



THREE CHEERS: Kim Rhodes with under-17 Barwon heads players Tayla Rhodes, Jemma Rhodes and Teegan Wilkie.

Meet the first lady of Aussie rules

TOM BENNETT

WHEN it comes to kicking a footy, taking a specky or laying a tackle, Kim Rhodes knows every trick in the book.

And so she should. This self-confessed footy tragic from Barwon Heads was recently named top

Victorian Female Coach of 2011.

In taking out the award Rhodes beat every female Australian rules coach in the state.

It capped off a vintage season in which Rhodes' Barwon Heads Seagulls snatched a thrilling two-point win in the under-17 Geelong girl's association

grand final on the back of a 14-2 win-loss record.

The award was presented by the Victorian Coaches Association at a colourful ceremony at the MCG recently.

Rhodes, who has been in the coaching caper for only two years, says the honour came out of the blue.

"I was delighted to be nominated but when they

announced my name (as winner) it was a fantastic surprise," she said.

She was presented with a watch and a certificate she describes as "very special".

For the next 12 months - at least - Rhodes will be undisputed queen of Barwon Heads.

Just ask the girls she coaches.

Kim's tips

Kim Rhodes says there are six key points she impresses on her players on gameday.

- Always contest.
- Keep your eye on the ball.
- Make sure your kick counts.
- Teamwork ... teamwork ... teamwork.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Enjoy yourself.