plus a place in the AFL Women's High Performance Academy.

After the 2007 Championships Dean Warren (then AFL Manager: National Participation) and Jan Cooper (AFL Manager: Female Football Development) felt there needed to be a challenge for our most talented female players.

Although the best ranked 22 were named as the 'All Australian' team, the 40 best ranked players from the carnival were invited to Melbourne to attend a week long live in camp similar to the boys AFL Academy. The program was a mixture of football skill development as well as leadership and personal development sessions put together by the AFL's Talent and Coaching team with amazing support from the Melbourne Football Club.

The pinnacle of the week was when the players were divided into 2 evenly matched teams and got to run out onto the MCG as the curtain raiser to Melbourne v Collingwood. One team was coached by the All Australian (and then Victorian coach) Leeann Gill whilst the other was coached by WA Head Coach, Nicole Graves.

All Australian Phoebe McWilliams (Vic) found more than just football skills and knowledge through the week. She actually realised what she was passionate about. "I have always thought to myself that I don't have a real passion in my life, and was always jealous of girls who grew up with the desire to be a doctor or a vet etc. But after the last week (spent at camp), I realised that the one thing I have truly loved for all my life has been football. I just love everything about the game."

In front of a last half crowd of around 15,000 punters saw the girls really put on a stunning display. The crowd audibly groaned when Kiara Bowers (WA) ran down a sprinting Chelsea Randall (WA) and gave her a fair but hard hip and shoulder that sent her sprawling and robbed Randall's team of a shot for goal. A lesser player would have stayed on the grass until gaining their composure but Randall bounced up, dusted herself off and continued to find the ball to appreciative applause from the spectators.

It was this kind of moment that sent goosebumps down the spine of the girls. Bowers said after the match, "running out onto the G was a dream come true for me."

The umpires for this game also received high praise from



the media. The journalists get to view up to 4 games live or on TV each week. They were effusive in their praise of the umpiring with one suggesting, "those girls (referring to the field umpires) were fantastic! They let the game flow, only blew when there was an obvious free kick – some of the best umpiring I've seen," said another photographer. The umpires consisted of All Australian Field Umpire, Jodi Maisey (WA) and girls from the Victorian Female Umpires Academy run by Neville Nash of AFL Victoria.

Part of the leadership component was that the players had to commit to implement something they'd learnt back at their club and/or League as a means of raising the skill level. Feedback received indicates most have followed through providing support and assistance





*The 2009 All Australians proudly displaying their medals at Subiaco Oval, Perth.*

including being the MC at the Welcome Ceremony of the U18s Youth Girls Nationals, coaching a youth girls team or simply taking their club team for a training session to teach them a new drill.

In addition to AA selection and the HPA, 2011 players can expect that if they are deemed the best player for their state at the carnival, they will be invited to attend the AIS/AFL Academy camp and participate in the same program as the boys. This will include mentoring of Strength and Conditioning coaches by the AFL staff. Not that any player would want to put personal glory before team success but at this carnival there is an added incentive to be at your best.

## All Australian Team 2009

### Captain:

Shannon McFerran (VIC #10)

### Vice Captain:

Nikki Harwood (WA #17)

### ACT

Rebecca Hall #12

### NSW

Natalie Redford #17

### NT

Kristy Irvine #8

### QLD

Katie Brennan #6, Aasta O'Connor #15, Natalie Thomas #22

### SA

Tess Baxter #4

### VIC

Daisy Pearce #6, Stephanie Chiocci #17, Lou Wotton #19  
Cecilia McIntosh #20, Natalie Wood #22, Lauren Bazely #24  
Stacey Cross #26, Phoebe McWilliams #27

### WA

Shelley Matcham #8 (Physio)

Lauren Stammers #9 (unavailable), Kirby Bentley #23  
Chelsea Randall #26, Stephanie Walding #32

## Additional players in the AFL Women's High Performance Academy 2010

### ACT

Kerrie Muir (Trainer)

### NSW

Trish Muller #1 (unavailable)  
Roxy McGee #4, Marie Keating #21

### NT

Bo De La Cruz #17 (replaced)  
Nicole Simons #15, Natasha Puautjimi #3

### QLD

Belinda Blay #9, Monica O'Brien #14, Jade Pregelj #20

### SA

Kirsty Degabriele #17, Danielle Cresp #21

### VIC

Penny Cula-Reid #1, Katie Loynes #5, Anna Schwager #8  
Lauren Arnell #13, Meg Hutchins #25, Kate Donnellan

### WA

Karen Cowley #1, Kiara Bowers #2, Angela Doyle #13  
Leah Mascall #34, Lauren Austin, Jodie White

# Match details

**Duration:** 4 x 20 minute quarters with no time on unless a stretcher or ambulance enters the field of play.  
Quarter time breaks = 5 minutes, 10 minutes and 5 minutes.

**Ladder:** Win – 4 points, draw – 2 points each (no time on in round robin games. If scores are tied at the end of a Grand Final then play 2 x 5 minute periods changing ends at half time until a result is achieved.)

**Penalties:** Yellow card – player off for 10 minutes and can be replaced immediately.  
Red card – player off and cannot return or cannot be replaced and will be reported.

**Division 1 – Queensland Sunfire – QLD, South Australia – SA, Victoria – VIC, Team WA – WA**

**Division 2 – Australian Capital Territory – ACT, New South Wales Blues – NSW, Northern Territory Thunder – NT, Tasmania – TAS**

## Fixtures

### DAY 1 – TUESDAY, JUNE 7th – CITY MAZDA STADIUM, RICHMOND

9:00am – 10:40am **NSW v ACT** (Division 2)  
11:00am – 12:40pm **WA v VIC** (Division 1)  
12:45pm – 1:15pm **Welcome Ceremony**  
1:45pm – 3:25pm **NT v TAS** (Division 2)  
3:45pm – 5:25pm **QLD v SA** (Division 1)

### DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8th – UNLEASH SOLAR OVAL, WOODVILLE

8:30am – 10:10am **NT v ACT** (Division 2)  
10:30am – 12:10pm **WA v QLD** (Division 1)  
12:30pm – 2:10pm **NSW v TAS** (Division 2)  
2:30pm – 4:10pm **VIC v SA** (Division 1)

### DAY 3 – THURSDAY, JUNE 9th

**Rest Day**

### DAY 4 – FRIDAY, JUNE 10th – ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS 1 & 2

10:30am – 12:10pm **NT v NSW** (Division 2) – Adelaide University 2  
10:45am – 12:25pm **VIC v QLD** (Division 1) – Adelaide University 1  
12:30pm – 2:10pm **NT v NSW** (Division 2) – Adelaide University 2  
12:45pm – 2:25pm **SA v WA** (Division 2) – Adelaide University 1

### DAY 5 – FRIDAY, JUNE 11th – GRAND FINALS – GLIDEROL STADIUM, GLENELG

9:30am – 11:10am **Division 2 GRAND FINAL** – 1st place v 2nd place  
11:15am – 11:20pm **Division 2 Onfield presentations to winners, Fairest & Best Division 2, Fairest & Best Grand Final**  
11:40am – 1:20pm **Division 1 GRAND FINAL** – 1st place v 2nd place  
1:25pm – 1:35pm **Division 1 Onfield presentations to winners, Debbie Lee Medallist, Fairest & Best Grand Final, All Australian team 2011**

# The Whistleblowers

Umpires from each state have been selected to participate in a live in program under the guidance of AFL Victoria's Umpire Manager, Neville Nash. Barry Oates, SANFL Umpire Development, will also provide valuable feedback to the umpires. "Where possible SANFL will provide accredited umpires panels and will attempt for them to be female", said Shane Harris, SANFL Umpire Coach who will assist Nash to prepare the umpire panels.

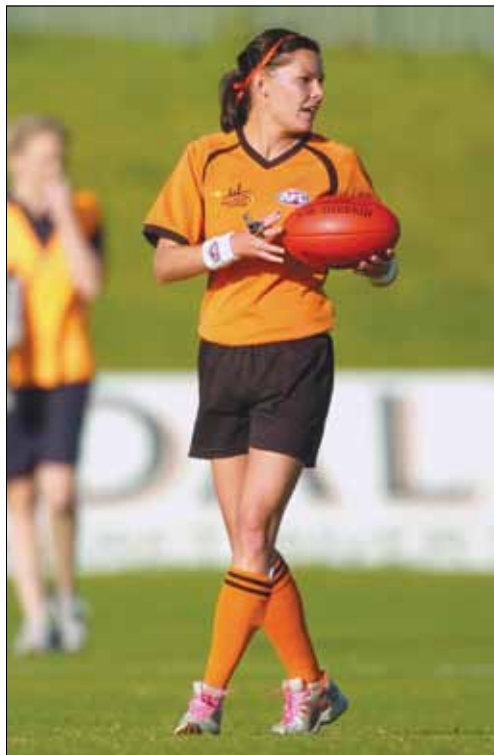
Female umpiring numbers are steadily increasing as girls see this as an attractive way to keep fit, contribute to a game they love and earn some money at the same time.

Meet the girls behind the whistles!

Amy McQuade (WA), Ashleigh Hales (Qld), Stephanie Morrison (SA), Libby Toovey (Vic) and Rebecca Goddard (ACT) have all officiated at previous Championships which has improved their confidence to step up to the next umpiring challenge.

Teegan Lincoln (WA) and Lucy Edwards (Tas) are goal umpires. Teegan officiated at the U18 Youth Girls Nationals in 2010 and was one of the big improvers of the umpires' panel.

Kathryn Flynn (NT) and Claire Knight (WA) are boundary umpires. This is the first Nationals that states have nominated boundary specialists.



## Waving the flags not the only talent of Teegan's

Most people don't pay much attention to goal umpires unless in an AFL game they seem to make a mistake and then their decision is played from every angle.

Not being the centre of attention is the way 18 year old Teegan Lincoln likes it eventhough she once auditioned for the popular television show, Neighbours!

"I play in a cover band and write music in my spare time," said Lincoln. "But my real goals in my leisure time are around my goal umpiring."

"I would love to be an AFL umpire like Chelsea Roffey. She is an inspiration as she is a female umpiring at the

highest level and is fantastic at it. A great example for all women umpires."

Teegan has only been goal umpiring 3 years but has impressed the WAFL Umpire coaches with her calm and focused approach to her umpiring. Despite her short career to date she has umpired in the U18 Youth Girls Championships and officiated at the WAFL Colts Grand Final in 2010.

This will be the first open Nationals Teegan will have umpired at and should be a good barometer as to how she is progressing. So she may reluctantly find herself in the spotlight – this time for being talented.

## 2011 Women's National Championships

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## AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Colours: Navy, Royal & Gold

Coach: Adrian Pavese



1	DUNN, Hannah	19/08/91	Queanbeyan Tigers
2	CASTLE, Louise	12/12/84	Eastlake
3	GILL, Hannah	04/01/77	Queanbeyan Tigers
4	HYLAND, Melinda	15/09/81	Riverina Lions
5	O'DEA, Elise	04/09/91	Eastlake Eastlake
6	HALL, Bek	15/02/79	Eastlake
7	MARZOTTO, Luisa	17/03/84	Ainslie
8	NUGENT, Kasie	03/07/93	Eastlake
9	BACKHOUSE, Melissa	28/09/76	Eastlake
10	ALLEN, Rebekah	30/05/79	Gungahlin Jets
11	HURLEY, Melissa	06/12/82	Ainslie
12	ROSE, Sarah	02/07/84	Eastlake
13	DIPROSE, Emily	04/10/78	Eastlake
14	DEMANT, Karina	23/02/90	Eastlake
15	COLBERT, Rachel	26/08/89	Belconnen Magpies
16	JARVIS, Raphaela	12/02/77	Eastlake
17	McINTOSH, Hannah	13/12/89	Eastlake
18	KEIR, Nicole	23/03/87	Riverina Lions
19	ANDERSON, Heather	29/07/94	Belconnen Magpies
20	WALLET, Hannah	20/11/90	Belconnen Magpies
21	HORAN, Courtney	05/08/91	Riverina Lions
22	PEEL, Danielle	22/09/90	Riverina Lions
23	MACLEAN, Julie	04/03/81	Riverina Lions
24	WELLS, Meredith	13/11/86	Eastlake
25	BYRNE, Casey	04/06/93	Riverina Lions

### ACT 6-pack

**Rising star:** A stand out in the first U18 Youth Girls Nationals **Heather Anderson** was named in the All Stars team. Her competitive nature will see her enjoy the new challenges the Women's Champs will present her.

**Rural recruit:** **Julie MacLean** is so passionate about AFL she drives a 250 kilometre round trip to get to training. Fit and will run out hard games with something still left in the tank.

**Last Hoorah:** **Karina Demant** is playing in her 5th Champs. Can she help the younger players to get into divi 1 again and leave ACT to the new brigade?

**Female Joel Selwood:** If she plays like her AFL hero Joel Selwood then **Louise Castle** will be a handful for opposition teams to contend with.

**Leader material:** **Melissa Hurley** shows impressive leadership and has improved greatly over the past two years.

**Young gun:** One of the ACT young guns **Kasie Nugent** has a thirst for knowledge of the game and puts it into action.

## NEW SOUTH WALES BLUES

Colours: Sky & royal blue, white

Coach: Tracey Kick



1	WILLIAMS, Kristy	11/01/90	Sydney University
2	McKAY, Una	17/04/80	Sydney University
3	LINEHAN, Jenna	11/06/85	UNSW Stingrays
4	HALL, Olivia	31/01/84	Balmain Dockers
5	HOLDSWORTH, Laura	30/07/88	Balmain Dockers
6	EKMAN, Michaela	29/04/78	Western Wolves
7	HARRINGTON, Renee	21/11/85	Sydney University
8	PARKIN, Alison	30/10/87	Balmain Dockers
9	McGEE, Roxy	09/11/81	N'town Breakaways
10	RYAN, Sandra	21/02/82	Bondi Shamrocks
11	DEVLIN, Natasha	24/09/74	N'town Breakaways
12	WILMOT, Penelope	18/01/85	N'town Breakaways
13	FOSTER, Stephanie	01/03/78	N'town Breakaways
14	NOBLE, Toni	02/02/86	N'town Breakaways
15	SOCHOR, Renee	13/03/82	UNSW Stingrays
16	DEVER, Amelia	23/06/86	Sydney University
17	LEW, Jen	22/09/85	Sydney University
18	KEATING, Marie	01/08/82	Sydney University
19	BARGER, Rachel	04/01/78	Balmain Dockers
20	JAMES-WOODY, Tahneal	16/07/86	N'town Breakaways
21	WILLIAMSON, Kylie	11/01/90	N'town Breakaways
22	SADLER, Libby	27/11/82	Sydney University
23	KHOURY, Mel	06/12/88	Sydney University
24	CREBER, Lara	09/01/81	Sydney University
26	STILL, Jemma	30/06/81	UNSW Stingrays
27	COLES, Christine	28/10/78	Southern Power
28	GUM, Courtney	20/09/81	UNSW Stingrays

### Blues 5-pack

**Experienced campaigner:** An Irish background has not stopped **Marie Keating** being avid about AFL. A Gaelic convert and all Australian in 2009, she just continues to improve. Elusive off a few steps and deadly accurate in front of goal.

**Good thing in small package:** **Roxy McGee** looks like a pushover but the pocket rocket provides great drive and zeal to the NSW attack.

**The Dale Thomas of the NSW state team:** **Alison Parkin** is fluid in motion, can kick both feet and is an exceptional athlete. Won Rookie Of The Year and played state footy back in 2007, and was named in the SWAFL team of the decade in 2009.

**Experienced rookie:** In her first women's nationals **Natasha Devlin** is a former Australian karate champion and softball. At 34, she is a tough competitor and will be a key player in the NSW midfield..

**In the hot seat:** Having a surname that is so AFL makes it difficult for coach **Tracey Kick** to avoid the obvious snipes. Tracey is passionate about taking NSW to division 1 and helping her local team, Balmain Dockers, win a flag.



## QUEENSLAND SUNFIRE

Colours: Maroon & white

Coach: Richie Lyons



1	BUTLAND, Jo (C)	24/11/78	North Cairns
2	PASFIELD, Jenille	18/12/91	Logan
3	THOMPSON, Heidi	24/40/81	Yeronga
4	JONES, Yolanda	11/12/87	Zillmere
5	NADEN, Asta	12/06/83	South Cairns
6	BRENNAN, Katie	02/10/92	Yeronga
7	DOWLING, Lauretta	18/10/80	Central's
8	ZIELKE, Emma	19/04/88	Morningside
9	WEBB, Sharni	14/07/91	Zillmere
10	STAMPA, Laura	08/10/88	Logan
11	GOODMAN, Selina	21/08/90	North Cairns
12	STEPHEN, Mikayla	02/07/91	Logan
13	KOENEN, Breanna	31/12/94	Townsville
14	DAVIS, Cleo	25/11/92	Palm Beach-Cur'bin
15	LUTKINS, Kate	31/05/88	Yeronga
16	BEST, Emma	28/03/80	Morningside
17	DUGGAN, Monika	20/05/83	Manunda
18	MISSON, Kate	12/08/87	Morningside
19	VAN DYK, Jenna	02/03/86	Morningside
20	ERNST, Tiarna	24/01/88	Manunda Hawks
21	SLEETH, Indie	12/07/92	Palm Beach-Cur'bin
22	WHITE, Kareena	24/04/81	Manunda Hawks
23	SINGLETON, Ashleigh	05/09/87	South Cairns
24	MARTIN, Ellie	24/11/81	South Cairns
25	SAYLE, Sherie	30/08/87	Morningside
42	PREGELJ, Jade	22/08/91	Logan

### Sunfire 6-pack

**Newcomer: Jenna Van Dyk** is only in her second year of AFL, but is a quality athlete who has fantastic skills. Jenna can play in any position on the field

**Run baby run:** From the Cairns Centrals club, **Loretta Dowling** is a lightning quick player who has terrific endurance and is able to push forward and kick goals.

**Rising Star: Yolanda Jones** last year's AFL Queensland Rising Star winner, Yo is a quick midfielder capable of breaking the lines with her pace and skills. Her tackling and chasing pressure around the ground will be a highlight.

**On the way out?: Jo Butland** has been an outstanding player both for the Sunfire and internationally. Can her body sustain the physicality or keep up with the pace?

**Superstar:** One of the few players to have started AFL in Auskick, **Katie Brennan** already has a string of awards to her name but she's still only 20 years of age.

**Sink or swim: Selina Goodman** had a difficult time getting into the Sunfire because of the traumas and consequences of the Queensland floods, but is now pumped to represent her state for the first time.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY THUNDER

Colours: Ochre, black & white

Coach: Anita Rhook



1	JAMES, Stephany	17/07/77	Waratahs
2	CASTON, Summer	21/06/79	Waratahs
3	DAVEY, Hayley	16/03/82	Palmerston
4	KING, Karlee	08/06/93	Darwin
5	MEDBURY, Natasha	11/01/80	Palmerston
6	KING, Gabby	08/06/93	Darwin
7	WHITE, KerriAnne	02/07/78	Palmerston
8	IRVINE, Kristy (C)	30/07/82	St Marys
9	TAYLOR, Beckie	06/09/71	St Marys
10	TANKEY, Felicity	24/02/79	Palmerston
11	AH WANG, Delsey	27/02/82	Darwin
12	ROBINSON, Tabitha	02/11/82	Waratahs
13	COLLINSON, Emma	26/10/88	Darwin
15	SIMONS, Nicole	15/08/84	Palmerston
17	HAMILTON, Kira	25/09/92	Nightcliff
18	BUSCH, Rhiannon	31/05/89	Palmerston
19	JEFFREY, Lateesha	26/08/91	Palmerston
21	WILLIAMSON, Sally	29/03/85	Waratahs
20	ATTRILL, Jennie	25/01/82	St Marys
22	NICKELSON, Kate	22/12/89	Palmerston
23	LAMPTON, Susan	10/08/76	Darwin
24	BROCK, Breeanna	29/12/79	Waratahs
29	MOTLOP, Lauren	14/09/86	Palmerston
31	JARVIS, Karen	10/04/73	Waratahs
32	LINES, Trudi		
36	RHOOK, Anita		

### Thunder 6-pack

**Stepping up: Lateesha Jeffrey** has declared AFL is the only sport for her. Making the NT Thunder team the young 19 year old is showing that it's her time to shine.

**Superstar: Nicole Simons** enjoyed a stellar season with Palmerston. Dominant from any position Nicole's fierce competitive nature makes her a formidable opponent.

**Last Hoorah: Summer Caston** has competed at 6 National Championships. Having represented ACT & the NT Summer's focus all year was to play in this last Nationals.

**Next Big Thing: Stephanie James** won the 2010/11 Best & Fairest NTWFL award. Incredible fitness level & awe-some skills this is one player who can break a game open.

**In the Hot Seat:** Captain of the NT Thunder **Kristy Irvine** is an All Australian showing great leadership on the training track and is in super form.

**AFL Sisters: Hayley Davey & Lauren Motlop** come from great football families. With brothers Aaron (Melbourne) & Alwyn (Essendon) and Daniel Motlop (Port Adelaide) currently playing in the AFL, these girls know a thing or two about football.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Colours: Red, blue & gold**

**Coach: Steve Baxter**



1	MAIDMENT, Naomi	28/05/83	Morphettville Park
2	HARTLEY, Cassandra	25/08/74	Eagles
3	RUDD, Kristy	17/08/86	Port Adelaide
4	BAXTER, Tess	08/09/86	Morphettville Park
5	McKENZIE, Jacinta	13/01/78	Greenacres
6	BARRETT, Tahlia	06/01/87	Morphettville Park
8	MORITZ, Angela	03/05/86	Morphettville Park
9	VARNHAGEN, Deni	26/10/92	Morphettville Park
10	KENNEDY, Lisa	18/08/91	Port Adelaide
11	PERRY, Brittany	09/03/94	Central District
12	GODING, Danielle	13/05/88	Greenacres
13	OATES, Eliza	07/06/85	Eagles
16	SWANSON, Caitlin	14/11/94	Port Adelaide
17	DEGABRIELE, Kirsty	13/03/84	Port Adelaide
18	WILSON, Melissa	08/12/83	Greenacres
19	FRY, Leandra	05/02/77	Eagles
20	COPELAND, Brooke	11/02/83	Greenacres
21	CRESP, Danielle	21/08/87	Eagles
22	CRAMEY, Courtney (C)	28/11/85	Morphettville Park
23	MASERIO, Sarah	18/02/82	Eagles
24	REID, Michele	10/08/81	Greenacres
25	LEE, Tiffany	06/08/68	Greenacres
26	SCOTT, Tammy	16/08/87	Morphettville Park
27	LEICESTER, Teena	10/03/93	Greenacres
28	CARTER, Kym	13/06/86	Greenacres
29	TYNAN, Leah	19/01/91	Greenacres

### SA 6-pack

**Last Hoorah:** **Cass Hartley** is undoubtedly the most seasoned campaigner in the SA Camp. She is also one of the fittest and enthusiastic players to take the field.

**In her twilight:** **Courtney Cramey** has found a new lease on life and worked extremely hard over summer.

**Next Big Thing:** **Deni Varnhagen** was a surprise selection to some in 2009 when she was still eligible for U18's and a relatively new player to the game.

**Rising Star:** One of SA U18 Youth Girls team, **Caitlin Williams** run off the half back flank during the Melbourne Carnival last year was extremely valuable. Cat is a young lady who has an absolute passion for the game.

**Another rookie:** **Caitlyn Swanson's** ability to hit a target even when in a pressure situation will stand her in good stead for this level of football. Her composed onfield nature belies her age and experience in the game.

**Ready to step up:** 2009 Championships player **Lisa Kennedy** has since played two more years of senior football and her fitness & skills have improved remarkably.

## TASMANIA

**Colours: Green & purple**

**Coach: Trent Bartlett**



1	SCOTNEY, Keren	28/07/92	North Hobart
2	WHELAN, Jessica	16/03/94	Spreyton
3	SILVA, Amanda	17/09/88	Clarence
4	SMITH, Maddison	14/09/95	Clarence
5	DICKSON, Angela	03/03/86	Launceston
6	HUTCHINSON, Kieren	30/04/91	North Hobart
7	BISSETT, Sommer	02/08/81	Spreyton
8	BROOKE, Cara	07/11/82	Hobart
9	ELLIS, Nikki	28/09/91	Yeoman
10	DICKSON, Bree	06/04/85	Spreyton
11	GRAHAM, Chantelle	16/07/92	Spreyton
12	ALLCHIN, Robyn	14/04/86	Clarence
13	REID, Kristy	17/05/89	Spreyton
14	ALLEN, Debra	12/07/84	Yeoman
15	McCREADIE, Kate	05/12/83	Clarence
16	OLIVER, Emma	24/03/94	Launceston
17	MOORE, Racheal	24/06/89	Yeoman
18	LYNCH, Nietta	14/07/84	North Hobart
19	WUETSCHNER, Jessica	28/04/92	Clarence
20	CHUGG, Krystal	23/05/84	Launceston
21	BAKER, Kristy	09/09/82	Clarence
22	EATON, Sandy	06/07/83	North Hobart
23	HOLLAND, Sarah	30/09/84	Spreyton
24	RITCHIE, Alissa	15/09/86	Spreyton
25	BAKES, Breelea	24/07/93	Spreyton
26	COLE, Katie	09/06/75	Clarence
29	JOHNSTON, Letita	24/07/85	Launceston
30	SHAW, Stephanie	16/05/89	Spreyton
32	CZYLOK, Allyssa	25/07/84	Yeoman

### Tassie 1-pack

**Tassie's coaching pedigree:** Former Brisbane Lions and Western Bulldogs big man, **Trent Bartlett**, is Tasmania's Head Coach. "We have selected an athletic and fast group of players who hopefully will adapt quickly to the challenges of playing a higher standard of football."

## VICTORIA



Colours: Navy blue &amp; white

Coach: Peta Searl

1	CHIOCCI, Stephanie	06/12/88	Diamond Creek
2	HAINES, Dianna	26/03/85	Diamond Creek
3	O'CONNOR, Aasta	21/06/87	Darebin
4	GUEST, Ashleigh	10/04/90	VU St Albans
5	LOYNES, Katie	23/03/86	Berwick
6	PEARCE, Daisy	27/05/88	Darebin
7	SCHWAGER, Anna	18/08/82	Darebin
8	WHITE, Bree	18/12/81	VU St Albans
9	CATTERALL, Amy	30/07/88	VU St Albans
10	McFERRAN, Shannon (C)	13/06/79	VU St Albans
11	HABIB, Alisha	24/08/81	Darebin
12	CULA-REID, Penny	02/02/88	St Kilda
13	ARNELL, Lauren	15/03/97	Darebin
14	DOUGLAS, Melissa	04/12/81	Diamond Creek
15	DOWNIE, Meg	03/01/89	East Burwood
16	WOTTON, Louise	08/11/83	East Burwood
18	HICKEY, Melissa	18/12/84	VU St Albans
19	TEASDALE, Danni	04/01/84	VU St Albans
20	DONELLAN, Kara	27/02/92	VU St Albans
21	SMITH, Samantha	26/07/88	Darebin
22	WOOD, Natalie	10/10/78	Darebin
23	HUTCHINS, Meg	03/01/89	East Burwood
24	HOGAN, Shevaun	24/07/80	Darebin
25	PAXMAN, Karen	25/11/88	VU St Albans
26	CROSS, Stacey	20/11/90	Diamond Creek
27	McWILLIAMS, Phoebe	31/08/85	St Kilda
29	KUYS, Melissa	12/09/87	Scoresby

## VIC 6-pack

**An inspiration:** Shannon McFerran's remarkable comeback season is astonishing. Back better than ever after a year out recovering from a brain tumour.

**Superstar:** Daisy Pearce has taken all before her. 5 time premiership player, All Australian, VWFL Best & Fairest. Her achievements are astonishing as is her ability to go onto the left foot as if it's her natural foot.

**Rising Star:** Phoebe McWilliams has taken her game to new heights. A player who can take the game by the scruff of the neck. An unbridled passion for the game.

**A mature aged rookie with the talent to match the pedigree:** Melissa Douglas is the sister of Adelaide Crow star Richard. Set to have an impact on the game on debut.

**Hard As Nails:** One of the hardest players going around Karen Paxman is sure to provide great run off half back and an excellent user of the ball.

**Next Big Thing:** Meg Downie is new to state football in 2011. She is a very courageous player who has good skills and decision making under pressure.

## TEAM WA



Colours: Gold &amp; black

Coach: Nicole Graves

1	VENN, Aimee	31/08/89	Swans District
3	ATKINS, Ashlee	02/04/93	Swans District
5	NOGA, Sarah	07/01/94	Coastal Titans
6	HAYNES, Tiah	25/05/93	East Fremantle
7	WHYTE, Brooke	25/02/90	Coastal Titans
8	MATCHAM, Shelley	22/03/75	East Fremantle
9	RENSHAW, Ashlea	01/10/89	Coastal Titans
10	HOOKER, Dana	23/01/91	Coastal Titans
11	KASLAR, Leah	11/09/85	East Fremantle
12	OSBORNE, Lauren	14/01/93	Swans District
13	FLORANCE, Helen	13/08/80	East Fremantle
15	KNITTER, Louise	02/02/78	Swans District
16	AUSTIN, Lauren	27/07/85	Swans District
17	HARWOOD, Nikki	17/10/76	East Fremantle
19	RYDER, Rikki	05/12/89	Swans District
21	PEARMAN, Martine (C)	29/01/76	Coastal Titans
22	O'DONNELL, Caitlyn	10/07/92	East Fremantle
23	BENTLEY, Kirby	09/05/86	East Fremantle
24	BOUCHER, Fiona	24/06/84	Swans District
26	RANDALL, Chelsea	14/06/91	Swans District
27	FORTH, Renee	28/01/87	Coastal Titans
28	LAMBKIN, Ellain	08/03/89	Coastal Titans
32	WALDING, Stephanie	23/12/81	East Fremantle
33	AVERY, Tara	13/11/88	East Fremantle
34	WHITE, Jodie	22/09/80	Coastal Titans
36	BARNETT, Kelly	12/11/87	Swans District
42	CAULFIELD, Melissa	29/05/89	East Fremantle
45	LUGG, Rheanne	22/02/90	Swans District

## WA 6-pack

**Stepping up:** Sarah Noga was in her first Nationals of any age group in 2009. Now she is more experienced, skilled and stronger to lead Team WA's forward line.

**Superstar:** All Australian, twice Fairest and Best for the WAWFL and 3 time state player, it's hard to believe that Chelsea Randall is only 20 years old. If she stays injury free spectators will gasp at her skills.

**Last Hoorah:** After 6 Nationals campaigns starting as a rep for NSW before shifting back to WA, Nikki Harwood's body is starting to feel the pinch.

**Next Big Thing:** Mel Caulfield won the 2010 WA Women's Football League Fairest and Best in only her second year of footy. She will impress with her scintillating speed.

**In the Hot Seat:** The first and only female Level 3 coach in Australia Nicole Graves will not be happy until she has guided Team WA to victory over Victoria.

**Following the pathway:** Participated with the boys as a junior but Lauren Osborne hasn't looked back since being able to play in the women's league.

# In a League of their own: Vision 2020

Kirsty Degabriele. Never heard of her? Kirsty could be the female version of the Adelaide Crows legend Andrew McLeod. She has explosive pace like McLeod and handles the ball cleanly as well as having an uncanny shot for goal.

Where he is a household name particularly amongst the Crows faithful, no-one yet knows who Kirsty is because she's not on TV nor in the public eye. Only the SA female football fraternity really knows who Kirsty is and that is a great pity because she is just as passionate about playing AFL as McLeod and has the female skill equivalent to be an out and out champion of the game.

That may soon change if the AFL continues it's charge towards a National televised competition for women by 2020. Until that day the game's most outstanding female role models will have to work much harder to gain media attention and try innovative things to generate promotional opportunities.

Jan Cooper, the AFL Manager for Female Football Development, said the original date touted to launch a national women's league was 2020 given the amount of work to get it up and running. "An important component of this is to ensure the local women's leagues are consolidated and sustainable. If they cannot cope without their best 35 players running around every week because they are off representing the state then it will do more harm than good."

"Initially we might run a trial competition in 2013-14 that entails 4 or 5 teams competing in a home and away season. We might have say 2 teams from Victoria, and one each from Queensland, WA and South Australia. It really depends on the configuration of the Nationals division 1 pool at the conclusion of these Championships."

"Once we've reviewed the trial and conducted a feasibility study then we will be in a better position to decide what model we will adopt - whether we align with AFL clubs or adopt identities of our own, for example."

So despite there still being a lot to be done this Championships could well be the last of this format. "The ultimate dream is to have a skillful and exciting product to entertain television and live audiences," Cooper added. "To do that the football industry needs to complete the female player pathway in every state, in both metropolitan and regional areas, the talent provisions need to be similar for both genders and



we need to grow the female numbers across coaching and umpiring in particular to support the burgeoning player numbers."

"It also means that there still has to be a viable competition structure for those states not involved in the initial home and away trial. For example Tasmania's addition into this carnival makes it the first true 'Nationals'. They need to have an opportunity to grow their talented footballers and still compete at a high level until they too are ready to join the televised competition."

Exciting times indeed ahead for female footballers especially the 'next generation' coming through Youth Girls. Those girls who once represented their state or country in sports like netball or basketball could soon be running around in football boots instead.