

## **STEVE WELSH**

This last inductee into the class of the NCCUA Hall of Fame 2016 is also a Life Member and had umpired in the BDAFL for 10 years.

In this time with the association, he umpired 154 BDAFL matches, including 63 matches as a field umpire in Premier Division.

This inductee umpired 2 Reserve Grade Grand Finals (2008-2009), 1 Under 18 Grand Final (2003) and had the prestige of being selected as a field umpire in the Reserve Grade Panel of the Decade.

He actually joined the NAFLUA in the 1990s as a boundary umpire. After a year running the line he progressed through to field umpiring, where it was acknowledged that he had a real zest for the game. This enthusiasm for AFL football was appreciated by players, fellow umpires and spectators alike.

One of this man's greatest strengths to the NCCUA was his ability to get in and do the hard yards when no one else would. He filled the following roles during his time with the NCCUA including NCCUA Vice President (2004, 2009-2011), NCCUA Secretary (2000) and also filled the role of NCCUA Assistant Secretary (2008). His unique ability to mentor and get the best out of the younger generation of umpires was to be admired and commended. The fact that he spent a lot of his last two or so years with the association nursing terrible knee injuries and still made every effort to train and umpire each week is a testament to his dedication and commitment to umpiring in this region.

His great dedication to the NCCUA during his time was duly rewarded with the award for the NCCUA Club Person of the Year in 2008, arguably his greatest achievement whilst within the Association.

An individual with a generous, humble nature, always giving of his time when he was available and a great humour and wit, this final inductee also happens to be the third member of the inaugural Hall of Fame Sub-Committee.

His selection was voted on unanimously and there were and are definitely NO doubts that our final inductee is worthy enough to take his place alongside the other 2 inductees in the Class of 2016.

Without further ado, it is my absolute pleasure to induct into the NCCUA Hall of Fame class of 2016, the ever humble, ever giving and much loved Life Member of the NCCUA, **Steve Welsh**.