



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	3
ASSOCIATION PROFILE.....	4
2015 STATISTICAL INFORMATION.....	6
SPONSORS.....	7
REPORTS	
- President.....	8
- Committee of management.....	10
- Treasurer (incl. GUA Financial Statements).....	13
- Umpiring operations.....	17
- Social committee president.....	21
- Social committee treasurer.....	21
- AFL Gippsland.....	22
- Social engagement report.....	23
2015 MAJOR AWARD WINNERS.....	24
2015 GRAND FINAL UMPIRES.....	25
2015 ASSOCIATION MEMBERS.....	26

INTRODUCTION

This annual report is produced in respect of the operation of the Gippsland Umpires Association over the 2014/2015 financial year and, particularly, the 2015 football season.

Its purpose is to inform members and other interested parties and comply with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act.

The Association is based at Bellbird Park Recreation Reserve Drouin, where it maintains clubrooms between April and September. In September 2015 it had a membership of 113.

For the period reported GUA provided umpires for various grades of Australian Rules football matches conducted by the Ellinbank and District Football League, Gippsland League, Warragul and District Junior Football League and Gippsland Youth Girls' Football League.

In addition, some members officiated in TAC Cup matches, other matches arranged by AFL Victoria through the V-Line Umpiring Academies, and also in local interschool competitions in an unofficial capacity.



ASSOCIATION PROFILE

GUA VISION: To be regarded as a premier community sporting organisation in Gippsland

MISSION STATEMENT: To best serve our members and the football community by being a thriving organization into the future; operationally, culturally and financially.

VALUES: Gippsland Umpires Association is founded on core values that include:

- Professionalism
- Good governance
- Ethical conduct
- Inclusiveness
- Recognition and acceptance of diversity
- Continuing improvement
- Camaraderie and enjoyment

2014/15 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

President	Chris Behrendorff
Vice President	David Nash
Secretary	Davyd Reid
Treasurer	Geoff Legge
Ordinary Member #1	Michael Talbot
Ordinary Member #2	Peter Heywood

COACHING AND SELECTION STAFF

Head of Umpiring Operations/Field Umpire Coach	Paul Vaughan
Junior Development Coach	Allan Magor
Boundary Umpire Coach	Davyd Reid
Goal Umpire Coach/Selector	Brett Marriott
Appointments Secretary	Michael Talbot
Finals Selection Panel:	Paul Vaughan, Shane Morgan, Rod Gillett, Allan Magor, Davyd Reid, Rob Young, Brett Marriott



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Peter Heywood
Sandra Morgan
Gillian Legge

Jeanette Haywood
Bruce Pratt
Trevor Griffin

LIFE MEMBERS

R. Barwick*^
K. Potter*
R. Schreiber*
M. Chmielewski
S. Morgan
K. Smith
I. Ballantyne
R. Nooy
(Mrs) K. Milner
W. Ross

C. Taylor*
E. Coad*
A. Pritchett*
J. Alger
T. Smith
C. Mills
G. Krygger
G. Burke
N. Dorling
J. Quinn

W. Knersch*^
J. Moyle*
V. Henderson*^
H. Mitchell
M. Jungwirth
L. Milner
G. Cameron
G. Dore
N. Roy

T. Bibby*^
(Mrs) L. Moyle*
F. Ahern*
T. Morrison
A. Barnes^
M. Glover
P. Osborn
J. Connop^
J. Stuckey

K. Morland*^
L. Gnaden*^
E. Mitchell*^
D. LaFrantz
W. Barnes
R. Hogan
T. Hobson
R. Willis
D. Nash

* Awarded by the West Gippsland Umpires Association

^ Deceased



SPONSORS

GUA gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our 2015 sponsors:



Viatek (Major Sponsor)

Supporting community sport

Neerim, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang
Community Bank® branches



Neerim, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Community Branches of the Bendigo Bank



Crowe Horwath



Gary Blackwood MLA
Member for NARRACAN

e: gary.blackwood@parliament.vic.gov.au

w: www.garyblackwood.com.au

Gary Blackwood MP



Buffalo Sports

Speedy Locksmiths

Garfield Engineering

Garfield Country Style Meats



2015 STATISTICAL INFORMATION

*Note: For comparison purposes 2014 figures are included in brackets where applicable.

(a) Membership by Category

General (Umpiring) Members	Coaching/Selection	Total
110 (116)	2 (2)	112 (118)

(b) Numbers of Umpires by Discipline

Field	Boundary	Goal	Coaching/ Selection	Total
54 (52)	33 (44)	23 (18)	2 (2)	112 (116)

(c) 2014 Members Returning in 2015 by Discipline/Category

Field	Boundary	Goal	Coaching	Total
45	21	13	1	80

(d) 2015 Recruits by Discipline/Category

*Note: 'Other' includes previous umpires who have changed disciplines

Type	Field	Boundary	Goal	Coaching	Total
"Green Shirt"	3	11	4	0	18
Other	8	1	2	1	12

(e) Number of Umpires by Age Group and Discipline

	< 16	16 – 20	21 – 30	31 – 40	41 - 50	51 - 60	61- 70	> 71
Field	2 (8)	16 (9)	4 (4)	8 (4)	9 (13)	12 (13)	2 (1)	0 (0)
Boundary	18 (25)	9 (12)	1 (1)	1 (3)	2 (2)	2 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Goal	2 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	0 (3)	5 (4)	6 (2)	1 (3)	3 (3)

(f) Membership by Residential Location

Location	Number of Members
Warragul-Drouin area	53
Longwarry – Nar Nar Goon	14
East of Warragul	10
West of Pakenham	11
Pakenham	10
South of Warragul/Drouin	14
North of Warragul/Drouin	3
Australian Capital Territory	1



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After nearly 900 games, comprising more than 2300 umpire appointments, across seven grades and three leagues, our season comes to an end.

Season 2015 would not have been as successful without the support from the following:



- Our sponsors.
 - Viatek, who after giving us a chance to pitch the GUA brand see value in their support.
 - Community Bendigo Bank branches Neerim, Bunyip, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang, who not only think the GUA brand is worthwhile, but actually enjoy their involvement, especially with the Green Shirt (First Year Umpires) Program.
 - Crowe Horwath, Buffalo Sports and Gary Blackwood MP for their continued support
- Our leagues.
 - Ellinbank and District, whose support and backing of the umpires from the board through many different situations has been at times of an unprecedented standard of excellence.
 - Gippsland League, for the ability to provide five different umpiring groups with the opportunity to umpire premier league football and the organisation this takes.
 - Warragul and District Juniors, for providing the environment necessary for umpires to develop and in particular the support of the Green Shirt Program.
- GUA Committee of Management team and the wives/ partners who support them
- GUA Social Committee, especially Gillian, Sandra and Janette and those who offer to help in the kitchen including Gloria, Elka, Karen and Leanne
- Coaching Department guided by Umpiring Department Manager, Paul Osborn
- Game day observers
- Jessica Marshall (Skyline Sports Massage)
- Chaplain Mark Smith
- Regional Administration Centre
- AFL Gippsland
- Our members, especially those who saw the need to offer help and assistance in many ways during the year

At the beginning of the season, way back last November, the committee sat in a strategic planning review and decided on a few things, which set the course for the year.

The most important of these items was pay. Getting this correct was vital, due to the number of umpires who had expressed disappointment due to a various number of reasons.

Making sure games were filled with minimal fuss saw the introduction of Schedules – a decision made through the RAC and involving a number of meetings with other league umpire organisers, to discuss the process, pros and cons of the whole program.

The introduction by the GUA into the EDFL (with GL introducing a similar report) of the duplicate Match Condition Report was vital in this process. It collected information for both GUA and the league which ensured it was both used and collected.

With the assistance of the EDFL and GL secretaries, all games had a record of attending umpires. This could be cross-checked (initially by both David Nash (GUA) and RAC) with allocations corrected if necessary, to minimise pay issues during the year.

It is believed that this part of our strategic plan was achieved.



As a committee, we continued discussions involving structural changes necessary to continue the growth of the GUA in 2015 and into 2016.

We represented the GUA brand with pride on and off the field. Community exposure at events including the Careers Day at Lardner Park and support for causes including One Punch Kills and Step Back Think Program as well as the added camaraderie at the finals, shows those around us that we are a group worth being involved with.

Our members embraced all of our functions and great numbers at the Introduction of First Year Umpires, Life Members Dinner (acknowledging the passing of the ever popular Life Member Vic Henderson) and Presentation Night showed the COM just how much the work for the year was appreciated.

Members worked extremely hard to reach their individual seasons goals. Congratulations to those representing the GUA in whatever role you played during the home-and-away season, finals and grand finals across the leagues.

The 2015 season didn't go by without its challenges. Each challenge added a new process to the season, providing the experience needed to assess, make changes and adapt thus moving forward.

We made mistakes, again we will learn, re-assess, re-evaluate and adjust.

CHRIS BEHRENDORFF, COM PRESIDENT

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT REPORT

Shortly after the Annual General Meeting in 2014, the Committee of Management set course for improvements to be made in a number of areas.

The highest priority of these was the effective and accurate distribution of match payments, following some dissatisfaction with some outcomes after the completion of the 2014 season.

The introduction of carbon copy Match Condition Reports in both the Ellinbank District and Gippsland leagues allowed a far more effective method of cross-checking each match and which umpires actually officiated each match.

Rather than leaving the MCR to one member of the officiating group, as had been the case in the past, the MCRs gave each member ownership and responsibility for ensuring they had been recorded as present in order to be paid.

The introduction of Schedules also helped immensely in this process, while also making life somewhat easier for selection coordinator Mick Talbot.



While there were some initial teething problems and members needed to be educated around this software early doors, by the end of the season the system seemed to be running relatively smoothly.

Vice president David Nash must be thanked for his efforts in working towards getting the software up and running, along with assisting members with their queries.

Some improvement from members around regularly ensuring their availability is up to date and the timely acceptance of their appointments would further enhance the appointment process, saving coaches valuable time and effort.

Season 2015 saw the GUA sign on to the Regional Administration Centre at AFL Gippsland, and they too have helped GUA to advance in a number of areas.

Along with providing general administrative support, the RAC enhanced the GUA's Sporting Pulse website.

All traffic is now directed to the Sporting Pulse website which has now taken shape nicely, avoiding confusion previously caused by the three different existing domains.

The RAC was also a valuable resource in assisting with event management.

The First Year Umpires Dinner was a success, along with the Life Members Dinner and Presentation night which saw record attendances, and the RAC must be thanked for their assistance in organising these events.



Another key item to address was to improve the recording of financials, which will greatly assist in formulating budgets going forward. With the tireless work of David Nash, treasurer Geoff Legge and the RAC this has been achieved through the introduction of Reckon. Special thanks must go to Travis Switzer, Damen Francis and Tia McNair for their assistance and hard work.

The GUA COM has had productive meetings with the RAC in regards to season 2016 and the GUA are looking forward to even greater support next year. Indeed, region general manager Travis Switzer has stated he has a vision to provide a resource specific to umpiring, as is the case in a small number of Regional Administration Centres in operation around the state.

With Sale and South Gippsland umpiring associations appearing close to signing on to the RAC, hopefully this is another step closer to reality as it would be a tremendous asset for umpiring in the wider Gippsland area.

Part of the strategic plan devised prior to the 2014 season was to enlarge the range of social and fund-raising functions to foster inclusiveness, build relationships and encourage broader participation. Under the guidance of Social Club president Peter Heywood and his committee, there is no doubt that this has been achieved.

The year started with a trip to Funfields, while other functions during the year included dinner at Warragul Thai and bring and share casserole night, all of which were very well attended. Thursday night teas have also been well supported.

The Social Club is open to suggestions for social events so if you have an idea, see Peter and we will see if we can make it happen.

As a COM member Peter is also keen to look at the current standard of player and spectator behaviour and how we can work towards improving it. Please feel free to share your thoughts and ideas.

On the coaching and umpire operations side of things, the GUA made a big step towards improving its accreditation compliance. Some members may feel others were observed more frequently than themselves but with more than 60 umpires to put through accreditation or re-accreditation, coaches

were kept quite busy with this objective. Shane Morgan, Rod Gillett and Rob Young put their hand up to assist with observations and this greatly assisted this process.

GUA members must also be thanked for their cooperation as in just 12 months the GUA has gone from having a very low accreditation rate to almost becoming the first Association in the state to achieve 100 per cent compliance.

Paul Osborn stepped into the newly created role of Umpire Department Manager to provide systems, processes and resources appropriate for optimal effectiveness within the coaching department. Despite an honorarium put up for this position, Paul chose to undertake this role on a voluntary basis. It was this selfless gesture and hard work that saw Ossie awarded the Tom Bibby Memorial for best club person, which was thoroughly deserved. Paul has set some standards as to how the administrative aspects of the coaching department should operate, and I urge all coaches to continue this good work in 2016 and beyond.



A strategic plan item discussed but not implemented was establishing a satellite-training base for members living in the western part of our area. Some members have expressed there is some demand for this to occur, but at present a facility with adequate lighting to ensure member safety is not known to be available. The COM will continue to explore the options.

Moving into 2016 the GUA COM will continue to work through components of the strategic plan in efforts to continually improve and grow, ensuring an eye is always kept towards the future. Paul Osborn has agreed to assist as the GUA looks to institute governance measures that help ensure a sustainable future. Paul has already started this process, making some recommendations in regards to changes to model rules, which have been put up as special resolutions at the AGM.

Another key factor in the strategic plan relating to a sustainable future is efforts to expand the membership base.

The GUA, like many other umpiring groups nationally, has experienced a slight decline in numbers over the past couple of years and we must continue to explore options in order to try and combat this trend.

In closing David Nash and Michael Talbot have expressed they will not be seeking re-election to the COM for 2016.

The GUA sincerely thank David for his hard work with Schedules and financial expertise, and Michael for his tireless work with sponsorship and property maintenance.

Michael developed a strong rapport with our sponsors, which has helped GUA to maintain a strong financial position, and he leaves big shoes to fill.

DAVYD REID, COM SECRETARY

TREASURER REPORT

The GUA enjoyed a successful financial year in all its financial operations for the financial year ended 31 August 2015 consolidating after 2014. The General Operating account stood at \$30,118.57 the Social Club account at \$11,198.13 and the Cash Management account at \$36,752.97. GUA's total cash position as at 31 August 2015 was \$78,069.67.

This is a healthy financial position to be in and the Committee of Management extends its gratitude to the GUA members for supporting the Association through the Umpiring Department and participation at the various social activities during the year. And the Committee of Management recognises the support received from the Social Club during the year towards the wellbeing of our members. The Committee of Management also extends its gratitude and appreciation to the GUA sponsors for their financial support during the year.

During 2015, the GUA received the administrative support of the Regional Administration Centre (RAC). The introduction of the Scheduling System vastly improved the appointment of umpires and the subsequent payment of match fees. With the introduction of the RAC came the introduction of the Reckon accounting system and the Committee of Management acknowledges the effort of David Nash for his assistance to establish this system. With the Reckon system our accounts are now operated in accordance with a fully functional Chart of Accounts and on an accruals basis.

The accounts presented herein are in accordance with the Chart of Accounts. The presented accounts are an amalgamation of all financial aspects of the GUA, being umpiring and social and presents an overall financial position. With the newly introduced Chart of Accounts, adoption of the accruals accounting basis and this year's amalgamation of accounts a comparison with 2014 figures is not feasible.

Match Fees paid to our umpires are net of deductions for membership (\$3,165), First Year Umpires' Dinner (\$1,560), 2014 (Presentation Night (\$2,280), and Uniforms (\$2,418).

To maintain a low administration levy the GUA is very rigorous to ensure its expenses are controlled and expense items, with few exceptions, are not significantly different from those in 2014.

To facilitate the payment of match fees, transfers of funds are made from the interest-bearing Cash Management Account and as funds are received and cleared surplus funds are transferred back to the Cash Management Account. Total interest in 2015 was \$299.87. The 2015 net transfer to the Cash Management Account from the General Operating Account was \$22,234.68 (includes \$8,234.68 from Social Club account) whereas in 2014 the net transfers to the Cash Management Account were \$10,000.

GEOFFREY LEGGE JP CPA, TREASURER

Statement of Financial Performance for the 12 month period ended 31 August 2015

Income	
<u>Umpiring</u>	
Match Fees	
EDFL	216,412.43
Prac Matches	4,041.00
TAC Cup	2,097.45
Gippsland League	41,545.00
WDJFL	16,779.00
	280,874.88
Membership	2,140.90
Functions	842.64
Interest	299.87
Sponsorship	13,825.00
Uniforms	1,195.65
Grants	1,405.00
Social Club *	8,234.68
	308,818.62

<u>Social Club</u>	
Bar	5,649.55
Meals	6,190.00
Raffles	2,075.90
Social Functions	1,534.45
Other	2,770.75
	18,220.65
	327,039.27



Expenses	
Umpiring	
2014 Residual	
Match Fees & Honorariums	18,979.50
Medical	1,101.16
Registrations	2,572.73
Other	<u>719.74</u>
2014 Residual Expenses	23,373.13
Function Expenses	
1st Year Umpires	1,865.45
Life Members *	
Presentation Night	618.13
Catani Football Club	<u>3,500.00</u>
	5,983.58
Building Repairs & Maintenance	400.49
Bank Fees	191.69
Dues & Subscriptions	53.00
Injury Expenses	-107.83
Insurance	
Work Cover	1,480.84
Public Liability	<u>1,650.71</u>
	3,131.55
Meeting Expenses	842.31
Postage & Delivery	104.55
Printing & Publications	371.45
Professional Fees	645.41
Recruitment & Retention	629.29
Umpire Development	682.91
President's Contingency	159.09
Regional Admin Centre	7,500.00
Sponsorship Exp	129.90
Coaching courses	145.45
Honorariums	11,740.00
Umpire Payments	
EDFL & Gippsland	179,545.12
WDJFL	<u>16,840.50</u>
	196,385.62
Uniform & Equipment	7,741.82
Phone	865.22
Other	<u>347.64</u>
	261,316.27

Social Club	
Bar	
Meal	2,987.98
Other	4,174.45
Tfr to GUA	1,537.28
Functions	8,234.68
Welfare	3,379.77
	<u>2,115.14</u>
	22,429.30
Total Outgoings	<u>283,745.57</u>
Net Income	<u>43,293.70</u>



Umpiring	
Operations	308,818.62
Less Social Club tfr	<u>8,234.68</u>
	300,583.94
Less Outgoings	261,316.27
	<u>39,267.67</u>
Social Club	
	18,220.65
Less Outgoings	22,429.30
Transfer to Umpiring	<u>8,234.68</u>
	14,194.62
	<u>4,026.03</u>
Net Surplus	<u>43,293.70</u>

UMPIRING OPERATIONS REPORTS

HEAD OF UMPIRING OPERATIONS/FIELD UMPIRE COACH REPORT

Season 2015 has been a year based on the foundations of 2014 as the GUA forges ahead to be the premier umpiring group in the Gippsland region

This year was once again full of learning, development, revised coaching techniques and brand recognition being a weekly focus of the group.

Similar to last year, I have wanted to challenge not only how each GUA member represents the association but also the stakeholders, sponsors and the image of the group within the football community.

The coaching group has performed well in their roles with Davyd Reid as boundary coach and Brett Marriott as goal umpire coach.

This year we were fortunate to have the introduction of Allan Magor as development coach.

Special mention to Rod Gillett, Shane Morgan, Mark Smith and Jared Dyson who greatly assisted the group during the season and in particular in the process of final's selection.

Thank you to my family who continued to provide support throughout the year and as we all know as umpires, without this support it is near impossible to be committed to this chosen sporting field.

Listed are key coach reviews for the year, to provide additional point expansion.

As a summary, I have listed points that have had an influence of the GUA for 2015:

- Continued recruitment of umpires to the GUA. This will always be a focus of each umpiring group throughout Australia. We are positioned well to continue the growth of the GUA
- Thursday night coaching sessions being a major social and skill development night were strongly supported by the GUA. Sessions often included guest speakers, GUA members and vision from AFL, VFL, WDJFL and EDFL matches to facilitate different learning styles
- Monday training at Drouin with Allan Magor. A good introduction to many of the junior members of the GUA
- Coach development continued through AFL VIC program
- Utilisation of "Umpire Tracker" to provide immediate and historical performance of umpires on match day
- Utilisation of "Team App", a great communication tool that has a closed network so only approved GUA members have access, movement away from Facebook
- Strong internal management of individual performances or grievances. Management completed without impact on general group and strongly supported by Committee of Management
- Working closely with the WDJFL, EDFL and Gippsland League officials
- Strong support by senior members of the GUA in training and mentoring the green shirt umpires, a credit to the GUA members
- Ongoing GUA involvement in the V-Line Umpiring academy
- Continual selection of GUA members for TAC Cup through communication to AFL Victoria



- A healthy sponsorship arrangement with Viatek, Neerim District Financial Services, Crowe Horwath, Speedy Locksmiths and Buffalo Sports. Strong feedback from sponsors and the successful representation of all brands by GUA members. Congratulations to Michael Talbot for all his continued efforts
- AFL umpires visitation to GUA training and discussions to group coaching sessions
- Working closely with AFL Victoria Country to ensure umpires and coaches are provided the greatest opportunity to participate in development programs
- Michael Talbot has assisted me greatly this year with the appointments and, by taking control of Schedules, allowed me to focus on coaching and match day management. I am extremely grateful to Michael for this



I would like to thank all those that have not only supported the GUA this season, but those who have supported me personally. A special mention must go to Chris Behrendorff, Paul Osborn, Rod Gillett, Jared Dyson, Mark Smith, Davyd Reid, Shane Morgan and the Committee of Management.

As an association, season 2015 can be seen as a year of continual improvement and a year that will stabilise the future of the GUA. We have areas to develop and improve upon and I feel honoured to be a part of the continued challenge.

Thank you for your participation, enjoy the break and bring on season 2016!

PAUL VAUGHAN

DEVELOPMENT COACH REPORT

I have really enjoyed my first year at Gippsland Umpires Association as the development coach.

All umpires in the development squad improved so much during the course of the season, with some umpires progressing to under-16 football.

It was good to see all green shirt umpires doing an excellent job in the Warragul and District Junior Football League grand finals.

ALLAN MAGOR

BOUNDARY UMPIRE COACH REPORT

Season 2015 saw big commitments made by Gippsland Umpires Association's boundary umpires.

The GUA entered 2015 keen to improve its Umpire Accreditation compliance rate and to the boundary umpires' credit, close to 100 per cent of umpires completed their accreditation requirements.

All umpires also showed significant development and improvement on field throughout the season and if we can retain the majority of an already talented list, the GUA will be well-placed for season 2016.

Congratulations to all who were selected to umpire representative football from their involvement in the V/Line Umpire Academy.

The GUA have a cohort of up-and-coming Boundary Umpires who enjoyed breakout seasons, and I am looking forward to seeing an increase of representation at Academy level.

While I don't like singling umpires out, particular congratulations must be extended to Alec Bedford, who again took another step up in his umpiring, displaying immense leadership qualities as he completed his level 2 accreditation and won selection in the V/Line Cup.

The Golden Whistle bestowed upon him at presentation night was thoroughly deserved.

Season 2015 also saw the introduction of the Schedula appointment system, which made life easier for all coaches, particularly selection coordinator Mick Talbot, whom I must thank for his tireless work and consultations around late changes required.

While most umpires managed their availability on Schedula effectively, there is room for improvement and I urge all umpires to manage their Schedula accordingly to make the appointment process a smooth one in 2016.

In closing I would like to thank the Committee of Management and my fellow coaches and observers, led by head coach Paul Vaughan, for their continued assistance and support, particularly Rob Young, who was an immense help and support during the finals series.

DAVYD REID



GOAL UMPIRE COACH REPORT

2015 was another fabulous year for Gippsland Umpires Association's goal umpires.

The year started on a good note with Josh Hickman being selected into the VFL.

We again got the year underway with V/Line Cup training in December and again in February, where five goal umpires represented GUA at Morwell and Korumburra.

Because of the amount of umpires Victoria-wide that are now in the V/Line squad, GUA did well to have three of our goal umpires selected for representative football.

Brayden Marriott was selected to participate in the V/Line Cup (under-15 Victoria Country championships).

I was also one of only three goal umpire coaches selected from all over Victoria to observe, coach and mentor at the V/Line Cup carnival.

At the start of pre-season training I thought we were going to struggle to fill even senior games.

One new umpire started pre-season practice games and by the time the season proper began, we had three green shirts and three injured field umpires to fill all games needed.

By the end of the year we had four green shirts and four ex-field or boundary umpires in the goals. The green shirts and umpires who changed over this year have done an amazing job learning their craft.

Each week we put goal umpires into all senior games in Ellinbank and District Football and Gippsland League, as well as covering three or four under-18 EDFL games.

We had more than 250 appointments for the season.

This year was a very good year for the GUA goal umpires, who have all progressed to become very confident umpires.

BRETT MARRIOTT



SOCIAL CLUB REPORTS

This year the social club has continued to be quite busy behind the scenes working for the benefit of the GUA.

We started the year with what is looking like an annual event in the trip to Funfields. We had a coach driven by Trevor, full of members keen to have a fun day out and by all reports it was. Many are looking forward to attending again next year.

Our biggest endeavours this year were the Thursday evening meals and thanks must go to the regular cooks and the many helpers who passed through the kitchen throughout the season.

We enjoyed a social evening at Warragul Thai and a very successful "bring and share" casserole night.

We are always open to suggestions from members as to what they would like us to arrange, and we will end this season with a social day out at the Pakenham Cup on Sunday 29th November.

I would personally like to thank the members of the committee for the great support that they have given to me throughout the season, and I can't forget the many raffle ticket sellers very capably led by James Stuckey and Brodie Wyatt.

Without these amazing salesmen the money raised each week to go towards umpire welfare would be much less.

PETER HEYWOOD, SOCIAL CLUB PRESIDENT

We started this year with a season opening at Funfields. Our committee provided a bus which enabled all who wanted to go, an easy way of travel. It also gave the juniors a method of transport with or without a nominated driver to get them there. By all reports it worked well for all ages, so well we plan to repeat it next year.

We thought at the start of the year with the lectures planned the way they were, we would decline in the meals sold, but, it actually has slightly improved as the members supported us and we in return provided a rotation meal system which was an easier option for our committee. The meals sold were very constant, with the average weekly meal total being 40. We once reached a total of 49. We plan to ask again for input to the meal rotation next year so hopefully the numbers will again be good. The bar was also well supported and our soft drink sales did very well indeed.

The raffle has become an event of its own. With Roger Croxford being exceptionally lucky every week. He kept up his reputation for the Presentation night with again taking out a prize. We were well supported by Country Style Meats in Garfield throughout the year and without this level of support our end result would have not been there.

During the year we had social nights in and out of our rooms. The bingo night that was held with the help of Jamie Warden, and the Bring and Share night which everyone contributed to were both very successful.

All in all a very successful year in which we made a profit for the year of \$4,026.00

SANDRA MORGAN, SOCIAL CLUB TREASURER

AFL GIPPSLAND REPORT

AFL Gippsland was proud to welcome Gippsland Umpires Association into its regional administration centre for the 2014-15 financial year.

GUA was the first umpires association to sign a service agreement with the RAC and represented a great show of faith in what we are trying to do.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris and the Committee of Management for their support and work throughout our first year.



Given it was our first foray into umpire administration we have learned a great deal and put some solid foundations in place to build on in years to come.

One of our first moves was to introduce Scheduling in an attempt to simplify and improve the GUA's appointments and payments processes.

While the new system took some time to master, it has proven a fantastic tool for the administrators and members alike and we are confident it will be smooth sailing from now on.

A special thanks must go to GUA vice-president David Nash for his power of work in ensuring the system was set up correctly and able to be utilised at its full potential, and to Mick Talbot for embracing the new appointments process and his patience as we smoothed out kinks along the way.

Our administration officer Tia McNair took on the responsibility of reconciling appointments and issuing pays and has done a terrific job in delivering payments accurately and in a timely fashion.

Another major undertaking this year was the transfer of the financial system into Reckon Accounts.

I would like to give special thanks to Geoff Legge and Sandra Morgan for their assistance in making this a smooth transition and to Davyd Reid for the general administration assistance he provided during the year.

AFL Gippsland also reviewed the post-match reporting process and introduced a uniform match report sheet for all Gippsland leagues and umpires associations to use.

Some of AFL Gippsland's other roles have included assisting in the organisation of events, such as the First-Year Umpires Dinner, Life Members' Dinner and the end of season presentation night.

We have also overseen the establishment and maintenance of the GUA website, which offers a clean and easy-to-navigate home for news and information regarding the GUA.

With three umpires associations now in the RAC and a year of experience under our belt we have recognised the need for a more dedicated umpiring resource within our team.

I am pleased to say a re-structure of our business has been approved by our Commission and will take place in the coming months to ensure we are able to improve the service we offer our umpires groups in 2016. Thanks to Paul Osborn for lending us his expertise and assistance to put this in place.

On-field, 2015 was a great success and umpires were a major part of that.

We look forward to working even more closely with the umpires groups in our region to ensure umpiring in our region goes from strength to strength in the years ahead.

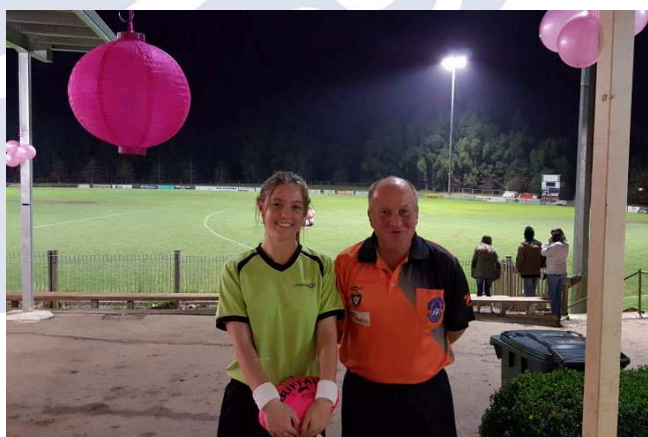
TRAVIS SWITZER, REGION GENERAL MANAGER, AFL GIPPSLAND

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

In 2015, Gippsland Umpires Association supported a number of important community initiatives.

The association hosted an education session as part of the One Punch Campaign Australia and joined TAC Cup side Gippsland Power in participating in Step Back Think's Lace Up Against Social Violence Campaign by wearing orange boots laces for a weekend.

GUA also provided umpires for the Gippsland Youth Girls Football League 'Pink' Round Robin Event at Neerim South, with gate takings donated to Breast Cancer Network Australia.



2015 MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

Best first year field – Junior	Lachlan Brown
Best first year field – Senior	James Trowbridge
Most improved field	Brayden Hoskins
Most consistent	Josh Nooy
Best first year boundary	Ned Tworkowski
Most improved boundary	Lachlan Auld
Best first year goal	Courtney Watson
Most improved goal	Simon Cuckson
Encouragement award	Megan Vistarini
Encouragement award	Jess Mills
Tom Bibby Memorial Best Club Person	Paul Osborn
Golden Whistle	Alec Bedford
GUA Scholarship	Jess Mills and Lachlan Auld
Ray Barwick Memorial Trophy	Jacob Stuckey



Golden whistle winner Alec Bedford



Ray Barwick Memorial Trophy winner Jacob Stuckey



Tom Bibby Memorial Best Club Person
Paul Osborn

2015 GRAND FINAL UMPIRES

Gippsland League

Seniors – Field: Gerard Boland, Michael Talbot, Josh Nooy; Boundary: Alec Bedford, James Quinn, Geoff Galbraith; Goal: Simon Cuckson, Michael O'Neill

Ellinbank and District Football League

Seniors – Field: Peter Warden, Brodie Wyatt, Brayden Hoskins; Emergency: James Stuckey; Boundary: James Stevenage, Lachlan Auldlist, Ned Tworowski; Goal: Dimitrios Tzitziras; Emergency goal: Simon Cuckson, Paul Moseley

Reserves – Field: Jamie Warden, Chris Behrendorff, Peter Heywood; Emergency: Tim Haynes; Boundary: Taijyn Lacy, Regan Hodge, Flynn O'Reilly; Goal: Bruce Pratt, Brayden Marriott; Emergency goal: Simon Cuckson

U18 – Field: Christiaan Dauphin, Al Bliss, David Louch; Emergency: Daniel Webster; Boundary: Liam Giliam, Mitchell Crole, Mason McGarrity; Goal: Niall Thompson, Norman Dorling; Emergency goal: Michael O'Neill

U16 – Field: Craig Fincham-Turner, Roger Croxford, James Murray; Emergency: Trevor Griffin; Boundary: Cooper Bagnara, William Jacobson, Megan Vistarini; Goal: Courtney Watson, Glenn Frost; Emergency goal: Michael O'Neill

Warragul and District Junior Football League

U14 – Field: James Trowbridge, Jess Mills; Boundary: Kaleb Hermansen, Anthony Dauphin; Goals: Courtney Watson, Andrew McKenzie

U12 – Field: Lachlan Brown, Oliver Colman; Goal: Issabella Sluga, Glenn Frost

U10 – Field: Chris Behrendorff, Will Tindle



2015 ASSOCIATION MEMBERS



Allen, Jeremy	Grande, Charlie	Payne, Raymond
Auldist, Lachlan	Griffin, Trevor	Pentland, Mervyn
Bagnara, Cooper	Hansch, Wayne	Pitkin, Jai
Barnes, John	Haynes, Timothy	Pratt, Bruce
Bedford, Alec	Hermansen, Kaleb	Pullen, Dom
Behrendorff, Chris	Heywood, Peter	Quinn, James
Bliss, Aaron	Hickman, Joshua	Reid, Davyd
Bliss, Alistair	Hirst, Frank	Roberts, Ron
Boland, Gerard	Hobbs, Matthew	Ross, William
Boraston, Mark	Hobson, Trevor	Shelton, Lachlan
Brennan, Hayleigh	Hodge, Regan	Sluga, Issabella
Brookes, John	Hoskins, Brayden	Stevenage, James
Brown, Lachlan	Jacob, Daniel	Stroud, Terry
Cameron, Damian	Jacobson, William (Billy)	Stuckey, Jacob
Cameron, Glenn	Kelly, Rhiannon	Stuckey, James
Clancy, Joseph	Lacy, Taijyn	Talbot, Michael
Colman, Oliver	Legge, Geoffrey	Thompson, Niall
Crole, Mitchell	Levingstone, Garan	Tindle, William
Croxford, Roger	Logan, Robert	Trowbridge, James
Cruickshank, David	Louch, David	Twoorkowski, Ned
Cuckson, Simon	Magor, Allan	Tyrell, Zachary
Cunningham, Nicholas	Mallon, Steven	Tzitziras, Dimitrios
Dauphin, Anthony	Marriott, Brayden	Vaughan, Paul
Dauphin, Christiaan	Marriott, Brett	Vistarini, Megan
Dawson, Josh	Marriott, Leigh	Warden, Jamie
Dorling, Norman	McGarrity, Mason	Warden, Peter
Dyson, Jared	McKenzie, Andrew	Watson, Courtney
Emery, Angus	Mildren, Thomas	Watson, Tait
Fincham-Turner, Craig	Mills, Jess	Webster, Daniel
Fleming, Rhiley	Morgan, Shane	Williams, Marcus
Frost, Glenn	Moseley, Paul	Williamson, Connor
Frost, Nicholas	Murray, James	Wilson, Andrew
Galbraith, Geoff	Nash, David	Wyatt, Brodie
Giliam, Liam	Nooy, Joshua	Young, Adam
Gillespie, Neale	O'Neill, Luke	Young, Robert
Gillett, Rod	O'Neill, Michael	Zaccari, Feliche
Goodie, Chloe	O'Reilly, Flynn	
Goodie, Stephen	Osborn, Paul	